

Review of legislation related to animal disease control in SEA region

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(VLSP)

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World
Organisation
for Animal
Health

Organisation
mondiale
de la santé
animale

Organización
Mundial
de Sanidad
Animal



Background

- National veterinary legislation =
 - ***Essential to support the work of Veterinary Services***
 - **Key factor in addressing global health challenges**
- **Accordingly, review and analysis of veterinary legislation for twelve countries in SEA relating to animal disease control was launched, covering:**
 - *Multi-sectoral coordination*
 - *Transboundary animal diseases (TADs), zoonotic diseases and wildlife diseases*
 - *Disaster preparedness*
 - *Food safety*
- **Twelve countries:** Brunei Darussalam, Cambodia, Indonesia, Lao PDR, Malaysia, Myanmar, Philippines, Singapore, Thailand, Viet Nam, Timor Leste, Papua New Guinea



High LOA Critical Competency Analysis

[Clear all slicers](#)
[Return Home](#)

 Terrestrial

 Aquatic

Language

English

Region

Asia Pacific

Country

Multiple selections

Fundament Component

All

Critical Competency

Multiple selections

11

Countries selected

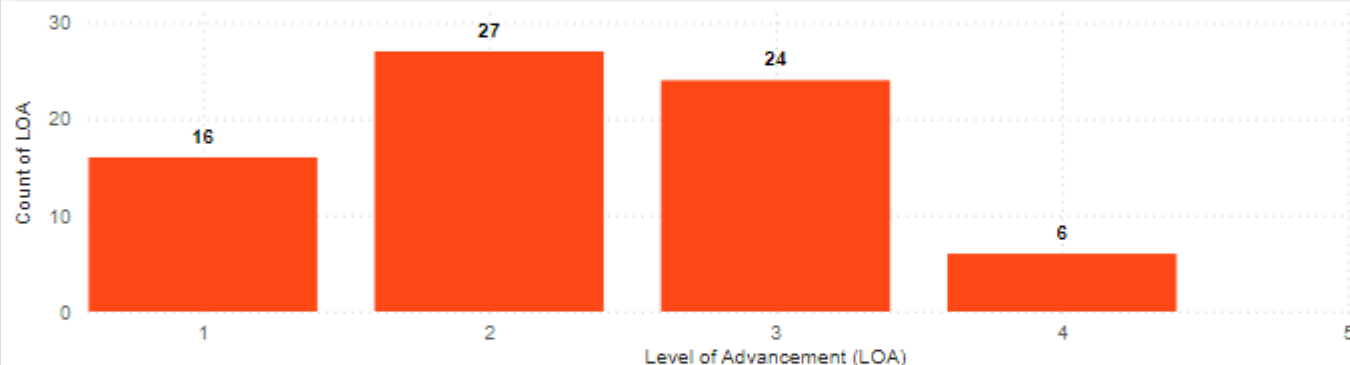
132

Evaluation type reports

101

Critical Competencies

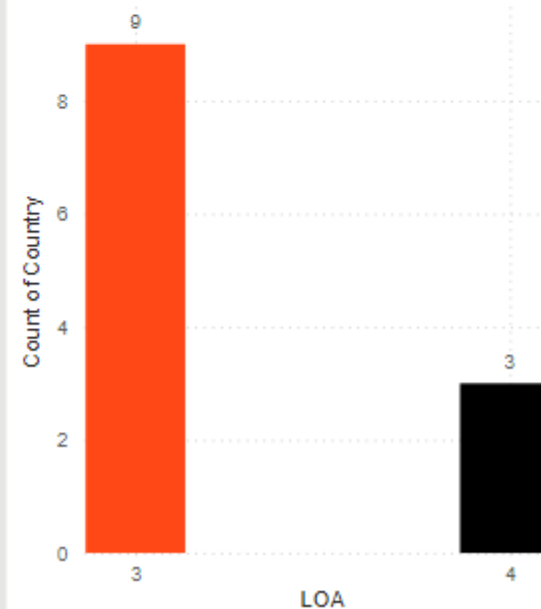
Distribution of LOA Scores



Year



Distribution of Unique countries having 3-5 LOA



Percentage of countries having LOA score of greater than or equal to 3



Countries having Critical Competency greater than or equal to 3

Country Name

Brunei

Cambodia

Laos

Malaysia

Myanmar

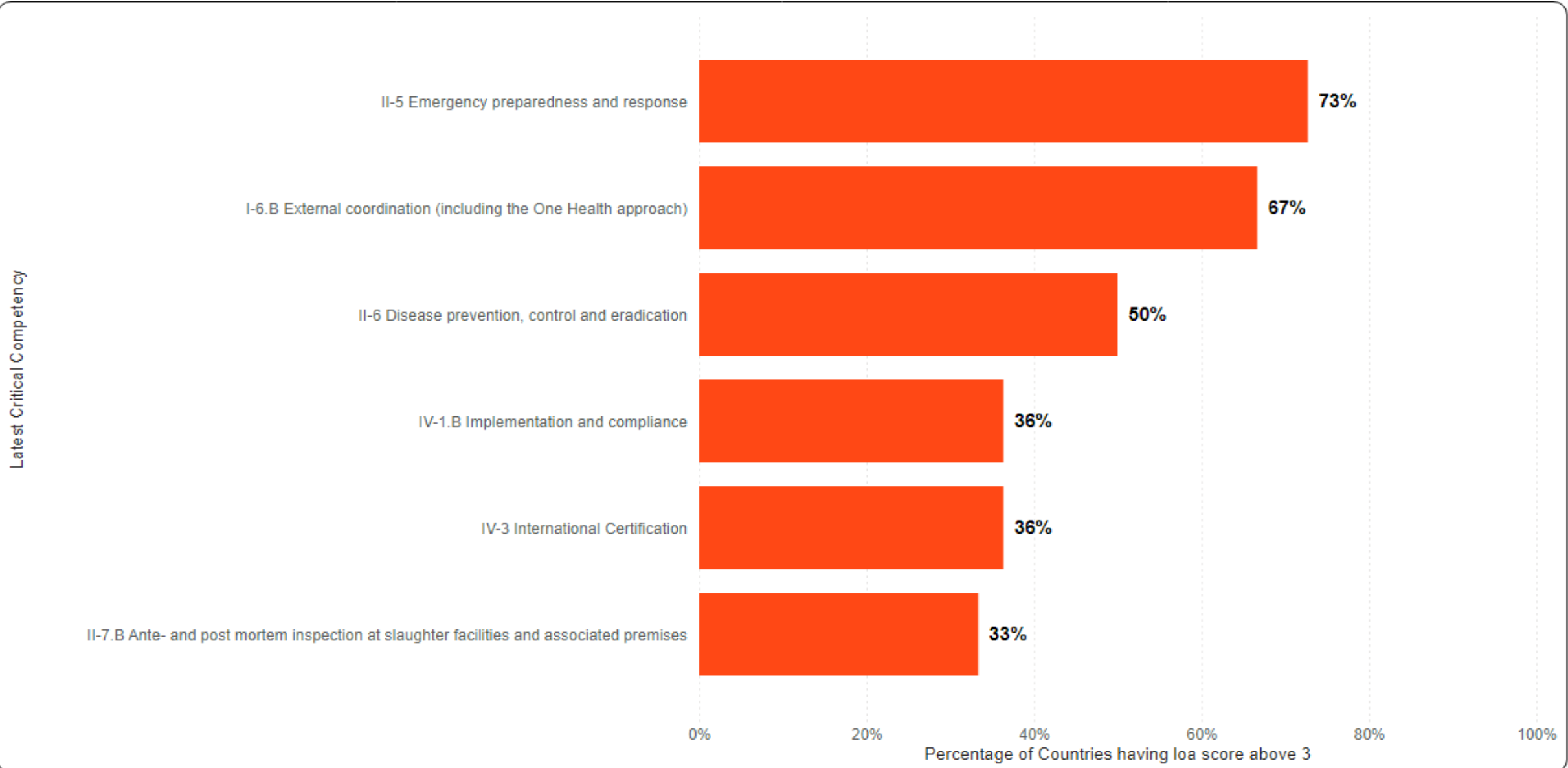
Papua

Philippines

Thailand

Vietnam

XX% of countries in SEA region that completed PVS mission that attained level of advancement of 3, 4 or 5 for selected Critical Competency



Objectives

01

Raise awareness
of gaps in
compliance with
WOAH standards.

02

Offer countries
suggestions for:
Legal reform,
modernization, &
harmonization.

03

Strengthen
intersectoral
coordination (**One
Health approach**)

1. Research (online) of legislation for each country
2. Validate legislation found with WOAH delegate and/or WOAH PVS Pathway reports.
3. Review legislation according to a list of assessment questions
 - *WOAH Terrestrial Animal Health Code (WOAH Terrestrial Code) in collaboration with and according to the priority topics of the WOAHSRRSEA office and CBD experts.*
4. Collect country results and tabulate the findings per country/question/topic.
