

WORKSHOP OUTPUTS – IHR-PVS NATIONAL BRIDGING WORKSHOP - ALBANIA

OUTPUT 1: ASSESSMENT OF LEVELS OF COLLABORATION FOR 15 KEY TECHNICAL AREAS

Technical area (cards)	Tuberculosis	Anthrax	H5N1	Brucellosis	WNF	Score
Finance	Red	Red	Red	Red	Red	10
Emergency funding	Red	Red	Red	Red	Red	10
Response	Yellow	Yellow	Red	Red	Red	8
Coordination at high Level	Red	Red	Yellow	Green	Red	7
Risk assessment	Yellow	Red	Red	Yellow	Yellow	7
Coordination at technical Level	Yellow	Yellow	Green	Red	Red	6
Legislation / Regulation	Yellow	Yellow	Yellow	Yellow	Red	6
Communication w/ media	Yellow	Yellow	Yellow	Yellow	Red	6
Communication w/ stakeholders	Yellow	Green	Red	Yellow	Red	6
Field investigation	Yellow	Yellow	Red	Yellow	Yellow	6
Laboratory	Red	Yellow	Yellow	Red	Green	6
Education and training	Yellow	Yellow	Yellow	Yellow	Red	6
Coordination at local Level	Green	Yellow	Yellow	Yellow	Red	5
Joint surveillance	Yellow	Yellow	Red	Green	Yellow	5
Human resources	Yellow	Yellow	Yellow	Yellow	Green	4

For each disease, the performance of the collaboration between the human health and the animal health sectors is color-coded: green for “good collaboration”, yellow for “some collaboration”, and red for “collaboration needing improvement”. The score uses a semi-quantitative scale (2 points for a red card, 1 for a yellow card and 0 for a green card). Technical areas marked in bold were selected and addressed in-depth throughout the rest of the workshop.

OUTPUT 2: OBJECTIVES AND ACTIONS IDENTIFIED PER TECHNICAL AREAS

Action	Timeline	Difficulty	Impact	Responsibility	Process
COORDINATION AT HIGH, TECHNICAL, AND LOCAL LEVELS					
Objective 1: Establish high level national mandate for One Health collaboration					
1.1 Sign Memorandum of Understanding on mutual collaboration	February 2019	+	+++	Legal and Technical Departments of MHSP, MARD, and Ministry of Environment	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) Agree to draft MoU at high level 2) Set up a working group 3) Draft MoU including Animal and Human Health inputs 4) Conduct consultations in each sector 5) Approve the MoU by all involved parties 6) Commence MoU
1.2 Establish a National Multisectoral Committee on Zoonoses (NMCZ) according to the MoU provisions	April 2019	+	+++	MHSP, MARD, and Ministry of Environment	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) Establish a working group 2) Develop ToR for NMCZ 3) Develop a working plan of the NMCZ 4) Approve establishment of NMCZ for coordination on zoonotic diseases of common interest in line with ToR
Objective 2: Enhancing formal One Health coordination authority structures and frameworks					
2.1 Review legislation relevant to One Health and control of zoonoses	December 2019	++	+++	Technical and legal experts from different sectors	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) NMCZ to establish a working group of technical and legal experts from different sectors 2) Develop ToRs 3) Report to NMCZ periodically 4) Final report and recommendations are to be approved by NMCZ
2.2 Establish joint technical sub-committees for priority zoonoses to develop strategic joint response plan and/or update contingency/control plans	October 2019	++	+++	National Multisectoral Committee on Zoonoses (NMCZ)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - NMCZ to establish technical sub-committees for specific zoonoses of common interest: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Brucellosis • Anthrax • Tuberculosis • Rabies • Avian Flu • West Nile Fever • Leishmaniasis - Appoint epidemiologists, laboratory, and other relevant specialists in each group - Each sub-committee to develop ToRs - Final reports and recommendations are to be approved by NMCZ
2.3 Appoint focal points for intersectoral coordination at national and regional levels	June 2019	++	+++	NMCZ	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Nominate focal points at national and regional levels - Develop ToRs / job description - Focal points become the secretaries of NMCZ - Develop SOPs for focal points - Train focal points

RISK ASSESSMENT, JOINT SURVEILLANCE & LABORATORY

Objective 3: Harmonize protocols and sharing of information for joint risk assessment surveillance and laboratory diagnostics of priority zoonotic diseases

