The PVS EPR Tool: National Emergency Preparedness and Response assessment tool

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Sub-Regional Workshop on Emergency Management
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Presentation covers

- Background overview

- Review of the PVS Tool

- Introduction of the Emergency Preparedness and Response assessment tool (PVS-EPR)

- PVS-EPR assessment and After-Action Review in Malaysia

- PVS-EPR assessment in the Philippines

- Summary

Section: Background

Background

Ongoing and increasing threats from emerging infectious diseases and TADs compromise animal and human health and overall well-being

Critical need: Strengthened emergency preparedness and response capabilities are critical to reduce the risk from emerging infectious diseases, including zoonoses, and TADs.

Task: Develop a methodology to establish a baseline and to assess emergency preparedness and response capabilities of VS > to provide a foundation for advocacy and systems improvement.

Approach: To review the PVS evaluation of national veterinary services and develop an appropriate methodology to assess emergency preparedness and response.
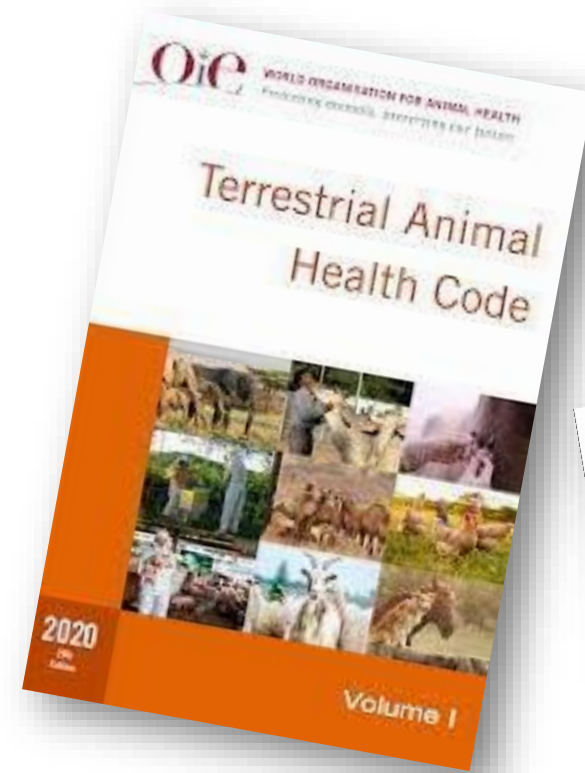
Section:
Review of the PVS Tool

Quick review of the PVS Tool

- The OIE PVS Tool assesses the performance of the VS:

➢ Uses as standardised methodology

➢ References TAHC, AAHC and other codes/manuals to provide standards for animal health and welfare

➢ Identifies gaps and weaknesses in complying with WOAH (OIE) standards

➢ Identifies strategic initiatives and makes recommendations.

PVS evaluates…
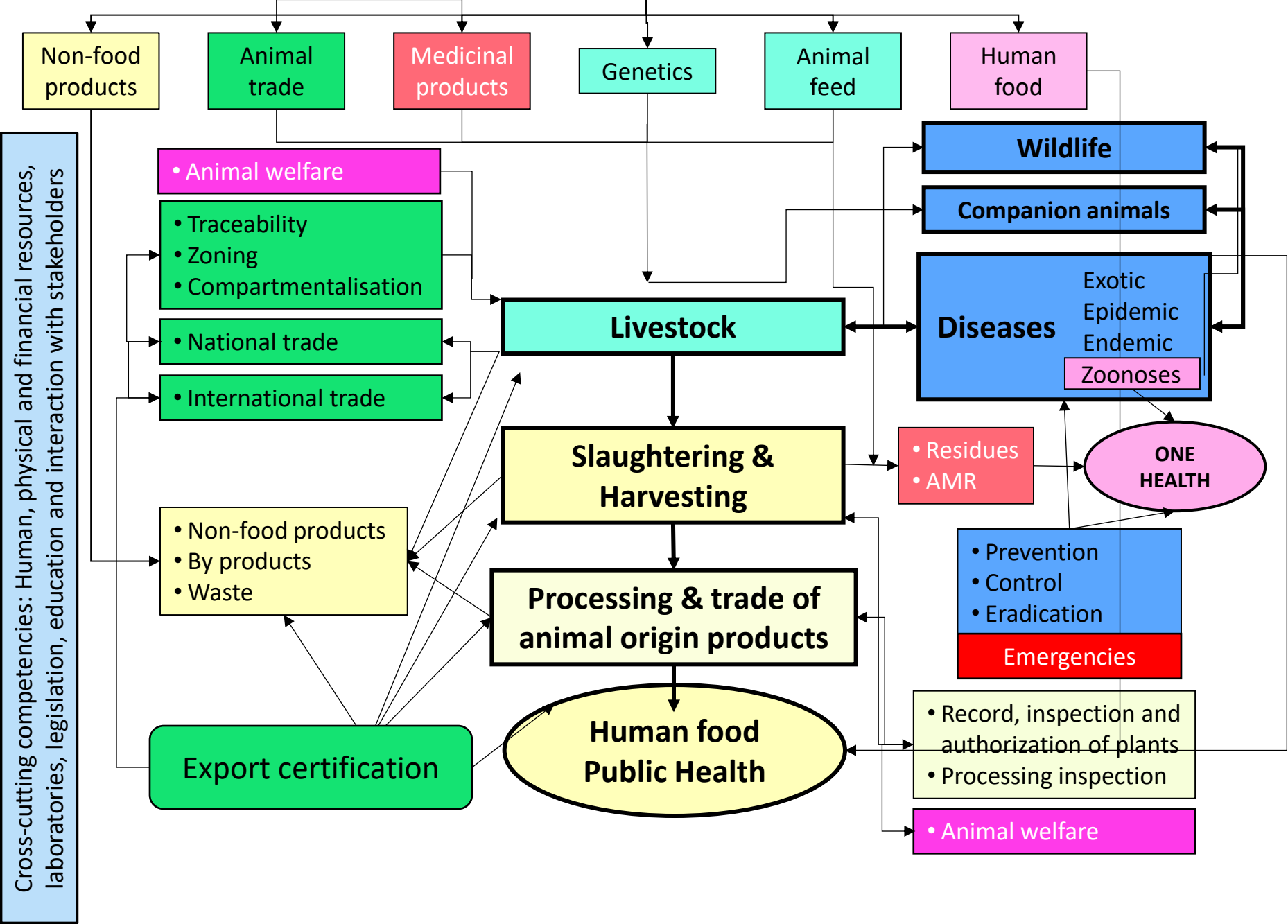
the whole 'Veterinary

Domain'!

