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Rabies situation and recent initiatives in South Asia

Virtual Workshop on Proposed South Asia Rabies Laboratory Network

Thursday, 14 July 2022, 3 PM

Kinzang Dukpa
Regional Project Coordinator
WOAH Regional Representation for Asia and the Pacific
Tokyo, Japan



Human Rabies - the Current Situation

- Remains Endemic in 150+ Countries Globally
 - Causing approximately 59,000 human deaths
 - 95% cases in Asia and Africa regions (1 Death every 9 Minutes)
 - Mostly children under 15 years of age
 - 99% of rabies cases = dog-mediated

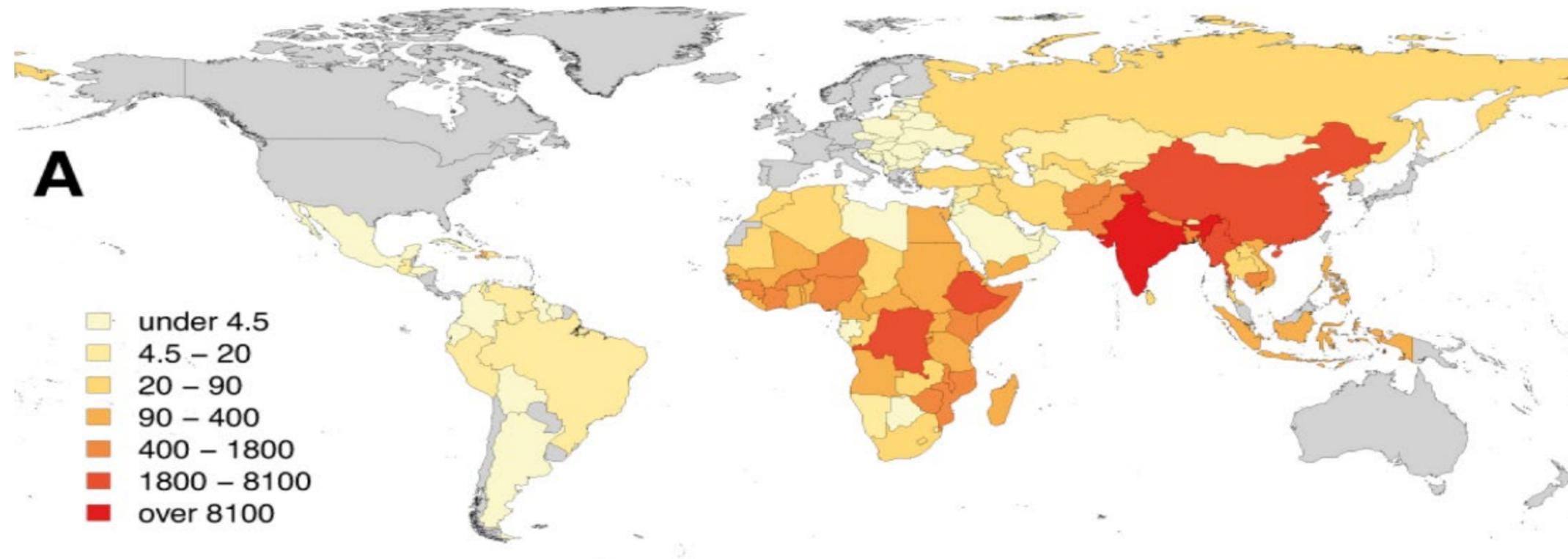
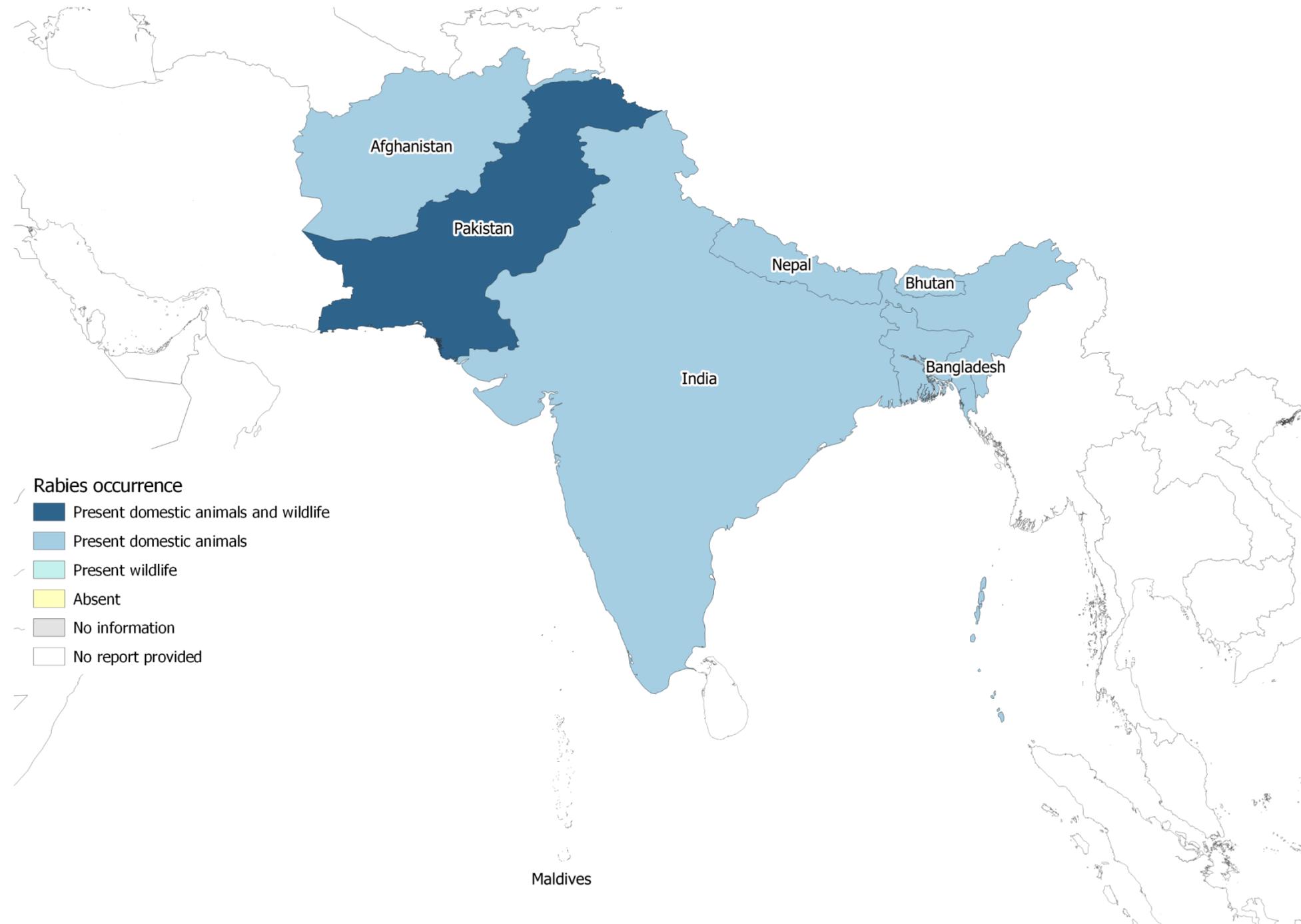
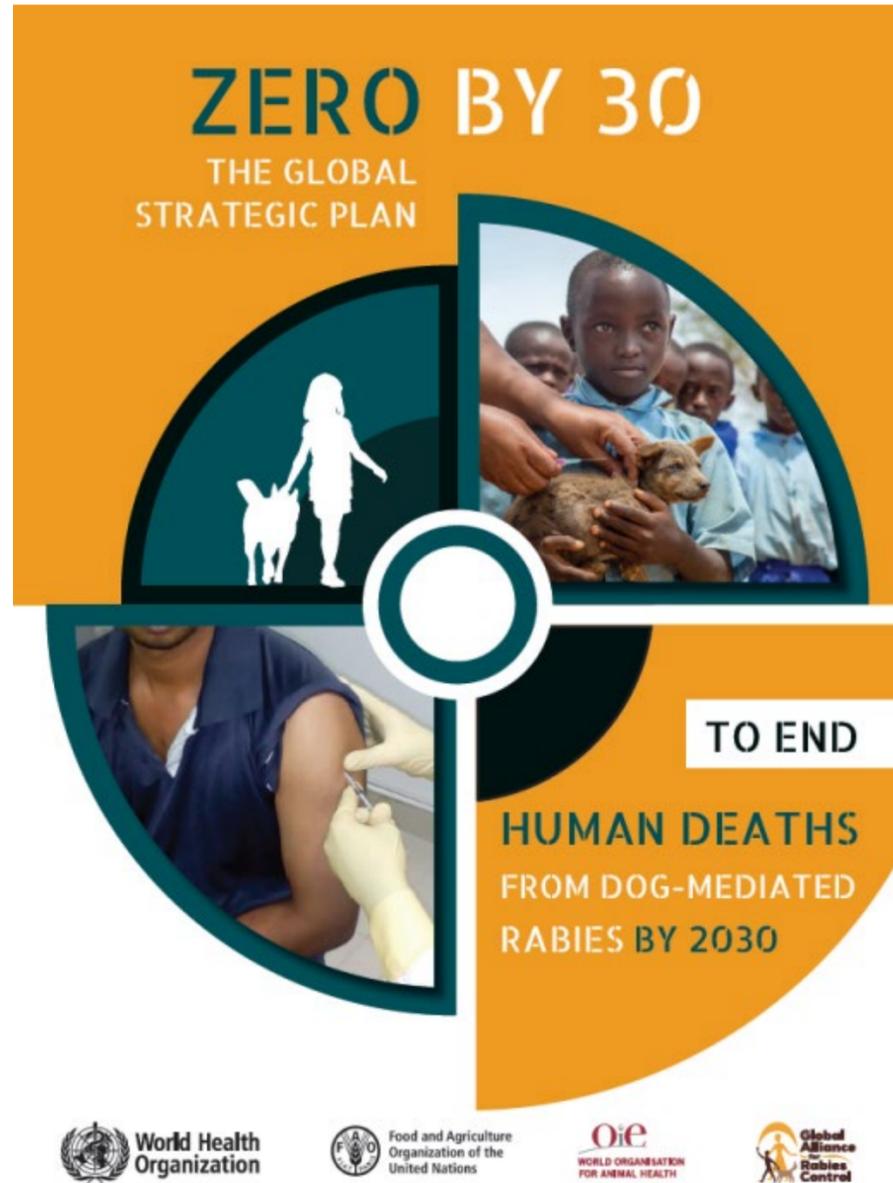


