

Update on WHO's involvement in the Africa Rabies Elimination Program

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Brief generalities and the rabies situation in Africa (1/2)

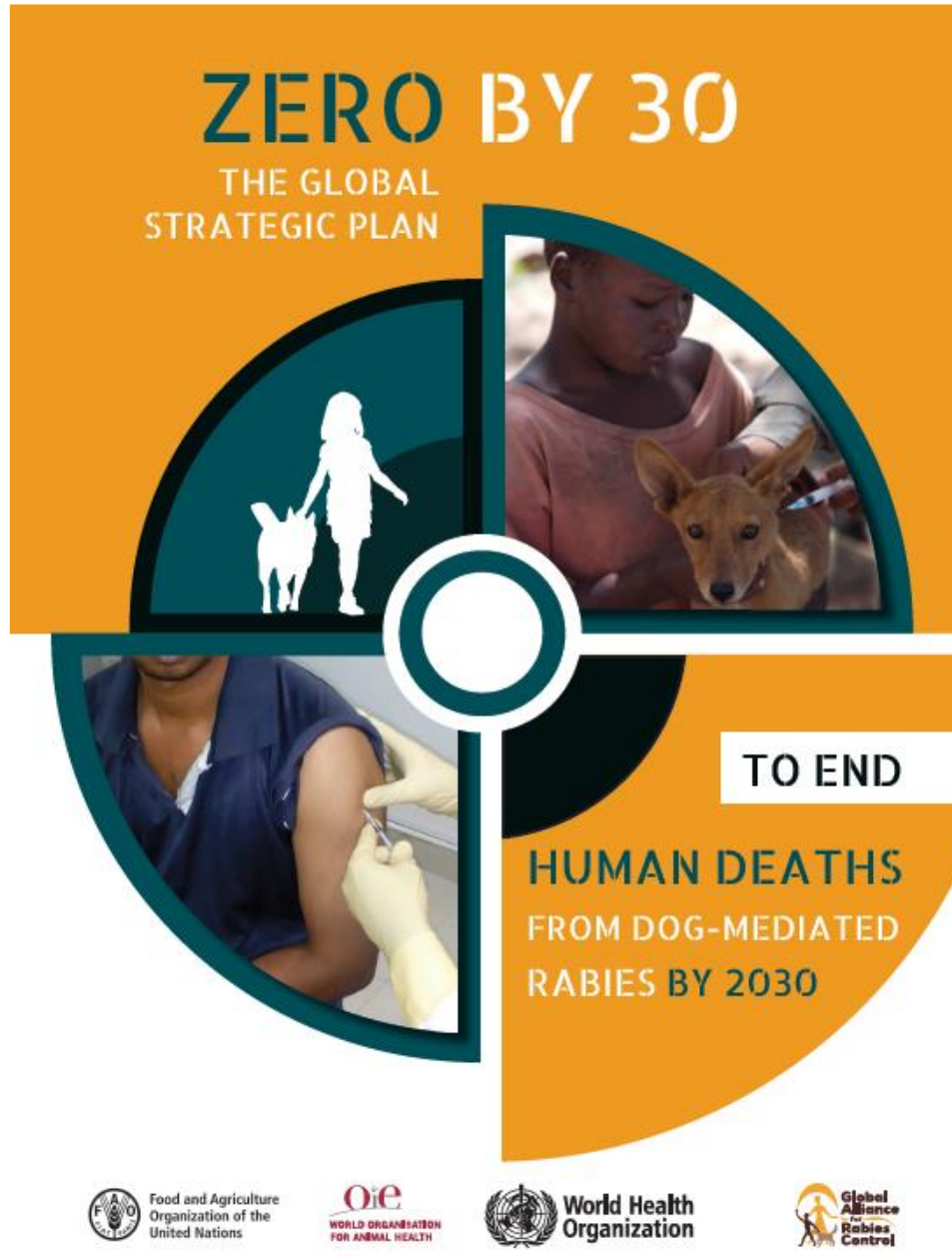
- Viral anthroozoonosis transmitted to humans from an infected animal. Dogs are responsible for 99% of human infections;
- Human rabies is always fatal once clinical symptoms appear;
- Rabies is present in more than 100 countries / territories and in almost all African countries). It is estimated that human rabies deaths vary between 26,400 and 61,000 per year, of which nearly 24,000 in Africa (children 5 - 14 years old pay the heaviest price);
- The data available in the Region does not reflect the reality;
- Prevention remains the priority of the National Public Health Programs.

Brief generalities and the rabies situation in Africa (2/2)

- A Global Plan is being developed around a **United Against Rabies partnership** (WHO, OIE, FAO and GARC) to achieve Zero human deaths from dog-transmitted rabies in 2030;
- The implementation of the fight against rabies is very timid in Africa because of :
 - Unavailability of inputs (vaccines, sera) and low mobilization of resources;
 - Weakness of the multisectoral management approach;
 - Data management system: almost non-existent.
- There are many challenges ahead in the African Region to achieve the ultimate goal by 2030

Partenariat OMS/OIE/FAO





United Against Rabies



<http://www.who.int/rabies/resources/9789241513838/en/>

Plan mondial: Zéro décès humain /rage en 2030



Rabies control strategies

- The main strategies recommended by WHO are :
 - Control of rabies in domestic animals vectors of the disease: control at the source (mainly dogs);
 - Post-exposure prevention (when the person has been bitten, licked and suffered a scratch by a suspicious animal);
 - Pre-exposure prevention (subjects exposed to the risk such as veterinary professionals, people working with animals, laboratory personnel affected by the virus, etc.).
- Weak rabies prevention and control initiatives have existed in countries since colonial and post-colonial periods. They require upgrading to adapt to the current context.

Achievements made by WHO in Africa (1/2)

- Registration of human rabies in the list of 20 Neglected Tropical Diseases at the launch of the initiative in 2007/2008;
- During the planning of the 2nd generation of the NTD Master Plans in 2011/2012 in the Region, the endemic countries were oriented to take into account the fight against rabies;
- Transmission to countries in October 2018 of the updated WHO position on rabies (will be reissued in the coming weeks);
- Experiences in 2 Southern African countries (KwaZulu-Natal / RSA and URT)

Achievements made by WHO in Africa (2/2)

- Multiple requests from WHO/AFRO (CDS and WHE) following an upsurge in cases of human rabies or dog bites (More than 10 episodes of epidemic outbreaks have been notified to AFRO in the last 5 years);
- Periodic support to countries in the implementation of Rabies Control Programs, in particular during an upsurge in cases of rabies or bites by dogs;
- Laborious attempt to collect rabies data from the Health and Livestock Sectors for the period 2015 to 2017;
 - Results: 5 countries among the 47 in the Region were able to present them (Benin, Gabon, Senegal, Mauritius and Cote d'Ivoire)

Immediate outlook

- Strengthen the collaboration of stakeholders within WHO and with Partners;
- Make quality vaccines and immunoglobulin available to countries for PEP in human populations (in addition to the vaccines available for good vaccination coverage of dog populations);
- Promote frank collaboration between the Human Health and Animal Health Sectors in the countries;
- Activate the One Health Platforms in Countries;
- Mobilize substantial resources for rabies control in countries;
- Strengthen the routine Health Information System on rabies data.