

ACHIEVING “ZERO BY 2030”

VSF INTERNATIONAL CONTRIBUTIONS TO RABIES ELIMINATION



© David Modry / VSF CZ

Data on the global impact of rabies is taken from “Zero by 30: the global strategic plan to end human deaths from dog-mediated rabies by 2030” (WHO, FAO, OIE and GARC, 2018).

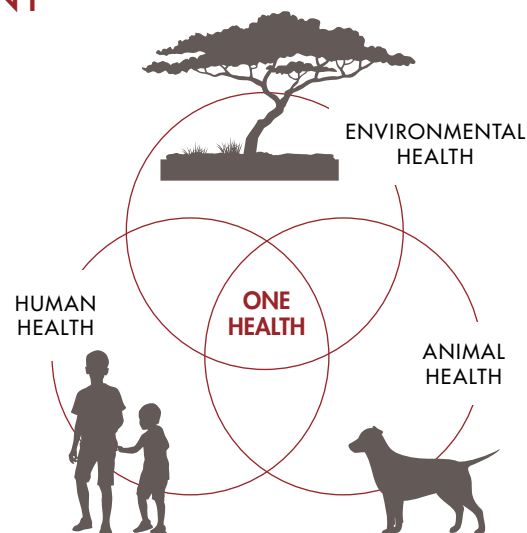
Rabies is a neglected zoonotic disease that causes an estimated 59,000 human deaths every year, with 40% of the victims being children. Rabies affects the most vulnerable populations: most cases are found in Africa and Asia, and 80% of cases occur in rural areas. Rabies virus transmission is mainly through a bite or direct contact (through broken skin or mucous membranes) with saliva of an infected animal. Dogs are responsible for 99% of human cases. Eliminating rabies in dogs is therefore the key to achieving elimination of human rabies.

The economic burden of the disease is estimated at 8.6 billion USD annually. This occurs despite the availability of anti-rabies vaccines for both animals and humans, which are critical in supporting eradication efforts.

Rabies is almost 100% preventable through the administration of safe, effective and extensively available vaccines for humans and animals. However, mortalities are mainly attributed to high treatment costs or lack of access to post-exposure prophylaxis (PEP). This is coupled with the majority of victims exposed to the virus being unaware of the dangers posed by the disease or lacking access to basic medical care.

Several countries have launched rabies elimination strategies, in line with the Global Strategic Plan to End Human Deaths from Dog-mediated Rabies by 2030 (Zero by 30). Despite these, implementation of these strategies has been rather slow due to limited information on rabies implications on both humans and animals, and limited commitment and resources on prevention and eradication efforts, particularly among low-income countries.

OUR EFFORTS AND COMMITMENT



VSF International is a network of non-profit organizations working all over the world to support small-scale farmers, livestock keepers and local animal health and welfare initiatives. In this publication, reference to "VSF International" is used to designate all members of the network, who are directly in charge of implementing projects in the field.

This publication has been produced by the Rabies Working Group, integrated by members of the network and by VETS BEYOND BORDERS AUSTRALIA.

VSF International is supporting rabies eradication efforts in its areas of intervention, and promotes a holistic approach based on One Health, integrating human, animal and environmental health. Mass vaccination of dogs coupled with population control measures, prompt dog bite management, community education and outreach, improvements in reporting, diagnosis and surveillance are among the key strategic approaches to rabies eradication adopted by the VSF International network.

By working closely with the communities, key government line ministries and counterpart agencies and institutions, we have been supporting eradication efforts in South Sudan, Kenya, Uganda, Tanzania, Malawi, Algeria, Morocco, India, Cambodia, the Czech Republic and Canada.

Since 2006, we have vaccinated at least 340,800 dogs and cats and reached over 80,100 people (including school children) through awareness and sensitization messaging on rabies prevention, control and animal welfare. This is in addition to capacity building and training of 3,200 animal health and public health professionals on rabies control and animal welfare.

Rabies vaccination campaigns also represents an opportunity to support dog deworming campaigns, which have been critical in preventing the spread of zoonotic parasites such as echinococcus. This is in addition to the use of Trap, Neuter and Return strategy that has played a key role in controlling stray dog and cat populations and reducing the risk of rabies and other disease transmission.

VSF International strives to continue working with other key stakeholders and governments through the Stepwise Approach to Rabies Elimination (SARE) in supporting eradication efforts. This is in line with the global call for action against rabies to achieve zero human deaths from dog-mediated rabies by 2030. This will be done by scaling up our interventions and building up on successes of previous actions, lobbying for national and regional commitments, resource mobilization, information sharing, coordination, surveillance, mass dog vaccination campaigns, community engagement and outreach.

