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Animal welfare in a natural disaster situation – role of veterinary services

Regional training seminar for OIE National Focal Points on Animal
Welfare, 18th–20th June 2019, Hague, the Netherlands



Animal welfare in natural disaster situation



Example for Bosnia and Herzegovina



Role of veterinary services

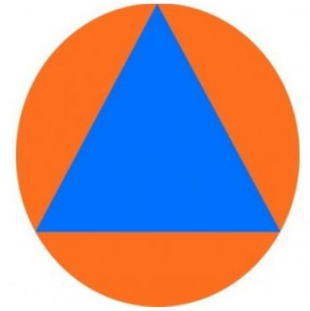
- Described in:
 - Veterinary Law („Official gazette of B&H“, No 34/02)
 - Animal Protection and Welfare Law („Official gazette of B&H“, No 25/09)

Competent authorities



- Protection and Rescue Sector of the Ministry of Security of Bosnia and Herzegovina
 - Framework Law on the Protection and Rescue of People and Material Goods from Natural or Other Disasters in Bosnia and Herzegovina
 - Risk assessment of protection of Bosnia and Herzegovina from natural and other disasters
 - Coordination of all activities

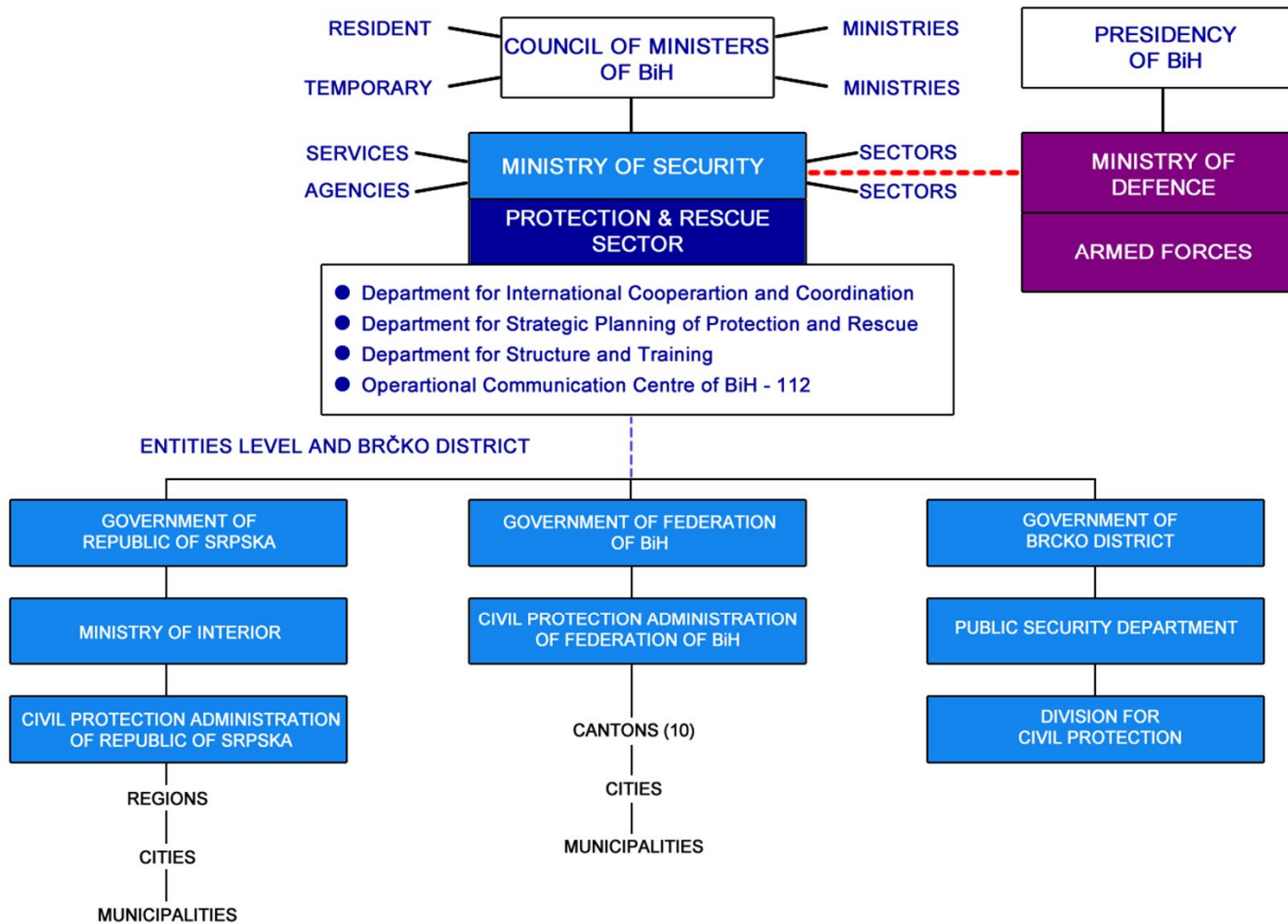
Competent authorities



- Civil defense services on entity and local level
 - In accordance with laws on protection and rescue, veterinary service can be included
 - In accordance with Veterinary Law of Bosnia and Herzegovina, civil defense services can be included in case of animal disease outbreaks

Competent authorities

ORGANISATIONAL STRUCTURE



Other specific plans that include VS

