



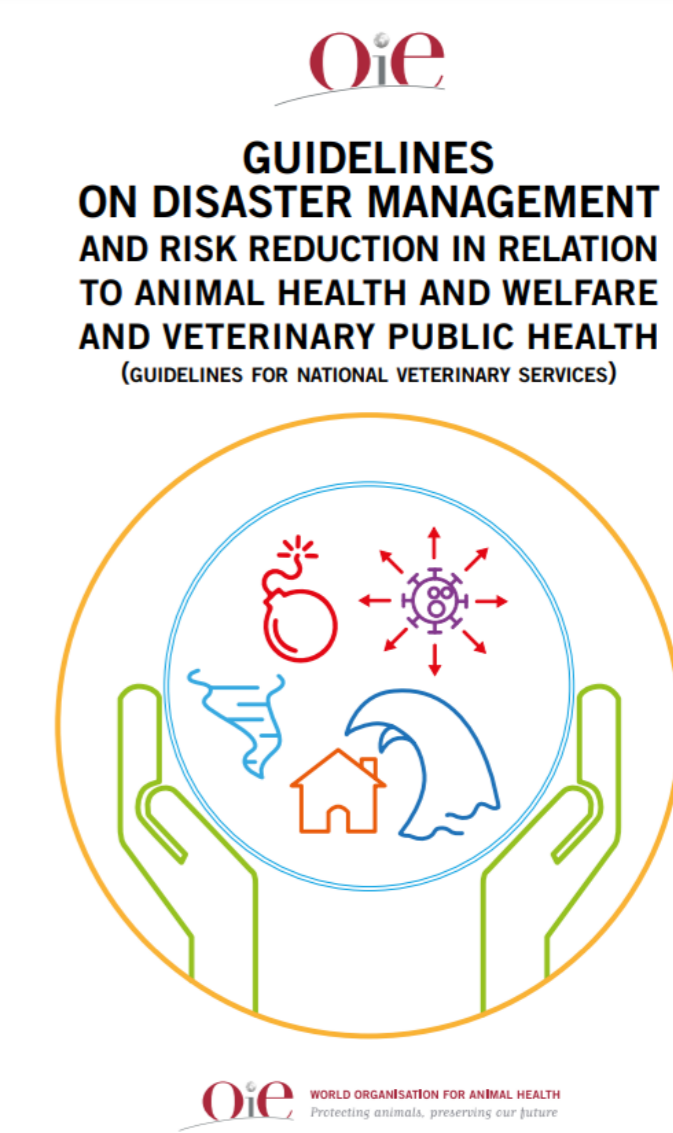
# ANIMAL WELFARE IN NATURAL DISASTERS

## CONTEXT

Recent disaster events highlight the need to bring all components of disaster management together in cohesive response plans at both national and international levels using a multidisciplinary approach to achieve optimal efficiency and effectiveness.

The World Organisation for Animal Health has developed guidelines for disaster management and risk reduction in relation to animal health, animal welfare and veterinary public health with the goal of strengthening the capacity of Veterinary Services in Member Countries.

The guidelines use an all-hazards approach to the management of natural and man-made and technological disasters and suggest that a wide range of stakeholders from both government and society take action, adapting their interventions to meet local and regional needs.



## ACTIVITIES

### Achievements of the 3<sup>rd</sup> Action Plan for 2021 – 2023

#### Veterinary services' preparedness

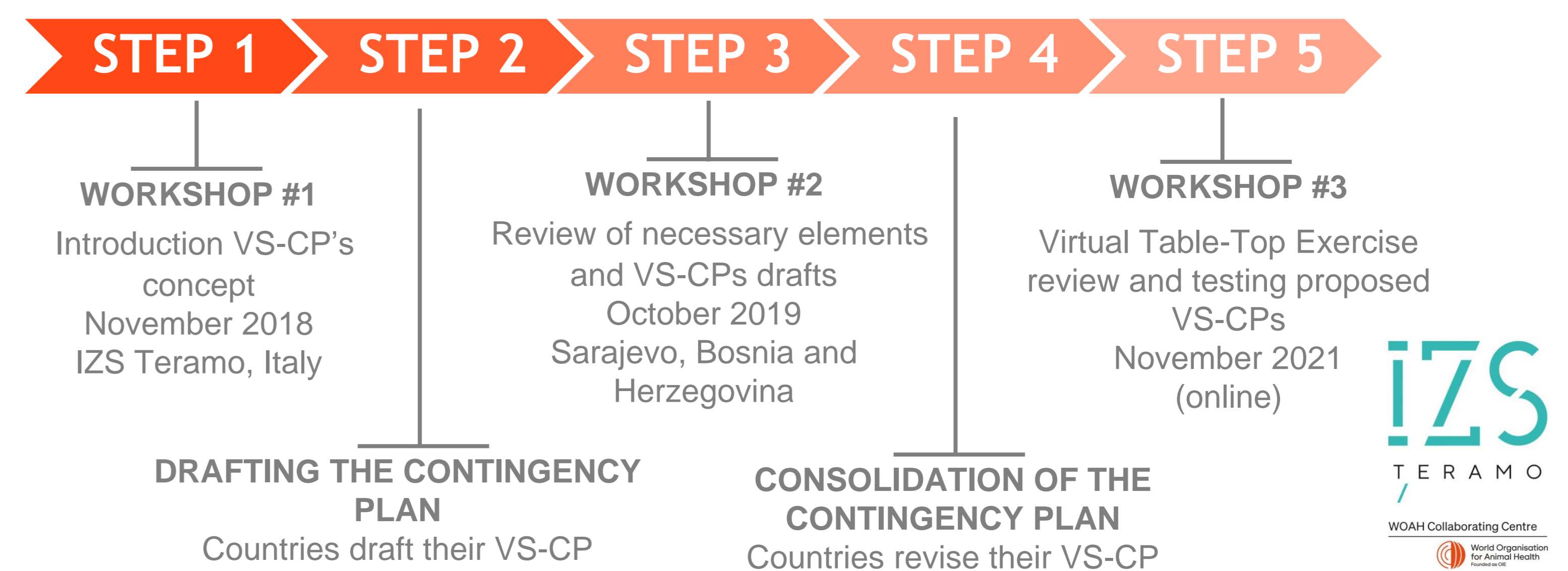
A survey on the levels of "Veterinary Services' preparedness for animal welfare emergencies during natural disasters" in collaboration with Lincoln Memorial University was completed. The main results:

