

Rabies: Vaccinate to Eliminate

Moving towards rabies elimination together

Gyanendra Gongal
FAO/OIE/WHO
gongalg@who.int

INTRODUCTION

- Rabies elimination is a **global public good** as thousands of people are still dying due to this **vaccine preventable disease** mostly in Africa and Asia
- **Success stories** have been generated for model dog rabies vaccination in several Asian countries
- **National Guidelines on human rabies prophylaxis** have been revised by Asian countries as per new WHO recommendations
- Integrated bite case management is a new initiative to promote **joint investigation of animal bite** in order to make **rational decision on post-exposure prophylaxis**
- WHO facilitated **technology transfer** to Indian pharmaceutical companies for **commercial production of monoclonal antibody** for passive rabies immunization
- Tripartite group supported **World Rabies Day event** at country level
- Quality vaccines are available through **WHO-pre-qualification mechanism** and **OIE rabies vaccine bank**



ASEAN RABIES MEETING, DECEMBER 2018, HANOI (VIETNAM)

Key issues

- Poor dog vaccination coverage
- Inadequate human and animal vaccines
- Cross-border rabies transmission

Key recommendations

- Develop National Action Plan for Rabies elimination in line with ARES
- Enhance mass dog vaccination
- Vaccine stockpiling
- ARES (ASEAN Rabies Elimination Strategy) – targets and strategies to be aligned with “Zero-by-30”



**Workshop on Enhancing Progress Towards
Rabies Elimination 'Zero by 30'
in the SAARC Region**

26-28 June 2019
Radisson Hotel, Kathmandu, Nepal



**WORKSHOP ON ENHANCING PROGRESS
TOWARDS RABIES ELIMINATION 'ZERO BY
30' IN THE SAARC REGION, JUNE 2019,
KATHMANDU (NEPAL)**

Key issues

- Availability of **high quality dog rabies vaccines** is critical factor for successful dog rabies control
- The cost and availability of **WHO pre-qualified human rabies vaccine**
- Expansion of **rabies diagnostic laboratory network** and **introduction of integrated bite case management (IBCM)** - appropriate decisions on PEP and rational use of human rabies vaccines

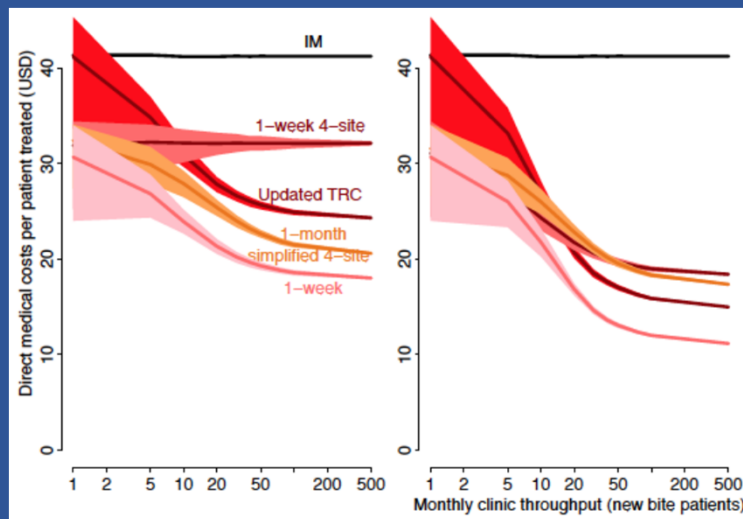
Key recommendations

- Make rabies **notifiable by 2020**
- Finalize and endorse **National Action Plan for rabies elimination**
- **Scale up mass dog vaccination** in a strategic and phased manner to achieve 70% vaccination coverage
- Establish and/or utilize **One Health coordination mechanism**

