

Regional Tripartite initiatives for rabies elimination in the Asia Pacific

ASEAN Rabies Consultation Meeting

Development of ASEAN Rabies Elimination Strategy (ARES) Implementation Plan

24-26 February 2025, Pullman Hotel, Pattaya, Thailand

Kinzang Dukpa, WOA
Kinley Choden, WOA
Aya Yajima, WHO
Katrin Bote, WHO
Kazim Hizbullah Sanikullah, WHO
Muhammad Usman Zaheer, FAO

TRIPARTITE COLLABORATION



ASEAN-Tripartite Rabies Meeting, Hanoi, 4-6 Dec 2018

SAARC-Tripartite Rabies Meeting, Kathmandu, Nepal, 26-28 June 2019

Key Outputs:

- Make rabies a notifiable disease
- Develop national action plans
- Upscale dog vaccination
- Develop regional preparedness plans, capacity building and human vaccine stockpiling
- Promote integrated bite case management (IBCM)
- Develop regional elimination project funded through regional mechanisms



Key progress in countries

Key areas	
National Strategic Plans on rabies	India – State level Action Plan for Rabies Elimination in many States Cambodia, Bhutan, Lao PDR, Sri Lanka , – multisectoral plans
Enhanced rabies surveillance capacity	Laboratory diagnostic training for South Asia and South East Asia (2023, 2024)
Mass dog vaccination (MDV)	WOAH training on MDV for the Asia Pacific Region (2024)
Dog population management (DPM)	Bhutan – achieved 100% sterilisation and vaccination in free-roaming dogs with micro-chipping of pets
Oral rabies vaccination initiatives	Indonesia, Thailand completed pilot studies Thailand using ORV as part of official vaccination program Cambodia - pilot studies completed in 2024 Indonesia – <i>Rabitec</i> [®] oral rabies vaccine now registered and officially approved for use

Asia-Pacific Rabies Meeting

16-18 July 2024, Bangkok, Thailand

42 government representatives from 14 rabies-endemic countries from human and animal health sectors

Recommendation for countries

- Identify rabies focal points in both sectors.
- Innovate advocacy efforts and sustain political commitment and resources.
- Ensure costed and endorsed national strategic plans.
- Strengthen rabies surveillance at all levels.
- Ensure functional intersectoral collaboration.
- Ensure the use of quality human and animal vaccines.
- Strengthen cross-border coordination and collaboration.
- Explore the use of oral rabies vaccines.



Regional Training Workshop on Rabies Diagnosis for South-East Asia

21-25 October 2024, Bengaluru, India



Enhance laboratory capacity



Improve surveillance



Establish a foundation for IBCM



Foster networking and coordination across laboratories



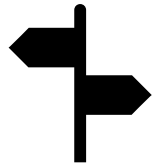
Facilitate collaboration between sectors

WHO CC National Institute of Mental Health & Neurosciences (NIMHANS)

WOAH RL KVAFSU-CVA Rabies Diagnostic Laboratory, Dept. of Veterinary Microbiology, Veterinary college KVAFSU, Bengaluru

15 participants from human and animal health sectors from 8 South and South-East Asian countries

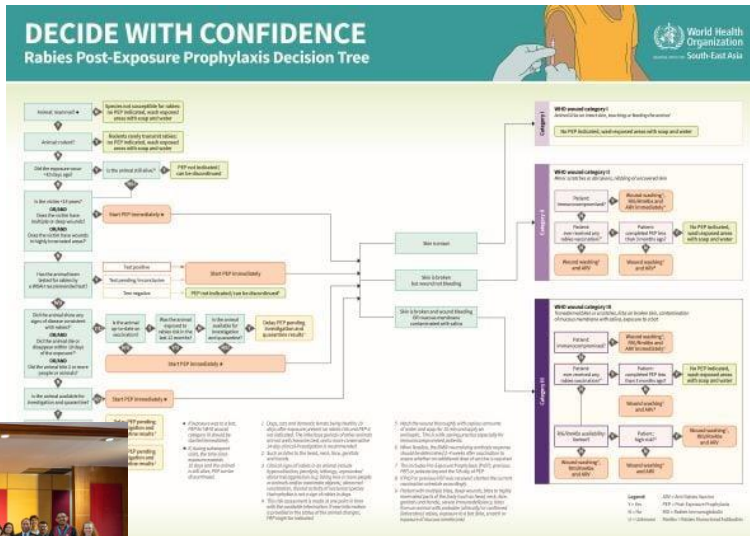
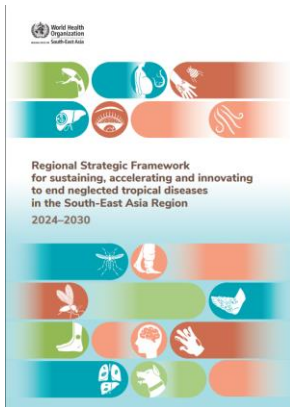
WHO activities



Strategic plan, policies and guidance



Surveillance, M&E



Regional Technical Advisory Group (RTAG) established in 2023

WHO Integrated data platform
Welcome on the WHO Integrated data platform ! Please enter your credential to enter into the platform.

