

MERACON: Returning to RABIES

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www.rabiesalliance.org

The world is challenged by many important diseases

How important is rabies?

WHY ELIMINATE RABIES ?

Investment in eliminating rabies at its source is the most cost-effective and equitable approach to human rabies prevention



1

Because rabies kills

Once clinical signs appear, rabies is fatal

A deadly and terrifying disease which claims tens of thousands of lives globally every year



2

Because rabies is preventable

Global elimination of dog-mediated rabies is feasible and cost- effective

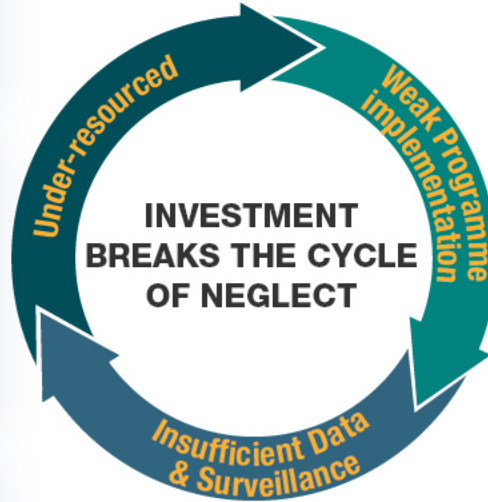
Proven effective solutions exists for prevention of rabies. This has also been demonstrated by proof of concept programs in several countries (refer Annexure 1)



3

Because rabies affects the world's most vulnerable
Disproportionately burdens poor rural communities

Rabies is a disease of poverty. Treatment for human rabies is much more expensive and often inaccessible than the cost of programmes for control and prevention



4

Because eliminating rabies strengthens health systems

Investment in rabies maximizes impact of each dollar

Investment in well integrated rabies elimination program implies an infrastructure capable of reaching the world's most vulnerable thereby improving overall access to healthcare for the disadvantaged



5

Because rabies is a model for 'One Health' collaboration

An effective showcase for 'One Health' in action for other existing and emerging zoonosis

Control of rabies requires effective collaboration between human and animal health sectors



6

Because the world wants to correct neglect and inequality

Investment in rabies elimination will make a significant contribution towards realizing the SDGs.

The goal is aligned to SDG 1 & SDG 3

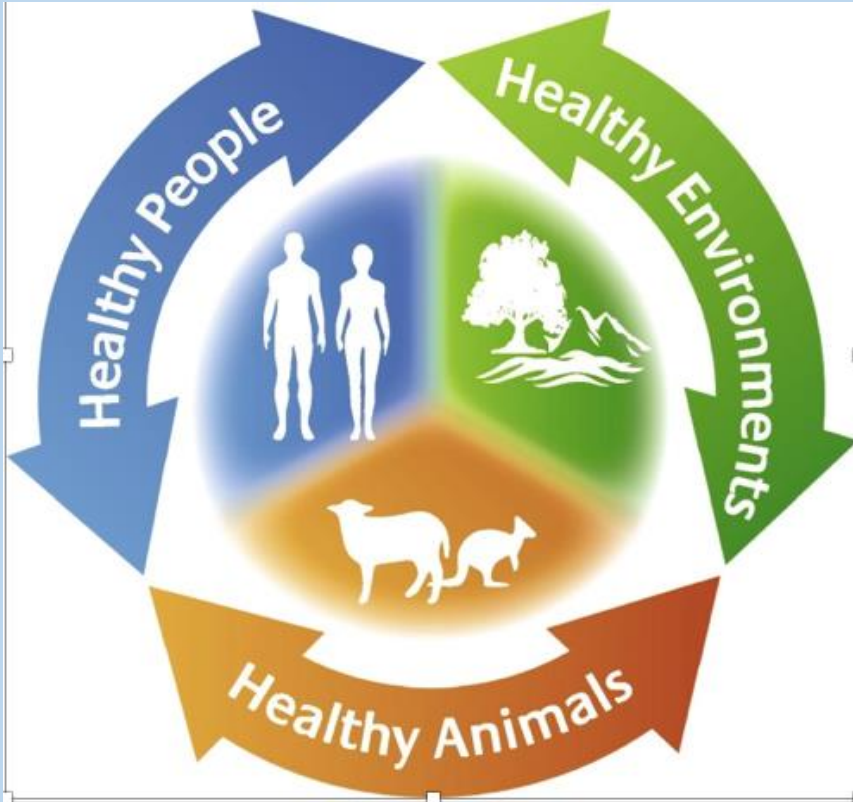
3.3 " by 2030, end the epidemics ofneglected tropical diseases"

3.8 "achieve universal health coverage ... and access to safe, effective, quality and affordable essential medicines and vaccines for all"

SDG 1 – " end poverty in all its form and "leave no one behind"

How the COVID-19 pandemic **enhances** the **importance of rabies** and **strengthens** the case for the **elimination of rabies**

1. One Health



- The world is all of a sudden much better prepared to understand the **critical link between animal and human health!**
- Rabies is **the** model One Health disease: Elimination of the disease in humans is subject to the elimination of the exact same disease in animals.
- No other disease illustrates the **need for** and **the value of** a One Health approach, as much as rabies.

