



Country updates: Timor-Leste

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**ASEAN Rabies Consultation Meeting
Development of ARES Implementation Plan**

Rabies situation – Animal Health (Year 2023-present)

Distribution of reported animal rabies cases and rabies-associated human deaths

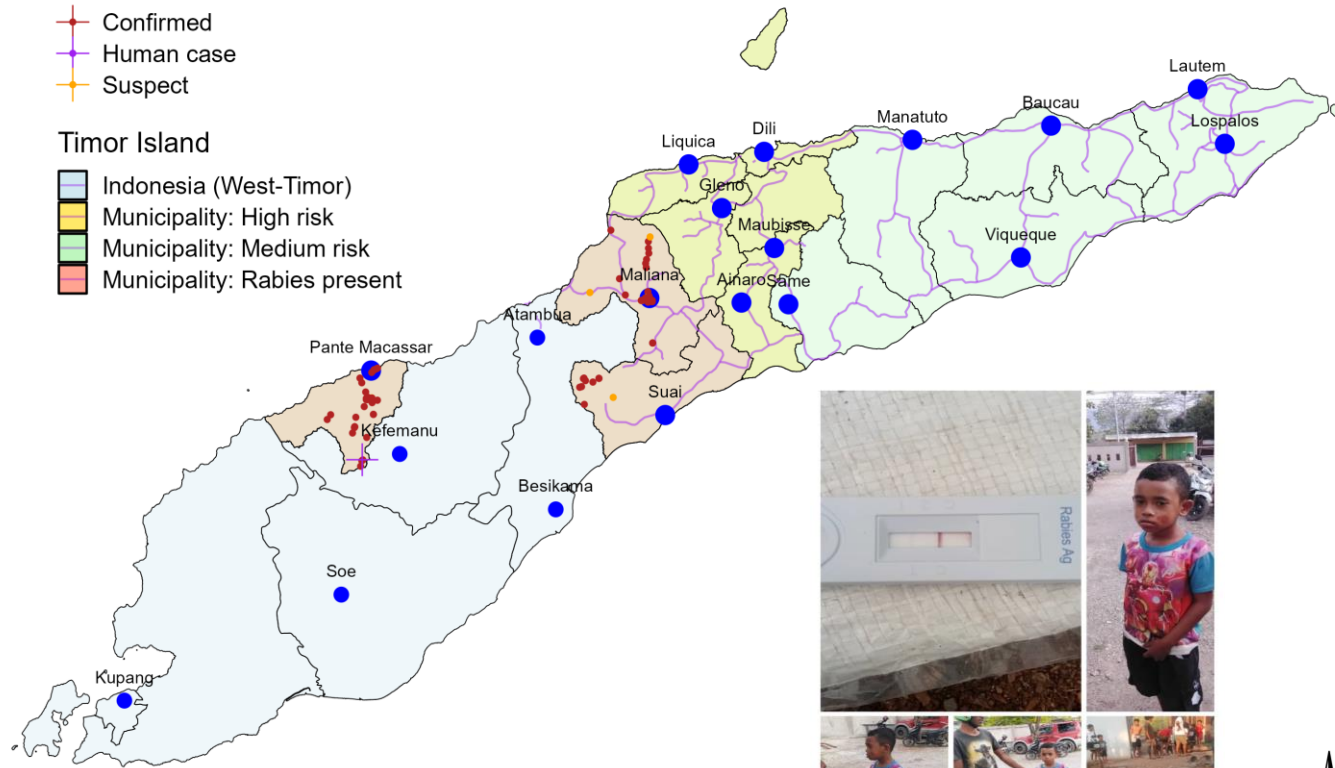
Timor-Leste (2024-2025 YTD)

Cases

- + Confirmed
- + Human case
- + Suspect

Timor Island

- Indonesia (West-Timor)
- Municipality: High risk
- Municipality: Medium risk
- Municipality: Rabies present



