

Dog-mediated human rabies elimination in the Oshana region-Control Pilot Project



Dr Rauna Athingo
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Background

- Despite Government's free annual rabies vaccination, rabies is still on the increase in both animals and humans especially in the Northern Communal Areas (NCAs)
- In Namibia, 6-26 people and over 300 animals died of rabies annual over the last decade
- Over the last two years the average of 52% vaccination coverage was recorded in Oshana region
- Estimated dog population of 12 000 (crushpen records)
- Scientifically, 70% vaccination coverage is sufficient to eliminate rabies in a defined dog population

Possible contributing factors negatively affecting rabies control

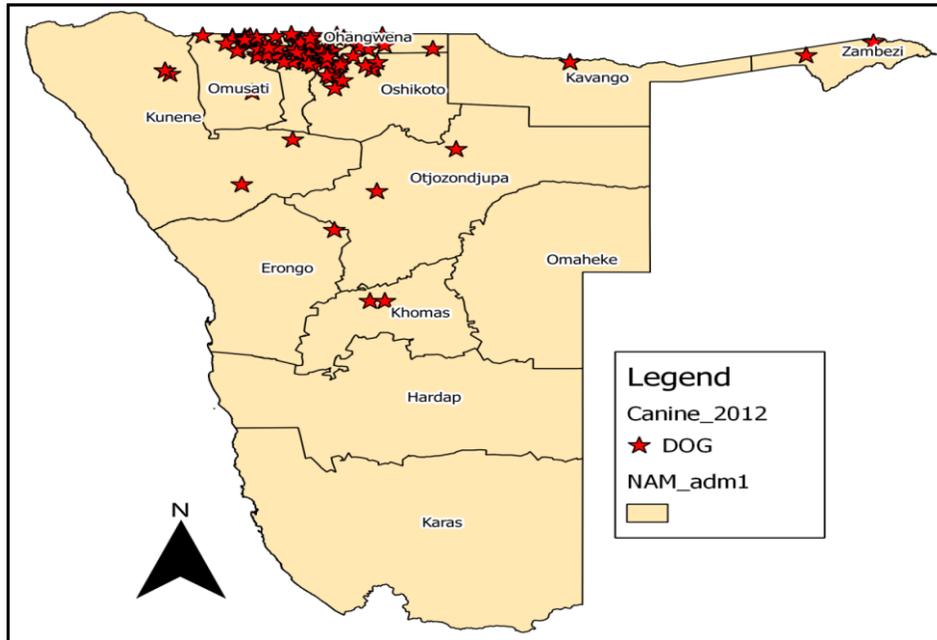
- Insufficient data on dog populations
- Poor public awareness
- Inadequate surveillance programme and reporting of rabies cases
- Lack of stakeholder involvement
- Lack of research on the disease

