



World Organisation
for Animal Health

Founded in 1924

Review of Veterinary Legislation in SE Asia

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27th Meeting of WOAHS Sub-Commission for Foot and mouth disease in South-East Asia, China and Mongolia
Bangkok, Thailand (3 – 6 September 2024)



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



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High LOA Critical Competency Analysis

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Terrestrial

Aquatic

Language

English

Region

Asia Pacific

Country

Multiple selections

Fundament Component

All

Critical Competency

Multiple selections

11

Countries selected

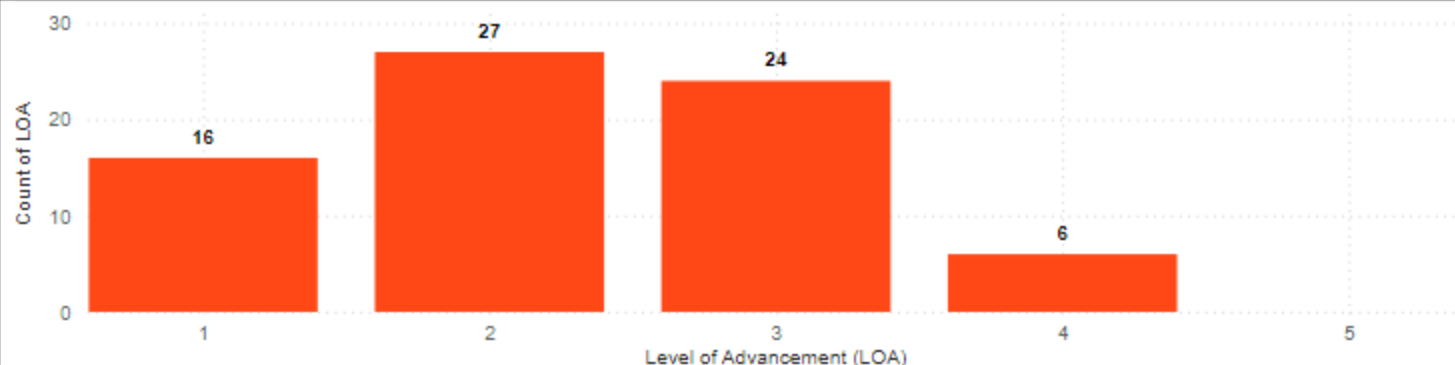
132

Evaluation type reports

101

Critical Competencies

Distribution of LOA Scores



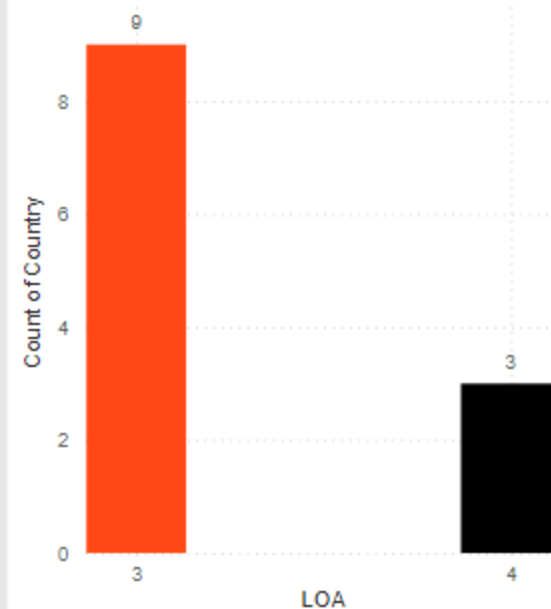
Year

2006

2022



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

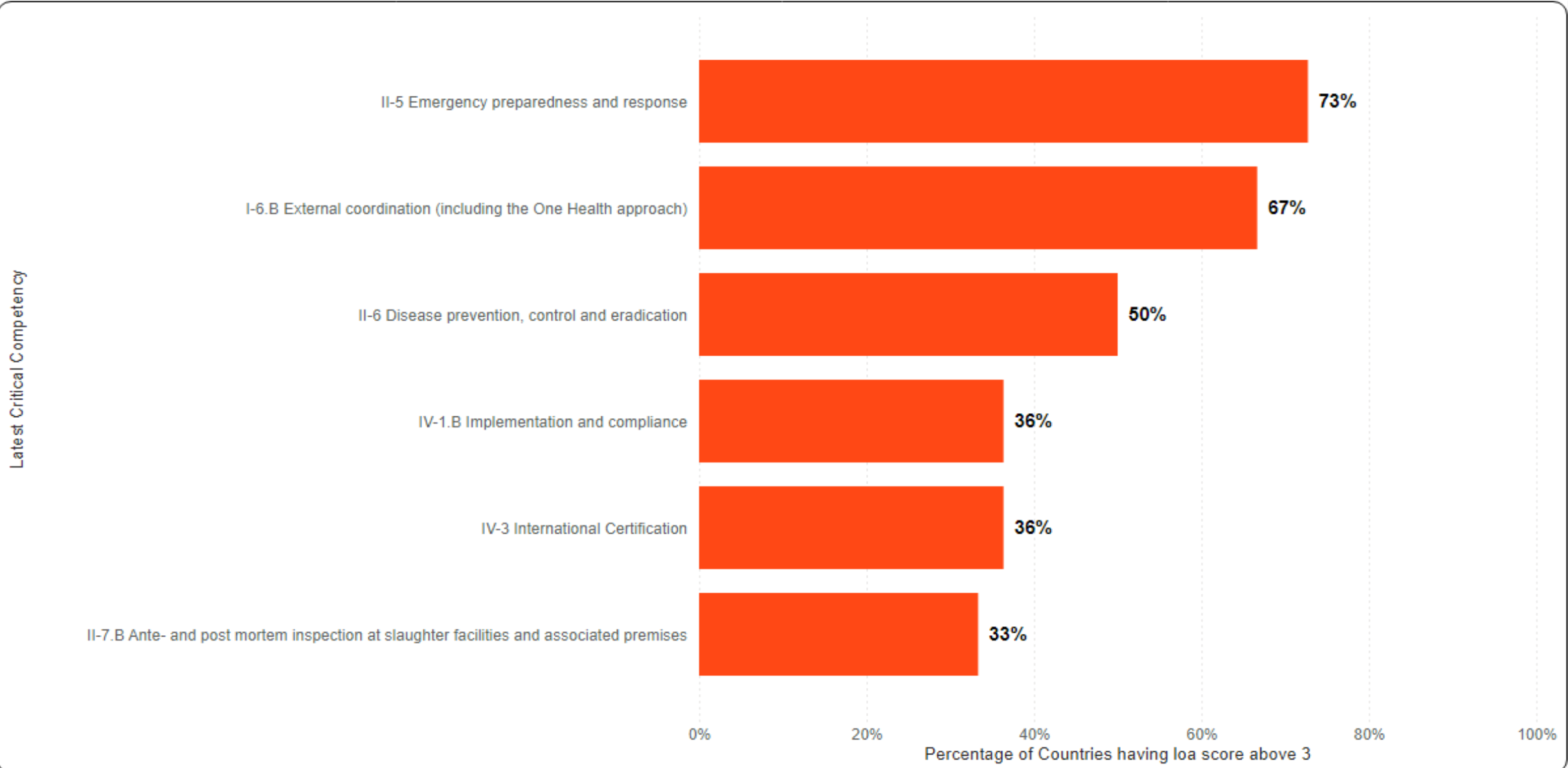
Papua

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*



✓ 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

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**.



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.