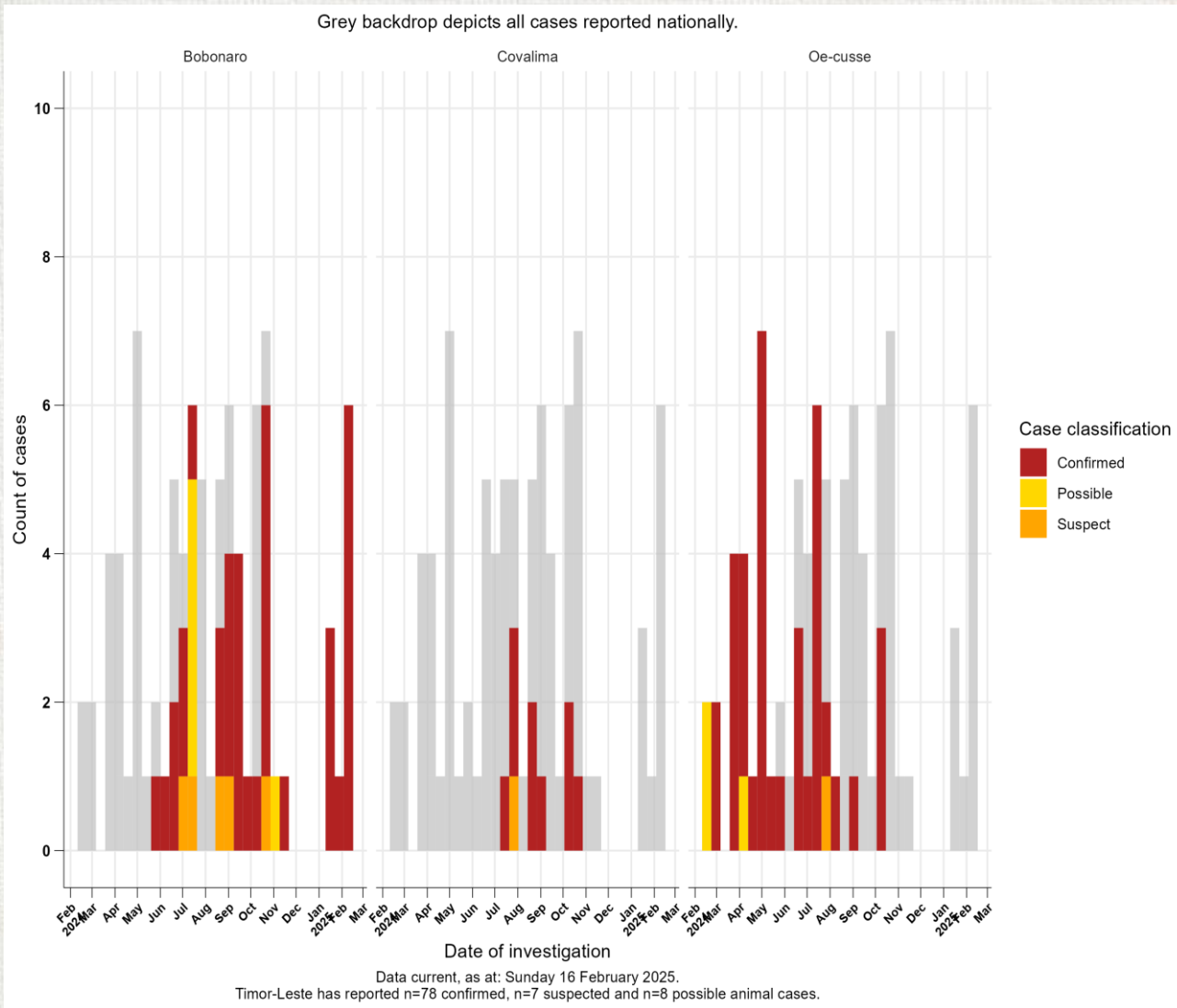
Data current, as at: Sunday 16 February 2025.

Timor-Leste has reported n=78 confirmed and n=7 suspected cases and n=2 human case fatalities in Oecusse exclave.