5. Write final report of strengths and recommendations for compliance with WOAHS standards in veterinary legislation, along with
 - *Individual country assessments (not publicly available)*
 - *Mapping of legislation collected*



Objective/Scope¶

- 1) Does the legislation provide a legal basis for the Veterinary Authority to develop animal disease control measures?¶
 - a) Including for TADs?¶
 - b) including for zoonoses?¶
 - c) Including for wildlife diseases?¶
 - d) If none of the above specifically mentioned, does the language allow for all to be considered under the mandate?¶
- 2) If so, does the legislation provide a legal basis for the Veterinary Services to implement these animal disease control measures?¶
- 3) If not, is there another Ministry or government department that is responsible for controlling TADs?¶
- 4) If so, are there formal agreements in place for intersectoral (interagency) coordination for actions on animal disease control between other Ministries or departments (One Health Governance)?¶
 - a) including with the wildlife authority, if applicable?¶
 - b) Including with the health authority (MOH), if applicable?¶
 - c) Including between state and federal entities, if applicable?¶
- 5) Is there a legal basis for a regional (international) agreement for coordination for the control of zoonosis (TADs), including with the wildlife and health authorities of different countries, if applicable?¶

Disease control programme¶

General:¶

- 9) Is there a law regulating animal disease control?¶
- 10) If so, does the law contain a legal basis for the Veterinary Services (VS) to maintain a list of notifiable diseases?¶
 - a) If so, does it include wildlife?¶
 - b) If not, is it clearly defined who has that authority and responsibility in wildlife?¶
- 11) Does the legislation provide a legal basis for the Veterinary Authority to delegate official duties to non-government actors (PPP)?¶
 - a)→ If so, does this power include delegation to veterinarians?¶
 - b)→ If so, does this power include delegation to VPPs?¶
 - c)→ If so, does the legislation specify the non-governmental actors to which delegation is authorised?¶
- 12) Is there a legal basis for the Veterinary Authority to designate official veterinary inspectors/officers to carry out provisions of the act?¶
 - a) If so, does the law list the qualifications of these inspectors/officers?¶

Important notes on review:

Texts reviewed in
English = “lost” in
translation

Aquatic animals
excluded.

Wildlife included.

(feral → “domestic”)

Most countries:
“animal” includes
wildlife.