MODELLING COST-EFFECTIVENESS OF HUMAN VACCINATION REGIMENS

0.5 ml vials

1.0 ml vials

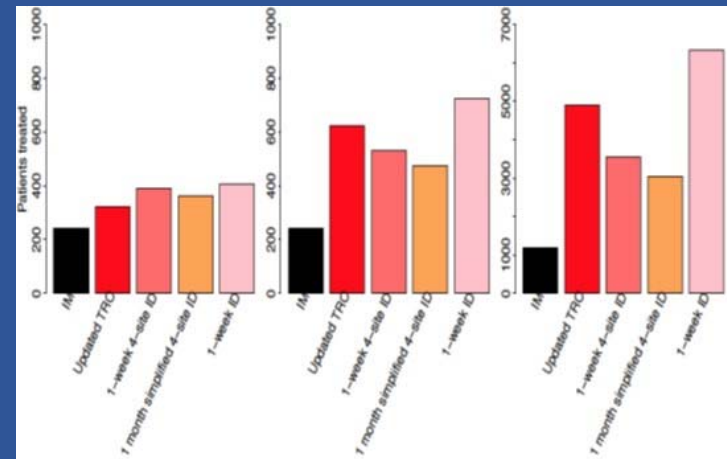


Direct medical costs per rabies death averted for selected ID regimens

250 vials available

1000 vials available

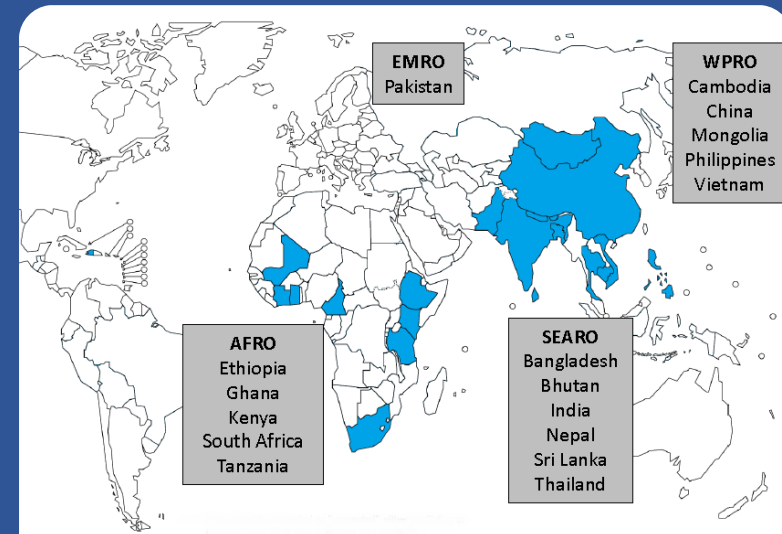
3000 vials available



Additional number of patients treated under different, selected regimens, given limited vaccine availability

Making rabies elimination as an investment case (GAVI Learning Agenda)

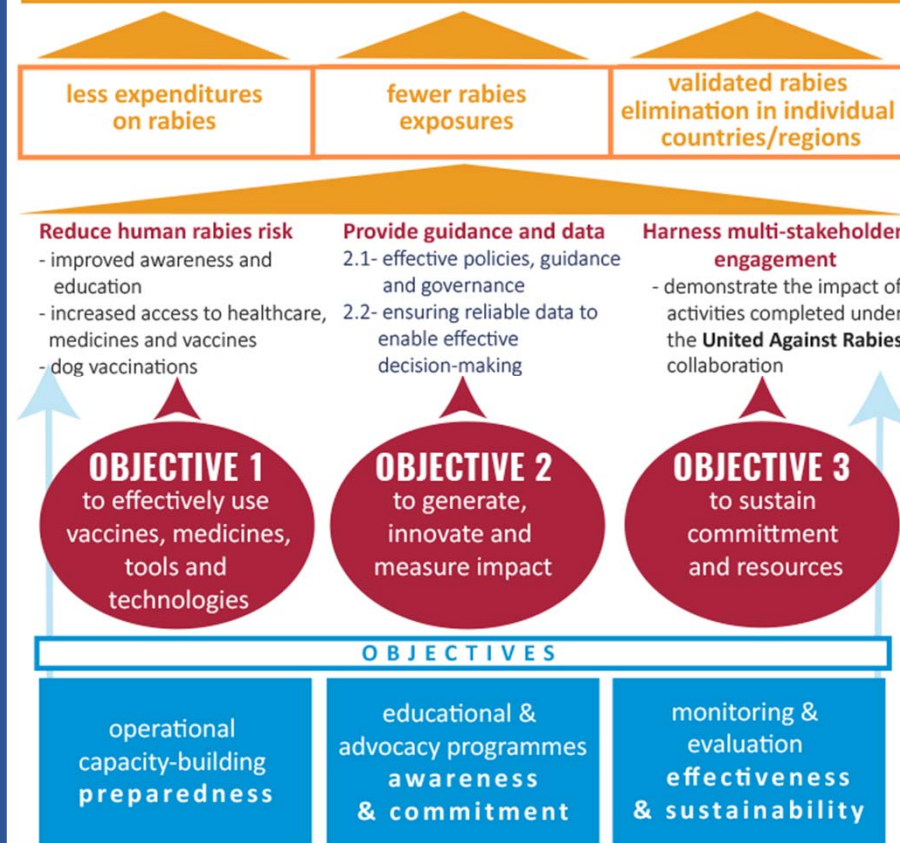
- Situation analysis of availability, accessibility and affordability of human rabies vaccine in SAARC countries – Trigger point for **GAVI decision** ('VIS' 2018)
- Voice of rabies endemic countries in “GAVI Learning Agenda Meeting” in Kathmandu in 2018
- **GAVI** will include **human rabies vaccine** by 2021



