

The Stop Transboundary Animal Diseases and Zoonoses (STANDZ) Initiative on Rabies in South-East Asia

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The STANDZ is based on a Grant Agreement between the Government of Australia and the World Organisation for Animal Health (OIE), which commenced in June 2011 and will conclude by June 2016.

The Rabies Component of the STANDZ focuses on (1) advancing coordination of relevant rabies stakeholders in South-East Asia; (2) strengthening capacities related to rabies control and prevention; (3) developing strategies, guidelines and plans that are aligned with international standards and guidelines; (4) promoting rabies research and studies; and (5) piloting rabies control and prevention activities.

As such, the OIE SRR SEA through the STANDZ Initiative has organised and co-organised meetings, workshops and trainings related to rabies control and prevention in the sub-region as well as on One Health Coordination. The STANDZ Project has also developed the *South-East Asia Rabies Elimination Strategy*, which was later used as the base document for the joint Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) Rabies Elimination Strategy (ARES). It has also supported the development of the *Benchmarking Document for Rabies and Rabies initiatives in ASEAN Member States* using chapters from the OIE *Terrestrial Animal Health Code* that are highly relevant to dog rabies elimination.

At present, STANDZ is also finalising the following documents in support of dog rabies elimination: *Strategic prioritisation for mass dog vaccination*, *Enhancing animal rabies surveillance through participatory approaches*, and *Rabies post-vaccination monitoring (PVM)*. In addition to these, STANDZ continues to support surveys on knowledge, attitude and perception (KAP), conduct PVM in pilot areas, and rabies case investigations.

A major area of work for STANDZ is focused on providing support to comprehensive rabies control and prevention activities in the Philippines, Myanmar and Cambodia. As part of this work, the STANDZ has supported the procurement of about one million doses of rabies vaccines through the OIE Regional Vaccine Bank mechanism, and continues to provide complementary support to implementation of mass dog vaccination and other rabies elimination efforts such as public awareness, case investigations, One Health coordination, political engagement and activities critical for dog rabies elimination in the sub-region.