

# SIERRA LEONE

## Progress update

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[www.rabiesalliance.org](http://www.rabiesalliance.org)

## Background information 1/2

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- Rabies was first diagnosed in Sierra Leone in 1949 and confirmed in 1951 in the Central Veterinary Laboratory at Teko, Makeni
- Rabies is endemic In Sierra Leone; research shows that, approximately 210,000 humans die of rabies annually as one of the highest human death reported in the world.
- That is to say 3 human deaths occur per every 100,000 people annually.
- Freetown has been perceived as the City with the highest dog population density in the sub region which has been a potential health threat.

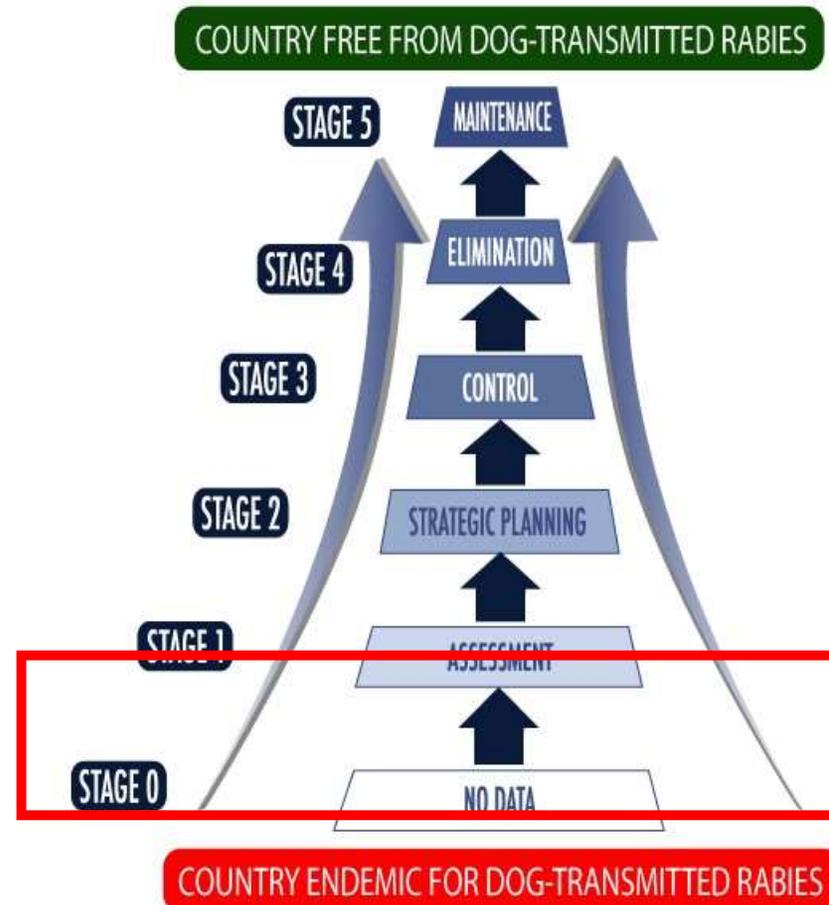
## Background information 2/2

- In 2008, a dog census was conducted in F/t. F/t alone, has an estimated **174 650 dogs and 152 437** are stray dogs.
- The current total number of dogs in S/L is estimated to be **2,667,985 using the human and dog ratio.**
- The internationally accepted human to dog ratio for both urban (21:2) and rural (7:4) population.
- The analysis is given as; the total human population in S/L is 7,092,113
- The urban human population is 2,907,766 Thus, the urban dog population is **276,930** using ratio; 21:2
- The rural human population is 4,184,347 and the rural dog population is **2,391,055 using ratio; 7:4.** (Source; Global Alliance for Rabies Control).

T. R. A. Winnebah, A. G. Jalloh and J. Wilson: Survey of dogs in households and enumeration area in Greater Freetown, Western Area, Sierra Leone – SLAWS and W SPA, 2008

## SARE Score

- Date of last workshop was in September, 2018
- *The last SARE assessment was done in a workshop in Johannesburg*
- The score for Sierra Leone in 2018 was 0
- *The Workplan developed using the SARE is being used to direct activities*
- *Activities in the five years Rabies Costed Action plan was developed using the SARE, this is the current plan the country is using to direct activities towards the elimination of rabies.*



## 5 Prioritized rabies activities

- 1) To finalize the National Rabies Elimination Strategy with five years (2019-2023) Costed Action
- 2) To Strengthening surveillance and laboratory diagnostic capacity on rabies
- 3) To Review and enact legislation to guide the process of rabies elimination
- 4) To advocate, create awareness and mobilize communities on rabies control
- 5) Vaccination campaign targeting 70% coverage and Dog population management country wide.

## Accomplished activities since last SARE

- The National Rabies Elimination Strategy finalized with five years (2019-2023) Costed Action.-WAP and other partners
- The Central Veterinary Laboratory, Teko, Makeni is now operational and there is adequate capacity to diagnose rabies. Five SOPs have been developed awaiting validation.
- The two targeted legal instruments (Animal Diseases and Animal Welfare and Protection Bills) have been validated and sent to OIE for their update
- *A two day (3<sup>rd</sup> – 4<sup>th</sup> Sept. 2019) National Consultative advocacy meeting was held in Bo city to dialogue on human exposure to animal bites using One Health approach. The meeting key actors across sectors including Paramount Chiefs, Politicians and Policy makers.*
- *Nation wide vaccination campaign conducted in all 16 districts during the week following the World Rabies Day celebration 2019.*
- *Distributed 5000 flyers 30 banners and vaccinated 3150 dogs through the support of Partners including WAP,FAO, WHO,USAID.*
- *TOT FOR PRIMARY SCHOOL TEACHERS-15 schools-30 teachers*

## Budget and Finance

- *Few activities (Advocacy, communication and Social Mobilization) of the national strategy have received support from Breakthrough Action via USAID Fund.*
- *As part of supports to the five years Costed Action Plan, there is an ongoing six months campaign on dog bite and rabies prevention, organized by Breakthrough Action*
- *FAO supported the development of five SOPs via USAID Funds*
- *The establishment of rabies diagnostic unit in the Central Veterinary Laboratory supported by FAO via USAID Funds.*
- *The finalized Strategy with a five years Costed Action Plan is now available to advocate for more funding.*

## Planned activities for the next year

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- *To improve collaborations and effective coordination at all levels*
- *To enact the two targeted legal instruments (Animal Health Bill and the Animal Welfare and Protection Bill)*
- *Improve laboratory diagnostic capacity on rabies*
- *Increase vaccination coverage targeting 70%*
- *Increase awareness and education campaign*
- *Generate credible and reliable rabies data*
- *Dog population management through sterilization (spay and Neuter)*

## What next?

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- *There is a political will (Local Govt. Central Govt.)*
- *There is effective collaboration among sectors to fight eliminate rabies in the Country by 2030*
- *Rabies is among the six priority Zoonotic diseases in the Country*
- *Rabies is the second in the list of priority zoonotic diseases in Sierra Leone*

THANK YOU



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