

World Organisation for Animal Health

SEACFMD Laboratory Network Meeting

2026 Country Report Philippines

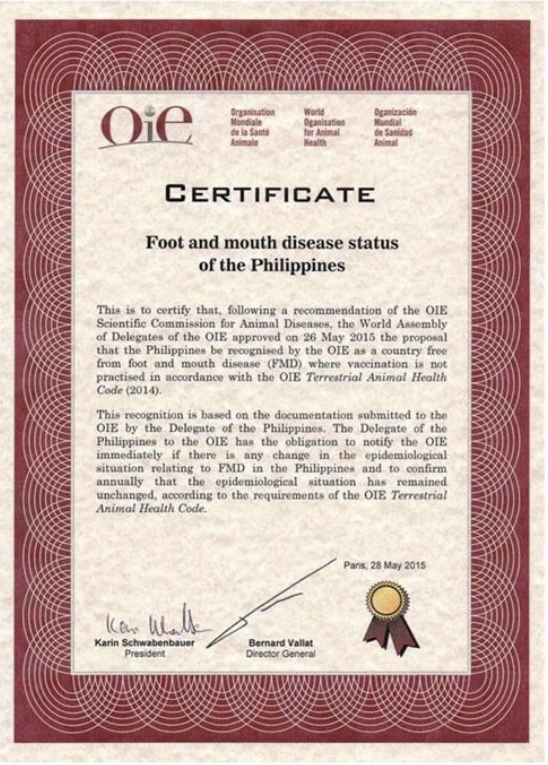
Dr. Rachel R. Azul
Head-Animal Disease Diagnosis and Reference Laboratory (ADDRL)

10-11 November 2026
Manila, The Philippines

BRIEF FMD SITUATION :

To date…
The Philippines is Foot and Mouth Disease (FMD)-free !





OIE — Organisation Mondiale de la Santé Animale / World Organisation for Animal Health / Organización Mundial de Sanidad Animal

CERTIFICATE

Foot and mouth disease status of the Philippines

This is to certify that, following a recommendation of the OIE Scientific Commission for Animal Diseases, the World Assembly of Delegates of the OIE approved on 26 May 2015 the proposal that the Philippines be recognised by the OIE as a country free from foot and mouth disease (FMD) where vaccination is not practised in accordance with the OIE *Terrestrial Animal Health Code* (2014).

This recognition is based on the documentation submitted to the OIE by the Delegate of the Philippines. The Delegate of the Philippines to the OIE has the obligation to notify the OIE immediately if there is any change in the epidemiological situation relating to FMD in the Philippines and to confirm annually that the epidemiological situation has remained unchanged, according to the requirements of the OIE *Terrestrial Animal Health Code*.

Paris, 28 May 2015

Karin Schwabenbauer
President

Bernard Vallat
Director General

The Philippines has maintained its FMD free status without vaccination since May 2015

