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UN Alerts World to rising global foot-and-mouth threat



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The United Nations has issued an urgent warning over a rising number of foot-and-mouth disease

(FMD) outbreaks across various regions, urging immediate international cooperation to prevent further spread. The disease, which primarily affects livestock such as cattle, sheep, goats, and pigs, poses a serious risk to food security and agricultural economies worldwide.

According to the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO), recent outbreaks have been reported in parts of Asia, Africa, and South America. Officials fear the highly contagious virus could rapidly cross borders if not contained through swift biosecurity measures and vaccination campaigns.

The FAO emphasized that FMD does not typically affect humans but has devastating consequences for animal populations and the livelihoods of farmers. Infected animals suffer from fever, blisters, weight loss, and reduced milk production, often leading to culling to stop transmission. The economic toll can be severe, particularly for low and middle income countries dependent on livestock farming.

“Global vigilance and coordination are essential,” said an FAO spokesperson. “If we delay, the consequences will be far-reaching not just for farmers, but for entire food systems.”

The UN is calling on affected and at-risk nations to strengthen disease monitoring systems, increase vaccine production, and ensure transparency in reporting new cases. Regional cooperation will be critical, especially in border zones where livestock movement remains poorly regulated.

Experts warn that climate change and increased global trade may further complicate containment efforts, making preventive action even more urgent.

With outbreaks continuing to surface, the international community faces a crucial moment to act decisively to protect animal health, rural economies, and global food stability.