

WOAH Guidelines on Simulation exercise

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Training Workshop on Emergency Management and Disaster Response

How to Conduct Simulation Exercise (Sim-Ex)

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Presentation covers

- *Introduction*
- *Planning the exercise*
- *Delivery of the exercise*
- *Learning from the exercise*
- *Summary*





Section : Introduction



Hazards relevant to Veterinary and Aquatic Health Services that may trigger National Emergencies⁴



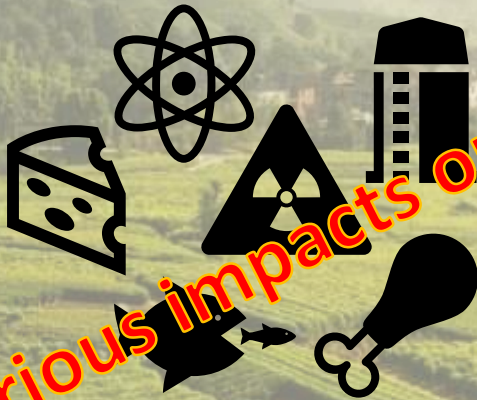
Infectious diseases, including emerging zoonoses and vector-borne pathogens



Geological events: earthquakes, volcanoes and tsunamis



Adverse weather and climatic events: storms, floods, fire and drought



Technological disasters and contamination of food and feed chains



Transport and maritime accidents, including oil spills



Agro-crime, agro-terrorism, cybersecurity, conflict, refugees

Various impacts on animal health, welfare and public health, food safety...



2022:
**WOAH
Resolution
No. 28**

2023:
**Global
Conference**

2024: First
Workshop

- 2016: WOAHA Guidelines on Disaster Management and Risk Reduction in Relation to Animal Health and Welfare and Veterinary Public Health (Guideline for National Veterinary Services)
- 2022: WOAHA Resolution No. 28 called for integrating Emergency Management into International Standards.
- 2023: Global Conference confirmed multi-sectoral support for strengthening Veterinary Services capacity.



WOAH Sub-Regional Workshop on Emergency Management

14-16 August 2024

Bangkok, Thailand

Action plan/Recommendations

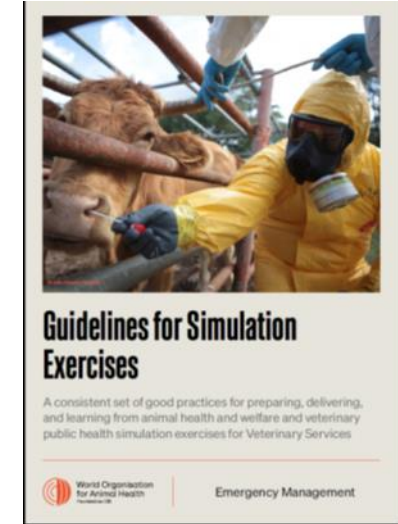
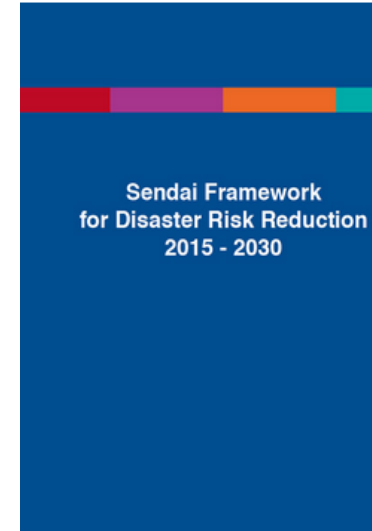
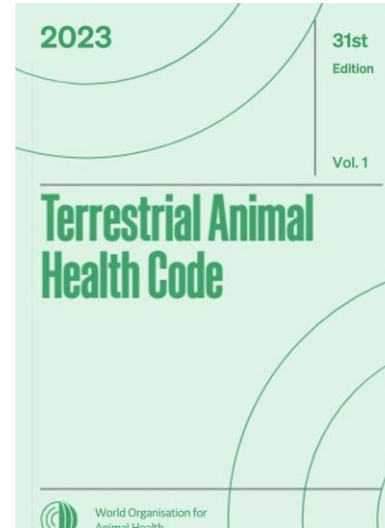
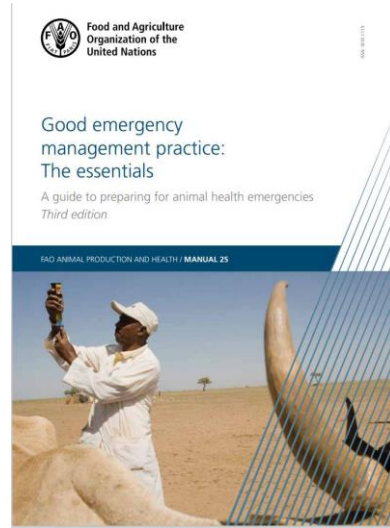
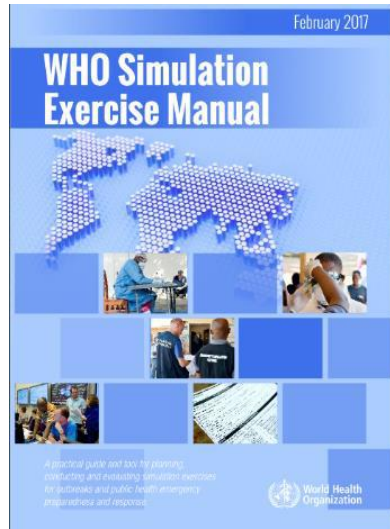
- Recommendations for Members:

