

SIMULATION EXERCISE IN PRACTICE: PHILIPPINES EXPERIENCE

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Training Workshop on Emergency Management and Disaster Response

How to Conduct Simulation Exercise (Sim-Ex)

10 -12 December 2025, Manila, Philippines



Outline of Presentation

- Background
- Simulations Exercises Conducted
- Objectives of Simulation Exercise
- Principles and Design applied
- Implementation of the Simulation Exercise
- Lessons learned
- Ways Forward
- Summary



Background

CATEGORIZATION OF BAI PRIORITY ANIMAL DISEASES¹

Threats to Disease Freedom (T)	Assigned to Farm-level Action Diseases (A)	Zoonotic Diseases (Z)	Endemic or Economically Important Diseases (E)	Rapidly Spreading Diseases (R)
Diseases officially recognized by WOAHA as free or historically absent in the Philippines	Diseases assigned to farm-level management and monitoring under the supervision of LGUs	Diseases with known potential for animal-to-human transmission	Diseases that are endemic or highly prevalent and cause significant economic or productivity losses	Highly infectious diseases that affect animals at the herd/flock level

¹BAI Memorandum Circular No. 21, Series of 2025





Background

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FMD PPR AHS LSD CBPP BSE	PRRS Bluetongue ILT Pseudorabies Bee Pests Sheep and Goat Pox Avian Mycoplasmosis	Anthrax Tuberculosis Q Fever Japanese Encephalitis Brucellosis Salmonellosis AI* Rabies*	AI Rabies ASF	ND CSF HemoSep American Foulbrood RHD CAE EBL Surra EIA Paratuberculosis Brucellosis*

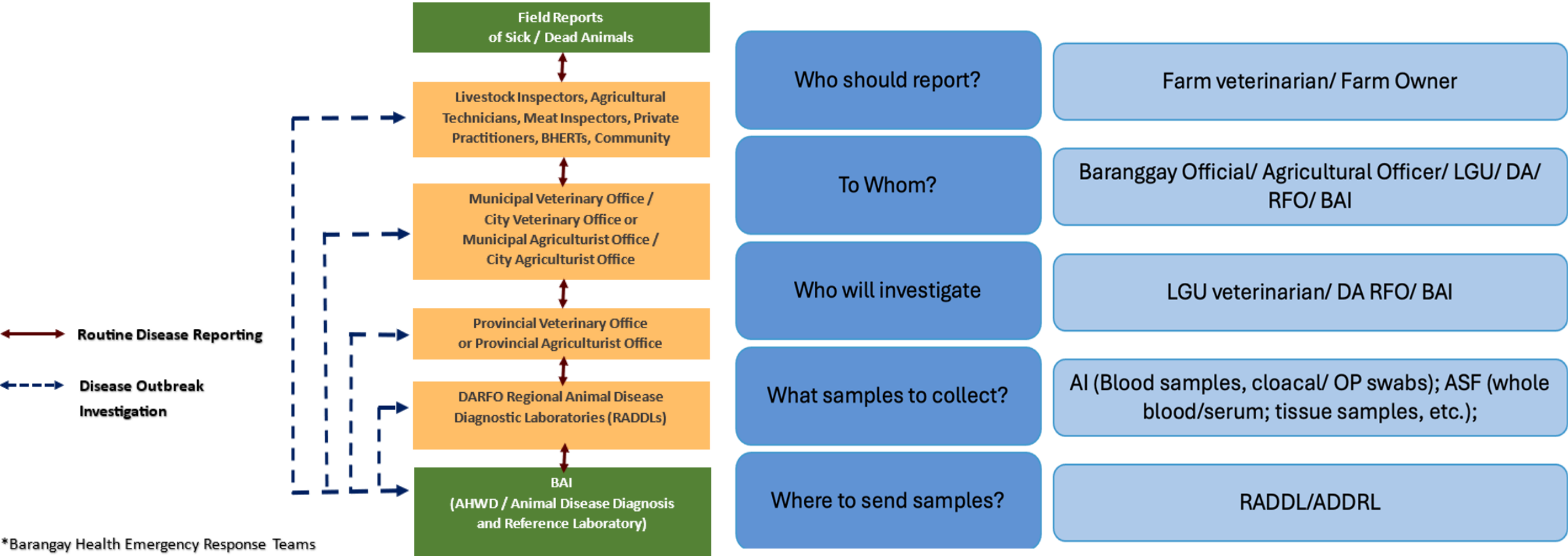
**also classified under a similar category*





