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# Revision of ASEAN Rabies Elimination Strategy

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**ASEAN-WOAH Webinar on  
'Advancing Rabies Control: ASEAN Collaboration for World Rabies Day  
2023'**

29 September 2023, 8.30 am (UTC +7)

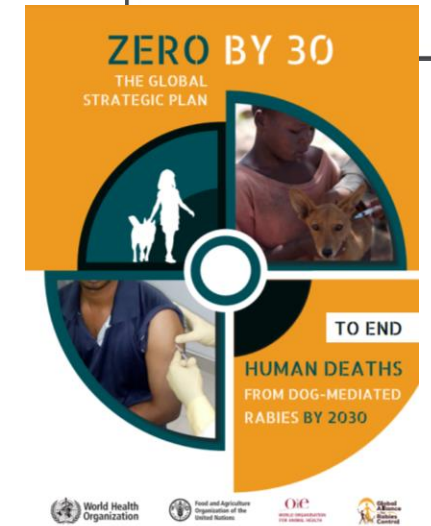
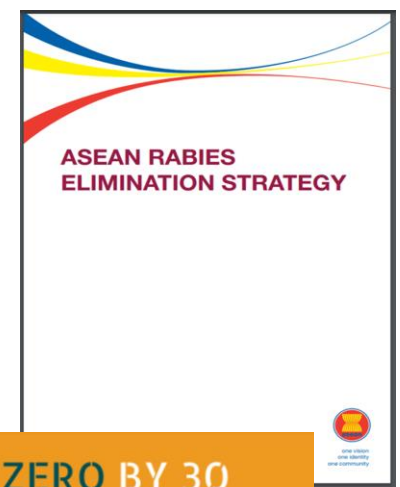
# Outline

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- Background
- Report of the ASEAN ARES Meeting
- Revised ARES
- ASEAN Rabies Coordination Group
- Progress
- Way forward

# Background

- The ASEAN Rabies Elimination Strategy was first established in 2014 with the goal of eliminating rabies by 2020
- Despite considerable progress, rabies remains a significant public health issue in the ASEAN region
- New global initiatives like Zero by 30: global strategic plan to end human deaths from dog-mediated rabies by 2030 and UAR Forum
- The process of revision of the strategy has received official endorsement from the ASWGL and the ASEAN Health Cluster II
- The Nossal Institute for Global Health, contracted by WOAHA, is actively involved in providing technical assistance for the revision process of ARES.
- The ARES Working Group (WG), consisting of representatives AMS, ASEC, WHO, FAO, and other key stakeholders, is working closely with the Nossal Institute to ensure a collaborative and inclusive approach to the ARES revision.



# ASEAN Rabies Consultation Meeting - Revision of ASEAN Rabies Elimination Strategy

**Purpose:** gather key stakeholders from AMS, ASEC, and regional partners to finalize the revised ARES

**Attendees:** Representatives from all ASEAN Member States, including focal points from Human and Animal Health sectors.

**Facilitation:** the Nossal Institute for Global Health

## **Objectives:**

1. Present the revised ARES and facilitate cross-sectoral group discussions on key sections of the strategy.
2. Discuss areas of agreement and identify topics for further consultation and revision.
3. Discuss broader issues and challenges related to rabies elimination.



May 2-4, 2023, at the Kuta Beach Heritage Hotel, Bali, Indonesia hosted by the Directorate General for Livestock and Animal Health Services of the Ministry of Agriculture, Government of Indonesia.



# Key Summary messages

- Rabies challenges are similar across ASEAN and in many countries, there are competing priorities that constrain attention on and limit the budget for rabies elimination.
- There is increasing availability of tools and resources for rabies elimination from global partners
- There is growing momentum for One Health in the region, which could provide momentum and potential support to help drive implementation of ARES.
- Agreement on goal to eliminate human deaths due to dog-mediated rabies in ASEAN by 2030, with a long-term goal to eliminate rabies in dogs and maintain region-wide freedom.
- Agreement in principle to highlight rabies elimination as a model project under the ASEAN Leaders Declaration on One Health, declared on 10<sup>th</sup> May 2023
- Agree in principle to consider the establishment an ASEAN regional coordination network for rabies elimination.