Human rabies data entry

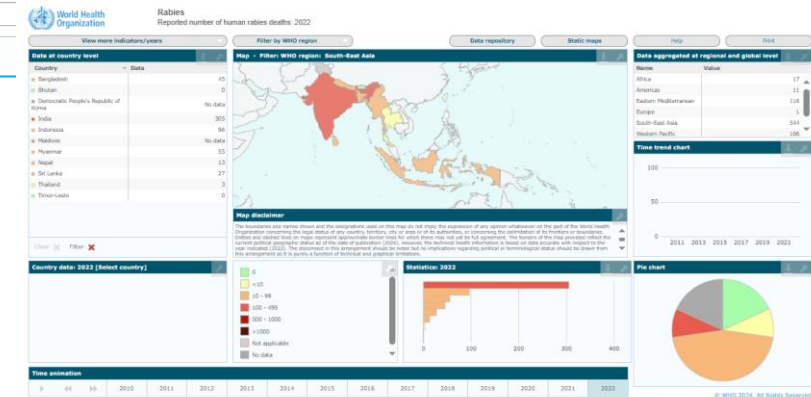
Enter data on the human rabies data entry

Animal rabies data entry

Enter data on the animal rabies data entry

Human cases by gender:

Number of reported human rabies cases	Male	Female	Unknown
0			



WHO activities



Network and stakeholder engagement

- Stakeholder engagement
- Facilitation of cross-border coordination and collaboration
- WHO Collaboration Centres network

From rabies to hepatitis: Gavi to start rolling out new vaccines to lower-income countries

The pandemic meant several new Gavi vaccine programmes in lower-income countries had to be paused. Following a Board decision this week, these programmes are back on.

28 June 2023 · 7 min read · by [Gavi Staff](#) [Republish this article](#)



Research and innovation



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Impact Grants awarded for implementation research in South-East Asia Region

Implementation of Integrated Bite Case Management (IBCM) as part of a one health program for rabies at primary health care level in Kerala: cost-effectiveness, challenges and solutions (Government Medical College, Kerala, India)

WHO: Country support (Examples)



Support for joint National Strategic Plan (NSP) development in Bangladesh including costing and development of IBCM guidelines

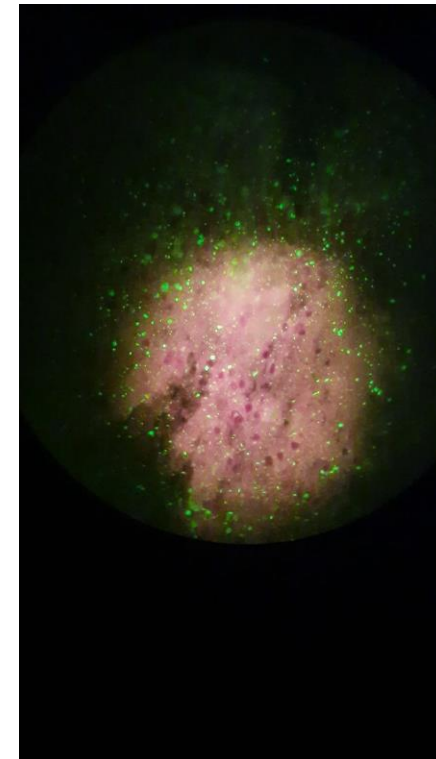


Support for National and State-level action plan development for rabies elimination in India



- Rapid risk assessment,
- orientation training for healthcare workers,
- support to establish guidance on rabies prophylaxis and case management,
- integrating rabies into school health curricula, and
- stakeholder coordination and NSP development in Timor-Leste

WOAH activities



Capacity building activities



2nd WOAH Regional Training on Mass Dog Vaccination

November 2024, Chiangmai, Thailand

Key topics

- Mass Dog Vaccination concepts, methods, tools (WVS App, Hand catching)
- Dog Population Management (dog population surveys)
- Dog rabies surveillance (sampling and lateral flow assays)