Quick review of the PVS Tool

➢ Complex

➢ Develop categories and assessment criteria for the 'Veterinary Domain'

- 45 'Critical Competencies'

- 4 'Fundamental Components'

- 5 'Levels of Advancement
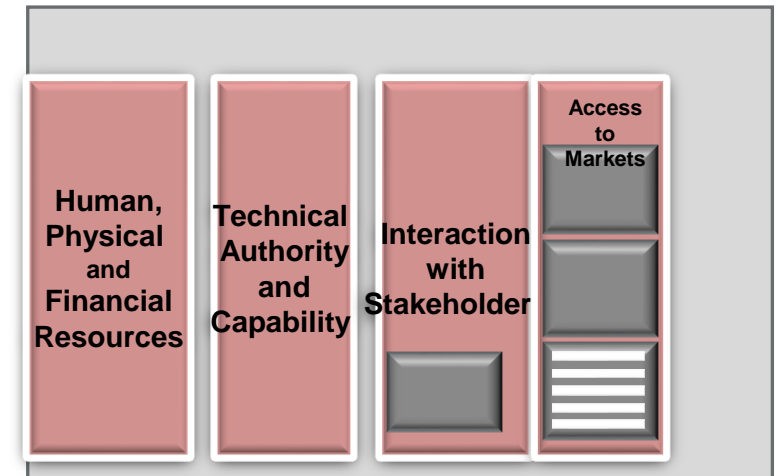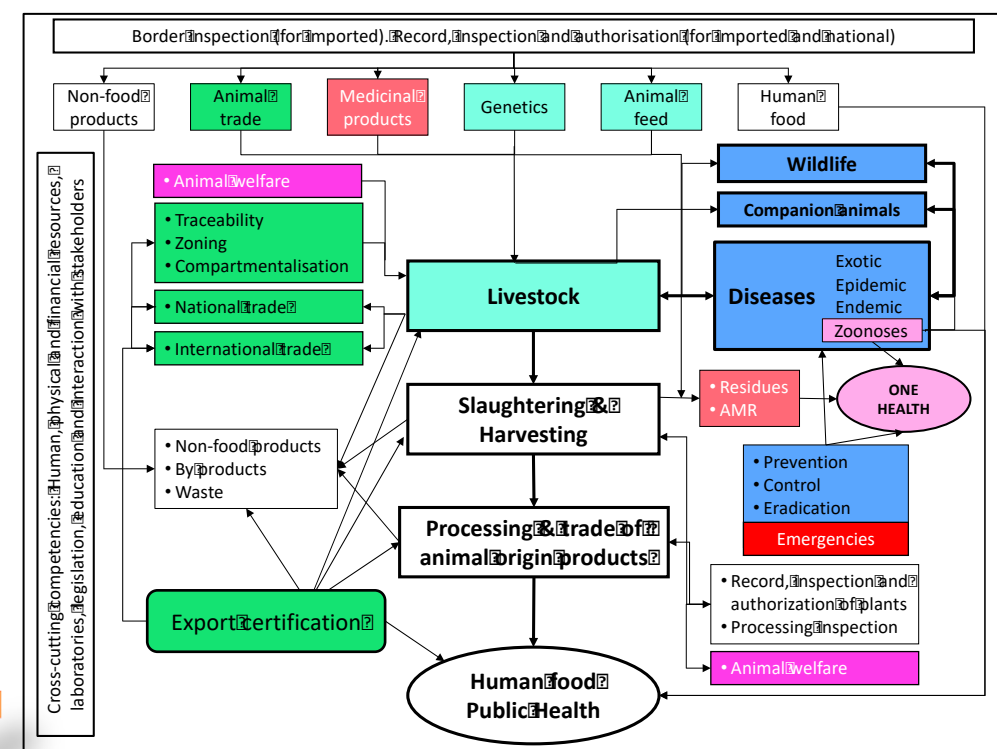
CCs – Levels of Advancement

➤ 5 levels of advancement for each Critical Competency

➤ Progressive: a higher level assumes compliance with all preceding levels

➤ Increasing compliance with WOAH standards

Level of advancement 1
No compliance

Level of advancement 2

Level of advancement 3

Level of advancement 4

Level of advancement 5 **Full compliance with WOAH Standards**
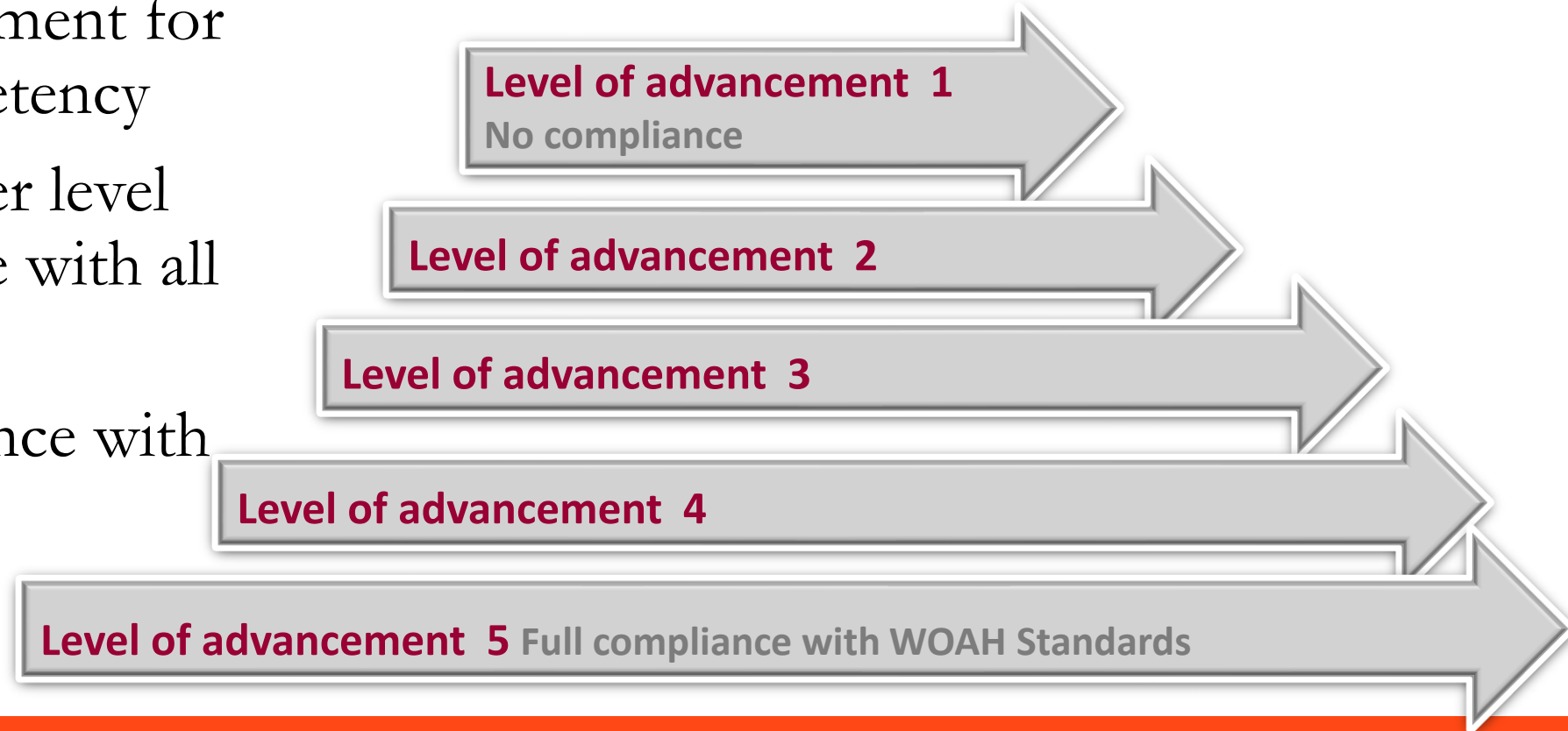
Critical Competency Example

