Session 6
PATH-SAFE Reflections and Lessons Learnt

Preliminary findings from PATH-SAFE Process and Impact Evaluation

Toby Webster, RAND Europe

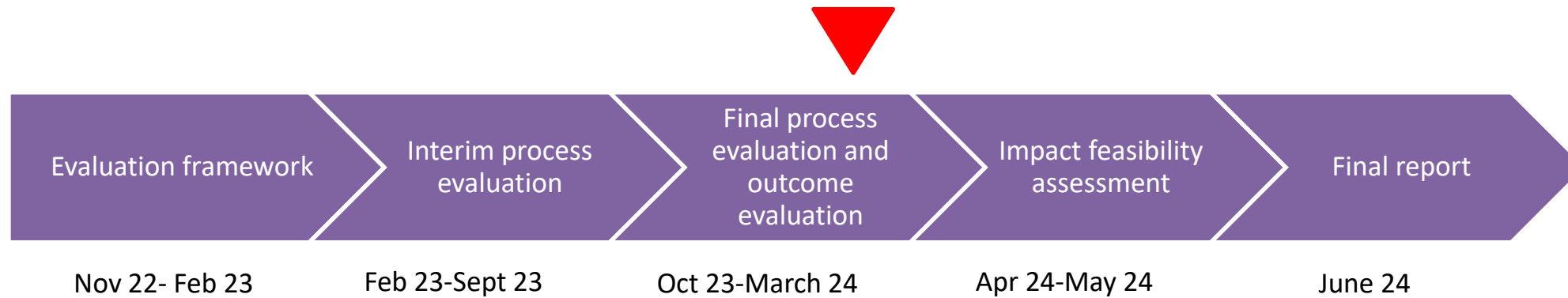29th February 2024

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RAND Europe

- RAND Europe is a not-for-profit, independent policy research organisation with a long and proven commitment to high-quality research, underpinned by rigorous analysis.

- We aim to help improve policy and decision making through objective analysis and research

- In November 2022 were commissioned by the FSA to be a monitoring and evaluation partner for PATH-SAFE

Evaluation of PATH-SAFE

- **Process evaluation:** effectiveness and appropriateness of programme design, governance and implementation mechanisms

- **Outcome evaluation:** to what degree has PATH-SAFE contributed to intended outcomes and impacts

- **Impact feasibility assessment:** how can long-term impacts be measured and what will it take to achieve them

Evaluation timeline

Evaluation framework	Interim process evaluation	Final process evaluation and outcome evaluation	Impact feasibility assessment	Final report
Nov 22- Feb 23	Feb 23-Sept 23	Oct 23-March 24	Apr 24-May 24	June 24

Methodology

Methods and data sources
- Documentary review (project briefs, Board papers and reports)
- Desk research (Google Scholar, PubMed, grey literature)
- Interviews (Strategic stakeholders, core programme management, delivery teams, end users)

Synthesis and reporting
- Thematic analysis
- Recommendations for wider community

Limitations
- Our impact evaluation is not yet complete – these are preliminary findings only, we have not assessed all PATH-SAFE outputs, and some have not yet been delivered
- PATH-SAFE's outputs and impacts are complex, hard to measure and will take a long time to achieve
- Our sample size was limited
- Lack of complete information on ongoing policy development in other areas of Government constrains our inputs on legacy planning

Preliminary evaluation findings

Resourcing

Positives

- PATH-SAFE appears to have received sufficient funding for activities that it planned to undertake.

Learning points

- There were operational challenges around recruitment, procurement and distributing funding that led to delays and the time bound nature of funding meant that funds could not be utilised in their entirety

Preliminary evaluation findings
Governance

Positives

- It was widely expressed that PATH-SAFE governance mechanisms were effective
- The flexible, responsive, and proactive approach of the core programme management team was valued
- There were varying views regarding the intensity of reporting and monitoring requirements, but support with this was said to be helpful.

Learning points

- Participant engagement varied at governance meetings. Those participating in delivery meetings expressed that while delivery was important, more big-picture communication may have helped them identify collaboration opportunities at an earlier stage.

Preliminary evaluation findings

Cross government engagement, workstream collaboration, and communities of practice

Positives

- There has been extensive cross-government activity under PATH-SAFE, which has been promoted extensively by the central programme management team The Communities of Interest, where technical leads share updates, are viewed positively

Learning points

- Some members said that the Communities of Interest could have added more value with more focus on exchanging technical and methodological learnings

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Preliminary evaluation findings

Linking to wider surveillance effort

Positives

- PATH-SAFE teams have proactively engaged with other surveillance efforts to share technical and operational lessons.

