

# Towards a UNSGM biological analysis network

## Workshop Report

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Government Offices of Sweden  
Ministry for Foreign Affairs



# Background and objectives

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UNSGM training courses arranged by Sweden 2009 and 2014

Creation of a network of international experts and laboratories

## Participants

- UNODA
- UNSGM Syria investigation team
- WHO
- Finnish Institute for Verification of the CWC
- Denmark, Finland, France, Germany, The Netherlands, Norway, Switzerland, United Kingdom, Sweden

## Contents

- Presentations (UNSGM, lessons learned)
- Scenario
  - Group discussions
  - Presentations



# Challenges for the investigation of an alleged use of BW vs CW

## Biological

- Natural background
- Many are contagious
- Odourless and tasteless
- Delayed onset
- Dynamic

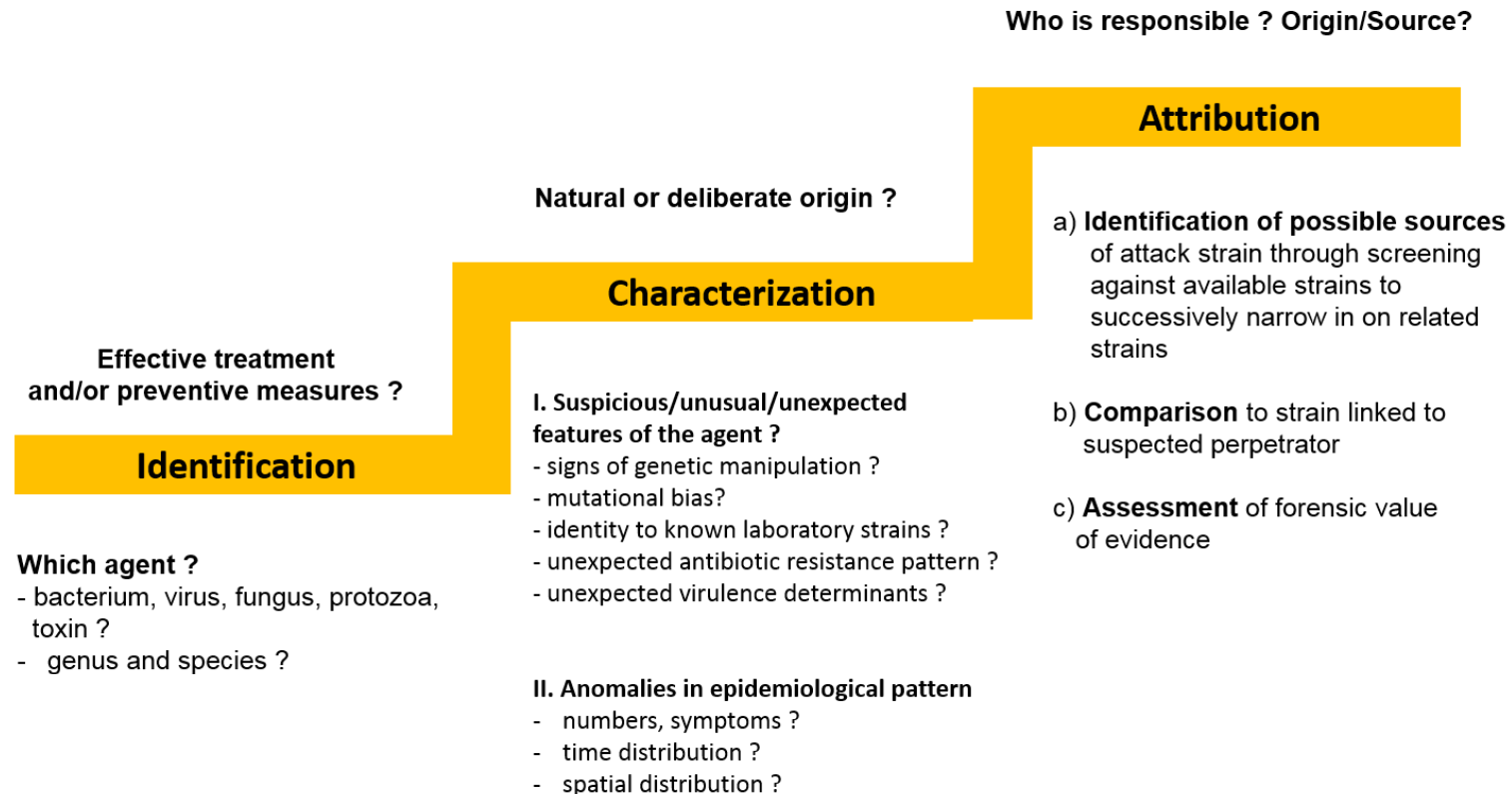


## Chemical

- Man-made (not naturally occurring)
- Not "contagious"
- Odour (for some)
- Rapid onset
- Static, defined (biodegradation)



# Stages of Microbial Forensic Investigation



Modified from: Sjödin *et al.*, Biosecurity and Bioterrorism, 2013, s78-86

# Core issues identified

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## Expanded laboratory network

- Develop list on criteria/qualities required

## Capabilities and capacities of laboratories

- Requirements for identification / characterisation / attribution
- Standard operating procedures and/or recommended operating procedures

## Reporting

- Development of reporting structure for sample analysis

## Chain of custody

- Establish guidelines and procedures

## Accreditation and Proficiency tests

- Identify relevant internationally accepted standards

# Way forward

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1. Continued discussion of identified key elements and core issues
2. Contract issue for laboratories
3. Link to training of experts
4. Field team composition
5. Technical working group
6. Build “decision-tree” for generalised procedures
7. Develop detailed scenarios

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Thank you for your attention

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