1. **Elevate regional cooperation and coordination** to effectively prevent, prepare for, respond to, and recover from future animal health emergencies. This could include information sharing on animal health risks and hazards thereby enhancing situational awareness, cross-border cooperation, and strengthening the early warning system.
2. **Improve data sharing and utilisation** within the region including **World Animal Health Information System (WAHIS)** reporting and follow-up and leverage other data to strengthen early warning systems for animal health emergencies including natural disasters.
3. **Establish a Community of Practice** (individuals or organisations that share a common interest or expertise) **across the subregion with a focus on sharing best practices, improving preparedness and response to agricultural emergencies.**
4. **Build relationships** between **Veterinary Authorities and National Emergency Management agencies**, including **disaster management, law enforcement and the private sector**, to **enhance efficiencies** of emergency responses and **ensure animal health considerations are integrated into broader emergency plans.**





Context

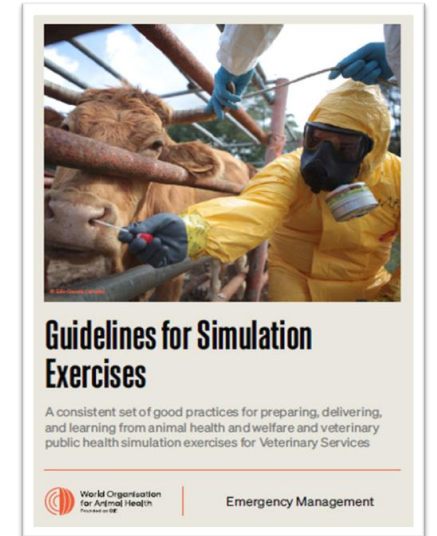


- Several simulation exercise manuals already but limited guidance for Veterinary Services
- Developed by the **WOAH ad hoc Group on Veterinary Emergencies** and published in 2020
- Goal: **Strengthen the capacity** of WOAH Members for preparedness against **all hazards** through a set of simulation 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



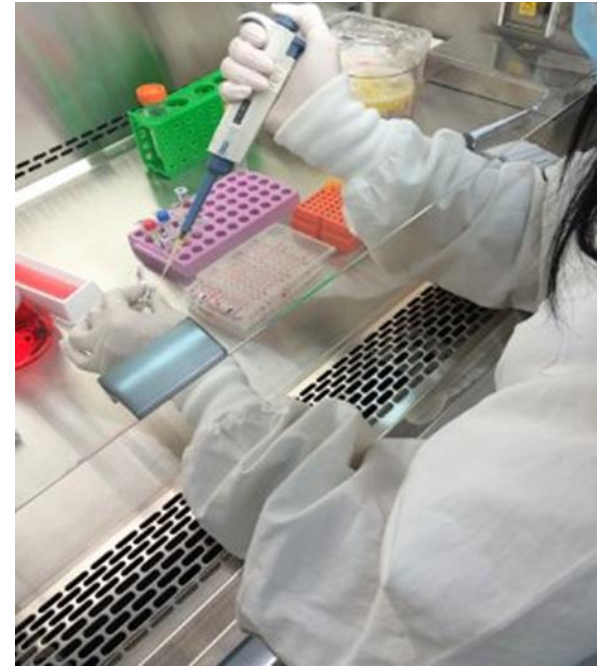
What is SimEx

“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**”



