



UNITED AGAINST RABIES COLLABORATION

First annual
progress report

ZERO BY 30

THE GLOBAL STRATEGIC PLAN

TO END HUMAN DEATHS

FROM DOG-MEDIATED RABIES BY 2030



Food and Agriculture
Organization of the
United Nations



WORLD ORGANISATION
FOR ANIMAL HEALTH



World Health
Organization



Global Alliance
for
Rabies
Control

United Against Rabies Collaboration

First annual progress report: Global Strategic Plan to End Human Deaths from Dog-mediated Rabies by 2030

World Health Organization

Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations

World Organisation for Animal Health

Global Alliance for Rabies Control

Geneva, 2019

United Against Rabies Collaboration First annual progress report: Global Strategic Plan to End Human Deaths from Dog-mediated Rabies by 2030

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ABBREVIATIONS

CCC	Community Coordinator for Rabies Certificate
CDC	United States Centers for Disease Control and Prevention
FAO	Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations
GARC	Global Alliance for Rabies Control
GDREP	Global Dog Rabies Elimination Pathway
IHR	International Health Regulations (2005)
OIE	World Organisation for Animal Health
PEP	Post-Exposure Prophylaxis
PRP	Partners for Rabies Prevention
PVS	Performance of Veterinary Services
REB	Rabies Epidemiological Bulletin
REC	Rabies Educator Certificate
SARE	Stepwise Approach towards Rabies Elimination
SDG	Sustainable Development Goal
SISOT	Surveillance and Information-sharing Operational Tool evaluation matrix
UAR	United Against Rabies
WAHIS	World Animal Health Information System
WHO	World Health Organization

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

This report describes the progress made since the launch of the Global Strategic Plan to End Human Deaths from Dog-mediated Rabies by 2030. The country-centric plan is built on the premise that societal and political support are fundamental to the success of any disease elimination campaign.

In addressing the first objective of the strategy, the United Against Rabies (UAR) collaboration demonstrated (i) increased access to dog rabies vaccines, (ii) improved medical care for cases of human rabies exposure and (iii) enhanced rabies awareness in several countries and regions worldwide. As education and increased awareness are essential to preventing the disease and advocating for its elimination, the UAR has pursued this goal in myriad ways, most notably in 2018 when almost 200 events on World Rabies Day were registered on the GARC website from at least 62 countries, attracting significant exposure through printed, digital and social media channels. Much traction has been generated through educational initiatives such as free online certificate courses and integration of rabies into school curricula, for example in the Philippines. The vaccine bank of the World Organisation for Animal Health (OIE) delivered more than 2 million doses of rabies vaccines to 13 countries, and the World Health Organization (WHO) and partners trained 450 health professionals in 70 countries where rabies is endemic during sub-regional and regional workshops. The announcement by the Gavi Alliance in 2019 that it would include human rabies vaccines (from 2021) is another significant positive outcome of the UAR collaboration.

Regional and national rabies-specific workshops allowed an assessment of the progress of rabies elimination in more than 60 countries, initiation of country workplans, for example through Stepwise Approach towards Rabies Elimination assessments, and subsequent in-country training activities and programmatic support by the UAR and partners. In terms of innovation and technology, the UAR collaboration allowed for a new rabies-specific operational tool evaluation matrix and the corresponding update of the rabies blueprint developed by the Partners for Rabies

Prevention. To improve data collection, the OIE World Animal Health Information System is being overhauled and the data on rabies in WHO data platforms updated through the regional rabies control networks and the Rabies Epidemiological Bulletin. In this critical venture, the UAR continues to coordinate the harmonization of data indicators and data validation to ensure accurate monitoring of progress towards the “Zero by 30” goal.

The UAR has identified 60 development partners and is committed to engaging all stakeholders in the rabies community, including government institutions, non-state actors, academia, international organizations and individual countries. Key achievements were reported to a broader audience in three joint press releases, by interlinking the four institutional websites and via digital and social media. Regional and global meetings on rabies and zoonoses were also used to engage partner organizations and institutions in implementing the Strategic Plan. As the UAR steps up its engagement with the global rabies community and individual countries, there is a steady increase in the commitment to “Zero by 30”. This progress is encouraging, and our challenge will be to continue to secure societal and political support not only internationally but also nationally in every country affected by dog-mediated human rabies.



ZERO BY 30

Global Strategic Plan to End Human Deaths from Dog-mediated Rabies by 2030

OBJECTIVE 1

to effectively use vaccines, medicines, tools and technologies

Reduce human rabies risk

- Improved awareness and education
- Increased access to healthcare, medicines and vaccines
- Dog vaccinations

OBJECTIVE 2

to generate, innovate and measure impact

Provide guidance and data

- Effective policies, guidance and governance
- Ensuring reliable data to enable effective decision-making

OBJECTIVE 3

to sustain commitment and resources

Harness multi-stakeholder engagement

Demonstrate the impact of activities completed under the United Against Rabies collaboration

Phase 1: START UP
2018–2020
29 countries

Phase 2: SCALE UP
2021–2025
+52 countries

Phase 3: MOP UP
2026–2030
+19 countries

First annual
report

INTRODUCTION

The aim of this first annual report is to describe progress made between June 2018 and September 2019 in implementing the Global Strategic Plan to End Human Deaths from Dog-mediated Rabies by 2030, “Zero by 30”, and to identify the challenges encountered and areas for improvement in the coming year. The Plan, launched in June 2018, targets the disease at the dog reservoir and aligns efforts to prevent human rabies and to strengthen animal and human health systems. By implementing the Strategic Plan, affected countries will move a step closer to Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) 3.3, “By 2030, end the epidemics of neglected tropical diseases”, and make progress towards meeting SDG 3.8 on achieving universal health coverage.

The Strategic Plan puts countries at the centre, with renewed international support to make the social changes required, through a pragmatic approach with three objectives:

- Objective 1: Eliminate rabies by effective use of vaccines, medicines, tools and technologies;
- Objective 2: Generate, innovate and measure the impact of rabies control measures, provide guidance, effective policies and

In order to guide the Global Strategic Plan implementation a logic framework was defined, with the expected outcomes, outputs and major activities. Indicators are used to measure progress towards each of the objectives.

ABOUT RABIES

Rabies is entirely preventable, and vaccines, medicines, tools and technologies have long been available to prevent people from dying of dog-mediated rabies. Nevertheless, rabies still kills about 60 000 people a year, of whom over 40% are children under 15, mainly in rural areas of economically disadvantaged countries in Africa and Asia. Of all human cases, up to 99% are acquired from the bite of an infected dog.¹

The estimated cost of rabies is approximately US\$ 8.6 billion per year, of which 54% is for productivity losses due to premature deaths, 37% is for treatment of humans bitten by dogs suspected of being rabid and only 2% is spent on dog vaccination and population control.² The cost of dog vaccination – the most effective measure of rabies control – is a negligible component of the losses due to the disease. For a relatively low

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