

How to Choose the Type and Scope of a Simulation Exercise for Your Country

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Training Workshop on Emergency Management and Disaster Response

How to Conduct Simulation Exercise (Sim-Ex)

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Why Choosing the Right Type and Scope Matters



Match Needs

Exercise type and scope must match national needs, capacity, and resources.



Ensure Success

Choosing correctly ensures the exercise is realistic, achievable, and delivers meaningful learning.



Avoid Pitfalls

The wrong type can overwhelm staff, exceed budgets, or fail to test priority systems.

Understanding the Four Exercise Types



Tabletop (Discussion-based)

Low cost, short preparation, focuses on **policy and decision-making**.



Drill (Operations-based)

Tests **one specific task or procedure** (e.g., PPE use).



Functional Exercise

Tests **multiple operations in real time**, often in an Emergency Operations Centre.



Full-Scale Exercise

Most realistic: deploys **teams, equipment, and multi-agency response**.

Factors to Consider When Choosing the Type



Capacity & Resources: National and local capacity (staff time, facilities, technical capability).



Purpose & Objectives: Must align with established goals.



Experience Level: Level of experience with previous exercises.



Coordination: Requirements for multi-agency coordination.



Risk Profile: Risk level and national priority hazards.

How to Define the Scope



Identify **what will be included and what will not** (personnel, level of engagement, activities, and timeline).

Need

-

Priority &
system

=

Limited Scope

(Leads to achievable Simulation Exercise functions)



Alignment

Scope must align with the **aim and objectives**.



Communication

Communicate the scope to all participants to prevent **unrealistic expectations**.

Aligning Type and Scope with Country Context



National priorities (disease threats, disaster risks).



*****Existing emergency systems***** (Veterinary Services, EOC, multisectoral partners).



****Current preparedness level****—start with tabletop if the system is new.



Political, cultural, and logistical environment.

Key Strategy



**Scale up gradually based on
capacity development**

Examples of Selecting the Appropriate Type

New or resource-limited situation



Tabletop

to review plans and clarify roles

Testing new field SOPs



Drill

on specific procedures.

Testing national coordination system



Functional

exercise across agencies.

Mature system with strong capacity



Full-scale

multi-agency exercise with deployment

Thank You

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