



World
Organisation
for Animal
Health
Founded as OIE

Organisation
mondiale
de la santé
animale
Fondée en tant qu'OIE

Organización
Mundial
de Sanidad
Animal
Fundada como OIE



Australian Government
Department of Agriculture,
Fisheries and Forestry

WOAH Guidelines on Simulation Exercises

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Management
Preparedness and Resilience Department

**Sub-Regional Workshop on Emergency Management
14 - 16 August 2024 Bangkok, Thailand**



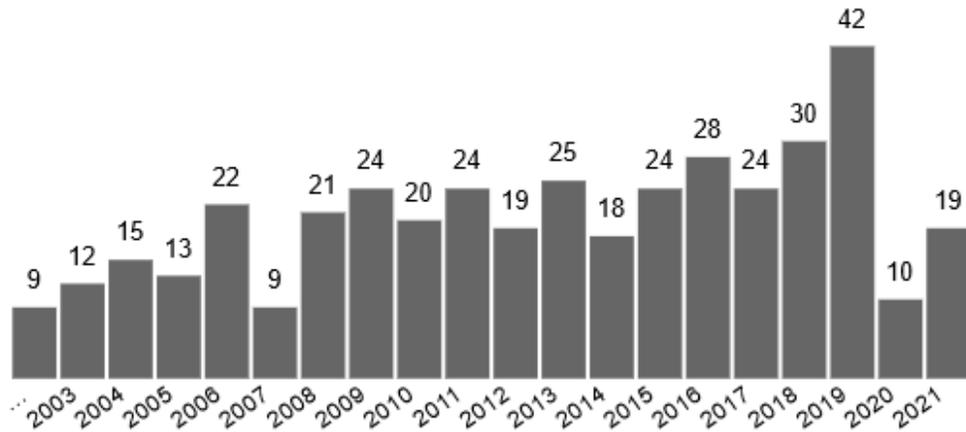
Only **45%** of Members reported having conducted a simulation exercise

408 simulation exercises were reported between 2002 and 2021

3/4 of them were conducted in Europe and the Americas.

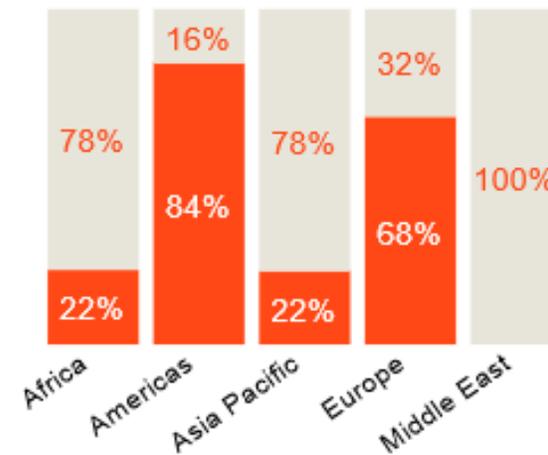
Source: WOA simulation exercise dataset, 2002-2021