Rabies situation – Animal Health (Year 2023-present)

Dog rabies cases by Municipality and case classification, as at Sunday 16 February 2025.



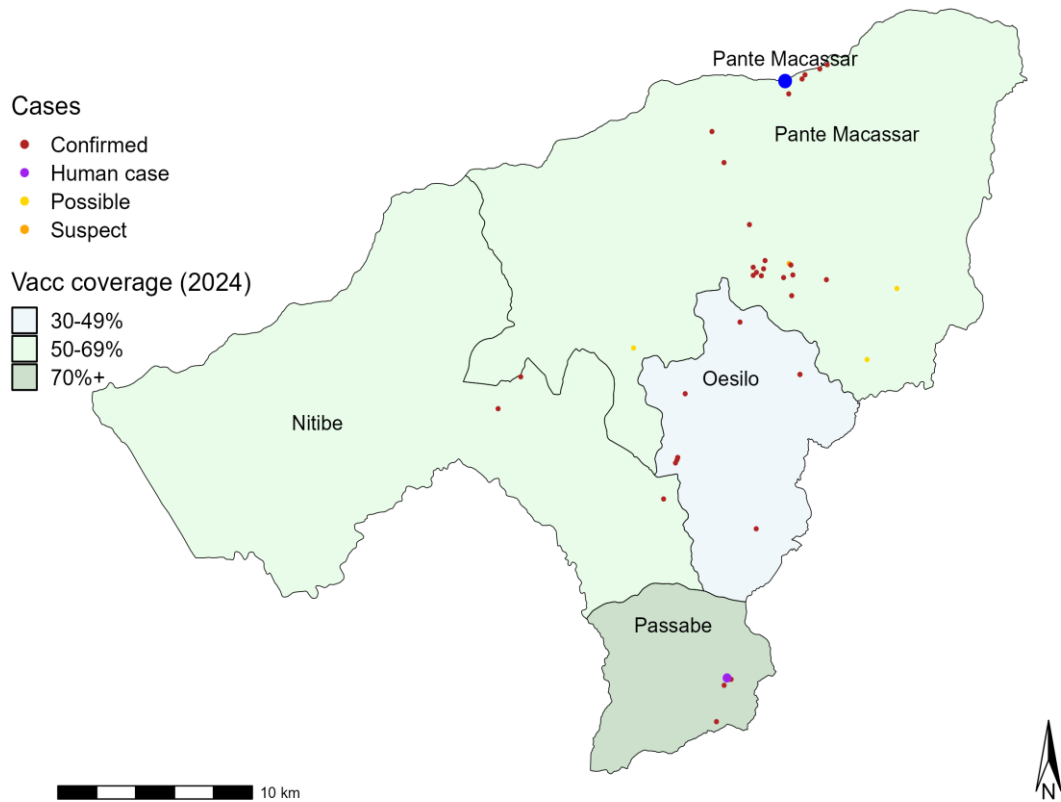
Municipality	Confirmed	Suspect	Possible	Excluded	Unclassified
Oe-cusse	34 (45%)	1 (14%)	3 (38%)	6 (75%)	14 (38%)
Bobonaro	33 (43%)	5 (71%)	5 (62%)	1 (12%)	13 (35%)
Covalima	9 (12%)	1 (14%)	0 (0%)	0 (0%)	3 (8%)
Aileu	0 (0%)	0 (0%)	0 (0%)	0 (0%)	0 (0%)
Ainaro	0 (0%)	0 (0%)	0 (0%)	0 (0%)	0 (0%)
Atauro	0 (0%)	0 (0%)	0 (0%)	0 (0%)	0 (0%)
Baucau	0 (0%)	0 (0%)	0 (0%)	0 (0%)	0 (0%)
Dili	0 (0%)	0 (0%)	0 (0%)	1 (12%)	5 (14%)
Ermera	0 (0%)	0 (0%)	0 (0%)	0 (0%)	0 (0%)
Lautem	0 (0%)	0 (0%)	0 (0%)	0 (0%)	0 (0%)
Liquisa	0 (0%)	0 (0%)	0 (0%)	0 (0%)	2 (5%)
Manatutu	0 (0%)	0 (0%)	0 (0%)	0 (0%)	0 (0%)
Manufahi	0 (0%)	0 (0%)	0 (0%)	0 (0%)	0 (0%)
Viqueque	0 (0%)	0 (0%)	0 (0%)	0 (0%)	0 (0%)
Total	76 (100%)	7 (100%)	8 (100%)	8 (100%)	37 (100%)

*Note: Refer to Appendix 1 for the outbreak case classification.

