

Strategic Framework for Elimination of Human Rabies Transmitted by Dogs in the South-East Asia Region



**World Health
Organization**

Regional Office for South-East Asia

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Acronyms

ABC	Animal birth control
ABC/AR	Animal birth control/anti-rabies
AIDS	Acquired immune deficiency syndrome
ASEAN	Association of Southeast Asian Nations
ASEAN Plus Three	ASEAN plus China, Japan and Republic of Korea
CCV	Cell-culture vaccine
CSF	Cerebrospinal fluid
dRIT	Direct rapid immunohistochemistry test
EDCD	Epidemiology and Disease Control Division
FAO	United Nations Food and Agriculture Organization
FAT	Fluorescence antibody test
GARC	Global Alliance for Rabies Control
HIV	Human immunodeficiency virus
IDRV	Intradermal rabies vaccination
IEC	Information, education and communication
IU	International Unit
MDG	Millennium Development Goal
MoH	Ministry of Health
MoH&FW	Ministry of Health and Family Welfare

MoHP	Ministry of Health and Population
MoPH	Ministry of Public Health
NGO	Nongovernmental organization
NTV	Nerve-tissue vaccine
OIE	World Organization for Animal Health
ORV	Oral rabies vaccine
PCECV	Purified chick embryo cell-culture vaccine
PEP	Post-exposure prophylaxis
PHC	Primary health care
PRP	Partners for Rabies Prevention
RIA Foundation	Rabies in Asia Foundation
RIG	Rabies immunoglobulin
SAARC	South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation
SEA	South-East Asia
TCV	Tissue-culture vaccine
WHO	World Health Organization
WSPA	World Society for the Protection of Animals

Executive summary

The World Health Organization (WHO) South-East Asia (SEA) Region consists of 11 countries, of which eight are endemic for rabies. More than 1.4 billion people in the Region are at risk of rabies infection and approximately 45% of worldwide rabies deaths occur in Asia. Dog bites are the primary source of human infection in all rabies-endemic countries and account for 96% of rabies cases in the SEA Region. Some countries have a comprehensive rabies control programme but it is a neglected disease in others due to competing public health priorities and the complex nature of rabies control activities.

Elimination of human rabies is dependent on the elimination of dog rabies. Progress in preventing human rabies through control of the disease in the animal reservoir has been slow. This has been due to technical, intersectoral, organizational and financial obstacles.

In the majority of countries, the number of patients receiving post-exposure prophylaxis (PEP) has steadily increased over time, particularly in

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