# Recommendations

## June - July 2023

- Revised ARES will be circulated in parallel to both ASEAN Sectoral Working Group on Livestock (ASWGL) and ASEAN Health Cluster 2 (AHC 2) for review and/or endorsement.
- Revised ARES will be elevated in parallel to both Senior Officials Meeting of the ASEAN Ministers on Agriculture and Forestry (SOM-AMAF) and ASEAN Senior Official Meeting on Health Development (SOMHD) for review and/or endorsement.

[Note: *Progress of consultations on Revision of ARES will be shared at 17th SOMHD in June 2023, as part of ASEAN Health Cluster 2 report*]

## August – September 2023

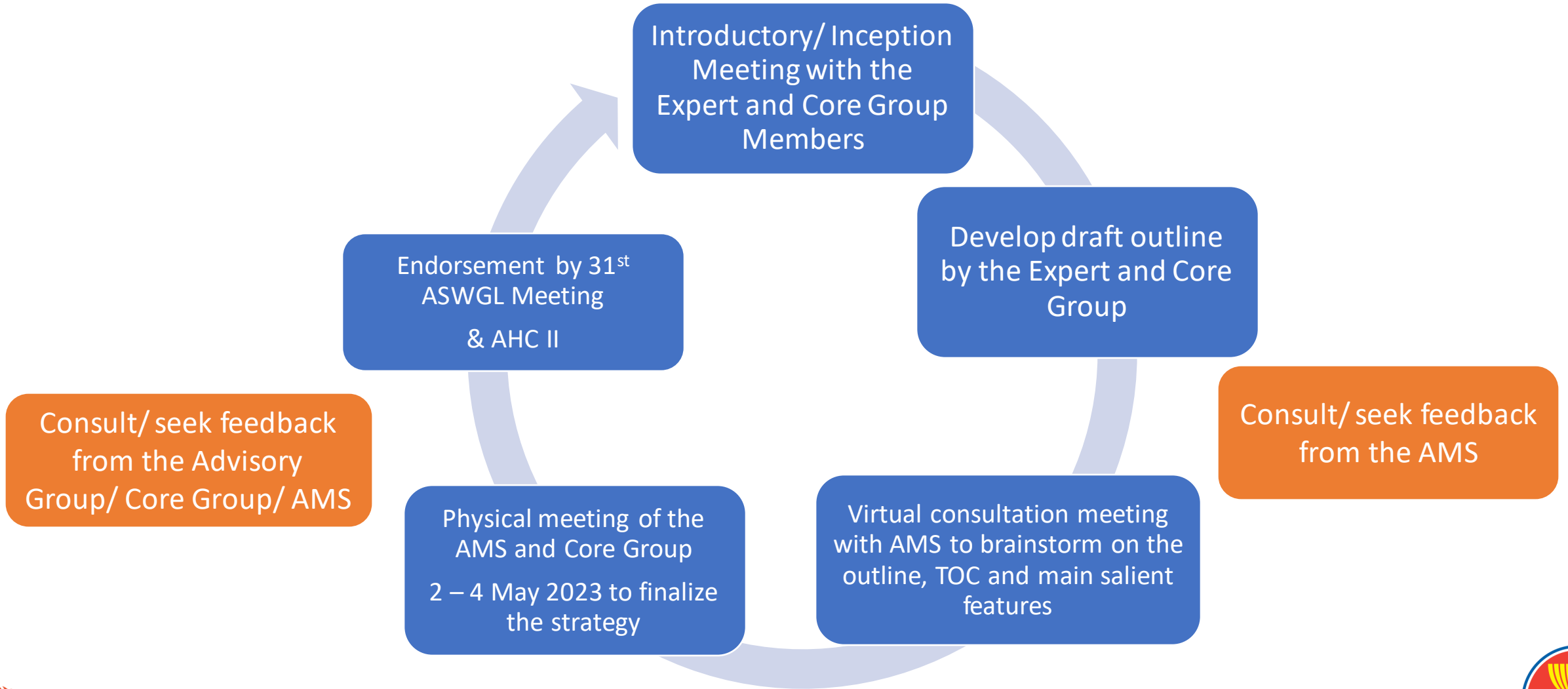
- Revised ARES will be elevated in parallel to both ASEAN Ministers on Agriculture and Forestry (AMAF) and ASEAN Health Ministers Meeting (AHMM) for adoption, through the facilitation of SOM-AMAF and SOMHD.