2. Education, Communication

- COVID-19 has highlighted the critical importance of educating citizens of all ages and across all demographics and levels of society.
- The **rabies** world already developed advanced models of such educational and awareness initiatives and platforms focused on those that are **most vulnerable**.
- Renewed global interest in these approaches.

Learn more about each of the GEP courses by clicking on the course below.



3. Surveillance

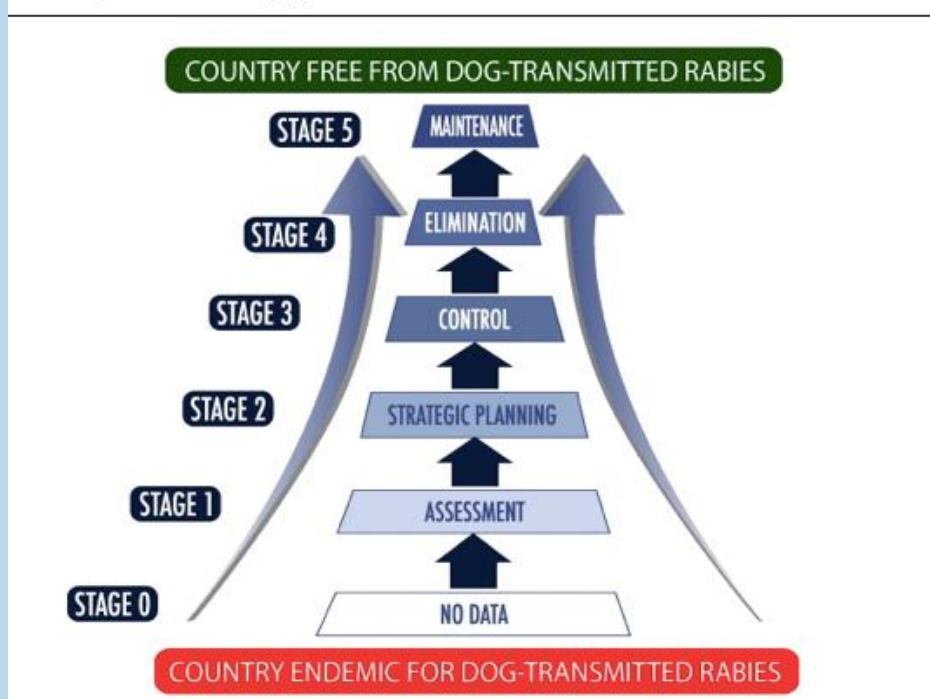


- COVID-19 demonstrated to one and all - the critical importance of diagnosis (**testing**) and transparency of data!
- Most now understand that **good surveillance** is critical to:
 - (1) understand the burden of the disease;
 - (2) design strategic intervention strategies based on data and;
 - (3) determine the success or failure of such strategies.
- These are key arguments to boost our plight to address the global **inadequacies** of surveillance for rabies!
- Rabies Epidemiological Bulletin – a transparent system to continually measure all the dynamic metrics of rabies in each country of the dog-rabies endemic world.

4. Strategy

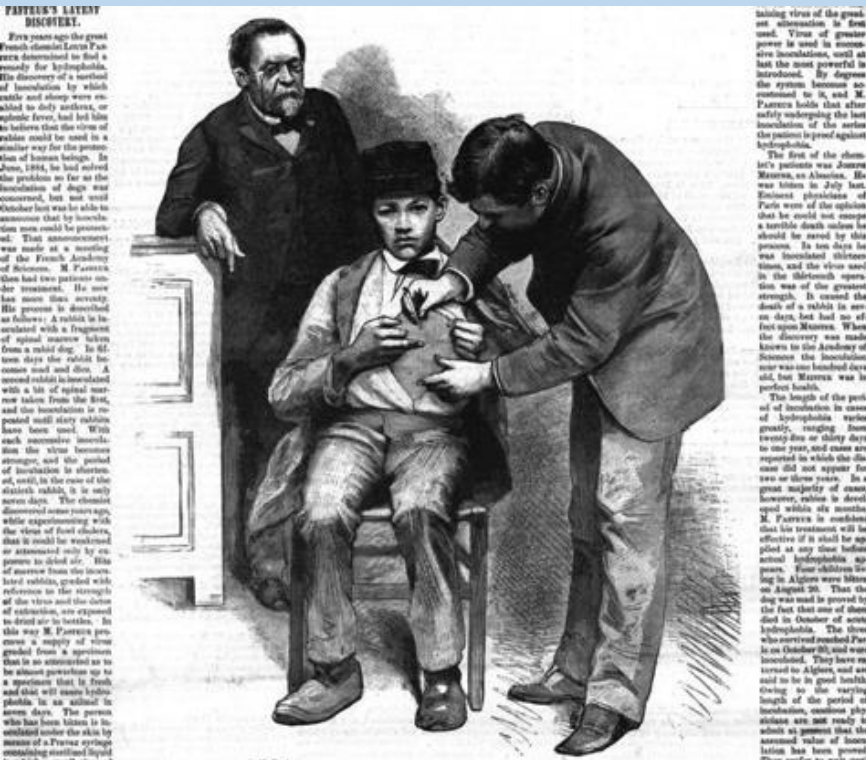
- Shared vision, connected and universal strategy: This was essential to effectively combat COVID, but the global response has been spectacularly imperfect.
- Rabies would benefit from a new appreciation of the already existing **Zero-by-30** GSP.
- Among others the SARE, as a cornerstone of the GSP, can be accelerated globally.

