



Food and Agriculture  
Organization of the  
United Nations



World Organisation  
for Animal Health



# Historical Implementation of ARES from 2014 to 2024

**Dr Ronello Abila**  
WOAH Consultant

ASEAN Rabies Meeting: Development of ASEAN Rabies  
Elimination Strategy (ARES) Implementation Plan  
24-26 February 2025, Thailand



# ASEAN Rabies meeting in 2008, Vietnam



Australian Government  
AusAID

## ASEAN Plus Three Emerging Infectious Diseases Programme Phase II

### *Workshop on Strengthening Cooperation and Sharing Information on Rabies among ASEAN Plus Three Countries*

**23–25 April 2008, Ha Long, VIETNAM**



Strengthening Cooperation and Information Sharing on Rabies among  
ASEAN Plus Three Countries

23–25 April 2008, Ha Long, VIET NAM

#### CALL FOR ACTION

Towards the Elimination of Rabies in the ASEAN Member States  
and the Plus Three Countries

**WE, THE PARTICIPANTS** of the Workshop on Strengthening Cooperation and Information Sharing on Rabies among ASEAN Plus Three Countries, organised by the National Institute of Hygiene and Epidemiology, Ministry of Health of Viet Nam, under the ASEAN Plus Three Emerging Infectious Diseases Programme, held in Ha Long, Viet Nam on 23-25 April 2008;

**UNITED** by the common desire and collective will to eliminate rabies, a neglected and under-reported disease, that kills at least 30,000 people in Asia annually and that at least 40% of these deaths are among children less than 15 years of age;

**COMMITTED** to working together in the spirit of solidarity and unity to meeting the goal toward eliminating rabies in Asia by 2020;

**DETERMINED** to contributing to realising an ASEAN Socio- Cultural Community that is socially responsible and having a common identity of a caring and sharing society which is inclusive and where the well-being and welfare of the peoples are enhanced;

**AFFIRMED** by the Resolution to Eliminate Rabies adopted during the Conference Towards the Elimination of Rabies in Eurasia organised by the World Organisation for Animal Health (OIE), the World Health Organization (WHO) and the European Union held in Paris, France on 27-30 May 2007;

**AGREEING** that in the Regional Meeting on Zoonotic Diseases, WHO Regional Office for South East Asia (SEARO) in Jakarta in November 2007, some of the basic principles of zoonoses prevention and control mentioned are applicable to rabies, and likewise, documents, proceedings, developed during the Fourth International Symposium on Rabies Control in Asia in March 2001, Hanoi Vietnam, jointly organized by Fondation Mérieux and WHO; and The Strategies for the Control and Elimination of Rabies in Asia, Report of WHO inter-regional Consultation, held in Geneva, Switzerland in July 2001 contained recommendations and resolutions that focus on rabies in Asia, with the documents having been endorsed by many experts/representatives from ASEAN Member States;

**ADHERING** to the goal of the ASEAN Plus Three Emerging Infectious Diseases Programme and the strategic vision of the OIE and WHO to reduce the economic, social and disease burden that results from emerging infections that threaten the region by enhancing regional preparedness and capacity through integrated approaches to prevention, surveillance and timely response, and endorsed by the ASEAN Plus Three Health Ministers in Yangon, Myanmar in 2006;

