

WOAH workshop on Response Plan Development for Disaster Management and Risk Reduction

WOAH Emergency Management Activities

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Bucharest - Romania



World Organisation
for Animal Health





Contents

- WOAHA Guidelines
- Emergency Management Standards
- WOAHA's Incident Management System
- WOAHA Global Conference on Biological Threat Reduction

Countering disinformation and misinformation in animal health emergencies



GUIDELINES ON DISASTER MANAGEMENT AND RISK REDUCTION IN RELATION TO ANIMAL HEALTH AND WELFARE AND VETERINARY PUBLIC HEALTH (GUIDELINES FOR NATIONAL VETERINARY SERVICES)



Guidelines for investigation of suspicious biological events

For National Veterinary Services





Food and Agriculture
Organization of the
United Nations

Good emergency management practice: The essentials

A guide to preparing for animal health emergencies
Third edition

FAO ANIMAL PRODUCTION AND HEALTH / MANUAL 25



2023

31st
Edition

Vol. 1

Terrestrial Animal Health Code



World Organisation for
Animal Health

February 2017

WHO Simulation Exercise Manual



A practical guide and tool for planning,
conducting and evaluating simulation exercises
for outbreaks and public health emergency
preparedness and response.



World Health
Organization

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



World Organisation
for Animal Health
Founded as OIE

Emergency Management

WOAH Guidelines on Simulation Exercises



- Several simulation exercise manuals already but limited guidance for Veterinary Services
- Developed by the **WOAH *ad hoc* Group on Veterinary Emergencies** and published in 2020
- Goal: **Strengthen the capacity** of WOAH Members for preparedness against **all hazards** through a set of simulation exercise **good practices**
- Aim to be **scalable** and **adaptable**. Encourage **multi-sectoral collaboration** and be applicable to a wide target audience. Align with other frameworks and resources.

WOAH PVS Evaluation Critical Competencies

II-5. EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS AND RESPONSE

DEFINITION

The authority and capability of the VS to be prepared and respond rapidly to a sanitary emergency threat (such as a significant disease *outbreak* or food safety emergency).

LEVELS OF ADVANCEMENT

1. The VS have no field network or established procedure to determine whether a sanitary emergency threat exists or the authority to declare such an emergency and respond appropriately.
2. The VS have a field network and an established procedure to determine whether a sanitary emergency threat exists, but lack the legal and financial support to respond effectively. The VS may have basic emergency management planning, but this usually targets one or a few diseases and may not reflect national capacity to respond.
3. The VS have the legal framework and financial support to respond rapidly to sanitary emergency threats, but the response is not well coordinated through an effective chain of command. They have national emergency management plans for some exotic diseases, but they are not updated/tested.
4. The VS have the legal framework and financial support to respond rapidly to sanitary emergencies through an effective chain of command (e.g. establishment of a *containment zone*). The VS have national emergency management plans for major exotic diseases, linked to broader national disaster management arrangements, and these are regularly updated/tested such as through simulation exercises.
5. The VS have national emergency management plans for all diseases of concern (and possible emerging infectious diseases), incorporating coordination with national disaster agencies, relevant *Competent Authorities*, producers and other non-government stakeholders. Emergency management planning and response capacity is regularly tested, audited and updated, such as through simulation exercises that test response at all levels. Following emergency events, the VS have a formal 'After Action Review' process as part of continuous improvement.

I-9. EMERGENCY FUNDING

DEFINITION

The capability of the VS to access extraordinary financial resources in order to respond to emergency situations or newly emerging issues, as measured by the ease with which contingency and related funding (i.e. arrangements for compensation of producers in emergency situations) can be made rapidly available when required.

LEVELS OF ADVANCEMENT

1. No emergency funding arrangements exist.
2. Emergency funding arrangements with limited resources have been established, but these are inadequate for likely emergency situations (including newly emerging issues).
3. Emergency funding arrangements with limited resources have been established; additional resources may be approved but approval is through a political process.
4. Emergency funding arrangements with adequate resources have been established; their provision must be agreed through a non-political process on a case-by-case basis.
5. Emergency funding arrangements with adequate resources have been established and their rules of operation documented and agreed with interested parties.

