



State of play of activities against rabies in North Africa

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Larnaca, Cyprus*

Rabies activities



OIE rabies meeting for North Africa countries:

To move countries forward towards effective rabies elimination strategies in North Africa – July 2019

Organised under the project funded by the European Union *Strengthening Veterinary Services in Developing Countries + Rabies* ([SVSDC+R](#))

Rabies activities

- ❑ **About 30 people**, comprising of animal and public health experts from Algeria, Morocco and Tunisia, along with representatives of Ministries of Home Affairs and/or of Local Government Areas, responsible for dog population management in municipalities, met in Tunisia to make progress on harmonisation of elimination strategies for dog-mediated rabies in humans
- ❑ The Chief Veterinary Officer and OIE Delegate of Kenya and an expert from Namibia were also invited to share their experiences in fighting rabies
- ❑ The meeting was also attended by Representatives from national WHO country offices in Tunisia and Morocco, as well as an expert from WHO Headquarters (Geneva). FAO could not attend.
 - The objectives of the seminar were **to promote collaboration** between the Veterinary, the Public Health and the Local Government authorities under the One Health umbrella, in the control of rabies and **to increase political will** and promote the elimination of dog-mediated rabies in humans in the Maghreb region

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 Dec 2017), 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 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:

- **Vaccination:** 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 (WHO) and the General Assembly of Delegates (OIE)
- **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 countries and therefore require long-term support.

Includes activities for:

- **Case for investment:** make the case for investment in rabies elimination to policy makers, donors of the funds and value of investment elimination strategies
- **Business plans:** prepare business plans based on the Framework for Dog-Mediated Human Rabies Elimination
- **Investment:** encourage investment in various forms of investment partnerships (private/public investment) and resources and engagement

CRITICAL SUCCESS FACTORS

- Long-term political and social support
- Community engagement
- Sustainable vaccination of 70% dog population
- Proof of concept: start small, scale up
- Sufficient resources, logistics and infrastructure
- Promote vaccine banks and other mechanisms for the acquisition of rabies immunoglobulins and sufficient supply of quality-assured human immunoglobulin
- Reach remote, rural and at-risk populations
- Conduct performance measurement and evaluation
- Maintain trained and motivated personnel

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

Rabies activities

There were working sessions that paved the way for a final discussion where several common challenges and solutions were identified:

- ❑ To share data/information on topics related to rabies control (e.g. publications) ;
- ❑ To share national strategic plans and *standard operation procedures* (SOP);
- ❑ To celebrate “World Rabies Day” together (e.g. one country will invite representatives from neighbouring countries);
- ❑ To develop appropriate actions for targeting high risk areas such as rural / communal areas;
- ❑ To map all potential civil society stakeholders (e.g. NGOs) working in this field to be included/involved in the fight against rabies;
- ❑ To strengthen field capacities and research;
- ❑ To implement and better exploit the outcomes of pilot projects.

Tunisia's One Health success story



The Minister of Health and Agriculture signed in September 2019 the joint engagement pledged in the Global Strategic Plan to end human deaths from dog-mediated **rabies** by 2030 (Zero by 30)

OIE Vaccine Bank

Year 2019:

- ❑ Tunisia: 300,000 doses
- ❑ Algeria: 500,000 doses

Organised under the project funded by the European Union *Strengthening Veterinary Services in Developing Countries + Rabies* ([SVSDC+R](#))

