

AU-IBAR ACTIVITIES IN AFRICA TOWARDS ELIMINATION RABIES BY 2030

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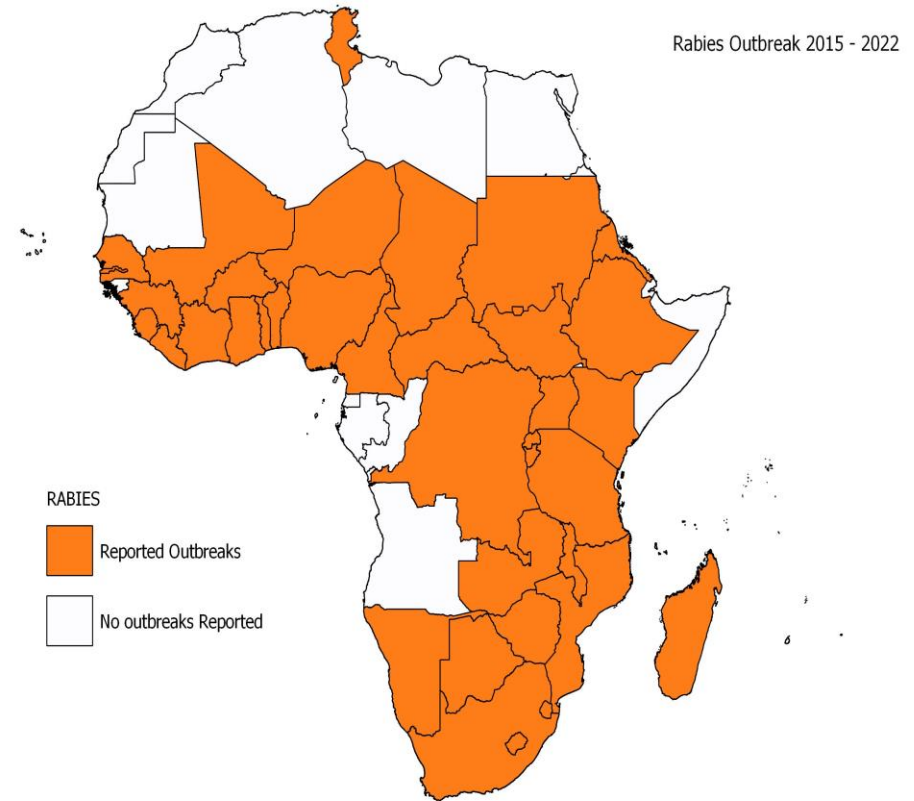
Outline

- Rabies in Africa
- AU-IBAR past and present work
- AU-IBAR Plans for 2023 and 2024
- Baseline Survey on Institutional Preparedness
- Take home Messages and conclusions