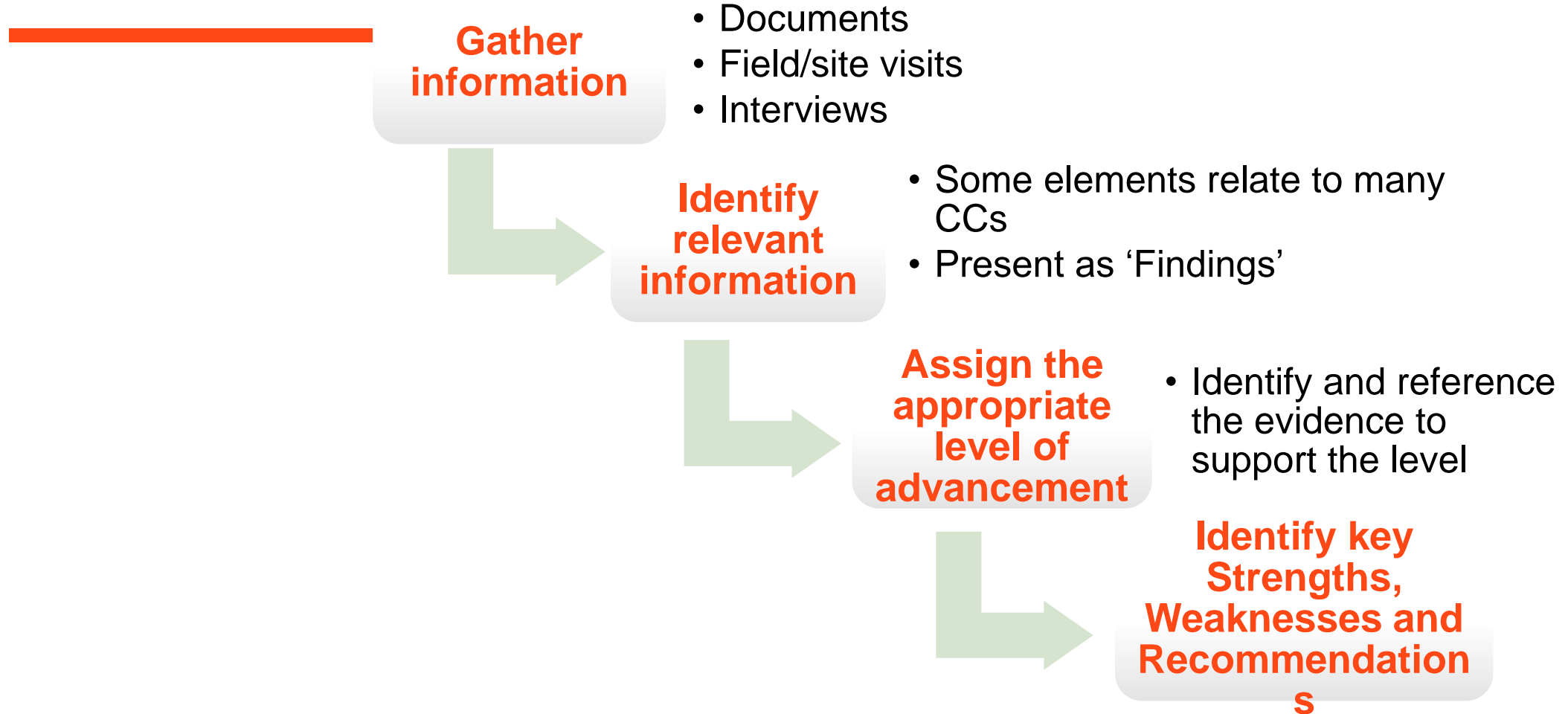| I-7 Physical resources and capital investment	Levels of advancement
The access of the VS to functional and well-maintained physical resources including buildings, transport, information technology (e.g. internet access), cold chain, and other necessary equipment or structures. This includes whether major capital investment is available.	1. The VS have no or unsuitable physical resources at almost all levels and maintenance of existing infrastructure is poor or non-existent.
	2. The VS have suitable physical resources at national (central) level and at some state/provincial levels, but maintenance, as well as replacement of obsolete items, occurs rarely.
	3. The VS have suitable physical resources at national, state/provincial and some local levels but maintenance, as well as replacement of obsolete items, occurs irregularly.
	4. The VS have suitable physical resources at all levels and these are regularly maintained. Major capital investments occur occasionally to improve the VS operational infrastructure over time.
	5. The VS have suitable physical resources at all levels (national, state/provincial and local levels) and these are regularly maintained and updated as more advanced items become available. Major capital investments occur regularly to improve the VS operational capability and infrastructure.

EXAMPLE

Assessing Critical Competency

Gather information
- Documents
- Field/site visits
- Interviews

Identify relevant information
- Some elements relate to many CCs
- Present as 'Findings'

Assign the appropriate level of advancement
- Identify and reference the evidence to support the level

Identify key Strengths, Weaknesses and Recommendations

Section: the Emergency Preparedness and Response assessment tool (PVS-EPR)

PVS-EPR also evaluates...