Figure 1. Global burden of dog-mediated human rabies (Human deaths) (TRS 3rd Report 2017 – WHO)

Reported Animal Rabies Situation in South Asia



Tripartite Initiatives on Rabies



United Against Rabies (UAR) – The Zero by 30 Initiative



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Joint Workshops, Conferences, Seminars, WRD etc.

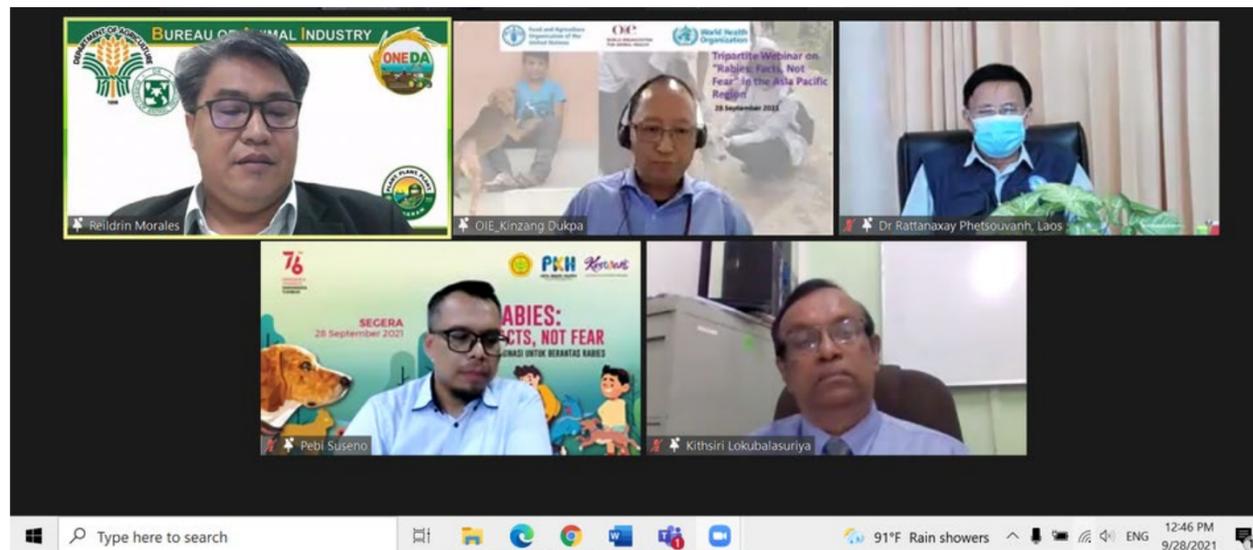
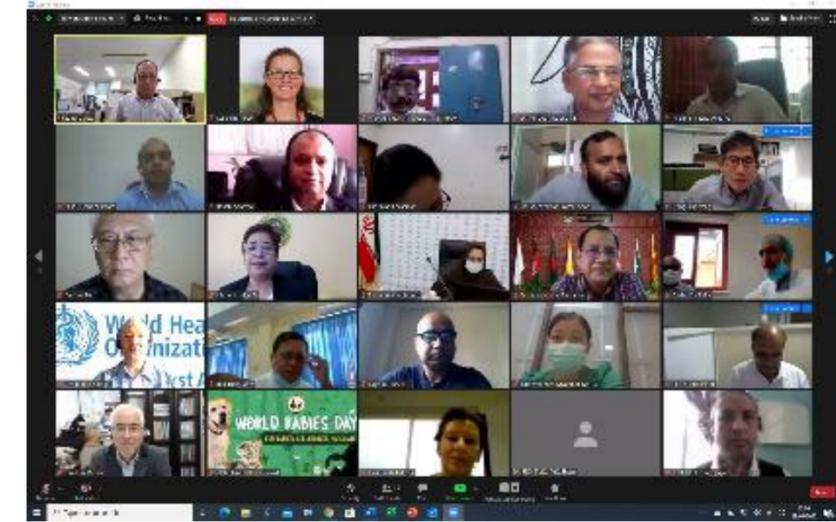
Launching of “United Against Rabies (UAR) Forum”
<https://www.unitedagainstrabies.org/>

World Rabies Day Webinars

- Since 2018, an annual regional tripartite event on 28 September
- 15th WRD in 2021 - “Rabies: Facts, Not Fear”

