



First OIE regional workshop on the role of Veterinary  
Services on  
animal welfare in natural disasters for Balkan countries  
26-28 November 2018, Teramo, Italy

**Group exercise: Elements to consider in the VS-CP's  
RESPONSE phase in regard to AW in a flooding  
scenario, according to the OIE guidelines on DMRR**

# Group 1

**Elements to consider in the VS-CP's RESPONSE phase in regard to AW in a flooding scenario, according to the OIE guidelines on DMRR**

- **We need to realise that recovery may last many weeks\months\years!!**
- **Pre-identification of how you will access the various assets that you need to recover is key**
- **Finances – money makes the world go round!**

# Design of the Response Plan

- Aims – to ensure the least amount of suffering for animals\people and to resume business as usual as soon as possible
- Framework (natural hazard) – common Standard Operating Procedures that set out how the plan will be activated.and who\who the interactions will work. **Identification of all key stakeholders is very important!**
- General description (farms, animal census, rendering plants, dog shelters, etc.) – data systems
- Main available resources (Transport, practitioners, trained staff, generators, other relevant resources) – pre-identification of the types of equipment assets (eg lairage for animals) that may be required – also identifying how you would get the equipment – eg other govt departments, private companies or thru the citizens (via govt direction)

# Response Plan (cont)

- Communication flow (internal, between different levels of VS, between other agencies) – SOPs for how we will communicate with our internal partners (other govt departments, NGOs) to ensure messages are clear and consistent.
- Communications plan for dealing with the public – ensure that there is a single point of contact for communication – ensures clear and consistent messages which aim to provide assurances to their public. Key messages can be distributed by both traditional and non traditional media (eg social media).

# Recovery Communications

- Ensure that consistent messages are still being issued centrally to inform the public of what is happening and what they can do to help
- Try and release information to media outlets so they will not make their own news up!

# Personal Resilience

- Making sure that own teams are being considered – eg making sure they have breaks, do they need time off to deal with their own personal issues?
- What sort of Human Resource policies do you have to support you staff?

# Business Resilience

- How do we ensure we have the right supplies to deal with new issues that emerge – eg avian influenza post flood – have we identified how we can access this? Do we have written instructions which explain this?
- Prioritise which activities can be stopped during the response\recovery phase – for example, is testing for other diseases more important than dealing with the natural disaster?
- Infrastructure that supports the vet service – are there business continuity plans in place that identify?



# Finances

- During the response phase, many people are keen and willing to help.
- When the immediate emergency is over, people may start asking for money to cover their expenses
- It is important that accurate records of spend are kept to allow for post audit and to support potential legal challenges

# Data

- Post event, conduct a census of the animal populations
- Check the data sets that the services hold to determine if there are other risks – for example, has the flood washed thru landmine fields or areas with know anthrax issues

# Stray/Unidentified Animals

- How are animal owners going to be traced and what would happen if you could not trace them?
- Pets – have NGOs been consulted and can they assist in the operation?
- Farm animals – how will these be identified and how would disputes between owners be
- Zoo animals – do these need to be considered separately?

