



# MISSION RABIES

ANNUAL REPORT  
**2018**







# OUR PATRON

RT Hon. Sir Desmond Swayne  
TD VR MP

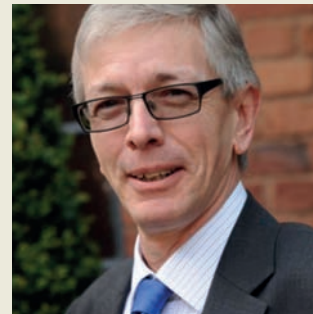
# OUR TRUSTEES



**Dr Ian Battersby**  
Specialist Medicine  
Consultant



**Clarissa Baldwin**  
CBE  
Dogs Trust



**Prof. Michael J. Day**  
Emeritus Professor of  
Veterinary Pathology



**Philip Daubeny**  
Dogs Trust



**Dr Rachel Foster**  
Consultant in Acute  
Medicine and  
Infectious Diseases

# CEO'S MESSAGE

2018 has been one of the most successful years ever for Mission Rabies. We are on the cusp of having almost vaccinated one million dogs in global rabies hotspots, we've educated over two million children and we're seeing a dramatic reduction in both human and canine rabies in all our flagship project sites!! The app is now developing in conjunction with CDC in the US, our work is being published at an unprecedented rate and we're still only four years old!

The approach works - we're saving both children and dogs from the world's deadliest disease and eliminating it along the way. Absolutely none of this would be possible without the incredible sponsors who back us (thank you to Dogs Trust Worldwide and MSD Animal Health in particular) and the teams who give so much energy, passion and determination to the projects. Our volunteers are also cornerstones of what we have achieved - they come from all over the world and consistently go the extra mile to enable us to currently run campaigns in nine different project sites and seven different countries. Thank you to them

and to everyone who believes in and supports Mission Rabies. It is such a privilege to be a part of this fantastic organisation, working with inspiring colleagues, friends and communities who all share the vision of a rabies free world. This report shows what can be done, where we hope to go and the fact we can do it. We've got it all to play for - let's keep the fire powering on and share the journey together. It is going to be GREAT!!!!!!

ROCK ON!!!!!!!!!!!!!!



Luke



Working with





# RABIES FACTS

**OUR AIM IS SIMPLE:  
TO ELIMINATE  
DOG-MEDIATED HUMAN  
RABIES DEATHS BY  
2030.**



YOU CAN ALSO SEE OUR NEW A-Z OF RABIES GUIDE TO LEARN ALL ABOUT THIS DEADLY DISEASE AND HOW YOU CAN GET INVOLVED IN OUR WORK.

SEE THE WEBSITE TO READ THE A-Z OF RABIES!



Research has shown mass canine vaccination campaigns to be the most effective way of eliminating rabies – vaccinating at least 70% of dogs in a given area will establish herd immunity and eliminate the disease over time.



95% of all human rabies cases occur in Asia and Africa, with a third occurring in India, the world's rabies hotspot!

Rabies is the world's deadliest zoonotic disease and once symptoms develop it is almost always fatal.



99% of human rabies cases are caused by an infected dog bite – that's why it is essential to vaccinate dogs, tackling the disease at its source.

Globally, rabies kills approximately 59,000 people every year, the majority of which are children.



100 children die from rabies every single day.

Rabies is 100% vaccine-preventable.



