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A NEGLECTED ZOOONOTIC DISEASE: DOG-MEDIATED RABIES ELIMINATING HUMAN DEATHS BY 2030

Rabies is a preventable and fatal viral disease that kills an estimated 59 000 people every year. The virus is transmitted to people and other animals from exposure to the saliva of infected animals through bites and scratches. Most deaths occur in children in poor and rural communities living in Asia and Africa, where awareness

about the disease and access to human and dog vaccines is limited.

Over 99 percent of human deaths are caused by exposure to dogs that are infected with the rabies virus, despite the existence of safe, effective, and affordable dog rabies vaccines.

Rabies virus also kills livestock, which causes households to lose im-

portant food sources as well as assets for farming and transportation. When rabies is present, communities can be disrupted by the menace of rabid animals, which can keep farmers from tending their fields, traders from taking their goods to markets, and children from going to school.

WHAT ARE THE CHALLENGES?

Rabies is a Neglected Zoonotic Disease, and while countries almost always identify rabies as a top priority, political commitment and funding for control of rabies remains insufficient. Inadequate awareness of the disease and its transmission, in addition to limited access to vaccines impede control efforts. As a result, dog-mediated rabies is still present in over 150 countries, and its true burden is much higher than what is reported as many cases are not recognized or recorded. This underreporting of rabies cases in animals and humans remains the main

reason for the lack of reliable data on the number of rabies cases and their impact on communities and society as a whole.

In 2015, the world called for action by setting a goal of zero human deaths from dog-mediated rabies by 2030 (Zero by 30).

HOW FAO AND KEY PARTNERS ARE RESPONDING

FAO has partnered with the World Health Organization (WHO), the World Organisation for Animal Health (OIE), and

KEY FACTS

DOG-MEDIATED RABIES

RABIES CAUSES AN ESTIMATED 59 000 DEATHS IN PEOPLE EVERY YEAR, YET IT IS PREVENTABLE THROUGH DOG VACCINATIONS

RABIES ALSO KILLS LIVESTOCK, CAUSING THE LOSS OF IMPORTANT FOOD SOURCES AS WELL AS ANIMALS USED FOR FARMING AND TRANSPORTATION

IN 2015, A GOAL WAS SET TO END HUMAN DEATHS FROM DOG-MEDIATED RABIES BY 2030

FAO IS PARTNERING WITH THE WHO, OIE, AND GARC TO FORM THE UNITED AGAINST RABIES COLLABORATION THAT WILL SUPPORT COUNTRIES TO REACH THE GOAL OF ZERO HUMAN DEATHS BY 2030

FAO IS SUPPORTING COUNTRIES THROUGH THE DEVELOPMENT OF TOOLS SUCH AS THE STEPWISE APPROACH FOR RABIES ELIMINATION AND CAPACITY DEVELOPMENT FOR LABORATORY AND FIELD WORKERS

DOG-MEDIATED RABIES

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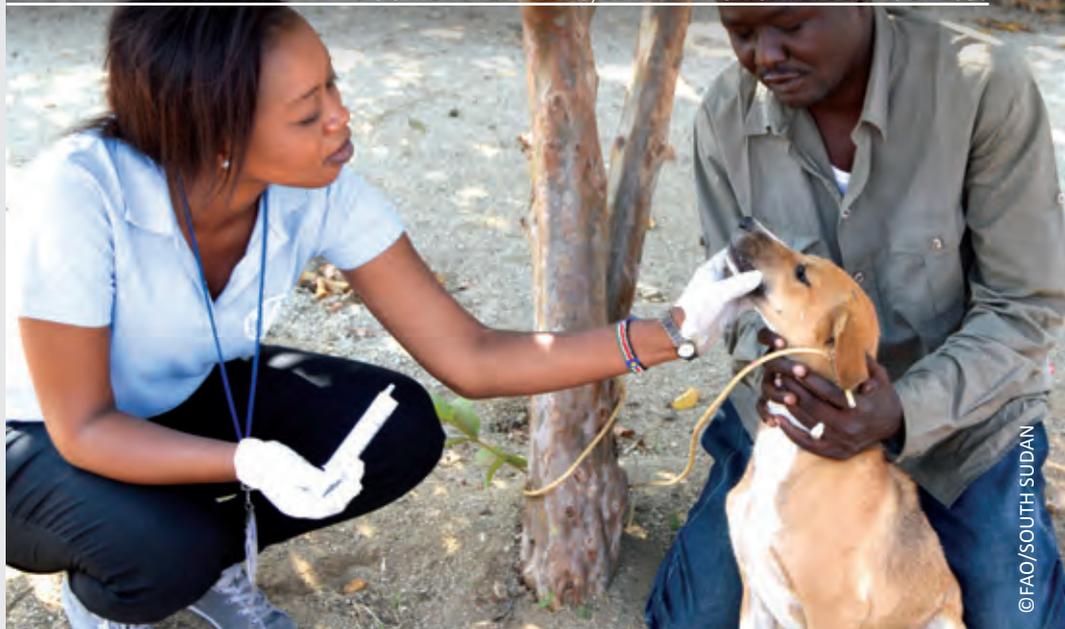
Animal Health Officer (Veterinary Public Health)

WEBSITES

<http://www.fao.org/news/story/en/item/1040394/icode/>

<http://www.fao.org/food-chain-crisis>

A NEGLECTED ZONOTIC DISEASE:
DOG-MEDIATED RABIES, ELIMINATING HUMAN DEATHS BY 2030



the Global Alliance for Rabies Control (GARC) to form “*United Against Rabies*”, a collaboration to end human deaths from dog-mediated rabies by 2030. The United Against Rabies collaboration will leverage existing tools and expertise in a coordinated way to empower, engage, and enable countries to save human and animal lives from this fully preventable disease. Efforts will focus on three objectives: 1) to effectively use vaccines, medicines, tools and technologies, 2) to generate, innovate, and measure impact, and 3) to sustain commitment and resources.

Moreover, FAO contributed to the development of the *Stepwise Approach for Rabies Elimination* (SARE) tool, which is a practical planning, monitoring, and evaluation tool to guide, develop, and refine national rabies control programs. The risk management tool outlines achievable step-by-step guidance to make controlling dog mediated rabies easier for countries. The tool is being used in many countries and will be used in the United Against Rabies collaboration to support countries in reaching the goal of Zero by 2030.

FAO is also supporting countries to develop and implement control programs for rabies. FAO provides a variety of expertise on the development of communications

and education materials, vaccination and dog population management strategies, integrated dog-bite case management, and trainings for field teams capturing and vaccinating free-ranging dogs. FAO is also supporting countries to strengthen their disease surveillance and control systems by providing laboratory diagnostic training, proficiency testing programs, and by organizing stakeholder consultations for SARE implementation.

Since the establishment of World Rabies Day in 2007, FAO has actively contributed to the commemoration of this day at the global, regional, national, and local levels, by raising awareness on the rabies issue. World Rabies Day plays an important role in advocating for the prevention and control of this disease among leaders and policymakers; especially in countries where rabies is still neglected despite the severe impact it has on human health and wellbeing.

WAY FORWARD

A coordinated One Health effort is needed to ensure zero human deaths from dog-mediated rabies by 2030, and FAO, as part of United Against Rabies, will continue to collaborate with countries and communities to reach this goal.