✓ 246 pieces of legislation reviewed

✓ 25-50 pages of analysis for each country

→ 379 pages of analysis total

→ 12 individual country summaries

→ Strength = Generally, **8 or more** countries cover the item (over 60%)

→ Gap = **7 or less** countries cover the item (less than 60%)

- **Legislation** = primary (Act) + secondary (regulation, order)
- **Legal framework** = legislation + policies, guidelines, and other implementing orders
- “**Legal basis for**” = covered or explicitly addressed in the legislation reviewed

→ Key component of One Health Approach

*“Countries should utilize **formal external coordination mechanisms** with clearly prescribed procedures or agreements for activities (including preparedness and response mechanisms) between the VA, Competent Authorities, and other relevant governmental authorities and stakeholders **using the One Health approach.**”*

WOAH *Terrestrial Code*, Chapter 3.2 (2022): Quality of Veterinary Services,
article 3.2.3: Policy & Management

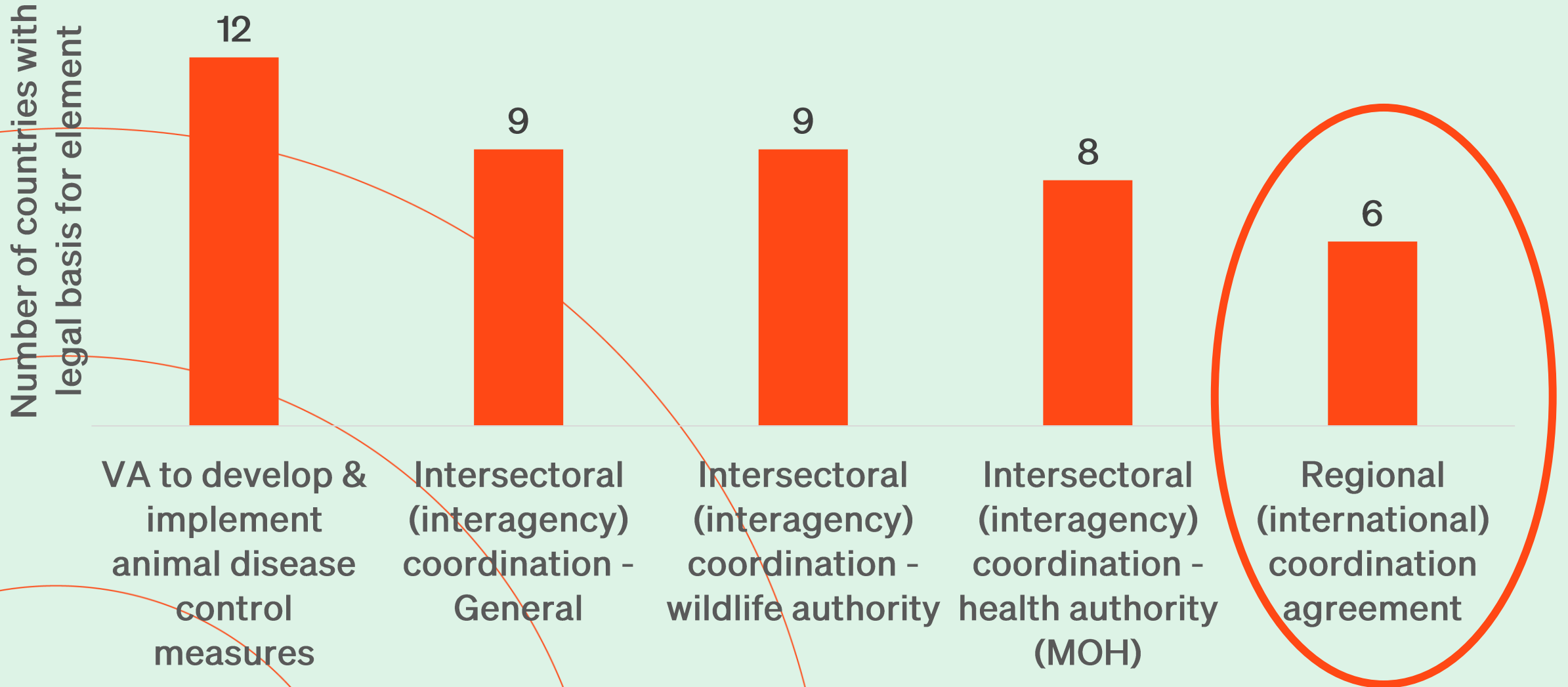
Key Strengths

1. 12 countries (100%) authorise the VA to ***develop animal disease control measures***
2. Nine countries (75%) reference ***coordination between ministries*** when exercising disease control responsibilities.

Key Gaps

1. Six countries (50%) address ***international coordination***
2. For most countries, coordination provisions are ***suggested rather than mandatory*** (i.e., may vs. must).

Elements relating to Multi-sectoral Coordination (out of 12)

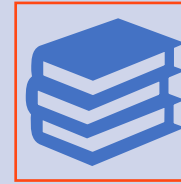


Key Recommendations

1. Review **formal coordination agreements** between ministries, international organizations, and/or entities (ex: MOUs)
2. Ensure legal framework supports **international coordination on disease control**, where necessary (e.g., TADs).
3. Verify that **roles of the different authorities are clear** where mandates are overlapping.
4. Consider including mandatory requirement for **intersectoral coordination** in the event of disease outbreaks or disasters.



