


# RABIES UPDATES IN LAO PDR

## RABIES SITUATION

- Rabies is virus disease continue affect human and animal health.
- Lao PDR is rabies endemic country.
- Dogs are the main reservoir and continue to pose risk to human and animal health.
- Sporadic spread reported in dog, only one case in cattle was occurred(Savannakhet province)
- DLF 2018 report suggest that 25 dog head sample positive from 13 district of four provinces namely: Vientiane capital, Champasak, Xiengkhouang and Savannakhet.
- Bounlom et al ( 2017) studied Rabies surveillance in dogs in Lao PDR from 2010-2016 . Out of 415 dog sample submitted for 284 rabies positive cases ( 68.4%).
- Significant increase in rabies in dry season ( November –April

Rabies Outbreak Situation, 2018

Province	No. of District	No. of sample	No. of positive	% of positive
Vientiane cap	5	25	13	52%
Champasak	5	11	10	90.91%
Xiengkhouang	1	1	1	100%
Savannakhet	1	1	1	100%
Sekong	1	1	0	00%
<b>Total</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>39</b>	<b>25</b>	<b>64.1%</b>



Rabies case in Human

Year	Province	# of Deaths
2015	2	3
2016	2	2
2017	3	4
<b>Total</b>		<b>9</b>

## KEY ACHIEVEMENTS

- Rabies are included in the five most important diseases list of one health
- Rabies Day 28 September ceremony were conducted annually in the every provinces through Lao. The activities includes: Free rabies vaccination, rabies knowledge communication to the pet and community dog owner leaflet and poster distribution, game...
- cooperation with neighbouring country and international organisations such as OIE, WHO, FAO .
- Bilateral meeting conducted with Thailand and Vietnam on annual basis.
- National strategy on Rabies prevention and control drafted and key activities are identified under focus area “Zoonosis”, as part of national workplan on EID, PHE and health security 2016-2020

## MAJOR CHALLENGES

- The rabies reports only get from samples sent to the laboratory when that rabies dog bit someone, if no biting no report.
- Rabies diagnostic facility available at National Animal Health Laboratory in Vientiane capital and other facilities can be strengthened through capacity building and training.
- The dog bite cases in human undergo vaccination without sending dog sample to the laboratory hence actual data gathering and diagnosis on rabies cases is a challenge.
- Free animal vaccination for rabies only happen on rabies day and some project area that is why low percentage vaccination for rabies.
- Availability and production of rabies vaccine is an issue.
- Free dog raising without vaccination is the most, it supports rabies case spread away
- Limited information available on quantitative data of rabies vaccination through private clinics and para veterinarians.



## Way forward

- Continue working with international organizations, neighboring country, partners and communities.
- Strengthen surveillance of rabies in humans and animals (include Rabies into National Disease Surveillance System).
- Continue to improve active and passive surveillance for early detection and timely reporting.
- Focus on capacity building ,training and lab diagnosis in rabies.
- Increase public awareness ( dog owners, private practitioners, para veterinarians ) on rabies spread , prevention and control e.g. vaccination