Progress in Rabies Control Strategies from WHO Perspective

WHO Regional Offices for South–East Asia and Western Pacific
WHO Roles and Responsibilities

- WHO has been engaged in rabies prevention and control since its establishment
  - Normative functions
  - Advocacy
  - Capacity building
  - Technology transfer

- Regional rabies control project in eighties in Asia

- Rabies elimination was discussed during 67th World Health Assembly in May 2013
The era of nervous tissue vaccination will be over soon in Asia!

- China (1990)
- Thailand (1992)
- Sri Lanka (1995)
- Indonesia (1996)
- The Philippines (1997)
- Lao PDR (2005)
- Cambodia (2005)
- India (2005)
- Nepal (2006)
- Vietnam (2007)
- Bangladesh (2011)
- Myanmar (2012)
- Pakistan (!)
- Mongolia (!)

Economic PEP using the intradermal route: a viable alternative for change in vaccine type delivered by the public sector in these countries.
Opportunities

• Increased **awareness** at policy, professional and public levels

• Commitment of ASEAN and SAARC communities to eliminate human rabies by 2020!

• Involvement of **Regional organizations and international partners** in dog rabies control and dog population management

• Role model for operationalization of the ‘**One Health**’
Advocacy for policy decision is a key!

- Advocacy for a comprehensive rabies elimination programme at country level
- Advocacy for social responsibility of the animal health sector for dog rabies control
- Appreciation of role of medical and veterinary colleges and local governments in rabies prevention and control
- Resource mobilization and community participation
- Advocate Corporate Social Responsibility for rabies elimination
Projected costs of rabies control

Intersectoral: the most effective strategy!
- Control in domestic dogs
- Improved rabies surveillance for targeted control
- Improved access to effective post-exposure prophylaxis
- Awareness and education about rabies transmission and prevention

- "Rabies day" dog vaccination + PEP
- PEP alone without dog vaccination
- Current expenditure on PEP
Regional Initiatives for Rabies Control

- ASEAN+3 call for action to eliminate rabies by 2020
- OIE came up with the STANDZ Project to support rabies control activities in ASEAN countries
- SAARC Technical Meeting held in Colombo in March 2012 recommended Sri Lanka to be a coordinator for SAARC Rabies Elimination Project
- SAARC Health Minister’s Meeting held in April 2012 considered rabies elimination as a regional public good
- SAARC Rabies Meeting will be held in Dhaka from 12-14 August 2013 which will be supported by FAO/OIE/WHO
Regional Strategic Framework for Elimination of Human Rabies transmitted by Dogs

- **Goal**
- **To eliminate human rabies in endemic countries**
- **To verify and maintain freedom in rabies free areas**

http://www.searo.who.int/entity/emerging_diseases/links/Zoonoses_SFEHRTD-SEAR.pdf
Strategic Approaches

- **Prevention**: Improve understanding of rabies through advocacy, awareness, education and operational research
  - Responsible dog ownership
  - Bite wound washing at community level

- **Promotion**: Introduce cost-effective public health intervention techniques
  - Intradermal rabies vaccination
  - dRIT to strengthen diagnostic capacity

- **Partnership**: Provide coordinated support for anti-rabies drive
  - Use expertise and networking of WHO Collaborating Centers
  - Corporate social responsibility
International partnership

• WHO: Strategic Framework for Elimination of Human Rabies transmitted by Dogs in the South East Asia Region

• OIE: Availability of dog rabies vaccines under the regional vaccine bank

• FAO: Proposed Progressive Control Pathway towards rabies elimination

• GARC, WSPA, HSI, VBB and other INGOs – Humane way of dog population management
Rabies is the first priority of an Interagency (FAO/OIE/WHO) plan for prevention and control of Neglected Zoonotic Diseases elaborated in July 2011.
## Vision of the world of rabies by 2020

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<th>Objective</th>
<th>2015</th>
<th>2020</th>
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<td>Reduce the burden of human dog mediated rabies</td>
<td><strong>In western Europe:</strong> Freedom from carnivore rabies maintained</td>
<td><strong>Western Europe remains free of terrestrial rabies</strong></td>
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<td><strong>In Latin America:</strong> Human and dog rabies eliminated</td>
<td><strong>Human and dog rabies free status maintained and incidence of human bat-mediated rabies reduced in Latin America</strong></td>
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<td><strong>In WHO South-East Asia and Western Pacific regions:</strong> Coordinated regional programmes established</td>
<td><strong>Human rabies eliminated in the SEA Region and endemic countries of WP Region and sustainability ensured</strong></td>
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Country level partnership

- Support World Rabies Day activities in Member States

- Country level activities have been coordinated with partners;

- Collaboration with FAO and other partners in Bangladesh, Indonesia, Sri Lanka and Timor Leste

- Capacity building for introduction of cost-effective intradermal rabies vaccination in Bangladesh, Bhutan, Indonesia, Myanmar and Pakistan
Gates Foundation/WHO rabies initiative

To demonstrate in today's context in selected areas of Asia and Africa:

– The feasibility and sustainability of human rabies elimination through dog rabies elimination in 5 years

– The cost-effectiveness of dog rabies elimination through reduced number of PEP following dog rabies control and elimination

– To demonstrate the validity of a "paradigm shift in dealing with human-dog mediated rabies" in Africa and Asia

– The project aims to catalyse similar initiatives for the control and elimination of rabies in Africa and Asia within the next decade
Visayas group of islands covering 25% of the total number of animal rabies cases, 28% of the total human rabies and 27% of the animal bites in the entire country.

The project will serve almost 19% of the country’s human population (with 17 million inhabitants in the area) and an estimated 2 million dogs.
Human rabies cases, Visayas Regions

Data in 2012 is used the data as of October 2012.

Source: WHO Western Pacific Region

Data in 2012 is used the data as of October 2012.
Impact of mass dog vaccination in human rabies incidence, 1970-2010, Sri Lanka

Public Health Veterinary Services, MoH Sri Lanka
Progressive rabies control in Bangladesh

Introduced intradermal rabies vaccination in 2010

Phased out production and use of nerve tissue vaccine in September 2011

A pilot project on rabies control was launched in Cox’s Bazaar

A comprehensive rabies control programme was developed

Mass dog vaccination in 37 municipalities with the involvement of Ministry of Local Development, HSI, WSPA and others
Step forward

- Advocacy for involvement of animal health sector in rabies elimination
- More coordinated approach at country level to support capacity building
- Use tripartite coordination mechanism at regional level
- Promote international partnership to support regional initiatives
We are not alone!