Consistent use of key terms throughout legislation texts is important to ensure **legal clarity.**



30 key terms** relating to animal disease control considered

(i.e., how they are used in the text (scope) and definitions)

****Examples:** animal, biosecurity, Competent Authority, notifiable disease, official control programme, risk, veterinarian, outbreak, sanitary measure

Important note: **translation = key!**

Key Strengths

- All countries define the term “animal”
- Majority of countries define the terms “disease” and “wildlife”
- Scope of these terms is often broad and include most animals and diseases

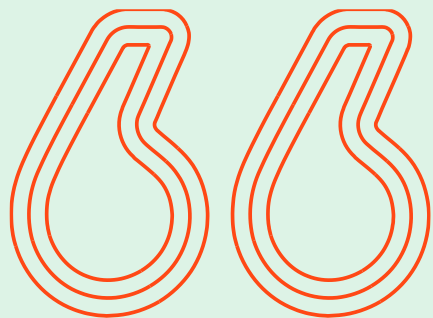
Key Gaps

- No countries explicitly mention TADs + four countries explicitly mention zoonosis
 - *Note: definition of “disease” often broad enough to include these categories*
- *Free-ranging wildlife* sometimes excluded from term “animal”

Key Recommendations

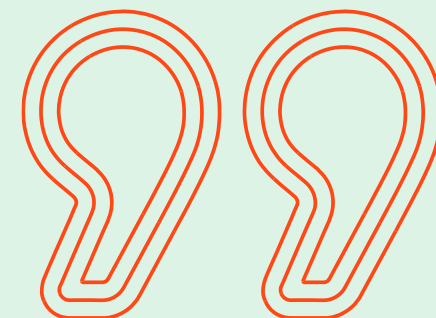
Review the legislation in original language for

- **Consistent use of key terms** within and among different texts
- **Scope and definition** of the terms “**animal**” and “**disease**” within the different texts
 - Delineates **scope of authority** for different ministries and coordination
- For the term animal in the disease control legislation, verify whether this term **encompasses wildlife**.



Question & Answer

Multi-sectoral Coordination & Terminology/Definitions



Veterinary Services (VS) means the **combination of governmental and non-governmental individuals and organisations** that perform activities to implement the standards of the **[WOAH Terrestrial Code]**.

Veterinary Authority (VA) means the **governmental authority with the primary responsibility** in the whole territory for coordinating the implementation of **[WOAH] standards**.

Key Strengths

- All countries authorise the **VA to coordinate implementation of WOAH Terrestrial Code**

Key Gaps

- **Seven countries explicitly reference veterinarians**
- **Three countries explicitly reference other veterinary professionals****

→ Could be result of translation errors.

***veterinary paraprofessionals, veterinary technicians, meat inspectors, and community or village animal health workers*

Key Recommendations

Review all legislation in the original language (including legislation governing the veterinary professions) to **confirm that veterinarians and VPPs play recommended roles** in the *WOAH Terrestrial Code*.

→ Ex: issuance by accredited veterinarians of international veterinary certifications for the trade of animals and animal products.

The *WOAH Terrestrial Code* covers many key aspects of the national disease control programme:

- Pre- & post- animal disease emergency
- During animal disease emergency

This review considered several of these elements to determine the **legal preparedness for responding to an animal disease outbreak.**

→ notably the detection of a notifiable disease listed by *WOAH*.

Key Strengths

Many countries distribute responsibilities among **multiple authorities**

→ *ex: for zoonotic diseases, authorities governing animal disease & public health legislation; for wildlife, authorities governing animal disease & wildlife legislation*

Twelve countries cover:

1. Creation of a **notifiable diseases list**.
2. Designation of **official officers and/or inspectors**
3. The **declaration** of an animal disease **outbreak or emergency**
4. **National reporting** requirements
5. Issuance of **international export certificates**

Key Strengths (continued)

Eleven countries cover:

1. Application of **disease control measures for wildlife** (definition of term animal)
2. **Risk-based measures** for the trade of domestic animals and animal products.

Ten countries cover:

1. **Emergency use** of veterinary medicinal products (VMPs)
2. Animal disease **surveillance system**

Nine countries cover creation of **emergency response plans** (contingency plans) and/or emergency preparedness plans

→ Six = legislation governing natural disasters

Eight countries cover designation of **disease-free zones**

Key Gaps

Seven countries cover:

1. **Establishment of early warning systems** (five within natural disaster legislation)
2. **Compensation mechanisms** and/or emergency response funds for animal disease control measures

Six countries cover:

1. **Collection, reporting, and publication of animal disease data**
2. **Designation of reference laboratories.**
3. **Delegation of authority to non-state actors/private sector** (i.e., sanitary mandates)

