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OIE's Engagement Towards Rabies Elimination in Africa

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Introduction

- Rabies is one of the most deadly zoonoses
- It is among 87 of the OIE-listed terrestrial diseases, infections and infestations in 2021.
- Listed under the category “multiple species diseases, infections and infestations” https://www.oie.int/en/what-we-do/animal-health-and-welfare/animal-diseases/?_tax_animal=terrestrials&_tax_diseases=oie-listed&_paged=5

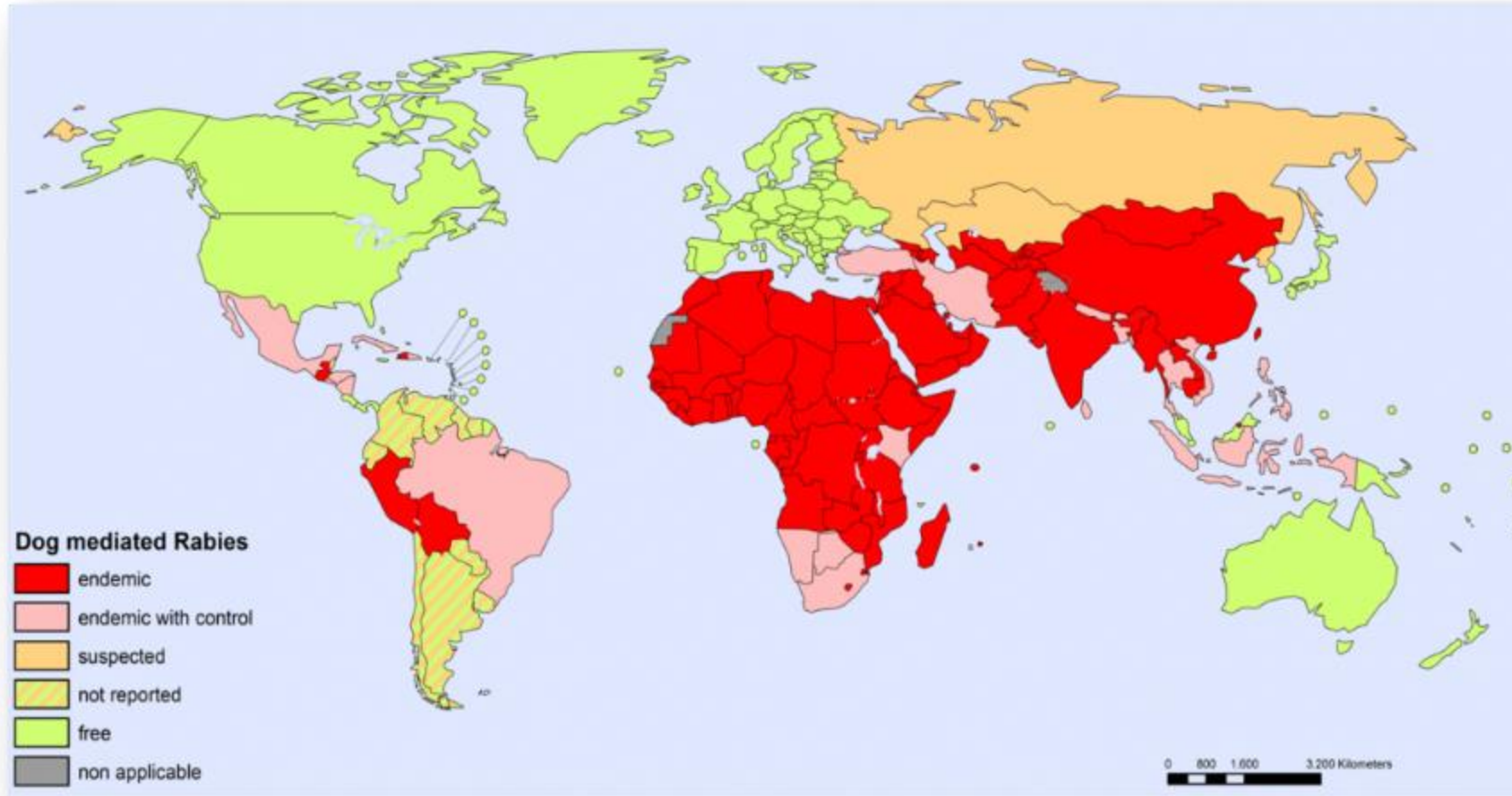


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Occurrence of dog-mediated rabies (Source WHO)