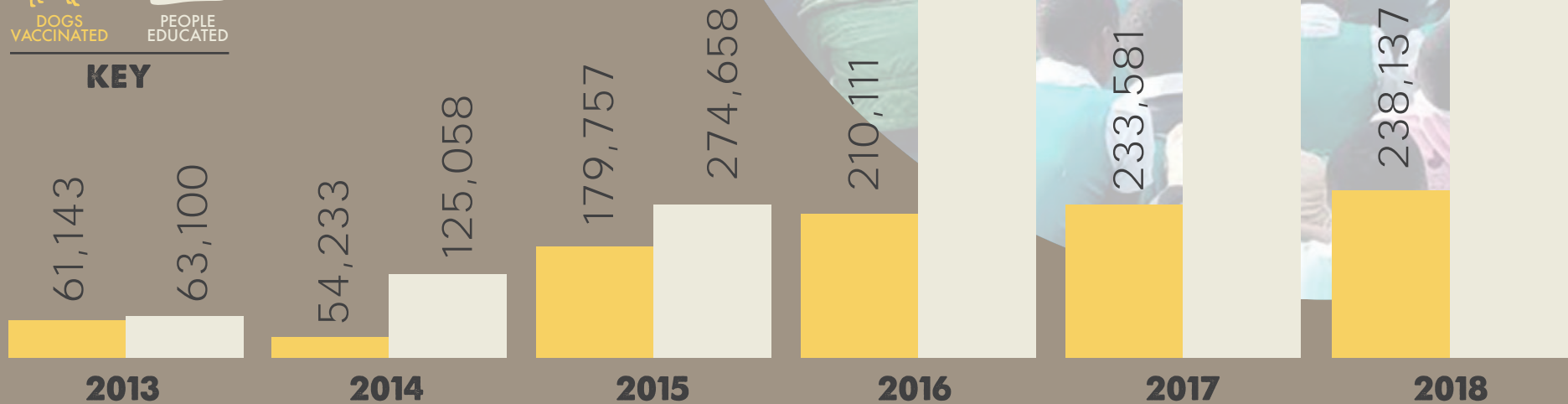


# OUR WORK

SINCE WE LAUNCHED  
IN 2013, WE HAVE  
VACCINATED  
**985,971** DOGS  
AND DELIVERED  
LIFESAVING  
LESSONS TO  
**2,964,220** PEOPLE.



KEY





# STAFF

## UNITED KINGDOM



**LUKE GAMBLE**  
CEO



**GARETH THOMAS**  
Director of Education



**ANDY GIBSON**  
Director of Strategic  
Research



**FRÉDÉRIC LOHR**  
Global Operations  
Manager



**AMY LEWIS**  
International Projects  
Officer



**HARRIET ORMSTON**  
Projects Manager and  
Events



**CARLY REDWOOD**  
Head of Fundraising



**EMILY KING**  
Marketing Officer



**HELÉNA MASON**  
Operational Logistics  
Support Officer



**STELLA MAZERI**  
Postdoctoral Researcher



**CLARA BUXBAUM**  
Programmes Intern



**USA**  
**IMOGEN SCOTT**  
US Director of  
Marketing and  
Development







**INDIA**

**ILONA OTTER**  
WVS Director of  
International Veterinary  
Training



**INDIA**

**JULIE CORFMAT**  
Goa Project Manager



**INDIA**

**PRAVEEN OHAL**  
Logistics and Truck  
Operations Manager



**INDIA**

**GOWRI YALE**  
Scientific and Technical  
Manager



**INDIA**

**MURUGAN APPUPILLAI**  
Director of Education in  
India



**MALAWI**

**DAGMAR MAYER**  
Malawi Country  
Manager



**MALAWI**

**JORDANA BURDON-  
BAILEY**  
International Veterinary  
Projects Manager



**MALAWI**

**PAUL GROSSMAN**  
Zomba Project  
Co-ordinator



**MALAWI**

**DEBORAH  
RODRIGUEZ-GARCIA**  
Malawi Education  
Co-ordinator



# INDIA



Our biggest success in India this year has been the celebration of no human rabies deaths in Goa – something we have been striving to achieve since we began working here in 2013. Our vaccination teams have reached every single area of the state for the second year running, protecting both canine and human lives in this global hotspot.

We have also increased our synergistic work with our sister charity WVS, partnering with the Hicks ITC in Goa to run more rabies outreach programmes and establish Integrated Bite Case Management (IBCM). This dog bite surveillance system enables our teams to investigate bite cases reported to primary health care facilities in Goa state and ensure that bite victims receive