Evolution of the number of SimEx* conducted between 2002 and 2021

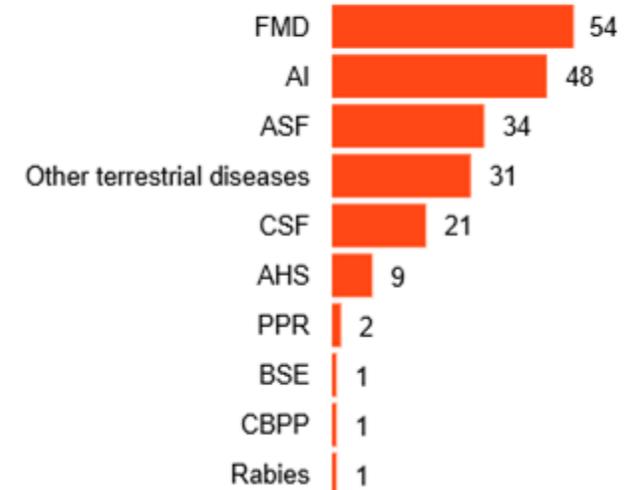


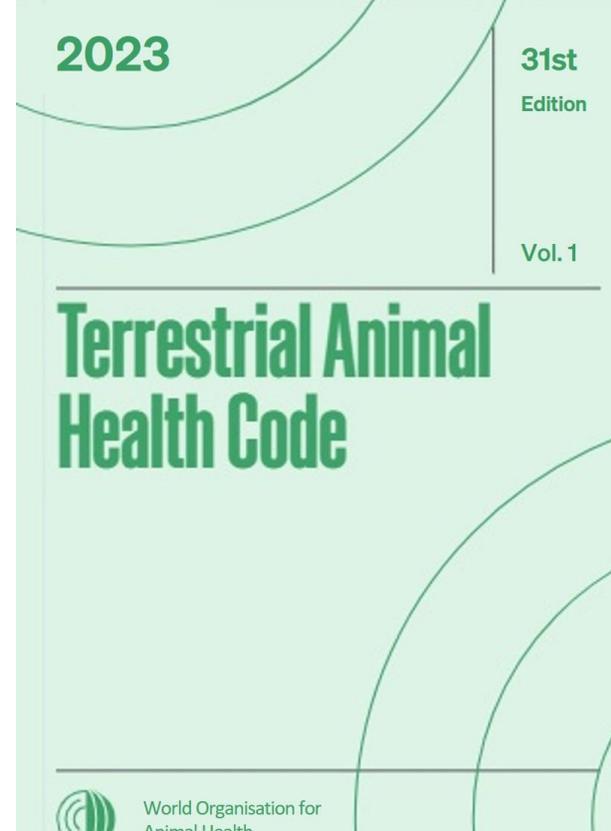
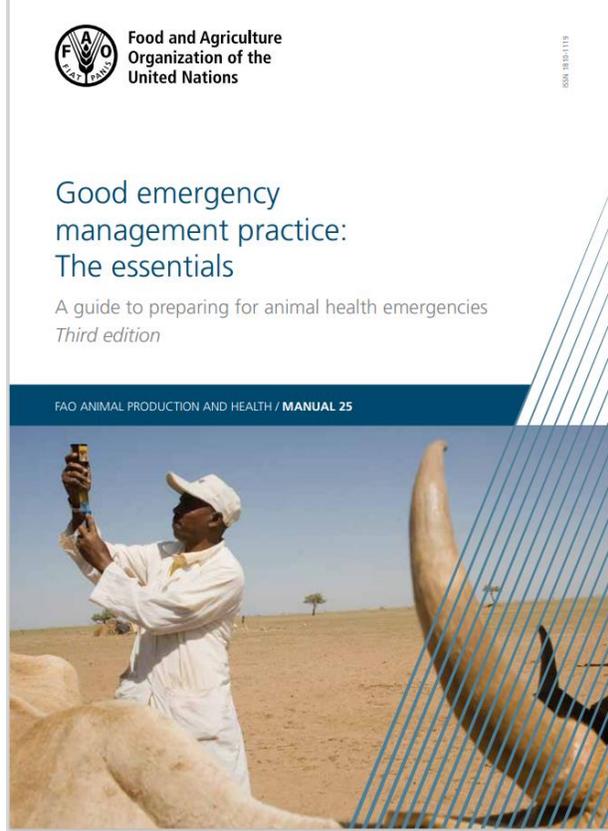
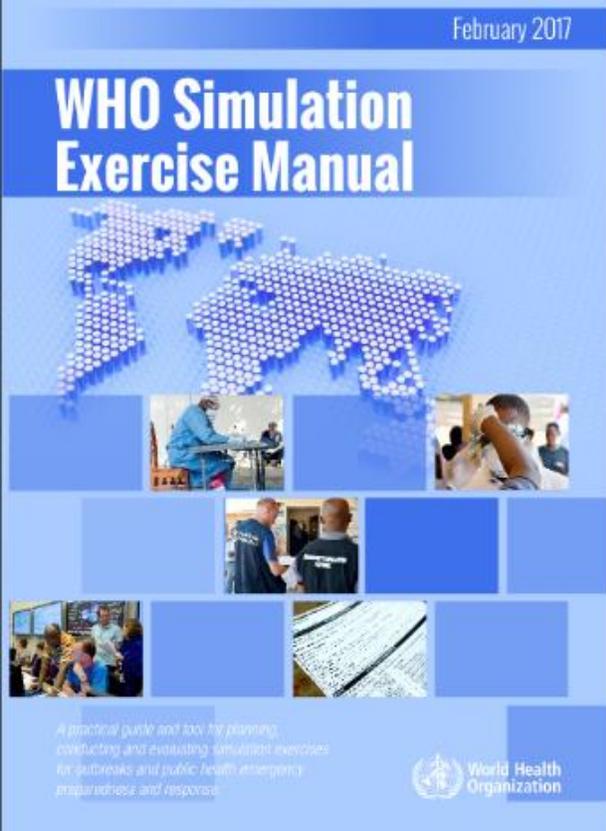
Percentage of Members that reported SimEx*, by WOA region

