

This report provides an update of the African swine fever (ASF) situation, according to the information submitted through the World Animal Health Information System of the World Organisation for Animal Health (OIE-WAHIS) between 19 November and 2 December 2021.

The information included in this report was reported by countries through Immediate notifications (IN), follow-up reports (FUR) and six-monthly reports (SMR). More details on OIE data collection for OIE-listed diseases is available on the OIE website¹.

This report will cover: (1) ASF distribution and the situation in 2020 and 2021 (based on INs, FURs and SMRs) and (2) the recent updates that occurred during the 2-week period of 19 November – 2 December 2021 (based on INs and FURs).

ASF distribution and the situation in 2020 and 2021 (based on INs, FURs and SMRs)

ASF has traditionally been present in the African continent, where since 2005 the disease has been reported in 32 countries. In 1978, the disease was introduced to the Italian island of Sardinia and has since become endemic. In 2007, the disease was confirmed in the Caucasus region of Georgia. From there, the ASF virus gradually spread to neighboring countries (i.e., Armenia, Azerbaijan, Russia and Belarus) affecting domestic pigs and wild boar. The first occurrence of ASF was reported in the European Union (EU) in 2014 and since then, numerous EU countries have been affected by this devastating pig disease that continues to be reported in 16 countries (during 2020 / 2021). Two European countries have managed to eradicate the disease: Belgium (event resolved in March 2020) and Czech Republic (event resolved in April 2018).

In August 2018, the virus leapt to China (People's Rep. of), which represented the first occurrence of ASF in Asia. Since then, the disease continued to spread in the Region, affecting 16 countries as of 2021.

In September 2019, the first occurrence of ASF in Oceania was reported by Timor-Leste, followed by Papua New Guinea (March 2020). And in July 2021 the disease reappeared in the Americas after an absence of almost 40 years, having been introduced in Dominican Republic and later in Haiti.

ASF distribution in 2020 and 2021 (as of 25 November) is shown in Figure 1.

¹ <https://www.oie.int/en/what-we-do/animal-health-and-welfare/disease-data-collection/>

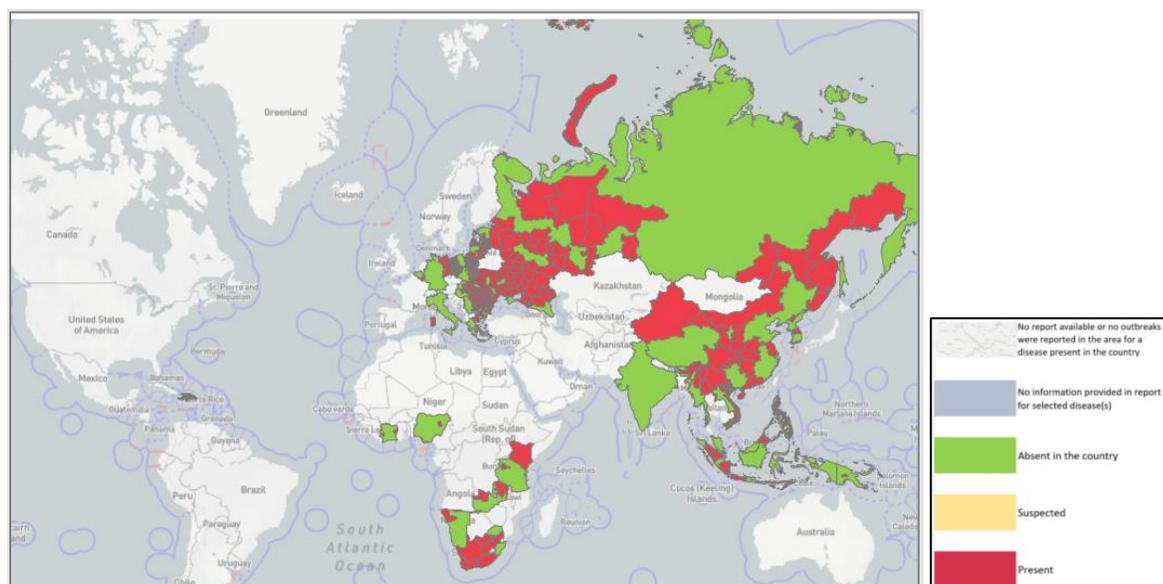


Figure 1. Map of the world displaying the presence of ASF by Administrative divisions (2020 – 25/11/2021)

Summary of the ASF situation by world region (2020-2021)

In total, since January 2020 ASF has been reported as present in five different world regions in 32 countries, affecting more than 1,000,000 pigs and more than 28,000 wild boars (data reported through INs and FURs), with more than 1,600,000 animal losses. Further details, split by world region are included in Table 1.