Background

REPORTING MECHANISM





African Swine Fever Simulation Exercises

ASF Preparedness Tabletop Exercise (APTTX)

Focused on Good Emergency Management Practices at Local (provincial) level

2025: Albay, Siquijor

2024: BARMM, Samar

2023: Siquijor

2022: Palawan, Cebu, Bohol, Biliran, Romblon

ASF Threat to Domestic and Wild Pigs

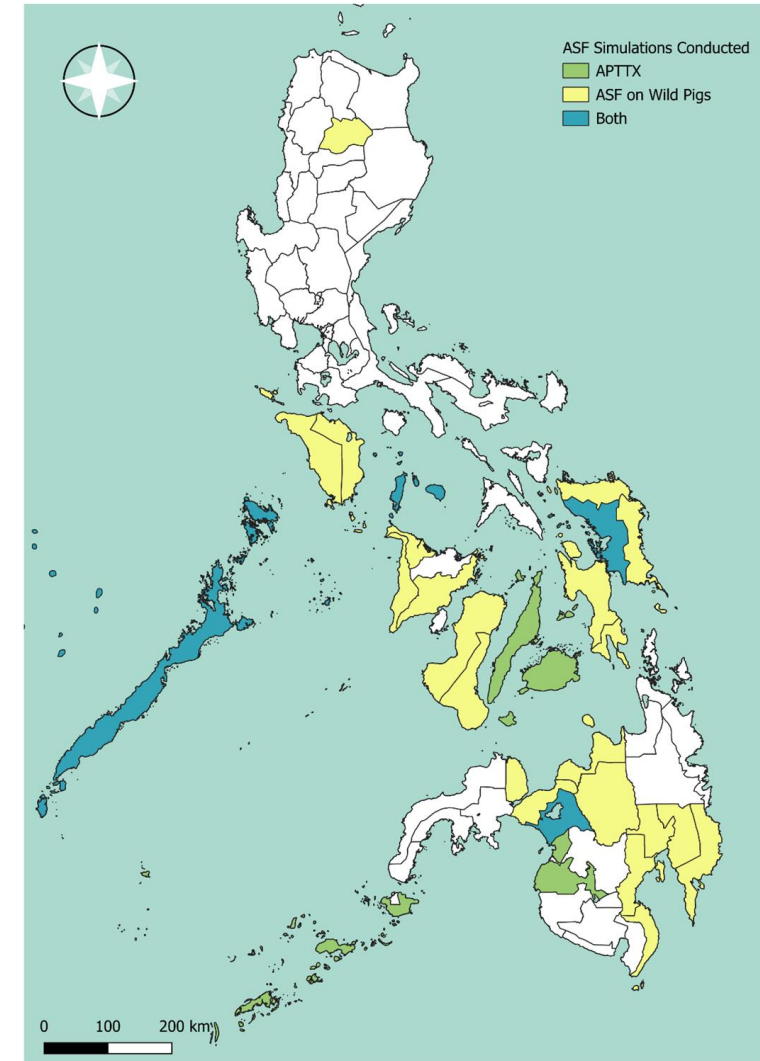
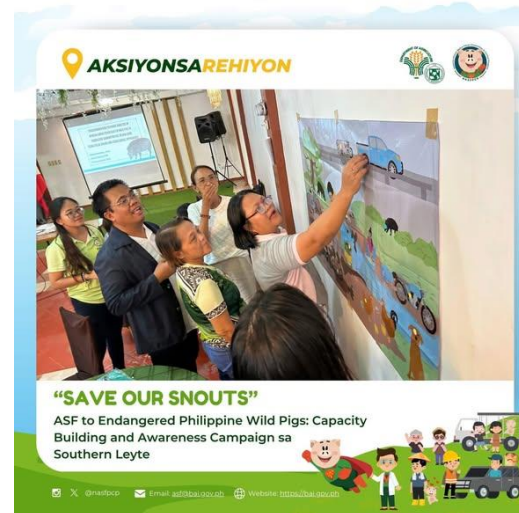
Focused on ASF Response in ASF Wild Pigs together with Environment Offices

