

TUNISIA

I.) BACKGROUND INFORMATION

Tunisia covers 163,610 sq. km and shares its borders with Algeria and Libya. Tunisia's population is estimated at around 11 million (2014), with about 66.3 percent living in urban areas (2011). Its GDP per capita (PPP) amounts to 9,900 USD (2013). In 2005 only 3.8 percent of the population lived below the poverty line. Despite the relative low income inequality it is ranked according to the Human Development Index of 2013 in 94th place, amongst the countries with high human development.^{i ii}

Rabies is endemic in Tunisia, with the Northern provinces being most affected. The most common lyssavirus present is Genotype 1 (Rabies virus, RABV), with human infections being mostly due to the canine biotype.ⁱⁱⁱ

Human rabies is a notifiable disease in Tunisia^{iv} and the surveillance system for both humans and animals (except bat specific surveillance) is relatively well established.

II.) HUMAN RABIES EPIDEMIOLOGY^v

Human rabies cases are sometimes laboratory confirmed, but mostly diagnosed on clinical grounds only. According to the OIE World Animal Health Information System in 2011 Tunisia reported one case of rabies in humans, 3 cases in 2012, and 6 cases in 2013.

III.) RABIES VECTORS

The main vector for rabies in Tunisia is the domestic dog. In 2011, it was estimated that vaccination coverage amongst the dog population is 48 percent.^{vi}

In 2011, Tunisia reported 64 cases of rabies in dogs, with 4,379 dogs ring vaccinated and 395,835 routinely vaccinated. In the following year, 2012, 167 dogs rabies cases were reported, 4,722 animals were ring vaccinated and 399,732 dogs received routine vaccination. In 2013, there were 199 dog rabies cases, 2,681 ring and 467,507 routine vaccinations.^{vii}

A significant number of livestock, especially cattle, die from rabies in Tunisia every year. In 2011, 34 cases were reported, 114 cases in 2012, and 160 in 2013.^{viii}

Rabies in wildlife is present in Tunisia, with one case reported in 2013 (species unknown).^{ix}

IV.) RABIES BIOLOGICS AVAILABILITY

PEP treatment is entirely funded by the government and is available free of charge in the 360 anti-rabies medical centres, with around 40,000 PEP are administered annually^x.

ⁱ CIA (2013). The World Factbook: Tunisia. <https://www.cia.gov/library/publications/the-world-factbook/geos/ts.html> [accessed 24.04.2014]

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 El Harrak (2011). Epidemiological Factors and Control of Rabies in North Africa. Presentation given at the OIE Global Conference on Rabies Control, Incheon; Republic of Korea; 7-9 September 2011. http://www.oie.int/eng/A_RABIES/presentations_rage/S1-6%20CaseReport%20NorthAfrica_DrEl-Harrak.pdf [23.04.2014]

^{iv} El Harrak (2011). Epidemiological Factors and Control of Rabies in North Africa. Presentation given at the OIE Global Conference on Rabies Control, Incheon; Republic of Korea; 7-9 September 2011. http://www.oie.int/eng/A_RABIES/presentations_rage/S1-6%20CaseReport%20NorthAfrica_DrEl-Harrak.pdf [23.04.2014]

^v OIE World Animal Health Information System. Tunisia.

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

^{vi} El Harrak (2011). Epidemiological Factors and Control of Rabies in North Africa. Presentation given at the OIE Global Conference on Rabies Control, Incheon; Republic of Korea; 7-9 September 2011.

http://www.oie.int/eng/A_RABIES/presentations_rage/S1-6%20CaseReport%20NorthAfrica_DrEl-Harrak.pdf [23.04.2014]

^{vii} OIE World Animal Health Information System. Tunisia.

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

^{viii} OIE World Animal Health Information System. Tunisia.

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

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

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

^x Bourhy H (2013). Rabies in the Southern Mediterranean region, risks for Europe and perspectives. Presentation delivered at the Rabies Workshop, Paris, 15-16 October 2013.

http://www.google.com/url?sa=t&rct=j&q=&esrc=s&source=web&cd=15&cad=rja&uact=8&ved=0CEwQFjAEOAo&url=http%3A%2F%2Fec.europa.eu%2Fenlargement%2Ftaiex%2Fdyn%2Fcreate_speech.jsp%3FspeechID%3D29787%26key%3D77d21634a268b8b182e59460d939873c&ei=sm9zU6n8GoL_4QSQ4oDYCw&usq=AFOjCNFFEXfON-TNPJBzuIW91yoBIPpkHg&sig2=rogITM1PkatTEXTJA3v5rw&bvm=bv.66699033,d.bGE [accessed 23.04.2014]