    - RUMA (Responsible Use of Medicines for Agriculture Initiative)
    - (APRHAI) Advisory Committee on Antimicrobial Prescribing, Resistance and Healthcare Associated Infection
    - Wales Animal and Environment AMR Delivery Group
    - UK Food Safety Research Network
    - Civil Service Environment Network Offshoot
    - Cattle Antibiotic Guardian Group
    - Advisory Committee on the Microbiological Safety of Food

Preliminary evaluation findings
Data sharing within PATH-SAFE

Positives

- Systemic barriers to data sharing were significant challenges to achieving goals. PATH-SAFE partners and workstreams made substantial individual progress in reducing these barriers.

Learning points

- Engagement to demonstrate the real-life use cases for shared data helped overcome barriers to sharing and could have played a larger role as soon as these problems became apparent

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Preliminary evaluation findings

Contribution to national policymaking

Positives

- Many of our interviewees confirmed that PATH-SAFE's long term policy impacts are not yet known, but it has been cited in recent policy documents and there are early indications that it is informing other work:

  - National Biosurveillance Network

  - AMR National Action Plan 2024-2029

  - GAP-DC2

  - Others

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Preliminary evaluation findings
Contribution of PATH-SAFE to surveillance efforts

- Clarifying the nature and expected impact of pilot projects

- PATH-SAFE represents a large investment with ambitious goals, varied activities, and complex outputs

- Generating maximum outcomes and impacts from these outputs will require bringing them together at a programme level

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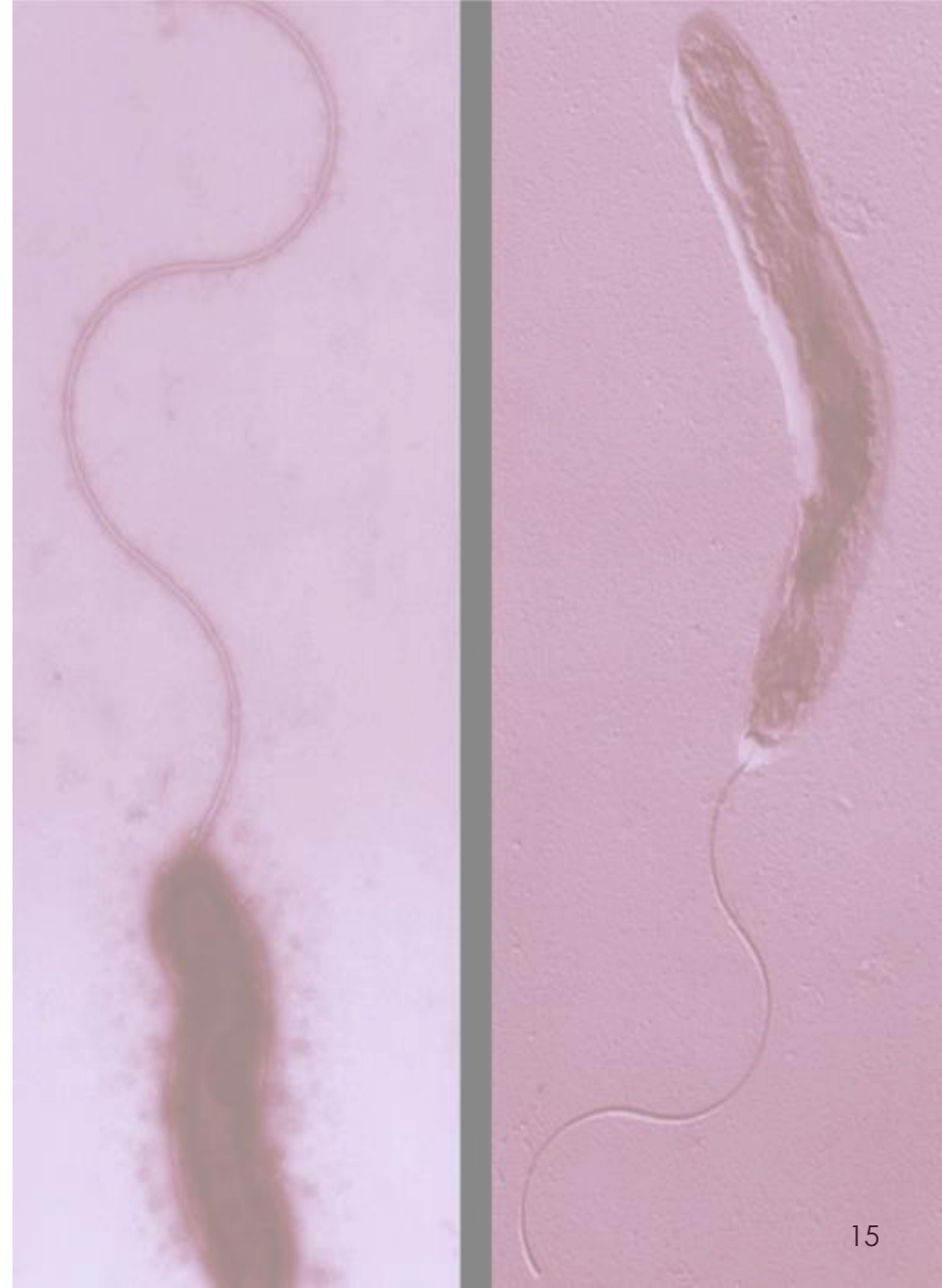# Key preliminary lessons for improvement and legacy planning