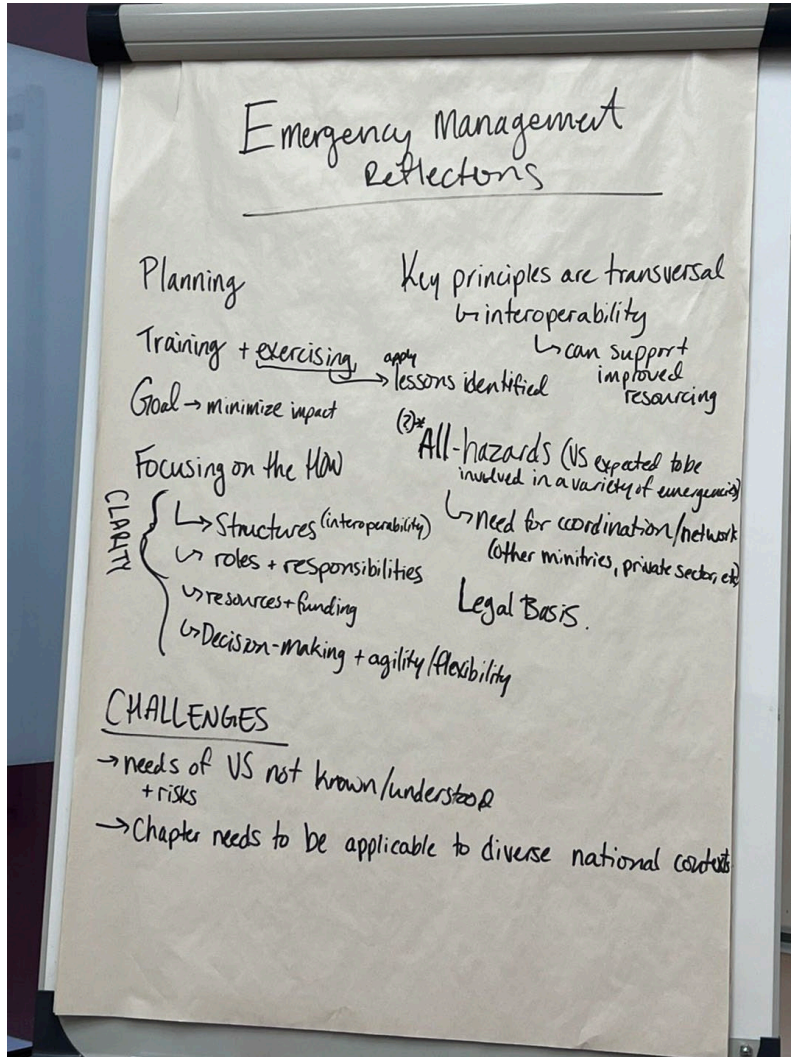


Emergency Management Standards (in-progress)

6

- Mandated by Members in **2022** WOAHC General Session Technical Item Resolution
- Proposal accepted by Code Commission in **February 2024**
- *Ad hoc* Group convened in **June 2024**
 - *Terrestrial Code* reviewed
 - Recommended developing a chapter on emergency management
 - Chapter outline drafted
- Report reviewed by TAHSC (**September 2024**)
- Second meeting of the *ad hoc* Group held in **December 2024** to develop content
- Report and chapter presented to Code Commission and feedback provided
- Third meeting held in **June 2025**





Structure

- 3.X.1 Introduction
- 3.X.2 Purpose and scope
- 3.X.3 Definitions
- 3.X.4 General principles
- 3.X.5 Prevention
- 3.X.6 Detection
- 3.X.7 Preparedness
- 3.X.8 Response
- 3.X.9 Recovery



- Finalise the draft chapter with the ad hoc Group
- Present chapter to the Terrestrial Animal Health Code Commission in **September 2025** with aim to circulate for Member comments if deemed ready
- Aiming to present for adoption at the 2027 General Session



89 GS/FR – PARIS, May 2022

RESOLUTION No. 28

**World Organisation for Animal Health, Veterinary Services and Aquatic Animal Health
Services engagement in global, regional and national emergency management systems**

6. The OIE develops an internal Incident Management System (IMS), building on past experience, to better support OIE and its partners, and OIE Members during international emergencies. The OIE should explore possibilities to support its Members in the development of their own IMS;

89th General Session World Assembly
World organisation for animal health Paris, 23-26 May 2022 

SG89/8

Original: English

**WORLD ORGANISATION FOR ANIMAL HEALTH, VETERINARY SERVICES AND AQUATIC
ANIMAL HEALTH SERVICES ENGAGEMENT IN GLOBAL, REGIONAL AND NATIONAL
EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT SYSTEMS**