● Reported SimEx ● No SimEx reported yet



Number of Members that reported a SimEx*, by selected terrestrial disease





Introduction and background of WOAHA Guidelines on Simulation Exercises

- Several simulation exercise manuals already but limited guidance for Veterinary Services
- Developed by the **WOAH ad hoc Group on Veterinary Emergencies** and published in 2020
- Goal: **Strengthen the capacity** of WOAHA Members for preparedness against **all hazards** through a set of simulation exercise **good practices**
- Aim to be **scalable** and **adaptable**. Encourage **multi-sectoral collaboration** and be applicable to a wide target audience. Align with other frameworks and resources.



Guidelines for Simulation Exercises

A consistent set of good practices for preparing, delivering, and learning from animal health and welfare and veterinary public health simulation exercises for Veterinary Services

What is a simulation exercise?

“A simulation exercise is a **controlled activity**, where a situation, that could exist in reality, is imitated for **training** or **assessment** of **capabilities** and **plans**”





Benefits of simulation exercises

IDENTIFY

- Stakeholders
- Breakpoints and gaps
- Capabilities
- Resources
- Components of a plan

ASSESS

- Plans and procedures
- Training
- Equipment
- Resilience
- Multi-sectoral cooperation
- Resource mobilisation

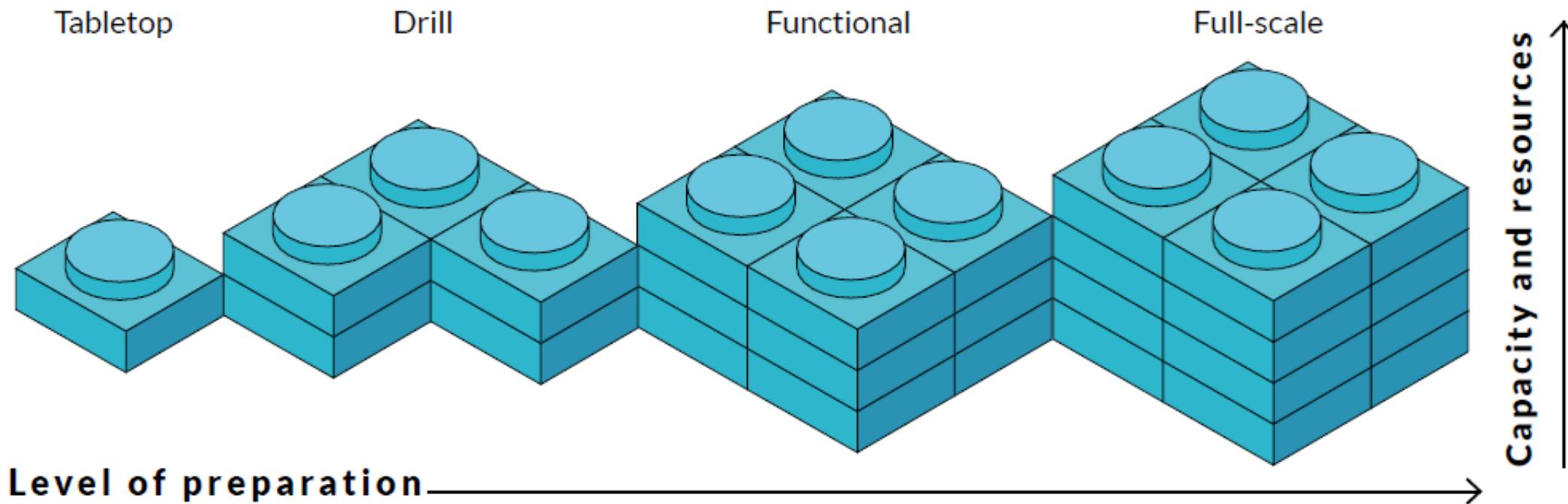
PRACTICE

- Plans and procedures
- Communication
- Roles and responsibilities

IMPROVE

- Decision-making skills
- Multi-sectoral cooperation
- Communication
- Overall emergency response

Types of exercise



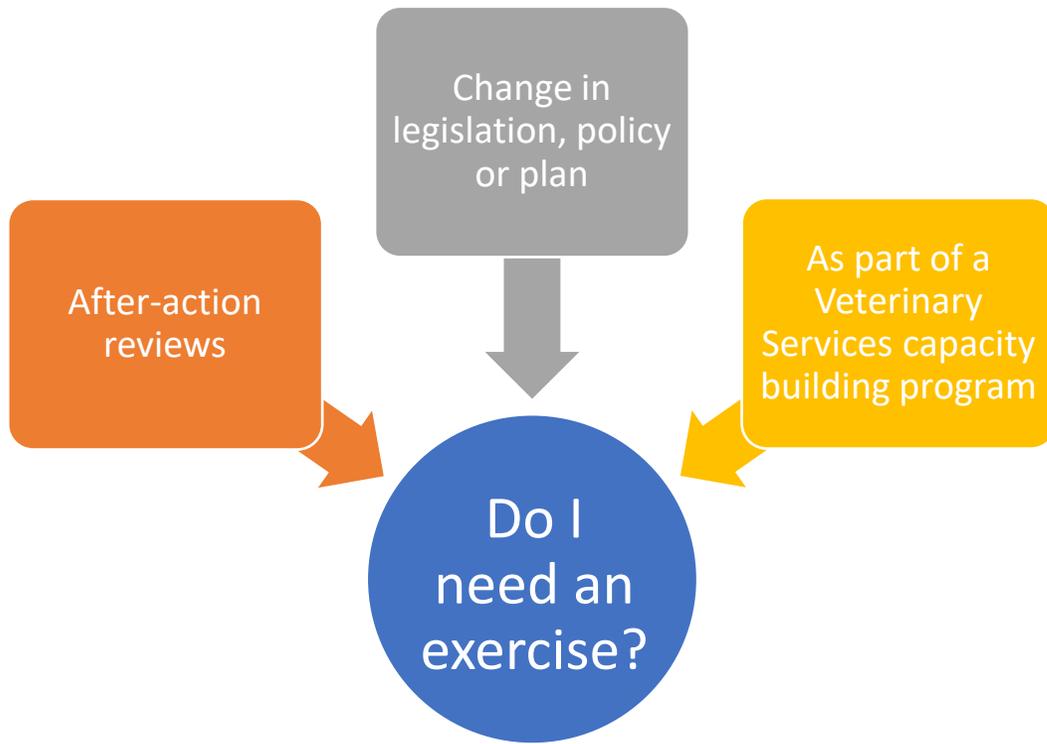
Source: World Health Organization. Figure 3 from the *WHO Simulation Exercise Manual* (<https://apps.who.int/iris/handle/10665/254741>).