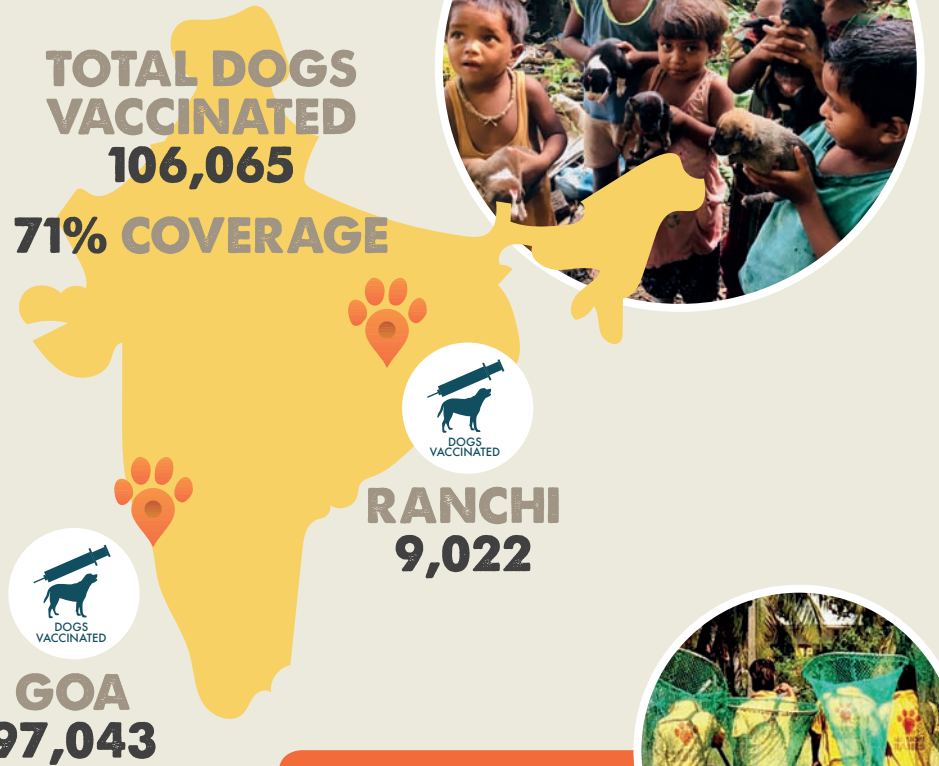
their vaccines where necessary. In addition, this system also helps to identify potentially rabid dogs and dog bite victims that would not have reported their bites otherwise and would not have received the life-saving vaccine.

Our specialist diagnostic lab, run alongside the Government of Goa, enables us to provide quick and accurate diagnosis in these cases.

Our education programme has also been expanding and in addition to our Goa and Ranchi programmes, we have delivered educational outreach workshops in Thanjavur, Pune and Bylakuppe. These sessions helped us educate an additional 15,580 people who may otherwise have been unaware of the danger of rabies.

TOTAL DOGS  
VACCINATED  
**106,065**

**71% COVERAGE**



**GOA**  
**97,043**



**RANCHI**  
**9,022**



## LOOKING FORWARD TO 2019:

“It’s a really exciting time for our Goa project as we progress towards a rabies free state. During 2018, we introduced new catching methods and employed separate hand catching teams for vaccination. I am really looking forward to developing the methods further in 2019 to enable us to vaccinate more dogs and increase total coverage!”

*Julie, Goa Project Manager*



# MALAWI



It's been another successful year in Malawi, helping more communities at risk from rabies than ever before. Blantyre, the second largest city in Malawi, still remains a focus for our vaccination and education programmes in the country, but we are now increasing the efficiency of our work in the neighbouring districts of Zomba and Chiradzulu.

In Blantyre, our teams have been working to ensure as many dogs are vaccinated as possible, achieving a coverage of more than 70% to ensure herd immunity. By using roaming static point vaccination methods, the team had incredible success during the month-long drive in 2018, with over 1,500 dogs brought to the clinic in one day!! By increasing the number of static points, based on our research, we have been able to achieve the same level of coverage in less time and with less resources. Increasing attendance at static points has been possible due to our intensified education efforts in schools and the local communities. This all ensures the sustainability of our Malawi projects!!

In Zomba, our teams had a record-breaking year, vaccinating more dogs than previous years through the implementation of new approaches which resulted in increased levels of community engagement. This included gaining the support of a mobile network provider in both Blantyre and Zomba who sent out text messages to local residents reminding them of the location of our clinics where they could bring their dogs for vaccination.

An annual outreach clinic and vaccination programme also took place at Lake Malawi, vaccinating over 1,000 animals in just two days in this small community and strengthening partnerships within the area!

**TOTAL DOGS VACCINATED**

**92,748**

**78% COVERAGE**

**ZOMBA**  
**25,993**



**CHIRADZULU**  
**16,702**



**BLANTYRE**  
**50,053**

## LOOKING FORWARD TO 2019:

"I'm looking forward to trialling a new, more efficient method of working in Malawi with the aim of expansion into more districts next year. We're also running our first ever project in Ghana epitomising the One Health concept!"

*Jordana, International Veterinary Projects Manager*





# TANZANIA



Since Mission Rabies began working in Tanzania in 2016, we have been partnering with local organisation

Mbwa Wa Africa to ensure regular vaccination campaigns are conducted. With funding support from the Marchig Animal Welfare Trust, we returned to Meru District, Tanzania in January 2018 with a team of international volunteers.