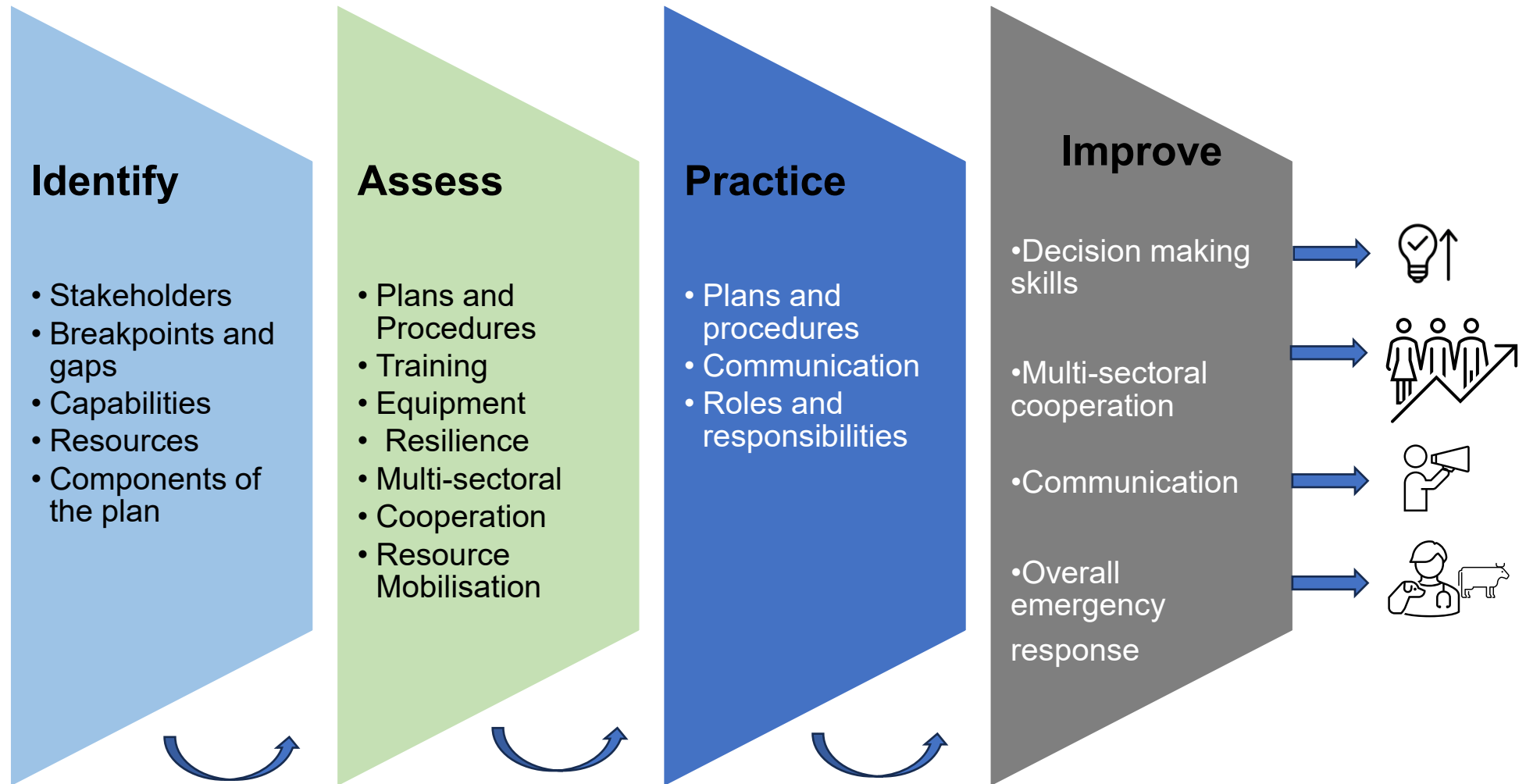


Situation for SimEx



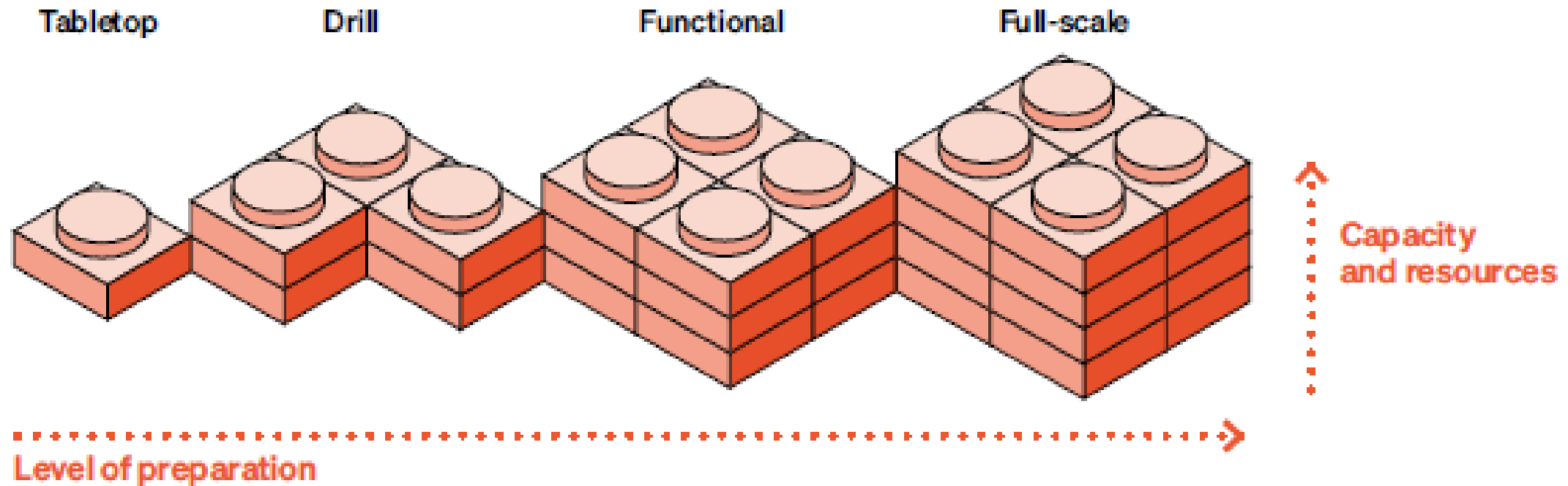


Benefits of Sim-Ex





Type of Exercises



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