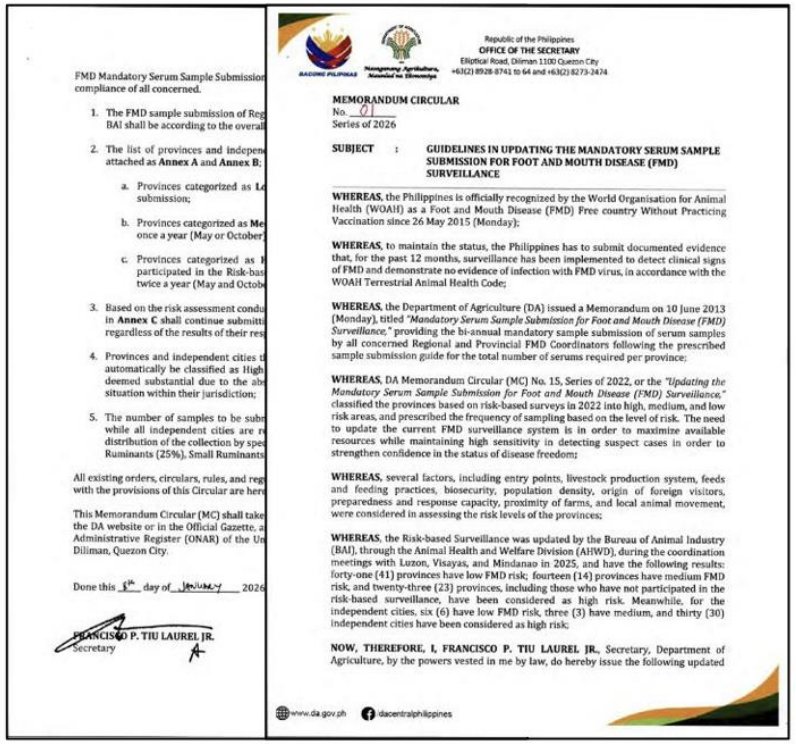
Surveillance

- **Annual/Bi-annual Risk-based Serosurveillance**

✓ Issuance of memorandum to all concerned regional /provincial FMD coordinators following prescribed sample submission guide

✓ Updated risk levels for all provinces

✓ Independent cities were included in the updated risk assessment



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MEMORANDUM CIRCULAR
No. 01
Series of 2026

SUBJECT : GUIDELINES IN UPDATING THE MANDATORY SERUM SAMPLE SUBMISSION FOR FOOT AND MOUTH DISEASE (FMD) SURVEILLANCE

WHEREAS, the Philippines is officially recognized by the World Organisation for Animal Health (WOAH) as a Foot and Mouth Disease (FMD) Free country Without Practicing Vaccination since 26 May 2015 (Monday);

WHEREAS, to maintain the status, the Philippines has to submit documented evidence that, for the past 12 months, surveillance has been implemented to detect clinical signs of FMD and demonstrate no evidence of infection with FMD virus, in accordance with the WOAH Terrestrial Animal Health Code;

WHEREAS, the Department of Agriculture (DA) issued a Memorandum on 10 June 2013 (Monday), titled *"Mandatory Serum Sample Submission for Foot and Mouth Disease (FMD) Surveillance,"* providing the bi-annual mandatory sample submission of serum samples by all concerned Regional and Provincial FMD Coordinators following the prescribed sample submission guide for the total number of serums required per province;

WHEREAS, DA Memorandum Circular (MC) No. 15, Series of 2022, or the *"Updating the Mandatory Serum Sample Submission for Foot and Mouth Disease (FMD) Surveillance,"* classified the provinces based on risk-based surveys in 2022 into high, medium, and low risk areas, and prescribed the frequency of sampling based on the level of risk. The need to update the current FMD surveillance system is in order to maximize available resources while maintaining high sensitivity in detecting suspect cases in order to strengthen confidence in the status of disease freedom;

WHEREAS, several factors, including entry points, livestock production system, feeds and feeding practices, biosecurity, population density, origin of foreign visitors, preparedness and response capacity, proximity of farms, and local animal movement, were considered in assessing the risk levels of the provinces;

WHEREAS, the Risk-based Surveillance was updated by the Bureau of Animal Industry (BAI), through the Animal Health and Welfare Division (AHWD), during the coordination meetings with Luzon, Visayas, and Mindanao in 2025, and have the following results: forty-one (41) provinces have low FMD risk; fourteen (14) provinces have medium FMD risk, and twenty-three (23) provinces, including those who have not participated in the risk-based surveillance, have been considered as high risk. Meanwhile, for the independent cities, six (6) have low FMD risk, three (3) have medium, and thirty (30) independent cities have been considered as high risk;