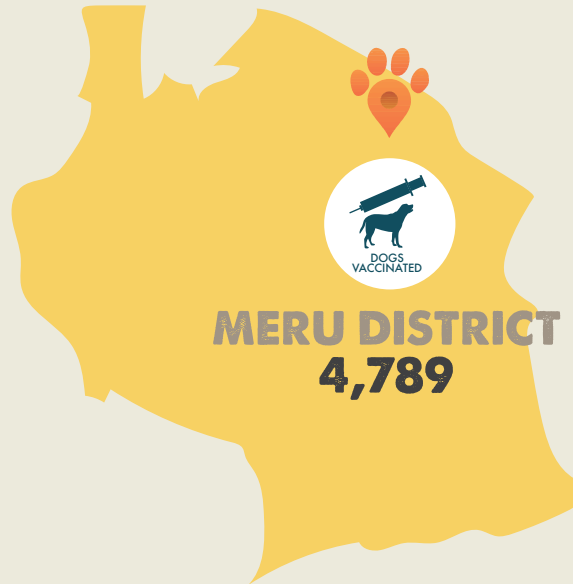
In just two weeks, the teams vaccinated 4,789 dogs against this deadly disease!

Alongside our vaccination campaign, our sister charity WVS ran a sterilisation and treatment clinic, operating on any injured dogs our teams found in the area.

In July, we also funded a proof of concept project with Mbwa Wa Africa trialling a new, more efficient vaccination method. This method will now be implemented on a larger scale alongside a new education programme for our 2019 campaign.

**TOTAL DOGS  
VACCINATED  
4,789**

**71.6% COVERAGE**



# UGANDA

2018 saw us return to Uganda for a vaccination campaign protecting the communities of a new region. Kasese municipality was chosen due to its location between two national parks, the suspected rabies cases in the area and an enthusiastic commitment from the District Veterinary Office.



Nine international volunteers joined the programme and the teams set off to vaccinate as many dogs as possible in order to protect this vulnerable community. The first two days consisted of static point vaccinations whilst the rest of the week focused on the door-to-door method. This method also allowed our teams to conduct research into the distance people are willing to travel to get their dogs vaccinated at static points,

with the furthest owner having travelled 4.55km across the whole of the city to ensure his dog received its vaccination.

Thanks to support from local charity Daktari, our teams were able to vaccinate 2,558 animals and make an incredible start in protecting this community against rabies.



**TOTAL DOGS  
VACCINATED**  
**2,558**

**81.63% COVERAGE**

**KASESE**  
**2,558**



# SRI LANKA



**TOTAL DOGS  
VACCINATED  
2,051**

**95.6% COVERAGE**



**WENNAPPUWA**

In August, we returned to Sri Lanka to conduct another two-week vaccination drive in collaboration with Dogstar Foundation. This project was a proof of concept alongside the Department of Animal Production and Health in Wennappuwa, who ran static point vaccination clinics vaccinating 3,237 dogs at 152 static point locations.

Our teams followed up this campaign with door-to-door work ensuring over 70% vaccination coverage in all regions. Government collaboration is integral to project success; through sharing knowledge and practical training we can ensure the sustainability of our outreach projects.



Our Programmes Intern Clara led a small group of international volunteers and the team, accompanied by local team leaders, not only vaccinated dogs but also improved the knowledge of dog handling amongst owners promoting a higher level of animal welfare and responsible dog ownership.



# THAILAND

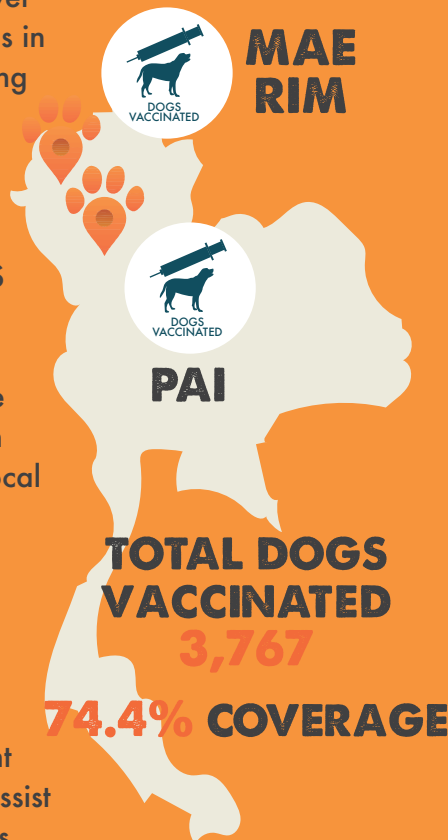
This year saw our first venture into Thailand, building on the strong relationships our sister charity WVS has with the local government and other charities in the region surrounding Chiang Mai.