[Note: *Progress of consultations on Revision of ARES will be shared at 44th SOM-AMAF in August 2023, as part of ASWGL report.*]

Conduct of consultation meeting between ASWGL and AHC 2 to formulate **Revised ARES implementation plan**, including among others discussion on the establishment of ASEAN multi-sectoral coordination body on rabies.

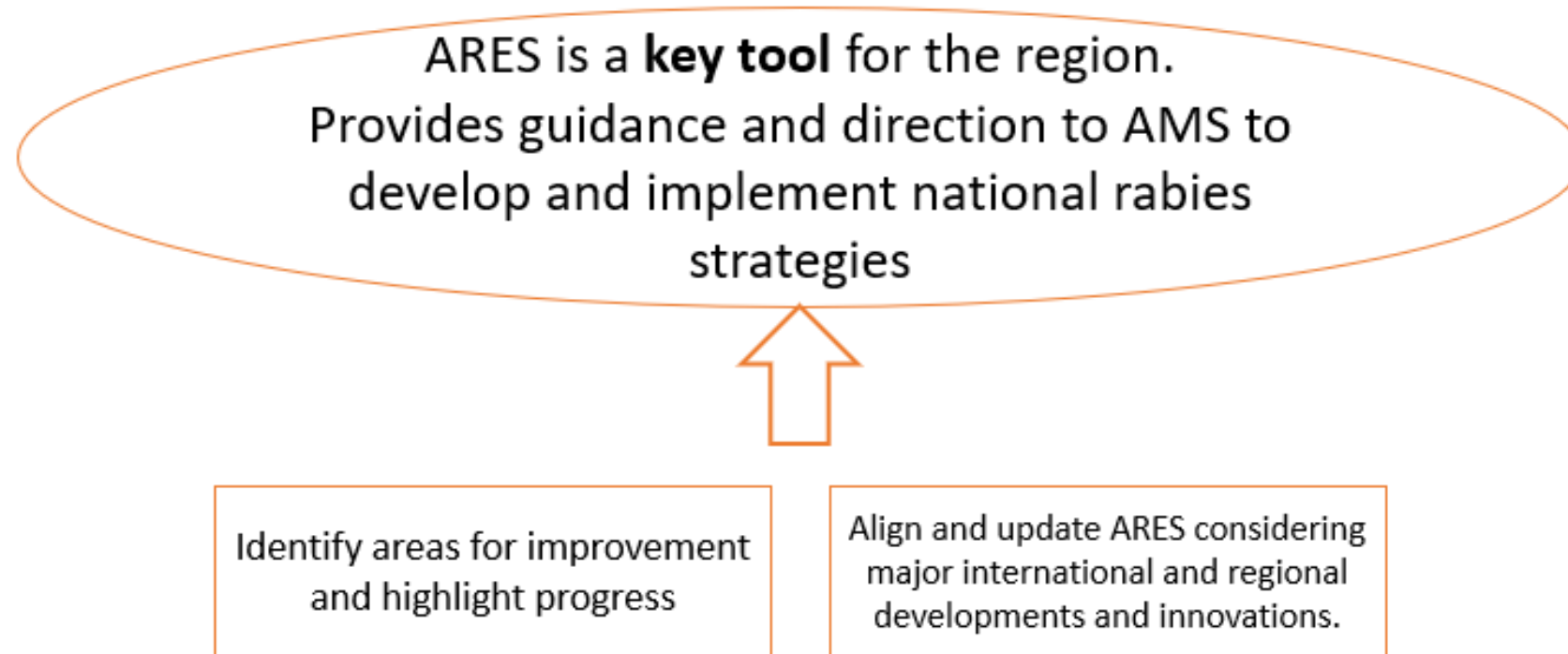


# Revision of ARES: Process



# Revision of ARES

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# Revised ARES: overview

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## Acknowledgements

## Executive Summary

## Background

- **Development of the first ARES**
- **Global rabies control and elimination activities**
- **Rabies situation in ASEAN member states**

## Rationale, goals and objectives for revised ARES

- **Rationale**
- **Guiding principles**
- **Goal**
- **Objectives**

# Revised ARES: overview

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## Framework for rabies elimination in ASEAN

- Theory of Change
- Phased approach to elimination
- Sociocultural framework
- Technical framework
- Organizational and One health framework
- Policy and legislative framework

## Implementation of the ASEAN rabies elimination strategy

- Linkages and alignment with other ASEAN initiatives
- Demonstrating elimination
- Monitoring and Evaluation
- Sectoral roles and responsibilities

## Appendix

# Revised ARES: Key updates

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An updated and more comprehensive definition of rabies elimination

Development of a Theory of Change

Updates to technical activities recommended for rabies elimination

Emphasis on the One Health approach at different levels

Emphasis on the importance of empowering communities

Specific recommendations for regional resource mobilization to support the implementation of ARES

Inclusion of an Annex with key resources

## Goal: to reduce human deaths due to dog-mediated rabies to zero in ASEAN by 2030.

### Key Principles

The importance of dog vaccination as the mainstay of rabies control and elimination

The importance of improving PEP access and uptake to prevent human deaths

The importance of engaging with and empowering communities to reduce rabies risks

Adoption of a One Health approach and recognition of the important contributions of different sectors

Improved regional collaboration and advocacy to increase and maintain momentum for rabies elimination

### Objectives:

Reiterate that rabies is a priority zoonotic health threat in AMS

Strengthen the capacities of the veterinary services and human health services to conduct surveillance activities that support rabies prevention, control and elimination.

Increase efforts and resources to eliminate rabies as a public health problem and maintain rabies-free status in rabies-free areas of ASEAN

Obtain and sustain high-level government engagement at national, provincial/state and local levels, providing an enabling political environment in support of rabies elimination initiatives that involve the community, civil society, government and non-government sectors and international partners.

