

1rst MEETING OF DIRECTORS OF RABIES CONTROL PROGRAMS IN EAST AFRICA

RWANDA PRESENTATION

By

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Current situation of Rabies in Rwanda

– Dog bites:

- At Vet services: statistics are unknown despite of many complaints for human/ animals bitten
- Human bitten are globally reported at health centers/hospitals. Statistics are available at HMIS in the MoH
- Veterinary is mainly solicited for culling dogs, but some time for follow up for 15 days a biting dog once people manage to contain it at home

– **Collaboration between medics and vets** : vet report rarely requested by medical services in the frame of PEP

Progress made towards rabies control

- **Vaccination campaigns:** annually organized (Ex: 6019 doses of vaccine distributed in 2015 and 9156 doses in 2016).
- **Stray dogs culling:** night gathering points of dogs or where rabies outbreak is reported. We use Strychnine
- **Regulation on animal movement:** specific conditions for dog movement / importation in the country (to be vaccinated, free roaming prohibited) are defined by the law No 54/2008 of
- **Steering committee of rabies control:** including MoA, MoH, Security forces, Local leaders is in place
- **One Health Committee :** is in place

- **Wildlife protection strategy:** vaccination of dogs around national parks
- **Veterinary laboratory:** equipped for rabies diagnosis
- **Awareness on Rabies:** once meeting with meeting farmers like training and national radio sensitization before annual vaccination campaigns

Current Collaboration with surrounding countries

No special collaboration platform is designed between Rwanda and surrounding countries. All countries are to be conformed to the rules and regulations related to dog movement/importation in Rwanda

Challenges

- Rabies remains neglected : decision makers, technicians and farmers seem not to give appropriate importance to rabies issue
- Rabies control platforms put in place are not correctly working (Rabies Steering Committee, One Health)
- Not enough collaboration between medics and vets

Solution

Intensify awareness programs:

- Mind set change at various levels (politicians, technicians, farmers)
- International community support is needed.(support for organizing awareness meetings at national level where medics, vets , wildlife, security, leaders should be invited and plan together some activities to perform towards rabies elimination)

**THANK YOU FOR YOUR
ATTENTION**