- Plan in emergency case of protection of population from protection of the population from ionizing radiation in the event of an emergency, nuclear accident or the occurrence of nuclear damage
- Plan for protection against nuclear-chemical-biological-radiological-explosiv means
- Plan for protection against chemical weapons and reactions in case of accidents and incidents who are included chemicals

Cooperation with private actors and non-governmental organizations

- In accordance with Article 76. of Veterinary Law in Bosnia and Herzegovina, governments can, in case of epizootics, emergencies and war, mobilize all veterinarians and veterinary technicians if needed.

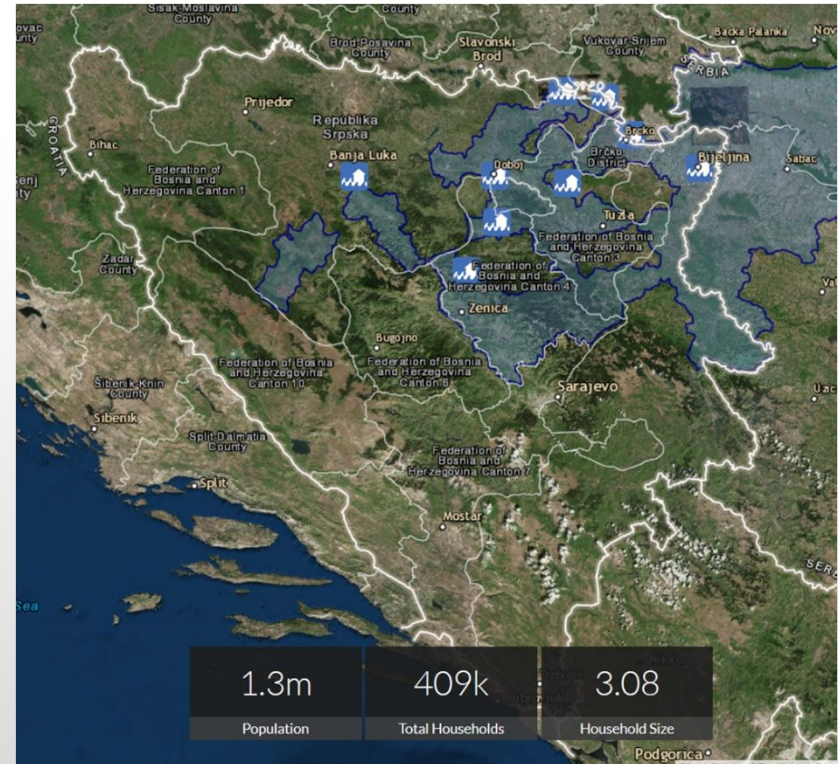
Experience of natural disasters

- Experiences from heavy snowfall in early 2012
 - Food delivery for livestock in mountains and remote areas
 - Protection of stray dog population (mostly NGOs)



Experience of natural disasters

- **Floods in 2014**
 - Between 13-14 May 2014 were the most recorded rainfalls in last 120 years
 - All veterinary services were immediately included in rescue of animals and removal of carcasses



Experience of natural disasters

- **Floods in 2014**
 - Instructions for owners and veterinarians were issued
 - Preventive vaccination against Anthrax was conducted in some area



Experience of natural disasters

- **Floods in 2014**
 - Veterinary services were also included in disinfection and desinsection activities
 - Buildings of veterinary stations and ambulances were flooded and damaged