Our team vaccinated over 2,500 animals in Mae Rim during June, as a response to the

increasing rabies outbreaks in Thailand. Whilst our teams were vaccinating, WVS vets took on a sterilisation clinic in the same area, sterilising 132 animals during the campaign. We completed our Thailand project in the small town of Pai alongside local organisation Pai Four-Legged Friends, vaccinating over 1,000 dogs.

Due to the success of this pilot project, we aim to continue working with the Thai Government through provision of the App to assist their rabies elimination campaigns.



# USA

In 2018, we also continued to develop our US office to expand Mission Rabies' capacity to play a pivotal role in the global effort to eliminate rabies, save lives and champion animal welfare.



Based in California, Mission Rabies USA is a fully fledged 501(c)(3) non-profit organization and this has opened the door to some incredible opportunities, including partnerships with the US Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), Merck

Animal Health, and having a larger presence at New York Vet Show. Not only this, but it has encouraged more supporters from the USA to get involved and volunteer on our projects!!





# EDUCATION

This year, our education programme passed two exciting milestones, as well as our teams reaching record numbers of people. These lifesaving lessons are vital for ensuring communities have the knowledge and skills needed to protect themselves from rabies.

We celebrated educating one million children in Malawi during April and one million children in India during December. These exciting figures contributed to our milestone of two million children educated across our global projects in July this year.

These achievements are a demonstration of our education teams' continued commitment to deliver vital knowledge to people living with the



daily threat of rabies. Schools provide a perfect location to deliver these lessons, reaching large numbers of children and teachers at once, and providing the opportunity to capture attention through interactive sessions. Primary school children are not only the most receptive to these kinds of lessons and more likely to pass the information on to their families, they are also the age group that interacts most with dogs, putting them at a higher risk of rabies.



## IN 2018:

CHILDREN  
EDUCATED  
**723,687**

TEACHERS  
REACHED  
**16,384**

COMMUNITIES  
EDUCATED  
**243,011**



## LOOKING FORWARD TO 2019:

"We've learned a huge amount this year and introduced new approaches that have helped us reach even more people in India and Malawi. 2019 is all about taking those lessons and using them to protect as many children as possible at other project sites, such as Ghana, Tanzania and Uganda."

*Gareth, Director of Education*

Beautiful murals adorned the walls of some of our Blantyre and Goa schools this year, painted by local teams, international volunteers and the schoolchildren themselves, to remind pupils and passers-by of the actions to take if bitten by a potentially rabid dog.



We are delighted to have reached 80% of schools at all our project sites this year and doubled the number of people reached through community events. This is due to a new approach of visiting youth groups, churches and women's groups who are able to spread the message more easily within their communities. Our increased sensitisation

work and awareness in the areas we work was assisted by technological support from a mobile network provider in Malawi who sent thousands of text messages out to people in our project area, informing them about our work.

This year, we also completed a project to visit 200 additional smaller schools that would otherwise have not received these education programmes. Through building relationships with these schools, a number became a base for our static point clinics, playing a vital role in our vaccination campaigns.



## GIFT'S STORY:



When Gift was bitten by a suspected rabid dog while walking home from school, he knew exactly what to do. He and his classmates had received a talk from a Mission Rabies education team, so he knew he had to wash the wound for 15 minutes using soap and water.

He then made the long journey to the clinic where he received his post-exposure vaccinations. This was a long and tiring journey and he travelled mostly on foot, but he and his family knew the vaccinations were critical for Gift's survival.

Other members of Gift's community still held tattered copies of the leaflets they had been given by Mission Rabies education teams the year before, so when two more people were bitten by the same dog shortly afterwards, they were also able to receive correct treatment following the information on the leaflets.

Without these education lessons, Gift could have become another of the child deaths that rabies still results in each year.



# TRUCK TRAINING

As the world's only all-terrain mobile veterinary hospital, the Mission Rabies truck is a huge part of our work across India. The truck has continued to provide free veterinary care to injured animals, veterinary skills to new graduates and service to the community through animal birth control, rabies vaccination and education programmes.

The truck has spent the majority of 2018 based in rural Goa, contributing to our aims of eliminating rabies from the state and providing field outreach training to participants on surgical training courses at the WVS Hicks ITC. Specific locations for the truck are also chosen due to high risk of rabies outbreaks and unwanted litters of puppies.

Throughout 2018, the truck has travelled to Bardez, Tiswadi, Pune and Nagpur in India to run outreach clinics.