2025: Region IV-B (Mindoro); VIII

2024: Region VI, VII, NIR and VIII

2023: Region X

2022: Region XI





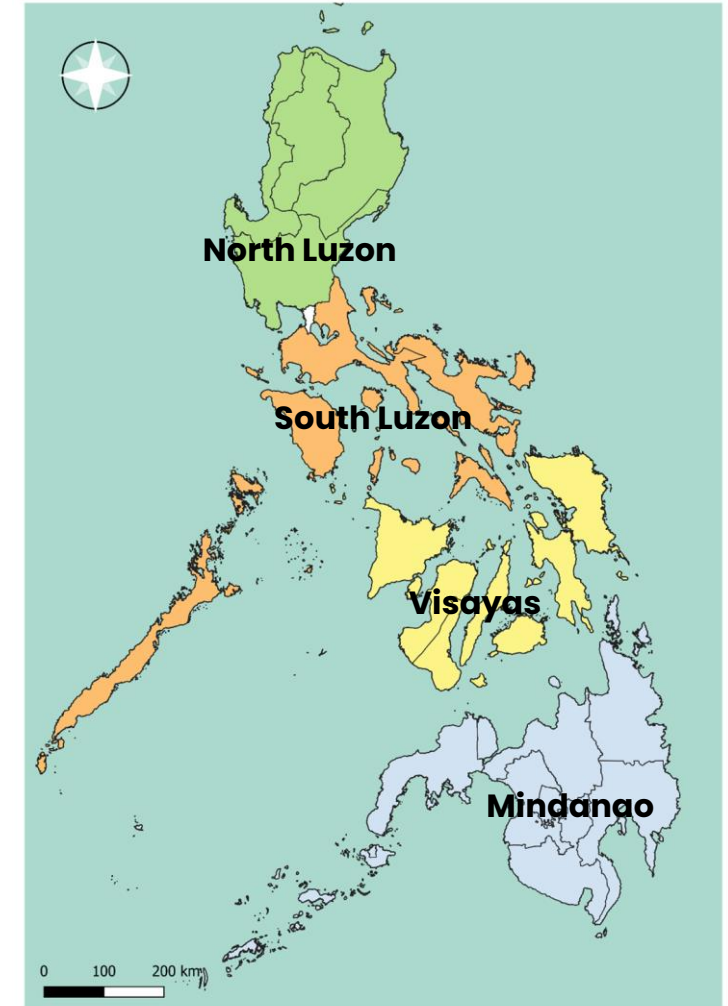
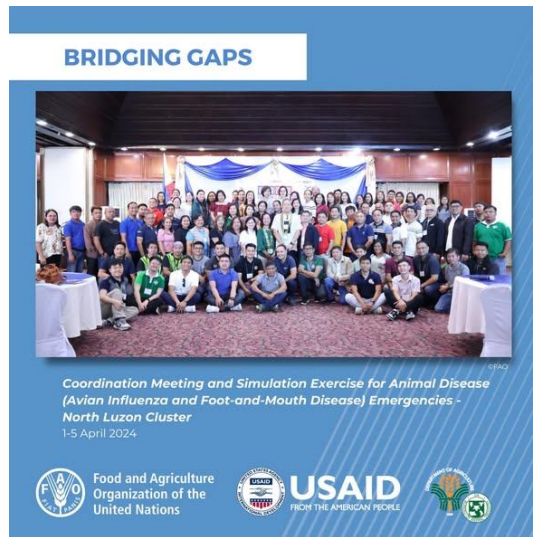
Foot and Mouth Disease and Avian Influenza