Video of Veterinary station Šamac:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=0CUh9SQhizs>

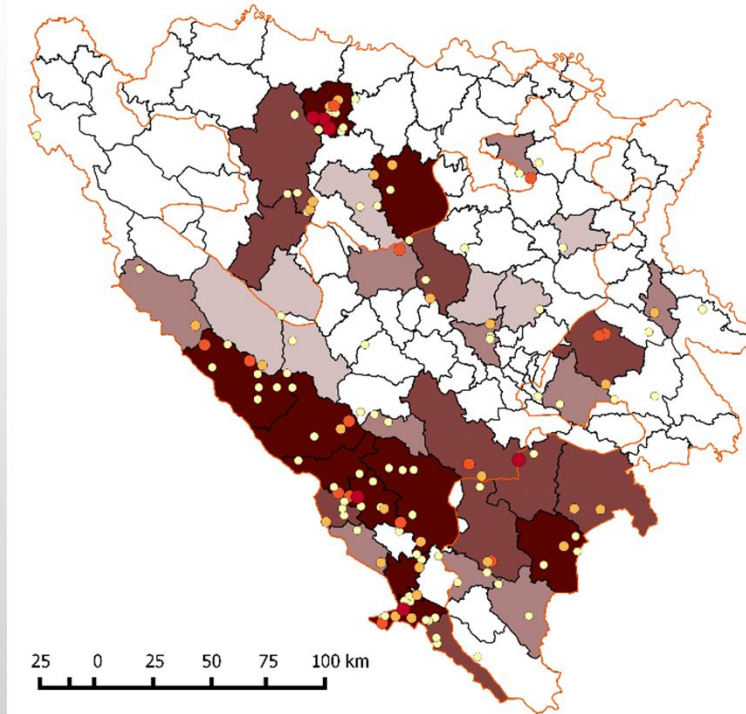
Experience of natural disasters

- **Floods in 2014**
 - Rescue of live animals was also conducted in flooded area