CONTEXT

59,000people die every year
because of rabies**40%**of them are **children****99%**of human cases are caused
by dog bites**Rabies is preventable by vaccination**Post-exposure prophylaxis
is expensive and not readily available,
especially in rural areas

SINCE 2006

340,800

dogs and cats vaccinated

17,700dogs dewormed to prevent
spread of zoonotic parasitic
diseases**75,600**dogs neutered to control
stray dog populations**3,200**animal health and public
health professionals trained in
rabies control strategies**80,100**people reached in rabies
awareness campaigns (including
thousands of school children)ORGANIZATIONS WITH
RABIES PROJECTS

- VSF Czech Republic
- VSF Germany
- VSF Italy
- AVSF (France)
- VSF Sweden
- VSF Suisse
- VWB/VSF Canada
- Vets Beyond Borders Australia – VBB
- VSF Netherlands (upcoming projects)
- VSF Austria (upcoming projects)

**28TH OF SEPTEMBER**
WORLD RABIES DAYVSF INTERNATIONAL
VÉTÉRINAIRES
SANS FRONTIÈRES

SAHARAWI REFUGEE CAMPS IN ALGERIA

VSF Italy

BETWEEN 2017 AND 2020

211

dogs vaccinated

24

veterinarians and
para-vets trained

Development of a rabies
prevention plan and
awareness raising material

GHANA

VWB/VSF Canada

BETWEEN 2015 AND 2020

10,741

households trained
in rabies prevention
strategies

575

community champions
and extension workers
trained

327

community-based
animal health
workers trained

RWANDA

VSF Austria

BETWEEN 2021 AND 2023

is starting a new project:
Mission Anti-Rabies

UGANDA

VSF Germany

Ongoing campaign
to vaccinate

5,000

dogs and cats

VWB/VSF Canada

BETWEEN 2015 AND 2020

452

community-based
animal health
workers trained

MALAWI

VSF Sweden

Annual dog population
management interventions
with castration, vaccination
and education of children
in Lilongwe

VSF NL

STARTING IN AUTUMN 2021

Plan to vaccinate

80%

of the dogs in the town
of Mzimba North

SOUTH SUDAN

VSF Suisse

BETWEEN 2017 AND 2019

52,400

people reached in rabies
awareness campaign

1,825

stray dogs and cats
vaccinated

368

key public health
personnel trained on
rabies risks associated
with dogs and cats

183

community animal
health workers trained
in rabies control

VSF Germany

IN 2021

870

dogs vaccinated

793

dogs treated

822

households reached
in rabies awareness
campaigns

15

vererinarrians and
paravets trained

TANZANIA

VSF Sweden

2,611

students participated in
new school club program
teaching about rabies
since 2018

3,168

dogs vaccinated
in 2020

VSF Austria

BETWEEN 2021 AND 2023

is starting a new project:
Mission Anti-Rabies

VSF Canada

BETWEEN 2015 AND 2020

70

community-based
animal health workers
trained

KENYA

VSF Czech Republic

BETWEEN 2006 AND 2013

2,000

dogs vaccinated

lectures for children
in schools and awareness
campaigns in villages

VSF Germany

BETWEEN 2016 AND 2021

73,000

dogs and cats vaccinated

18,000

households reached in rabies
awareness campaigns

VWB/VSF Canada

BETWEEN 2015 AND 2020

584

veterinary extension officers
trained

VSF Austria

BETWEEN 2021 AND 2023

is starting a new project:
Mission Anti-Rabies



VSF INTERNATIONAL
VÉTÉRINAIRES
SANS FRONTIÈRES



CANADA

VWB/VSF Canada
BETWEEN 2019 AND 2021

737
dogs vaccinated
in remote northern
communities in Canada

233
dogs dewormed

159
dogs neutered



CZECH REPUBLIC

VSF Czech Republic
SINCE 2010

Between
50 and 200
dogs belonging
to homeless people
vaccinated and
dewormed every year



INDIA

VBB Australia
BETWEEN 2006 AND 2020

292,686
dogs vaccinated

74,262
dogs neutered

medical and surgical
treatment of street animals,
community awareness,
animal welfare incorporated
into school curriculum

608
animal health and
public health professionals
trained in rabies control
strategies



MONGOLIA

VSF Austria
BETWEEN 2021 AND 2023

is starting a new project:
Mission Anti-Rabies



NEPAL

VSF Austria
BETWEEN 2021 AND 2023
is starting a new project:
Mission Anti-Rabies



LAOS

VWB/VSF Canada
BETWEEN 2015 AND 2020

70
women village
vet workers trained

CAMBODIA

AVSF France
BETWEEN 2012 AND 2018

6,130
dogs vaccinated

6,697
dogs dewormed

2,274
households reached
in rabies awareness
campaigns



VSF INTERNATIONAL
VÉTÉRINAIRES
SANS FRONTIÈRES