2nd Meeting of the Eastern Africa Sub-Regional Network for Rabies Control

10 – 12 October 2023 Addis Ababa, Ethiopia

Title: Surveillance and reporting of rabies data
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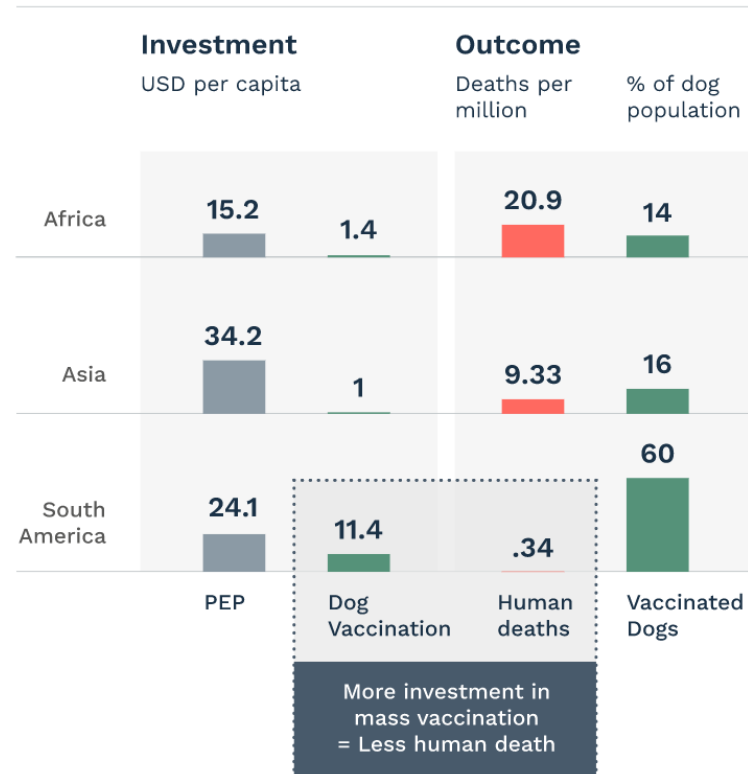
Surveillance and reporting of rabies data

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Rabies control: A model for One Health implementation

Current spending on rabies underinvests in dog vaccination

	Investment USD per capita		Outcome Deaths per million	% of dog population
Africa	15.2	1.4	20.9	14
Asia	34.2	1	9.33	16
South America	24.1	11.4	.34	60
	PEP	Dog Vaccination	Human deaths	Vaccinated Dogs

More investment in mass vaccination = Less human death

- Proven success with One Health approach
- Cost of dog vaccination more cost-effective than human PEP; dog vaccination → **saved human lives**
- Reduced livestock and working animal losses → **saved livelihoods, improved food security**
- Reduced wildlife spill-overs → **healthier ecosystems**
- Responsible dog ownership and humane dog population management → **healthier cities, improved animal welfare**
- Contributes to the SDGs and ending neglect and inequality
- Strengthens links between human and veterinary health systems → building **systems** that can **address other endemic and emerging diseases**

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Why isn't rabies more of a priority?

- 'Public health authorities issue alert as cases of rabies increase'
- '...first rabies death, overseas traveller dies..'
- 'Fear of mass rabies outbreak...'
- '... surging risk of dogs arriving with rabies...attempt to prevent reintroducing canine variant...'
- '...struggles to arrest rabies outbreak'

- **99% fatal, 100% preventable**
- **Estimated 59 000 deaths each year**

BUT →

Reported number of human rabies deaths[i]							
2017	**2016**	**2015**	**2014**	**2013**	**2012**	**2011**	**2010**
No data	No data	No data	No data	No data	No data	No data	No data
0	0	0	0	No data	No data	No data	No data
18	24	12	7	No data	No data	No data	No data
No data	No data	No data	No data	No data	No data	No data	No data
No data	No data	No data	No data	No data	No data	surging data	No data
No data	No data	No data	No data	0	0	No data	No data
No data	No data	0	0	0	0	0	0
No data	No data	No data	No data	No data	0	0	0
No data	No data	No data	No data	No data	0	0	0
0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
No data	No data	No data	No data	No data	No data	No data	No data
No data	No data	No data	No data	No data	0	0	0
0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
No data	No data	No data	No data	No data	No data	No data	No data
No data	No data	No data	No data	No data	0	0	0
No data	0	0	0	0	1	2	No data

How can rabies data help prioritise rabies?

- Poor rabies data → poor political will and investment
- Reliable data is needed to inform decision making and make a case for investment

- **Need to improve rabies surveillance and reporting to:**
  - **Highlight the true burden of rabies → support advocacy and awareness**
  - Measure progress and demonstrate success
  - Empower decision makers and inform resource needs and allocation

What data should I collect?