# ASEAN-Tripartite Rabies workshop - 2012





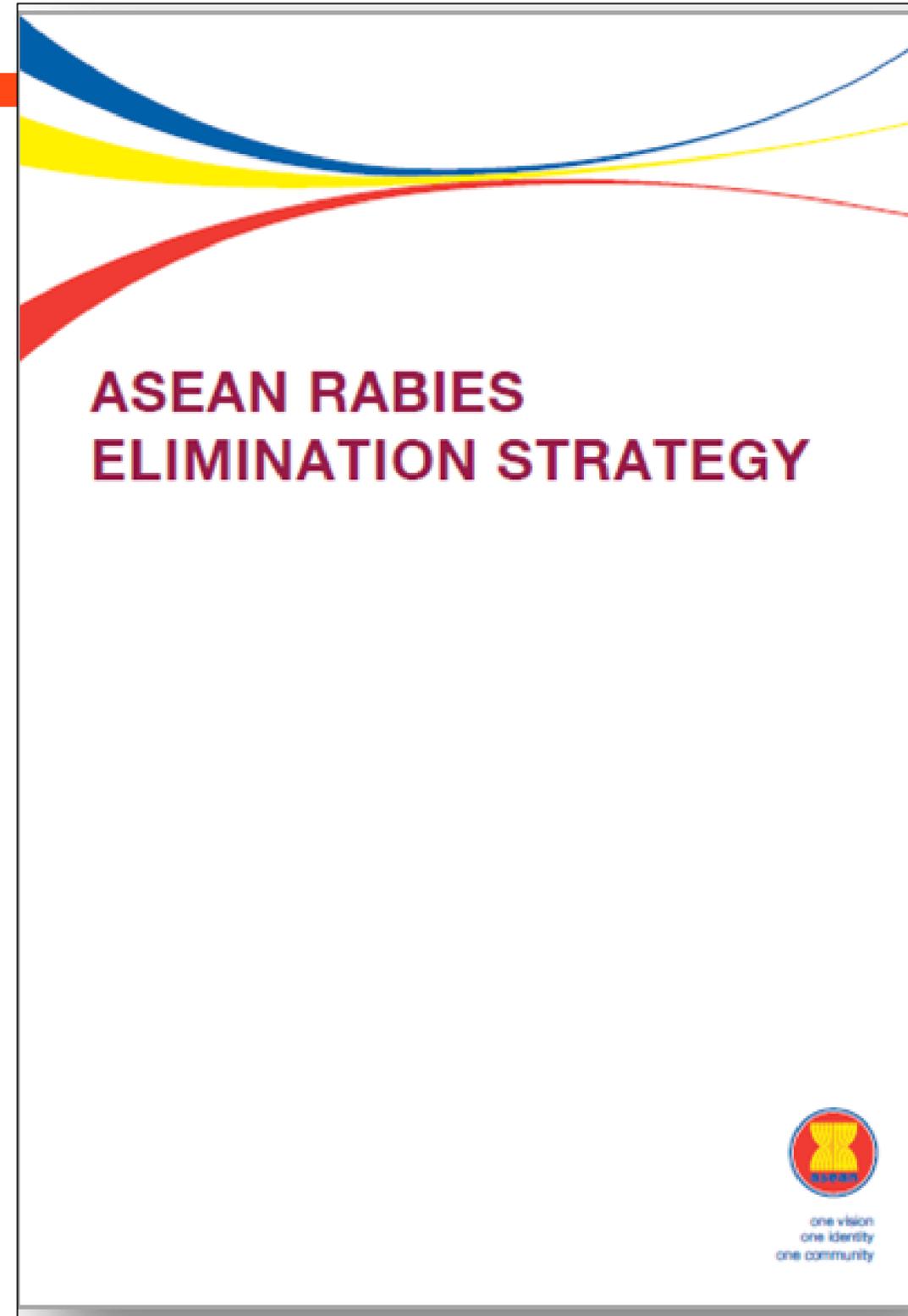
**ASEAN Inter-Sectoral Workshop on Rabies Prevention and Control**  
Danang, Vietnam (October 15-17 2013)

# ARES

- ARES had been endorsed by the 36th ASEAN Ministerial Meeting on Agriculture and Forestry (AMAF) and the 12th ASEAN Health Ministers Meeting (AHMM) in September 2014.



SOCIO-CULTURAL TECHNICAL ORGANISATIONAL AND POLITICAL FRAMEWORK TO ELIMINATE DOG RABIES



## GLOBAL FRAMEWORK FOR THE ELIMINATION OF DOG-MEDIATED HUMAN RABIES

*Dog-mediated human rabies kills tens of thousands of people every year worldwide. Freedom from dog-mediated human rabies is a global public good and is feasible with currently available tools.*

In accordance with the consensus of the Global Conference (Geneva, 10-11 December 2015), this framework provides a coordinated approach and vision for the global elimination of dog-mediated human rabies. It is intended to harmonize actions and provide adaptable, achievable guidance for country and regional strategies.