Table 1: Summary of the number of outbreaks, cases and animal losses caused by ASF in the different world regions since January 2020 (data reported through INs and FURs – these figures cover only epizootic situation while additional information reported through SMR for enzootic situation are not included here because of submission delays).

	Outbreaks		Cases		Losses*
	Domestic pigs	Wild boar	Domestic pigs	Wild boar	Domestic pigs
Africa	139		11,375		18,430
Americas	185		7,611		13,989
Asia	1027	1,509	88,918	1,607	399,506
Europe	3,243	16,123	913,444	27,145	1,200,746
Oceania	4		500		397
Total	4,598	17,632	1,021,848	28,752	1,633,068

*Losses (deaths + animals killed and disposed of): this figure refers to losses in the establishments affected by the outbreaks and it does not include the animals culled in areas around the outbreak for controlling the disease.

Summary of the global situation and recommendations

The epidemiological situation of ASF continued to deteriorate in 2020 and 2021. Since January 2020, 6 countries have reported ASF as a first occurrence in the country, while 10 countries reported its spread to new zones. This highlights a continuous spread of the disease in new countries, and in new zones in countries already affected.

Members are recommended to implement strict biosecurity measures and to strengthen their early disease detection system, in particular where there is evidence of circulation of low virulent strains of African swine fever virus (ASFV) and to promptly notify any cases of ASF to the OIE.

Recent updates (19/11/2021 – 02/12/2021)

To describe the current disease situation of ASF, this section covers: (a) a list of new events which started during the 2-week period (reported through INs); (b) information on events that started before the 2-week period but were still ongoing during the period (reported through FURs); (c) new events which started before the 2-week period but were reported through INs during the 2-week period and (d) the geographic distribution of new outbreaks that started during the 2-week period. This information is based on INs and FURs received by the OIE.

New events by world region (reported through INs)

Asia, Africa, Americas, Oceania

No new events reported

Europe

Recurrence in Ukraine started on 29 November

Asia, Africa, Americas, Oceania

No new events reported

On-going events for which there were new outbreaks, by world region (reported through FURs):

Asia

One country updated its ongoing event: China (People's Republic of)

Europe

Five countries updated their ongoing events: Germany, Hungary, Latvia, Romania, Russia

Africa, Americas, and Oceania

No ongoing events updated



Figure 2: Map of ASF outbreaks which started during 19 November – 2 December 2021 in domestic animals and wildlife. Zoomed views of areas where updates occurred in the last period are provided as well.

New events by world region (reported through INs) but started before the reporting periodEurope

Five recurrences in Russia started on 9, 14, 15, 16 and 17 November

Asia, Africa, Americas, Oceania

No new events reported

Discussion

The events observed in the last 6 months confirm the global threat of ASF, which continues to spread in several regions with serious impacts on pig production systems, animal health and welfare, as well as on livelihoods, national food security and international trade.

The control of ASF requires sustained commitment and resources. In partnership with the private sector, Veterinary Services need to enhance their capacity to manage the risk of ASF through the implementation of science-based international standards and guidelines in their national control programmes.

In particular, ASF surveillance needs to be adapted to the local epidemiological context, taking into account the presence of low virulent strains that could preclude clinical surveillance. OIE Members should also ensure access to quality laboratory diagnosis for ASF, capable of identifying ASFV in accordance with the standards in the OIE Terrestrial Manual.

There is no authorised ASF vaccine with proven effectiveness and safety available in the world. Therefore, any type of ASF vaccine sold on the market is either a fake vaccine or contains poorly attenuated strains of ASFV, which poses serious safety risks and has the potential to spread between pigs, causing chronic disease.

Biosecurity is still the most important and most effective measure available to prevent and control ASF. Rigorous and continuous implementation of biosecurity and maintaining a high level of awareness of ASF among all those in the value chain, as well as maintaining vigilance at borders to prevent the illegal movement of ASF-infected commodities, can prevent the virus from entering pig herds.

The OIE urges its Members to continue to promptly notify the occurrence of ASF and to share the relevant epidemiological information that can facilitate transparency and assist the global control of ASF.