- Not just collecting and reporting data for the sake of it – data collected by the country should help inform the national programme and monitor progress

- Explore available standards and guidance
  - Terrestrial Code Chapter 8.15
    - Suspected case definition: susceptible animal that shows any change in behaviour followed by death within ten days or that displays any of the following clinical signs: hypersalivation, paralysis, lethargy, abnormal aggression, abnormal vocalistion
    - Recommendations for what should be included in surveillance system
  - Minimum Data Elements
    - Key case definitions and essential data elements for tracking progress toward Zero by 30
    - Example tables, indicators
    - Available at www.unitedagainstrabies.org

Minimum Data Elements for Monitoring and Evaluation of National and International Rabies Control Programs.

Version 4, September 2023

United Against Rabies

What data should I collect?

- **Animal Rabies Cases**
  - Dogs
  - Livestock
  - Bats
  - Other species
  - Rabies virus variant

- **Dog Population Management**
  - Vaccination
  - Vaccination Method
  - Sterilization

Minimum Data Elements for Monitoring and Evaluation of National and International Rabies Control Programs.

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How do I collect this data?

What do I do with this data?

Data sharing is critical
- Competent authorities (especially between human and animal health sectors)
- Can facilitate by having a **national point of contact for rabies**

- Field → National → International

- Health authorities → WHO Global Health Observatory
- Veterinary Services → WOAH World Animal Health Information System

- **Note: There are some excellent tools available to help data collection and reporting – this data should still be reported internationally**

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World Animal Health Information System
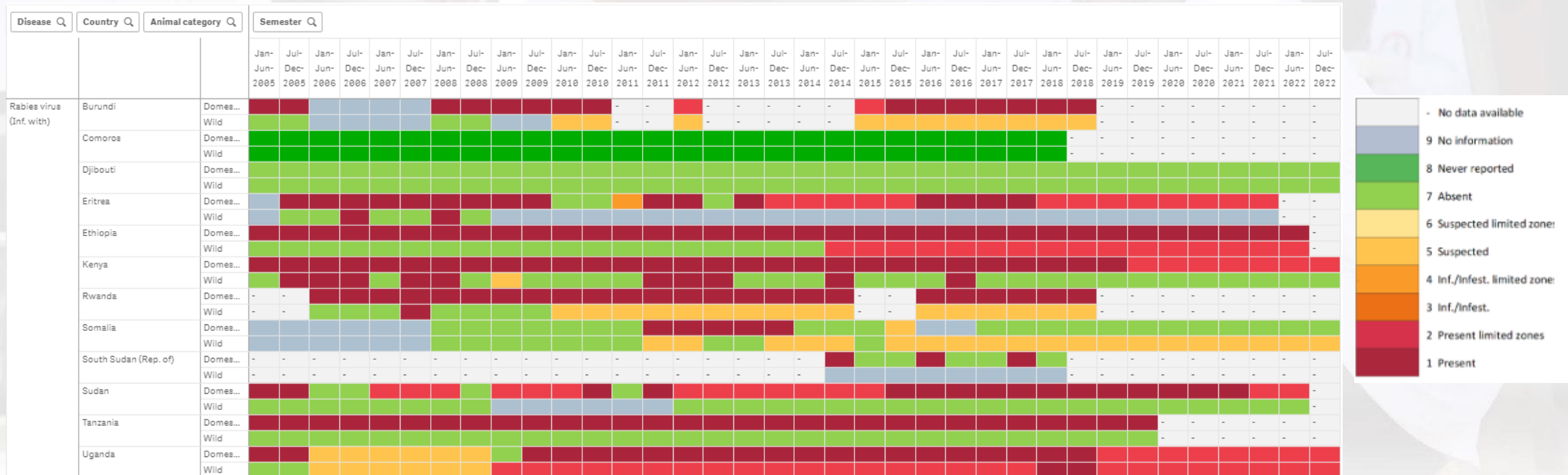
How do we submit data to WAHIS?

What do we submit?

- Early warning system for immediate management of alert notices
  - 'Event' means single outbreak or group of epidemiologically related outbreaks of given listed disease – for rabies this is the occurrence of one or more cases in an epidemiological unit

- **Monitoring system**
  - Six-monthly reports (Members can choose to enter data in WAHIS every month during six-month period)

How do we submit?

- WAHIS provides a platform for collection, submission and access of all data provided by countries

- Notification by focal points, under responsibility of the Delegate

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Key points

- Reliable data is **critical** to prioritise rabies and demonstrate progress

- Data should be **useful and inform** national programme

- Data needs to be **shared** across sectors, and **reported** to Competent Authorities and mandated intergovernmental organisations (WHO and WOAH)

- There are experts, tools and technical resources available to support data collection and reporting

Thank you!

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