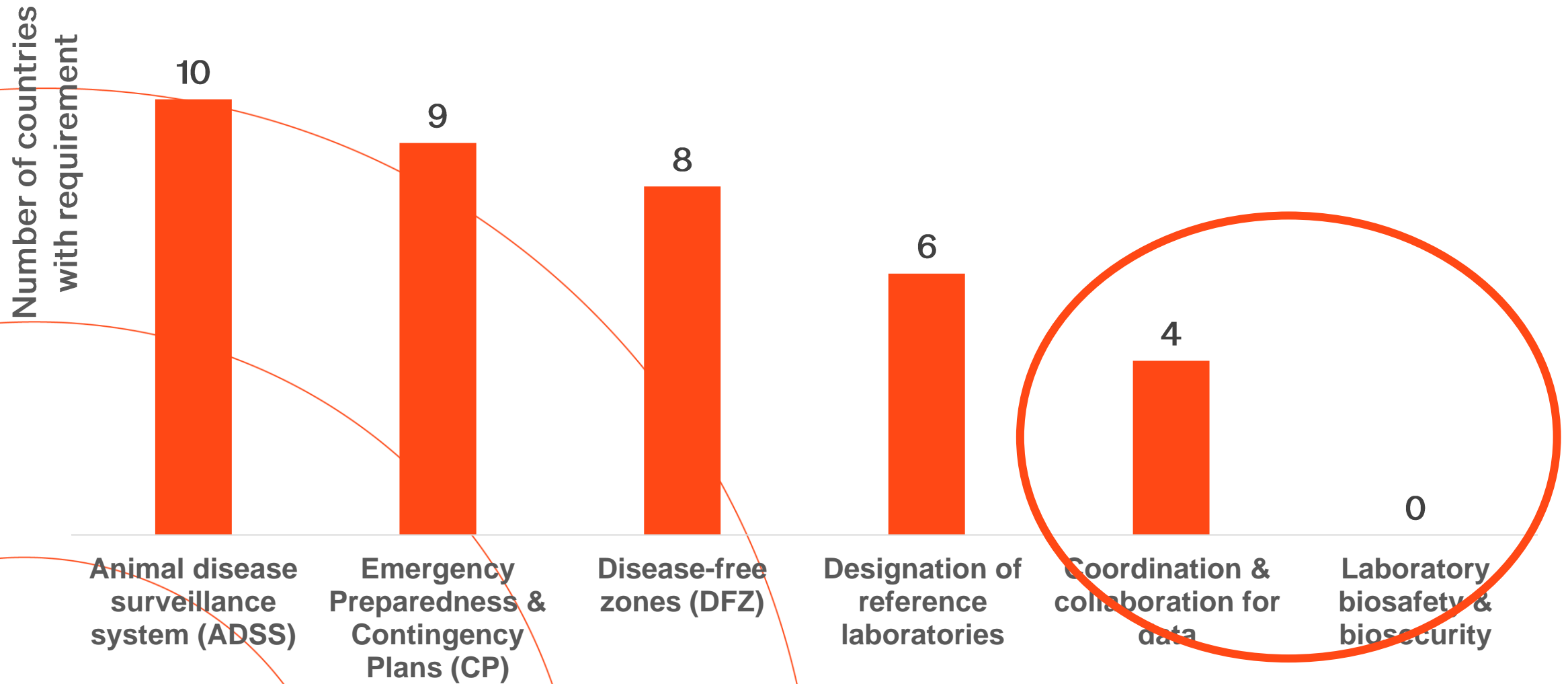
The WOA *Terrestrial Code* covers many key aspects of the national disease control programme:

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

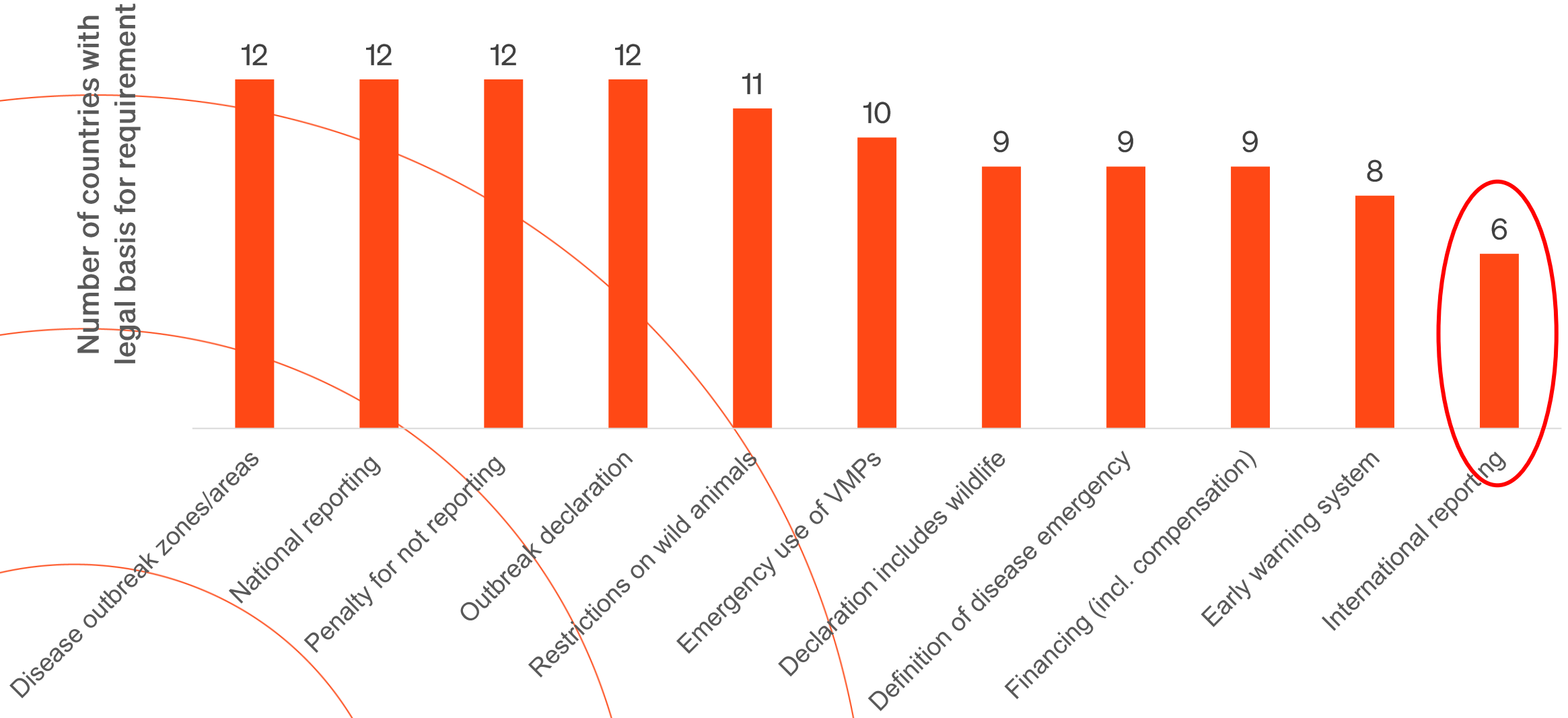
This review considered several of these elements to determine the **legal preparedness for responding to an animal disease outbreak.**