Data Sharing

Opportunities to facilitate even more collaboration between workstreams

Bringing together workstream outputs

Preserving legacy and knowledge

Next Steps

- Gap analysis workshop

- Updated evaluation

- Final report

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Thank you!

Pathogen **S**urveillance
in **A**griculture, **F**ood
and the **E**nvironment
(PATH-SAFE)

PATH-SAFE
Programme Team
Reflections and Lessons
Learned

29th February 2024

Elaine Kinsella and Rachel Baird
PATH-SAFE Senior Project Managers

Challenges

Funding & Resourcing

- Ring-fenced funding but some inflexibilities
- Recruitment & procurement barriers
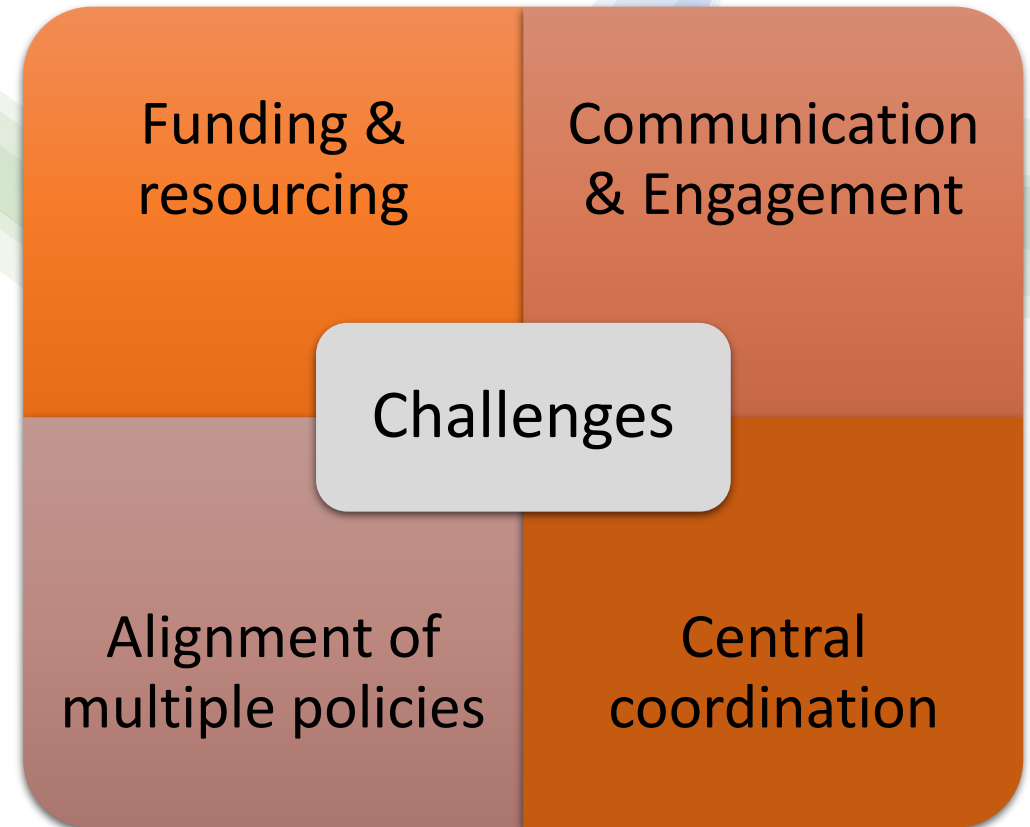
Alignment of multiple policies

- Differing data sharing policies

Communication & Engagement

- Vast programme stakeholder network
- Finding the right people

Changing Landscape

- Need for coordination between synergistic efforts

Successes

Delivery & Governance
- Dedicated programme management team
- Programme structure evolution

Collaboration
- Clearly established shared outcomes
- Focused forums and promotion

Robust evidence / new knowledge
- Audience and context
- Defined briefs at project level

Promoting innovation
- Coordination
- Ring fenced funding