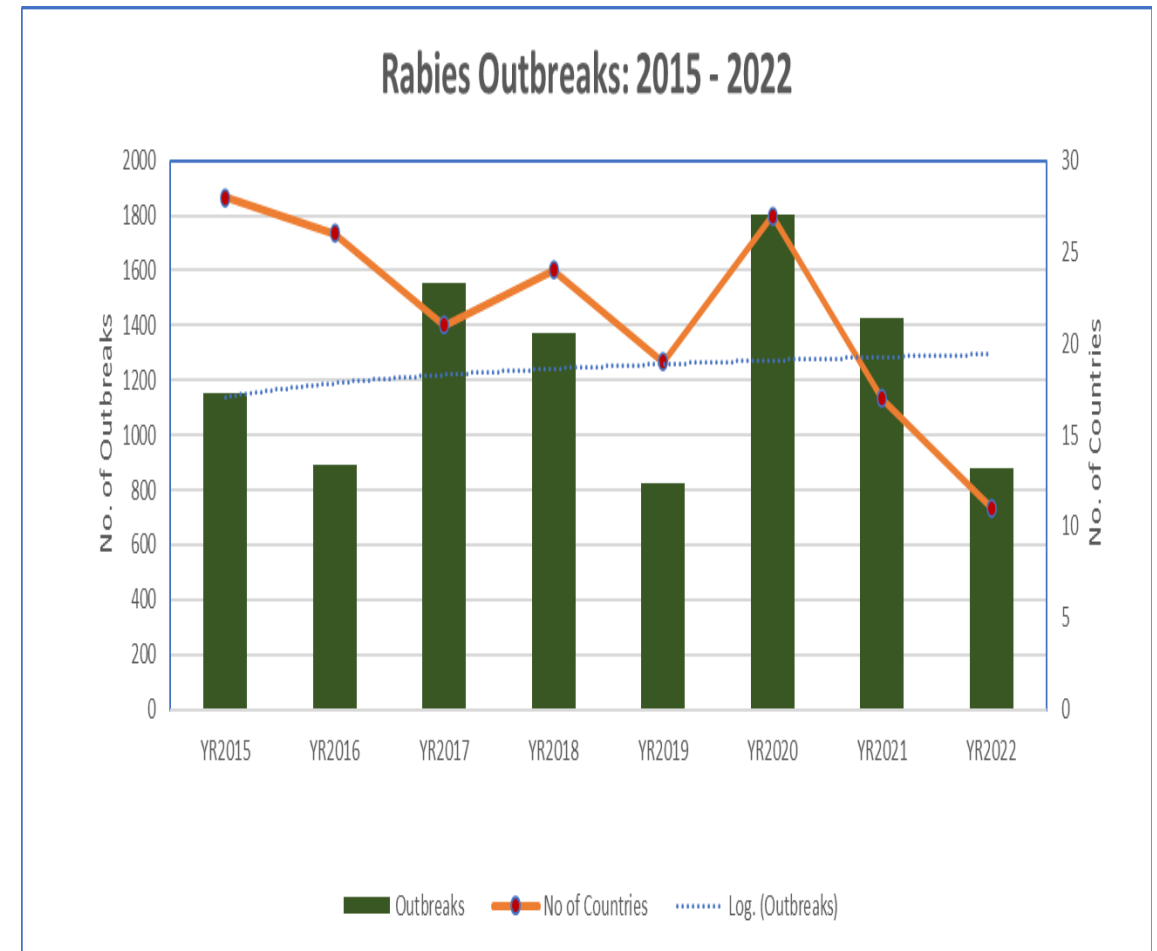
Rabies in Africa

- Rabies is one of the widely distributed disease in Africa
- In Africa Rabies kills 25,000 people per year, One death every 20 minutes
- 80% of human cases in rural areas; >40% of rabies deaths in children (primarily boys) aged less than 15 years.



Rabies in Africa-2

- In Africa, the annual livestock losses from rabies US\$ 280 million; GDP loss of US\$ 773 million
- Our Wildlife are affected by rabies from livestock grazing around national parks and illegal wildlife hunting
- Resulting in large losses across the Human, Economic and Environment landscape



Policy/strategies for zoonoses

- The Third Ordinary Session of the Specialized Technical Committee on Agriculture, Rural Development, Water and Environment (ARDWE) - Doc: EX.CL/1187(XXXVI); that endorsed the Animal Health Strategy for Africa 20-19-2035 (AHSA) for immediate implementation by the respective countries and regions and by other partners; and requested African Union institutions, Regional Economic Communities (RECs), Member States and partners to pursue partnerships necessary for effective, efficient and sustainable implementation of the strategy and mobilize resources required for the implementation of the strategy at all levels;
- The AHSA identifies the need for the development and implementation of programs and strategies for the progressive control and eradication of zoonotic diseases, including Rabies, in line with global, continental, regional and local priorities;
- Attempts to eliminate Rabies have had mixed results, even in countries that initially succeeded in eliminating rabies, only for the disease to re-emerge after vaccination and surveillance waned due to lack of funding;

Gaps/Challenges in Rabies control in Africa

- The annual coverage for dog vaccination ranges between 5% and 60%; with most countries registering less than 18% coverage, which is way below the annual 70% vaccination coverage for dog populations recommended by World Organization of Animal Health and World Health Organization;
- Government initiated rabies control efforts in Africa, largely comprise of periodic dog vaccination campaigns that register short term successes but which lack the long-term impact on rabies reduction in animals, maintenance hosts or humans;
- Recognizing that an estimated 99% of human rabies cases arise from rabid dogs' bites or scratches and seizing on the momentum from the 2015 launching of the *End Rabies Now* campaign to eliminate human rabies deaths by 2030 globally by the tripartite of WHO, FAO and WOAHA and the Global Alliance for Rabies Control;
- Inadequate harmonisation, coordination and collaboration among countries and regions for the Management of TADs;
- Insufficient vaccine production and accessibility challenges i.e cost of the vaccine and vaccination

AU-IBAR past and present work

- Supported ECOWAS Regional ONE HEALTH Strategy for the control and elimination of dog transmitted Rabies
- Supported Guinea Conakry develop their NRES.
- Supported Validation & Launch the Nigerian NRES
- Supported awareness and Vaccination in Cote d'Ivoire
- Undertook a baseline Study on preparedness of Africa for Zero by 30 campaign



