

TANZANIA EXPERIENCE IN RABIES SURVEILLANCE

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

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Venue: Addis Ababa, Ethiopia

Presenter:
Affiliation: Ministry of Livestock and
Fisheries, TANZANIA

Introduction

- Rabies is a viral zoonotic disease with serious socio economic impact
- It is an invariably fatal but preventable viral disease
- In Tanzania, Rabies was first documented in 1930s
- Since then, the disease has widely spread throughout the country with varying patterns of infection between regions
- In the country the disease is causing an estimated 1,499 human deaths annually (with at least 98% attributable to rabid domestic dogs)
- The government have been taking measures to control rabies through provision of dog vaccines and human PEP as well as public awareness on responsible dog ownership, disease signs and control measures

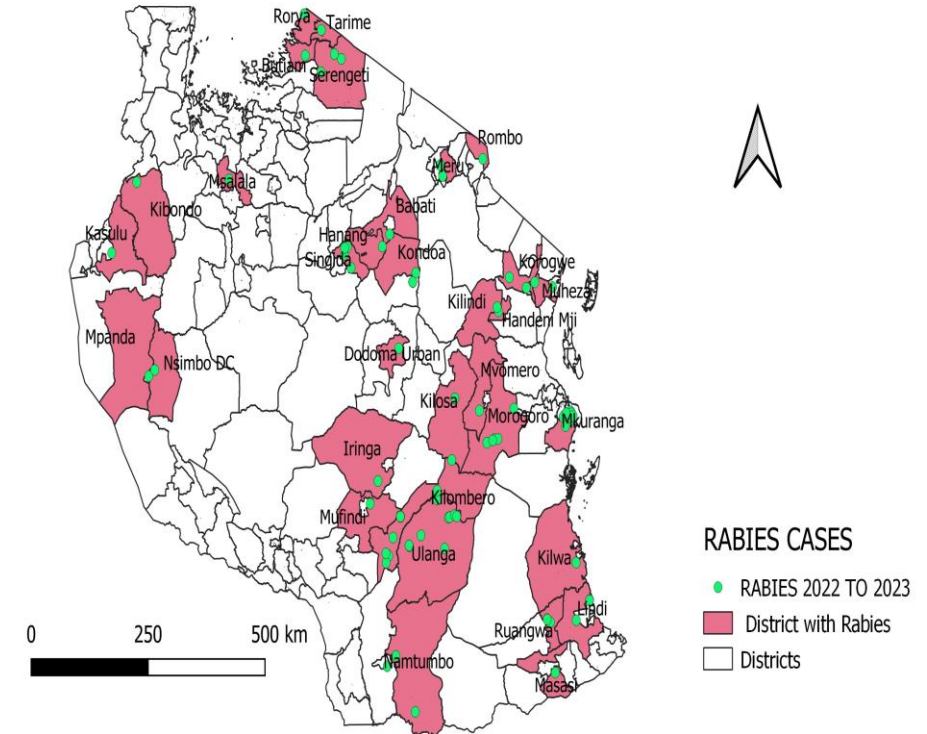
Rabies Surveillance System

- Currently, rabies surveillance is carried out by two separate systems
- Within the MLF is called Animal Disease Surveillance which focuses on the diseases on animals
- Within the MoH, is called Integrated Disease Surveillance Response (IDSR) which focuses on diseases on humans.

Rabies surveillance in animals

- Rabies in animals is a notifiable disease
- A standard animal disease surveillance form is used by the DVO to collect epidemiological data on the suspected animal cases
- A standard laboratory sample submission form is also filled when samples are collected and submitted to Veterinary Laboratory (VL)
- Rabies cases in the district are immediately reported to the Director of Veterinary Services (DVS)
- Reporting is done digitally
- Reports are shared to AU and WOA

SPATIAL DISTRIBUTION OF RABIES CASES FROM JULY 2022 TO JUNE 2023



Rabies surveillance in human

- Rabies is a priority disease under the Integrated Disease Surveillance Response (IDSR) system.
- Dog bites are used as proxy for suspected rabies and reported through the weekly standard reporting form at the health facility level and a copy sent to the District Disease Surveillance Coordinator.
- The district summarizes both animal/dog bites and clinically suspected rabies cases and deaths from health facilities reports and sends a copy to the Ministry's Epidemiology and Disease Surveillance section.
- These reports are captured as part of routine monthly health facility reporting through the Health Management Information System (HMIS). These data are summarised at the district level and submitted to the national level