3.1 Develop integrated electronic system for routine sharing of data related to priority zoonoses	May 2019 – September 2020	+++	+++	MHSP, MARD, Institute of Public Health (IPH), Food Safety and Veterinary Institute (FSVI), Medical and Veterinary Faculties	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) Establish working group (8-10 persons) 2) Identify the type of information and ways of sharing 3) Conduct IT tender 4) Develop and test the electronic system 5) Implementation
3.2 Establish national library of SOPs	December 2019	++	+	IPH, FSVI, FSA	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) SOPs for sample collection, transportation, storage, diagnostic methods, biosafety and biosecurity, waste management, etc. 2) Establish working group (8 persons) 3) Prepare materials and adopt into Albanian 4) Develop/adapt SOPs 5) Invite external expert from reference institution for evaluation and consultations 6) Test and update SOPs at national and local levels 7) Print and distribute SOPs at all sectors involved
3.3 Develop guidelines for joint surveillance	March 2019	++	+++	IPH, MARD, FSVI, FSA	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) Establish working group of 12 people 2) Translate and adapt existing documents from WHO, OIE, ECDC 3) Conduct meetings with Albanian and international experts 4) Develop the guidelines 5) Test guidelines with all actors involved 6) Conduct gap analysis and update the guidelines 7) Get approvals from MARD and MHSP 8) Publish guidelines electronically and print hard copies for each involved party
3.4 Develop guidelines for joint risk assessment of zoonotic diseases	September 2019	++	+++	IPH, MARD, FSVI, FSA	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) Establish a working group of 12 people 2) Translate and adapt existing documents from WHO, OIE, ECDC 3) Conduct meetings with Albanian and international experts 4) Develop the guidelines 5) Test guidelines with all actors involved 6) Conduct gap analysis and update the guidelines 7) Get approvals from MARD and MHSP 8) Publish guidelines electronically and print hard copies for each involved party

Objective 4: Share resources to optimize collective capacity for risk assessment, surveillance and laboratory diagnostics of targeted zoonoses

4.1 Develop capacity of the National Reference Laboratories for zoonoses, considering sharing of	March 2019	++	+++	Zoonotic Committee, IPH & FSVI	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) Review capacities from both sides involving international expertise 2) Identify resources that could be shared 3) Reinforce with necessary equipment and materials
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human, physical and financial resources					4) Human resource capacity building: - trainings - exchange of scientific knowledge - study tours
4.2 Conduct joint vector surveillance and pathogen screening to enable joint risk assessment and early detection of vector-borne diseases (VBD)	February – November 2019	+++	++	IPH, FSVI, University Faculties	- Identify priority VBDS - Conduct epi and spatial analyses to identify number of samples and sampling locations - Conduct field work to collect vectors (ticks, flies, mosquitos) and animal samples - Detect infectious agents in vectors and animal/human hosts
Objective 5: Operationalize and test the joint risk assessment, surveillance and laboratory framework targeting zoonoses					
5.1 Organize cascade trainings on joint surveillance and joint risk assessment at the national and local levels	March - June 2020	++	++	IPH, FSVI	- Establish working group (10 persons) including experts from both institutions and international experts - Develop training materials and training plan - Conduct training for trainers at the national level - Trained trainers to conduct replica trainings at the local level
RESPONSE, FIELD INVESTIGATION AND EMERGENCY FUNDING					
Objective 6: Improve strategic planning for response, field investigation, and emergency funding on priority zoonotic diseases					
6.1 Develop a strategic joint response plan for zoonotic diseases	Six months after establishment of NMCZ (November 2019)	+	+++	NMCZ	- Organize a multisectoral technical meeting at national level to define legal background - Identify focal persons from each sector responsible for drafting the plan - Define ToRs for focal points and experts - Map existing supporting documents (strategic plans, continuous plans, etc.) - Draft a strategic plan - Discuss the draft strategic plan with of all the stakeholders - Finalize the plan - Seek approval by the Government
6.2 Develop new and update existing contingency and control plans of priority zoonotic diseases (within the framework of strategic joint response plan, as Annexes)	One year after establishment of NMCZ (April 2020)	++	+++	Technical sub-committees of NMCZ	- Prioritize zoonotic disease (jointly) - Map all existing contingency/control plans from all sectors for each priority zoonosis - Nominate disease technical experts for each priority zoonosis to the respective technical sub-committees of NMCZ (Activity 2.2) - Develop or update existing contingency/control plans which will include joint actions - Structure developed/updated contingency/control plans as Annexes to the strategic joint response plan

