

PANORAMA

Thematic portfolio



Strengthening preparedness
and resilience to emergencies



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The importance of linking animal health emergency response to government frameworks when mobilising resources

Botswana's story

KEYWORDS

#Botswana, #emergency management, #emergency preparedness, #OIE PVS Pathway, #public-private partnership, #resource mobilisation, #Veterinary Services.

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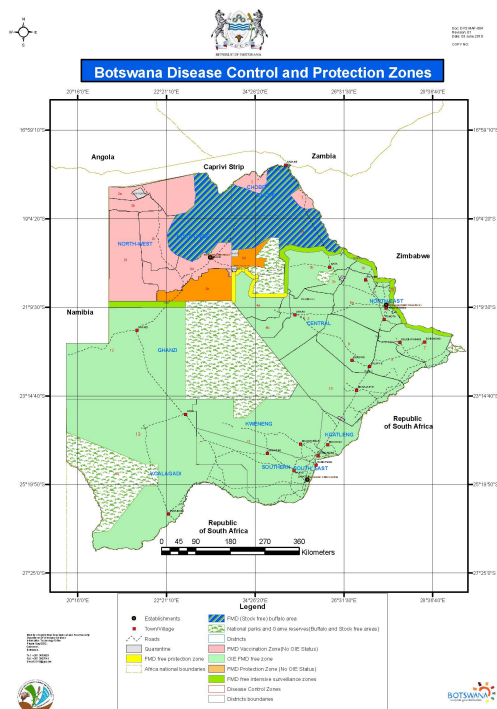


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Animal health emergencies can arise at any time. Therefore, Veterinary Services need to have adequate resources in terms of funds, staffing capacity and capability, response plans and supporting legal instruments to enable the timely implementation of their response. All these efforts must be well coordinated at the government level and should be science based.

There should be government frameworks, legal instruments, resources and capabilities to support and guide the response to animal health emergencies. These should be centrally coordinated through government structures, with regular disease surveillance and continuing animal health preparedness plans. Veterinary disease management policies, strategies, contingency plans and response plans should be aligned to national and international standards.

The Government of Botswana has a National Disaster Office, which is guided by the national disaster management policy, composed of personnel from across the sectors, and is adequately funded. The Department of Veterinary Services is also adequately funded to deal with animal health emergencies through its annual recurrent and development budgets.



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protection zones in Botswana (please click to enlarge the map)

Emergency funding can be sourced whenever the need arises through a memorandum with the Cabinet of Botswana, although the emergence of other sectors of the economy can present challenges to the usual funding. Through this mechanism, Botswana has managed to control foot and mouth disease (FMD), with only the northern part of the country still requiring FMD control (Fig. 1). This success is also attributable to good governance, excellent capabilities and capacities in the Department of Veterinary Services and prompt resource mobilisation during emergencies, as detailed in the OIE report of a Performance of Veterinary Services (PVS) Evaluation follow-up mission in Botswana, conducted in 2019 [1].

So that Botswana can further improve its response to animal health emergencies, the country is developing its

engagement with stakeholders and is also exploring public–private partnerships. This will improve the efficiency and funding of Botswana’s preparedness and response to animal health emergencies, with similarities to the Animal Health Australia model [2].

<http://dx.doi.org/10.20506/bull.2020.2.3148>

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