This year we also collaborated with local organisation, ResQ Charitable Trust, and veterinary universities to run four additional

training courses on the truck, two in Nagpur and two in Pune. This was in response to the increasing street dog population and incidence of rabies cases in the city of Pune which we are helping to address through these sterilisation, vaccination and education campaigns utilising the truck.



2,986



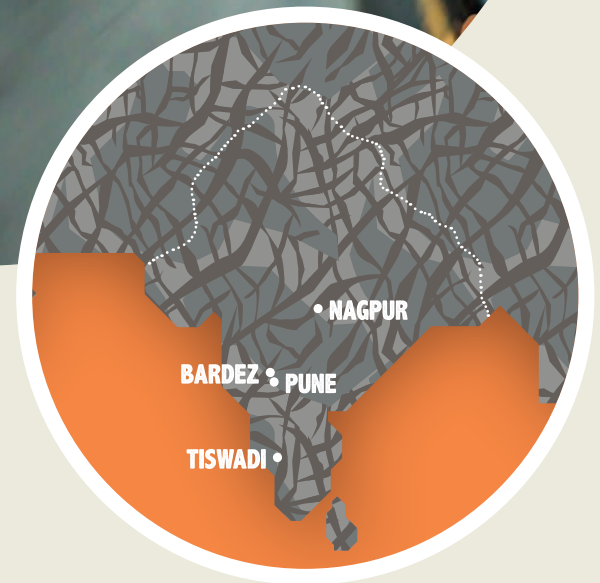
1,740



122



15



# FIELD STAFF

## FRANK FERNANDES HEAD TEAM LEADER, GOA

### WHY DID YOU JOIN MISSION RABIES?

I wanted to help save animals and make them better while also helping the community. It really makes me feel great to be part of Mission Rabies.

### WHAT DO YOU ENJOY MOST ABOUT YOUR ROLE?

The best part of my job is having the opportunity to meet different people and during the vaccination work, when we find any sick or injured dogs, it is great to be able to help them.

### WHAT'S BEEN YOUR HIGHLIGHT FROM 2018?

During the annual mass vaccination campaign this year, we worked alongside our sister charity WVS for one month and it was truly an amazing experience.



## CHIKU NYIRENDA EDUCATION SUPERVISOR, MALAWI

### WHY DID YOU JOIN MISSION RABIES?

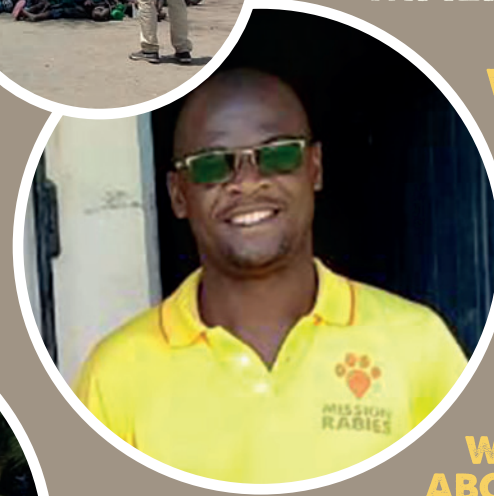
At first, I joined Mission Rabies because I had little knowledge of rabies and wanted to learn more. I started as a Data Collector in 2015, then later I was offered a Sensitisation Officer position and now I supervise the education in Blantyre.

### WHAT DO YOU ENJOY MOST ABOUT YOUR ROLE?

I'm happy being part of the team who is aiming to eliminate rabies and save lives. I enjoy interacting with different people each and every day and I learn a lot from the community including different beliefs.

### WHAT'S BEEN YOUR HIGHLIGHT FROM 2018?

It has been a wonderful year with a lot of activities in the field; in our education in schools and community sensitisation this year we had a chance to sensitise youth clubs as well about the danger of rabies.





# MEET OUR VOLUNTEERS

Without our volunteers, some of our vaccination campaigns simply couldn't happen. It is thanks to passionate and driven people who give up their time to join us for two weeks on a project that has resulted in the incredible number of rabies vaccines administered this year.

This year, we have been excited to welcome 56 volunteers on to our projects, from 6 different countries, all with the shared determination to eliminate rabies! Here's some of their highlights!



## CAMILLE GLAZER UGANDA

"During the door-to-door days, each team was assigned a different area of the city and our job was to find and vaccinate every dog we possibly could.