Baseline Survey on Institutional Preparedness of African countries to eliminate rabies by 2030

The Overall Objective of the Study was:

- To support development of a CONTINENTAL STRATEGY FOR THE ELIMINATION OF DOG-MEDIATED RABIES

Specific objectives was to:

- 1) Review literature on the rabies landscape in Africa,
- 2) Understand the policy and institutional preparedness for the end rabies by 2030 campaign
- 3) Establish country-specific profiles of policies, institutions, and preparedness on rabies elimination towards supporting national rabies elimination strategies and programs

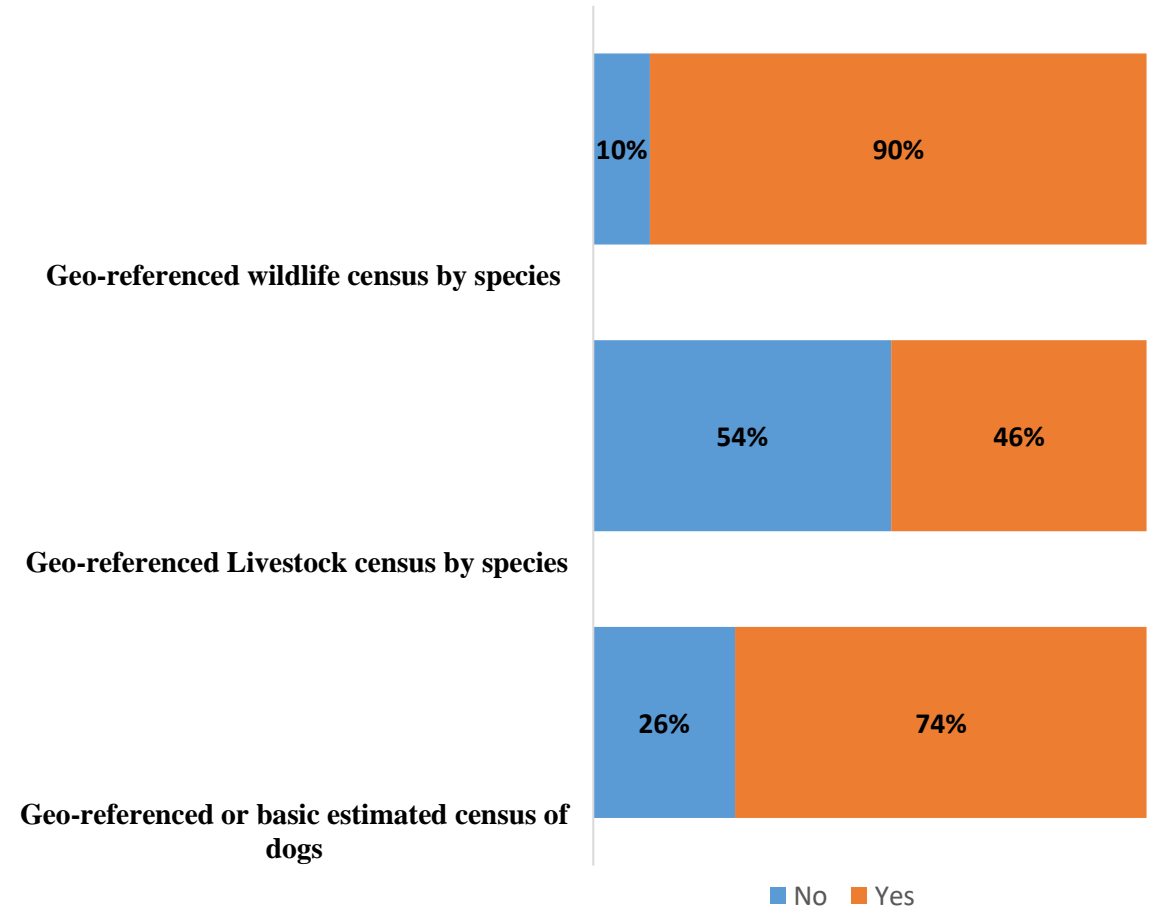
Baseline survey findings on the preparedness of African countries to eliminate rabies by 2030



Animal Population Data

- **87% CVOs believe vaccinations and DPM need to be combined together and not vaccinations alone.**
- **No geo-referenced dog census (74%) and wildlife (90%) of countries**
- **Lack of reliable rabies morbidity and mortality data**
- **No gender-disaggregated data**
- **26% countries gues estimate dog populations**