Objectives

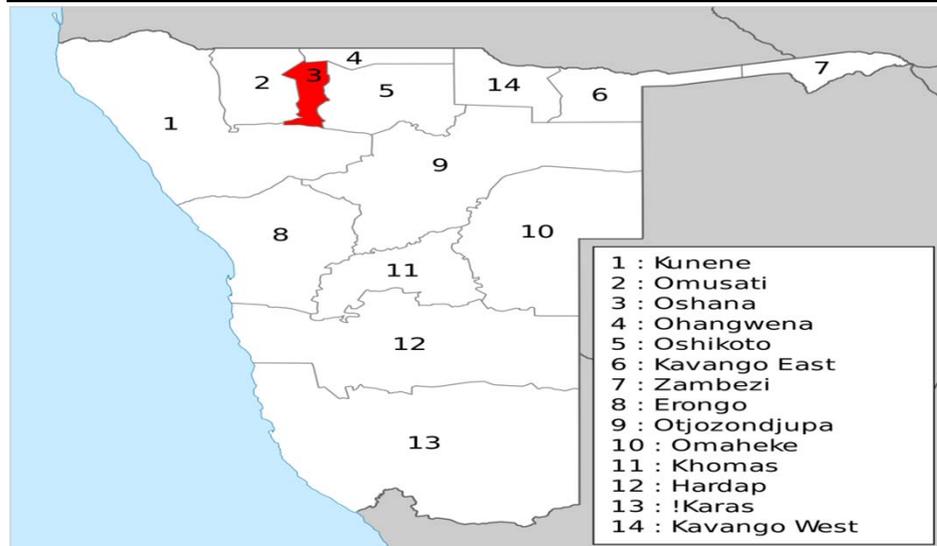
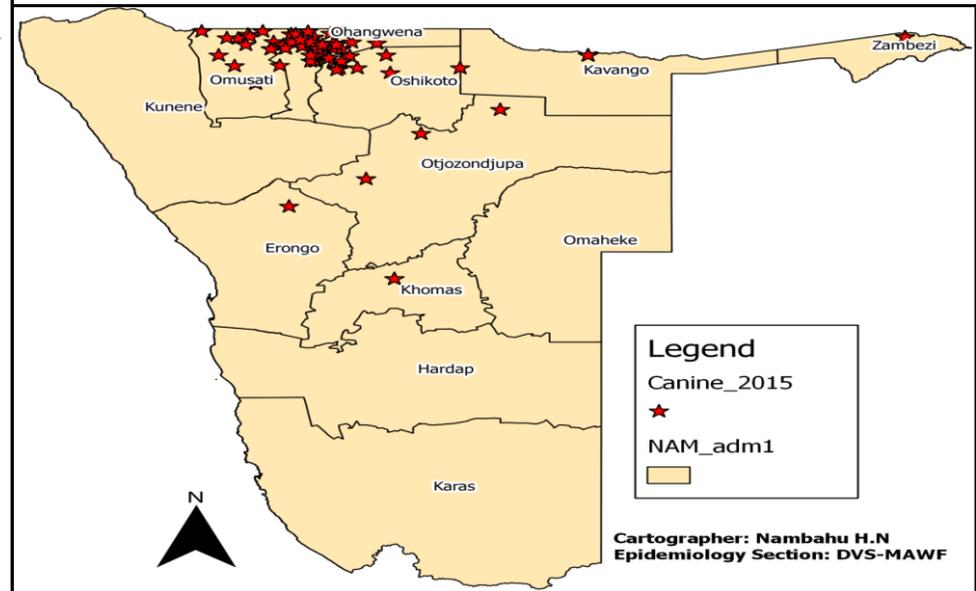
- Pilot project aimed at achieving a marked reduction of rabies cases in canines over 12 months through:
 - ✓ Mass vaccination of pets to cover 70%
 - ✓ Intensified public awareness
 - ✓ Promoting Intra-sectoral cooperation
 - ✓ Promoting intra-regional cooperation
 - ✓ Promoting stray pet Management measures
 - ✓ Stakeholder engagement
 - ✓ Conducting a Knowledge, Attitudes and Practices study (KAP study)

Why Oshana region?

Canine rabies , 2012



Canine rabies, 2015



- Population: 174 900 (2011 NPC)
- Total Area: 8647 km² (3,339 sq mi)
- Density: 20/km² (52/sq mi)
- 137 schools
- 50 740 pupils
- Centre of major economic activities (3 towns)
- 11 constituencies

Geographical distribution of dog rabies, Namibia, 2011-2015

Area	Number of cases	Percent (%)
Northern Communal Areas (NCAs)	462	93
South of Veterinary Cordon Fence (SVCF)	35	7
Total	497	100

Project funding /Support



Project phases:

i) Pilot phase (March 2016 –February 17)

ii) Roll out phase (March 2017-March 2018)

- Launching of Rabies strategy 2015 (Hon. Minister -MAWF)
- Project sponsored by the Federal Government of Germany through OIE for a period of three years
- GRN main support with recurrent budget

Methods

- Project launch on 1st March 2016 (awareness creation)
- Training of Project personnel
- Stakeholder engagement
- Rabies education (schools, Radio, TV etc)
- Two rounds of vaccination conducted six monthly
- ✓ multiple vaccinations centres
- ✓ House to House Vaccination approach

Methods

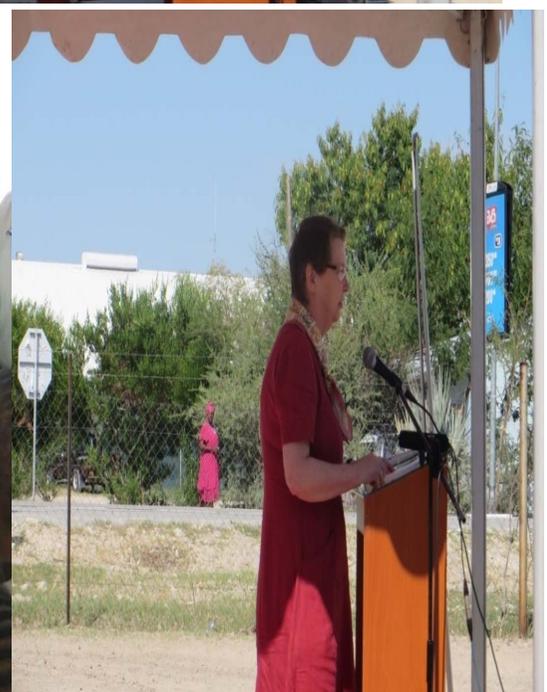
Timing of vaccination:

- First round during School holidays
- Second round during School days

Census collection:

- recording all vaccinated pets, missed pets including stray pets
- Conducted KAP study in the whole region

Project launch - 1st March 2016



Training of personnel



Stakeholders engagement

- Present the problem at hand
- How to address it together
- Find a common ground towards implementation process
- Own the project



Rabies Education at school talks



Education/Awareness materials



Rabies education (TV talks)



Vaccines and dog handling equipment



Results

- Usual vaccination figure **5,000-6,000**,
- Targeted coverage 70% of **12,000**

1) First round Vaccination figures:

Species	#Vaccinated	Census	Coverage
Dog	24,638	25,649	96%
Cat	2,073	2,160	95%
Total	26,711	27,809	

Results

2) **Second round vaccination figures:**

- 13, 541 pets, 93% (12, 634) dogs
- About 50% (6,368/12634) dogs vaccinated for the first time,
- 83% (5,286/6,368) are 6 months and younger

House to house vaccination (L) and vaccination at fixed points (R)



Rabies education

- Targeted 90% schools
- Conducted in 86% (119/137) school, Covering 81% (41,264/ 50 740) children
- Face to face rabies awareness conducted in 114 communities covering 2,884 individuals
- Conducted 2 (two)TV and five Radio talks
- Interviewed 1,248 people (KAPs) , targeted 600

Stakeholder engagements

- Ministry of health (2 engagements)
- Regional council
- Three Municipalities
- Ministry of education
- Ministry of safety and security
- UNAM, School of public health and School of Nursing(Oshakati campus)
- Traditional Authorities (3)
- Ministry of Information, communication and Technology

Trends of Confirmed Rabies cases, 2014- Jan 2017

2014- Total samples 43 – 22 (12 canine ample)

54.54%

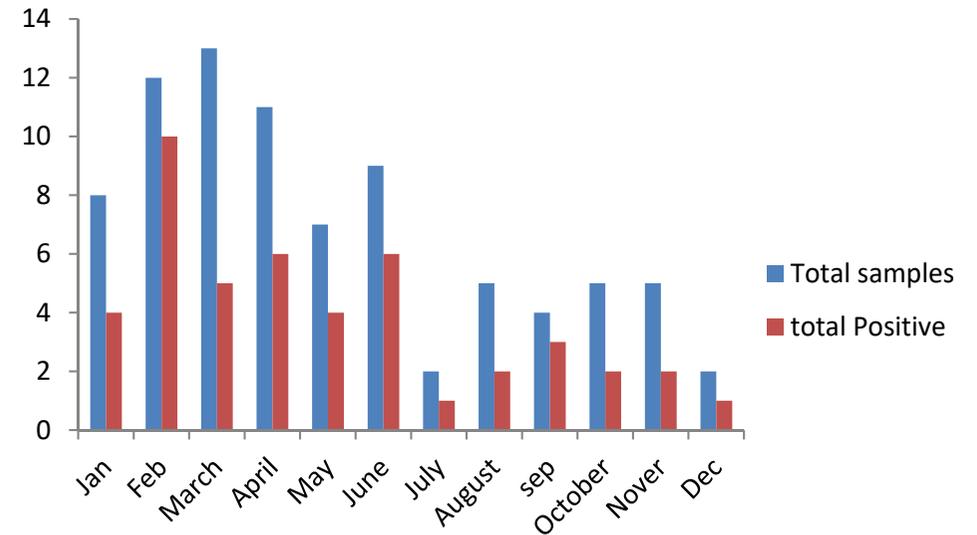
2015- Total samples 83-46(30 canine samples)