the whole 'Veterinary Domain' but with a focus

on emergency preparedness and response
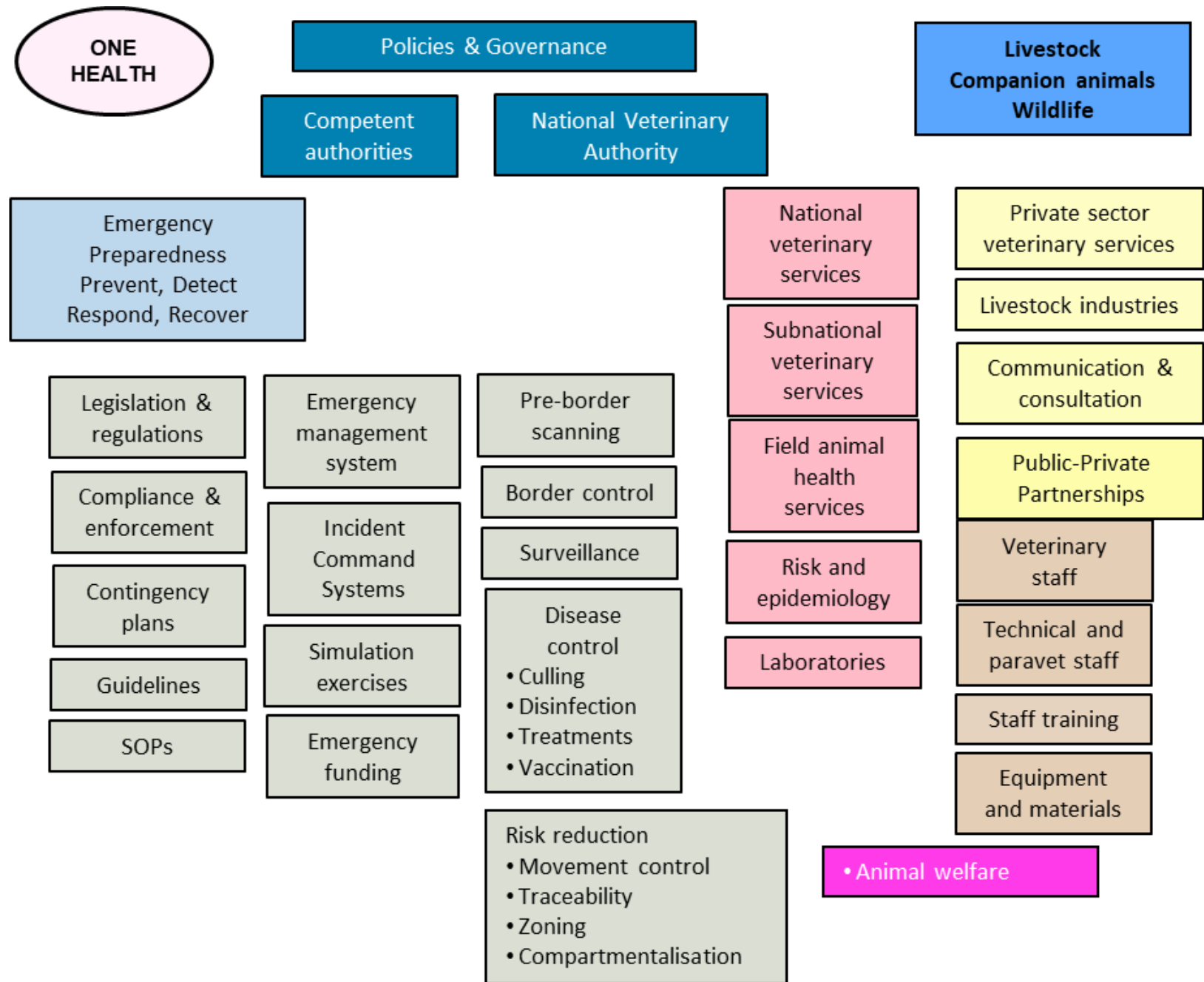
The methodology

➢ Complex

➢ Develop categories and assessment criteria for the 'EPR'

- ▪ 3 Fundamental Components'
- ▪ 20 ECCs (Emergency Critical Competencies)
- ▪ 5 LoAs (Levels of Advancement)

EPR – PVS structure

➢ 3 'Fundamental Components'

