

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

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Bucharest - Romania

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Country: Romania



World Organisation
for Animal Health



- Romania is exposed to several types of natural, biological and technological risks. According to the INFORM GRI index (global risk index), Romania ranks 126th out of 191 countries analyzed.
- 1900 – 2021: 101 natural disasters reported by RO in the international database (EM-DAT) affecting more than 2 million people.
- Natural disasters faced by RO: earthquakes, floods, droughts, and extreme weather events such as wildfires and severe storms. Particularly vulnerable to earthquakes (seismic history and the high risk in Bucharest).
- Earthquakes – since Middle Ages. Strongest earthquake - 1802 (magnitude of 7.9-8.2 on the Richter scale). In the last century: 1940 (7.4), 1977 (7.2) and 1986 (7.1).

Climate change - increase the incidence and severity as well as the impact of weather-related disasters (drought, floods, forest fires, heatwaves).

- By signing of the Hyogo Declaration in 2005, Romania assumed its role in achieving the objectives of the International Strategy for Disaster Reduction
- In 2008, the **National Committee for Emergency Situations (CNSU)** was designated as the interministerial body with responsibilities for ensuring the achievement of these objectives
- By GD no. 768/2016 - **National Platform for Disaster Risk Reduction (PNRRD)**, having as its main attribute the achievement of all the objectives of the International Strategy for Disaster Risk Reduction, established by the Hyogo Framework for Action and its successor, the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction (CSRRD, 2015)

According to the World Bank and European Commission (2021)

SEISMIC RISK			FLUVIAL AND SURFACE WATER FLOOD RISK		
Rank	Country	AALR	Rank	Country	AALR
1	Cyprus	0.19%	1	Romania	0.14%
2	Greece	0.18%	2	Slovenia	0.13%
3	Romania	0.12%	3	Latvia	0.13%
4	Italy	0.11%	4	Bulgaria	0.13%
5	Bulgaria	0.07%	5	Austria	0.12%
6	Croatia	0.05%	6	Slovakia	0.11%
7	Slovenia	0.04%	7	Germany	0.10%
8	Austria	0.02%	8	Czech Republic	0.10%
9	Portugal	0.02%	9	Hungary	0.10%
10	Slovakia	0.01%	10	Poland	0.10%

- **General legislation** on disaster risk management:
 - *GD 557/2016 on the risk management*
 - *GD 768/2016 – on the organisation and operation of the National Platform for disaster risk reduction*
 - *GD 94/2014 – on the organisation and operation of the National Committee for special emergency situations*
 - *GD 88/2001- establishing the community public services for emergency situations*
- **Specific legislation** for various types of risks: floods, wildfires, draught, earthquakes, landslides, epidemics, extreme weather phenomena, epizootics and zoonoses (NSVFSA), major industrial accidents involving hazardous substances, nuclear and radiological accidents, major transport accidents involving dangerous goods

Romania's contingency plan for the management and reduction of risks involving animal health and welfare, as well as veterinary public health, in the event of floods

- Ministry of Internal Affairs has the central role in the management of emergency situations while other institutions (including NSVFSA) have only a supporting role
- The National Committee for Emergency Situations is the interinstitutional body responsible for adopting the strategic decisions needed for the management of the emergency situations (including floods)
- The main responsible authority for flood risk management is the Ministry of Environment, Waters and Forests (MEWF), as provided for in GD 557/2016 on the management of risk types
- MEWF is responsible for preparing the intervention plan in case of floods

Veterinary services:

- ensure that the shelters used meet the minimum conditions for housing the animals;
- check the animal feed and water;
- If needed, decide upon the means of rendering for the dead animals;
- if, based on a risk analysis, it is decided that floodplain areas present an anthracogenic risk, additional vaccination shall be carried out by official veterinarians, veterinary practitioners and empowered veterinary practitioners;
- NSVFSA ensures the communication of warnings about biological risks that may arise as a result of floods.