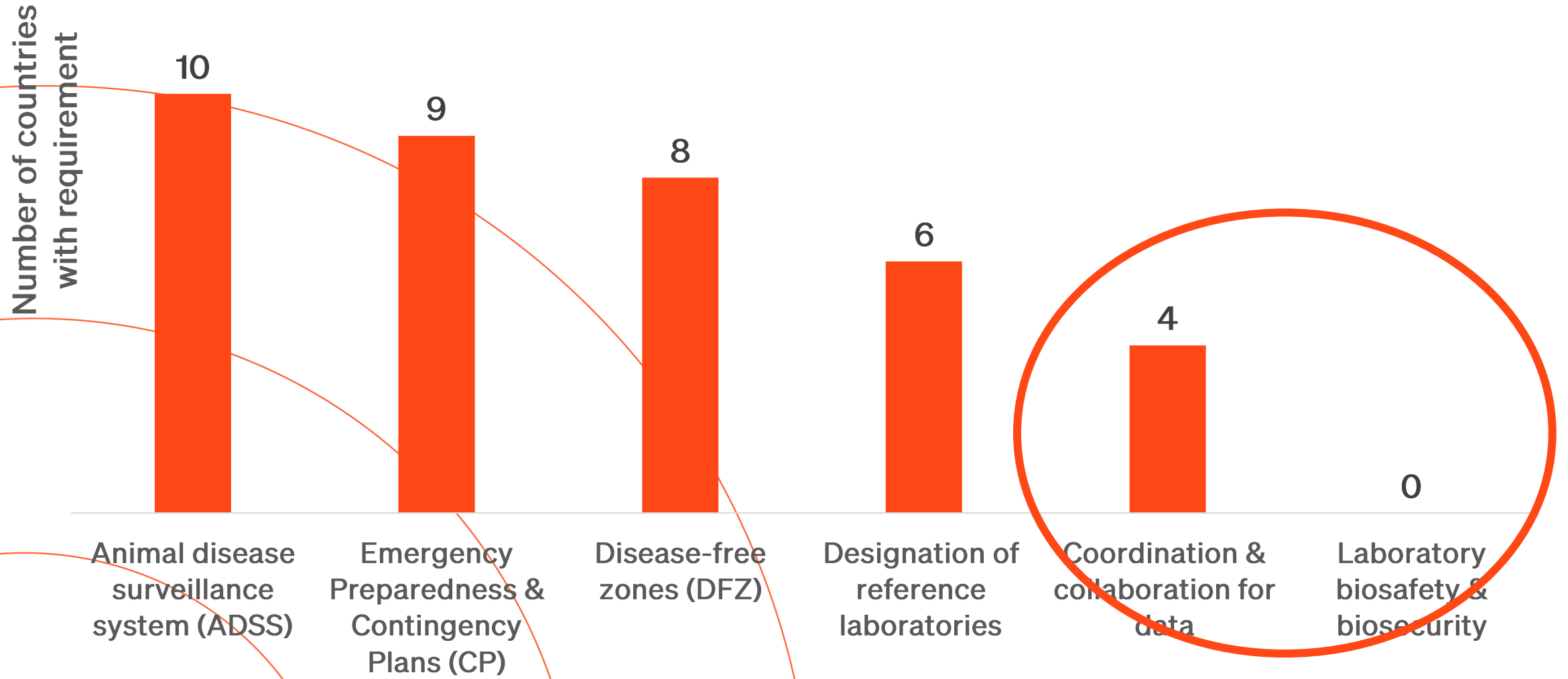
Key Gaps (continued)

Four countries specifically require coordination and collaboration in collecting, analysing, and sharing data between authorities

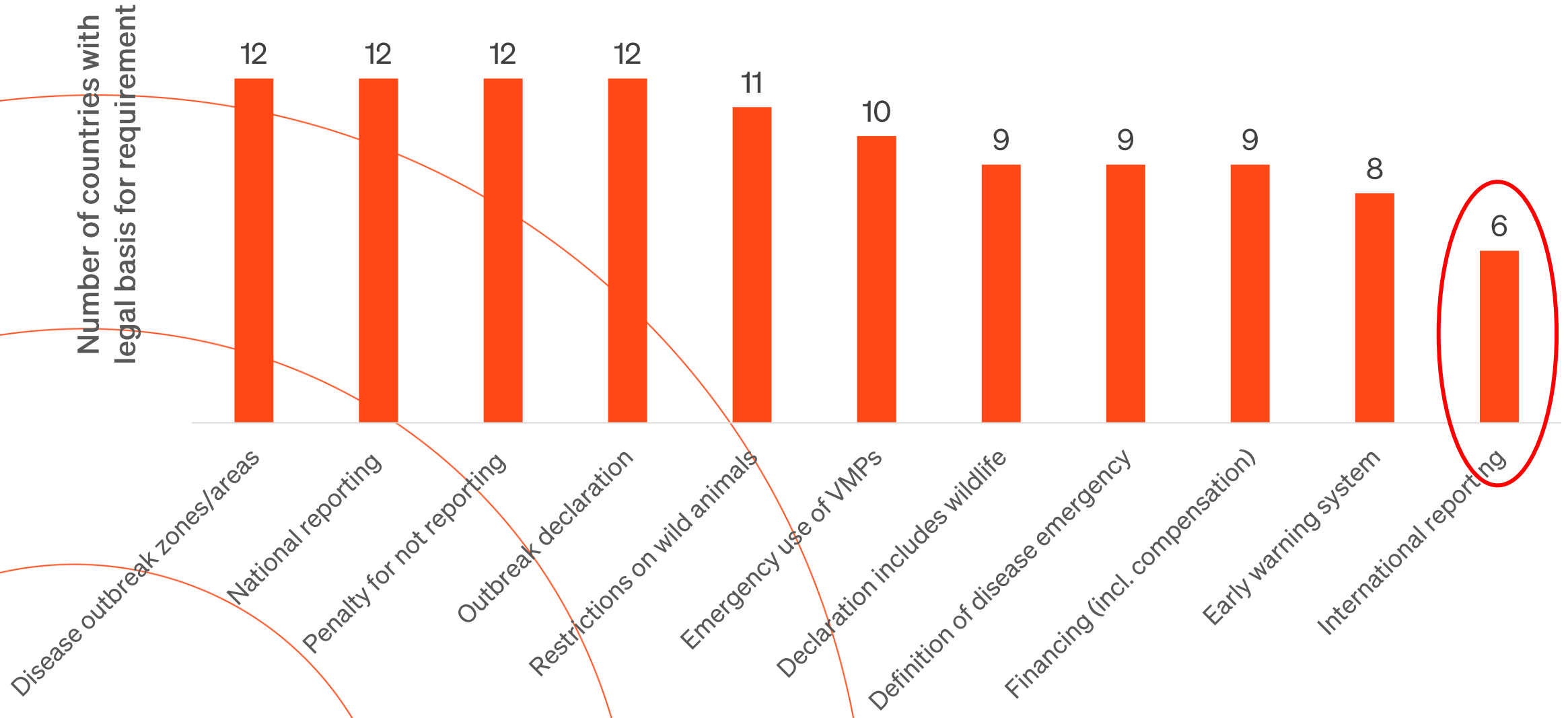
No countries explicitly mention biosafety or biosecurity