Figure 2

Progressive nature of exercises in terms of level of preparation and required capacity and resources

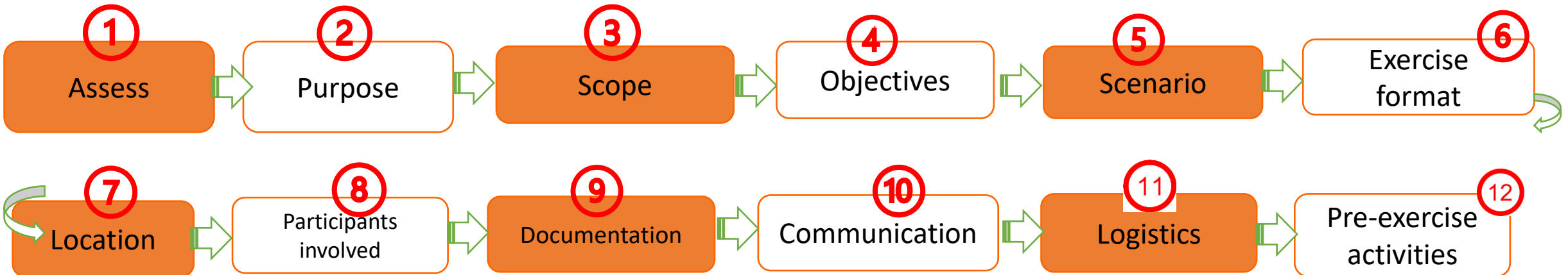
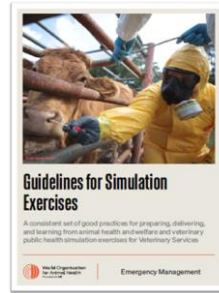