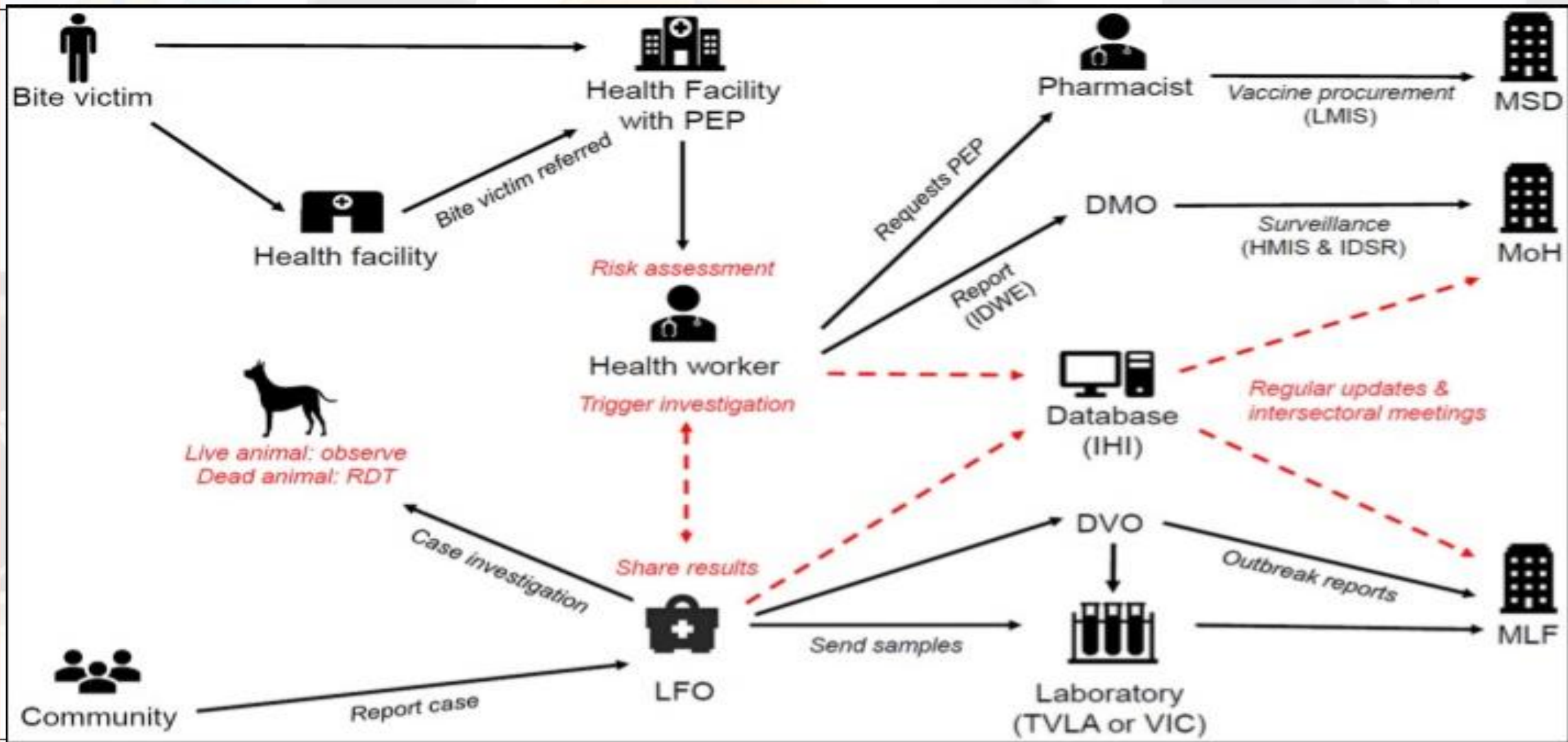
One Health Approach in Rabies surveillance

- There is ongoing effort to tackle zoonotic diseases including rabies using One Health Approach
- Guideline for surveillance of these diseases is already in action since 2018
- Different players are now working together in rabies surveillance