Sometimes notifiable disease lists limited to zoonotic diseases and/or unclear how often they are updated

Number of countries with legal basis for Pre/post emergency requirement (out of 12)



Number of countries with legal basis for disease emergency requirement (out of 12)



Key Recommendations

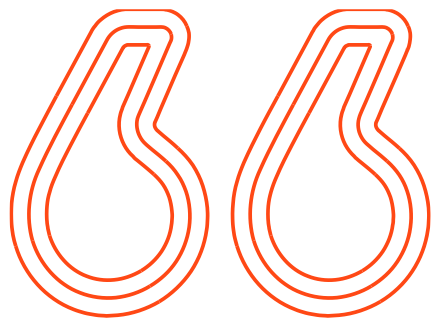
Review legal framework in original language for:

1. Collection, reporting, and publication of **animal disease data**.
2. Provisions supporting the **partnerships with the private sector** (public-private partnerships).
3. Creation (where needed) & maintenance (regulate updating) of **notifiable disease lists**.
4. **Surveillance** of notifiable and emerging diseases in **wildlife**

Key Recommendations (continued)

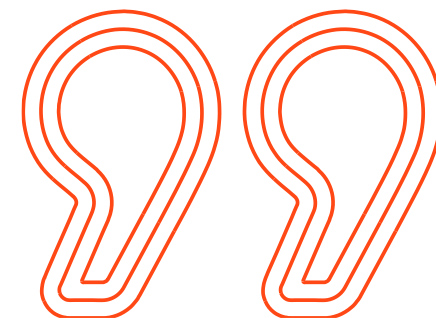
Review legal framework in original language for:

5. **Compensation mechanisms** for disease control measures
6. **Role of VA** in the early warning system and emergency response plans for animal diseases
7. Establishment of **coordination mechanisms between ministries** with overlapping responsibilities (where needed)
8. **Designation of reference laboratories and/or biosafety and biosecurity** requirements.



Question & Answer

Veterinary Services & Disease Control





BREAK



5 MINUTES

- The WOAHA *Terrestrial Code* covers **role of the VS in food safety** (i.e., control of animal diseases in food products).
- This review considered the following key elements:
 - ***Veterinary inspections*** at pre-slaughter (i.e., farm level, slaughterhouse), slaughter (including wildlife and traditional or religious slaughter), post-slaughter (i.e., meat processing and storage facilities);
 - ***Emergency recall*** of hazardous products.
 - **Markets, including *markets where live animals are sold* for food;**
 - **important *risk factor* in zoonotic disease outbreaks.**

Key Strengths

- All countries have a **law governing food safety**.
- Nine countries **assign responsibilities to the ministry responsible for agriculture** for implementing the food safety legislation reviewed.
- Most countries provide a legal basis for:
 1. **Authority for authorized officers to initiate inspections** at pre-slaughter (i.e., farm level, slaughterhouse), slaughter, and post-slaughter and harvesting (i.e., meat processing facilities).
 2. The **role of the VA** in the food safety scheme.
 3. **Traditional or religious slaughter** (including halal and slaughter for festivals, where applicable).
 4. **Recall from the marketplace** of food that could pose a threat to public health.

Key Gap

Four countries *explicitly* mention **inspection authority for live animal markets** (including where animals are sold for food).