World Rabies Day

Saturday 28th September 2019



Rabies activities in North Africa



Report

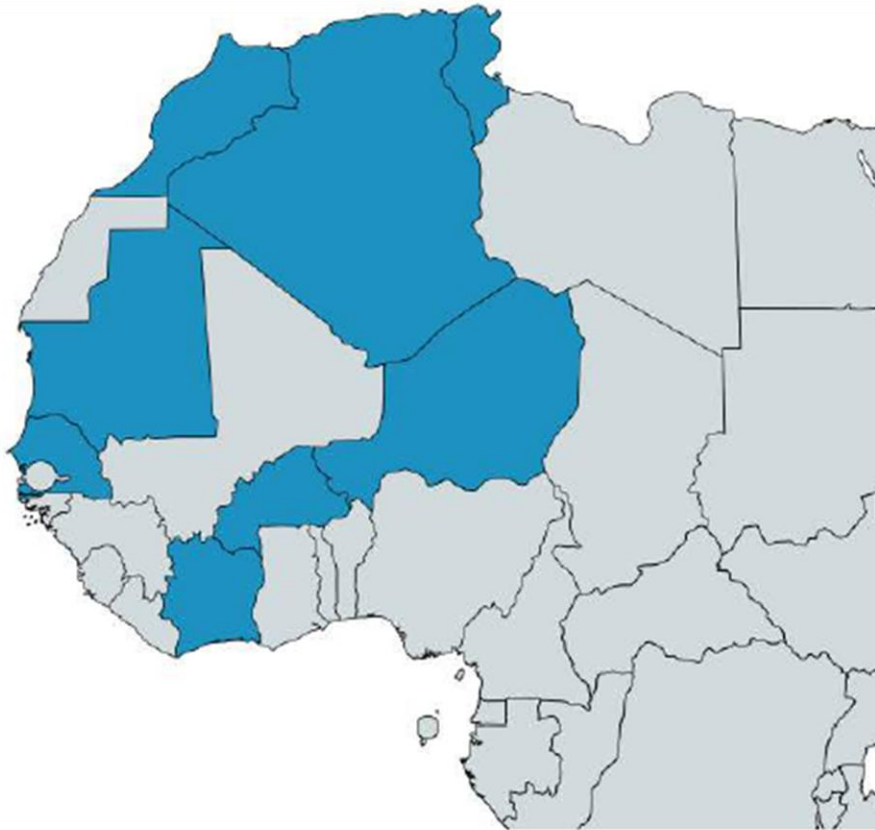
**Workshop on Surveillance and Control of Rabies
Pasteur Institute of Morocco
September 17th to 28th 2019**

- ❑ The purpose of the last course in Morocco was to provide a practical training on rabies with a special focus on North Africa, Sahel and West Africa for French-speaking professionals of animal and human public health sectors.
- ❑ The course emphasized the need of multidisciplinary approach and inter-sectorial cooperation.

Partially funded by the European Union *Strengthening Veterinary Services in Developing Countries + Rabies* ([SVSDC+R](#))

Rabies activities in North Africa

Countries of origin of the trainees



Morocco : 7
Tunisia : 4
Algeria : 3
Niger : 1

Ivory Cost : 1
Mauritania : 1
Senegal : 1
Burkina Faso : 1

Topics discussed and practically addressed:

- Awareness and communication*
- Problems and opportunities*
- Epidemiological data*
- Post-exposure prophylaxis*
- Dog rabies vaccination*
- Dog population management*
- One health approach*

Rabies activities in North Africa

WORLD RABIES DAY

Events

Event resources

Awards

WRD Awards Nominees



We're very pleased to share the shortlisted nominations and the Awardees for the [World Rabies Day Awards 2019](#) below.

Follow GARC on [Facebook](#) or [Twitter](#) for updates on the Awardees which were announced on November 3rd, One Health Day.

Global

Individual

AWARDEE: Dr. Abdul- Jalil Mohammadzai



The Mayhew Home Afghanistan
Afghanistan

Dr. Mowliid Osman



Somalia

Dr. Nadia Brik



CRDA of Tozeur
Tunisia

RABID BYTES

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Morocco

AWARDEE: SFT Animal Sanctuary



Award Category

Regional - MERACON (Middle East, Eastern Europe, Central Asia and North Africa)

[Awardee Website](#)

SFT's Project Hayat is changing mindsets. After the strays have been Treated, Neutered and Vaccinated, they are identified with a yellow Tag (TNVT) and returned to the community. This means both the authorities and the public know that they are not a danger to the community. Sally and her team have managed to TNVT 1100 dogs and 500 cats. They hope for a future where there are no strays on the streets of Tangier.

SFT also responds to emergencies by providing treatment to all animals through the SFT veterinarian.

Project Hayat involves catching dogs in a humane way, having the community involved to be able to give annual boosters. It also involves educating the community about animal welfare, rabies and how to avoid dog bites and what to do if bitten. SFT's Project Hayat is being used as a role model for the whole of Morocco. Over 7000 animals have been vaccinated against rabies since it started. *(Extracts from nomination)*



Merci pour votre attention



Dr Rachid Bouguedour



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