### The five pillars of rabies elimination (STOP-R)

#### 1 SOCIO-CULTURAL

Rabies control involves a wide range of stakeholders including the general public. The socio-cultural context influences rabies perceptions and dog-keeping practices of at-risk populations. Understanding the context guides approaches to motivate behavioural change and plan feasible delivery of services.

**Includes activities for:**

- **Awareness:** build awareness of dog-mediated rabies as a preventable global public health problem including through participation in initiatives such as World Rabies Day and the EndRabiesNow campaign
- **Responsible dog ownership:** promote responsible dog ownership and dog population management practices, including dog vaccination, in accordance with OIE standards
- **Bite prevention and treatment:** develop and implement education programmes on bite prevention and first aid for both children and adults
- **Post-exposure prophylaxis:** increase awareness and understanding of post-exposure prophylaxis (PEP) imperatives and options including intradermal administration
- **Community engagement:** encourage community involvement and engagement in activities to eliminate dog-mediated rabies

#### 2 TECHNICAL

Effective animal health and public health systems are required to eliminate dog-mediated human rabies. These systems must be strengthened and resourced appropriately and gaps identified and filled.

**Includes activities for:**

- **Vaccinations:** ensure safe, efficacious and accessible dog and human vaccines and immunoglobulins, and promote and implement mass dog vaccination as the most cost-effective intervention to achieve dog-mediated human rabies elimination
- **Logistics:** collect data on needs forecasts to inform the vaccine procurement system and to create and sustain the logistics and infrastructure required for effective delivery and implementation of mass dog vaccination programmes and PEP administration
- **Diagnostics:** ensure capacity and capability for rapid and accurate rabies diagnosis through accessible, well-equipped laboratories and trained personnel
- **Surveillance:** support improved surveillance, sampling, reporting, and data-sharing
- **Technical support:** provide guidance and technical support for the development and tailoring of regional and national plans, including promoting the use of existing tools
- **Proof of concept:** support proof-of-concept programmes, and then scale up through leveraging of success

#### 3 ORGANIZATION

The One Health approach of close collaboration is applied. Leadership, partnership and coordination for rabies elimination activities arise from the human health and animal health sectors and other stakeholders.

**Includes activities for:**

- **One Health:** promote the One Health approach and intersectoral coordination through national and regional networks
- **Good governance:** establish good governance, including clear roles, chain of command, measurable outcomes and timelines
- **Harmonization:** align work plans and activities with national and regional priorities and approaches fostering synergies among sectors
- **Coordination:** coordinate and combine human resources, logistics and infrastructure of other programmes and initiatives, as appropriate and feasible
- **Indicators and performance:** identify targets and their indicators to support performance measurement, including surveillance and validation data, to identify areas requiring attention or extra support
- **Monitoring and evaluation:** support monitoring and evaluation of national plans to ensure timely and cost-effective delivery

#### 4 POLITICAL

Success depends on political will and support for elimination of dog-mediated human rabies. Political will results from recognition of rabies elimination as a national, regional and global public good.

**Includes activities for:**

- **Political support:** political support is essential and most relevant during and following country instability (political upheaval, natural disasters, etc.)
- **International support:** encourage countries to request a resolution on dog-mediated human rabies elimination through the World Health Assembly (WHA) and the General Assembly of Delegates (GAD)
- **Legal frameworks:** establish and enforce appropriate legal frameworks for rabies notification and elimination
- **Demonstrating impacts:** demonstrate the compelling case for mass dog vaccination programmes and their impact on protecting and saving human lives
- **Regional engagement:** support active national and regional engagement and cooperation to commit to a rabies elimination programme and promote the exchange of lessons learnt and experiences to leverage resources and engagement

#### 5 RESOURCES

Rabies elimination activities frequently span several years and therefore require sustained, long-term support.

