

YEMEN

I.) BACKGROUND INFORMATION

Yemen covers 527,968 sq. km and shares its borders with Oman and Saudi Arabia. Yemen's population is estimated at around 26 million (2014), with about 32.3 percent living in urban areas (2011). Its GDP per capita (PPP) amounts to 2,500 USD (2013). However, 45.2 percent of the population lived below the poverty line in 2003. With a high income inequality it is ranked according to the Human Development Index of 2013 in 160th place, amongst the countries with low human development.^{i ii}

Rabies is endemic in Yemen. The most common lyssavirus present is Genotype 1 (Rabies virus, RABV), with human infections being mostly due to the canine biotypeⁱⁱⁱ. Bat lyssavirus specific surveillance is limited. Thus, no information to other lyssavirus genotypes is available.

Human rabies is a notifiable disease in Yemen. The surveillance is a standalone system, and rabies vaccination is only given after exposure to a suspected rabid animal.^{iv} However, information on the number of human rabies cases is scarce.

II.) HUMAN RABIES EPIDEMIOLOGY

Human rabies cases are mostly diagnosed on clinical grounds only. According to the Ministry of Public Health and Population, there are annually approximately 30 human rabies cases^v. However, a recent estimation indicates that around 220 people might succumb to rabies every year^{vi}.

III.) RABIES VECTORS^{vii}

The main vector for rabies in Yemen is the domestic dog. In 2011, Yemen reported 228 cases of rabies in dogs. In 2012 there were 236 dog rabies cases.

Livestock, especially cattle, also die from rabies every year. In 2011, 13 cases were reported, 8 cases in 2012.

Rabies in wildlife is present in Yemen with 2 cases reported in 2012 (species unknown).

IV.) RABIES BIOLOGICS AVAILABILITY

Rabies post-exposure prophylaxis (PEP) is available. However, there is no vaccine available for domestic or wild animals.^{viii}

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- ⁱ CIA (2013). The World Factbook: Yemen. <https://www.cia.gov/library/publications/the-world-factbook/geos/ym.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 Al-Shamany HA, A Sunhope, and KA Al-Moyed (2013). Prevalence of Rabies in Various Species in Yemen and Risk Factors Contributing to the Spread of the Disease. *Sultan Qaboos Univ Med J: 13(3):404-10.*
- ^{iv} Taylor LH, L Knopf and Partners for Rabies Prevention (in prep). Surveillance of Human Rabies by National Authorities - A Global Survey.
- ^v Al-Shamany HA, A Sunhope, and KA Al-Moyed (2013). Prevalence of Rabies in Various Species in Yemen and Risk Factors Contributing to the Spread of the Disease. *Sultan Qaboos Univ Med J: 13(3):404-10.*
- ^{vi} Hampson K and Partners for Rabies Prevention (in prep). Estimating the global burden of endemic canine rabies.
- ^{vii} OIE World Animal Health Information System. Yemen.
http://www.oie.int/wahis_2/public/wahid.php/Countryinformation/reporting/reporthistory [accessed 23.04.2014]
- ^{viii} Al-Shamany HA, A Sunhope, and KA Al-Moyed (2013). Prevalence of Rabies in Various Species in Yemen and Risk Factors Contributing to the Spread of the Disease. *Sultan Qaboos Univ Med J: 13(3):404-10.*