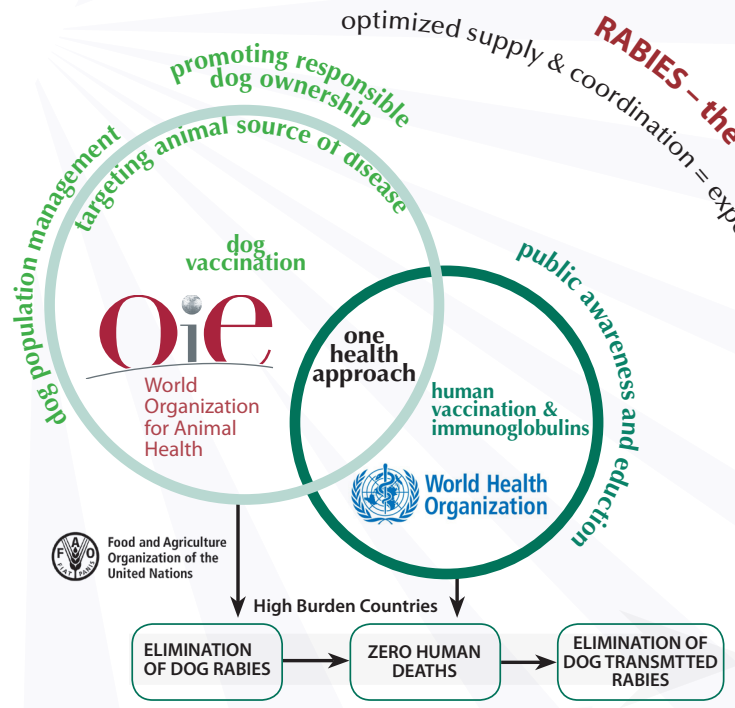


THE JOURNEY FORWARD



**RABIES – the 100% preventable zoonotic Neglected Tropical Disease (NTD)**  
optimized supply & coordination = expedited achievement of ZERO deaths



**Key Issues Areas**

**Funding Strategies**

**Quality**

**Procurement**

**Forecasting Accurately predicting vaccine and RIGs needs**

**The objectives of the meeting were:**

- To assemble forecasts of human and dog rabies vaccines and rabies immunoglobulins (RIGs) from specific countries.
- To review the manufacturing capacity for rabies vaccines and RIGs, shortfalls and logistical needs.
- To obtain a shared understanding of the global supply of vaccines as well as RIGs needs and forecasts.
- To explore bulk purchasing options for countries through WHO/UNICEF (human vaccine and RIGs) and OIE/WHO (animal vaccine) mechanisms.

- Funding for vaccines and beyond: capacity building, delivery, training, logistics, equipment
- No one-size-fits-all solution – a variety of strategies needed (national/regional/local)
- Pooled funding and transparent tendering processes improve efficiency
- Consider use of an interagency coordinating group funding mechanism

- Improved data collection will lead to more accurate, reliable forecasting and eventually to more stable, timely and consistent product availability
- Identifying dog vaccine requirements is fundamentally linked to country-level plans
- Manufacturing capacity is driven by demand. Improved confidence of stable and predictable requirements would allow manufacturers to plan appropriately
- Consolidation of estimates at the regional level would improve timing of requirements, including seasonal campaigns, leading to assured production and sales

- International quality standards for RIGs should be established
- Post-delivery tracking and control – poor delivery systems can impact a vaccine's quality
- Next generation vaccines (single dose and thermostable) will be “game changers”
- Better and purer antigens will improve safety and efficacy and lead to greater quality overall

- Any procurement system must work well for both manufacturers and recipients, with quantities and timing based on reliable and accurate forecasting data
- Create a stockpile of RIGs
- Start with countries that have rabies control programs/ strategies such that they can participate in a joint procurement system
- The current procurement mechanism being used by OIE and WHO through the OIE vaccine banks for dog vaccines is working well; expand to a sustainable, long-term program

**BARRIERS & CHALLENGES**

- Rabies is not always recognized as a public health issue
- Lack of capacity and infrastructure
- Poor quality and unreliable data
- Price of post-exposure prophylaxis (PEP) is often unaffordable
- Raw materials (plasma) for RIGs can be difficult to obtain
- Availability of vaccine and RIGs can be erratic
- Vaccine and RIGs quality varies



**40%** of the victims are children younger than 15 years old

**DID YOU KNOW: ?**

- Rabies is 100% preventable
- 99% of human cases are caused by dog bites
- Vaccinating 70% of dogs breaks rabies transmission cycle in an at-risk area

**OVERARCHING GOAL: Global elimination of rabies as a health problem**

**KEY FINDINGS**

- A procurement mechanism and coordination for dog and human vaccines and RIGs, with joint leadership from WHO and OIE, is needed.
- Political will is needed to raise awareness of rabies as a public health priority.

**BUILD ON WHAT'S WORKING**

- Learn from the best practices and success stories of others – PAHO procurement system, Uruguay dog licensing for funding, vaccine bank, mass dog vaccination program in the Philippines, in-country action plans
- WHO/OIE coordinating platform: consolidation of regional estimates of vaccine requirements, collective tendering process
- Partners and champions – commitment and engagement
- Joint human/dog programs: One Health approach
- Start small, have a vision and progressively scale up

**NEXT STEPS**

- Continued commitment of WHO and OIE to work together with relevant partners
- Outcomes of meeting to be presented at the conference on “Global Elimination of Dog-mediated Human Rabies – The Time is Now”, (Geneva, 10-11 December 2015)
- Action plan specifying activities, responsibilities and timelines to follow

OIE – World Organization for Animal Health  
PAHO – Pan American Health Organization  
PEP – Post-exposure prophylaxis  
RIGs – Rabies immunoglobulins  
UNICEF – United Nations International Children's Fund  
WHO – World Health Organization