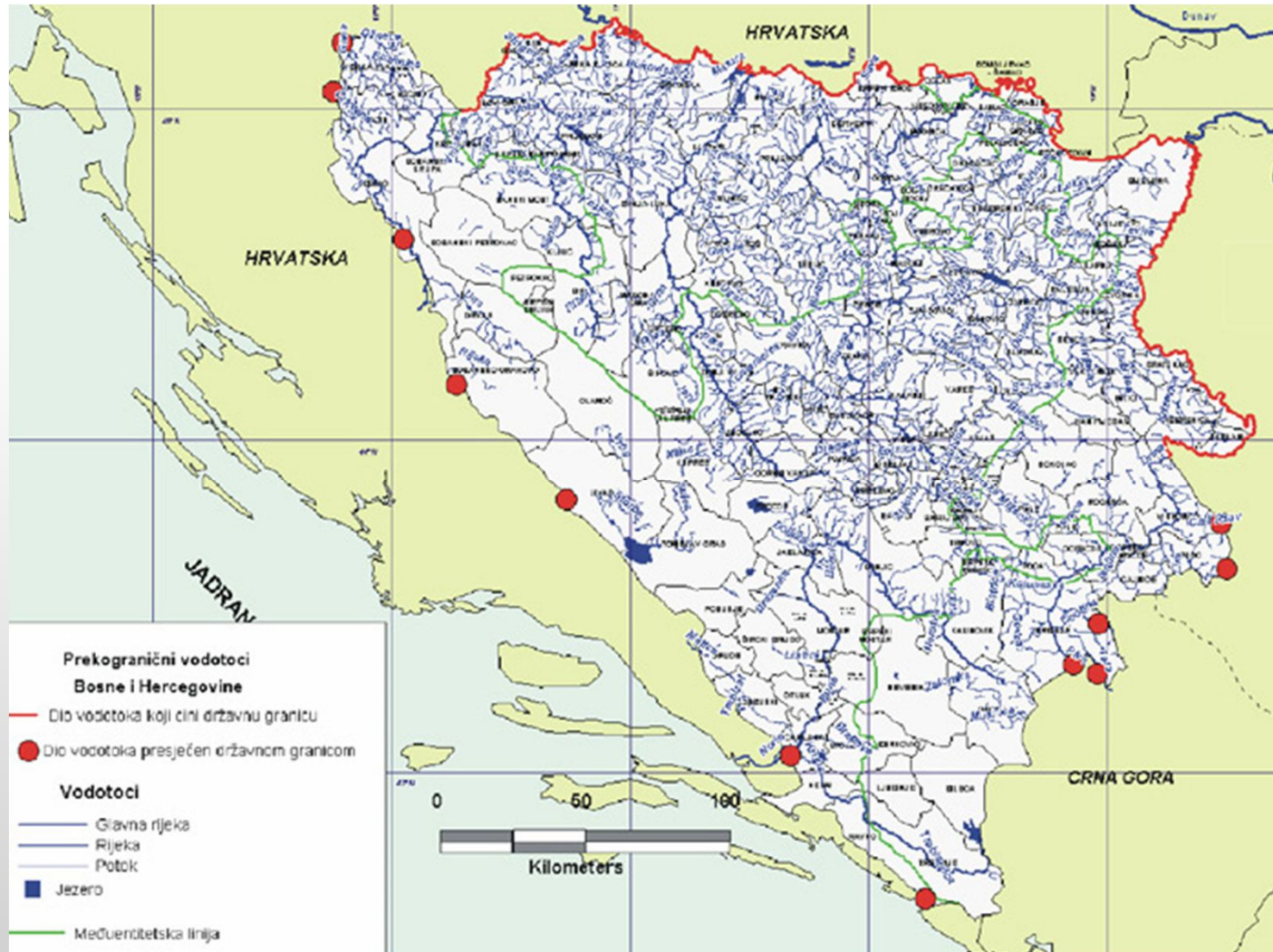


Earthquake risk

- Last major earthquake was in 1969 in city of Banja Luka (8 M_W , 6 M_L)

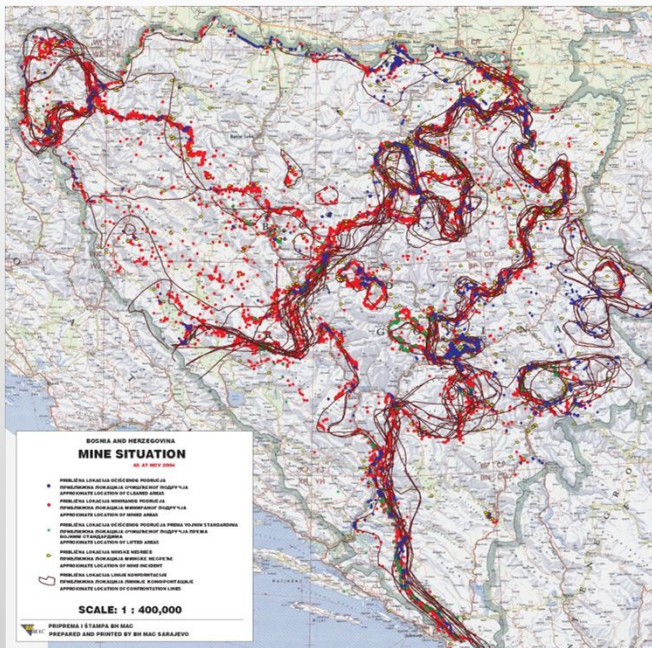


Hidrology risk



Landmines risk

- Big risk for wild animals and grazing animals



40 grazing sheep died in minefield (May 2018)

