

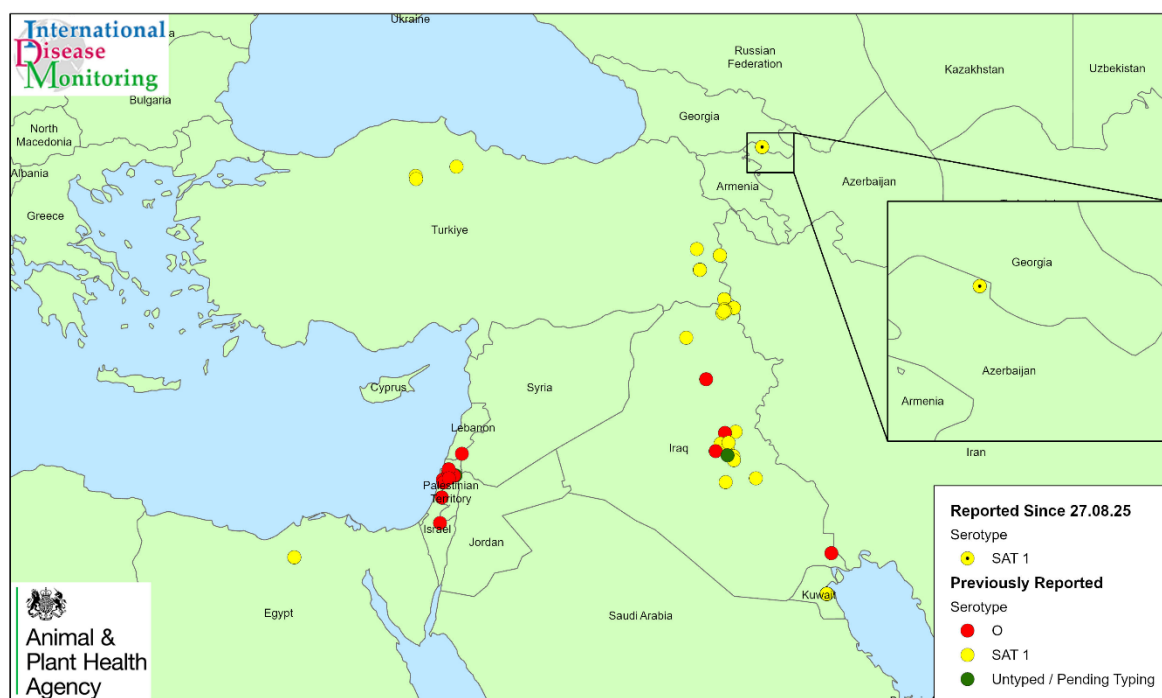
Updated Outbreak Assessment

Foot and Mouth Disease (FMD) SAT1 in the Middle East and North Africa #2

29 October 2025

Disease report

Following the outbreaks of foot-and-mouth disease (FMD) in Bahrain, Egypt, Iraq, Kuwait, and Türkiye earlier this year caused by serotype SAT1, this serotype has now [been detected in Azerbaijan](#), where it has not been [reported previously](#). Serotype SAT 1 is exotic to Western Asia and the Caucasus region and has potential to spread quickly since livestock are immunologically naïve and highly susceptible to infection with this serotype. Since our last report, there has been a large uptick of reports in Türkiye (ADIS, 2025).



Map Prepared by IDM
Date: 29/10/2025
Absolute Scale: 1:15,000,000

Foot and Mouth Disease
01 January to 29 October 2025
(WOAH Data Only)

0 280 560 840
Km

Figure 1: Map of Western Asia and North Africa displaying reported FMD outbreaks (WOAH data only).

Situation assessment

Azerbaijan

On 29 October, Azerbaijan made an immediate notification to WOA of SAT1 FMD. The affected farm housed both cattle and a mixed herd of sheep and goats, where two cattle out of a total of six, displayed clinical signs consistent with FMD. Samples were taken from all animals, with the presence of FMDV confirmed in the two cattle. These FMDV-positive cattle were culled and the carcasses were disposed. From the WOA report, the remaining animals were examined clinically and samples sent for laboratory testing, with no evidence of FMDV infection. The outbreak is approximately 3km away from the border with Georgia, and surveillance zones bridge the border. Currently, there are no reports of SAT 1 outbreaks in neighbouring countries. No SAT 1-specific vaccines are currently used in Azerbaijan. Control measures implemented include a 3km protection and 10km surveillance zone, with clinical and laboratory examinations ongoing within the zones, and monitoring in neighbouring regions. Movement restrictions have also been implemented. Viral sequence data has not yet been shared to help understand the epidemiological connection of this outbreak to other outbreaks that have been recently reported in Western Asia and Egypt.

Türkiye

Since the first detection of SAT1 on 12 May, Türkiye has reported a large uptick of outbreaks due to SAT1 FMD. Since our last update, there have been 504 outbreaks across the country (ADIS, 2025), where cases have involved cattle, goats, sheep and buffaloes.