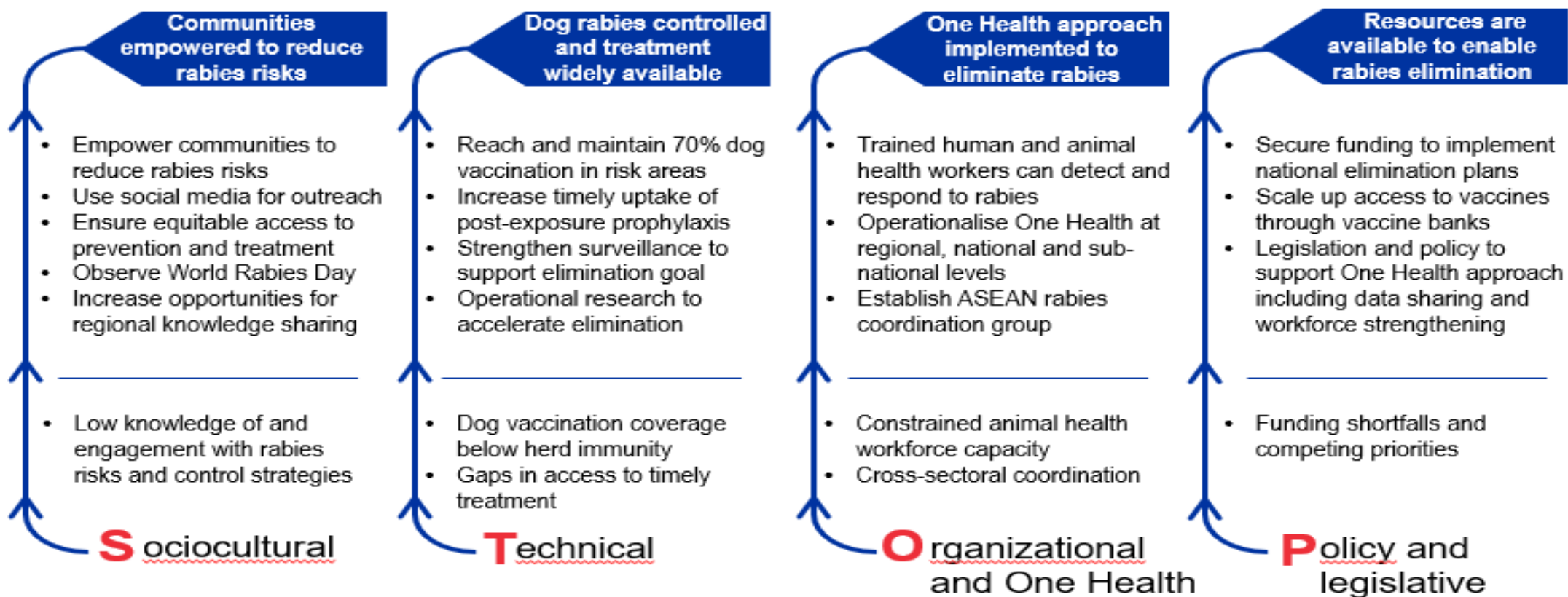
Strengthen ASEAN cooperation for rabies elimination through formation of an ASEAN rabies coordination group, with goals including knowledge sharing, data and information sharing and analysis, and advocacy to accelerate progress towards rabies elimination in all AMS.

# Theory of change: *bringing it all together*

Phased approach
Goal
Intermediate outcomes
Priority areas and actions
Challenges
Action pillar
Problem statement



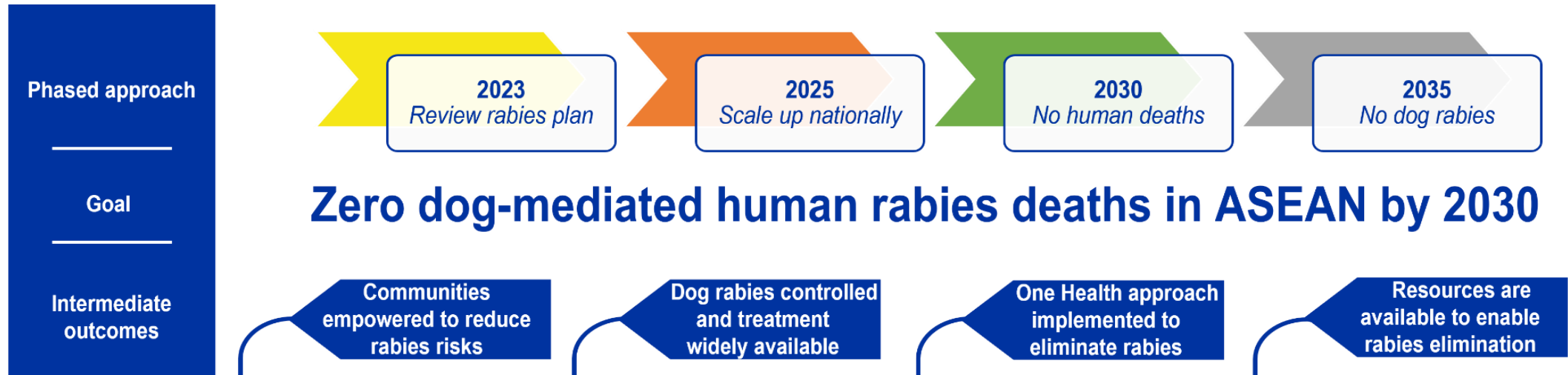
## Zero dog-mediated human rabies deaths in ASEAN by 2030