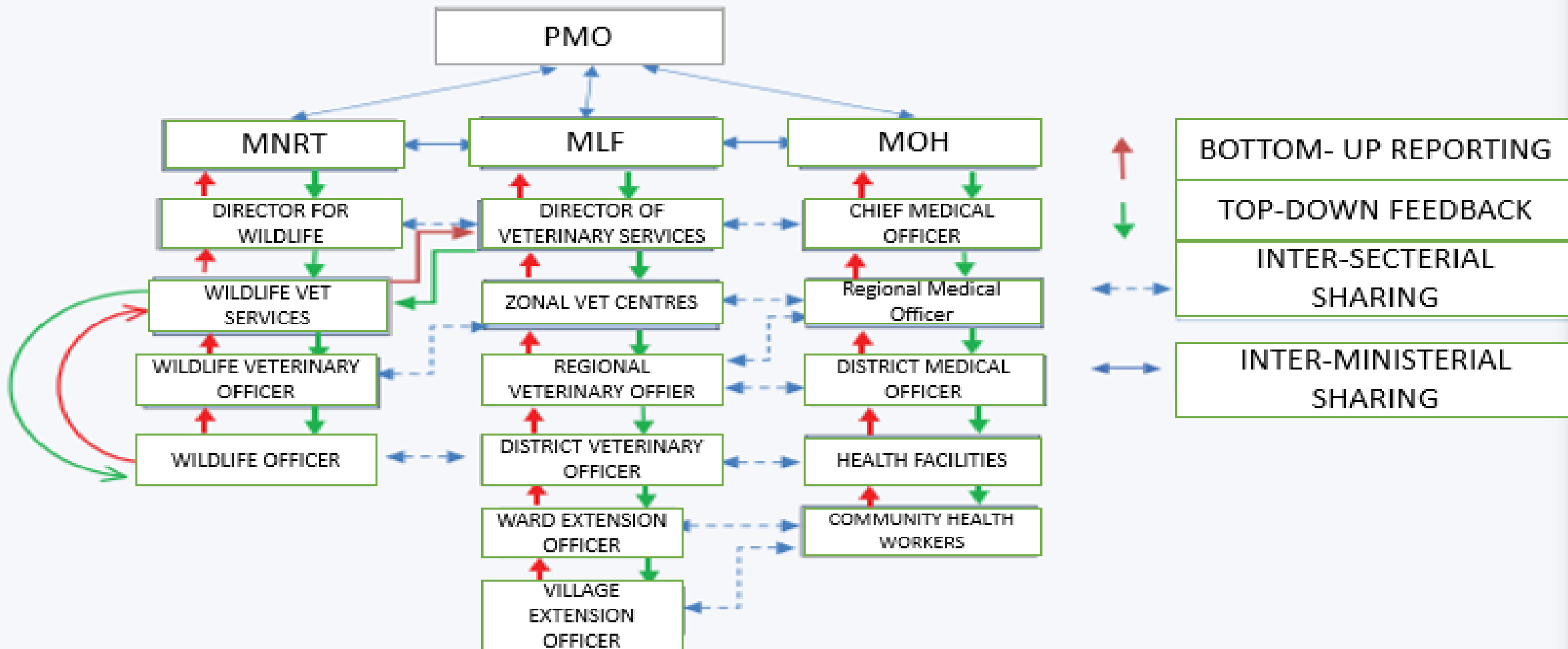
Integrated Bite case management (IBCM)

- Integrated Bite Case Management system is in place
- Rolled out in 5 regions and training is ongoing in other areas
- Has supported inter-sectoral collaboration between health and Veterinary workers in Tanzania in rabies surveillance
- Health workers conduct risk assessments of bite patients
- Livestock field officers conduct epidemiological investigation of suspect rabid animal
- It uses mobile phone application to support integration
- Has improved case detection and communication between sectors

IBCM framework in Tanzania



Information sharing during surveillance



Achievement areas in rabies Surveillance

- Surveillance system is in place
- Hot spot areas are known
- There is multisectoral collaboration

Challenges of Rabies Surveillance Activities

- Inadequate laboratory capacity:
 - There are TWO animal laboratories that have the capacity to confirm rabies in animals
- At the LGAs level, there are inadequate resources for sample collection, packaging and shipping to diagnostic laboratories
- In human health, dog bites are used as a proxy for suspect rabies cases in humans
- There is underreporting of suspected rabies cases in dogs due to the passive nature of the surveillance system



THANK YOU

Asante

Merci