Topics for 2021

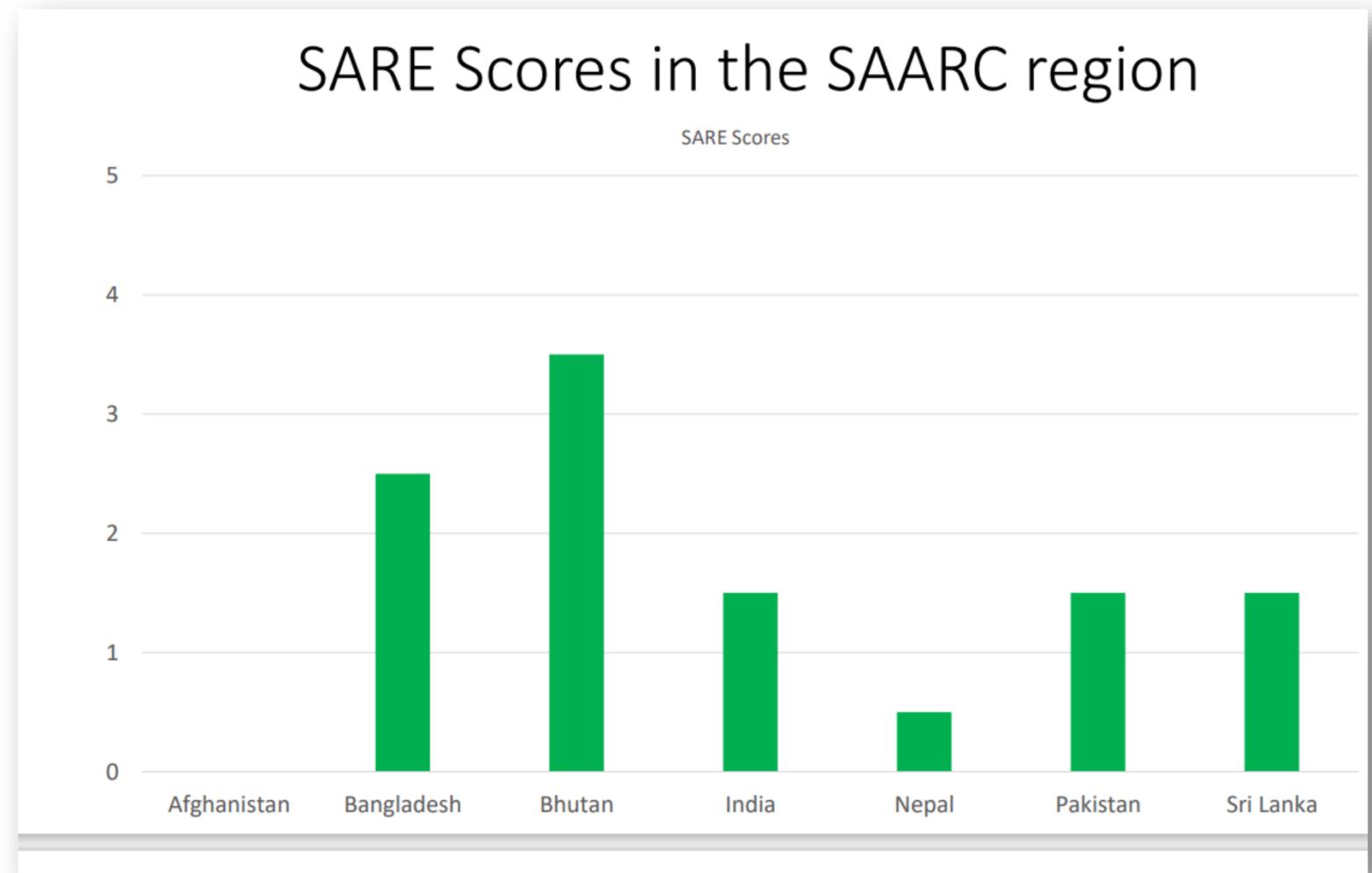
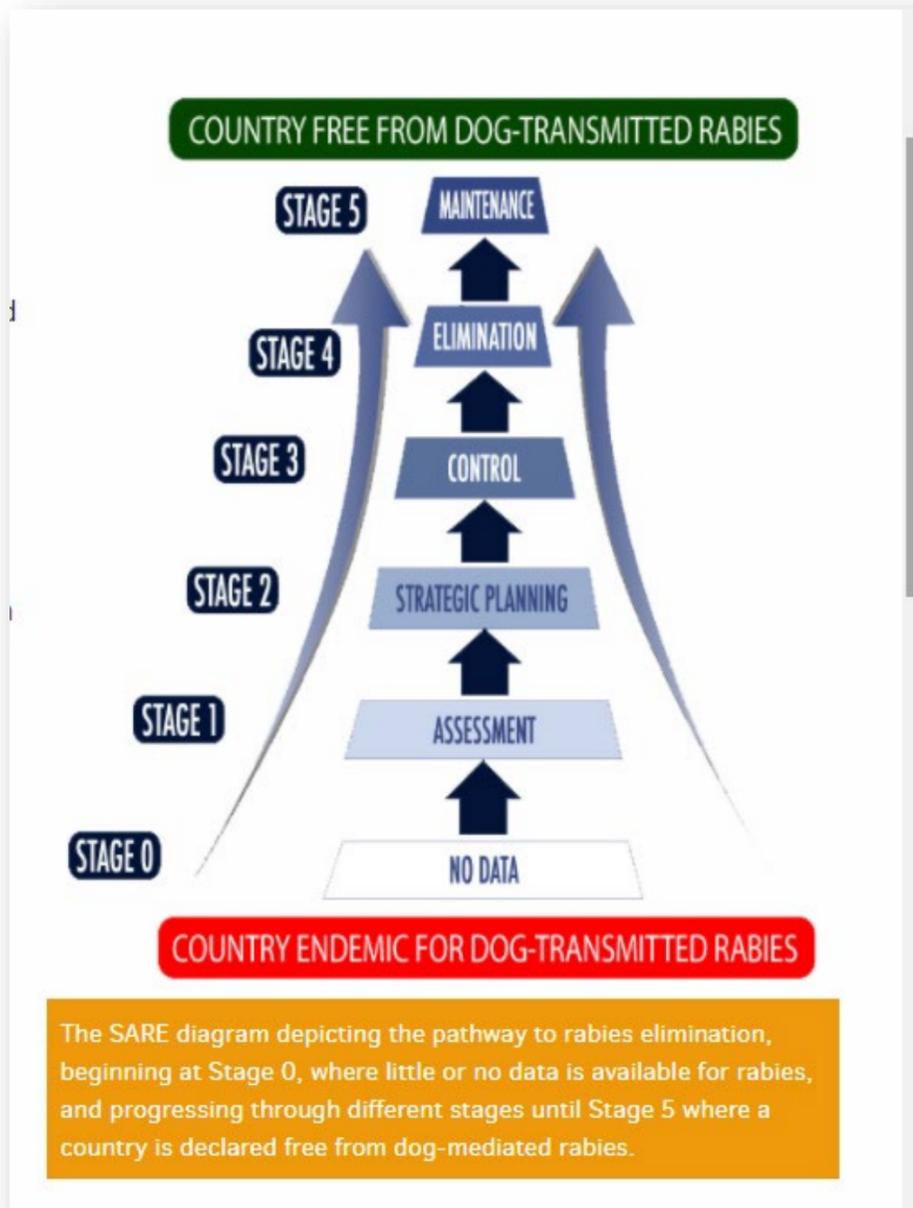
- National Action Plans
- Surveillance and strategic dog vaccination
- Prevention of rabies in human