In addition to FMD serotype SAT 1, serotype O is endemic in the country and outbreaks due to SAT2 that entered Türkiye in 2022 and 2023 continue to be reported ([ADIS summaries](#)), although there have been no cases due to SAT 2 since March 2023. Prior to the cases in 2025, the last occurrence of SAT1 FMDV in Türkiye was in 1965 (WRLFMD). As predicted in our previous report in May, the introduction of the new serotype in a livestock population with no pre-existing immunity has led to rapid dissemination of the virus. Control measures that have been introduced remain, including disinfection, movement control, quarantine, screening, traceability and surveillance within the restricted zone. The Malatya Provincial Directorate of Agriculture and Forestry [determined Malatya markets could](#) reopen, due to reaching an 85% vaccination rate.

According to updates provided by the Şap FMD Institute in Türkiye, an emergency vaccination policy has been implemented using a locally produced SAT 1 vaccine, where 16 million doses have been administered so far in 2025. The immune status of livestock in Turkish Thrace (WOAH zone, FMD-free with vaccination) needs to be verified since this region provides a critical buffer for neighbouring countries in Europe.

Egypt

On 20 August 2025, Egypt reported a detection of FMD SAT1 [for the first time](#). The outbreak occurred in a village in Al Buhayrah, northern Egypt, housing both cattle and buffalo. Since our last report, there have been no further outbreaks of SAT1 FMD reported to WOA. The source of introduction remains unknown and official sequencing reports are still pending. Control measures implemented include quarantine, movement control and biosecurity measures. Active and passive surveillance was undertaken in the surveillance zone, along with emergency vaccination within 10km of the outbreak. From the surveillance, 6,744 animals were observed (4,910 cattle, 813 buffalo, 920 sheep and 101 goats), with no clinical suspicions raised. The FMD serotypes A, O and SAT2 [are endemic in Egypt](#), and frequent reintroductions of new viral strains from other regions make it important to select effective vaccine antigens that are matched to the FMDV strains that pose the greatest risks for the country.

From media reports, several governorates have launched a vaccination campaign against SAT1 FMD in Egypt. These initiatives also raise awareness of the importance of vaccination, the impacts of FMD, and encouraging farmers to register their animals, to prevent disease and reduce any economic losses.

Kuwait

On 6 April 2025, Kuwait reported a detection of FMD SAT1 [for the first time](#). The outbreak occurred on a commercial dairy farm in Sulaybiya, Al Jahrah Governate, involving cattle. The source of introduction remains unknown. However, clinical signs consistent with FMD were observed in multiple herds, laboratory confirmation was obtained from the national reference laboratory, and viral sequence data exchanged with the WRLFMD, Pirbright. Since then, a further 31 outbreaks have been reported within a very close proximity to the initial outbreak (according to WOA data). Control measures implemented include quarantine, movement control and enhanced biosecurity protocols. Active and passive surveillance is ongoing across the affected zone.

Impact for Great Britain

FMD is a highly contagious viral disease of cattle, sheep, pigs and other cloven-hoofed animals. It causes very significant economic losses, due to production losses in the affected animals and due to the loss of access to foreign markets for animals, meat and milk for affected countries. FMD does not infect humans and does not pose a food safety risk. While death rates in susceptible species are typically low, the disease can make animals ill with fever, decreased appetite, excessive drooling, blisters, decreased production, and other signs.

The virus spreads easily through direct and indirect contact as well as airborne transmission and can quickly infect entire herds. People can facilitate the spread of the virus through fomites via farming equipment, bedding, shoes, clothing and vehicle tyres that have come into contact with the virus.

Conclusion

For the first time, SAT1 FMD has been reported in Azerbaijan. This, together with the increase of reports of cases due to this serotype in Türkiye, is particularly concerning. These transboundary movements illustrate the high transmissibility and destructive potential of FMD, reinforcing the urgent need for control and prevention strategies to curb its spread.

Earlier in the year, the [FAO alerted countries](#) in the Near East and Western Eurasia regions to be on high alert as the SAT1 serotype is not usually present in these regions. Due to the absence of natural or vaccine-induced immunity in these animals, the disease has potential to spread quickly across borders and regions, causing significant damage to agriculture and the economy.

While these detections of FMDV SAT1 represent the introduction of an exotic FMDV serotype to Western Asia and North Africa, it presents a low risk to Great Britain. There is no trade to Great Britain in live animals or animal products from countries in the region. The risk from illegal imports is difficult to quantify but travellers from the affected countries and other third country areas who bring meat or dairy products can face prosecution and a large fine.

The risk of introduction of FMD to Great Britain remains at **low**. We will continue to monitor the situation and remind livestock keepers of the importance of maintaining strict on-farm biosecurity, compliance with the swill feeding ban, and the reporting of all suspicions of notifiable disease promptly. Swill feeding any animal, whether pigs, poultry, ruminants, or wildlife is illegal and has the potential to cause substantial harm. We would like to emphasise to all keepers of livestock, including smallholders, and the general public to ensure that livestock are not fed catering waste, kitchen scraps or products of animal origin, thereby observing the swill feeding ban. All keepers of livestock, whether commercial holdings or not, should remain vigilant, as with all biosecurity, these measures are only as effective as the people using them, so proper training should be provided.

For more information on the situation in Europe, see our most recent update:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/animal-diseases-international-monitoring#outbreak-assessments>

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