Children and adults continue to die from dog-mediated rabies in the ASEAN region. Dog-mediated rabies is 100% preventable and rabies elimination is feasible with existing tools and approaches.

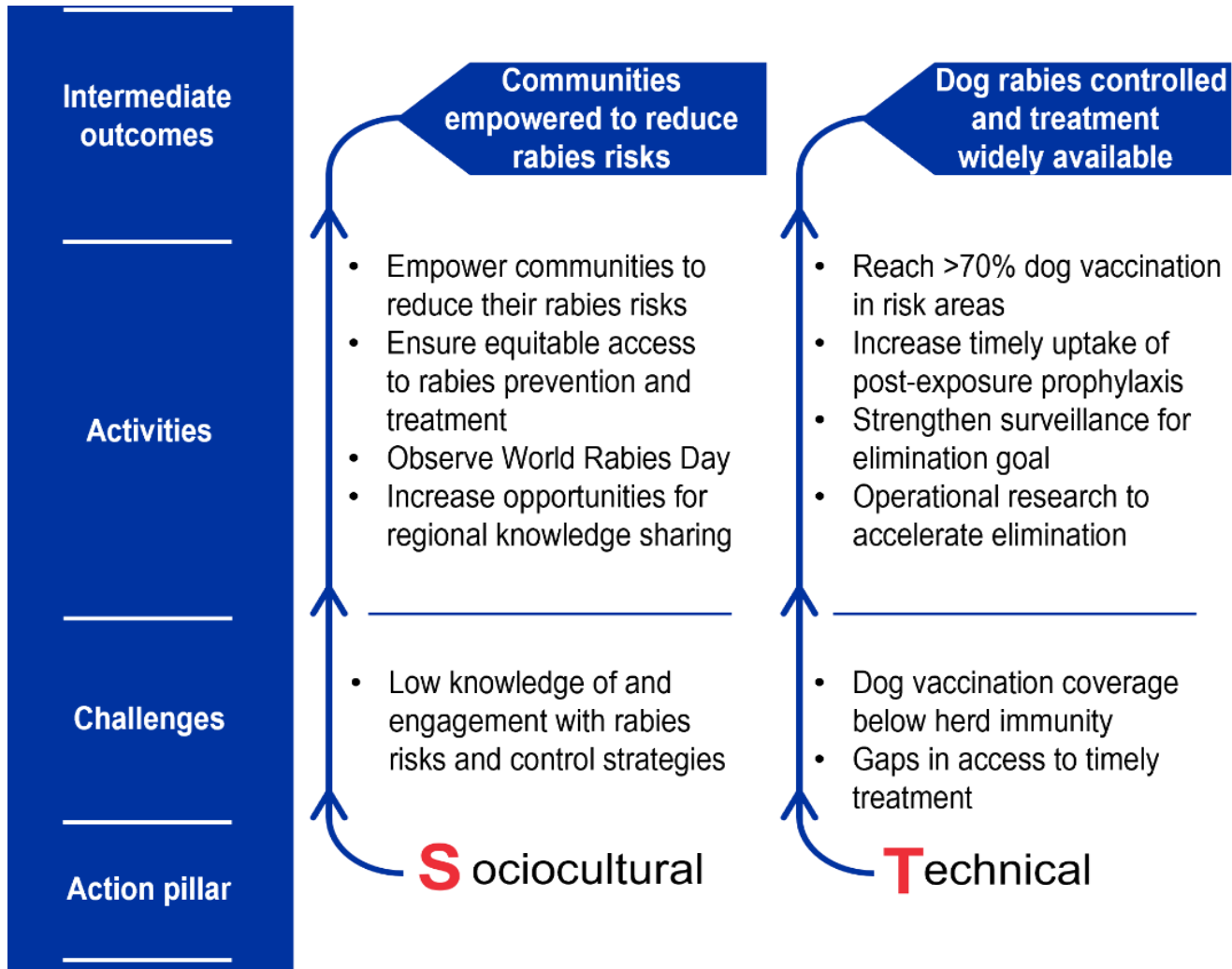


# ARES Framework



- 1) Incorporation of phased approach to reflect different situations and circumstances of AMS
- 2) Four critical outcomes that help to reach the overall goal