Stepwise Approach Towards Rabies Elimination (SARE)

A practical planning, monitoring and evaluation tool to guide, develop and refine rabies control programmes

2019 – SARE assessments in SAARC countries (except Afghanistan and Pakistan [done in 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**



Webinars



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SAARC Rabies Webinar

“Updates and progress in the SAARC region towards elimination of dog-mediated human rabies by 2030”

4 PM Tokyo time (Kabul – 11:30 AM; Male' and Islamabad – 12 PM; Colombo and New Delhi – 12:30 PM.

Kathmandu – 12:45 PM; Dhaka and Thimphu – 1 PM)

18-20 May 2020, Zoom meeting

Key topics

- Mass Dog Vaccination including Oral Rabies Vaccines
- Multisectoral Collaboration Mechanisms
- National Strategic Plans

Key outputs

- > 230 participants logged in daily
- Q & A Session was very active
- Many feedback to include topics on wildlife rabies, PEP in food animals, dog population management

Webinars



OIE Webinar on Mass Dog Vaccination Methods and Tools for Rabies Elimination in the SAARC Region

29-30 March 2021, 3 PM Japan Time

Meeting etiquette

- Always keep your microphone muted and video turned off unless you are called on to unmute/open
- Please do not use multiple devices to join Zoom
- Put your questions into "Chat" for presenters to review and answer

Picture courtesy: Dr Md. Shohidul Islam Khokon, Bangladesh and Dr Pradeep Kumarawadu, Sri Lanka



Key topics

- Understanding dog ecology and population estimation tools to support MDV
- Upscaling MDV in the region: methods and approaches

Key outputs

- > 70 participants logged in daily
- Q & A Session was very active
- Several questions on ORVs,