**Includes activities for:**

- **Case for investment:** promote the case for investment in dog-mediated human rabies elimination to persuade countries, policy makers and donors of the feasibility, merit and value of investing in rabies elimination strategies
- **Business plans:** prepare business plans based on the Global Framework for Dog-mediated Human Rabies Elimination
- **Investments:** encourage different forms of investment and partnerships (private and public investment) to leverage resources and engagement

#### CRITICAL SUCCESS FACTORS

- Long-term political and social commitment
- Community engagement
- Sustainable vaccination of 70% of the at-risk dog population
- Proof of concept: starts small, scale up
- Sufficient resources, logistics and infrastructure
- Promote to co-fund and other strategies for acquisition of rabies surveillance kits to ensure sufficient supply of quality-assured rabies vaccines and human immunoglobulin
- Reach remote, rural and at-risk populations
- Conduct performance measurement at all levels
- Maintain trained and motivated implementation personnel

**STRATEGIC VISION: zero human deaths from dog-mediated rabies by 2030 in participating countries**

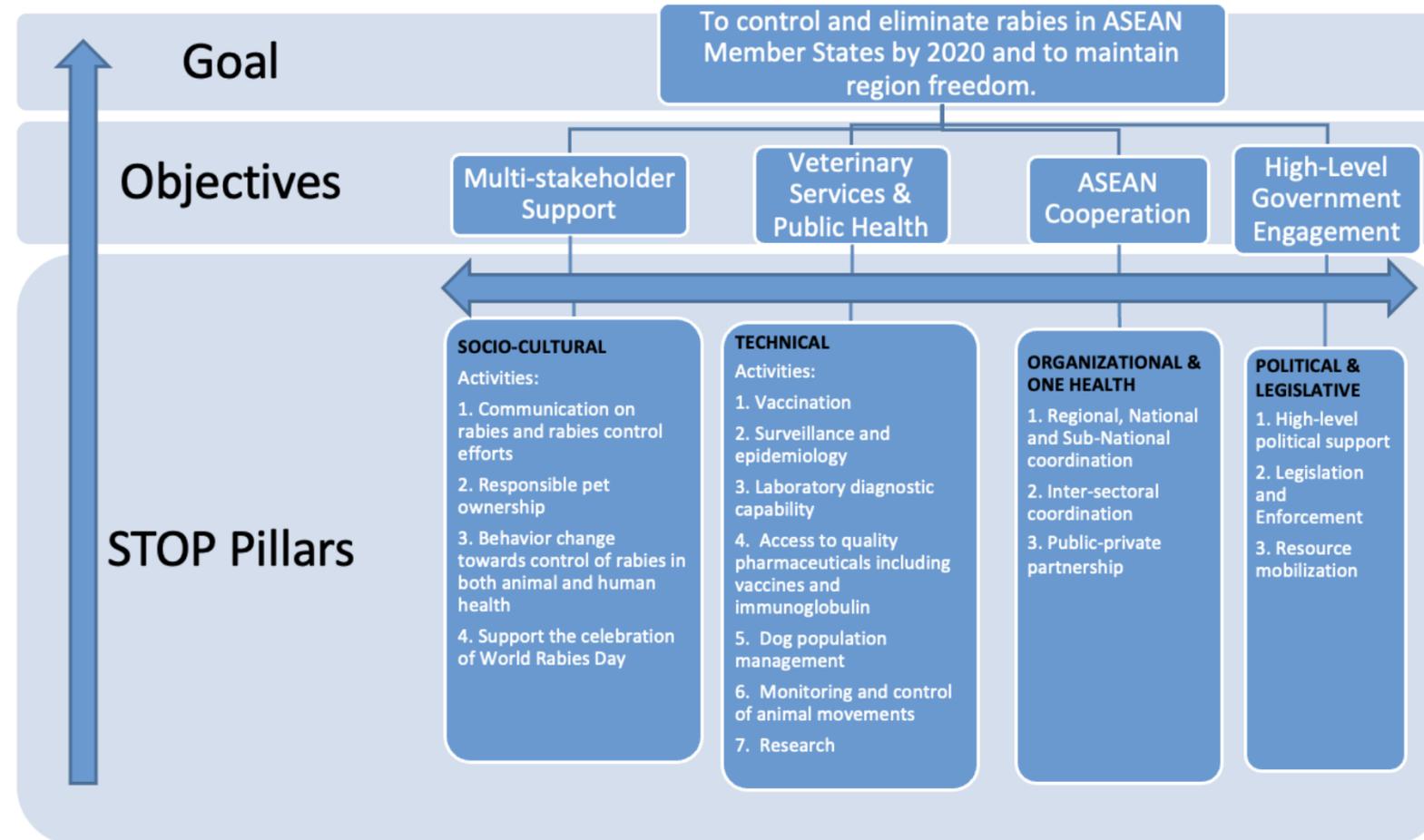
# ARES Implementation Plan - 2015

- AEGCD-ASWGL joint consultative workshop on 30-31<sup>st</sup> March 2015 in Chiang Mai, Thailand

Regional Activities <sup>2</sup>							
Regional Activities	Expected Output(s)	M&E Indicator(s)	Lead /Co-lead	Resource Support	Phase 1 (2014-2017)	Phase 2 (2018-2020)	Phase 3 (2020-2023)
<b>PILLAR A: SOCIO-CULTURALFRAMEWORK FOR RABIES ELIMINATION</b>							
<b>Strategy A1.Communication on rabies and rabies control efforts</b>							
<b>Strategic Objectives: To promote public support and raise awareness of rabies via consistent messaging</b>							