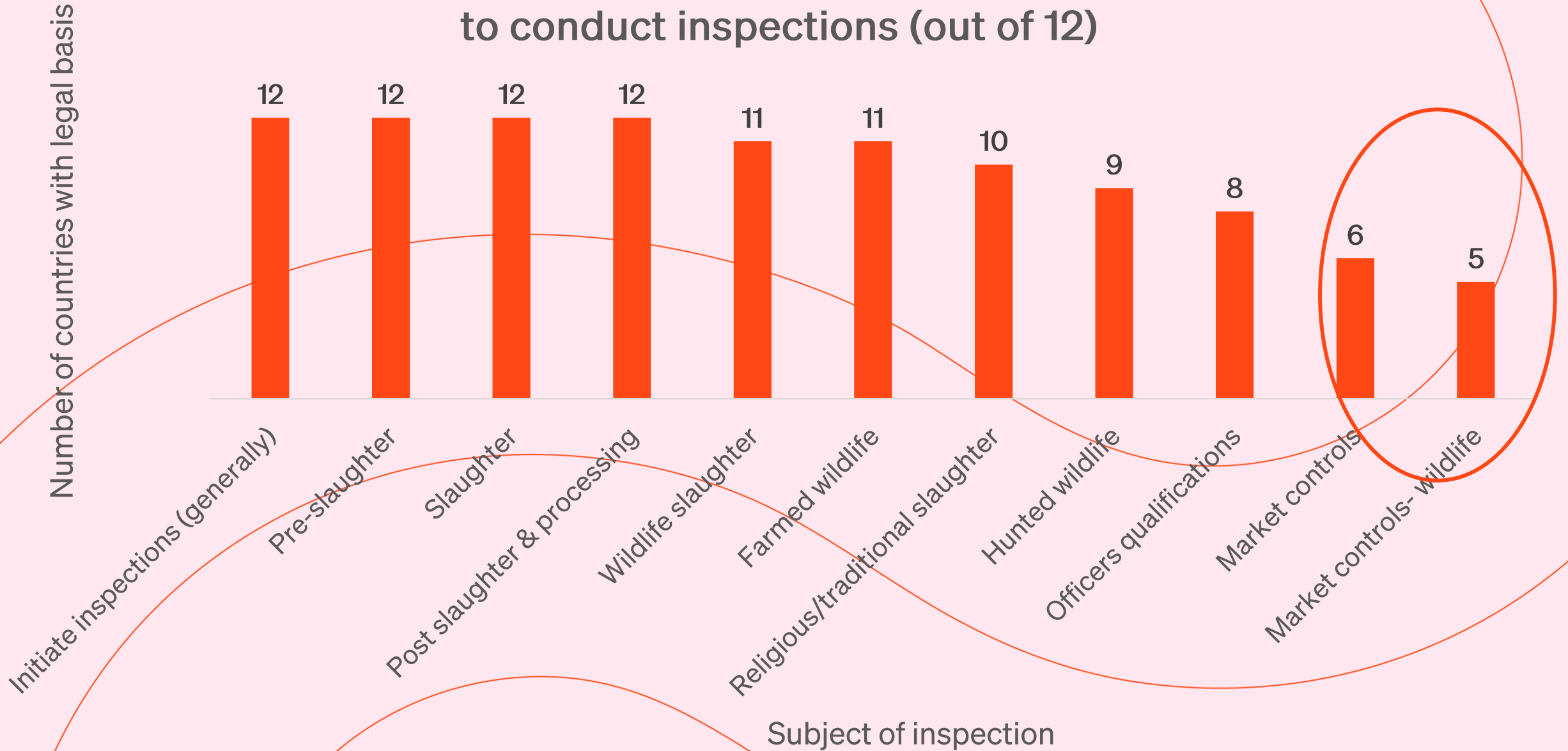
Key Recommendations

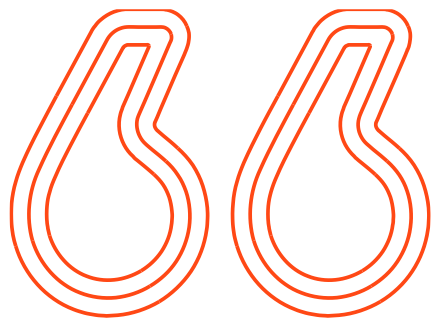
Verify that the legal framework in the original language

1. Authorizes designated food safety officers to **inspect markets where live animals are sold for food**.
2. Provides a legal basis for **coordination mechanisms between ministries** involved in food safety scheme (where necessary).



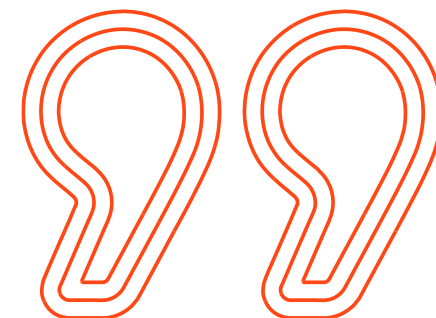
Number of countries with a legal basis for Food Safety Officers to conduct inspections (out of 12)





Question & Answer

Food Safety



National VS should play a role in the Natural Disaster response where **animal disease outbreaks are the cause** of the natural disaster or **result from the natural disaster** (i.e., flood, earthquake, typhoon)

Within this review:

- Eight countries have a **specific law governing natural disasters** (i.e., the national natural disaster response or emergency preparedness).
- All eight of these countries **assign responsibilities to varying authorities** and for the implementation of this legislation.
 - Six of these countries establish a **specific natural disaster committee** or council comprised of different government ministries and agencies.

Key Strengths

All eight countries with legislation addressing natural disasters cover:

1. **Definition** of the word “**disaster**” or “**natural disaster**” that **includes an animal disease outbreak** or is broad enough to include an animal disease outbreak.
2. **Provisions for intersectoral coordination and cooperation** in the natural disaster response

Six of these countries **assign the ministry responsible for agriculture with a role** in the disaster response.