# Wildlife?

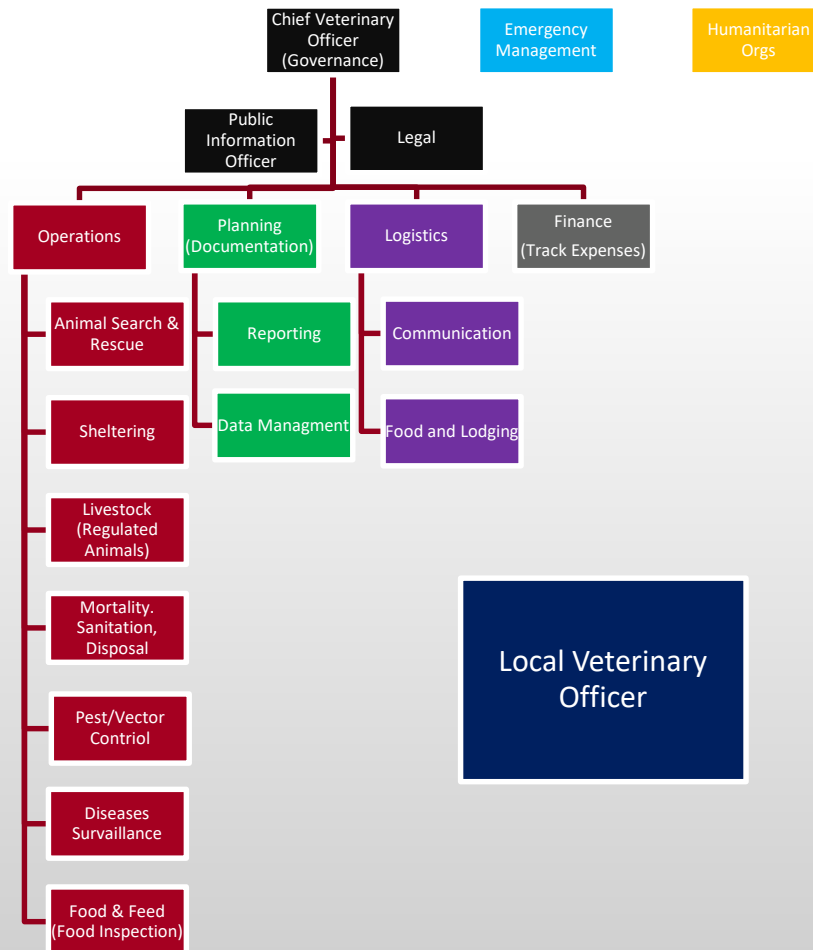
- Do we need to consider them?
- Could they contribute to disease spread?
- Does damaged infrastructure mean they can move further from where they are normally found
- Preventative vaccination – for example anthrax

# Lessons!!

- Review your actions as they happen
- Do you have accurate records of decisions being made during the event?
- Can there be some things you can change immediately to make the response better?
- What lessons should be taken forward in the future – and who will be responsible for ensuring these are taken forward
- When implementing the lessons, consider the «build it better» approach

# Group 2

# Elements to consider in the VS-CP's preparedness phase in regard to AW in a flooding scenario, according to the OIE guidelines on DMRR – Group 2



## **Elements to consider in the VS-CP's RESPONSE phase in regard to AW in a flooding scenario, according to the OIE guidelines on DMRR**

- Organize local vets and coordinate with other disaster services (fire fighters, sanitation, etc.)
- Animal triage, exam and care
- GAP analysis
- Animal care (milking) and feeding plan
- Cleaning a disinfection plan
- Individual animal records with description
- Carcass collection and disposal
- Personal and animal shelter biosecurity
- Epidemiological surveillance program (TB, BCE, etc.)
- Animals outside of regulations impacted by event



## **Elements to consider in the VS-CP's RESPONSE phase in regard to AW in a flooding scenario, according to the OIE guidelines on DMRR**

- Epidemiological surveillance program (TB, BCE, etc.)
- Animals outside of regulations impacted by event
- Animals to be returned
- Pest control-Vector borne diseases but how is responsible
- Teams sometimes are only VS and sometime are mixed teams with other services
- Finance and budget questions about who is doing what on farms?
- Monitor private veterinarian
- Assessment of impact on health and welfare

## **Elements to consider in the VS-CP's RESPONSE phase in regard to AW in a flooding scenario, according to the OIE guidelines on DMRR**

- Prioritize activities to most impacted area
- VS sometimes in same government section with sanitary and food direct to prime minister without going to ministry
- Current response is learning how VS can do better on the next response
- Strategical, tactical, operational
- Compensation for animal losses from government
- Daily brief and debrief with National and VS (live-dead animals, etc.)

## **Elements to consider in the VS-CP's RESPONSE phase in regard to AW in a flooding scenario, according to the OIE guidelines on DMRR**

- Waiting for National response management to announce end of response
- Traceability of animals and return of animals
- Record activities, materials, human resource
- Adapt to needs of country and situation
- Responsible for providing human food in some countries

**Elements to consider in the VS-CP's RECOVERY phase in regard to AW in a flooding scenario, according to the OIE guidelines on DMRR**

- **Big GAP Analysis**

# Group 3

## **Elements to consider in the VS-CP's RESPONSE phase in regard to AW in a flooding scenario, according to the OIE guidelines on DMRR**