This was my favourite part of the trip because I got to see the intimate parts of the city: where people lived, the markets they went to, how communities were organised, the ways dogs were kept, and how village life went on as a whole. I would highly recommend Mission Rabies to anyone with a love for dogs and a hunger to change the world - not only did I make a difference in the health of a city's dog population and its people, but I also got to visit an area of the world I've always wanted to see."



## ANNA FORMSTONE ZOMBA

"It was a privilege to volunteer with an organisation that is doing such important work, both in terms of vaccinating dogs, but also educating people about the disease and spreading awareness of rabies. I made friends for life on this trip, and was given a glimpse into life in Malawi in a way that just would not have been possible as a tourist."





# MEET OUR FUNDRAISERS

Our fundraisers inspire us every day with their commitment and drive to do even more to fight rabies! We'd like to say a huge thank you to all our fundraisers this year who helped raise **£59,448.68**.

## CLARA

We were also fortunate enough to have Clara, a vet student from Austria, join us at MR HQ for seven months this year, assisting with our programmes planning! While she was here she took on a fundraising mission and raised **£1,760.02!**



## WORLD RABIES DAY

World Rabies Day was a big day in our calendar once again and supporters got behind us, fundraising an epic **£3,750** through skydives and other events. Susan was our star fundraiser raising **£1,444.94!**



## UGANDA CAMPAIGN

Our awesome volunteers from the Uganda campaign were our top trip fundraisers this year, raising an incredible **£9,193.56**. In particular, we'd like to say a special thank you to Roberta who raised **£3,885.04** as well as volunteering her time on the project!!



## CYCLE RIDE

Vet duo Brian and Kate have been long-term volunteers with Mission Rabies, and this year cycled the challenging Land's End to John O'Groats route, raising **£2,184.75!!**





# OUR APP



Our App is a vital tool in our campaigns and is now not only used in our own projects, but is utilised by other NGOs and governments to maximise the effectiveness of their disease control projects.

In addition to the App's use in recording vital data about the number of vaccinations administered or the number of animals rescued, it is also used to effectively direct field teams in a comprehensive and efficient way.



The App is also used during surveillance, allowing us to GPS plot the locations of any rabid dogs and consequently map disease outbreaks, enabling a focused response. By using technology, we are revolutionising rabies elimination campaigns and One Health projects.

Throughout 2018, we have been working with other key rabies stakeholders such as the CDC to develop new elements of the App, enhance user-friendly functions, and ensure it can be beneficial to campaigns, even at national levels.



# RESEARCH

## OUR APP:

The Mission Rabies App is a bespoke tool that utilises mobile technology for our field projects. Alongside our sister charity WVS, our Director of Strategic Research, Andy Gibson, published a paper on PLOS One about the use of

this mobile technology in rabies elimination campaigns and in 2018, we celebrated one million rabies vaccinations being recorded on the App!

## EDUCATION IN ZOMBA:

Education has become an increasingly important aspect of our work, and is grounded in science in a similar way to our vaccination campaigns. Research published in PLOS Neglected Tropical Diseases by our International Veterinary Projects

Manager Jordana Burdon-Bailey, found that knowledge of rabies and how to act safely around dogs was greater amongst school children who had received a rabies lesson compared to school children who had not received the lesson.

## STATIC POINT CLINICS:

This year we have continued to focus on our vaccination methods and test different ways to ensure the maximum number of dogs are reached. One method we employ is static

point clinics where dog owners are encouraged to visit one particular pre-advertised location. Our Postdoctoral Researcher Stella Mazeri published a paper in PLOS Neglected Tropical

Diseases looking at the barriers to attendance at our static point clinics during the Blantyre campaign. Distance from the clinic, poverty levels and lack of awareness of the campaign were