➢ 20 'Emergency Critical Competencies' – ECCs

➢ 5 'Levels of Advancement' – LoAs

PVS- EPR report format

Title

Definitio
n

Levels of
Advancement

Text
fields

Ref to documents, interviews,
other evidence

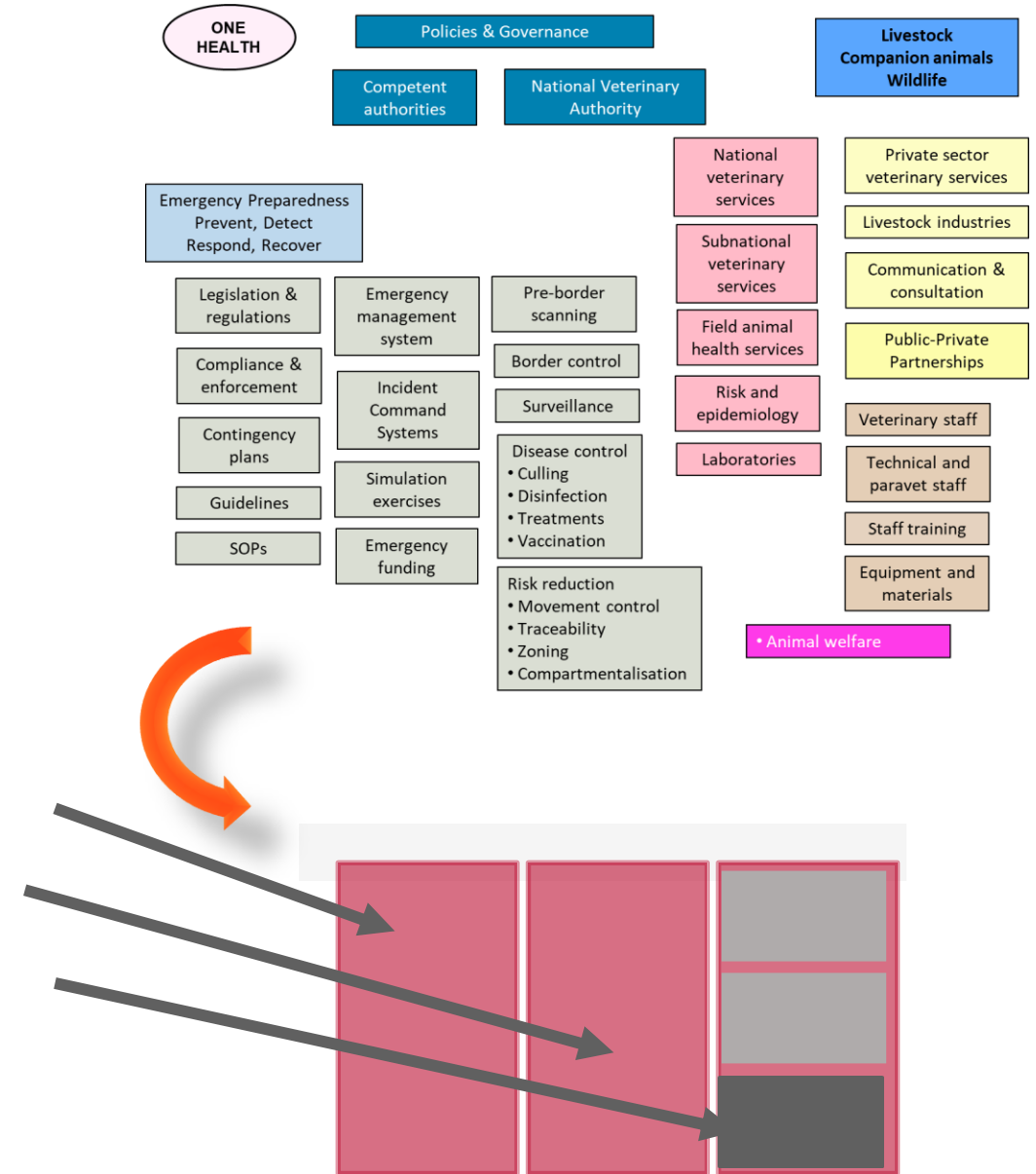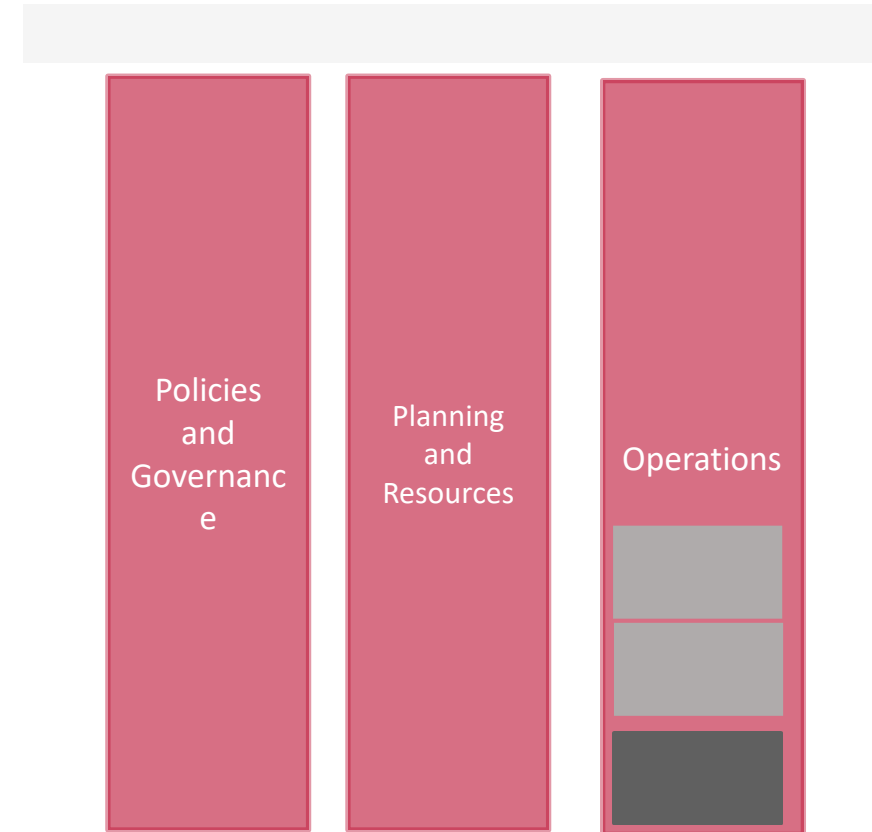| Planning and resources	Levels of advancement
PR-1 **Contingency plans** The authority and capability of the VS to develop and maintain contingency plans to enable an effective response to an animal health and food safety emergencies. *Contingency plans are predetermined plans designed to help the VS respond effectively to an animal health emergency.*	1: There are no contingency plans, or only a few, and these are not, or only rarely, updated
	2: Some contingency plans are available for a few priority diseases, but these are not being regularly updated
	3: Contingency plans are available for a number of priority diseases and these are reviewed from time to time
	4: Contingency plans are available for all priority diseases as identified by animal risk assessment and these are regularly reviewed and tested
	5; Contingency plans are available for all priority diseases and these are regularly reviewed and formally approved as controlled documents; accessibility ensured nationally through an effective controlled document management system

Findings:

Strengths:

Weaknesses:

Recommendations:

Evidence:

PVS-EPR

Fundamental Components & Emergency Critical Competencies (ECCs)

Fundamental Components and 'ECC's'

FC1	Policies and Governance	LoA…
PG1	Emergency policies and programmes	
PG2	Legislation and regulations	
PG3	Technical independence	
PG4	Internal VS coordination	
PG5	External coordination (including the OH approach	
PG6	Communication and consultation with stakeholders	
PG7	Public-Private-Partnerships	
FC2	Planning and resources	
PR1	Contingency plans	
PR2	Guidelines	
PR3	Resources – staff numbers and capabilities	
PR4	Emergency preparedness – simulation exercises	
PR5	Emergency preparedness and response budget	
PR6	Emergency equipment and materials	
FC3	Operations	
OP1	Risk and epidemiology	
OP2	Laboratories	
OP3	Disease prevention, including border security	
OP4	Surveillance - detection and monitoring	
OP5	Field response	
OP6	Movement control	
OP7	Animal Welfare	

Emergency Preparedness and Response (EPR) Tool

Fundamental components (FC)

Policy and governance (PG)

(PG) CRITICAL COMPETENCIES

PG 1: Emergency policies and programmes

PG2: Legislation and regulations

PG3 : Technical independence

PG4: Internal Veterinary Service coordination

PG 5 :External coordination (including the One Health approach

PG 6:Communication and consultation with stakeholders

PG7: Public-Private-Partnerships

Planning and resources (PR)

(PR) CRITICAL COMPETENCIES

PR 1: Contingency Plans

PR 2: Guidelines

PR 3: Resources – staff numbers and capabilities

PR 4 Emergency preparedness – simulation exercises

PR 5 : Emergency preparedness and response budget

PR 6: Emergency equipment and materials

Operations (OP)

(OP) CRITICAL COMPETENCIES

OP 1 : Risk and epidemiology

OP 2: Laboratories

OP 3: Disease prevention including border security

OP4: Surveillance - detection and monitoring

OP 5: Field response

OP 6: Movement control

OP 7: Animal welfare

Fundamental Component: Policies and Governance (PG)

PG1	Emergency policies and programmes
PG2	Legislation and regulations
PG3	Technical independence
PG4	Internal VS coordination
PG5	External coordination (including the One Health approach)
PG6	Communication and consultation with stakeholders
PG7	Public-Private-Partnerships

Policies and Governance	Levels of advancement
PG-1 **Emergency policies and programmes** The authority and capability of the VS leadership and organisation to develop, document and sustain emergency preparedness and response policies and programmes, and also to report on, review and evolve their policies and programmes, as appropriate over time.	1: Policies and programmes on emergency preparedness and response do not exist or are insufficiently developed and documented.
	2: Some basic emergency preparedness and response policies and programmes developed with documentation, with some reporting on their implementation.
	3: There are well developed and stable policies and programmes on emergency preparedness and response with comprehensive documentation Reports on implementation of emergency preparedness and response policies are available.
	4: Emergency preparedness and response policies and programmes are sustained, and regularly reviewed with appropriate updating to improve their effectiveness and address emerging concerns. Emergency preparedness and response policies are continually developed and reviewed despite changes in the political leadership and/or changes to the structure and leadership of the VS.
	5: Effective emergency preparedness and response policies and programmes are sustained over time. Modification to policies and strategic planning is based on an evidence-based process of evaluation to support their continual evolution and improvement.

