

## **Animal welfare considerations in disaster risk reduction and management.**

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The goal of the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction is to achieve “substantial reduction of disaster risk and losses in lives – livelihoods and health and in the economic – physical – social – cultural and environmental assets of persons – businesses – communities and countries”.

The scope of the Sendai Framework includes large and small-scale disasters – intensive and extensive risks – and covers all types of hazards including natural – biological and technological hazards.

The impact of disasters on animals from all hazards including biological hazards is numerous. Disasters may destroy and damage animal assets thus affecting the livelihood – food security and nutrition particularly for the rural poor constituted in great measure by livestock. However – welfare and safety of animals is still largely overlooked and not included in national disaster risk management plans. Investment both to reduce the risk of disasters in animal welfare and to better respond to its attention during emergencies is cost effective. Evidence demonstrated that one dollar invested to protect animals from disasters generated 2.74 dollars of benefits for communities in the form of avoided losses.

Recognizing this – the Sendai Framework is explicit in highlighting the need “to strengthen the protection of livelihoods and productive assets – including livestock – working animals – tools and seeds” and to “strengthen and promote collaboration and capacity-building for the protection of productive assets – including livestock – working animals – tools and seeds”.

The Sendai Framework also calls for better preparedness and response to biological hazards. This entails prevention and early warning systems for zoonotic diseases that can transmit from animals to human – which account for around 70% of all human diseases. Some can have potential devastating pandemic impact if not controlled or prevented.

The presentation will provide a brief overview of Sendai Framework and its focus on the protection of health and well-being of the people and their livelihoods as a main component of ensuring resilience to disasters. It will also highlight challenges and opportunities for integration of disaster risk reduction in animal and veterinary services and also the integration of animal welfare relevant national sectors in DRR plans and platforms. This will contribute to OIE stakeholders articulation of animal welfare strategies and also their contribution for the implementation of the Sendai Framework.

Keywords: animal welfare and safety – biological hazards – disaster risk reduction – pandemics – risk management – Sendai Framework.