65.21%

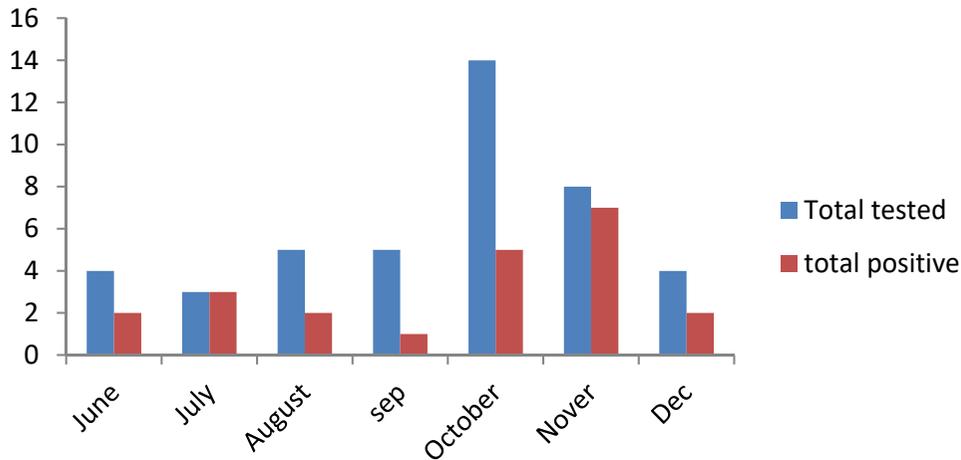
Jan-2016-Jan 2017- Total samples 75-42 (19 canine samples)