Fundamental Component: Planning and Resources (PR)

PR1	Contingency plans
PR2	Guidelines
PR3	Resources – staff numbers and capabilities
PR4	Emergency Preparedness: simulation exercises
PR5	Emergency preparedness and response budget
PR6	Emergency equipment and consumables

Planning and resources	Levels of advancement
PR-1 **Contingency plans** The authority and capability of the VS to develop and maintain contingency plans to enable an effective response to an animal health and food safety emergencies. *Contingency plans are predetermined plans designed to help the VS respond effectively to an animal health emergency.*	1: There are no contingency plans, or only a few, and these are not, or only rarely, updated
	2: Some contingency plans are available for a few priority diseases, but these are not being regularly updated
	3: Contingency plans are available for a number of priority diseases and these are reviewed from time to time
	4: Contingency plans are available for all priority diseases as identified by formal risk assessment and these are regularly reviewed and tested
	5; Contingency plans are available for all priority diseases and these are regularly reviewed and formally approved as controlled documents; accessibility ensured nationally through an effective controlled documen management system

Fundamental Component: Operations (OP)
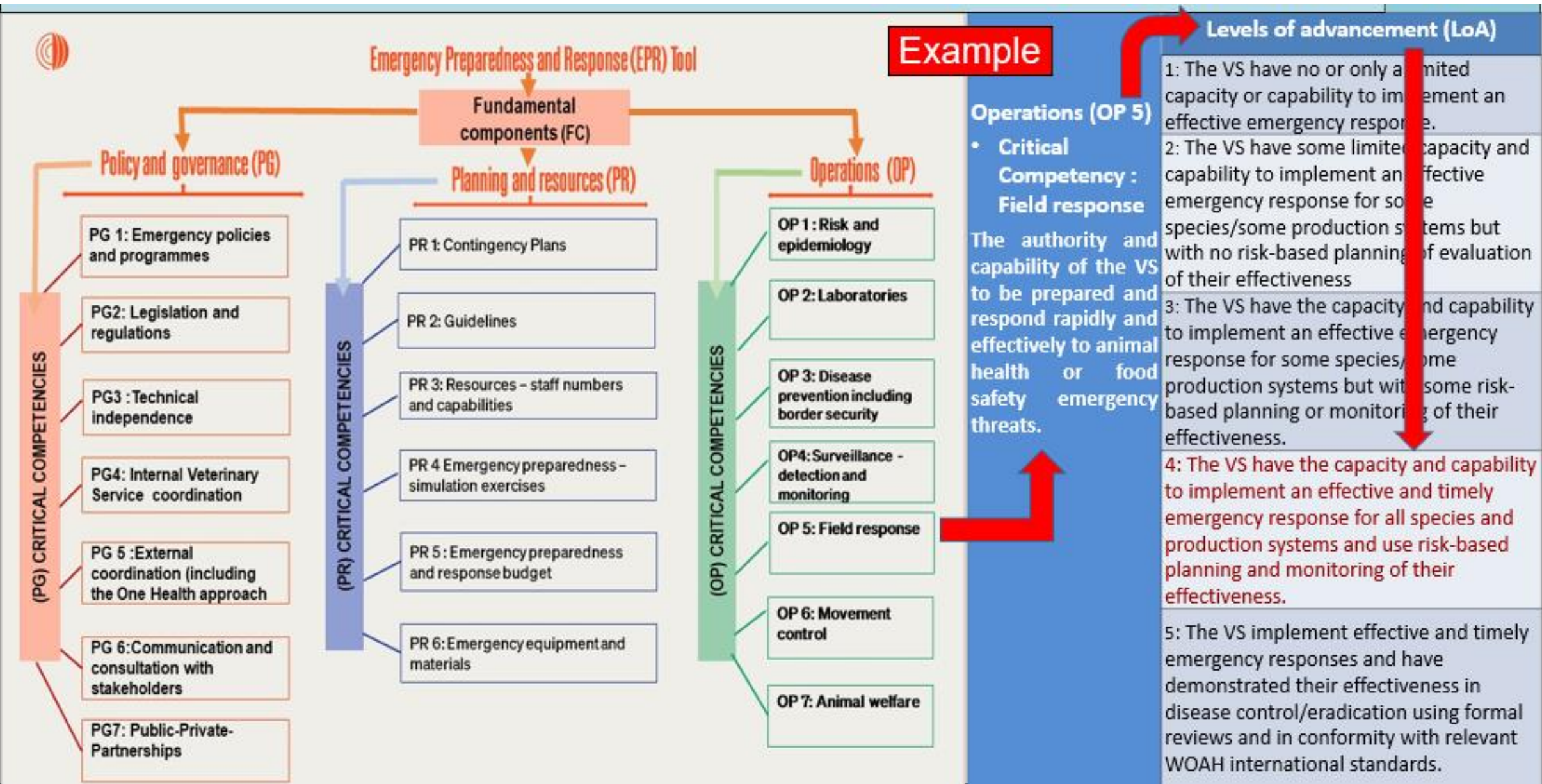
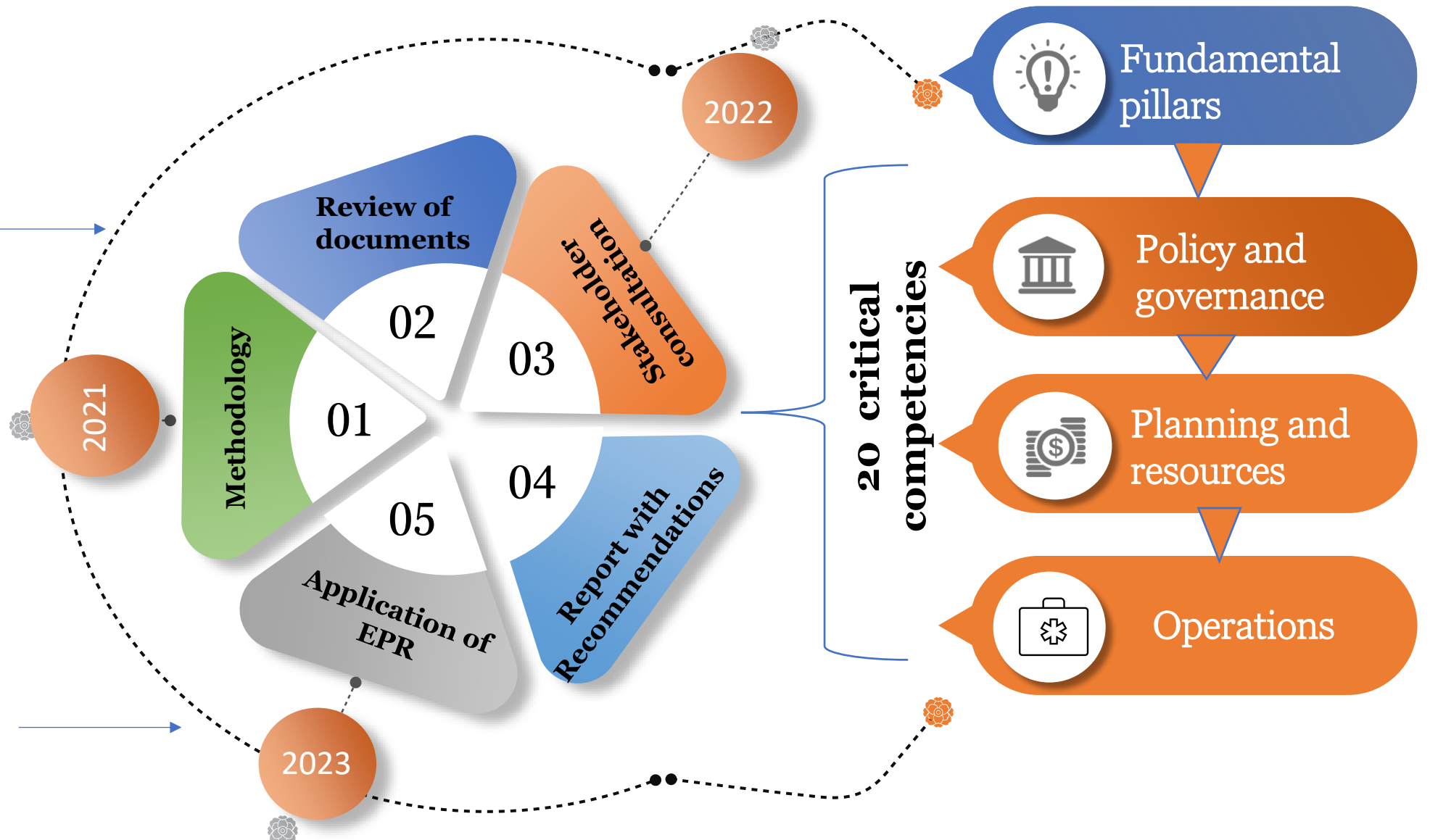| OP1	Risk & epidemiology
OP2	Laboratories
OP3	Disease prevention, including border security
OP4	Surveillance - detection
OP5	Field response
OP6	Movement control
OP7	Animal welfare

