

# Asia Pacific Rabies Meeting

Bangkok, Thailand, 16-18 July 2024

## Recommendations and next steps to move forwards



TRIPARTITE COLLABORATION



Food and Agriculture  
Organization of the  
United Nations



World Health  
Organization



World Organisation  
for Animal Health  
Founded in 1924

# Key progress observed across the Region

- Action plans developed in several countries including sub-national plans
- Increasing government-led initiatives on mass dog vaccination, surveillance and DPM
- Establishment of the South Asia Rabies Laboratory Network (SA-RABNET) in enhancing collaboration among veterinary laboratories and potential expansion
- Availability of various tools to facilitate IBCM and rabies surveillance
- Expansion of pilot and programmatic introduction of oral rabies vaccination (ORV) to complement parenteral vaccination of free-roaming dogs.
- Increasing collaboration between human and animal health sectors
- Success case stories of DPM, community engagement and integration of rabies in school curriculum
- Introduction of sub-national rabies-free initiatives



# Common challenges

- Persistent lack of political commitment and resources for rabies elimination
- Sub-optimal intersectoral collaboration
- Lack of diagnostic capacity and surveillance especially at field level
- Issues with quality of human and canine vaccines
- Insufficient vaccination coverage in dogs
- Cross-border incursion and spread of rabies



# Recommendations

## For Countries

- Countries to enhance **national coordination** on rabies control through designation of a **national lead agency for rabies control and identify focal points in both sectors**
- **Innovate advocacy** to keep momentum and sustain political commitment for resources for rabies elimination
- Ensure availability of **updated, costed and endorsed NSP**
- **Ensure functional intersectoral collaboration for rabies elimination using one health approach including stakeholder and community engagement**
- **Strengthen rabies surveillance at all levels including diagnostic and laboratory capacity**
- Ensure **use of quality human and animal vaccines and biologicals**
- **Strengthen cross-border collaboration and coordination** to prevent incursion, establishment and spread of rabies through movement of dogs
- **Explore the use of oral rabies vaccination (ORV) as a tool to complement parenteral vaccination of free-roaming dogs depending on disease epidemiology**



# Recommendations

## For Tripartite and Partners

- Support the development and implementation of **costed national multisectoral strategic plans**
- Support **capacity building** in countries on rabies diagnosis and case management, surveillance, mass dog vaccination, and dog population management
- Promote cost effective **intra-dermal human rabies** vaccination to ensure affordability, availability and accessibility to PEP.
- Support expansion of SA-RABNET to ASEAN, public health laboratories and also to epi data sharing.
- Support intersectoral and **cross-border coordination** and collaboration at bilateral/sub-regional/regional level to address risks of rabies transmission through movement of dogs.
- Support countries to **assess vaccine quality** and **access quality rabies vaccines**
- Continue to organise **regional and sub-regional rabies workshops** to keep the momentum for zero by 30 goal.
- Involve UNEP and environmental sector more actively as Quadripartite collaboration





Food and Agriculture  
Organization of the  
United Nations



World Health  
Organization



World Organisation  
for Animal Health  
Founded in 1924