

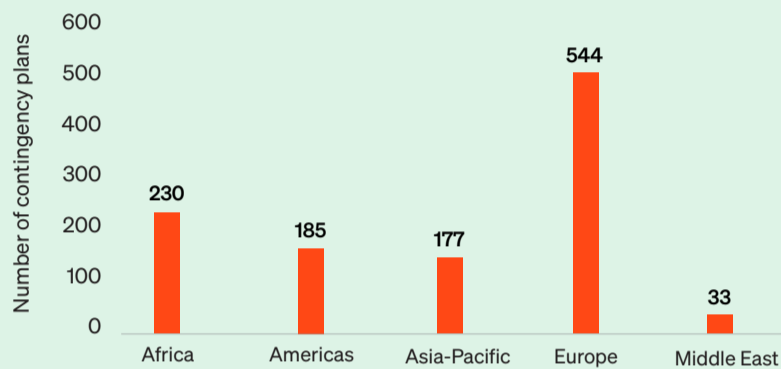
# Emergency preparedness

When an animal health or welfare emergency occurs, the effectiveness of the response depends on the level of preparedness of the Veterinary Authority and relevant stakeholders. The World Organisation for Animal Health (WOAH, founded as OIE) develops international standards and guidelines for emergency preparedness, including contingency plans and simulation exercises. Through its Annual Report, the **Observatory** intends to assess the uptake of these standards.

## The use of contingency plans varies across regions

**87%** of Members have a contingency plan for at least one disease

**1,169** contingency plans were reported in 2018, with some regional variations



Number of contingency plans per region  
Source: WOA review, 2018

## The reporting of simulation exercises is not yet a widespread practice

Only **45%** of Members reported having conducted a simulation exercise

**408** simulation exercises were reported between 2002 and 2021

**¾ of them were conducted in Europe and the Americas.**

Source: WOA simulation exercise dataset, 2002-2021

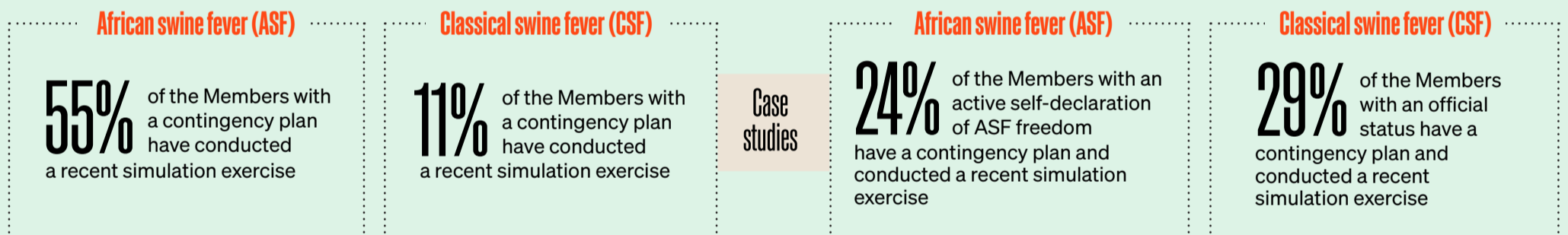
More than **95%** of contingency plans and simulation exercises relate to terrestrial animal diseases, mainly avian influenza, foot and mouth disease and African swine fever.

WOAH review, 2018; WOA simulation exercises, 2002-2021

## Emergency preparedness activities undertaken by Members could be improved

Not all Members with contingency plans conduct simulation exercises

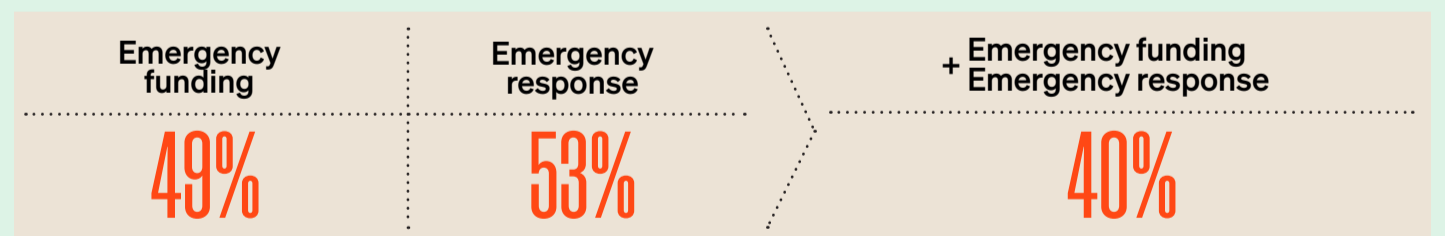
Disease-free status is not associated with having a contingency plan or reporting simulation exercises



Sources: WOA review, 2018; WOA simulation exercise dataset, 2002-2021

## Members' capacity regarding emergency preparedness is limited

Based on recent Performance of Veterinary Services (PVS) Pathway missions, the percentage of Members which reached or exceeded the minimal capacity is as follows:



Source: PVS Evaluation or Follow-up missions for 43 Members, 2016-2021 – Analysis of the Level of Advancement for Critical Competencies II-9. and II.6. from the 6th edition of the PVS Tool

### Recommendations

#### World Organisation for Animal Health

- Raise awareness on the importance of emergency preparedness.
- Offer dedicated capacity building activities.
- Monitor Members' progress with Critical Competencies over time as an indicator of the impact of WOA's support.

#### Members

- Identify and invest resources to better prepare for animal health emergencies.
- Conduct regular simulation exercises, following the principles developed in WOAH Guidelines for Simulation Exercises.
- Report simulation exercises to WOA to increase their visibility.

**Access the full information [here](#)**

Please consider the data limitations outlined in the full Annual Report when consulting this document.