Matthew Stone¹, Daniel Donachie², Chadia Wannous², Keith Hamilton²

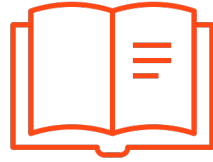
“

*Incident management consists of
processes, decisions and actions aimed at
resolving incidents
and supporting recovery*

”



IMS Toolkit



3 Core Reference documents



18 Procedures



34 Templates



13 Training modules



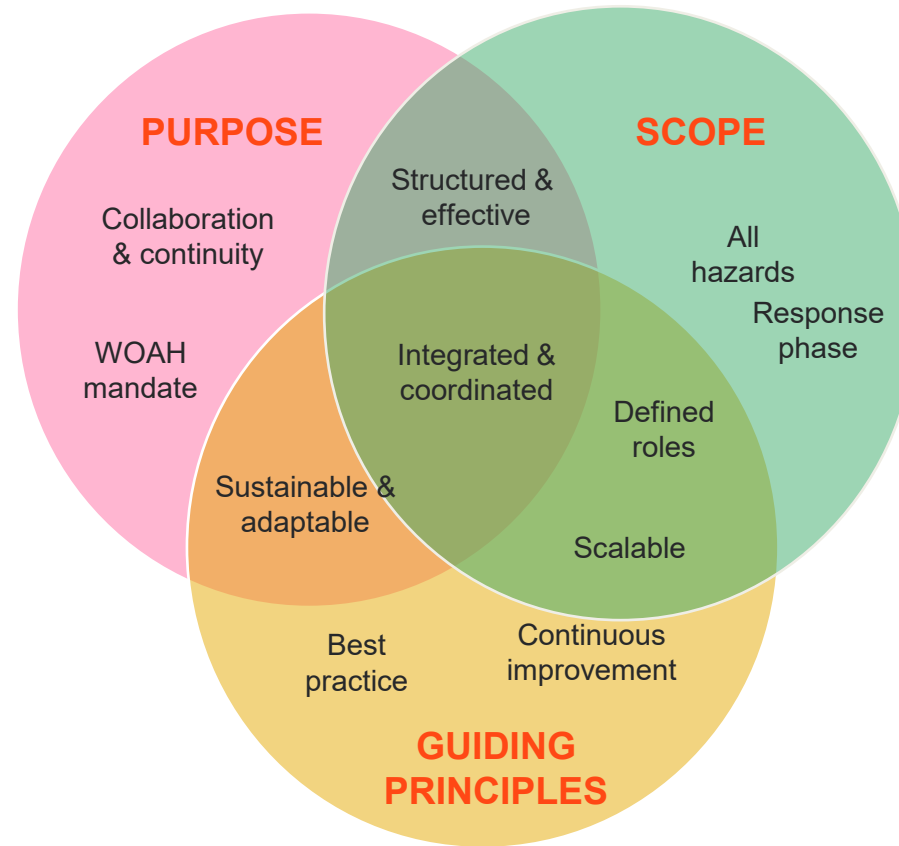
WOAH Emergency Operating
Centre (WEOC) - MS Teams

