ANIMAL HEALTH • AZERBAIJAN

Lessons Learned from PPR and Sheep Pox & Goat Pox Response in Azerbaijan

Surveillance • Preparedness • Outbreak response • Laboratory confirmation

Galib Abdulaliyev

Head, Animal Health and Biosafety Department • Chief Veterinary Officer
WOAH Delegate of Azerbaijan • Vice-President, WOAH Regional Commission for Europe

Food Safety Agency of the Republic of Azerbaijan

2023–2026

Technical presentation

Two disease experiences • one surveillance logic

EXECUTIVE SNAPSHOT

The response experience shows how continuous surveillance and rapid containment reinforce each other.

PPR

Prevention of introduction & evidence of freedom

20,487	14	15
samples • 2023–2026	border districts	border villages

- Passive + active surveillance
- 13 epidemiological pools with risk-based zoning
- Border sentinel surveillance: 378 samples/month

SHEEP POX & GOAT POX

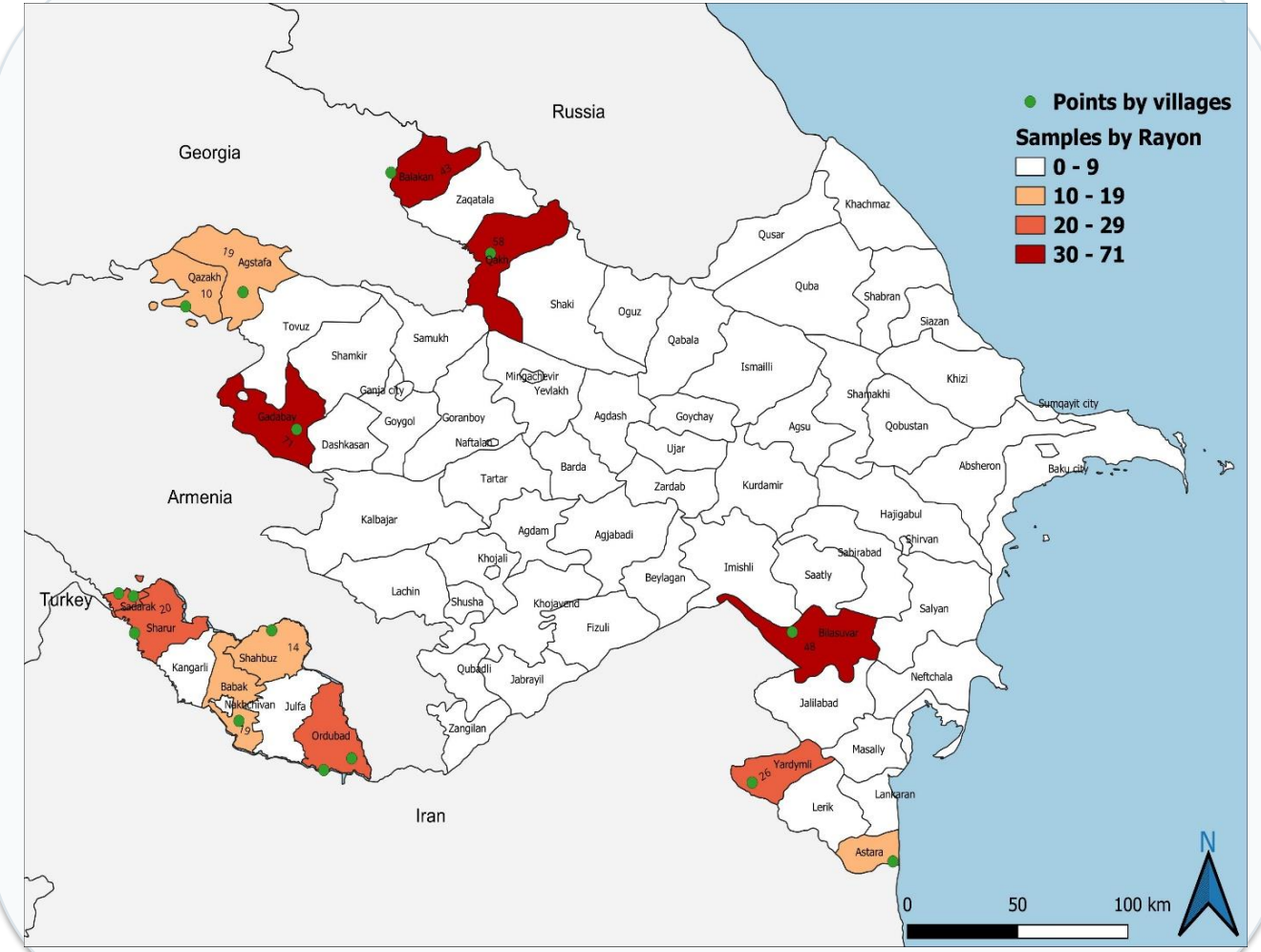
Confirmed outbreak • rapid response • sustained prevention