Stepwise Approach to Rabies Elimination



5. Vaccines

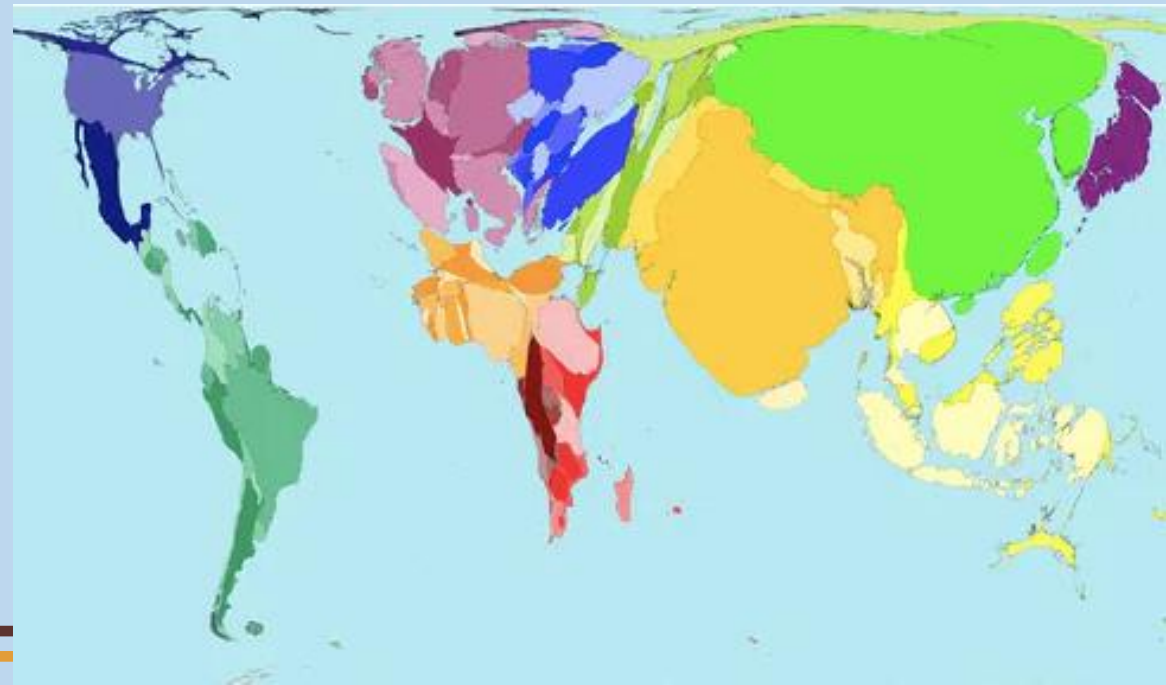
- Vaccine hesitancy - an unexpected scourge, but the race for COVID-19 vaccines was unprecedented.
- The development and roll-out of such **vaccines** is the most **critical breakthrough** in the fight against the coronavirus.
- But.... We already had **efficacious rabies vaccines** for ages....
- Renewed appreciation of the **value and importance of vaccination** in animals and humans.



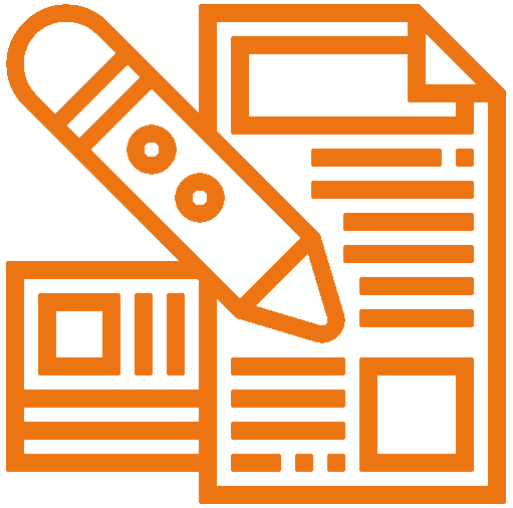
6. Every country in charge of own destiny

- Individual nations must take control (**country-centric** global strategy).
- In the COVID-19 pandemic, **each and every nation had to take full responsibility** for its own interventions towards the **protection of their citizens**.
- Those countries with **decisive leadership** were most successful in their responses to COVID-19.

Rabies elimination should be country-centric, driven by the individual national governments *per se*, if rabies elimination is ever to be achieved.



Critical tools towards rabies elimination



**Guidance with
National
Strategies**



**Surveillance
tools**



**Education
and Training**



**Awareness
and Advocacy**