



First OIE regional workshop on the role of Veterinary  
Services on  
animal welfare in natural disasters for Balkan countries  
26-28 November 2018, Teramo, Italy

**Country Report:  
Emergency preparedness of the Veterinary Services  
for natural disasters**

**Serbia**

**Country report**

# Competent authorities



- Concerning natural disasters, which competent authority has the responsibility at national level for disaster prevention and disaster management?
- How veterinary services are involved in the management of a natural disaster?

*The Sector for Emergency Management with the Ministry of Internal Affairs is the competent authority for natural disasters*

*The Veterinary Service have the jurisdiction over the matter pursuant to the Law on Emergency Situations.*

*The Law on Veterinary Medicine prescribes that in case of natural disasters the Ministry of Agriculture may order the relevant veterinary service to implement extraordinary veterinary sanitary measures*

*Veterinary Directorate performs all activities in the field of veterinary medicine in the flooded areas in coordination with other services, especially with the Ministry of Health, whereas the veterinary inspection is involved in the activities of regional and municipal disaster response headquarters.*

# Competent authorities

- What plans, guidelines and instructions are available at the veterinary services for use by staff dealing with a natural disasters?
- *Veterinary Directorate have prepared the particular instructions and procedures for response in the areas affected or endangered by the floods in order to enable the implementation of veterinary sanitary measures in a more professional manner, prevent the outbreak of infectious diseases in both animals and humans, as well as enhance the citizens' return to their homes.*

# Cooperation with private actors and non-governmental organisations

- Do the veterinary services use assistance of private veterinarians or staff of other services in case of a natural disaster?

*Yes, veterinarians are organised in veterinary stations and clinics which are 95% privately owned.*

*In cases of natural disasters, the epidemiological departments within veterinary institutes are also involved.*

# Cooperation with private actors and non-governmental organisations

- Are there other bodies/ organisations within the agri-food industry (e.g. animal health and welfare services, farmers' organisations, agri-food advisory services etc.) other non governmental organisations (NGOs) which the veterinary services cooperate with in "peace-time" and/or emergencies, such as natural disasters?

*In cases of natural disasters, veterinary services cooperate with farmers' organisations and NGOs which provide help to endangered animals, veterinary services and farmers*

# Experience of natural disasters

- Please describe the types (flooding, forest fire, earthquake, landslide, drought) of natural disaster events that occurred in 2003-2018 in your country and the largest area affected (national, regional, local).
- Please describe roles, responsibilities and tasks of the veterinary services in those disasters.
- Please describe the main critical issues addressed, and the solutions adopted.

*In 2014, the large area of the territory of Serbia was affected by the floods.*

*Veterinary service were engaged in rescuing animals endangered by the floods, relocating such animals to safe locations, providing aid in feed and water, and providing veterinary medicine services. Additionally, veterinary services took part in disinfection, disinsection and pest control activities.*

# Training and simulation exercises

- Are there any compulsory or voluntary training programmes preparing veterinary services' for their roles when dealing with natural disasters?
- Is there any specific body/organisation responsible to plan and manage training in this field in your country?
- Have the veterinary services taken part in any simulation exercises (for natural disasters) organised internally or together with civil defence authorities?
- Is there available any educational material to support training of veterinary services in natural disasters?

*The Sector for Emergency Management, which is the competent authority for natural disasters, organises the trainings/simulation exercises for dealing with natural disasters*

*These exercises and trainings include veterinary services, veterinary inspection and private veterinary service, as well as relevant regional and local institutes*

*Veterinary Directorate have published on their website a series of instructions and procedures for response in the areas affected or endangered by floods, in order to enable the implementation of veterinary sanitary measures in a more professional manner, prevent the outbreak of infectious diseases in both animals and humans, as well as enhance the citizens' return to their homes.*

# Exercises, training and lessons learned

- If you experienced a real natural disaster - did the veterinary services carry out an "After-Action Review" of the decisions and actions taken during the natural disaster to identify weaknesses and strengths in the system?
- If yes, please describe who participate in the "After-Action Review", and how they work for the scope.

*Yes. In 2014, the Republic of Serbia was affected by great floods.*

*The veterinary service, as a part of Regional and Local Crisis Centers within Emergency Management were involved in certain activities, which has been evaluated through the official reports and information on this matter*



**Thank you for your attention!**