Oe-cusse (RAEOA) and Covalima (Year 2023-present)

Distribution of reported canine and livestock rabies cases and rabies-associated human deaths

RAEOA (Oe-cusse) Municipality (2024-2025 YTD)



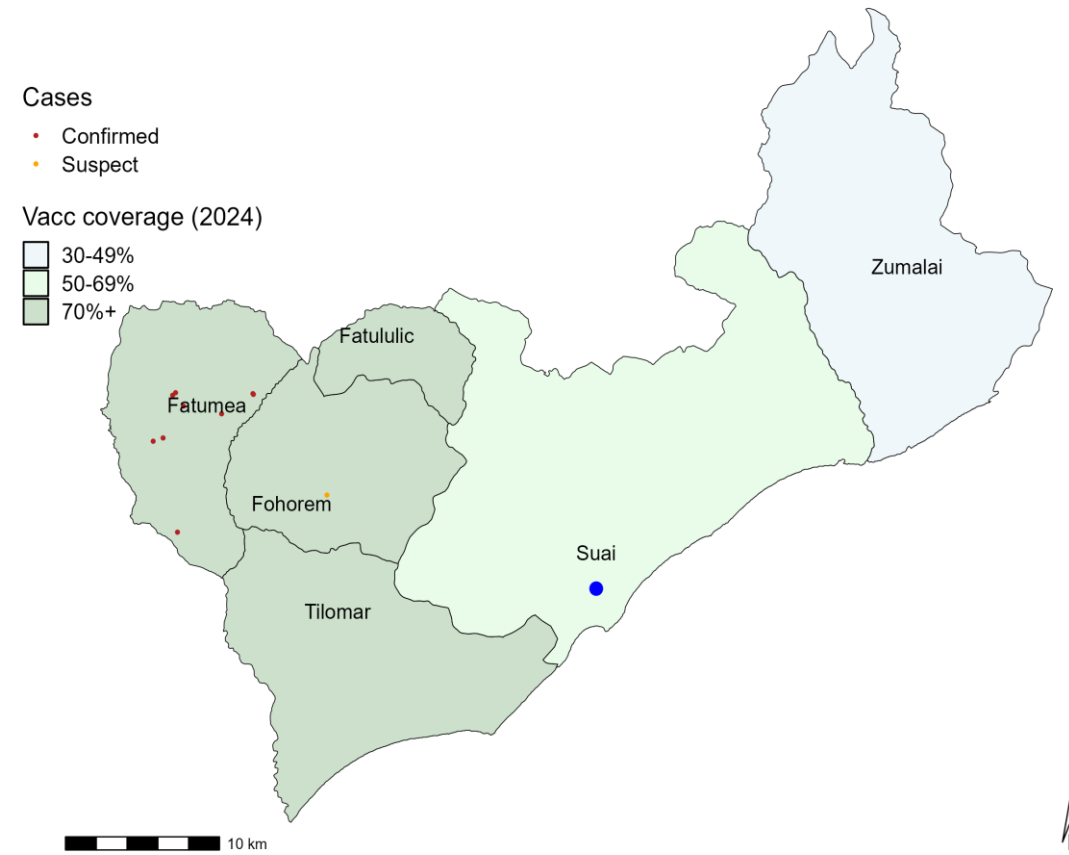
10 km



Epicollect5 data, current as at: Sunday 16 February 2025.
 There have been n=35 positive cases reported since March 2024;
 including n=34 confirmed dogs, n=1 confirmed goat, n=1 suspect and n=3 possible dog cases reported.