© Mark Stelzner / WVS Thailand





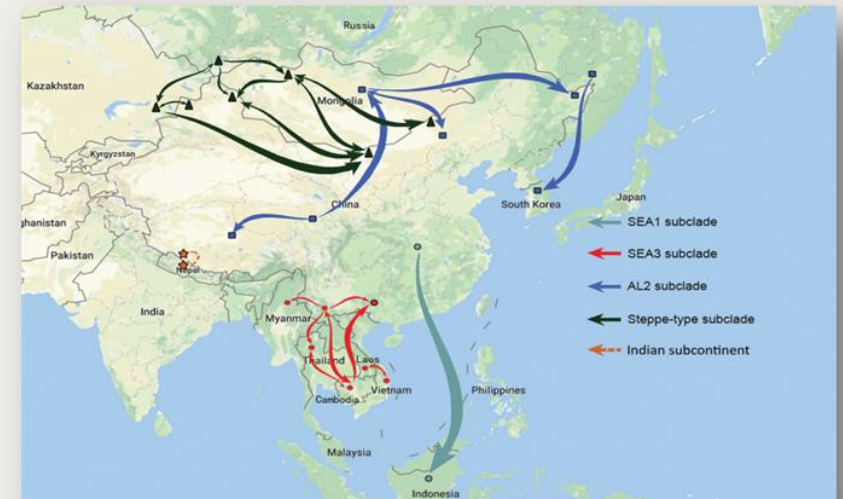
WOAH Sub-Regional Training Workshop on Animal Rabies Diagnosis for South Asia

January 2023, WOAH Reference Laboratory, Veterinary College, Bangalore, India)

WOAH Regional Virtual Training Workshop on Molecular Epidemiology Techniques (MET) for Rabies (2021, 2022, 2023)

Key topics

1. Training on molecular epidemiology techniques
2. Sharing phylogenetic analysis information on rabies virus across the region
3. Follow-up experience sharing & joint projects by Members & WOAH Reference Laboratory at CVRI



Bayesian Stochastic Search Variable Selection (BSSVS) approach was used to analyze transmission routes of RABV subclades in China and neighboring countries.

Regional/sub-regional support

ASEAN Rabies Elimination Strategy (ARES)

- ARES is currently being revised in line with the Global strategy of 2030.

South Asia Rabies Laboratory Network (SA-RABNET)

SA-RABNET launched in April 2023

Bhutan – Chair

Nepal – Co-Chair

Members nominated by WOAHA Delegates

Key objectives of the Network

- To provide a platform for sharing of information and experiences amongst the **National Lead Rabies Laboratories (NLRLs)** of the **SAARC Members** on rabies diagnosis, surveillance and control;

Activities in South-east Asia

At the national level, WOAAH implements a set of complementary activities to support its Members:

- **Providing guidance and technical support to update the national rabies control and elimination Strategy (Cambodia)**
- **Involving local authorities and city mayors in the fight against rabies (Indonesia)**
- **Dog population estimation/demographics (Bali, West Timor)**
- **PVS evaluation focus rabies (Indonesia)**
- **National Bridging Workshop Rabies focused (Bali)**
- **Providing access to the WOAAH Rabies Vaccine Bank upon requests from its Members (Indonesia, Cambodia, Brunei, Timor Leste)**
- **Supporting ORV pilot campaigns (Thailand)**
- **Communication materials produced (eg: [Protect Communities: Indonesia's Great Effort to Combat Rabies - YouTube](#) and [Rabies - WOAAH - Asia](#))**



Hand-over of Vaccines



Advocacy engagement with local leaders



WOAH Supported piloting of Oral Rabies Vaccination (ORV) in Cambodia, February 2024



The oral rabies vaccine baits (egg-based) ready for use



A free-roaming dog chewing the egg bait containing rabies vaccine inside.

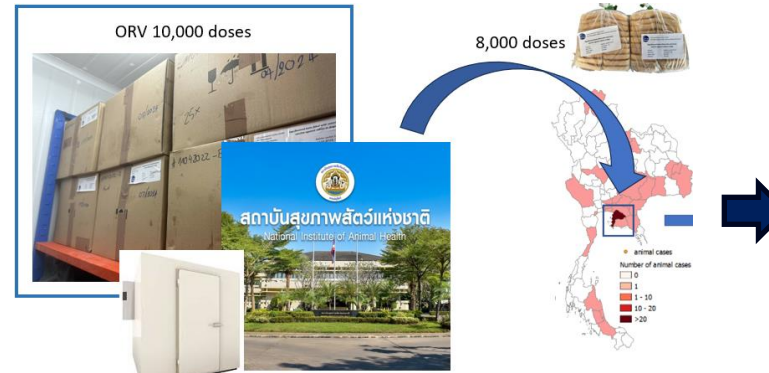


A sachet/blister that is completely punctured at several points thus indicating successful vaccination.

We supported the General Directorate for Animal Health and Production in piloting the use of 1000 doses of third generation live modified rabies vaccines (SPBN GASGAS strain) produced as *Rabitec®* from Ceva. We vaccinated the owned free-roaming dogs in Takeo Province of Cambodia. Safety and efficacy results are promising.

