

KENYA

I.) BACKGROUND INFORMATION

Kenya covers 580,367 sq. km and shares its borders with Ethiopia, Somalia, South Sudan, Tanzania and Uganda. Kenya's population is estimated at around 45 million (2014), with about 24 percent living in urban areas (2011). Its GDP per capita (PPP) amounts to 1,800 USD (2013). However, 43.4 percent of the population lived below the poverty line in 2012. With a high income inequality it is ranked according to the Human Development Index of 2013 in 145th place, amongst the countries with low human development.^{i ii}

In Kenya, 5 genotypes of the lyssavirus, which cause rabies, are endemic. The most common is Genotype 1 (Rabies virus, RABV). Others are Genotype 2 (Lagos bat virus, LBV), Genotype 3 (Mokola virus, MOKV), Genotype 4 (Duvenhage virus, DUVV), and the Shimoni bat lyssavirus. Human infections are mostly due to the canine biotype of RABV.^{iii iv}

Animal rabies is a notifiable disease in Kenya under the Disease Control Act and Rabies Act. Since 2012, Kenya has been elaborating a national plan for rabies control. The Central Veterinary Laboratories (CVL) carry out animal and occasionally also human rabies diagnostics.^{v vi}

II.) HUMAN RABIES EPIDEMIOLOGY

Human rabies cases are sometimes laboratory confirmed, but mostly diagnosed on clinical grounds only. However, the number of suspected rabies cases are unknown. According to a recent rabies burden study, around 560 people die of rabies annually.^{vii}

The cases reported to the Southern and Eastern African Rabies Group (SEARG) in 2011 and 2012 were confirmed by the (CVL). For both years, one case of human rabies was reported.^{viii}

According to the OIE World Animal Health Information System, there were 3 human rabies cases in 2012, and 3 in 2013. It is not known whether these cases are laboratory confirmed or suspected cases only.^{ix}

III.) RABIES VECTORS

The main vector for rabies in Kenya is the domestic dog. As it is common for reports to different authorities in the African region, numbers of rabies cases reported in dogs, domestic animal and wildlife differ (Nel, 2013).

To the OIE, Kenya reported 21 dog rabies cases in 2011, 42 in 2012, and 38 in 2013. Additionally, a significant number of livestock, especially cattle, die from rabies every year. In 2011, 65 cases were reported, 58 cases in 2012, and 26 in 2013. Rabies in wildlife is present in Kenya with one case reported in 2011, and 2 cases in 2012 (species unspecified).^x

Conversely, according to data submitted to SEARG, 35 positive rabies cases in dogs were confirmed in 2011, and 50 in 2012. As to livestock, the numbers were 74 positive cases in 2011, and 85 in 2012. Rabies in wildlife was confirmed in one for case in 2011 and one case in 2012 (species unspecified).^{xi}

IV.) RABIES BIOLOGICS AVAILABILITY

PEP treatment is available in Kenya. In 2011, 42,000 cell culture vaccines were imported and 60,000 in 2012.^{xii}

ⁱ CIA (2013). The World Factbook: Kenya. <https://www.cia.gov/library/publications/the-world-factbook/geos/ke.html> [accessed 1.6.2013]

ⁱⁱ UNDP (2013). The Rise of the South: Human Progress in a Diverse World. Human Development Report 2013. New York: UNDP. http://hdr.undp.org/sites/default/files/reports/14/hdr2013_en_complete.pdf [accessed 24.04.2014]

ⁱⁱⁱ Rupprecht CE, J Barret, D Briggs, F Cliquet, AR Fooks, B Lumlerdacha, FX Meslin, T Muller, L Nel, C Schneider, N Tordo and A Wandeler (2008). Can rabies be eradicated? *Emerg Infect Dis*; 13(1):25-7.

^{iv} Nel LH (2014). Factors impacting the control of rabies; in R Atlas and S Maloy (eds.). *One health: People, animals, and the environment*: American Society for Microbiology.

^v Taylor LH, L Knopf and Partners for Rabies Prevention (in prep). Surveillance of Human Rabies by National Authorities - A Global Survey.

^{vi} Kiambi S (2013). Kenya country report. Southern and Eastern African Rabies Group.

<http://www.searg.info/doku.php?id=aboutrabies-rabiesepidemiology-2013reportkenya.pdf> [23.04.2014]

^{vii} Hampson K and Partners for Rabies Prevention (in prep). Estimating the global burden of endemic canine rabies.

^{viii} Kiambi S (2013). Kenya country report. Southern and Eastern African Rabies Group.

<http://www.searg.info/doku.php?id=aboutrabies-rabiesepidemiology-2013reportkenya.pdf> [23.04.2014]

^{ix} OIE World Animal Health Information System. Kenya.

http://www.oie.int/wahis_2/public/wahid.php/Countryinformation/reporting/reporthistory [accessed 23.04.2014]

^x OIE World Animal Health Information System. Kenya.

http://www.oie.int/wahis_2/public/wahid.php/Countryinformation/reporting/reporthistory [accessed 23.04.2014]

^{xi} Kiambi S (2013). Kenya country report. Southern and Eastern African Rabies Group.

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^{xii} Kiambi S (2013). Kenya country report. Southern and Eastern African Rabies Group.

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