Distribution of reported canine rabies cases

Covalima Municipality (2024-2025 YTD)



10 km

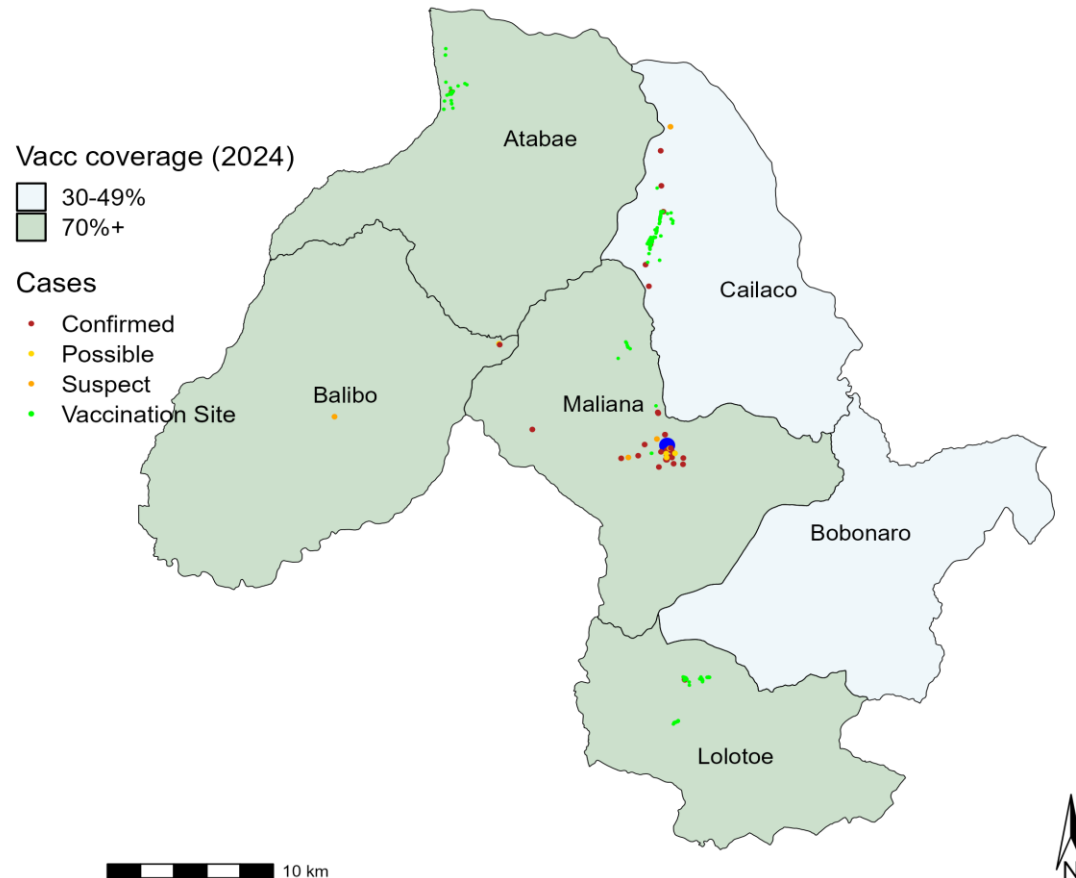


Epicollect5 data, current as at: Sunday 16 February 2025.
 Since June 2024, here have been n=9 confirmed, n=1 suspect and n=0 possible dog cases reported.

Bobonaro – Eastward spread (Year 2024-present)

Distribution of reported canine rabies cases

Bobonaro Municipality (2024-2025 YTD)



Epicollect5 data, current as at: Sunday 16 February 2025.
 Since June 2024, there have been n=34 confirmed cases reported, including n=33 confirmed dogs, n=1 confirmed goat, n=5 suspect and n=5 possible dog cases reported.

Counts of dogs vaccinated against rabies, Bobonaro Municipality, since 13 February 2025.

