

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**¹ SPADE Solutions Ltd, Wellington, New Zealand² World Organisation for Animal Health, Paris, France

Executive Summary : Avian influenza, Ebola, African swine fever and COVID-19 epizootics, epidemics and pandemics in recent years have highlighted infectious diseases emergencies affecting public health and animal health. Emergencies from adverse weather events are expected to increase in frequency and severity driven by climate change.

A wide variety of other hazards, natural and man-made, have demonstrated their potential to evoke emergencies with impacts that require a coordinated One Health approach. Veterinary Services and Aquatic Animal Health Services have an important role to play in prevention, preparedness, response and recovery for these events, working with One Health partners, the Security Sector and Emergency Services, and this works best when coordinated through a National Emergency Management System. Emergency management uses specific disciplines and is increasingly organised in national, regional and global systems that the World Organisation for Animal Health (OIE) and its Members must become expert in and integrated into.

This paper describes the current global context and systems for emergency management, identifies and characterises threats, describes planning approaches and tools, discusses the range of objectives that must be balanced, and introduces the emergency management disciplines. OIE's expanding programmes and services to Members to develop emergency management capacities are summarised, with conclusions drawn that will shape future directions.

1. Introduction: the global context

In 2020 the OIE published volume 39(2) of the Scientific and Technical Review dedicated to Disaster Prevention and Preparedness (1). The OIE also dedicated a 2020 issue of Panorama to its rapidly developing and expanding work programme on Emergency Management (2). Those actions were prescient given the subsequent global crises that unfolded soon after these works were planned and initiated, with severe acute respiratory syndrome coronavirus 2 (SARS-CoV-2) crossing over from an animal host creating a pandemic that has claimed over 6 million human lives and tested international and national crisis management systems. The OIE and Member Veterinary Authorities and Veterinary Services have played a key role in these systems.

The COVID-19 pandemic is not the only crisis demanding action from national emergency management systems. Storms, floods, volcanoes, wildfires, oil spills, shipwrecks, nuclear accidents, conflicts, as well as epizootic infectious diseases like avian influenza, African swine fever, Rift Valley fever, to name a few: the list of recent international and national emergencies is lengthy and diverse. For events driven by weather and climate, the International Panel on Climate Change Sixth Assessment Report predicts such emergencies will increase in frequency and intensity (3). Complex emergencies involve the occurrence of several interdependent emergencies at the same time, as often arises with man-made emergencies such as industrial accidents, transport accidents, environmental degradation, pollution, and conflicts.