SimEx overview

Type of Exercises	Description	Example
Table-top	Formal discussion-based exercise, led by facilitator	Clarifying role and responsibilities of the agency in response to disaster
Drill	Focus on single task or a procedure of the contingency plan at operational setting	Appropriate use of PPP for the entry and exit of infected premises.
Functional	Test capacity and capabilities of agencies to respond to simulated events enabling them to practice multiple tasks and operation	Practice establishment and operation of One Health emergency operations centre to eradicate an incursion of zoonotic disease.
Full scale	Test operational capacity and capability of an agency at the strategic, tactic, operational response to an emergency.	ARDEX Indonesia test, practice, review, and evaluate ASEAN's emergency response and disaster management multisectoral mechanisms



Section: Planning for the SimEx

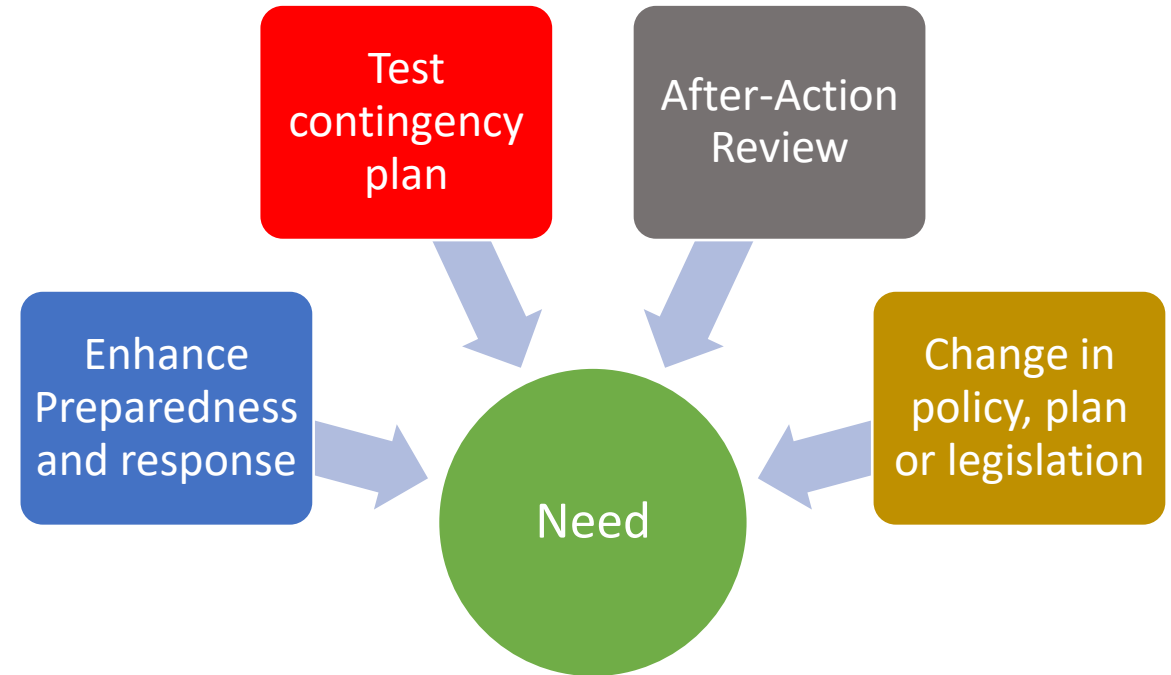




Need assessment

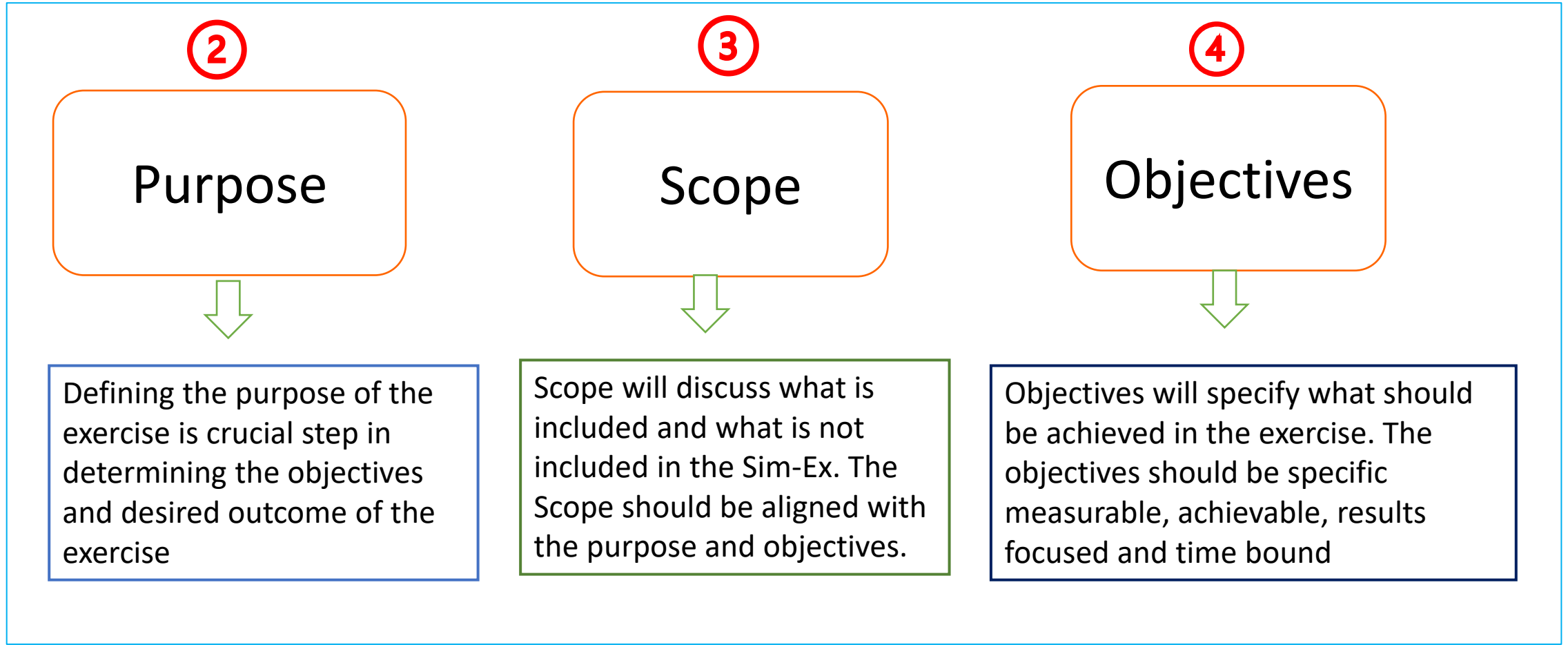
① Assess

- **Defining the needs** for Sim-Ex is the first step of planning the 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.