Organisational policy framework

DRAFT Policy

Incident Management System:
Responding to significant incidents

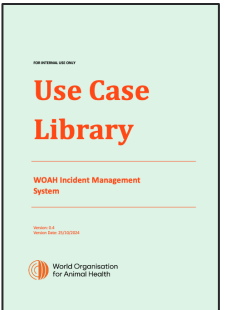
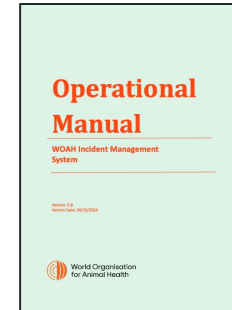
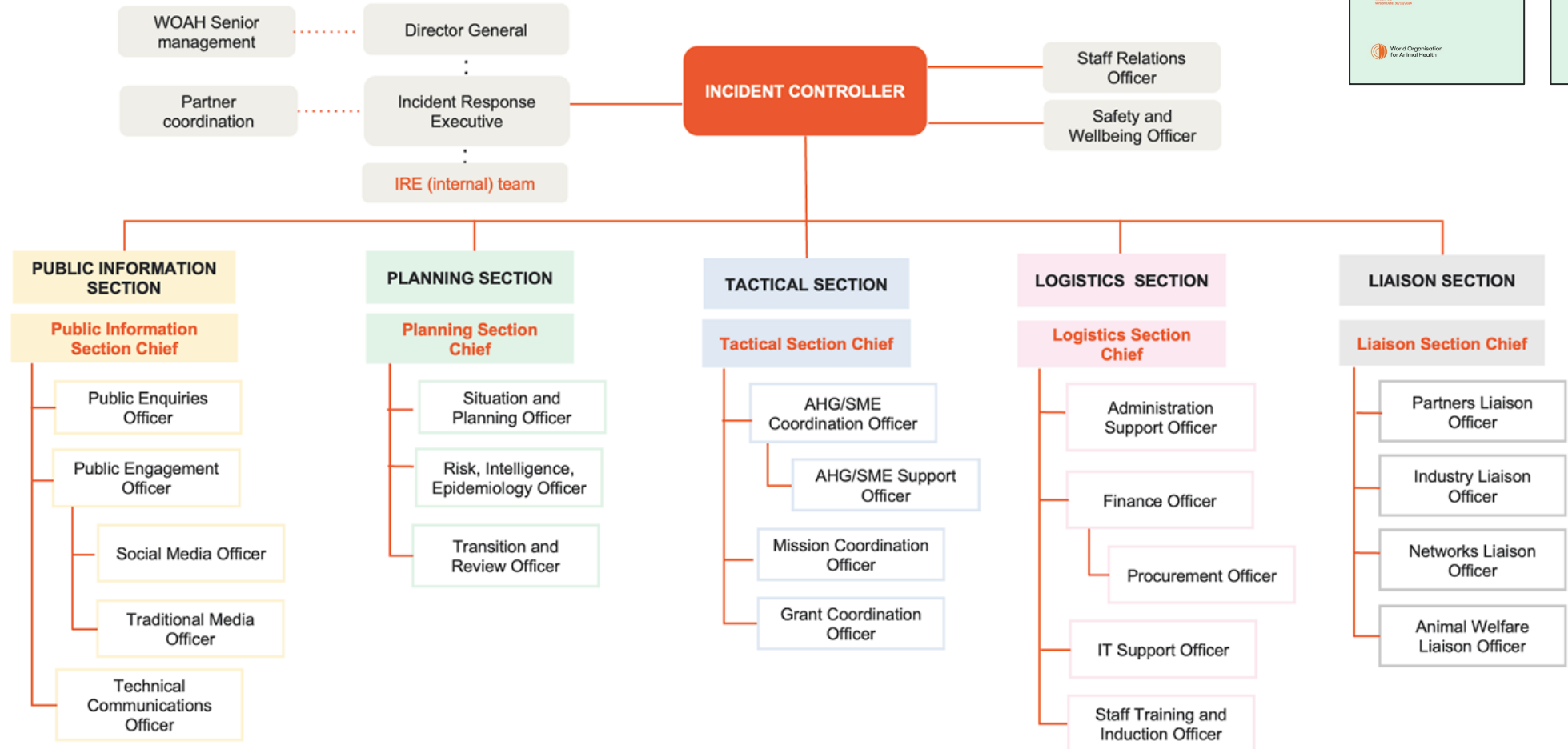
Version: 0.7
Version Date: 24/10/2024



The WOAHS IMS takes an **all-hazards approach**, **builds on past experiences** and **supports WOAHS**, **its Members and Partners** during international emergencies

Our response efforts will always fall **within** **WOAH's mandate** and scope

IMS Design



Schematic of full WOAH Incident Response Team

Simulation exercise

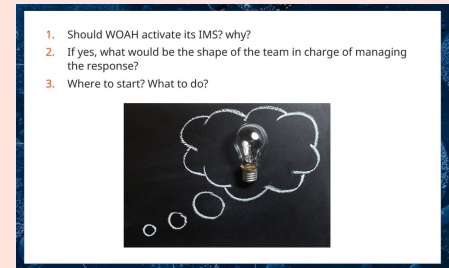
- Table-top exercise, 21-23 January 2025
- Objectives:
 - Familiarisation with WOAHS IMS (policy approach, core concepts)
 - Assessment of IMS fitness of purpose
- 18 participants in HQ Paris + 8 online from RR and SRR offices in Asia and the Pacific