6.3 Develop joint SOPs and other documents supporting contingency/control plans	One year after establishment of NMCZ (April 2020)	+	+++	Technical sub-committees of NMCZ	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Map all existing SOPs/guidelines/recommendations from all sectors for each priority zoonosis - Nominate disease technical experts responsible for development of SOPs - Develop SOPs
6.4 Conduct joint After Action Reviews for real events caused by priority zoonoses	3 months after event, when relevant	++	+	National and regional technical staff from MHSP and MARD	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Identify experts from both sectors involved in the event - Request WHO for support - Conduct AAR
6.5 Review emergency funding arrangements considering joint mechanisms		+++	+++	NMCZ, MARD, MHSP	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Organize a meeting of experts (finance, MHSP, MARD, technical) - Estimate costs related to response and field investigation - Define the modality and mechanisms to activate joint emergency funds
Objective 7: Enhance human resource capacities for joint response and field investigation of priority zoonotic diseases					
7.1 Develop a joint education module for Master program and post-graduate specialists and conduct trainings on response and field investigation of endemic and emerging zoonotic diseases	Two years after establishment of NMCZ (April 2021)	+++	+++	NMCZ, IPH, FSVI, FSA, Universities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Establish working group of experts from different sectors and universities - Develop a curriculum and update it regularly - Get accreditation from statutory bodies and define the related credits - Develop a training plan for specialists - Engage lecturers and trainers - Conduct trainings for specialists - Include the module into the Master programs
7.2 Develop the joint training program to exercise contingency/control plans and SOPs developed under activities 6.2-6.3	1.5 years after establishment of NMCZ (November 2020)	+++	+++	NMCZ, IPH, FSVI	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Establish a working group to develop the joint training program/plan - Develop the training program including exercises with increased complexity for each contingency/control plan: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • table top exercises • drills • functional exercises • full scale simulation exercises - Identify focal points for exercise program - Involve international experts to help in organization exercises
7.3 Conduct joint exercises	Two years after establishment of NMCZ (April 2021)	+++	+++	NMCZ, IPH, FSVI	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Conduct joint exercises on each contingency/control plans for priority zoonoses - Develop content (scenarios, injects, etc.) for each exercise - Prepare the budget and identify number of participants for each exercise - Identify participants for each exercise incl. epidemiologists, laboratory specialists, etc. - Involve international experts to help in delivery of exercises - Revise respective joint strategy response plan, contingency/control plans and related SOPs

COMMUNICATION

Objective 8: Improve operational capacities for joint One Health risk communication for the management of zoonotic diseases

8.1 Develop a joint risk communication cascade training	30 November 2020	++	+++	Agricultural University of Tirana (Faculty of Veterinary Medicine), IPH, University of Tirana (Department of Media and Communications)	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) Establish a group of experts to coordinate development of the training program involving national and international experts 2) Prepare didactic materials for trainers and participants 3) Establish legal procedures to recognize training by Ministry of Education 4) Develop criteria for candidate acceptance
8.2 Deliver a joint risk communication cascade training	February 2021	++	+++	Agricultural University of Tirana (Faculty of Veterinary Medicine), IPH, University of Tirana (Department of Media and Communications)	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) Identify course coordinator 2) Identify trainers 3) Establish a web workspace 4) Selection of modules 5) Establish the course timeline 6) Course accreditation 7) Deliver the course
8.3 Develop "One Health Risk Communication" guidelines and SOPs	December 2019	++	++	MHSP + Agencies; MARD + Agencies; Department of Media and Communication	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) Establish a group of national experts, involve international experts 2) Working group to meet monthly 3) Prepare the concept of guidelines 4) Develop the guidelines 5) Approve by both Ministries 6) Distribute the guidelines
8.4 Conduct a table-top exercise to test capacities on risk communication	March 2021	++	+++	Faculty of Veterinary Medicine, IPH, National Food Authority, Department of Media and Communication	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) Identify TTX coordinator(s) 2) Develop content of TTX 3) Identify participants and trainers 4) Calculate budget 5) Deliver TTX 6) Evaluate risk communication capacities

Objective 9: Enhance strategic planning for joint risk communication for management of zoonotic diseases

9.1 Develop a multi-hazard One Health joint risk communication strategy	November 2019	++	+++	MHSP + Agencies; MARD + Agencies; Prime Minister Office	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) Establish a joint working group 2) Mobilize international expert 3) Draft a joint RC strategy 4) Share the draft strategy with different stakeholders and reach the consensus
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					5) Approve the joint RC strategy at Prime Minister level 6) Launch the strategy with all stakeholders 7) Include the strategy in the curricula of Universities for zoonotic diseases
9.2 Develop the joint action plan for the multi-hazard One Health joint risk communication strategy	January 2020	++	+++	MHSP + Agencies; MARD + Agencies; Ministry of Finance	1) Establish a joint working group involving: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • experts who were engaged with development of strategy • international experts • financial experts 2) Draft a joint action plan 3) Share the joint action plan with different stakeholders and reach the consensus 4) Approve the joint action plan at Ministry of Finance and Prime Minister Office 5) Share the joint action plan with all stakeholders
Objective 10: Enhance awareness and positive approach for solutions of problems during management of zoonotic diseases					
10.1 Establish joint advocacy group to increase capacities for staff, infrastructure, and budget	May 2019	+	++	Department of Veterinary Public Health, IPH, Department of Public Health	1) Identify group members 2) Develop ToR for the group 3) Group to meet regularly 4) Develop annual agenda 5) Identify key decision makers to meet them 6) Use social media for advocacy

Difficulty of implementation: Low +, Moderate ++, Very difficult +++

Impact: Low impact +, Moderate impact ++, High impact +++

OUTPUT 3: PRIORITIZATION RESULTS

All participants were asked to vote individually via sticking white stickers onto the objective cards to select which of the three identified objectives they considered as of the highest priority. Each group got one objective with high number of votes. This prioritization showed that all topics selected in the previous exercise were crucial to strengthen intersectoral collaboration. However, improvement of strategic planning for response, field investigation and emergency funding of priority zoonotic diseases was selected as of the highest priority for the country.