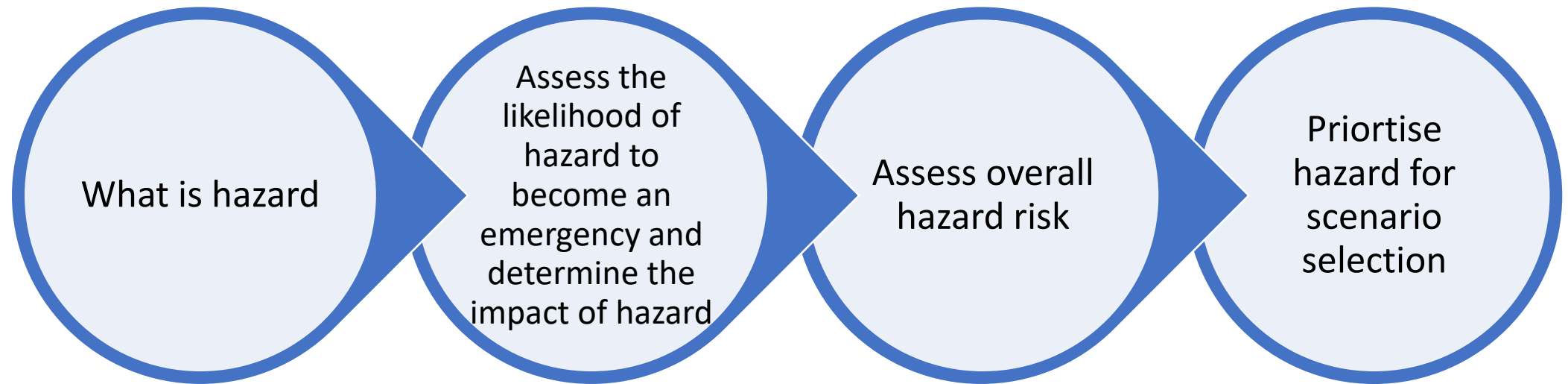
Getting started





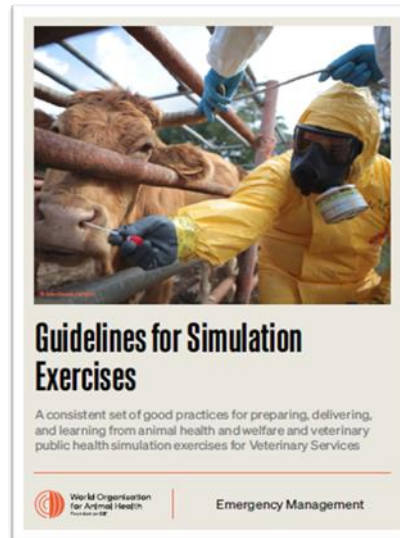
Scenario

5 Assess





Section : Delivery of the Sim-Ex

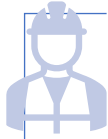




Exercise delivery



Exercise Manager
in charge



Health Safety and
Well being of all
participants



Pre-exercise
briefing for all
participants



Management and
facilitation

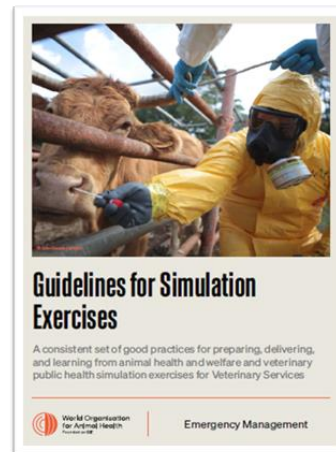


Debriefing for all
participants



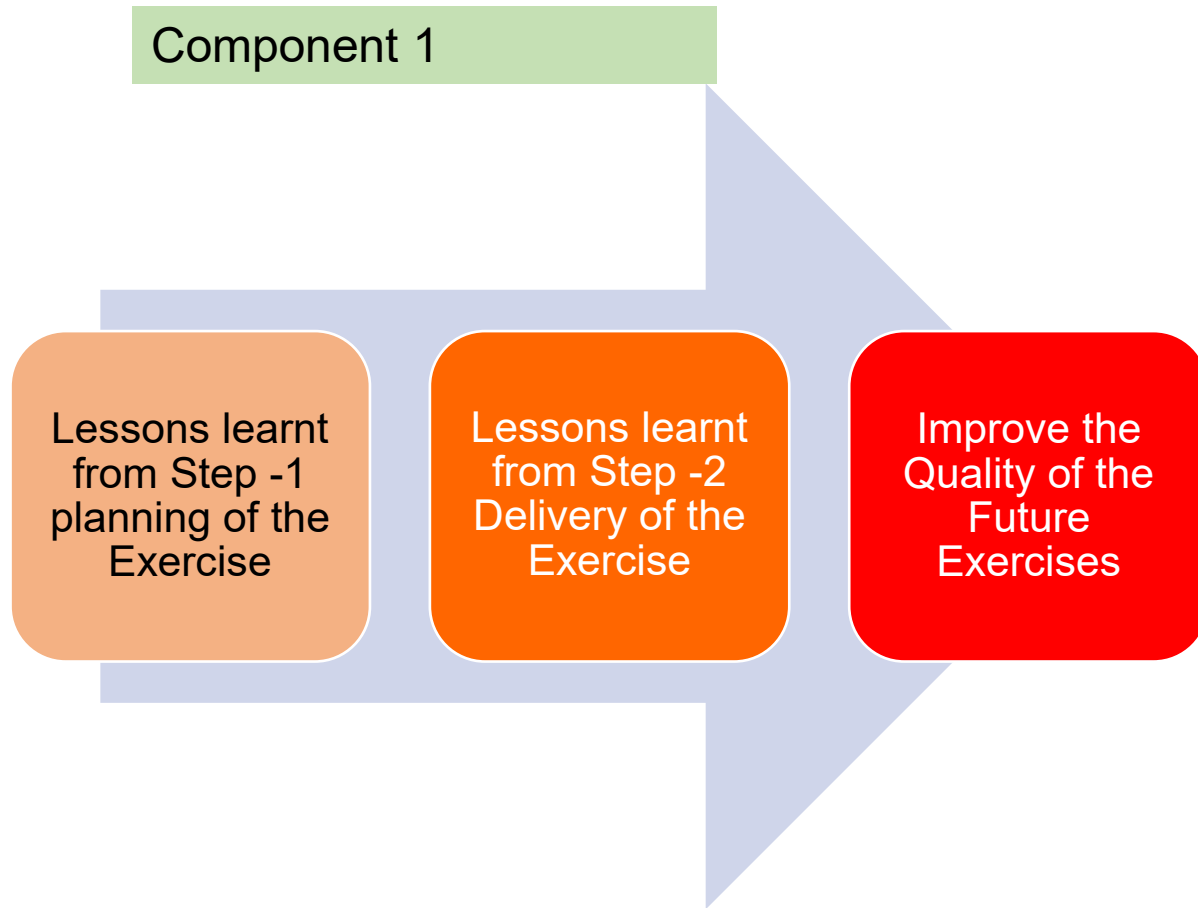


Section : Learning from the Sim-Ex





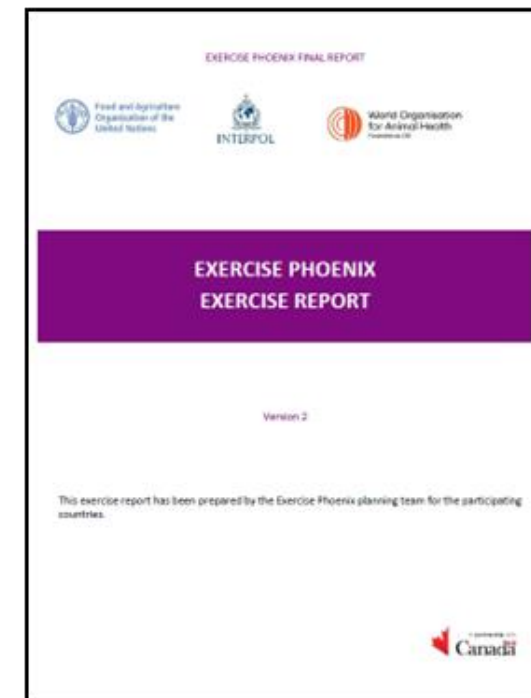
Learning from experience





Exercise Phoenix (Agro-terrorism)

- **Coordination between Veterinary Services, law enforcement coordination and International organisations**
- **Regional (SEA) exercise in Thailand (13-15 Feb,2023)**
- **Remote International exercise (28 Feb,2023]**



The aim of Exercise Phoenix was to improve the preparedness and coordination of national and regional veterinary services, law enforcement agencies, and international organizations to work together in response to an agro-terrorism incident.

Joint Multisectoral Outbreak Investigation (JMOIR)

- **Testing and reviewing the Joint Multisectoral Outbreak Investigation and Response (JMOIR) Guidelines** ASEAN Field Epidemiology Training Network (FETN) - ASEAN Veterinary Epidemiology Group (AVEG) Simulation Exercise **Workshop on 13-15 June 2023** at Kula Lumpur Malaysia.
- Participants from the Project target applied JMOIR guidelines in response to scenarios and **improve understanding of the roles, responsibilities and procedures to plan and conduct cross border outbreak investigation and response.**
- The scenarios consisted of injects from national veterinary services, public health offices at technical and policy level to trigger the discussions on key components i.e **situation analysis, information sharing, administration and logistical needs, joint risk assessments and joint investigation of outbreak and response measures.**



World Organisation
for Animal Health
Founded as OIE





Summary

- WOAHA Sim-Ex guidelines, which are in line with WOAHA Standards, are designed to be scalable to all levels of capacity and resources.
- Planning, delivery and learning from the Sim-Ex are important stages to consider for the implementation of Sim-ex.
- Learning from simulation exercises, and identifying gaps in plans prior to a real incident, can contribute to the success of an agency's response to an animal health and welfare emergency.
- WOAHA guidelines for Sim-Ex supports strengthening the capacity of Veterinary Services for preparedness against all hazards that affect animal health and welfare, and veterinary public health.



Thank you

Acknowledgement

- Daniel Donachie

References

- WOAH Guidelines on Simulation Exercises
- WOAH Sub Regional Workshop on Emergency Management