1	Regional campaign to raise public awareness and promote community-led action for rabies prevention and control	Key messages developed for the various ASEAN rabies contexts.	Number of <u>countries</u> with national rabies advocacy and communication strategies  Number of countries that have conducted Knowledge, Attitudes and Practice (KAP) surveys to inform and update	Brunei, Singapore, Vietnam	GARC/ WAP (provision of materials)	x	

National Activities	Expected Outputs	Resource Support	Phase 1 (2014-2017)	Phase 2 (2018-2020)	Phase 3 (2020-2023)	
<b>PILLAR A: SOCIO-CULTURALFRAMEWORK FOR RABIES ELIMINATION</b>						
<b>Note:</b> Consider reintroducing strategy D1 into the regional strategy here. High level political support at the regional level is a key component of coordinated and effective national action plans.						
14	Conduct dialogue with key potential donors to ensure sufficient dog* vaccines exist in the region	Support identified for procurement of dog vaccine	Regional canine (*human?) vaccine procurement strategy in place Number of <u>Regional Resource Centres</u> supporting rabies elimination programmes	Brunei for 13 <sup>th</sup> AHMM TBC  Philippines for AMAF	OIE, FAO, WHO, GARC	x      x
<b>Note:</b> *Consider including human vaccine procurement in this action point						
<b>II. National Activities<sup>3</sup></b>						

# ARES M&E Framework - 2016



## ARES M&E Plan

The ARES M&E Plan, meanwhile, details the key indicators for success, the stakeholders responsible for gathering, analyzing, and reporting M&E data, the likely sources of data, and the frequency of M&E reporting.

# ASEAN-Tripartite Rabies Meeting - 2018

---

Review of ARES 2015-2017 (Phase 1), preliminary findings

- **Incidence of human rabies** did not substantially change during 2015-2017
- **Dog vaccination coverage** did not significantly increase within the same period