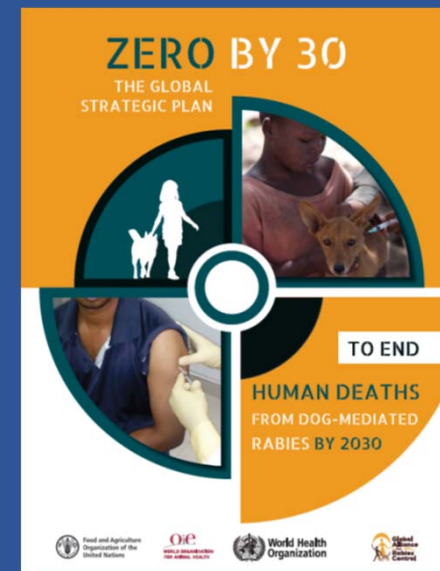
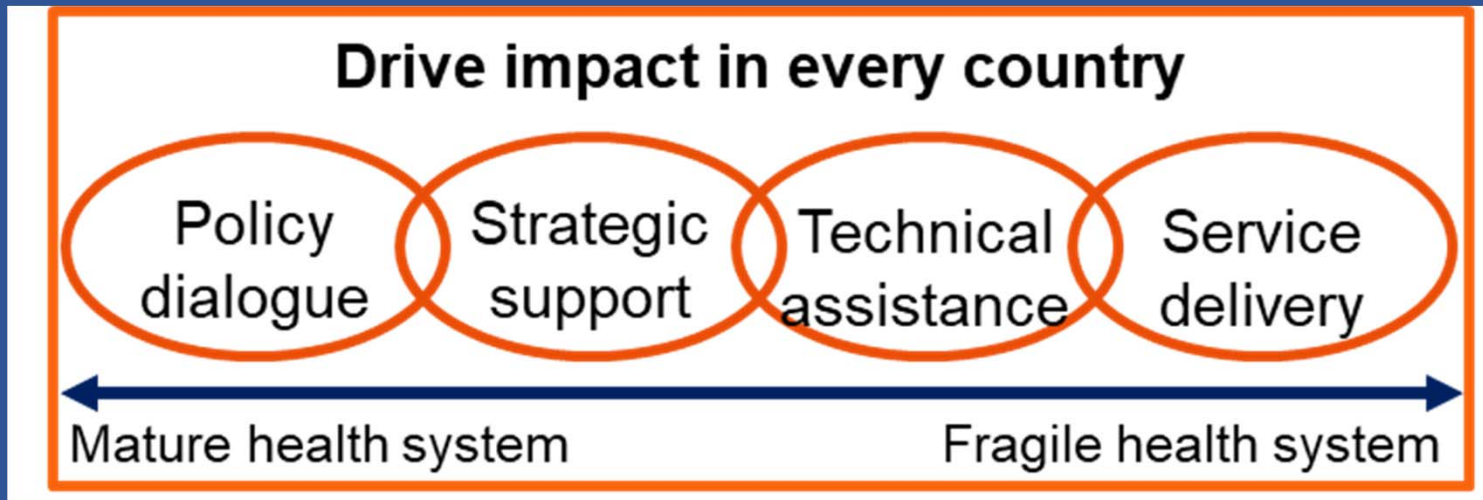
GLOBAL STRATEGIC PLAN

- The rationale for the global strategic plan is to build on lessons learned, to align country and regional successes into a global strategy with a common goal of eliminating dog-mediated human rabies by 2030
- Designed to reduce human rabies risk through policy advocacy, awareness and education, rational use of human biologicals, dog vaccination using **One Health approach**

ZERO HUMAN DEATHS FROM DOG-MEDIATED RABIES BY 2030



WORKING TOGETHER FOR RABIES ELIMINATION: EXPECTATIONS



The **UNITED AGAINST RABIES** collaboration

Rabies vaccine and serum related issues of country concern

- High cost of human rabies vaccine
- Falsified rabies vaccines in market
- Shortage of WHO pre-qualified human rabies vaccine
- Unavailability or shortage of rabies immunoglobulin
- Post-bite vaccination of livestock against OIE/WHO recommendation
- Funding for mass dog vaccination
- High out-of-pocket expenditure for repeated dog rabies vaccination



Tripartite Partnership in Asia

- FAO-OIE-WHO Regional Tripartite Secretariat being established
 - Rabies is one of the priority areas
- Jointly supporting regional meetings
 - ASEAN-Tripartite rabies meeting
 - SARRC-Tripartite rabies meeting
 - Tripartite One Health platform
- Tripartite **rapid risk assessment and preparedness** ~~cross-border mission~~
- World Rabies Day
 - Joint letter to encourage participation
 - Joint webinar

FAO Regional Office
for Asia and the Pacific

OIE Regional
Representation for
Asia and the Pacific
and Sub-Regional
Representation for
South East Asia

WHO Regional Office
for South-East Asia

WHO Regional Office
for Western Pacific



KEY MESSAGES

- Finalize and endorse **National Action Plan for rabies elimination** with the involvement of **national stakeholders** in alignment with existing **policy and strategy**
- Make **rabies a notifiable disease** in both sectors
- **Proper funding of mass dog vaccination** with a **robust rabies surveillance system** will be instrumental to ensure cost-effectiveness and sustainability of rabies elimination mission
- **Paradigm shift** in investment policy, i.e. Animal Birth Control and animal PEP to **mass dog vaccination**
- **Scale up mass dog vaccination** using high quality vaccines in a strategic and phased manner **including introduction of oral dog rabies vaccine** to achieve **at least 70%** dog vaccination coverage
- **Conduct operational research** to better understand **dog ecology, human behavior and social perception**