NOW, THEREFORE, I, FRANCISCO P. TIU LAUREL JR., Secretary, Department of Agriculture, by the powers vested in me by law, do hereby issue the following updated

www.da.gov.ph dacentralphilippines

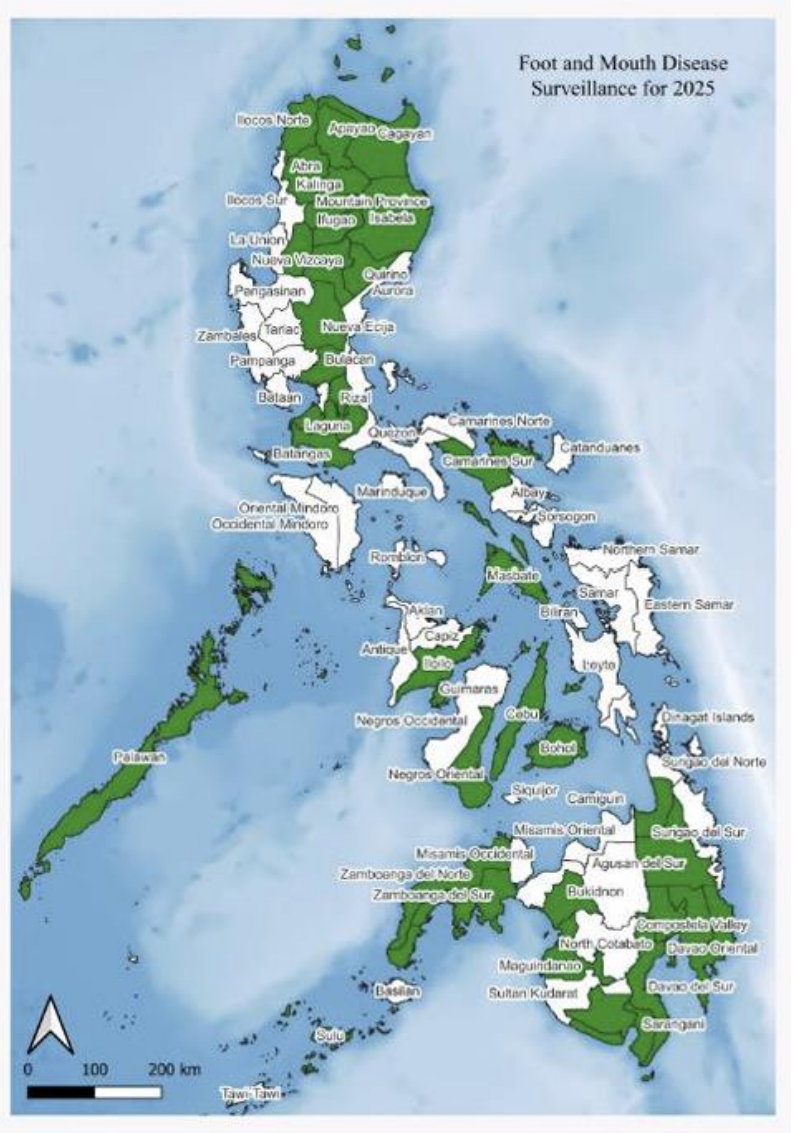
DA MC No. 01, Series of 2026 Guidelines in Updating the Mandatory Serum Sample for Foot and Mouth Disease (FMD) Surveillance

Reference:
https://www.da.gov.ph/wpcontent/uploads/2026/01/mc01_s2026.pd

Surveillance

- The **FMD sample submission is according to the overall level of risk of the province:**
  Low Risk areas are exempted
  Medium Risk areas shall submit serum samples once a year (October)
  High Risk areas shall submit serum samples twice a year (May and October)

- **Updated Risk Distribution**
  Provinces:
  23 High Risk, 14 Medium Risk, 41 Low Risk
  Independent Cities:
  29 High Risk, 3 Medium Risk, 6 Low Risk