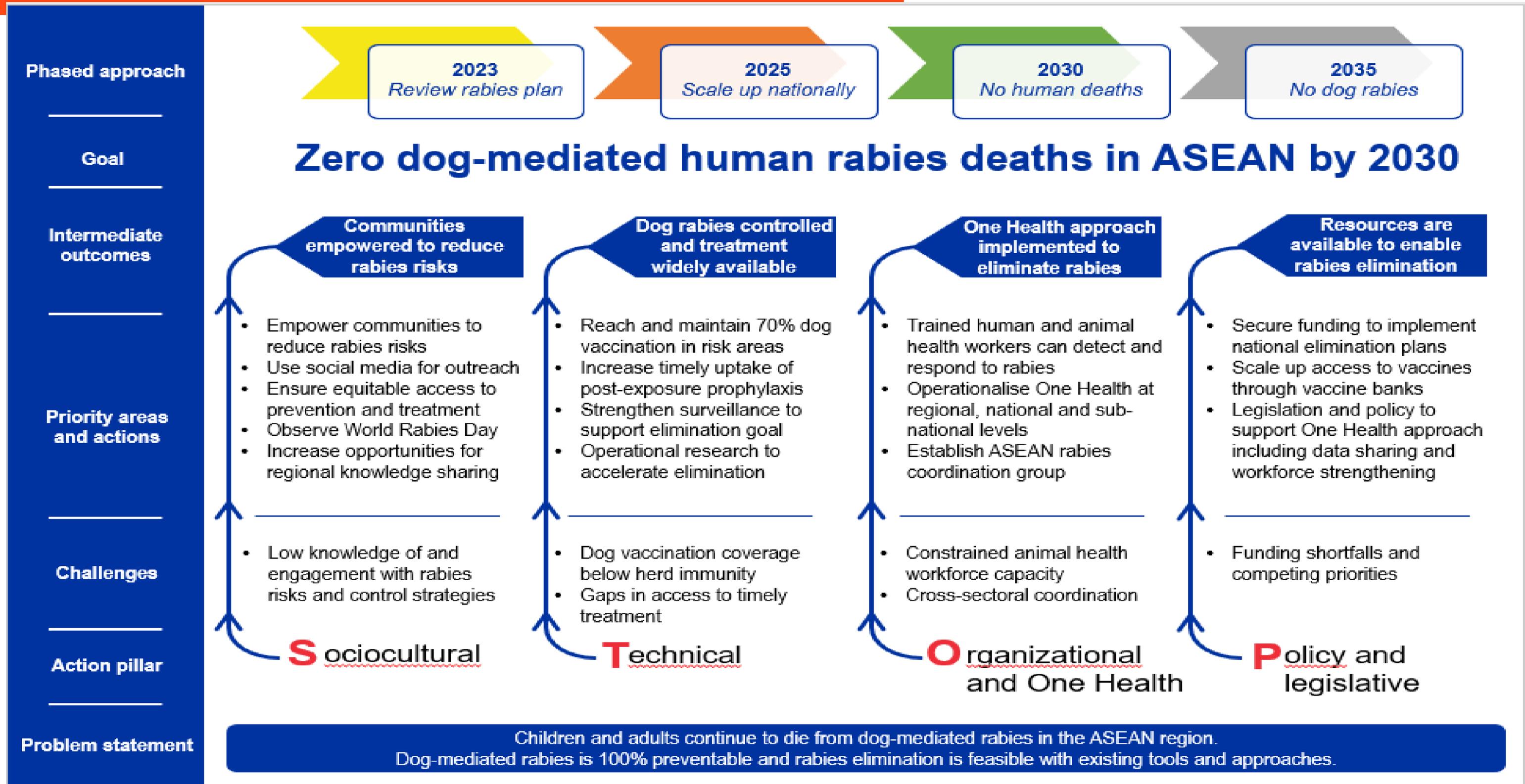
Recommendations from the Meeting to strengthen rabies elimination programs:

- Need for more **financial resources** to sustain rabies control and elimination programmes,
- Need for **stronger legislative and law enforcement** support to implement regulatory measures
- Revision of ARES including to extend the timeline and align with the 2030 global goal and targets