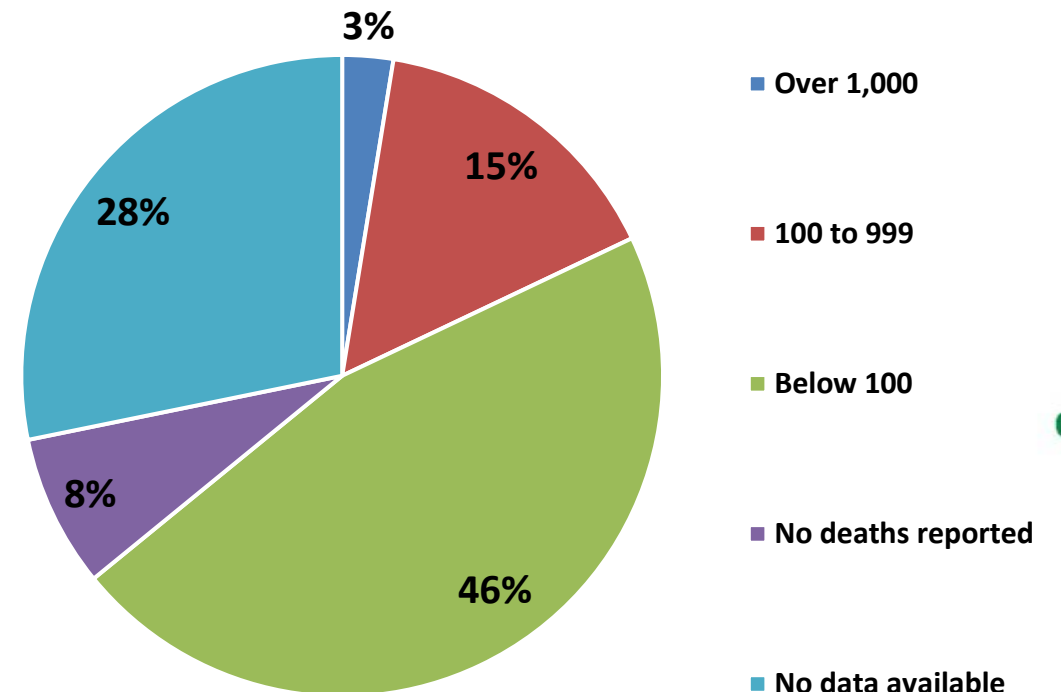
Geo-referenced census of wildlife, livestock and dogs, as reported by CVOs from 39 African countries.



Dog, Livestock, Wildlife rabies numbers

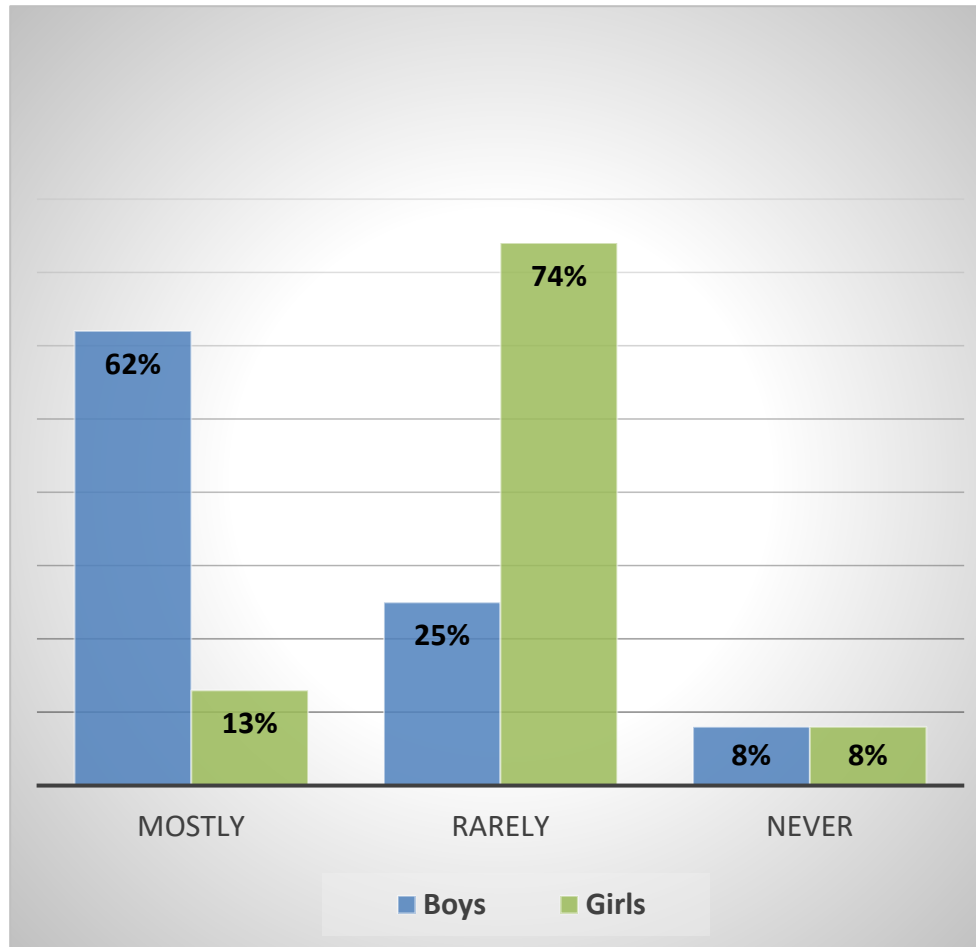
- Tanzania highest dog rabies - 2,030
- 8 countries No data on rabid dogs
- 72% No data on livestock rabies deaths
- Chad and Algeria highest livestock deaths
- 5 countries with wildlife rabies deaths
- Most have no wildlife data