PLANNING AN EXERCISE

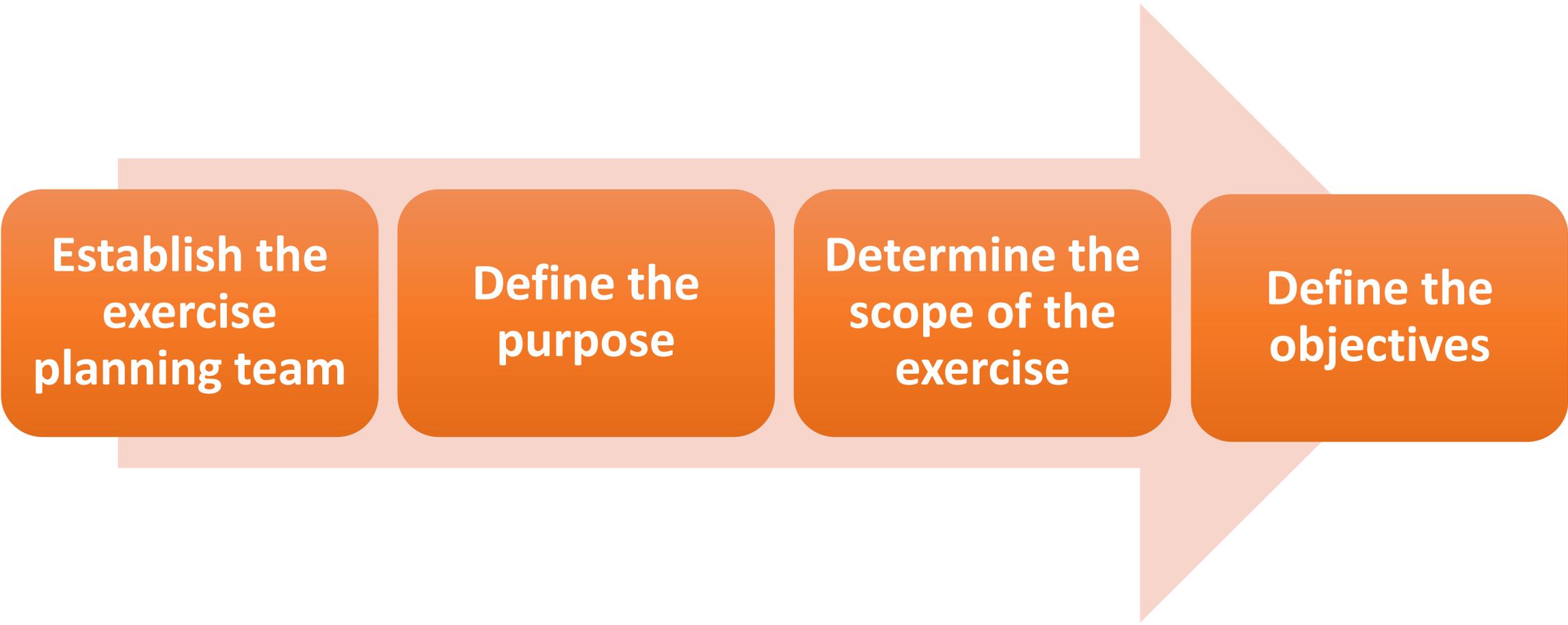


Assessing the need for an exercise and obtaining approvals



- Defining the **need** for an exercise is the first step in planning an exercise.
- **Approvals** must be obtained from senior management to **commit resources** and the financial and personnel constraints within which the exercise planning team must operate

Getting started



**Establish the
exercise
planning team**

**Define the
purpose**

**Determine the
scope of the
exercise**

**Define the
objectives**

Scenario



Getting started



Format of the exercise

Location

Participants involved

Prepare documentation

Communication

Logistics and administration

Pre-exercise activities for participants



Delivering an exercise



Delivering the exercise



Exercise Manager in charge



Health, safety and well-being of all participants



Pre-exercise briefing for all participants



Management and facilitation



Debriefing for all participants



Q3 - not for everything but
it should cover all important things
based on risk analysis, science
& public policy interest
risk assessment??
link identity risks to resources
to high risk