49 WOA Europe Members responded  
**92%** completion rate

**52%** WOA Europe Members  
Incorporated animal welfare into their disaster planning

**31%** WOA Europe Members had  
no or limited legal authority to manage animal emergencies during natural disasters.

In 2018, a **pilot stepwise approach project** was launched by the WOA Platform on Animal Welfare for Europe, with the collaboration of the Istituto Zooprofilattico Sperimentale dell' Abruzzo e del Molise (IZS-Teramo) aiming at building a culture of preparedness among Veterinary Services and relevant stakeholders, and to support the development of Veterinary Services Contingency Plans (VS-CPs) for animal welfare during natural disasters. The initiative targeted ten countries in the Balkan region: Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Bulgaria, Croatia, Greece, Kosovo\*, Montenegro, North Macedonia, Romania and Serbia.



Three out of ten participating countries (Bulgaria, Romania and North Macedonia) developed their VS-CPs. Balkan countries are committed to further building their preparedness, strengthening competencies and skills on contingency planning for farm, companion and wild animal welfare.

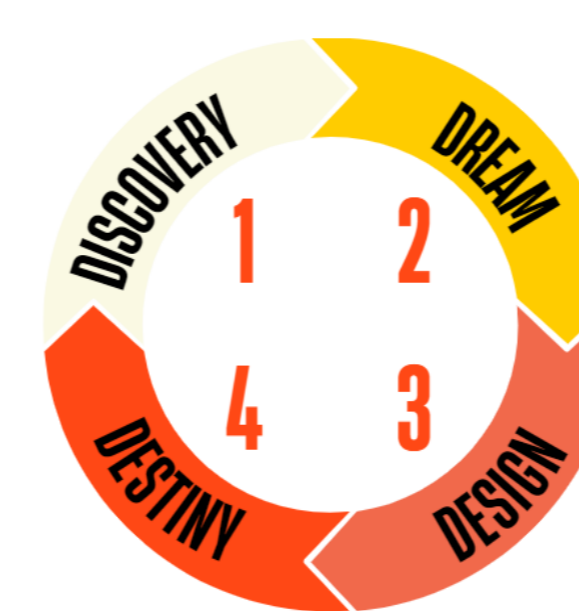
\*References to Kosovo shall be understood to be in the context of Security Council resolution 1244 (1999)

#### Stakeholder consultation meeting

Following the conclusion of the pilot project, WOA Platform started to work on regional needs assessment on Veterinary Services readiness.

One of the steps of the assessment was the organization of a "Stakeholder's Consultation meeting on the role of Veterinary Services on animal welfare in natural disasters", in collaboration with IZS-Teramo, that took place on the 14th, 15th and 17th of March 2023.

The meeting followed four steps process according to Appreciative Inquiry Summit methodology



The following priority objectives for the 2023-2026 Action Plan were identified

- Mapping and prioritizing WOA Members' competencies for capacity building
- Developing guidance documents and tools (for developing contingency plans, operational procedures, instructions)
- Supporting workshops/simulation exercises
- Knowledge and experience transfer from WOA project in Balkans to other countries
- Supporting WOA Members activities for coordination mechanisms

## WHAT'S NEXT?

### 4<sup>th</sup> Action Plan for 2024 – 2026

#### DISASTER MANAGEMENT

2024

2025

2026

REGIONAL MULTI HAZARD WORKSHOP ON CONTINGENCY PLANNING FOR ANIMAL WELFARE IN NATURAL DISASTERS FOR EUROPE

THEMATIC MEETINGS

SIMULATION EXERCISE FOR THE TESTING OF SELECTED COUNTRIES CONTINGENCY PLANS FOR ANIMAL WELFARE IN NATURAL DISASTERS IN EUROPE

THEMATIC MEETINGS

## WE NEED YOUR HELP

WHAT ARE YOUR NEEDS AND EXPECTATIONS OF EACH OF THESE TOPICS FOR THE 4TH ACTION PLAN FOR 2024-2026 REGARDING DISASTER MANAGEMENT ? ANY REMARKS ? COMMENTS ?