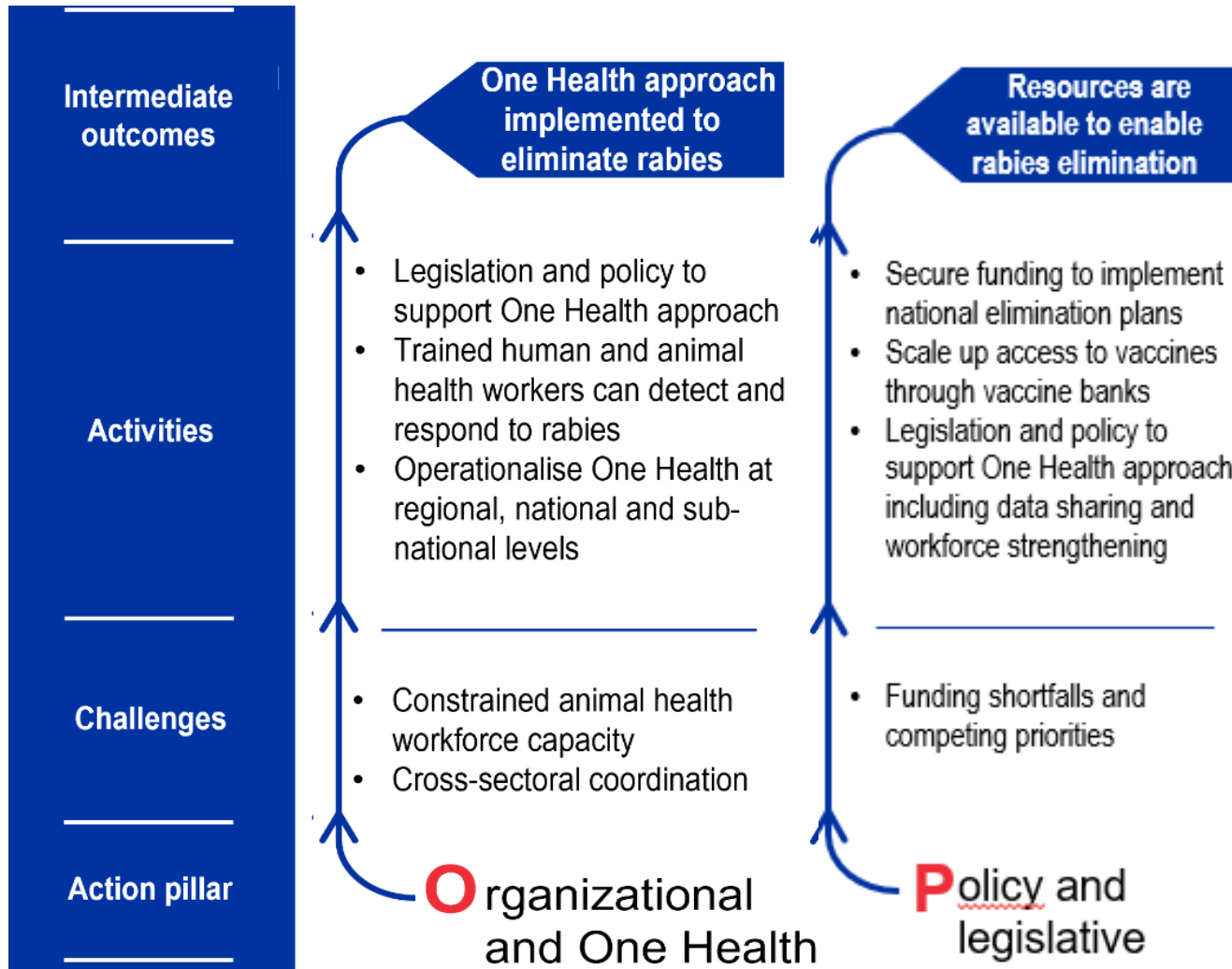
# ARES Framework



Looking at individual pillars:

- Acknowledge that some activities will contribute to more than one outcome and may also be part of more than one “pillar.”
- ToC also highlights major challenges to currently achieving these outcomes.

# ARES Framework



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- Acknowledge that some activities will contribute to more than one outcome and may also be part of more than one “pillar.”
- ToC also highlights major challenges to currently achieving these outcomes.

# Implementation of ARES

- Linkages to and alignment with other ASEAN initiatives
- Demonstrating elimination
  - Consistent with the ARES goal, AMS aim to validate that rabies has been eliminated as a public health problem by the end of 2030.
  - ASEAN Member States may work towards international recognition of rabies elimination by submitting evidence of elimination to WHO and WOA, as applicable.
- M&E - To support monitoring of progress towards elimination of dog-mediated rabies in ASEAN, it is recommended that:
  - Each AMS complete a Country Rabies Situational Profile using the template provided in the Minimum Data Elements, and share this profile via the proposed ASEAN rabies coordination group
  - AMS should work towards national-level reporting of the full set of Minimum Data Elements annually.
  - AMS share data on selected indicators at regional level
- Drafting of ARES Implementation plan is proposed

# ASEAN Rabies Coordination Group (ARCG): TOR

## Purpose:

- The primary responsibility of the ARCG will be to undertake the coordination and execution of the regional strategy, including the monitoring of its implementation progress, under the supervision of the ASEAN Health Cluster 2 and the ASEAN Sectoral Working Group for Livestock. Additionally, the ARCG will oversee the harmonization of national rabies strategies with the regional rabies elimination strategy.