Administrative post	Dogs vaccinated	Dogs registered	% dogs vaccinated
Atabae	81	81	100.0%
Cailaco	123	150	82.0%
Lolotoe	164	173	94.8%
Maliana	26	26	100.0%
Total	394	430	91.6%

Round 1 vaccination campaign (2024)

Municipality	Administrative Post	Number of Households	Human population estimate (2022 census data)	Dog population estimate (2024)	# Dogs vaccinated	Dog vaccination coverage estimate (%)	# Cats vaccinated	# Primates vaccinated	Total animals vaccinated
Atauro	Atauro	2,119	10,302	1,585	1,520	95.9	54	0	1,574
Sub-total: Atauro Municipality		2,119	10,302	1,585	1,520	95.9	54	0	1,574
Oecusse	Nitibe	2,929	13,508	2,078	1,449	69.7	72	3	
	Oesilo	2,862	12,608	1,940	920	47.4	2		
	Pante Macassar	9,964	45,433	6,990	3,856	55.2	1		
	Passabe	1,976	9,177	1,412	1,080	76.5			
Sub-total: Oe-cusse Municipality		17,731	80,726	12,420	7,305	58.8	882	27	8,214
Bobonaro	Atabae	2,442	12,942	1,991	1,741	87.4			
	Balibo	3,994	17,600	2,708	3,818	141.0			
	Bobonaro	4,601	25,376	3,904	1,776	45.5			
	Cailaco	2,107	10,347	1,592	716	45.0			
	Lolotoe	1,591	7,695	1,184	974	82.3			
	Maliana	6,067	32,583	5,013	4,516	90.1			
Sub-total: Bobonaro Municipality		20,802	106,543	16,392	13,541	82.6	250	37	13,828
Covalima	Fatululic	473	2,187	336	327	97.3			
	Fatumea	845	3,650	562	698	124.2			
	Fohorem	1,082	4,579	704	757	107.5			
	Suai	5,384	26,565	4,087	2,187	53.5			
	Tilomar	2,144	9,967	1,533	1,681	109.7			
	Zumalai	3,643	16,159	2,486	1,218	49.0			
Sub-total: Covalima Municipality		13,571	63,107	11,370	6,868	60.4	293	30	7,191
Dili	Dili Barat	29,867	165,522	25,465	11,217	44.0			
	Dili Timur	25,967	151,567	23,318	6,934	29.7	46		
	Metinaro	1,251	7,180	1,105	657	59.5	48	7	
Sub-total: Dili Municipality		57,085	324,269	49,888	18,808	37.7	1,985	151	20,944
Liquica	Bazartete	5,608	33,517	5,156	424	8.2	35	1	
	Liquica	4,823	26,397	4,061	273	6.7	31	3	
	Maubara	4,355	23,775	3,658	6	0.2	0	0	
Sub-total: Liquica Municipality		14,786	83,689	12,875	703	5.5	66	4	
Total Vaccinated Municipalities		126,094	668,636	104,530	48,745	46.6	3,530	249	52,524

Note: Human population estimates are based on 2022 census results published by the Timor-Leste Government. Dog population estimates are based on a human:dog ratio of 6.5:1 for urban, peri-urban and rural municipalities using information gained from an expert report on dog population estimation using the count-recount method, prepared for the DNV and WOA in May, 2024. A vaccine coverage estimate > 100% suggest an underestimate of the dog population at-risk. *Note: Dili Barat refers to Dom Aleixo administrative post, whereas Dili Timur refers to Cristo Rei, Nain Feto, and Vera Cruz.

Key interventions and achievements (Year 2023-present)



Policies & Legislation

– National Rabies Outbreak Response Plan, laws on animal control, vaccination, and dog movement regulations.

National Strategic Plan for rabies management (NSP)



One Health Approach

– Collaboration between health, agriculture, and other sectors for surveillance, outbreak response, and community engagement. **3 cross-border technical cooperation meetings with West Timor (Indonesia).**



Logistics and Training

– vaccine cold chain and distribution management system, rabies diagnostic testing facility (NVDL), Municipal Animal Health Officer Training and veterinary epidemiology training.



