

WOAH Rabies Vaccine Bank: supporting Members' actions against Rabies in southern Africa region

Tenzin Tenzin¹, Moetapele Letshwenyo¹, Nathaly Monsalve²
¹WOAH Sub-Regional Representation for Southern Africa, Gaborone, Botswana, ²WOAH, Paris

Introduction

- Rabies kills around 59 000 people every year in the world, mostly in Africa and Asia, and almost half of them are children below 15 years.
- 99% of human cases result from dog bites
- The best way to eliminate rabies is to stop it at its animal source
- Dog vaccination is a sustainable way to protect both animals and humans
- Vaccinating 70% of dogs in risk areas interrupt the virus transmission cycle reducing the risk of exposures
- WOAHRabies vaccine bank was established in 2012 to facilitates the procurement of high-quality dog vaccines at special negotiated prices, with a limited red tape
- WOAHRabies Vaccine Bank is an entry point to the rabies elimination roadmap, helping countries to implement vaccination campaigns

Project / programme objectives

Rabies is endemic in southern Africa region. Members have requested WOAHRabies vaccine supply through WOAHRabies vaccine bank. The main objectives of the programme are:

- To stimulate mass dog vaccination campaigns through high-quality rabies vaccine deliveries
- To provide technical support on conducting mass dog vaccination campaign and data management

Vaccine deliveries are in line with WOAHRabies 7th Strategic Plan objectives:

- Scientific expertise
- Responding to Members' needs
- Collaboration with partners

Milestones/achievements

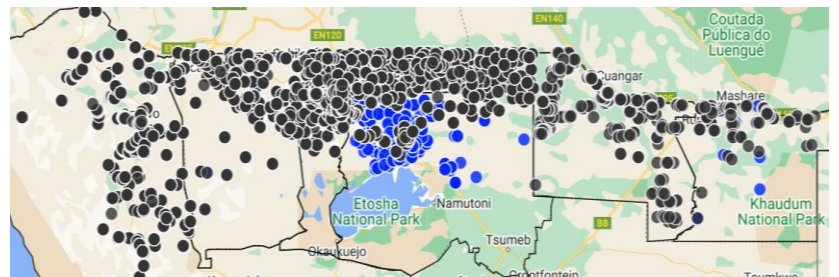
- Between 2016 and 2022, 1.4 million doses of rabies vaccine were donated/delivered to nine Members in the southern Africa region (thanks to the generous support of donors) to implement mass dog vaccinations
- Built Veterinary Services capacity to organise mass dog vaccination campaigns
- Improved dog vaccination data management and tracking of vaccinated dogs using mobile apps within the community
- Reduced animal rabies incidences in the vaccinated areas
- Reduced human rabies deaths, particularly in the project area of the Northern Communal Area of Namibia from around 23 deaths in 2015 to less than 10 in 2022
- Handing-over of the vaccine was done to the Ministers of Agriculture and thus, sensitised high level policy makers on the importance of rabies elimination programmes and investment
- Increased public awareness on rabies in the sub-region

Conclusions

- Allocate funding to fight rabies remain key, vaccines are just one portion of the cost to commit to execute successful vaccination campaigns
- WOAHRabies Vaccine Bank:
 - Is a voluntary basis mechanism
 - It is a proven tool for catalysing country engagement and stimulating countries to embark on national control programs.
 - National political will to eliminate rabies remain the pillar toward the eradication



Tracking dog vaccination using mobile Apps



Country	Total doses of deliveries	Year of delivery	Funding source
Angola	140 000	2019	EU Project
Botswana	50 000	2022	BMZ German Project
eSwatini	50 000	2022	BMZ German Project
Lesotho	50 000	2019	EU Project
Madagascar	100 000	2019	EU Project
Mozambique	50 000	2022	BMZ German Project
Namibia	350 000	2016-2018	BMEL German Project
	100 000	2019	BMEL German Project
	100 000	2020	BMEL German Project
	100 000	2021	BMEL German Project
Zambia	150 000	2022	BMEL German Project
Zimbabwe	50 000	2022	BMZ German Project
Zimbabwe	110 000	2019	EU Project
Total	1400 000		



Future Plans

- Engage Members in the sub-region to apply for WOAHRabies endorsement of their national rabies control programmes and work towards elimination of dog-mediated human rabies death by 2030