

# MOZAMBIQUE

## I.) BACKGROUND INFORMATION

Mozambique covers 799,380 sq km and shares its borders with Botswana, Malawi, South Africa, Swaziland, Tanzania, Zambia and Zimbabwe. Mozambique's population is estimated to be around 24.1 million (July 2013), with about 38 percent living in urban areas (2010). Its GDP per capita (PPP) amounts to 1,200 USD. However, 52 percent of the population lived below the poverty line in 2009, resulting in a relative high income inequality (GINI index of 45.6 in 2008). It is ranked according to the Human Development Index of 2013 in 185th place, making it the country with the third lowest human development in the world, only before the Democratic Republic of the Congo and Niger.<sup>i ii</sup>

In Southern Africa, 4 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) and Genotype 4 (Duvenhage virus, DUVV). Human infections are mostly due to the canine biotype of RABV.<sup>iii</sup>

Rabies is a notifiable disease in Mozambique. Since 2010, there has been a National Strategy for the Control of Rabies in place<sup>iv</sup>. However, according to a survey recently conducted, there is no national case definition provided and most of the healthcare workers do not know rabies and are not familiar with the symptoms<sup>v</sup>, leading to underreporting of rabies cases, both in animals and humans. Animal and human rabies cases are confirmed via fluorescent antibody test (FAT) at the Central Veterinary Laboratory<sup>vi</sup>.

## II.) HUMAN RABIES EPIDEMIOLOGY

Rabies in humans in Mozambique is mostly transmitted through the bite of the domestic dog. However, there have also been reported cases of people being bitten by bat-eared fox. In recent years, there has been a slight increase of annual human rabies cases to an average of 40.3 cases from 2008 to 2010. Maputo province has the highest human rabies case numbers per inhabitants, followed by the province of Zambezia and Nampula. Maputo city also reported the highest number of people bitten by dogs for the years 2008 to 2010.<sup>vii</sup>

According to data submitted to OIE World Animal Health Information System, in 2011, there were 72 human rabies cases<sup>viii</sup>. This is a sharp increase from 24 human rabies cases in 2010<sup>ix</sup>.

## III.) RABIES VECTORS

In Mozambique, reporting of animal rabies is mostly focused on the dog. There is no surveillance of rabies in wildlife and, subsequently, there have been no rabies cases confirmed in wildlife. However, it is assumed that the jackal and the wild dog act as reservoirs.<sup>x</sup>

In 2010, 16 cases of rabies in dogs were reported.<sup>xi</sup> In 2011 only 3 cases in dogs and in the first half of 2012, 7 cases of rabies in dogs were reported to the OIE.<sup>xii</sup> Rabies outbreaks always resulted in the vaccination of the surrounding dog population (a total of 450 dogs in the first half of 2012).

#### IV.) RABIES BIOLOGICS AVAILABILITY

Human rabies vaccine for post-exposure-prophylaxis (PEP) is available at least in Maputo city. In 2010, 40.4 percent of the people bitten by a dog received PEP.<sup>xiii</sup>

#### V.) OTHER

n/a

- 
- <sup>i</sup> CIA (2013). The World Factbook: Mozambique. <https://www.cia.gov/library/publications/the-world-factbook/geos/mz.html#top> [accessed 1.6.2013]
- <sup>ii</sup> UNDP (2013). The Rise of the South: Human Progress in a Diverse World. Human Development Report 2013. New York: UNDP. <http://www.undp.org/content/dam/undp/library/corporate/HDR/2013GlobalHDR/English/HDR2013%20Report%20English.pdf> [accessed 1.6.2013]
- <sup>iii</sup> Rupprecht CE, J Barret, D Briggs, F Cliquet, AR Fooks, B Lumlertdacha, 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.
- <sup>iv</sup> SEARG (2011). Rabies in Mozambique: Update. <http://searg.info/fichiers/articles/2011002002d.pdf> [accessed 1.6.2013]
- <sup>v</sup> Taylor LH, Knopf, L and PRP (in prep). Surveillance of Human Rabies by National Authorities - A Global Survey
- <sup>vi</sup> SEARG (2011). Rabies in Mozambique: Update. <http://searg.info/fichiers/articles/2011002002d.pdf> [accessed 1.6.2013]
- <sup>vii</sup> SEARG (2011). Rabies in Mozambique: Update. <http://searg.info/fichiers/articles/2011002002d.pdf> [accessed 1.6.2013]
- <sup>viii</sup> OIE World Animal Health Information System. Mozambique, 2011. [http://www.oie.int/wahis\\_2/public/wahid.php/Reviewreport/semestrial/review?year=2011&semester=0&wild=0&country=MOZ&this\\_country\\_code=MOZ&detailed=1](http://www.oie.int/wahis_2/public/wahid.php/Reviewreport/semestrial/review?year=2011&semester=0&wild=0&country=MOZ&this_country_code=MOZ&detailed=1)
- <sup>ix</sup> OIE World Animal Health Information System. Mozambique, 2010. [http://www.oie.int/wahis\\_2/public/wahid.php/Reviewreport/semestrial/review?year=2010&semester=0&wild=0&country=MOZ&this\\_country\\_code=MOZ&detailed=1](http://www.oie.int/wahis_2/public/wahid.php/Reviewreport/semestrial/review?year=2010&semester=0&wild=0&country=MOZ&this_country_code=MOZ&detailed=1)
- <sup>x</sup> SEARG (2011). Rabies in Mozambique: Update. <http://searg.info/fichiers/articles/2011002002d.pdf> [accessed 1.6.2013]
- <sup>xi</sup> SEARG (2011). Rabies in Mozambique: Update. <http://searg.info/fichiers/articles/2011002002d.pdf> [accessed 1.6.2013]
- <sup>xii</sup> OIE World Animal Health Information System. Mozambique, 2011. [http://www.oie.int/wahis\\_2/public/wahid.php/Reviewreport/semestrial/review?year=2011&semester=0&wild=0&country=MOZ&this\\_country\\_code=MOZ&detailed=1](http://www.oie.int/wahis_2/public/wahid.php/Reviewreport/semestrial/review?year=2011&semester=0&wild=0&country=MOZ&this_country_code=MOZ&detailed=1) and Mozambique, 2012 (1). [http://www.oie.int/wahis\\_2/public/wahid.php/Reviewreport/semestrial/review?year=2012&semester=1&wild=0&country=MOZ&this\\_country\\_code=MOZ&detailed=1](http://www.oie.int/wahis_2/public/wahid.php/Reviewreport/semestrial/review?year=2012&semester=1&wild=0&country=MOZ&this_country_code=MOZ&detailed=1) [accessed 1.6.2013]
- <sup>xiii</sup> SEARG (2011). Rabies in Mozambique: Update. <http://searg.info/fichiers/articles/2011002002d.pdf> [accessed 1.6.2013]