Q4
Governor (Ministry)
Private sector (Industry, Commercial bank, etc.)
MSDs, International organizations
Academics
Donors
Media

Learning from an exercise



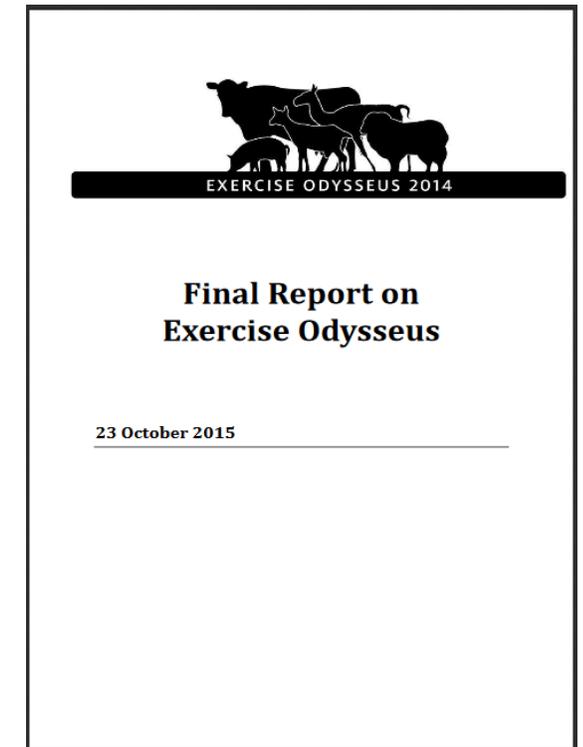
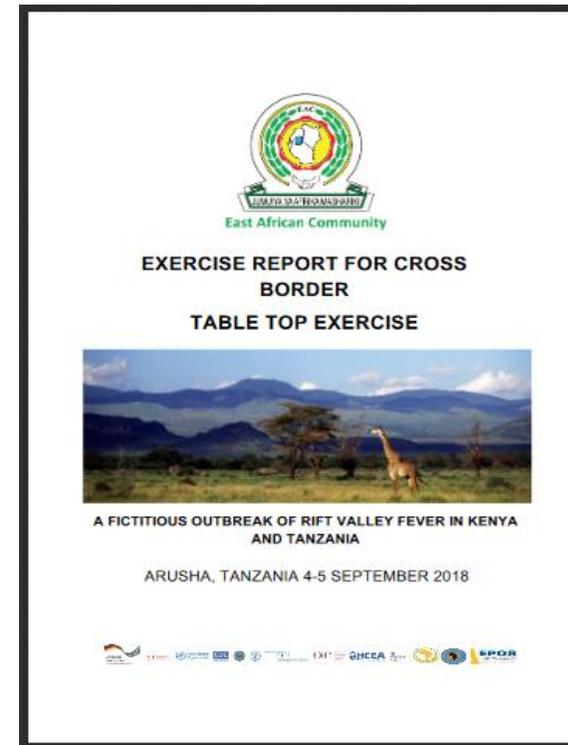
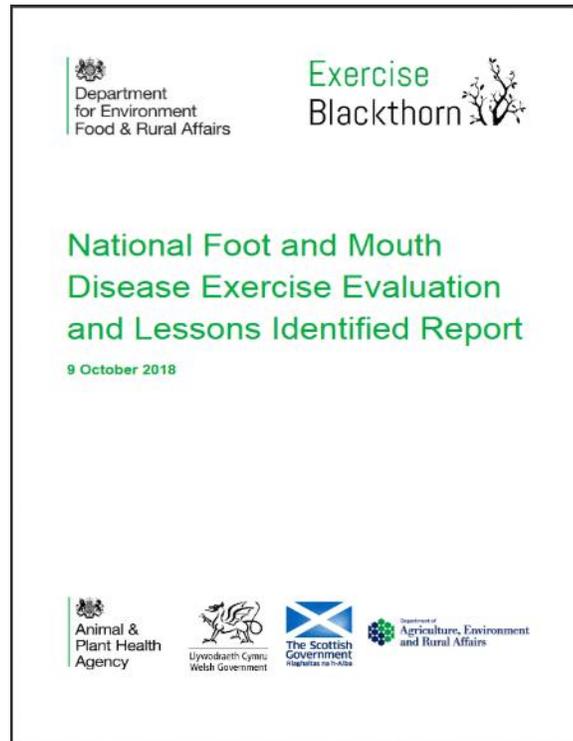
Learning from an exercise