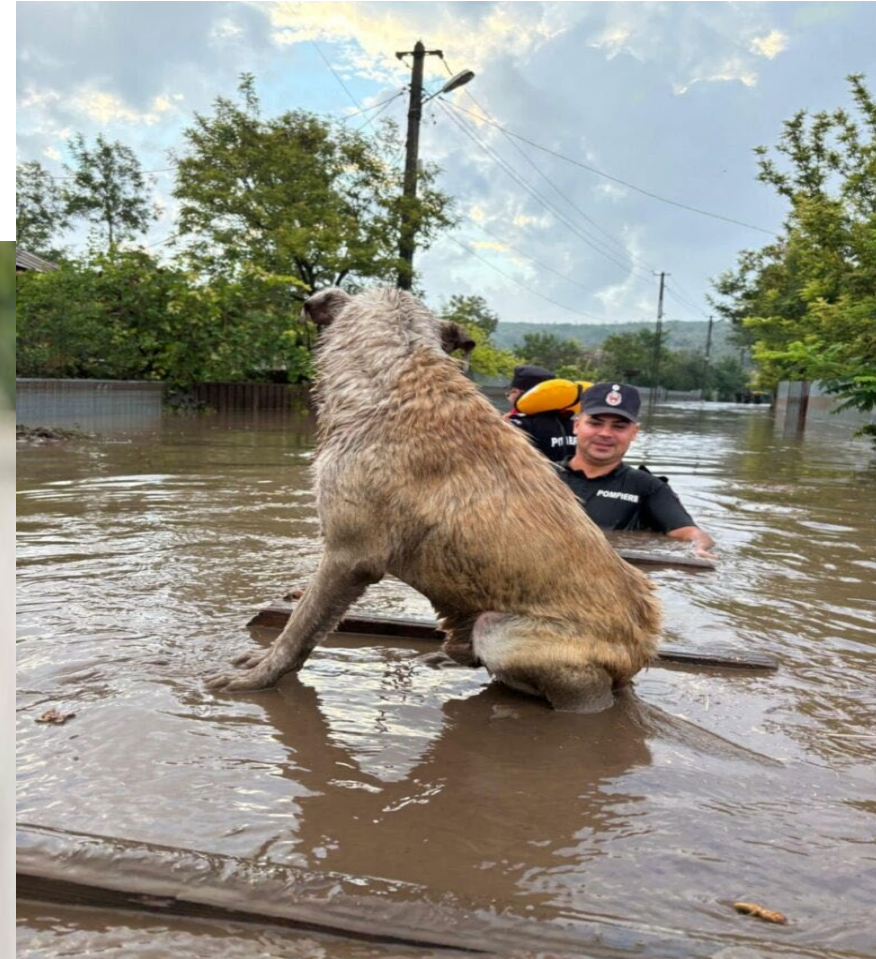
Recent experience

May, 2025:

1. Due to heavy rains, dozens of towns were flooded and thousands of people and animals were evacuated across the country.



2. Following massive water infiltration from a stream, a salt mine was completely flooded. NSVFSA warned about the water from the public network - inappropriate for drinking, due to high concentration of chlorides.



NSVFSA sent **instructions** to the LVUs and to keepers of animals in relation to the measures to be taken in case of floods

LVUs:

1. move animals to safer areas and providing them with temporary shelters
2. provide animals with water and feed, check the water supply (potential contamination)
3. monitor animal health, administer veterinary therapeutic/prophylactic agents for sick animals or those at high risk of illness (potential increase in the incidence of anthrax)
4. humane killing of animals that are suffering and for which therapeutic intervention is no longer possible
5. coordination of the collection of carcasses and directing them to rendering establishments
6. disinfection of drained areas, from where dead animals were collected

Keepers of animals:

1. prepare for evacuation: all animals must be untied; provide easy access to animal shelters or paddocks
2. check for safe water sources for livestock, for example by cooperating with local authorities/neighbors who may have their own wells with drinking water
3. check whether animals in flooded areas have already drunk flood water, which may be contaminated with sewage, garbage or chemicals. In these cases, it is necessary to contact the vet (treatment of animals, as they are at risk of disease caused by infectious agents (especially gastrointestinal disorders))
4. pigs - attention to salt content in feed (sensitivity of this species in addition to reduced water consumption)

NSVFSA - press releases whenever weather forecasts predict the occurrence of hazardous weather conditions.

National platform on preparation for emergency situations
"fii pregatit.ro" – guides on the different types of risks.



NSVFSA, as an authority involved in the management of epizootic diseases, has recently participated in a simulation exercise organized by the National Commission for the Control of Nuclear Activities on the topic of earthquakes and nuclear accidents.

Further actions

- Update the contingency plan based on the experience gained during this workshop :)
- Support the National Committee for Emergency Situations (main role in emergency management) and participate in future simulation exercises and training sessions.

Thank you

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