- Half of the world's population live in rabies endemic areas and more than 80% of deaths occur in rural areas, where access to health education campaigns, and post-bite prophylaxis is limited or inexistent
- Africa and Asia are the continents with the highest risk of human mortality, with more than 95% of the world's fatal cases

OIE Standards on rabies

Standard	Chapter	Description
OIE Terrestrial Animal Health Code	Chapter 1.1	Provides a description of notification of all OIE listed notifiable diseases, infestations and infections, and provisions of epidemiological information. Under the OIE listing, rabies is classified under the multiple species diseases, infections and infestations category.
	Chapter 1.4	Provides a description of animal health surveillance as a tool to monitor disease trends, to facilitate the control of disease or infection, to provide data for use in risk analysis, for animal or public health purposes, and to substantiate the rationale for sanitary measures. The objectives of this chapter are to: a) provide guidance to the type of outputs that a surveillance system should generate; and b) provide recommendations to assess the quality of surveillance systems.

OIE Standards on rabies

Standard	Chapter	Description
OIE Terrestrial Animal Health Code	Chapter 5.11	Provides a model veterinary certificate for international movement of dogs, cats and ferrets originating from countries considered infected with rabies.
	Chapter 7.7	Provides recommendations on how to deal with stray and feral dogs, which pose serious human health, animal health and animal welfare problems and which have a socioeconomic, environmental, political and religious impact in many countries. Human health, including the prevention of zoonotic diseases, notably rabies, is a priority. Dog population management is an integral part of rabies control programmes.

OIE Standards on rabies

Standard	Chapter	Description
OIE Terrestrial Animal Health Code	Chapter 8.14	The chapter describes infection with rabies. The aim of this chapter is to mitigate the risk of rabies to human and animal health and to prevent the international spread of the disease.
OIE Manual of Diagnostic Tests and Vaccines for Terrestrial Animals Chapter	Chapter 3.1.17	The chapter provides diagnostic techniques for the identification of rabies including sample collection, shipping of samples and vaccine production requirements.

Performance of Veterinary Services (PVS)



<https://www.oie.int/app/uploads/2021/03/2019-pvs-tool-final.pdf>

- PVS – An OIE tool to support governments identify their overarching needs in terms of enhancing the delivery of veterinary services (VS)
- Important considerations in this regard are “**critical competencies**” (CC) of VS pertaining to:
 - the professional and technical staffing and competencies of the Veterinary Services viz (CC.I.1.),
 - operational resources and funding (CC.I.12–15), veterinary
 - laboratory diagnosis (CC.II.1.),
 - epidemiological surveillance and early detection (CC.II.5.),

- emergency response (CC.II.6.),
- disease prevention, control and eradication (CC.II.7.),
- animal welfare (CC.II.13.),
- communication (CC.III.1.),
- the participation of producers and other interested parties in joint programmes (CC.III.6.)
- veterinary legislation (CC.IV.1-2.), the latter both in terms of adoption and law enforcement

One Health (OH) Approach

- Working with WHO, FAO and GARC to eliminate dog-mediated human rabies providing strategic and technical guidance to build advocacy around rabies prevention to ensure a more consistent and sustained commitment underpinned by strong health and veterinary systems
(https://www.who.int/foodsafety/zoonoses/final_concept_note_Hanoi.pdf)
- With Tripartite and GARC developed in 2015 Global Framework for the Elimination of Dog-Mediated Human Rabies with a strategic vision of zero human deaths from dog-mediated rabies in participating countries by 2030

One Health (OH) Approach

- Rallied the veterinary fraternity and during its 84th GS (May 2016 in Paris) adopted resolution No. 26 for “*Global elimination of dog-mediated rabies*” and acknowledged that controlling the disease in dogs remains the most cost-effective way to prevent rabies in humans
(https://www.oie.int/fileadmin/Home/eng/About_us/docs/pdf/Session/2016/A_RESO_2016_public.pdf)
- With Tripartite and GARC developed a business plan in 2018 to guide national entities to develop national elimination plans, and define their own needs, strategies and resource requirements to achieve zero human rabies deaths from dogs by 2030.

