

Exercise I

Backcasting Approach

Introduction

Objective

Developing a Plan Towards FMD-Free Zone Status/FMD-free compartment

Approach

You will use a **backcasting approach**:

- Start from the **desired future situation** (Year 5)
- Work backwards to identify what **must be in place**
- Develop a **realistic pathway** from the **current situation** (Year 1)

TRADITIONAL vs BACKCASTING PLANNING

Two different ways to plan for the future

TRADITIONAL PLANNING

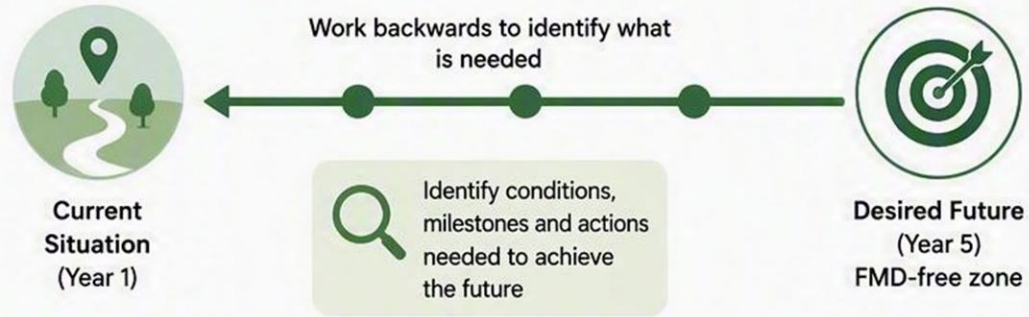
Planning from the Present to the Future



- Start with the current situation
- Identify actions and activities
- Move forward step by step
- Adjust along the way

BACKCASTING PLANNING

Planning from the Future to the Present



- Start with the desired future
- Identify conditions and milestones required
- Work backwards to the present
- Focus on what is necessary and essential

KEY DIFFERENCES

Starts from the current situation	**Starting Point**	Starts from the desired future
Focus on how to get there	**Focus**	Focus on what must be in place
Step-by-step forward actions	**Direction**	Step-by-step backward reasoning
May lead to incremental change	**Outcome**	Supports transformational change
Risk of losing sight of the goal	**Risk**	Keeps the goal clearly in focus

WHY BACKCASTING?

- Keeps the end goal clearly in focus
- Identifies critical milestones and prerequisites
- Encourages strategic thinking and prioritization
- Better manage risks and uncertainties
- Builds a realistic pathway to success

Key Message: Backcasting helps us identify the right things to do, in the right order, to achieve our desired future.

Group Task

➢ Develop a 5-year strategic timeline showing the pathway from:

Year 1
Current situation



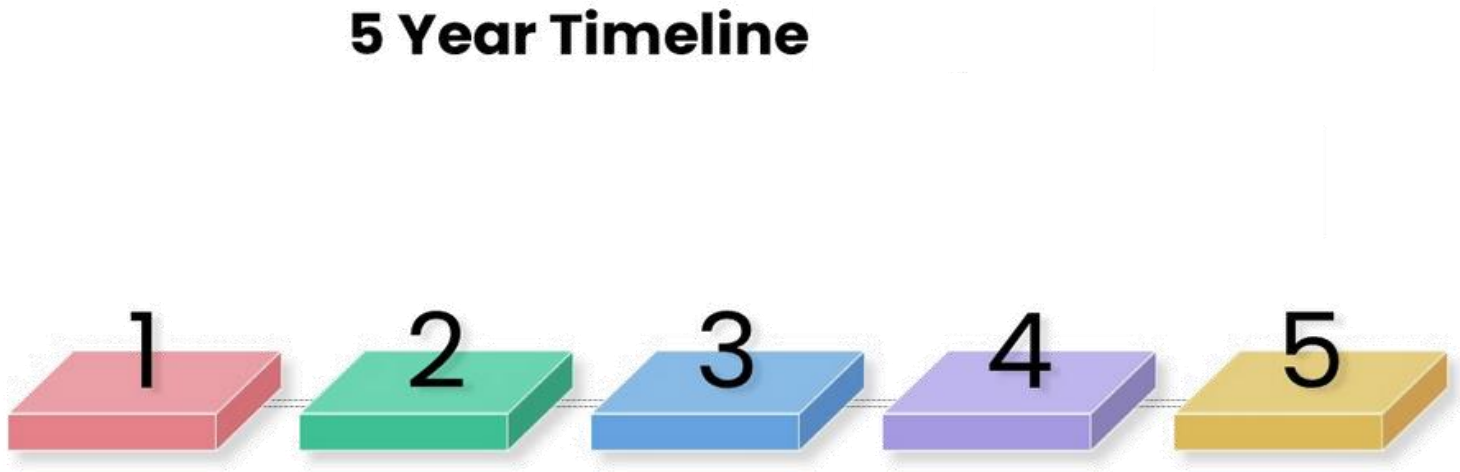
Year 5
FMD-free zone/compartment compliant with WOAH international standards

The timeline should include:

- Key objectives
- Major milestones
- Critical enabling conditions
- Strategic actions
- Important decision points

Expected Output - Your Deliverable

At the end of the exercise, each group should present:
A visual 5-year planning



Showing:

- **Starting point (Year 1)**
- **Intermediate milestones**
- **Progressive strengthening of systems**
- **Achievement of your desired objective (Year 5)**



If an FMD-free zone where vaccination is practised is achieved in Year 5, WHAT must have happened during Years 1-4 to make that possible?

YEAR 4 —— What must already be in place?

YEAR 3 —— What systems must be functioning?

YEAR 2 —— What capacities must be developed?

YEAR 1 —— What should start immediately?

CURRENT SITUATION

If an FMD-free zone where vaccination is practised is achieved in Year 5, WHAT must have happened during Years 1-4 to make that possible?



Think about:

- What needs to be established?
- What needs to be strengthened?
- What evidence would be required?
- What risks must be managed?
- What milestones would demonstrate progress?

Work backwards from success to define the pathway.

Exercise at a Glance

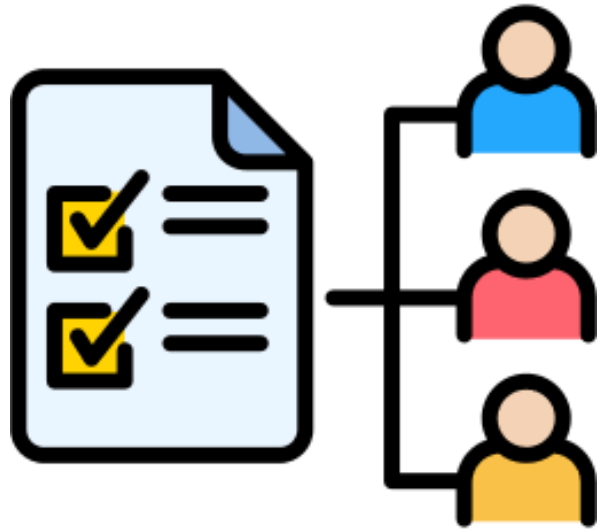


Duration

- **Group work:** 60 minutes
- **Group presentations:** 30 minutes

Group Assignments - All Groups Will Cover

- **Surveillance**
- **Diagnosis**
- **Movement control and zoning**



Additional Assigned Area

Each group will also address **one additional topic**:

- Vaccination strategy
- Veterinary Services and legislation
- Emergency preparedness
- Biosecurity and stakeholder engagement