## Objectives

- to draft annual action plan and monitor the progress of the implementation of ARES according to the M&E framework at the national and regional levels
- to formulate coordination mechanisms, ensure linkages and develop partnerships through multi-sectoral and multi-disciplinary platforms at the national and regional levels. This includes strengthening the engagement and collaboration with relevant stakeholders, including the private sector.
- Enhance regional rabies surveillance through the establishment of a rabies epidemiology network under the ARCG. The Rabies Epinetwork shall oversee a regional digital data platform to simplify data sharing and to support harmonization and coordination
- It shall coordinate an ASEAN rabies laboratory network to enhance rabies laboratory diagnostics capacity in the region
- to explore and promote sustainable funding mechanisms at the national and regional levels through advocacies to the policy and decision makers; and through creation of enabling environment for the investment.
- to enhance the capability of AMS to prevent and control rabies through various capacity building programmes, including human resource development at the national and regional levels.





# Progress so far

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Consultations with and endorsements by bodies of the animal and human health sectors of ASEAN:

- the endorsement of the updated ARES at the 31st ASEAN Sectoral Working Group on Livestock (ASWGL) meeting in July 2023 and
- ASEAN Health Cluster 2 on Responding to All Hazards and Emerging Threats (AHC 2) in September 2023.

# Way Forward

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- Endorsement of Revised ARES
- Establishment of ASEAN multi-sectoral coordination body on rabies or ASEAN Rabies Coordination Group and its Terms of Reference (TOR)
- Conduct of consultation meeting between ASWGL and AHC 2 to **formulate Revised ARES implementation plan**

# Thank You