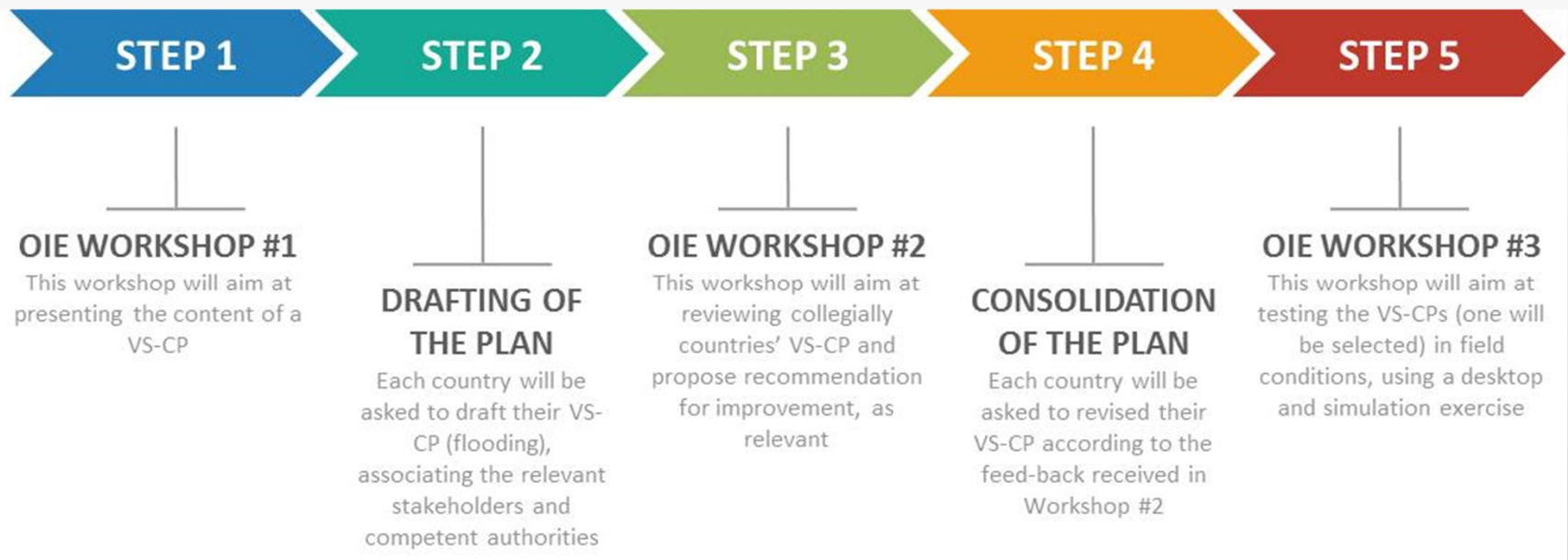
Lessons learned

- **Veterinarians were very responsive in emergency situation!**
- **Coordinated activities with NGOs has to be established**
- **Regional approach, especially in case of flooding is necessary**

Animal welfare in disasters

Pilot Approach on natural disaster preparedness

to assist the European OIE Member Countries in promoting a culture of preparedness among Veterinary Services and relevant stakeholders, to ensure appropriate livestock, wildlife and companion animal's welfare during and after natural disasters



OIE regional approach for Balkan countries



Animal welfare in disasters

*Pilot Approach on natural disaster preparedness
Balkan countries – flooding scenario*



First OIE Regional workshop on the role of Veterinary Services on animal welfare disasters for Balkan countries

26-28 November 2018, Teramo Italy



Participants:

- Bosnia and Herzegovina
- Bulgaria
- Croatia
- Macedonia (FYR of)
- Greece
- Kosovo
- Montenegro
- Romania
- Serbia

Speaker and observers:

- OIE
- OIE CC IZSAM Teramo
- OIE CC CENSA Cuba
- OIE CC IIAD, Texas
- Italian Civil Protection Service
- Agro-food chain representative
- Animal welfare NGOs
- European Commission

Agenda:

- technical plenary lectures
- country presentations on VS preparedness
- sharing countries experience (flooding)
- group exercises
- panel discussions

with significant collaboration and support



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Main conclusions:

- ✓ Animal welfare in disaster management contingency planning is a new topic
- ✓ Different components (technical, legislation and administrative, communication...) must be considered
- ✓ Existing experience already with past events and solid knowledge in Veterinary services on contingency planning for animal health emergencies

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- ✓ Areas for further consideration :
 - coordination with Civil Protection to better define the role of veterinary services
 - role and place in the system of private veterinarians and paraprofessionals, farmers, business operators and other stakeholders including NGOs
 - specific education, training, simulation exercises
 - communication on all levels
 - possible mutual assistance agreements within country and with neighbouring countries

...next steps in 2019...

- ✓ Survey on present state of implementation of the OIE guidelines
 - ✓ To serve as a more precise base line for the region
 - ✓ To help countries better identify the gaps
- ✓ Countries developing their first draft of contingency plan

Next session in 2019

- *Next session to share on the first drafts of contingency plans*
 - *Exchange on structure, difficulties, good ideas...*
 - *October or November 2019 (TBC)*
 - *Venue: Bosnia and Herzegovina (TBC)*





Thank you for your attention!