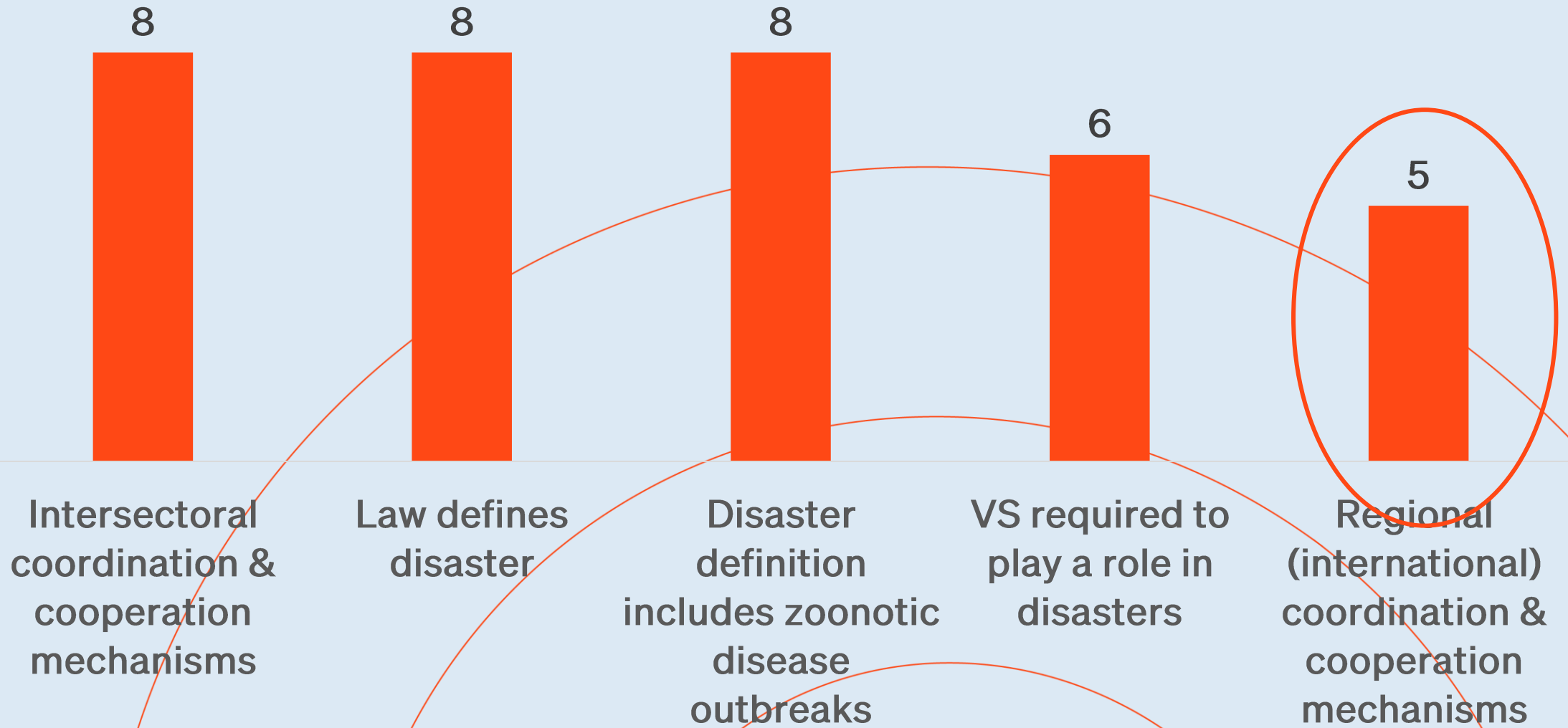
Key Gap

- **Six countries** include a legal basis for **regional coordination and cooperation mechanisms** in the national natural disaster response.



Number of countries with legal basis for natural disaster requirement (out of eight)

Number of countries with legal basis for requirement

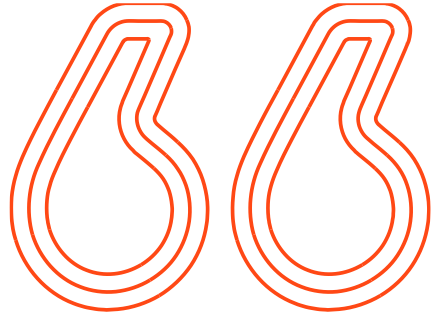




Key Recommendations

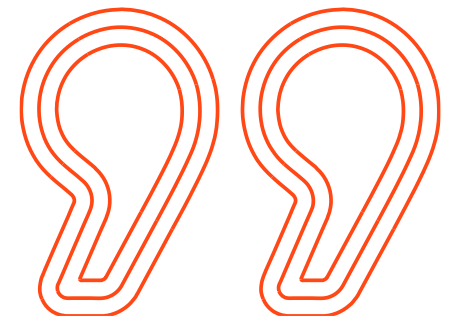
1. Ensure that legislation **addresses natural disaster preparedness, including animal disease outbreaks** as the primary disaster or incidental to another natural disaster.
2. Ensure that national legal framework sets a foundation for **regional, or international coordination** on natural disasters.
3. Generally, review and/or clarify the **role of the national VA in the natural disaster response** when the natural disaster is or involves an animal disease outbreak.

→ i.e., *involvement of the VA in the development of **emergency response plans** and **early warning system** for animal disease outbreak.*



Question & Answer

Natural Disasters



Enforcement provisions are essential for *motivating the behaviour required* by the legislation and legal compliance.

- **Fair and equal balance** = essential for ensuring:
 1. **Public acceptance of the legislation** and is **motivated to comply** with its provisions, and
 2. That the legislation is **sustainable**.Too harsh → public is *less likely to accept* and comply

Important note: Usually also specific **criminal legislation**



Key Strengths

- All countries include **clear enforcement mechanisms**.
- For most countries, enforcement mechanisms were **set out within a penalties section** at the end of the legislation.
- Typically fines, imprisonment, revocation of licenses, or a mix of both.

Key Gaps

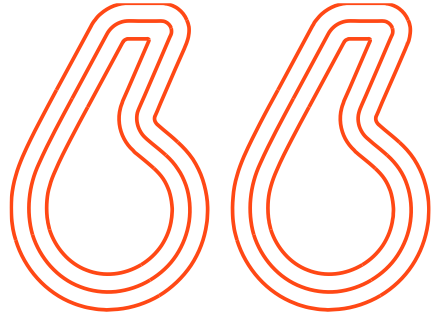
- **No gaps identified for this section.**





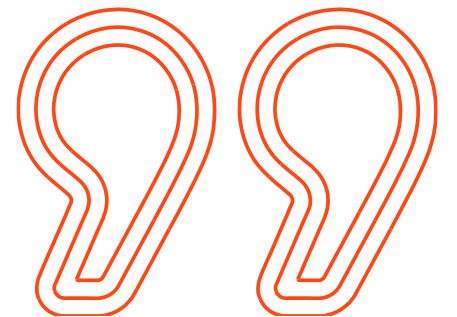
Key Recommendations

- Verify that there is a legal basis for **sustainable financial and human resources** for the **implementation** of the legislation and subsequent **application of enforcement mechanisms**
 - *E.g., sufficient funding for inspectors and other actors hired for compliance verification.*
- Include **criminal legislation** (penal codes, etc.) in subsequent reviews for complete picture of enforcement mechanisms.



Question & Answer

Enforcement





For the VS to fulfill its functions regarding animal disease control, **veterinary legislation should provide necessary powers and authorities** (as recommended by the WOAH *Terrestrial Code*).



There are many opportunities for **strengthening the legislation governing animal disease control**, including many functions of the Veterinary Authority.



Countries are encouraged to **review their national legislation in the original text/language** to verify compliance with the WOAH *Terrestrial Code*.



WOAH support available through the **Veterinary Legislation Support Programme (VLSP)**.

Thank you!

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