ORV - Thailand

- ORV campaign started in Jan 2024



Meeting with stakeholders



Setting team



Collaborate with dogs' feeder

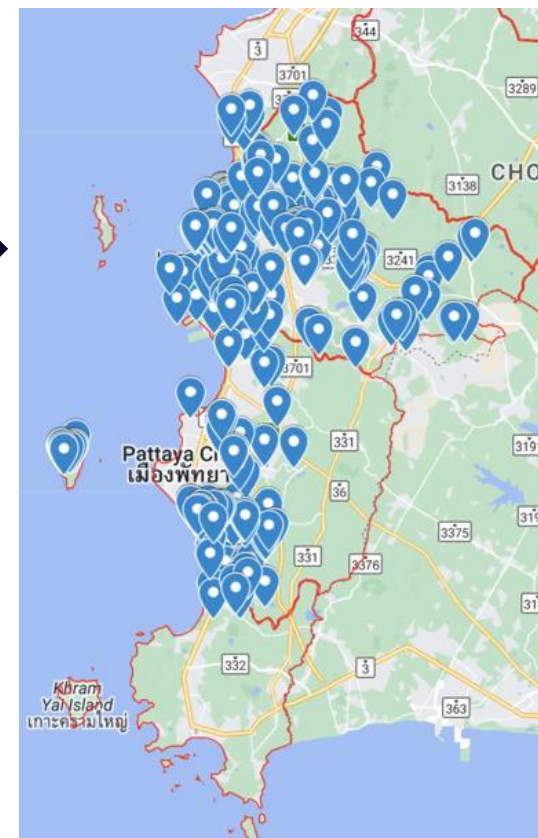


Data recording



Cold chain management

Parenteral vaccine



District	Local administrative	No. of areas	No. of dogs	No. of parenteral Vac.	No. of ORV	Average vac. Coverage
Banglamung district		85	1365	128	687	70.90
เทศบาลเมืองหนองปรือ		16	341	41	147	66.42
เทศบาลตำบลเมือง		1	20	0	20	100.00
เทศบาลตำบลตะเคียนเตี้ย		19	346	18	153	67.67
เทศบาลตำบลบางละมุง		2	103	0	71	58.32
เทศบาลตำบลห้วยใหญ่		16	302	37	142	67.12
อบต. พุดตาลทอง		2	8	0	2	50.00
เมืองพัทยา		11	44	0	32	81.40
ทน. แม่ทองมิ่ง		2	94	8	72	82.80
ทต. ห้วยใหญ่		16	107	24	48	76.64
Siracha		167	4128	192	3413	84.30
อบต. เขาคันทรง		5	97	24	39	61.18
อบต. หองขาม		13	196	12	132	71.46
ทน. แม่ทองมิ่ง		53	1489	126	1218	87.45
ทน. เจ้าพระยาสุรศักดิ์		62	931	19	777	84.98
ทต. บางพระ		4	160	0	122	70.45
อบต. ปอวิ้น		10	233	1	196	83.52
อบต. บางพระ		20	1022	10	929	91.13
Sattahip		23	1353	0	1002	75.83
ทต. นางจอมเทียน		17	1110	0	823	76.20
ทต. เจริญทรัพย์		6	243	0	179	74.77
Grand Total		275	6846	320	5102	79.45

WAY FORWARD: How WOAAH can support to end rabies



WOAH is available for supporting Members

Member can use the :

- WOAAH vaccine bank
- Support in assessment of One Health coordination
- Self-declaration of freedom of rabies free areas
- WOAAH endorsement of national strategic plan
- Expertise available from the WOAAH reference laboratories in **India, Republic of Korea, China P.R., Chinese Taipei.**
- Discuss with the **WOAH Regional and Sub Regional offices** for how we can support you.

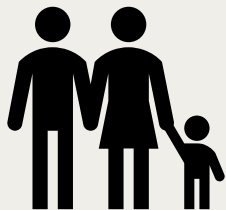
WAY FORWARD: How YOU can support to end rabies



Focus on
“Addressing
disease at
animal
source”



Prevent
disease in
humans



Elimination of dog mediated rabies elimination is possible

1. Develop national strategy plan for dog mediated rabies elimination based on One health
2. Designate focal points from relevant agencies
3. Make rabies a notifiable disease in both sector
4. Sustained coordination between stakeholders
5. Dedicated resources (funds, human)
6. Use good quality vaccines
7. Strategic & coordinated mass dog vaccination (MDV)
8. Dog population management to complement the MDV
9. Enhance field-level rabies surveillance
10. Cross border surveillance and control