OIE Rabies Vaccine Bank

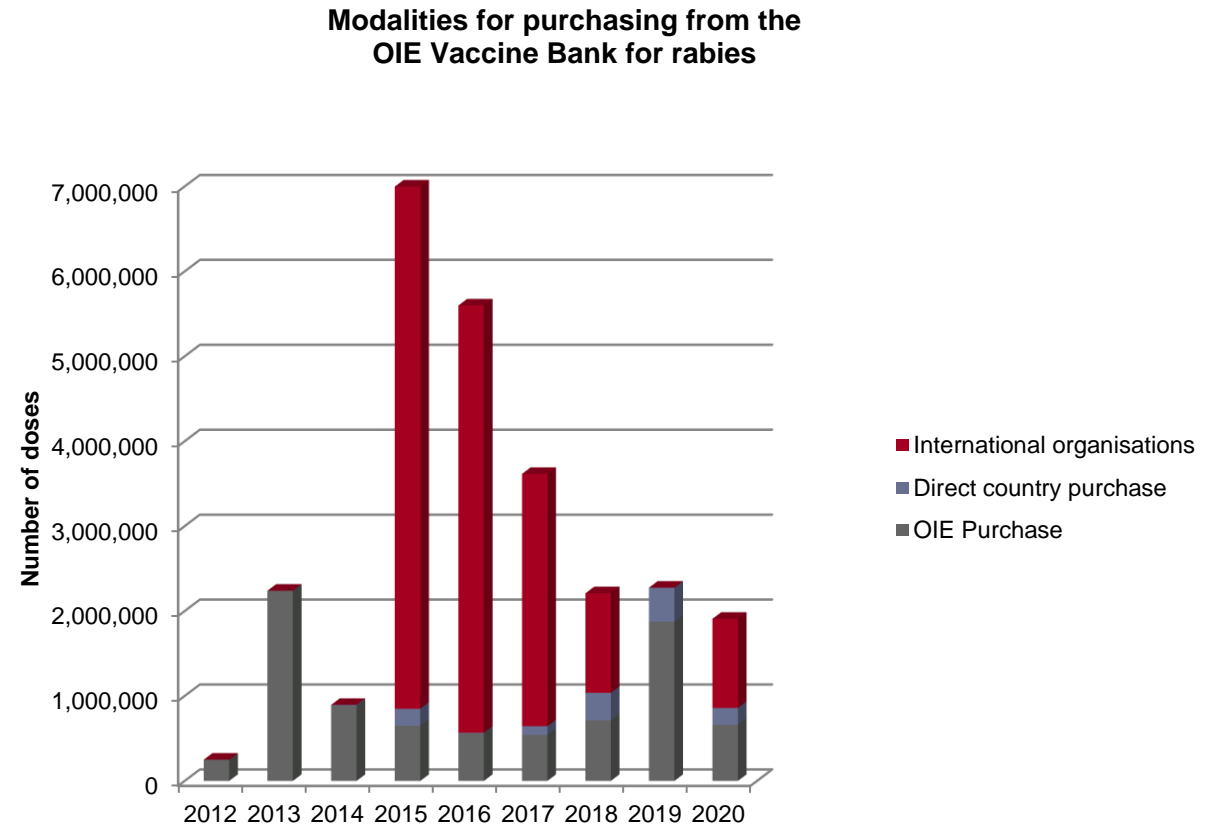
- The OIE Rabies Vaccine Bank, which is a virtual vaccine bank, guarantees the availability of high quality cost-effective vaccines that comply with the OIE's international standards (https://www.oie.int/fileadmin/Home/eng/Media_Center/docs/pdf/Rabies_portal/EN_BrochRVB.pdf)
- Provides impetus to trigger implementation of mass dog vaccination campaigns
- Using the OIE Rabies Vaccine Bank is usually an attraction to donors who in turn may provide more support essential to any effective national rabies elimination strategies.

