

Concept note

Driving progress towards rabies elimination:

Results of Gavi's Learning Agenda on rabies and new WHO recommendations on human rabies immunization

Place & Date: Radisson Hotel, Kathmandu, Nepal, 1–3 May 2018

Background:

Rabies is listed as one of the 20 neglected tropical diseases (NTDs), which occurs in underserved populations, both rural and urban. The UN SDGs include ending the neglected tropical diseases by 2030. To reach this goal, WHO and its partners have endorsed a target of Zero Human Rabies Deaths from dog-transmitted rabies by 2030 (Zero by 30).

For the first time, WHO, OIE, FAO and Global Alliance for Rabies Control GARC are united, as the United Against Rabies collaboration, and determined to reach this goal, through a collective determination, an achievable goal and a common plan which will be presented.

Human rabies vaccines and rabies immunoglobulins are an essential component in achieving the global target of zero human deaths by 2030. Human rabies vaccines are considered in the next Gavi Vaccine Investment Strategy in 2018. Since 2016, the Gavi Learning Agenda has provided an opportunity for countries to gather programmatic experiences and necessary data through studies to support this initiative. To conclude these in-depth studies, a meeting is proposed to highlight the findings of the studies under the Gavi Learning Agenda across participating countries.

In addition, in October 2017, SAGE endorsed updates to WHO's position on rabies immunization in humans, including recommendations on pre-exposure prophylaxis, post-exposure prophylaxis and rabies immunoglobulin administration. Detailed updates on the new WHO position on rabies will also be shared during the proposed meeting.

Objectives of the 2 day-meeting:

- Discuss the results of the studies under the Gavi Learning Agenda on rabies
- Disseminate updates on SAGE recommendations on human rabies immunization
- Needs and next steps to reach 'ZERO BY 30': The Global Strategic Plan to End Human Deaths from Dog-Transmitted Rabies By 2030'

Organizers:

- Lead planner: WHO (Geneva and country office)
- Co-organizer: Nepal

Estimated total number of participants: 45 persons upon invitation and WHO staff
(detailed list to be determined)

Key participants:

- Countries participating in the Gavi Learning Agenda on Rabies (Bangladesh[#], Bhutan, Cambodia, Chad*, Cote d'Ivoire*, India, Kenya, Mali*, Nepal, Vietnam)
Study conducted through CDC
** Studies coordinated by Swiss Tropical and Public Health Institute*

Other suggested invited stakeholders:

- Participants from additional rabies endemic countries
- FAO, OIE, GARC
- Gavi
- 2 WHO Collaborating Centres from Thailand
- Private sector
- Other stakeholders, including non-governmental organizations

Preliminary outline agenda:

1. Opening Address (RD SEARO, ADG/CDS)
2. Video address of HRH Princess Chulabhorn
3. Objectives and expected outcomes of the meeting
4. Country presentations of selected results and programmatic experiences (focus Asian countries)
5. Panel discussion (topics 4)
6. Updates on SAGE recommendations and the new WHO position on human rabies immunization
7. Opportunities for the implementation of new immunization policy for countries
8. Panel discussion (topics 6-7)
9. The Global Strategic Plan ZERO BY 30
10. Needs and countries' next steps in support of 'ZERO BY 30'
11. Closing