Information

Management – outbreak case definition developed, regular Situation Reports, Incident Management Team (IMT) structure



Risk Communication and Community Engagement

– RCCE Strategy and budgeted implementation plan with Australian Government support. World Rabies Day Event September 2024

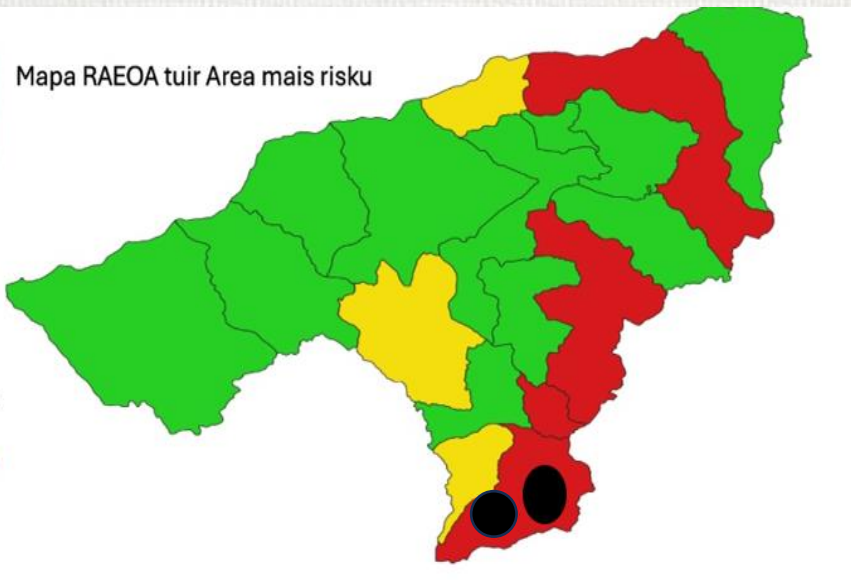


Key Achievements –

– Mass animal rabies vaccination campaign (2024) ~ 50,000 animals vaccinated in Dili, Oecusse, Bobonaro and Covalima

Rabies situation – Human Health (Year 2023-present)

Rabies cases in humans Highlights of rabies burden



From 1999 to 2023, Timor-Leste was free of rabies. The first confirmed case of rabies was reported in March 2024. Between 2023 and 2025, Timor-Leste reported **two confirmed cases of rabies**, both of which resulted in **death**.



Situation Report of Dog bite and Rabies in Timor Leste from march 2023-22 February 2025

1080

Cumulative dog bites

15

Risk Category I

477

Risk Category II

446

Risk Category III

68

Number of Positive Dog Rabies

88

Number of people
who receive RIG

715

Number of people
who receive VAR

10

Number of teste for
Rabies

2

Number of Confirm
Positive Rabies

2

Number of Death

Key interventions and achievements (Year 2023-present)



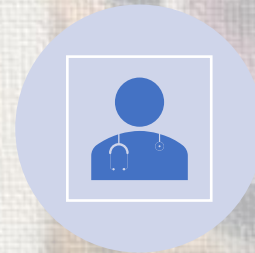
🛑 Policies & Legislation – National Rabies Control Plan, laws on animal control, vaccination, and dog movement regulations.



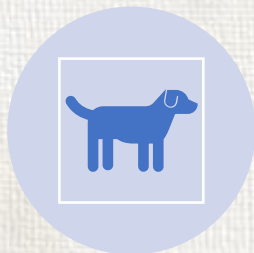
🤝 One Health Approach – Collaboration between health, agriculture, and other sectors for surveillance, outbreak response, and community engagement.



💉 Post-Exposure Prophylaxis (PEP) – Improved access to rabies vaccines & immunoglobulin in health facilities, ensuring timely treatment for bite victims.



📊 Integrated Bite Case Management (IBCM) – Risk assessment, coordination between health workers & veterinarians, enhanced reporting & case detection.



📣 Public Awareness & Community Engagement – Education on responsible pet ownership, rabies prevention, and encouraging community reporting.