FMD and AI Simulation Exercise

Conducted by island clusters

2024: Visayas, North Luzon, South Luzon

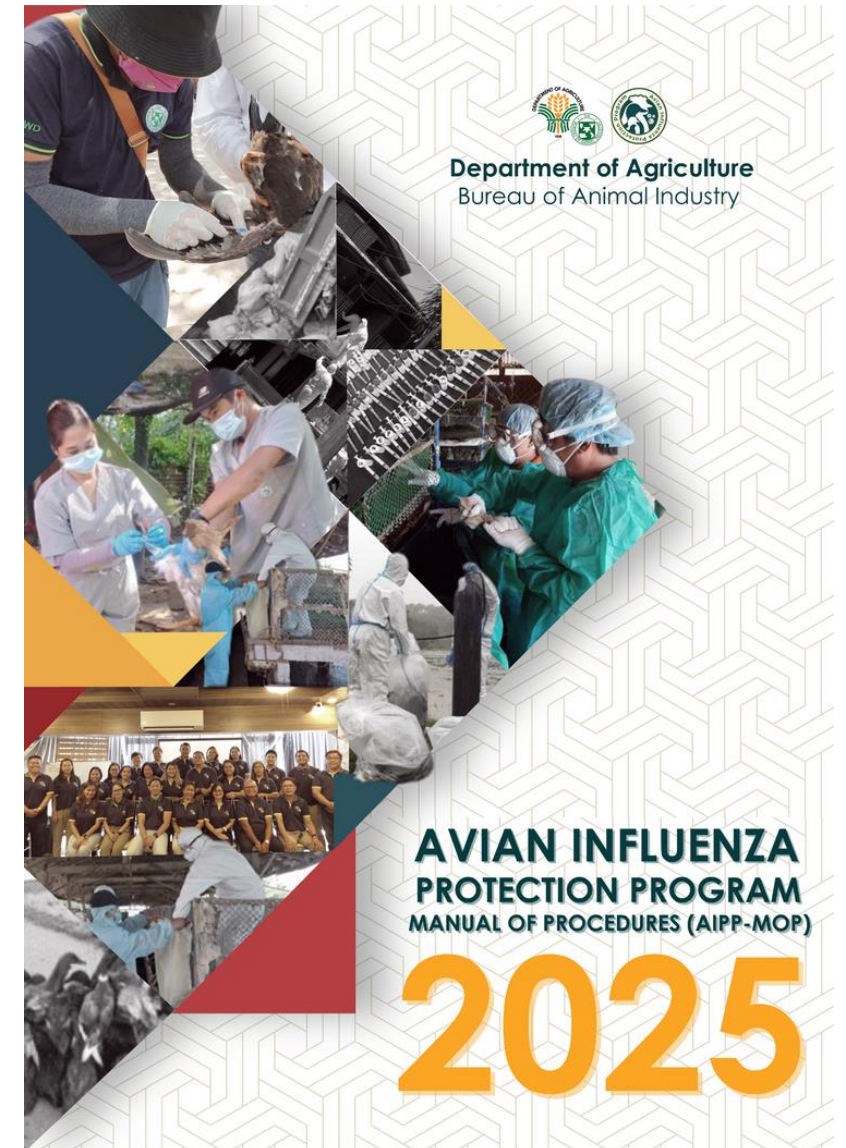
2023: Mindanao





Objectives of Simulation Exercise

- Assess readiness of responders and LGUs.
- Test current emergency and operation plans, communication flow, and coordination mechanisms (ex. AIPP, FMD Preparedness Guidelines, ASF MOP).
- Identify gaps in surveillance, investigation, and emergency response.
- Strengthen coordination across agencies.
- Generate feedback to refine national, regional, and LGU policies and plans.





Principles and Design Applied

Basis for Design

- WOAHA Simulation Exercise Guide
- FAO Good Emergency Management Practices
- FAO Training Workbook on the Application of ASF Guidelines

Exercise Structure

- Interactive tabletop, scenario-based
- Low-stress, no-fault learning environment
- Facilitator-guided discussions and decision-making
- Pre-scenario learning sessions (ASF basics, GEMP, roles & coordination)