Operations	Levels of advancement
OP-1 **Risk & epidemiology** The authority and capability of the VS to base its risk management and risk communication measures for animal health and food safety emergencies on risk assessment, incorporating sound epidemiological principles.	1: No epidemiological and surveillance data is collected and risk management and ri communication measures for emergency preparedness and response are not usually supported by risk assessment.
	2: The VS compile and maintain epidemiological and surveillance data but do not have the capability to carry out risk analysis for emergency preparedness and respor Some risk management and risk communication measures are based on risk assessment and use some basic epidemiological principles.
	3: The VS compile and maintain epidemiological and surveillance data and have the policy and capability to carry out risk analysis for emergency preparedness and response using sound epidemiological principles. The majority of risk management and risk communication measures are based on risk assessment.
	4: The VS conduct risk analysis for emergency preparedness and response in compliance with relevant OIE standards and sound epidemiological principles, and base their risk management and risk communication measures on the outcomes of risk assessment.
	5: The VS are consistent and transparent in using risk assessment and best practice epidemiology for emergency preparedness and response, and in communicating and/or publishing their scientific procedures and outcomes internationally. Foresigh scanning is undertaken to identify emerging threats

Emergency Preparedness and Response (EPR) Tool

Fundamental components (FC)

Policy and governance (PG)

PG 1: Emergency policies and programmes

PG2: Legislation and regulations

PG3 : Technical independence

PG4: Internal Veterinary Service coordination

PG 5 :External coordination (including the One Health approach

PG 6:Communication and consultation with stakeholders

PG7: Public-Private-Partnerships

(PG) CRITICAL COMPETENCIES

Planning and resources (PR)

PR 1: Contingency Plans

PR 2: Guidelines

PR 3: Resources – staff numbers and capabilities

PR 4 Emergency preparedness – simulation exercises

PR 5 : Emergency preparedness and response budget

PR 6: Emergency equipment and materials

(PR) CRITICAL COMPETENCIES

Operations (OP)

OP 1 : Risk and epidemiology

OP 2: Laboratories

OP 3: Disease prevention including border security

OP4: Surveillance - detection and monitoring

OP 5: Field response

OP 6: Movement control

OP 7: Animal welfare

(OP) CRITICAL COMPETENCIES

Example

Operations (OP 5)

• **Critical Competency : Field response**

The authority and capability of the VS to be prepared and respond rapidly and effectively to animal health or food safety emergency threats.

Levels of advancement (LoA)

1: The VS have no or only a limited capacity or capability to implement an effective emergency response.

2: The VS have some limited capacity and capability to implement an effective emergency response for some species/some production systems but with no risk-based planning of evaluation of their effectiveness

3: The VS have the capacity and capability to implement an effective emergency response for some species/some production systems but with some risk-based planning or monitoring of their effectiveness.

4: The VS have the capacity and capability to implement an effective and timely emergency response for all species and production systems and use risk-based planning and monitoring of their effectiveness.

5: The VS implement effective and timely emergency responses and have demonstrated their effectiveness in disease control/eradication using formal reviews and in conformity with relevant WOAH international standards.