- **Acute Response & Prioritisation**
  - Animal reception point at human shelter / evacuation – VS led with NGO support & resource
  - Clinical vet responses at rescue point – trapped animals – rescue / euthanase

## **Elements to consider in the VS-CP's RECOVERY phase in regard to AW in a flooding scenario, according to the OIE guidelines on DMRR**

- **Resources at animal reception point**
  - **NGO resource & volunteers**
  - **Clinical vets and nurses (with medicines)**
  - **Holding facilities & organized transport / hospital facilities**
  - **Water supply & food**
  - **Identification of animals - microchips**

## **Elements to consider in the VS-CP's RECOVERY phase in regard to AW in a flooding scenario, according to the OIE guidelines on DMRR**

- **TRIAGE process for PETS at that human reception centre**
  - Identification & microchipping
  - Dealing with stray / owner cannot be identified / displaced animals
  - Acute treatment cases / euthanasia
  - Temporary re-homing
  - Dangerous pets



**Elements to consider in the VS-CP's RECOVERY phase in regard to AW in a flooding scenario, according to the OIE guidelines on DMRR**

**■ FIELD RESCUE**

- Vets
- Trained animal wranglers / handlers
- Equipment (if the emergency responders do not have this)
- Euthanasia equipment – large animals / pets that are trapped and cannot be rescued
- Carcass collection / disposal
  - Records – identification / number carcasses / species type collected & location found / euthanased
- Food & Feed safety

## **Elements to consider in the VS-CP's RECOVERY phase in regard to AW in a flooding scenario, according to the OIE guidelines on DMRR**

- **Central communication / recording point**
  - Dedicated phone lines
  - Volunteer lists – specialisations (eg rescue / animal care / vet treatment)
    - Allocate work OR NOT if not needed
  - Resource provision (feed / bedding etc)
    - Reception point
  - Temporary holding facilities - locations and animal types that could be accepted by re-homers – livestock pets wild animals etc
  - List of “displaced” pets

## **Elements to consider in the VS-CP's RECOVERY phase in regard to AW in a flooding scenario, according to the OIE guidelines on DMRR**

- **Legal basis**
  - To euthanase – pets / livestock / wild animals with /without owner permission
  - To treat / administer first aid – in absence of identified owner
  - To microchip / permanently identify

# Elements to consider in the VS-CP's RECOVERY phase in regard to AW in a flooding scenario, according to the OIE guidelines on DMRR

## ■ Communications

- Use of Social media such as Facebook / Twitter
  - Official approved VS & NGO pages
- Clear Direction of the public as to where they go for OFFICIAL information / support
  - Lost & Found
  - Treatment / re homing
- Some element of control / feedback to “spontaneous” voluntary actions by random FACEBOOK groups

## **Elements to consider in the VS-CP's RECOVERY phase in regard to AW in a flooding scenario, according to the OIE guidelines on DMRR**

- Specialist species / types
- Zoos & Wildlife Centres & petting zoos
  - Expertise to manage / sedate / euthanase
  - Risk locations within zoo or whole zoo?
  - Alternative on-site or off-site locations that should be safe (identified at the preparedness phase – these animals should have already been moved where possible)
    - ♦ Legal basis for this
    - ♦ Secure containment for dangerous animals

- RECOVERY PHASE

- Clear communications & appropriate stakeholder engagement
- Assess locations to consider time line to recovery
  - ♦ Seasonal effects / disease risks
  - ♦ Requirements for length of time that temporary facilities are needed including temporary milking facilities
- Rules / Advice on returning to home location
  - ♦ Damage assessment & insurance considerations
  - ♦ Valuations of dead animals if insured OR CA has a compensation process
  - ♦ Advice on sewage risks / Cleansing / Disinfection
  - ♦ Vaccinations eg anthrax, leptospirosis vaccines
- Reuniting pets / livestock with owners
  - ♦ GOOD PR / photo opportunity!
- Transport & Relocation of livestock - WHO PAYS?

# AFTER EVENT REVIEW

- Lessons learned (or NOT!)
- Review and improve :
  - plans / procedures
  - Legal basis
  - Compensation – budget & process
- Sharing the experience
  - With other VS in country / stakeholders
  - With other CAs

# And finally.....