30	3	321
İnfected animals	deaths	vaccinated at event

- Event 4857: 16 Jan–24 Feb 2023
- PCR confirmation at Central Veterinary Laboratory
- Quarantine, movement control, disinfection, zoning & surveillance

PPR surveillance design

PREVENTION OF INTRODUCTION



DESIGN PRINCIPLES

Risk-based surveillance is layered.

- 13 epidemiological pools divided the territory for surveillance planning.
- High-risk and low-risk areas guide intensity of active surveillance.
- Border sentinel surveillance targets areas with higher introduction risk.

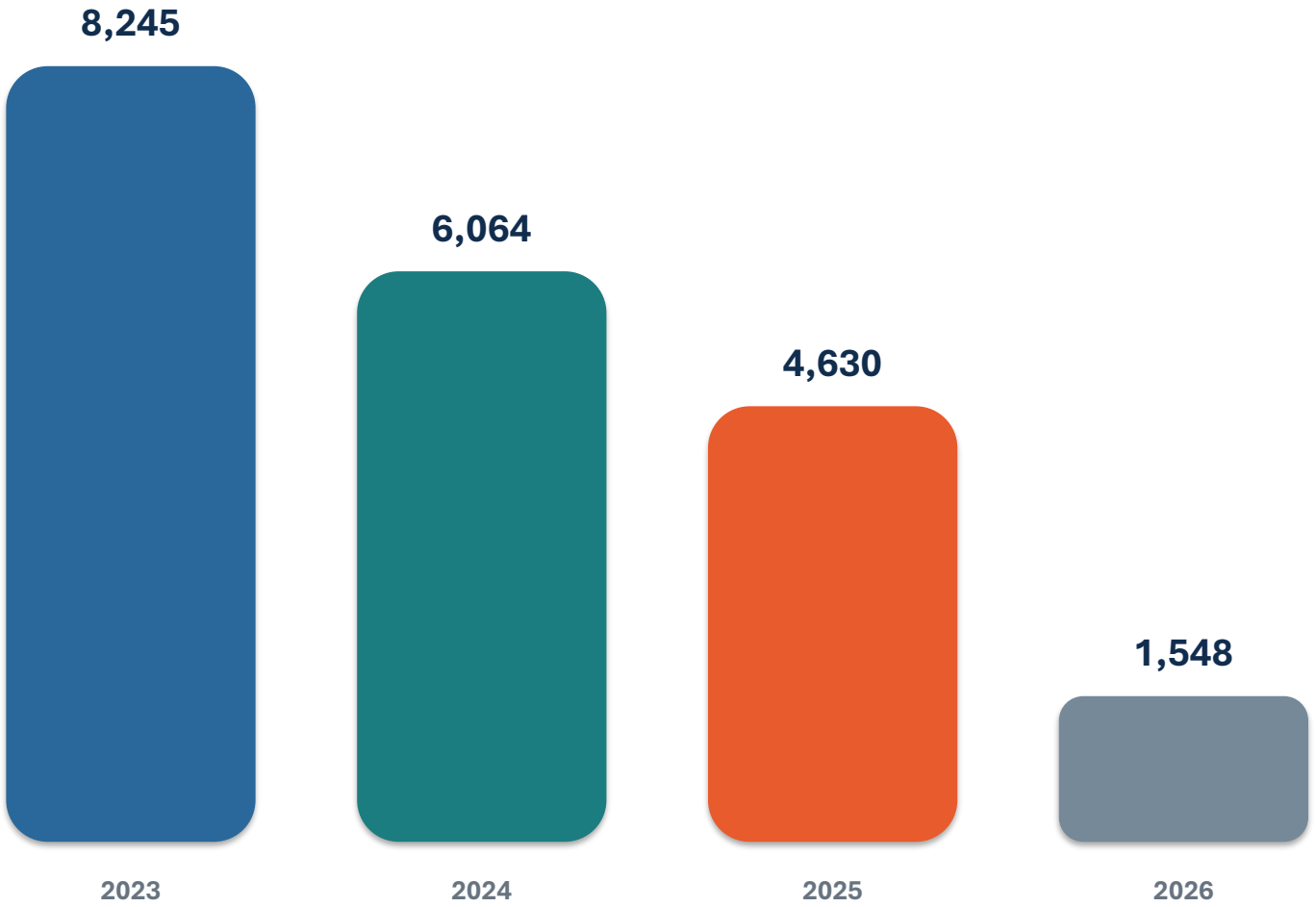
378
samples / month

2 stage
cluster sampling

PPR monitoring: sustained sampling over 2023 – 2026

EVIDENCE GENERATION

Number of samples collected



TOTAL

20,487

samples in the supplied 2023 – 2026 dataset

WHAT THIS ENABLES

- Evidence of surveillance intensity
- Trend visibility across years
- Early detection capacity

No annual values inferred.

PPR preparedness extends beyond laboratory testing

PREPAREDNESS

1 Wildlife investigation

80 stakeholders surveyed
EpiCollect 5 questionnaire
October–May since 2022

2 Simulation exercises

2021 • Baku
2022 • Shabran & Baku
2024 • Guba
2026 • Ganja

3 Contingency readiness

Immediate notification