<https://rr-asia.woah.org/en/events/oie-webinar-on-mass-dog-vaccination-methods-and-tools-for-rabies-elimination-in-the-saarc-region/>

OIE Virtual Training Series on Rabies Diagnosis for SAARC Region

5-6 November 2020 (with OIE Reference Laboratory in Bangalore, India)

Key topics

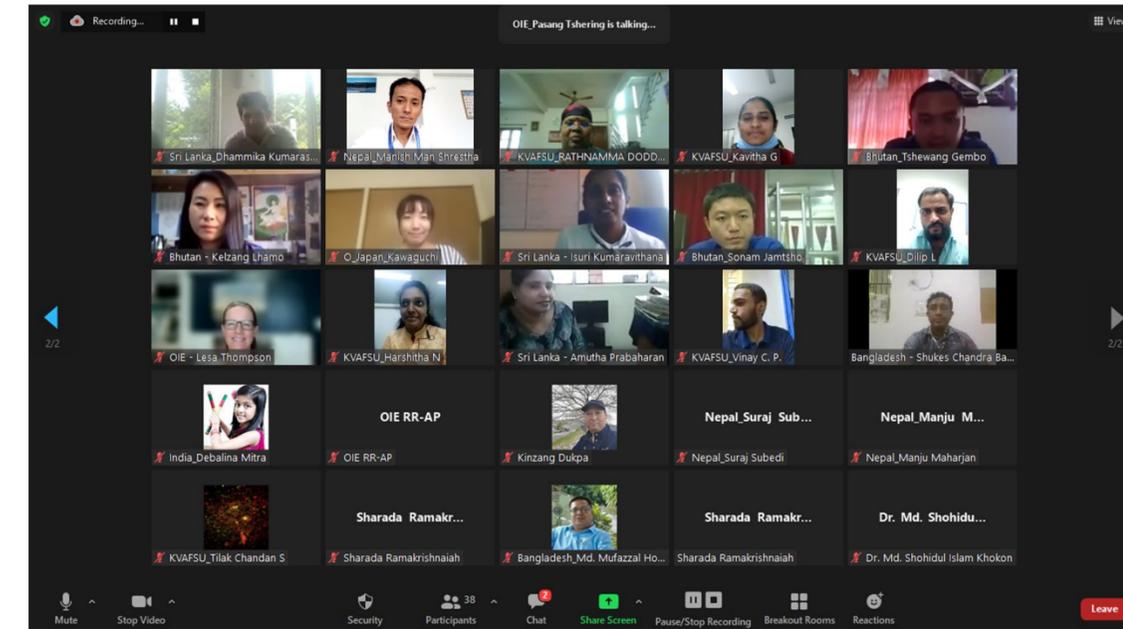
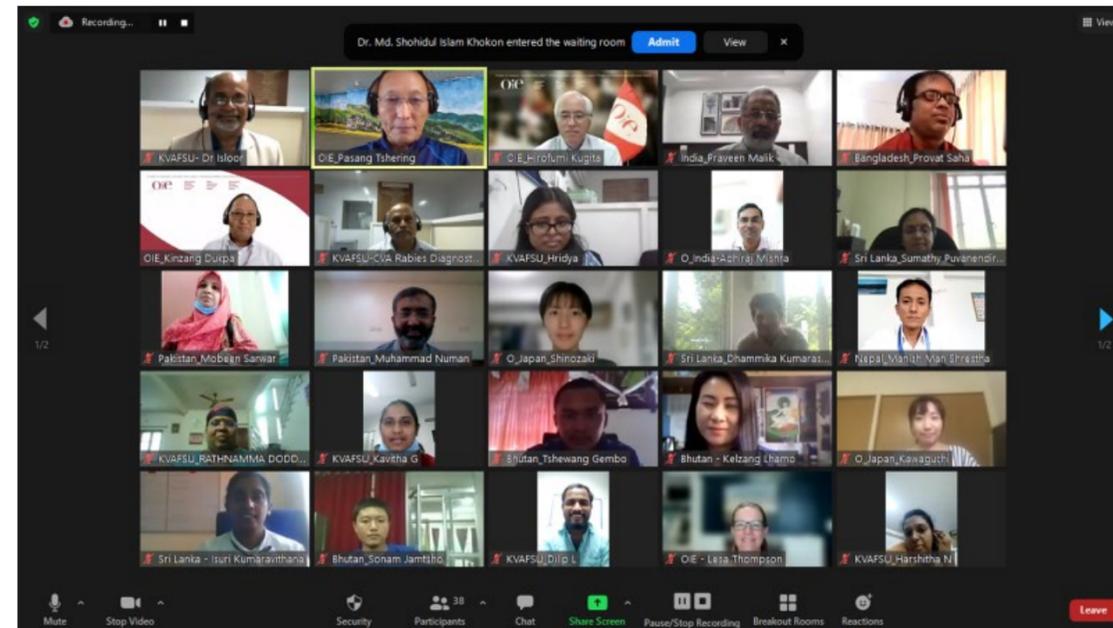
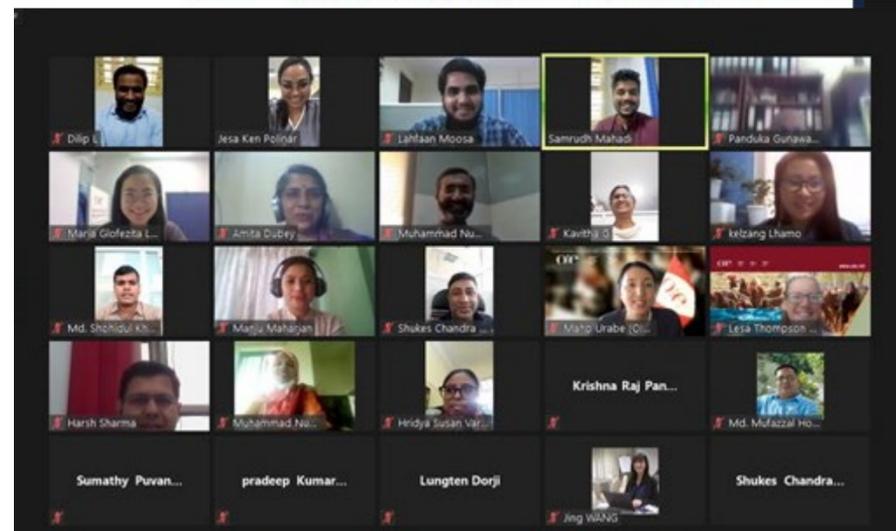
- Occipital foramen approach for brain sampling
- Lateral Flow Immunoassays (LFA)
- Direct Fluorescent Antibody test (DFA)