• Scenario overview

Day1 - IMS activation

Emergence of CBPP
in two WOAHS
Members



• Day 2 - IMS response, including escalation

- Spread to two countries
- Confirmation intentional event with spread to 2 further regions
- Simultaneous event: HPAI spillover in the Americas



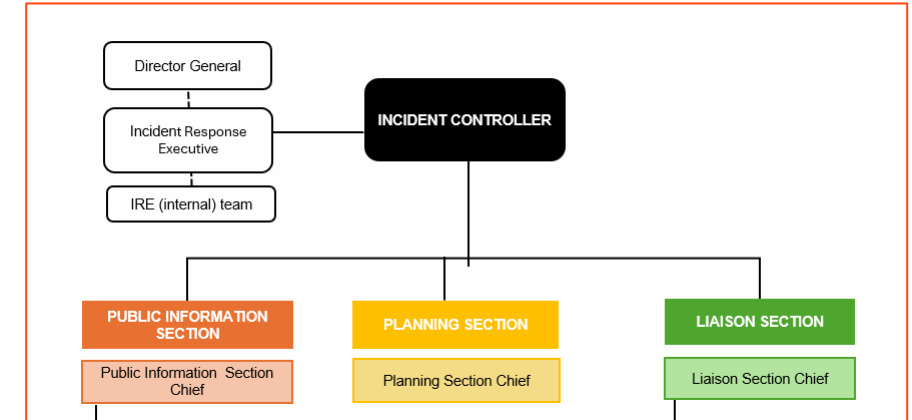
• Day 3 – IMS deactivation and debrief

Real application of IMS procedures

FMD Hungary and Slovakia – March 2025

- **IMS tools and principles applied**

- Activation of limited response level approved by DG
 - Incident management team assigned
 - **Actions:**
 - FMD-free statuses suspended and letter signed by DG
 - DG contacted Hungarian and Slovakian Delegate and EC offering WOH support
 - Continuous **monitoring** of situation (Epidemiological situation; Impacts – Trade Bans and Border Controls; Potential for Mis/Disinformation or Communication Concerns)
 - **Coordination** with partners and affected Members (EU-FMD, European Commission, INTERPOL)
 - **Q&A and Situation Report** developed and published on WOH Regional website
 - Communication materials produced



- **Value-added for WOH and Membership with the IMS**

- Coordinated and responsive communication from the Organisation
- Items produced for situational awareness and action
- Enhanced readiness as the incident spread and evolved

Global Conference on Biological Threat Reduction

28-30 October 2025, Geneva, Switzerland



Supported by funding from Global Affairs Canada's Weapons Threat Reduction Program, the United States Department of Defense, Defense Threat Reduction Agency, the European Union, and the Swiss Confederation.



Conference Objectives

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- **Learn from the past and prepare for the future:** Address the dynamic landscape of biological threats by examining historical events, current challenges, and anticipate future threats; Build on previous conferences by reflecting on recommendations and showcasing advancements in WOAH Member capabilities
- **Strengthen international efforts in biological threat reduction:** Enhance global and national cooperation on biological threat reduction through **tangible commitments** from national, regional and international entities;
- **Foster multi-sectoral partnerships in global health security:** Promote knowledge sharing and actionable collaboration across diverse disciplines;
- **Identify innovative strategies:** Promote collaboration between animal health and other sectors, to develop and share innovative strategies for addressing present and future biological threats.





Programme – Plenaries

17

Day 1

- One Health and Security (high-level panel)
- Biological Threat Reduction Landscape- Drivers, Challenges and the Future
- Deliberate biological threats
- Beyond traditional biothreats

Day 2

- Emerging technologies
- Sustainable laboratories
- Advances in surveillance and diagnostic technologies for biological threat reduction
- Sustainable approaches in emergency management

Day 3

- Strengthening global frameworks in biological threat reduction (high-level panel)
- Advocacy and investment strategies (high-level panel)
- **Taking collective action for biological threat reduction**



Side Events

- One Health Emergency Simulation Exercise (intentional event)
- EU CBRN – Engagement of Veterinary Services in CBRN Networks
- WOAHA and INTERPOL - Bridging the Gap between Animal Health and Security
- Countering misinformation and disinformation
- SIMBA - Safeguarding Africa's Bioeconomy



Emergency Management

- “Hope is not a plan” Anon
- “By failing to prepare, you’re preparing to fail” Benjamin Franklin
- “All things are ready, if our mind be so” William Shakespeare



Thank you

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