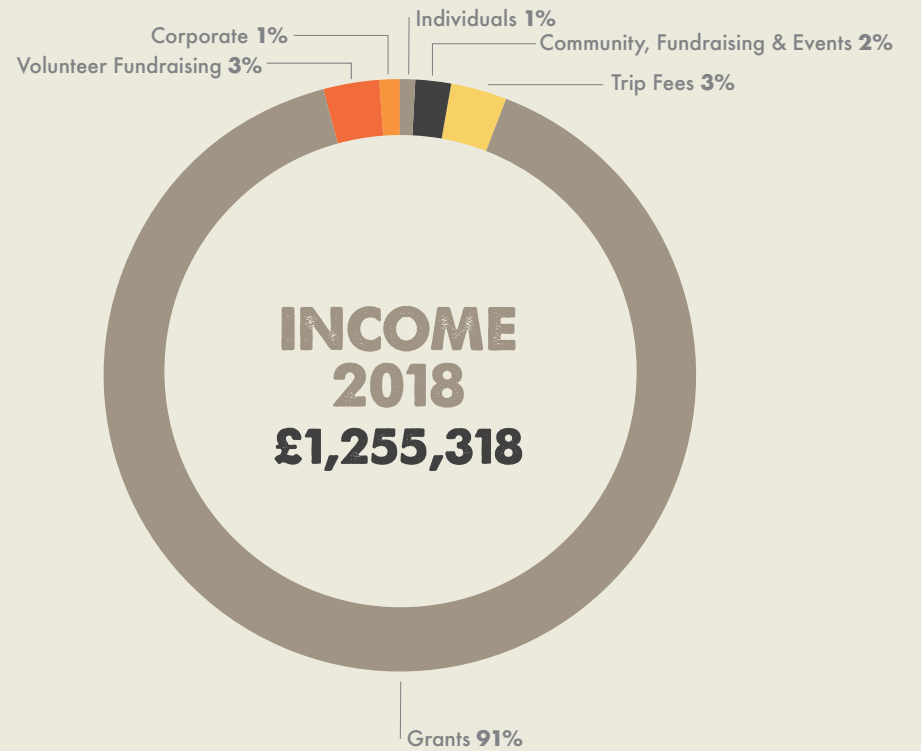
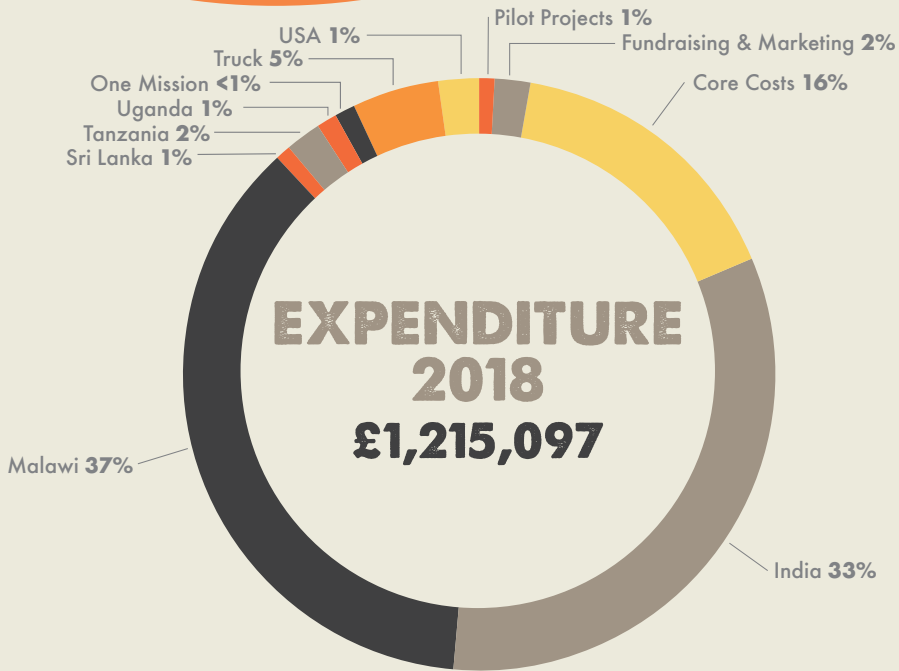
the limiting factors to static point attendance. This led to increased number of static points and an intensified education programme during the 2018 campaigns.





# FINANCES

During 2018, Mission Rabies spent **£1,215,097** enabling our projects to expand and vaccinate even more animals against this deadly disease. For every £1 donated, 82p was spent where it was needed most, eliminating rabies from the global hotspots.



# THANK YOU

Working with



- Afscan
- Blantyre SPCA
- BSAVA
- Clinician's Brief
- Daktari
- Davies Veterinary Specialists
- Department of Animal Health and Livestock Development Malawi
- Dogstar Foundation
- Government of Goa
- Government of Jharkhand
- Henry Schein Cares Foundation
- Hope and Animal Trust
- IDT
- India Project for Animals and Nature
- IVSA
- Mayhew International
- Mbwa Wa Africa Animal Rescue
- Medimark Scientific
- Ranchi Municipality Cooperation
- Star Leaf
- WSAVA Foundation







# MISSION RABIES

Mission Rabies  
4 Castle Street  
Cranborne  
Dorset  
BH21 5PZ

[www.missionrabies.com](http://www.missionrabies.com)

01725 557225

[enquiries@missionrabies.com](mailto:enquiries@missionrabies.com)

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