OIE Virtual Training Series on Rabies Serology for SAARC Region

Dates: 11-13 October 2021, 2 PM Japan Time

Key topic

- Rapid Fluorescent Focus Inhibition test (RFFIT)



Key updates – South Asia

Key areas	Country situation
National Strategic Plans on rabies	Bhutan - revised NSP into multisectoral plan India – officially launched NAPRE in September 2021 Nepal – in drafting stage (under consultation) Sri Lanka – in final drafting stage
Rabies made notifiable	Nepal (in animals), India (notifiable in animals at national and in six States)
Mass dog vaccination (MDV)	Bhutan, Bangladesh, Sri Lanka have ongoing nation-wide MDV activities funded by the government
Dog population management (DPM)	Bhutan – ongoing nationwide DPM with rabies vaccination program launched in March 2022 Bangladesh – ongoing DPM
Oral rabies vaccination initiatives	Nepal and Sri Lanka in consultation with WOAHP RRAP for possible support in piloting of ORVs India also interested to pilot ORVs India recently approved import of ORVs for use in dogs in Goa State

Issues and way-forward

- **High-level advocacy and political support**
- **Enhance Education and Awareness**
- **Motivating & coordinating different sectors/players (ONE HEALTH)**
- **Enhanced disease reporting and surveillance**
- **Dog vaccination >70%**
- **Use the Standards, Guidelines, Tools**

**Time to
Eliminate
Rabies “Zero-
by-30”**



Focus on
“Addressing
disease at
animal
source”



Prevent
disease in
humans