OIE Rabies Vaccine Bank

- The purchase of the rabies vaccines through OIE Rabies Vaccine Bank is conducted through either of the following three channels:
 - by the OIE with financial support from donors in which case the vaccines and their transport are paid for by the OIE;
 - by an international organisation (e.g. WHO or FAO); or
 - by a Member Country who has been granted access (Direct Purchase) to the OIE Vaccine Bank by the OIE Director General.

Deliveries of rabies vaccines through the OIE rabies vaccine Bank

	OIE Purchase	Direct country purchase	International organisations
2012	250,000	0	0
2013	2,240,400	0	0
2014	882,400	13,000	0
2015	650,000	200,000	6,148,850
2016	557,500	10,000	5,031,150
2017	539,900	105,000	2,970,000
2018	712,000	325,000	1,173,450
2019	1,875,000	400,000	0
2020	660,000	200,000	1,049,000
Total	8,367,200	1,253,000	16,372,450



- 39 beneficiary countries globally of which 4,891,100 doses delivered to 23 different African countries since 2012.
- 995,000 doses in the pipeline to African countries in 2021

Capacity building

- The needs of OIE Member Countries in pursuing the objective to eliminate rabies are not limited to the provision of the vaccine only.
- In this regard, OIE has supported:
 - development of **national rabies elimination strategies** (Burundi, Eritrea, Rwanda, Sudan & Uganda)
 - proposal writing to **scale up rabies elimination** (Kenya)
 - specific training workshops related to rabies control, e.g., **risk communication and awareness raising** (Kenya, Tunisia & Mali)
 - training in **vaccination** (Tunisia)
 - **aligning policies and strategies** between countries (Algeria, Morocco & Tunisia)
 - planning, implementation and **evaluation of the vaccination campaigns, and dog population management.**
 - production of **educational materials and media campaigns for responsible dog ownership**
 - **promoting of existing tools to enhance capacity** for control and elimination of rabies

Laboratory twinning

- Establishment of appropriate level of laboratory capacity is important in achieving elimination of dog-mediated rabies
- In Africa, OIE has supported twinning agreements as follows:
 - Onderstepoort Veterinary Institute(OVI), RSA with National Veterinary Research Institute (NVRI), Vom, Nigeria – 2010-2012
 - Onderstepoort Veterinary Institute (OVI), RSA) with National Animal Health Diagnostic and Investigation Center (NAHDIC), Ethiopia – 2021 – 2022
- Twinning support helps laboratories to:
 - effectively **participate in annual international proficiency test** for rabies coordinated by the Environment and Occupational Health & Safety (ANSES), an OIE Reference laboratory for rabies
 - achieve **ISO 17025 accreditation**
 - enhance **regional capacity for rabies testing** and increase sample submission

OIE projects

- ***Technical Support for Namibia in Eliminating Rabies in Dog***” project –
“launched – Northern Communal Areas - NCA (2016 – 2018)
- ***Strengthening Veterinary Services in Developing Countries***”
“(SVSDC+R) project – (2015-2019)
 - Kenya – Siaya county (focus on vaccination) with some activities in Machakos and Makueni (support WSU to dog ecology studies)
 - North Africa – Tunisia (focus on vaccination and training) and Algeria (delivery of vaccines)
- ***Rehabilitating veterinary facilities to prevent rabies in dogs***” project –
“Lesotho (2016)

| World Rabies Day

- Every year promotes the participation of Member Countries in WRD
- Coordination of activities with the Tripartite (FAO-OIE-WHO), such as **joint communication messages**



Food and Agriculture
Organization of the
United Nations



World Health
Organization

Combatting the rising global threat of AMR through a One Health Approach



Thank you for
your attention!



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