Surveillance

Number of serum samples tested for FMD ELISA

CY 2023-2026

REGION	2023	2024	2025	2026
CAR	143	230	289	309
I	-	-	148	98
II	-	382	761	475
III	88	117	229	148
IV-A	275	347	602	468
IV-B	763	847	573	497
V	171	152	276	8
VI	37	481	544	-
VII	48	117	580	463
VIII	-	23	163	649
IX	311	86	306	35
X	95	23	-	432
XI	120	85	112	44
XII	142	206	275	145
XIII	206	243	101	585
BARMM	40	-	60	266
NCR	1	-	-	-
Total	**2,440**	**3,339**	**5,019**	**4,622**

Annual Bi-annual Risk-based Serosurveillance

* **Serum samples come from swine(40%), caprine(25%), bubaline(18%), bovine(14%), and then ovine(2%)**

Surveillance

- **Adoption of the Foot and Mouth Disease (FMD) Preparedness Guidelines**

DA MC No. 20, Series of 2026



- ✓ The revised FMD Preparedness Guidelines (2025), formerly the FMD Emergency Preparedness Plan (2014), has been approved and signed by the DA Secretary for implementation.
- ✓ This provides a reference framework for prevention, detection, response, recovery and risk communication

Reference: https://www.da.gov.ph/wp-content/uploads/2026/04/mc20_s2026_revised.pdf

Surveillance

Highlights of FMD Prevention and Preparedness Activities



PREVENTION



IDENTIFICATION



RESPONSE



RECOVERY



IMPLEMENTATION

Reference: https://www.da.gov.ph/wp-content/uploads/2026/04/mc20_s2026_revised.pdf

Surveillance

- **Allocation of funds (Php 14,000,000.00 / USD 226,000) and maintenance of FMD buffer stocks**

✓ A total of 350,000 doses of FMD Serotype O vaccines have already been procured

✓ The vaccines have a shelf life of 18 months, with one (1) year storage from the supplier





Current Projects and Programmes Supporting Laboratory Capacity Building

Project / Programme	Implementation Period	Main Focus Areas	Donor / Supporting Organisation	Laboratory Capacity-Building Activities / Outputs
TCP/RAS/4101 Preparedness for emerging FMD virus serotype SAT1 in Southeast Asia	2026-2027	FMD diagnosis	Food and Agriculture Organisation of the United Nation (FAO)	• Emergency procurement and distribution of PCR reagents and consumables for FMD SAT 1 detection/ Laboratories equipped and operational for SAT 1 molecular detection. • Support the implementation of SAT 1 real-time PCR testing in laboratories /Strengthened diagnostic capacity for timely detection of SAT 1 strains

Current Projects and Programmes Supporting Laboratory Capacity Building

Project / Programme	Implementation Period	Main Focus Areas	Donor / Supporting Organisation	Laboratory Capacity-Building Activities / Outputs
TCP/RAS/4101 Preparedness for emerging FMD virus serotype SAT1 in South and Southeast Asia	2026-2027	Proficiency Testing	Food and Agriculture Organisation of the United Nation (FAO)	• Participation of laboratory personnel in international FMD proficiency testing programs/ Improved laboratory competency and quality assurance performance thru participation in PT

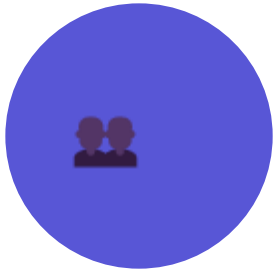
Important Changes in the Laboratory since SEACFMD 2023



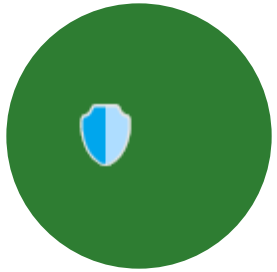
Strengthening laboratory quality management practices in preparation for ISO/IEC 17025 accreditation for FMD ELISA.