# ARES review - 2023



# Revised ARES



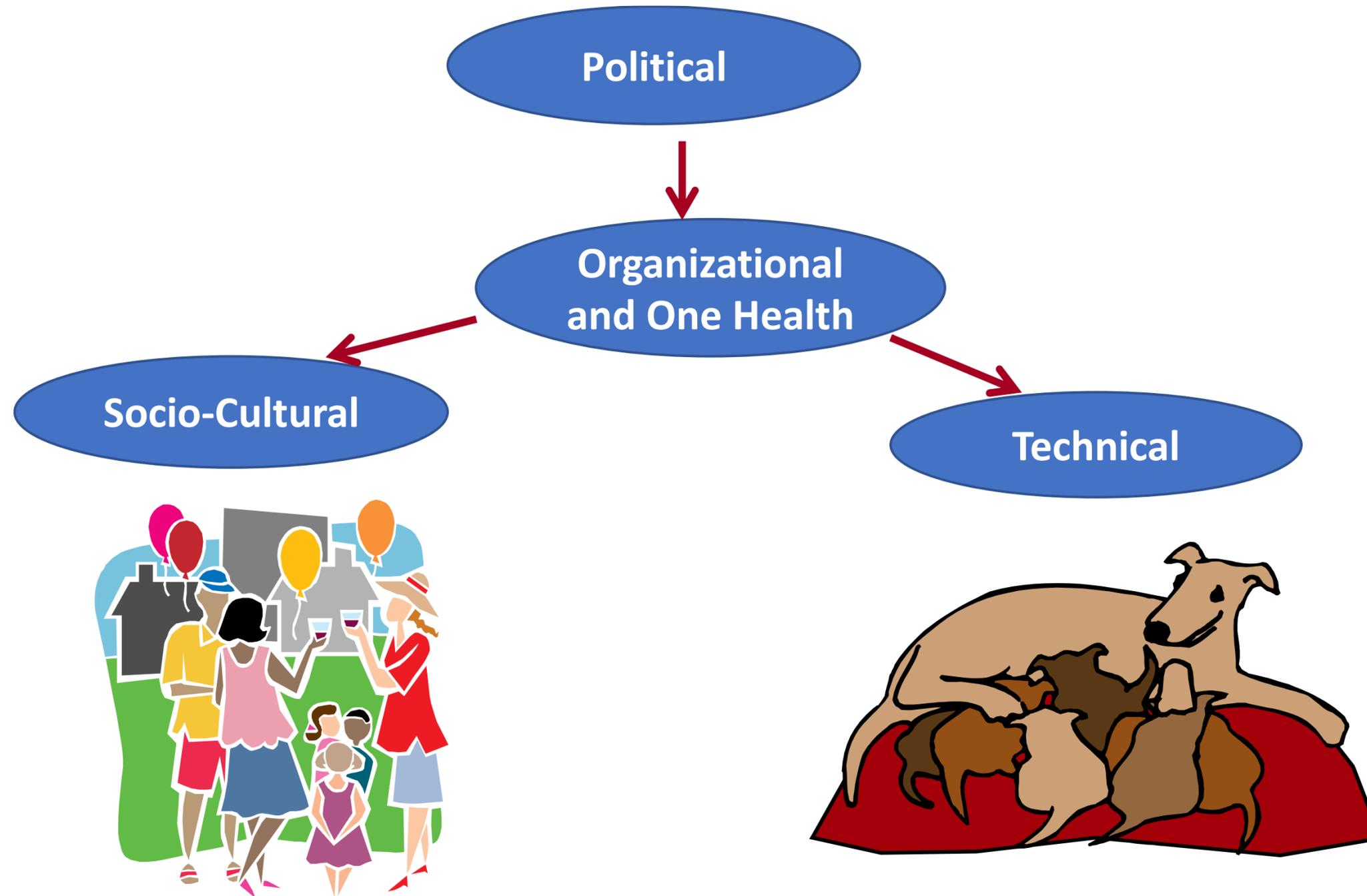
# What has transpired since 2008 ?

---

- Rabies Situation
  - Fluctuating human cases in endemic countries, and significant incursions in new territories crossing national borders (eg. Borneo and Timor islands)
- Technical developments
  - Improve diagnostics, effective parenteral vaccines for dogs; pilot application of ORV; expansion of intradermal PEP
  - Various tools developed by various organizations coordinated by UAR
- Political support
  - ARES endorsement by AMAF and AHMM, but need more active engagement to use these documents to mobilize political and financial support
  - Intermittent rabies crisis sometimes get political attention leading to resource mobilization

# Hierarchy for effective rabies control

---





Food and Agriculture  
Organization of the  
United Nations



World Organisation  
for Animal Health



**ASEAN Rabies Meeting: Development of ASEAN Rabies Elimination Strategy (ARES) Implementation Plan  
24-26 February 2025  
Pattaya, Thailand**

# Thank You!