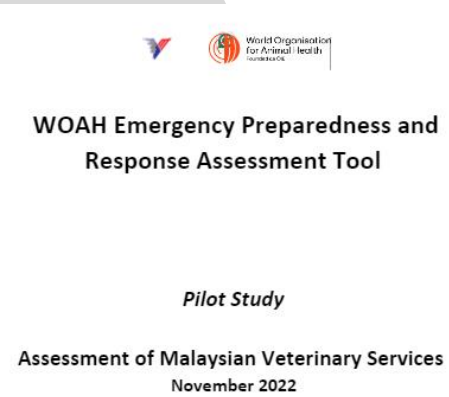# Emergency Preparedness and Response Tool

Section : PVS-EPR assessment and After-Action Review in Malaysia

WOAH's Emergency Preparedness and Response (EPR) Tool in Malaysia

EPR Tool [2021-22]

- EPR **Methodology developed** (2021)
- **Strengths and opportunities are identified**
- **Recommendations** provided (2022)
- **Report** submitted to DVS

WOAH Emergency Preparedness and Response Assessment Tool

Pilot Study

Assessment of Malaysian Veterinary Services
November 2022

8 virtual consultation
1 Physical Workshop (Oct 2022)
47 Participants

EPR progress feedback [2023]

- **Engagement with private stakeholders** mainly livestock association for the contingency plans and awareness disease control policies.
- **Improving livestock traceability and livestock control Permit system** allows the farmers and traders and private sector to register their premises themselves. DVS verified the premises' existence .
- **Improving training and preparedness of Veterinarians** : Session with Laboratory and field staff on training needs
- Report is being used **for advocacy and resource mobilisation** to improve emergency preparedness.

The PVS EPR Tool
National Emergency Preparedness and Response assessment tool overview and progress

Dr John Weaver, Dr Leo Loth and Ashish Sutar

Workshop on Assessment of the Emergency Preparedness

and Response (EPR) System of Bureau of Animal Industry,

Department of Agriculture and validation of the EPR Tool

6 -7 February 2024

Manila – Philippines

Pilot Study

Assessment of Malaysian Veterinary Services
November 2022

Group Photo: Workshop on the assessment of EPR system of Veterinary Services in Malaysia (27 Oct 2022)

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WOAH After Action Review (AAR) workshop focusing on ASF response

John Weaver, Leo loth and Karma Rinzin

Department of Veterinary Services (DVS), Malaysia

Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia

17 - 18 July 2023

An AAR is a learning activity that can be used by the Veterinary Services to continuously improve the way in which they prepare for and respond to animal health emergencies (in this case ASF).

After Action Review focused on African Swine Fever (ASF)

- **Bring together the stakeholders to obtain their feedback** on identified aspects of the current ASF animal health emergency.

- **Consolidated key information** about the ongoing ASF response

- **Explored issues that arose during the response** and **identify potential solutions** and areas for improvement in current or future emergencies

- **Identify areas of the response that worked well**

- **Identify practices that should be sustained or modified in the future**

- **Demonstrate the value of AAR** in the review of emergency animal health responses and how it might be applied in the future.

Identifying lessons learnt following any emergency response should be part of the regular and routine program of strengthening national Veterinary Services. AARs should form the basis for this review program and should be developed further to support immediate '**hot debrief' reviews of emergency responses** and for **longer term, targeted reviews**.

Section : PVS-EPR assessment in the Philippines

WOAH's Emergency Preparedness and Response (EPR) Tool in Philippines

EPR in Philippines [2023-24]

- Workshop on the Assessment of Emergency Preparedness and Response System of Veterinary Services of the Philippines (6-7 Feb,2024)
- **46 participants** including BAI staff representing various departments, divisions and sections including Office of the Civil Defense (OCD), Disaster Risk Reduction Management (DDRM), Department of Health (DOH) and Department of Environmental and Natural Resources (DENR)

5 virtual consultation

1 Physical Workshop (Oct 2022)

46 Participants

The PVS EPR Tool
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Dr John Weaver, Dr Leo Loth, Ronello Abila and Ashish Sutar

Workshop on Assessment of the Emergency Preparedness

and Response (EPR) System of Bureau of Animal Industry,

Department of Agriculture and validation of the EPR Tool

6 -7 February 2024

Manila – Philippines

WOAH Emergency Preparedness and Response Assessment Tool

Pilot Study

Assessment of Philippines Bureau of Animal Industries and Veterinary Services

Group Photo: Workshop on the assessment of EPR system of Veterinary Services in the Philippines

SWOT analysis of the EPR tool

Question	Strengths	Weaknesses	Opportunities	Threats
Content and logic of the EPR tool	Methodology aligned with PVS framework hence easy to follow	Grey areas between Level of advancement	Provide all hazard approach, maximised by mainstreaming biohazard (zoonotic disease) in DRRM system.	Lack of content about emergency preparedness when natural disasters
	Content is systematic and detailed	Level of advancement is designed for the national level	Natural disaster should be included in the tool considering high risk and impact of natural disasters	No monitoring and evaluation element
	Identified critical competencies are clear	Preparedness and response evaluation focused on diseases	Widen scope related to biodiversity	
	Provide detailed evidences and processes	The tool dose not cover natural disasters	Terminologies should be further defined for easy understanding of the users of the EPR Tool	
	Comprehensive		Subnational assessment	

SWOT analysis of the EPR tool

Question	Strengths	Weaknesses	Opportunities	Threats
Application of the EPR tool	Tool provides guidance for the standardisation for our future plans	*Underreporting noted*	Availability and orientation of the tool	Data driven approach
	Guide for the policy development	*Wider consultation with provinces (PVOs), districts (DRTOs) and local government units (LGU's).*	Perception of all or none advancement	Number of stakeholders to be involved
		Subjective	During response DRR council /inter agency response can be used to mobilise resources	
		Does it need to meet all parameters to advance.	Tap all sectors and involve them in a consultative workshop	

SWOT analysis of the EPR tool

Question	Strengths	Weaknesses	Opportunities	Threats
Usefulness/ value of the EPR tool	Easy reference for the report writing	Organisation of document and sharing of documents	Apply multisectoral approach	Continuity of the EPR tool and Succession plan should be established
	Helps in advocacy of the emergency preparedness	Resource intensive (physical workshop)	Level of advancement can be useful for Local Government Units (LGU's) and recommendations can serve as a basis to improve EPR	
			Tool can be used in gathering insights from private sector on how they can contribute in the field of EPR	

Next step

- The feedback by both Members suggest that tool is useful and relevant to assess the emergency focused competencies

- Process of tool review and validation

- Additional Pilot (interest expressed by Member in the region)

Summary

- The need to strengthen health systems to counter emerging threats has never been more convincing.

- Veterinary Services are recognised as a global public good and a key component in delivering sustainable, cross-sectoral One Health for the promotion of human health and well-being.

- The World Organisation of Animal Health (WOAH) has long taken the lead in strengthening national Veterinary Services (VS) with the implementation of its Performance of Veterinary Services (PVS) program

- PVS - Emergency Preparedness and Response (EPR) Assessment Tool that adopts the same approach as the PVS Evaluation by defining Emergency Critical Competencies (ECCs) each with five Levels of Advancement (LoAs), allocated across three Fundamental Components

- **The PVS-EPR tool should be used to assess the EPR level in country and to address any shortcomings**

Thank you