✅ Key Achievements – Increased PEP access, mass vaccination efforts, improved surveillance, strengthened coordination, and enhanced public awareness.

A hand is shown placing a white puzzle piece with a blue silhouette of a person in a suit into a larger puzzle. The other puzzle pieces in the background are light blue and also feature silhouettes of people in various professional or medical attire. The puzzle is set against a white background.

Main challenges and recommended solution

Challenges:

Inadequate Surveillance & Reporting – Underreporting of bite cases and rabies infections due to weak data systems.

Limited Access to PEP & Rabies Immunoglobulin – Uneven distribution of vaccines, especially in remote areas.

Low Public Awareness & Engagement – Many communities lack knowledge about rabies prevention and responsible pet ownership.

Limited One Health Coordination – Need for stronger collaboration between health, veterinary, and environmental sectors.



Recommended Solutions:

Strengthen Surveillance & IBCM – Improve reporting, integrate human and animal rabies data, and enhance laboratory capacity.

Expand PEP Accessibility – Ensure vaccines are available in all health facilities, especially in rural areas.

Enforce Animal Control Regulations – Implement stray dog population management programs and responsible pet ownership laws.

Public Awareness Programs – Strengthen education campaigns through media, schools, and community involvement.

Enhance One Health Collaboration – Strengthen multi-sectoral coordination for better response and control strategies.

Way Forward

Priority Actions:

Develop & Implement the National Strategy for Rabies Elimination – A comprehensive roadmap for rabies prevention, control, and elimination in Timor-Leste.

Expand Mass Dog Vaccination Campaigns – Achieve at least 70% dog vaccination coverage nationwide.

Strengthen Integrated Bite Case Management (IBCM) – Improve case detection, risk assessment, and reporting between health and veterinary sectors.

Increase Access to Post-Exposure Prophylaxis (PEP) – Ensure rabies vaccines and immunoglobulin are available in all health facilities, especially in remote areas.

Enhance Surveillance & Laboratory Capacity – Strengthen rabies diagnostic capabilities and real-time data collection.

Stray Dog Population Management – Develop and enforce humane population control measures, including sterilization programs.

Community Awareness & Engagement – Scale up public education programs on responsible pet ownership and rabies prevention.

Strengthen One Health Collaboration – Enhance multi-sectoral coordination among the Ministry of Health, Agriculture, local authorities, and international partners.

Secure Sustainable Funding & Resources – Mobilize government and donor support for long-term rabies elimination efforts.

THANK YOU

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► Euro Surveill. 2024 May 2;29(18):2400241. doi: [10.2807/1560-7917.ES.2024.29.18.2400241](https://doi.org/10.2807/1560-7917.ES.2024.29.18.2400241)

The first confirmed human case of rabies, Timor-Leste, 2024

[Marcelo Amaral Mali](#)¹, [Filipe de Neri Machado](#)¹, [Filomeno Pinto Moniz](#)¹, [Frederico Bosco Alves dos Santos](#)¹, [Perpetua Ana Mery Estela Laot](#)¹, [Ari Jayanti Pereira Tilman](#)², [Tanizio Ebryes Florindo](#)³, [Cristovao de Alexandria Barros](#)¹, [Adriano Barbosa](#)¹, [Jose A Oliveira Lima](#)¹, [Joao Paulo Goncalves](#)¹, [Francisco Borges](#)¹, [Elisabeth Hornay](#)², [Joanico Moises](#)², [Osmenia de Jesus Neto](#)¹, [Liliana Varela](#)¹, [Agapito da Costa](#)⁴, [Anthony DK Draper](#)^{5,6,7}, [Joshua R Francis](#)⁵, [Merita Antonio A Monteiro](#)^{1,5}

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Guidelines for responding to dog bites in Timor-Leste including pre- and post-exposure rabies prophylaxis

Democratic Republic of Timor-Leste
Ministry of Health



in collaboration with



Timor-Leste

Menzies School of Health Research



Australian Government

Australian Government Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade



Timor-Leste

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