**Rabies Updates in Myanmar**

**Rabies Situation**

**General Instruction:** Central Epidemiology Unit (CEU), Department of Public Health - dog bites data, ARV breakdown and distribution to the States and Regions through the help of Procurement and Supply Unit and Central Cold Room (CCR). Currently, translated the rabies FAQs into Myanmar language and SOP and Guidelines on Rabies were distributed up to the station hospitals and RHC with the contribution of the WHO.

**Situation:** Human Population (51 Millions), Dog Population (based on survey) (4.48 Millions), National Rabies Control Program- No, Principal animal is DOG, Pet dog-human ratio is 1:15, Estimated animal bite incidence is 600,000 per year, Dog bite incidence is highest in delta and plain region compared to the coastal and hilly areas.

**Key Achievements**

- Rabies cases are reducing within these years
- Post Exposure Prophylaxis
- Rabies surveillance
- Community Awareness (But Limited)

**Major Challenges**

- There is no structure at country level to OH and OH focal points among animal health, public health and environmental sectors and coordination is not regular,
- Parallel animal and human health data bases are not linkable, data access is restricted in some situations and inadequate information sharing,
- Data on zoonotic diseases is limited. Surveillance systems do not capture adequate information on zoonotic events. If available, the quality is low.
- Involvement of environmental sector and other players has been limited in case of zoonotic diseases is considered,
- Participatory surveillance is weak and minimum report from private practitioners
- Insufficient Vaccine Supply, only from Government budget
- Increased Community Awareness

**Way Forward**

- To update monthly report forms, vaccine requisition forms of rabies by negotiating with focal persons from state and regions depending on the difficulties which they had encountered while using those forms to get the valid data
- To conduct trainings of trainers (some of the States/Regions)
- To proceed the National Strategic Plan For Rabies Elimination in collaboration with LVBD by promoting One Health approach
- To strengthen the public awareness about Rabies via social media, newspapers and so on.
- To encourage community involvement and engagement in activities to eliminate dog-mediated rabies
- To support improved surveillance, sampling, reporting and data-sharing
- To support monitoring and evaluation of national plans to ensure timely and cost effective delivery

**Public Health - rabies control activities**

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- To support monitoring and evaluation of national plans to ensure timely and cost effective delivery

**CNVR: Catch, Neuter, Vaccinate and Return (YCDC)**

- World-wide for mass sterilizations
- Mobile field clinics - over 10 years
- 180,000 stray dogs in Yangon
- 4.5 million dogs in Myanmar
- Vaccination 70 % of dog population for 3 years → rabies elimination

**Lewei Township Mass Vaccination (PILOT)**

- Area - 866,034sq miles
- Human Population - 269,780
- Households - 54,430
- Townships - 7 * quarters
- Villages - 268
- Dog population - 44963 (Est.)
- Dog & human Est. Ratio - 1 : 6
- Stray Dog estimation - 70%
- Annual Human Dog bite - 582 (2015)
- Well Trained experiences by Pilot
  - Vaccinators
  - Dog catchers
  - Vaccination teams

** Challenges**

- Stray dogs population is so high.
- Rabies virus infection spread into public area quickly.
- To eliminate the rabies infections - Funding
  - Technical supports
  - Pilot areas
  - Surveying on post vaccination monitoring programmes
  - Volunteer to perform campaigns
  - Co-operation with relevant sectors and government agencies to become multi-sectoral approaches