Movement restrictions
Biosecurity & disinfection



LESSON

Preparedness is a system — not a single test.

- **Field reporting + wildlife investigation + exercises create operational readiness.**
- **Contingency measures translate suspicion into immediate action.**

Sheep pox & goat pox: the 2023 outbreak as a response case study

OUTBREAK RESPONSE

EVENT 4857 • MUGAN SETTLEMENT, HAJIGABUL

16 January → 24 February 2023

- **16 JAN** — Event start
- **21 JAN** — First PCR result
- **24 JAN** — Confirmation
- **24 FEB** — Event ended

333
susceptible

30
Cases (infected sheeps)

3
deaths



PCR-confirmed • domestic sheep

Mugan settlement • Hajigabul District

What the outbreak response actually mobilised

CONTAINMENT

The notification records a broad package of measures rather than a single intervention.

CONTAIN

- Quarantine
- Movement control
- Zoning
- Disinfection

DETECT

- Screening
- Surveillance inside restricted zone
- Surveillance outside restricted zone
- Traceability

PROTECT

- Official disposal
- Ante/post-mortem inspection
- Vaccination in response
- Wildlife surveillance

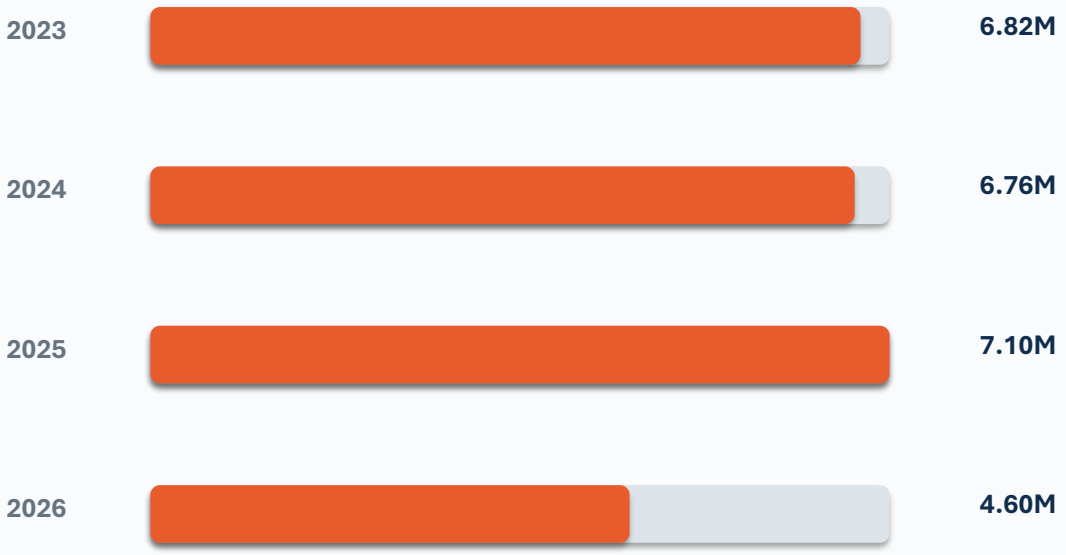
LESSON: OUTBREAK CONTROL IS MOST RESILIENT WHEN CONTAINMENT, DETECTION AND PROTECTION OPERATE TOGETHER.