→ notably the detection of a notifiable disease listed by WOA.

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.

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

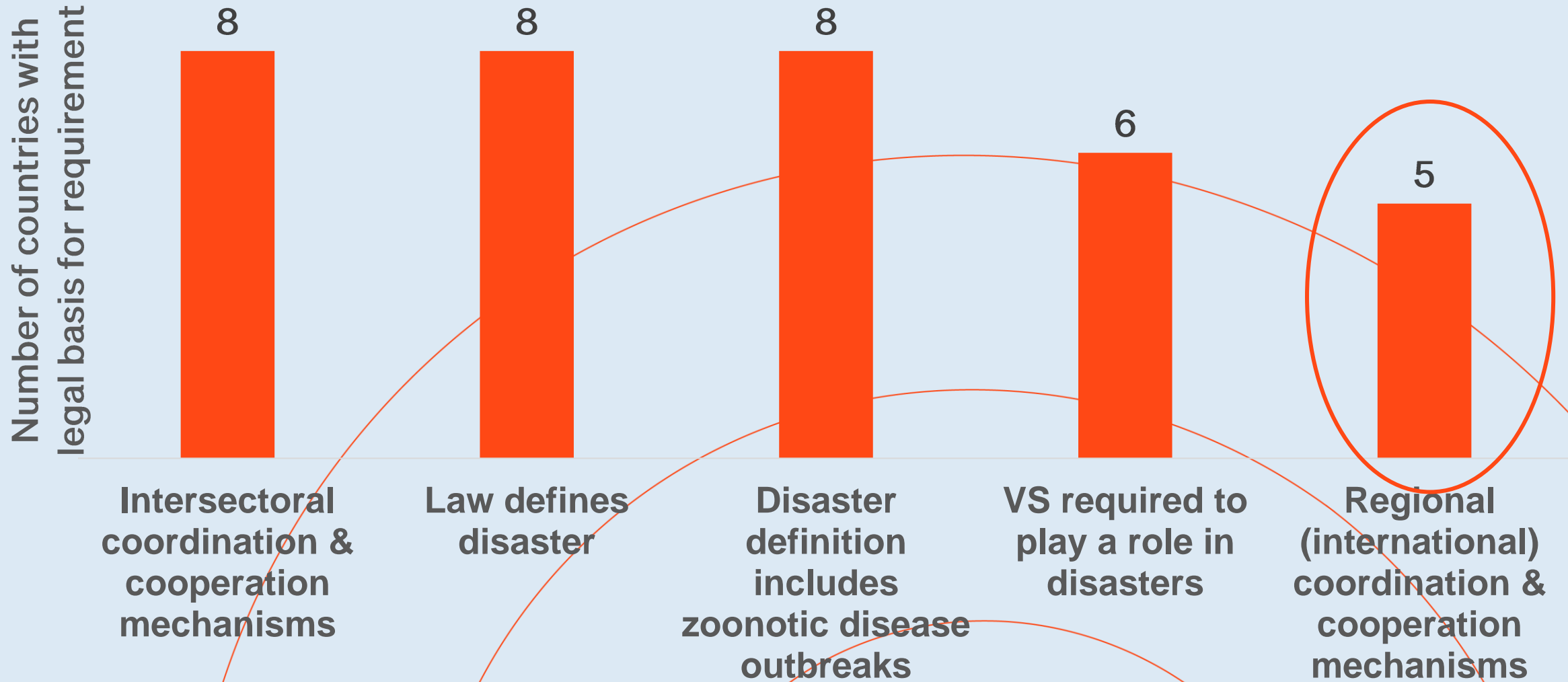
Six of these countries **assign the ministry responsible for agriculture with a role** in the disaster response.

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)





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.*

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.



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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