Two main components:

Lessons learned to **improve emergency preparedness and response**

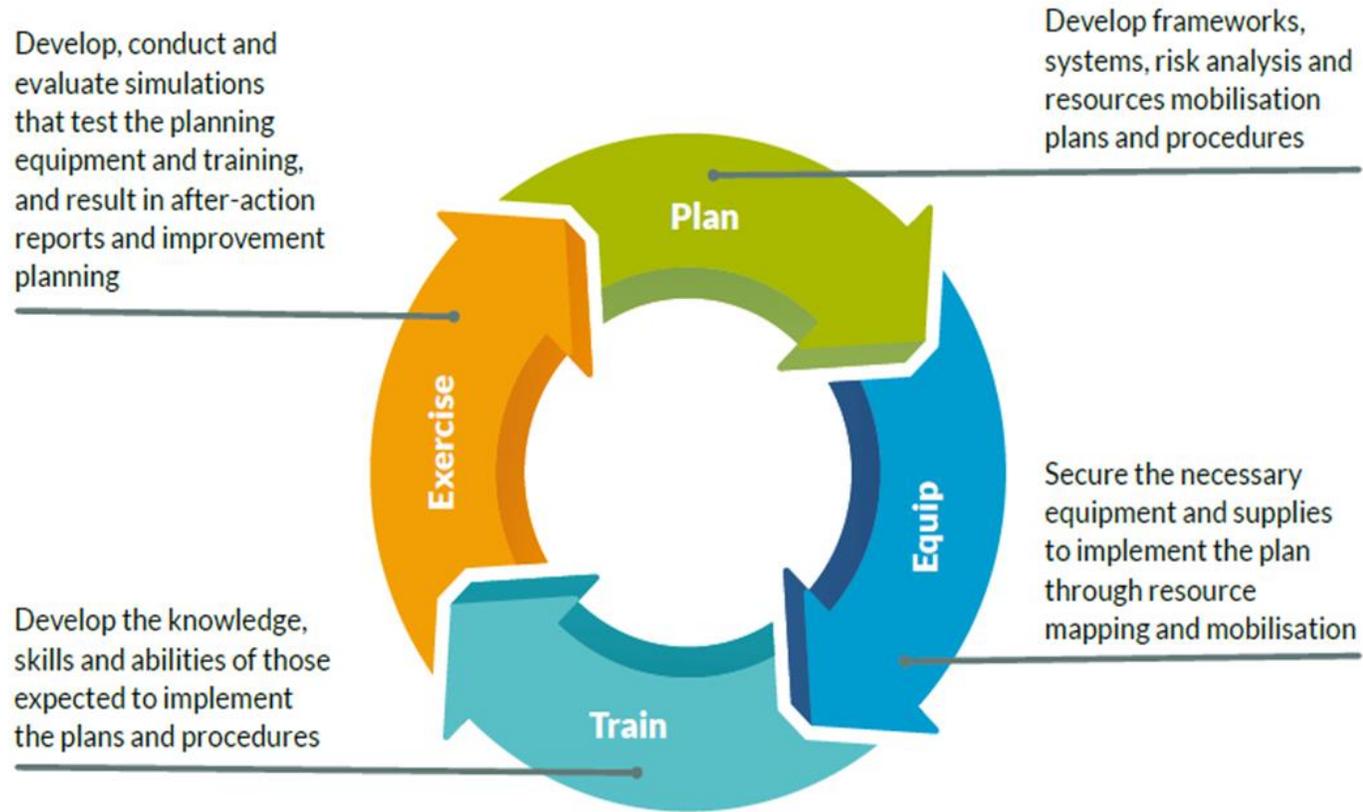
Lessons learned concerning the planning and delivery of the simulation exercise to **improve the quality of future exercises**