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



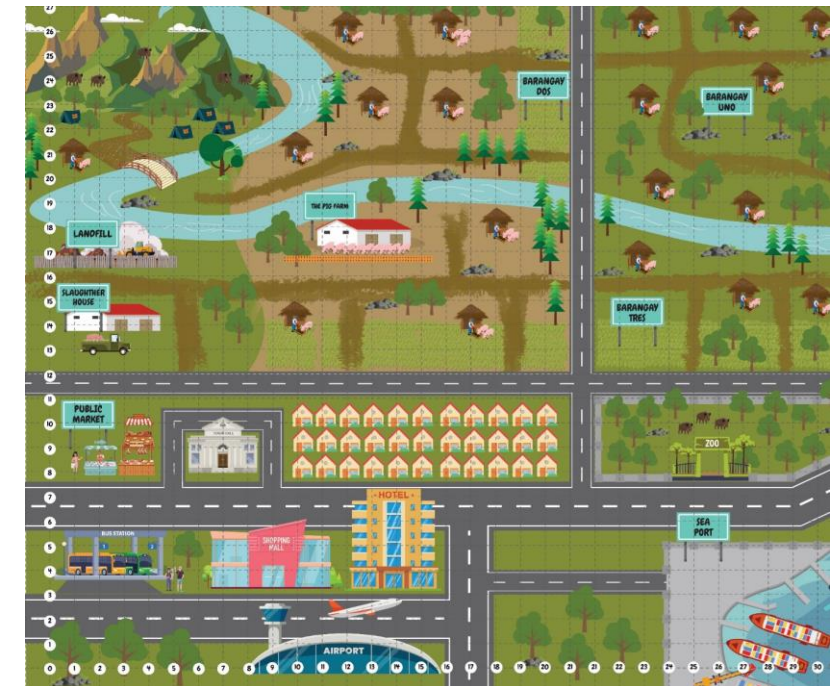
Principles and Design Applied

Scenario Framework

- Inspired by real disease events
- Follows disease timeline: Threat → Incursion → Outbreak → Recovery
- Includes injects, guided activities, and triggered decision points

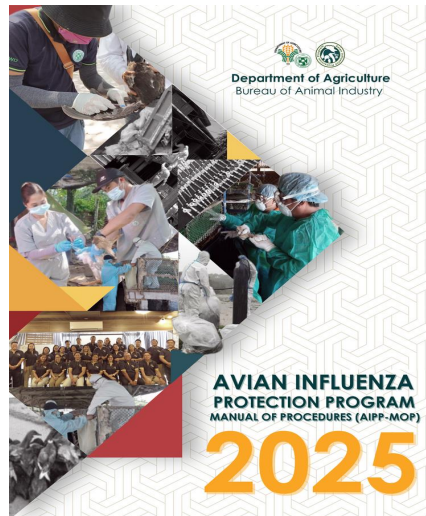
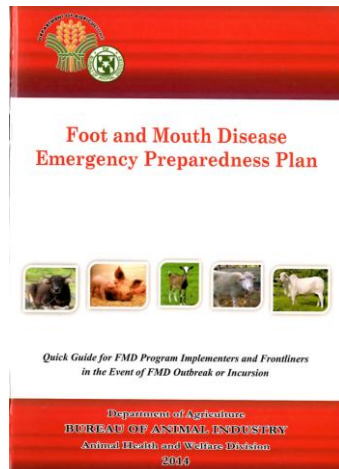
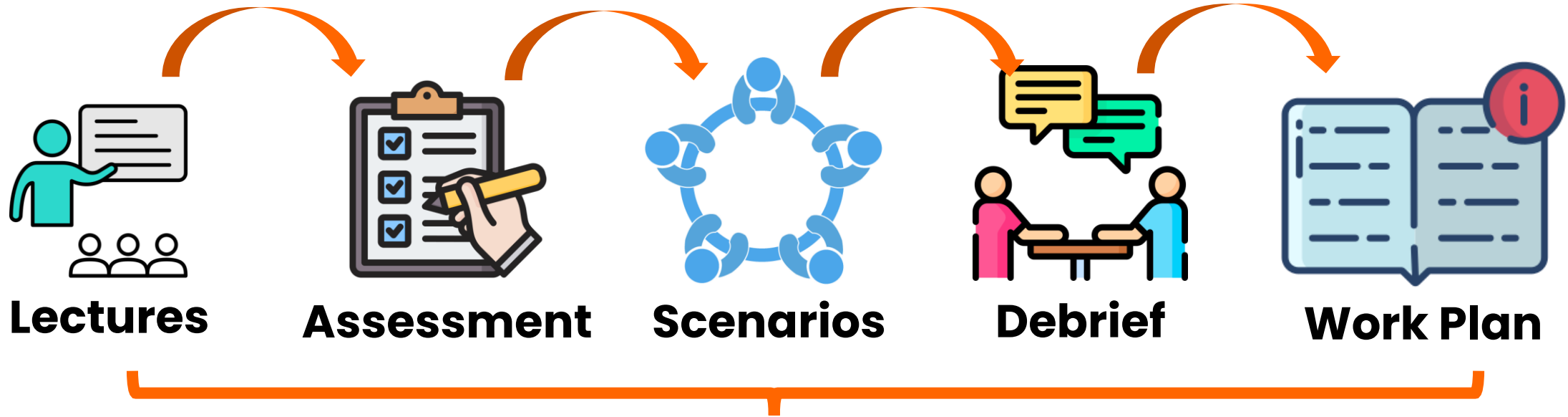
Participants & Grouping

