

National Rabies control and elimination Programme in Ethiopia

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Introduction

Rabies continues to pose threat to human health, and animal health in Ethiopia. Dog bites are 99% the source of rabies infection for humans. About 10,000 human deaths per year were reported to WHO in 1990s'. However, the national rabies baseline survey (ENRBS, 2012) estimates the incidence of human rabies death to be 1.6/100,000 population annually. The most recent estimate showed death incidence of 1.1/100,000 population (Asefa, D., 2017). Children under 15 years age were the most at risk population with 60% fatality percentage. The annual production losses due to rabies in cattle alone was estimated to be >210 million USD per year in Ethiopia, Beyene *et al.*, 2016.

Programme objectives

The dog mediated Rabies control and elimination in Ethiopia is a multi-sectoral Programme aimed to eliminate dog mediated rabies by 2030 through public awareness creation, Health education, mass dog vaccination, dog population management, strong surveillance system and responses implementation in One health approach involving all relevant governmental sectors at all level, development partners and NGOs.

Milestones/achievements

Mass public Awareness Creation- The mass awareness raising to community at different level were done.

- ❖ 3000 communication materials (flyers, brochures, banners) were distributed.
- ❖ Mainstream media (TV, Radio, newspapers and social media) used to transmit strategically crafted message
- ❖ Mass dog vaccination reached 9 regional states and 13 towns in these regions **Targeted advocacy-** high government officials of relevant government sectors and non governmental sectors' and experts were reached

Mass dog vaccination Campaign- 154,953 dogs were vaccinated in 2021/2022 fiscal year.

Dog Population Management- Public awareness creation on food staff waste management, stray dog sterilization is piloted in selected areas.

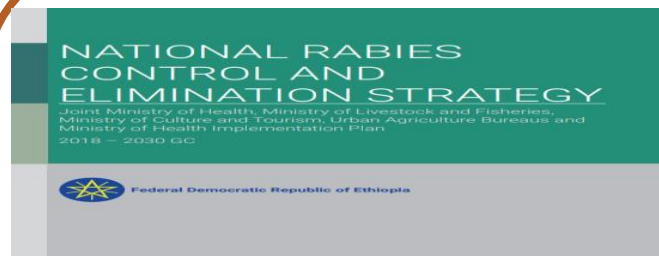
Impacts-

- Improved rabies incidence/outbreak reporting at all levels
- Improved engagement of Community, Professionals, sectors leaders, devt Partners and stakeholders against Rabies control and elimination.
- Increased awareness and demand for dog vaccination against Rabies among community

Conclusions

The main strategic pillars to achieve control and eliminate of dog mediated rabies in 2030 are

- Awareness creation, Health education and advocacy
- Mass dog vaccination to achieve 70% herd immunity
- Dog population management
- Effective surveillance system and vaccination tracking tool



National Control strategy



When HE Dr. Fikru Regassa, launching of dog vaccination campaign



Dog Vaccination Campaign



Dog vaccination campaign

Future Plans

- Provision of dog vaccines to all administrative levels as sufficient as required.
- Scale up the vaccination coverage of dogs to 70% population across the country
- Establishment of national referral rabies diagnostic laboratory in the animal sector.
- Improve surveillance system for rabies and vaccination tracking system