- Evaluators report on observations
- Exercise Report





Learning from an exercise



WOAH Africa Risk and Crisis Management Communication Workshop Simulation Exercise





Exercise Phoenix



Exercise Phoenix (February 2023) was an international discussion exercise (TTX)

Comprising

- **Three** 4 – day face-to-face **regional exercises** involving the veterinary services and law enforcement agencies of **12 countries**
 - held concurrently across three time zones
 - Delivered in three languages (English and French, and translated on-site into Arabic)
 - And 10 days later
- A one-day **discussion exercise** for international organisations
- Planned and delivered during a global pandemic.

Exercise Phoenix was supported by the Global Affairs Canada's Weapons Threat Reduction Program





Aim and objectives

- **Aim:** to improve the preparedness and coordination of national and regional veterinary services, law enforcement agencies, and international organisations to work together in response to an agro-terrorism incident
- **Objectives:**
 - To **raise awareness** of, and **confirm** triggers of suspicion of, an agro-terrorism act at national and regional level.
 - To **discuss** initial joint response to suspicion and the initial response measures put in place when detecting an agro-terrorism event.
 - To **practice** collaboration and cooperation between Law Enforcement and Veterinary Services at the national and regional level.
 - To **discuss** information sharing at national, regional and international level in response to this threat
 - To **explore** the roles of selected national, regional, and international entities in dealing with an international agro-terrorism incident.





Exercise scenario

- Intentional release of a biological agent affecting animal health and food security
 - Tailored to country/region
- Regional exercises focused on cooperation between Law Enforcement and Veterinary Services in joint investigation and response
- National Veterinary Services and Law Enforcement players received different information

EXERCISE

ONLY

Control No.: O-578/02-2023

Date of publication: 16 February 2023

Last update on: 16 February 2023

IMMINENT THREAT



Veterinarians wearing personal protective overalls from the Ministry of Agriculture were seen yesterday on the farm. A cordon is in place today preventing movements of people and animals. Reports have emerged of dead animals being seen on the farm.

Meanwhile panic is spreading across the region. Ali Khalil, a farmer in a neighbouring village said "I don't know what is happening but everyone here is worried. We have heard of cattle dying on other farms in the area. We are waiting on advice from the Government on what we need to do."

Farmers in the area have also been trying to move cattle quickly with few restrictions being put in place.

EXERCISE ONLY

Test Report - Final

Lab Reference: N-23-997

Report Date: 14/02/2023

Report Number: N-23-997



4025

Date Received: 13/02/2023 Country of Origin*: Indonesia

Date Tests Completed: 14/02/2023

Tests Requested* and Method Followed:

Analysis	Method
Rinderpest Virus Real Time PCR - Primary Assay	NVR-SOP-13

Sample Number	Animal ID*	Sampling Date*	RPV RT-PCR	Final Result
N-23-997-1	302 Blood	12/02/2023	POS	POS

Other Detail*: Bovine, Blood



EXERCISE PHOENIX – Observations/Recommendations

Definitions and Triggers

- Definitions of Agro-crime and agroterrorism not universally agreed (*'no law, no crime'*)
- Continue to raise awareness of agro-crime and agro-terrorism triggers for suspicion

Information exchange

- Involves risk to individuals/agencies/countries
- Requires trust +/- formal arrangements

Collaboration

- Understanding of roles, responsibilities helps build trust between agencies
- Activities to promote collaboration
- Review/develop documented arrangements between agencies (including international organisations)
- Benefits of regional collaboration

Existing crisis/emergency management structures are applicable to agro-terrorism

- Continue to promote inclusion of veterinary services in national emergency management arrangements
- Develop operating plans/procedures specific to biological threats

International organisations

- Progress issues related to
 - Constraints to information-sharing
 - Coordination of agency response



Funmi Lomax

Bioterrorism Prevention Unit
INTERPOL

practical guidance for membership and Member Countries



Thank you

Contact

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