- Multi-agency players: technical & non-technical sectors (e.g., veterinarian, agriculturist, police, coast guard, tourism, environment, human health, admin)
- Ideal 5–10 members per group
- Each group processes scenarios and provides feedback.





Implementation of the Simulation Exercise



**Revision/Drafting
of
Policies/Guidelines**



Lessons Learned

- Identify gaps to refine guidelines and strengthen VS preparedness and response.
- Increasing engagement and build strong, collaborative relationships across the VS.
- Revisiting guidelines and policies creates space for necessary revisions in the ever-changing landscape of animal diseases.
- Use interactive methods (movement, videos) to boost participant engagement.
- Setting clear objectives and instructions help participants understand the expected outputs.
- Non-technical roles (e.g., police, tourism, media) have limited technical knowledge on disease control but offer valuable operational and coordination insights.
- Group work plans post-exercise helped consolidate lessons into actionable local plans.
- Misinformation spreads quickly without unified communication, hence communication plan is essential.





Ways Forward

- Report SimEx activities to WOAHA
- Develop generic module on SimEx, translating guidelines and policies to educational materials
- Conduct Training of Trainers (ToT) to reach a wider audience
- Utilize other types of SimEx to tap more practical and realistic situations



Summary

- Starts with planning to identify needs, purpose, scope, and objectives.
- Uses interactive, realistic scenarios based on actual disease events.
- Involves multi-agency participants to test coordination and decision-making.
- Clear roles and pre-scenario guidance ensure meaningful participation.
- Debriefing highlights gaps in plans, communication, and capabilities.
- Post-scenario action plans translate lessons into improved preparedness.

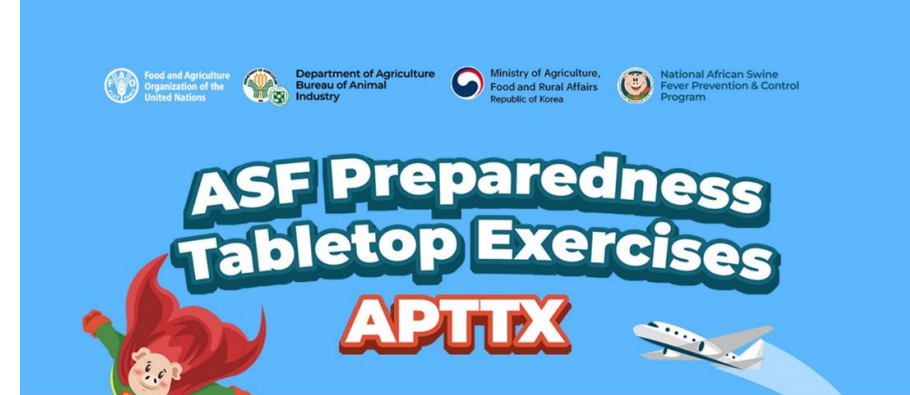
Thank you!

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