Sheep pox & goat pox: prevention continued after the event

SUSTAINED CONTROL

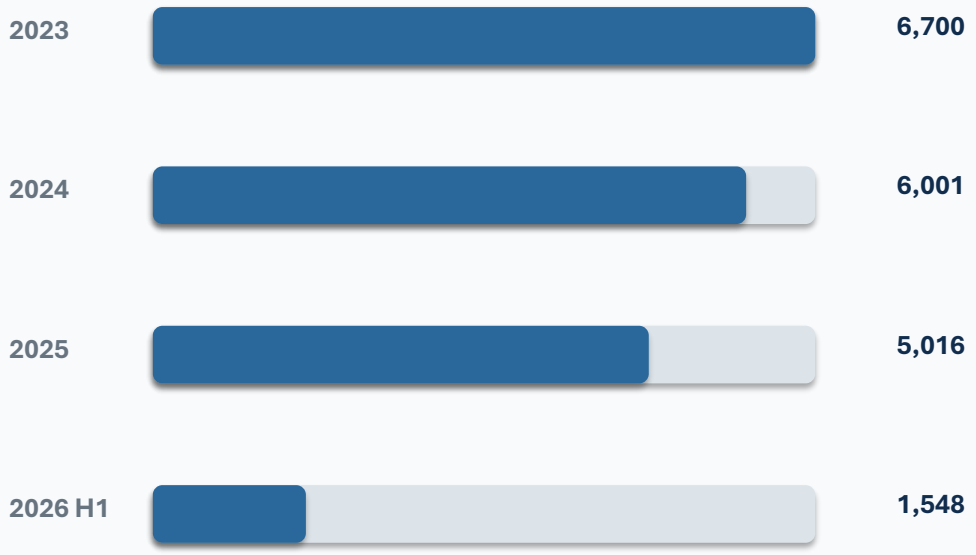
National vaccination and surveillance did not stop with outbreak resolution.

VACCINATION • animals vaccinated



2023 – 2026 total: 25 283 658

SURVEILLANCE • samples collected



2023 – 2026 total: 19 265

Lessons learned • what should be retained

KEY LESSONS

01	**Build surveillance before the emergency**	PPR shows the value of passive + active surveillance, risk stratification and border sentinel sampling.
02	**Convert detection into a coordinated response**	The sheep pox event combined quarantine, movement control, zoning, disinfection, screening and traceability.
03	**Keep evidence generation continuous**	Annual sample and vaccination make national effort visible and support confidence in disease status.
04	**Treat preparedness as an operational capability**	Wildlife surveys, contingency procedures and simulation exercises turn plans into practiced response.
05	**Make data compatible with WOAH reporting**	The PPR dossier experience highlights the need to align national information with WOAH reporting structures.

Proposal • integrate the strongest elements into one small-ruminant surveillance cycl

PROPOSAL

A practical model for future preparedness and response

1

RISK MAP

Maintain risk-based zoning and identify border / high-risk areas.

→

2

SENTINEL

Continue targeted sentinel sampling where introduction risk is highest.

→

3

FIELD → LAB

Standardise suspicion, sampling, PCR testing and result reporting.

→

4

RESPONSE

Link positive detection immediately to quarantine, movement control, tracing and disinfection.

→

5

EVIDENCE

Keep vaccination, surveillance and event data structured for WOAH reporting.

Goal: detect early • respond fast • document consistently • sustain confidence in disease status

Implementation sequence

TIMELINE

Suggested sequence for turning the lessons into routine practice

PHASE 1

ALIGN

Data fields • reporting structure • sampling SOPs

1

→

PHASE 2

TARGET

Risk map • border sentinel sites • wildlife interface

2

→

PHASE 3

PRACTISE

Simulation exercise • contingency review • lab/field coordination

3

→

PHASE 4

REVIEW

Trend analysis • gaps • WOAH dossier readiness

4

The priority is not more activities by themselves — it is better integration of surveillance, response, laboratory evidence and reporting.





Thank you for your attention!





