

Zero by 30: The Global Strategic Plan to Prevent Human Deaths from Dog-Transmitted Rabies by 2030

Why eliminate rabies?

Rabies kills an estimated 59 000 people every year – 40% children in Asia and Africa. Dog bites cause almost all human cases. We can prevent rabies deaths through increased awareness, vaccinating dogs to prevent disease at its source, and life-saving post-bite treatment for people.

Investing in rabies strengthens both human and veterinary health systems. We have the knowledge, tools, and technology to eliminate rabies. Until now, the global response has been fragmented and uncoordinated. We need to break the status quo: and come together with a combined will, an achievable goal and a common plan.

A call for action

In 2015, the world called for action by setting a goal of zero human dog-mediated rabies deaths by 2030, worldwide. Now, for the first time, WHO, OIE, FAO and GARC are united and determined to reach this goal.

The “United Against Rabies” collaboration leverages existing tools and expertise in a coordinated way to empower, engage, and enable countries to save human lives from this preventable disease. The Global Strategic Plan puts countries at the centre with renewed international support to act.

How we will reach Zero by 30

Our Strategic Plan prioritises the societal changes needed to reach “Zero by 30” into three objectives:

Objective 1: **To efficiently prevent and respond** through effective use of vaccines, medicines, tools and technologies. The fundamentals of rabies control are well established. Wide-scale access to this knowledge, and capacity building will allow countries to access and implement these tools in their communities.

Vaccine is a key component of the Global Strategic Plan, and triggers national programmes. Establishing human and dog biological bank(s) is key to increasing access to affordable, quality products.

Objective 2: **To generate, innovate and measure impact** through policies, guidance and governance; and reliable data to enable effective decision-making. Coherent international standards and guidelines reflect best practice in rabies control. We need to support countries to access and adapt these standards and guidelines to their local contexts. We will offer support to implement, assess and refine strategies with the greatest impact.

Objective 3: **To sustain commitment and resources** to drive progress. By providing a coherent foundation for rabies control, our Global Strategic Plan builds confidence in the feasibility of global elimination, and engages countries, research institutions and development partners in the fight to end rabies.

Phased approach to elimination

We propose a pragmatic, three-phase approach to achieve the shared goal of “Zero by 30”:



Phase 1: START UP. We will build a strong foundation for rabies elimination by preparing and improving normative tools and structures to catalyse action. Key activities include supporting countries to prepare robust, budgeted, effective and sustainable national rabies elimination plans following a One Health approach; and facilitating the coalescence of these plans into a coordinated regional effort.

Phase 2: SCALE UP. This is where we engage and involve the most countries in rabies elimination. Using the strong foundation established in Phase 1, refined and improved with learning and experience, we will expand our efforts and truly go global.

Phase 3: MOP UP. Phase 3 is the last mile. We will engage remaining countries in the fight to eliminate rabies, and continue to support country efforts as communities, nations and regions advance to reach “Zero by 30”.

Budget & Monitoring

Our Global Strategic Plan details funding requirements for core activities of Phase 1 only (START UP: 2017-2020 estimated at 15 million USD). This will allow us to stay agile, and flexibly adapt our strategy to accommodate new technologies, changing environments, and lessons learned along the way.

Financing and implementing national rabies elimination plans at the country level is not included in our budget. Countries will need to mobilise domestic and international resources to sustainably finance and implement control activities.

We will develop a detailed workplan to guide implementation, including a monitoring framework with defined, aligned, milestones to measure progress.

What's next?

Reaching “Zero by 30” will mean children that live, adults who work, and families who stay together. Investing in rabies strengthens health systems, improves equity and access to care, and contributes to sustainable development. For the first time in history, we are united to leverage existing knowledge, tools and technology in a new way.

We will not stop there. We will pursue breaking transmission in dogs and maintaining freedom from disease. The “United Against Rabies” collaboration is already working with countries to coordinate and catalyse global change. Investing in rabies will accelerate progress, as the world works to make elimination a reality.

Our One Health collaboration engages experts and stakeholders from public and private sectors to play an active role in empowering, supporting and motivating countries to prevent rabies to make zero rabies deaths by 2030 a reality.