

GLOBAL FRAMEWORK FOR THE ELIMINATION OF DOG-MEDIATED HUMAN RABIES

Dog-mediated human rabies kills tens of thousands of people every year worldwide. Freedom from dog-mediated human rabies is a global public good and is feasible with currently available tools.

In accordance with the consensus of the Global Conference (Geneva, 10-11 December 2015), this framework provides a coordinated approach and vision for the global elimination of dog-mediated human rabies. It is intended to harmonize actions and provide adaptable, achievable guidance for country and regional strategies.

The five pillars of rabies elimination (STOP-R)

1 SOCIO-CULTURAL

Rabies control involves a wide range of stakeholders including the general public. The socio-cultural context influences rabies perceptions and dog-keeping practices of at-risk populations. Understanding the context guides approaches to motivate behavioural change and plan feasible delivery of services.

Includes activities for:

- Awareness: build awareness of dog-mediated rabies as a preventable global public health problem including through participation in initiatives such as World Rabies Day and the EndRabiesNow campaign
- Responsible dog ownership: promote responsible dog ownership and dog population management practices, including dog vaccination, in accordance with OIE standards
- Bite prevention and treatment: develop and implement education programmes on bite prevention and first aid for both children and adults
- Post-exposure prophylaxis: increase awareness and understanding of post-exposure prophylaxis (PEP) imperatives and options including intradermal administration
- Community engagement: encourage community involvement and engagement in activities to eliminate dog-mediated rabies

2 TECHNICAL

Effective animal health and public health systems are required to eliminate dog-mediated human rabies. These systems must be strengthened and resourced appropriately, and gaps identified and filled.

Includes activities for:

- Vaccination: ensure safe, efficacious and accessible dog and human vaccines and immunoglobulins, and promote and implement mass dog vaccination as the most cost-effective intervention to achieve dog-mediated human rabies elimination
- Logistics: collect data on needs forecasts to inform the vaccine procurement system and to create and sustain the logistics and infrastructure required for effective delivery and implementation of mass dog vaccination programmes and PEP administration
- Diagnostics: ensure capacity and capability for rapid and accurate rabies diagnosis through accessible, well equipped laboratories and trained personnel
- Surveillance: support improved surveillance, sampling, reporting, and data-sharing
- Technical support: provide guidance and technical support for the development and tailoring of regional and national plans, including promoting the use of existing tools
- Proof of concept: support proof-of-concept programmes, and then scale up through leveraging of success

3 ORGANIZATION

The One Health approach of close collaboration is applied. Leadership, partnership and coordination for rabies elimination activities arise from the human health and animal health sectors and other stakeholders.

Includes activities for:

- One Health: promote the One Health approach and intersectoral coordination through national and regional networks
- Good governance: establish good governance, including clear roles, chain of command, measurable outcomes and timelines
- Harmonization: align work plans and activities with national and regional priorities and approaches fostering synergies among sectors
- Coordination: coordinate and combine human resources, logistics and infrastructure of other programmes and initiatives, as appropriate and feasible
- Indicators and performance: identify targets and their indicators to support performance measurement, including surveillance and validation data, to identify areas requiring attention or extra support
- Monitoring and evaluation: support monitoring and evaluation of national plans to ensure timely and cost effective delivery

4 POLITICAL

Success depends on political will and support for elimination of dog-mediated human rabies. Political will results from recognition of rabies elimination as a national, regional and global public good.

Includes activities for:

- Political support: political support is essential and most relevant during and following country instability (political upheaval, natural disasters, etc.)
- International support: encourage countries to request a resolution on dog-mediated human rabies elimination through the World Health Assembly (WHO) and the General Assembly of Delegates (OIE)
- Legal frameworks: establish and enforce appropriate legal frameworks for rabies notification and elimination
- Demonstrating impacts: demonstrate the compelling case for mass dog vaccination programmes and their impact on protecting and saving human lives
- Regional engagement: support active national and regional engagement and cooperation to commit to a rabies elimination programme and promote the exchange of lessons learnt and experiences to leverage resources and engagement

5 RESOURCES

Rabies elimination activities frequently span several years and therefore require sustained, long-term support.

Includes activities for:

- Case for investment: promote the case for investment in dog-mediated human rabies elimination to persuade countries, policy makers and donors of the feasibility, merit and value of investing in rabies elimination strategies
- Business plans: prepare business plans based on the Global Framework for Dog-mediated Human Rabies Elimination
- Investment: encourage different forms of investment and partnerships (private and public investment) to leverage resources and engagement

CRITICAL SUCCESS FACTORS

- ③ Long-term political and social commitment
- ③ Community engagement
- ③ Sustainable vaccination of 70% of the at-risk dog population
- ③ Proof of concept: start small, scale up
- ③ Sufficient resources, logistics and infrastructure
- ③ Promote vaccine banks and other strategies for acquisition of rabies immunologicals to ensure sufficient supply of quality-assured rabies vaccines and human immunoglobulin
- ③ Reach remote, rural and at-risk populations
- ③ Conduct performance measurement at all levels
- ③ Maintain trained and motivated implementation personnel

STRATEGIC VISION: zero human deaths from dog-mediated rabies by 2030 in participating countries