Participa-tion in FMD ELISA and PCR proficiency testing



Expansion of FMD laboratory workforce



Enhance-ment of laboratory biosafety infrastruc ture



Rollout of regional laboratory training on FMD NSP ELISA

Important Changes in the Laboratory since SEACFMD 2023

- Development of a Three-Tier FMD Laboratory Networka
- Efforts to improve availability positive controls and diagnostic reagents
- Sought technical assistance and guidance from international reference laboratories
- Strengthening competency assessment and documentation for laboratory personnel.
- Continued maintenance, calibration, and performance monitoring of diagnostic equipment.

Best Practices and Experiences to Share

Training for newly hired personnel and advanced training for existing personnel both locally and internationally to enhance their knowledge and technical competencies in FMD laboratory testing

Efforts to harmonize and streamline SOPs to ensure consistent and standardized laboratory procedures in preparation for ISO 17025:2017 Accreditation.

Continued hands-on FMD NSP ELISA training to strengthen regional diagnostic capacity and improve access to FMD diagnostic services across the country.

Best Practices and Experiences to Share

Regular Participation in FMD Proficiency Testing

Adoption of the Foot and Mouth Disease (FMD) Preparedness Guideline continues

Compliance with biosecurity measures is one of the requirements of BAI in farm registrations

Best Practices and Experiences to Share

Continued Annual and Bi-Annual Risk Based Surveillance

Collaboration with development partners on FMD prevention and preparedness continues

Ongoing coordination and information sharing with regional partners support discussions on livestock trade and FMD risk management

Collaboration and network needs

- **ISO/IEC 17025 accreditation** – Peer mentoring and sharing of quality management best practices.
- **Proficiency testing** – Continued participation in regional PT schemes and interlaboratory comparisons.
- **SAT serotype preparedness** – Access to reference materials, reagents, and technical expertise.
- **Advanced diagnostics** – Technical training on FMD diagnostic assays, method verification and validation, and troubleshooting.
- **Laboratory networking** – Strengthening referral systems, coordination and technical collaboration among laboratories.

Collaboration and network needs

- **Decentralized testing** – Sharing experiences and best practices in expanding regional laboratory capacity and capabilities.
- **Workforce development** – Specialized training in FMD diagnostics, biosafety, and quality assurance management.
- **Knowledge exchange** – Regular sharing of FMD epidemiological updates, emerging technologies and diagnostic innovations.
- **Reference Materials:** Improved access to FMD reference materials, and positive controls.
- **Virus Characterization:** Training and technical support on FMD virus sequencing, genotyping, and phylogenetic analysis.

2026–2028 Way Forward

PROPOSED ACTION

Priority Action	Expected Result	Regional Support / Collaboration Needed
1. Advance laboratory accreditation efforts by securing ISO/IEC 17025 accreditation for FMD ELISA testing and extending accreditation to molecular diagnostic assays, including FMD PCR	Accredited, internationally recognized FMD diagnostic services with improved reliability, traceability, and confidence in test results.	Technical mentoring from accredited laboratories, assessor training, peer review of quality management systems, and sharing of accreditation best practices and documentation templates.
2. Enhance national FMD diagnostic preparedness through the development of serotyping capacity for improved surveillance, outbreak investigation, and evidence-based disease control.	Improved ability to identify circulating FMD serotypes, enabling timely outbreak investigation, targeted control measures, and evidence-based decision-making.	Access to reference laboratories for training, reference materials, reagents, confirmatory testing, and technology transfer on serotyping methods.

2026–2028 Way Forward

PROPOSED ACTION

Priority Action	Expected Result	Regional Support / Collaboration Needed
3. Strengthen laboratory quality assurance through continued participation in international proficiency testing schemes and broaden competency assessment to include priority transboundary animal diseases such as LSD and PPR.	Sustained diagnostic competency and enhanced quality assurance across multiple transboundary animal disease diagnostic platforms.	Continued access to regional and international proficiency testing programs, inter-laboratory comparisons, and technical support for corrective action implementation.
4. Expand Diagnostic Capacity within the Philippines through development of 3-Tiered FMD Laboratory Network	More accessible, timely, and standardized FMD diagnostic services across the country.	Sharing of experiences, training approaches, and best practices in decentralized diagnostic testing among SEACFMD Members.