45.23%

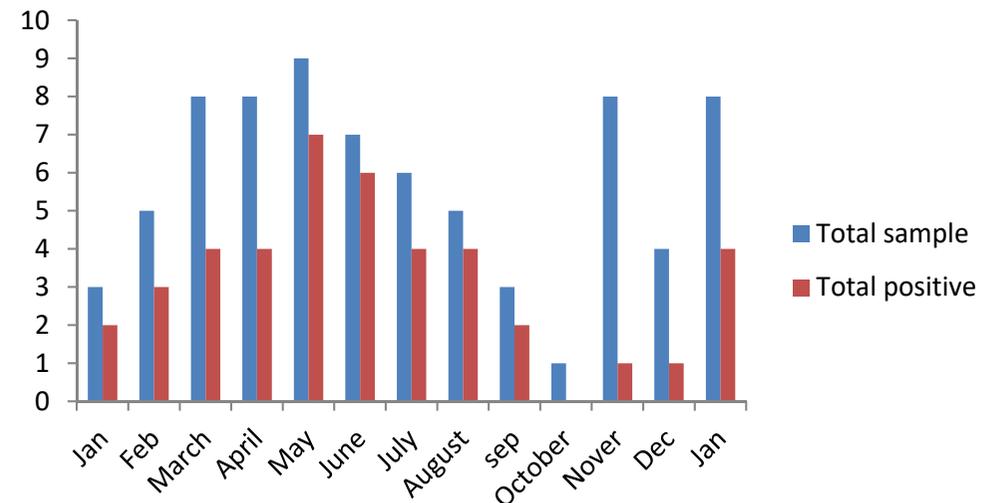
Rabies confirmed cases 2015



Rabies confirmed cases 2014

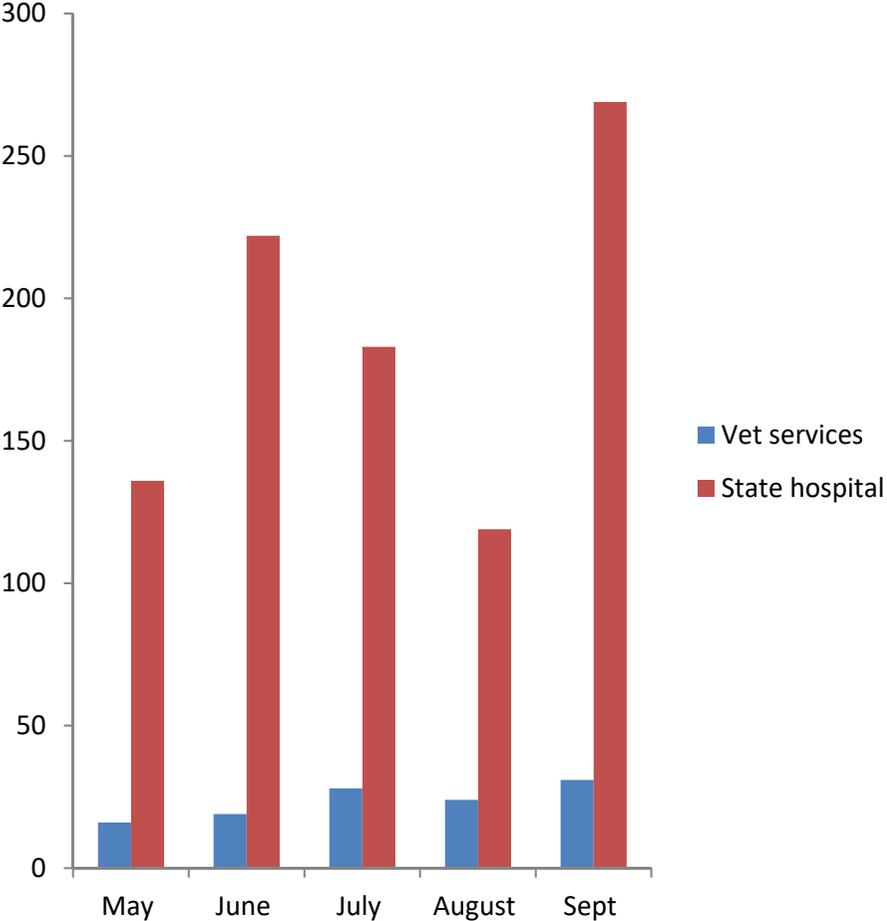


Rabies confirmed cases 2016

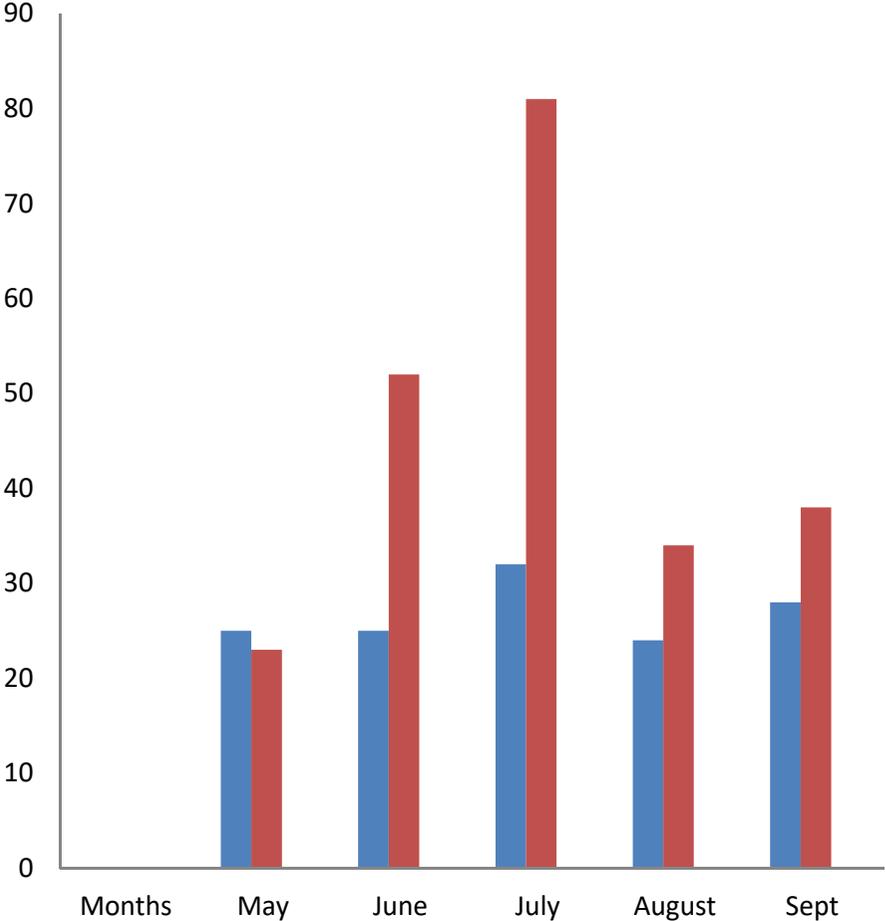


Trends of dog bite cases at Veterinary facility and State hospital, Oshana region from May to September 2015-2016

Reported dog bite cases 2015



Reported dog bite cases 2016



Conclusions and recommendations

- Pilot project revealed that the dog population in the region has been greatly underestimated over the years
- estimated **12,000** , observed **25,649**
- Intensified awareness, multiple vaccination centers , house to house vaccination, vaccination during school holidays ensured vaccination success
- This rabies control approach is thus recommended for roll out to other NCAs regions
- Great effort and rabies prioritization crucial for sustainability

Acknowledgements

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- Local individuals and companies for their financial and material support
- All stakeholders and community members for support and cooperation

Thank you