2026–2028 Way Forward

PROPOSED ACTION

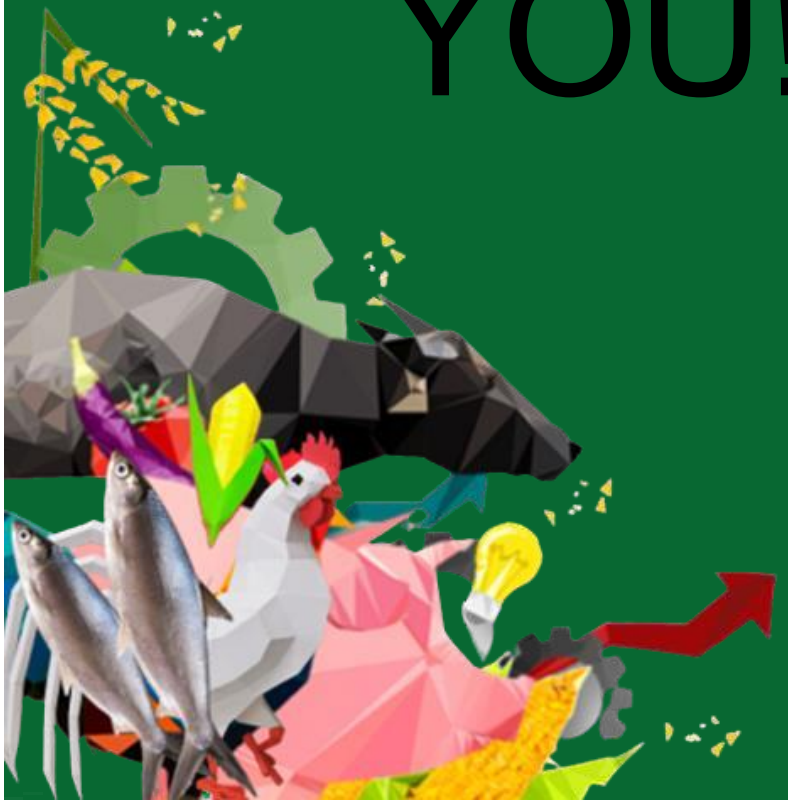
Priority Action	Expected Result	Regional Support / Collaboration Needed
5. Improve National Surveillance and Laboratory Coordination through strengthened sample referral, reporting, and information-sharing systems.	Faster detection, efficient sample referral, and timely response to suspected FMD cases.	Sharing of effective surveillance strategies, laboratory networking models, and reporting practices among Member Countries.
6. Ensure Sustainable Diagnostic Operations through improved procurement planning, equipment maintenance, and reagent management.	Reduced testing interruptions and sustained FMD diagnostic readiness.	Knowledge sharing on resource planning, laboratory sustainability, and contingency strategies.

2026–2028 Way Forward

PROPOSED ACTION

Priority Action	Expected Result	Regional Support / Collaboration Needed
7. Improve Laboratory Infrastructure through facility upgrades, equipment modernization, and enhanced biosafety measures.	Improved laboratory safety, testing efficiency, and capacity to perform advanced diagnostic procedures.	Technical guidance on laboratory design, biosafety requirements, equipment selection, and infrastructure development.
8. Establish Virus Isolation and Characterization Capacity through development of appropriate facilities, technical expertise, and laboratory procedures.	Enhanced capacity for FMD virus isolation, characterization, and identification of circulating strains to support surveillance and outbreak investigation.	Specialized training, technology transfer, access to reference strains, and technical mentoring from reference laboratories.

THANK YOU!



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