Number of dogs infected by rabies per in 2021
(39 CVOs)

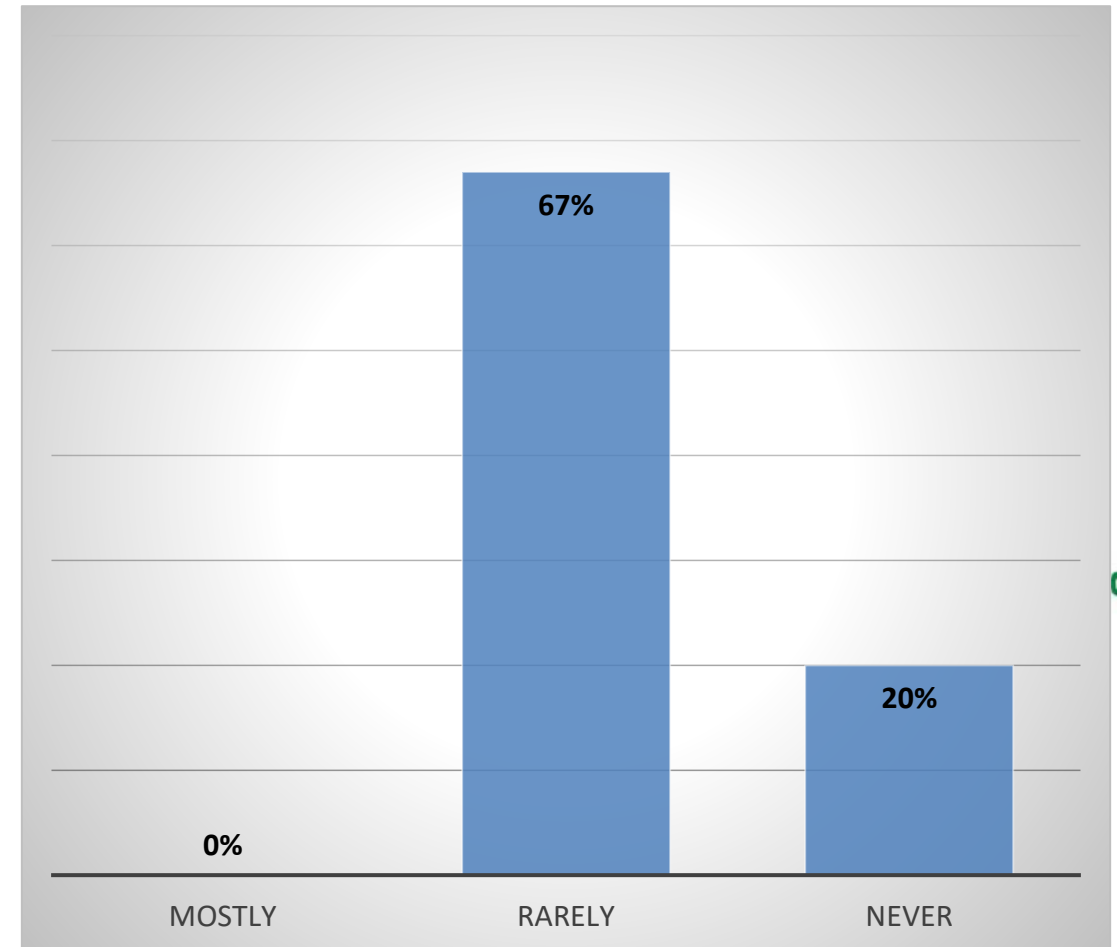


Gender and vulnerability disaggregated Data who takes dogs for vaccinations?

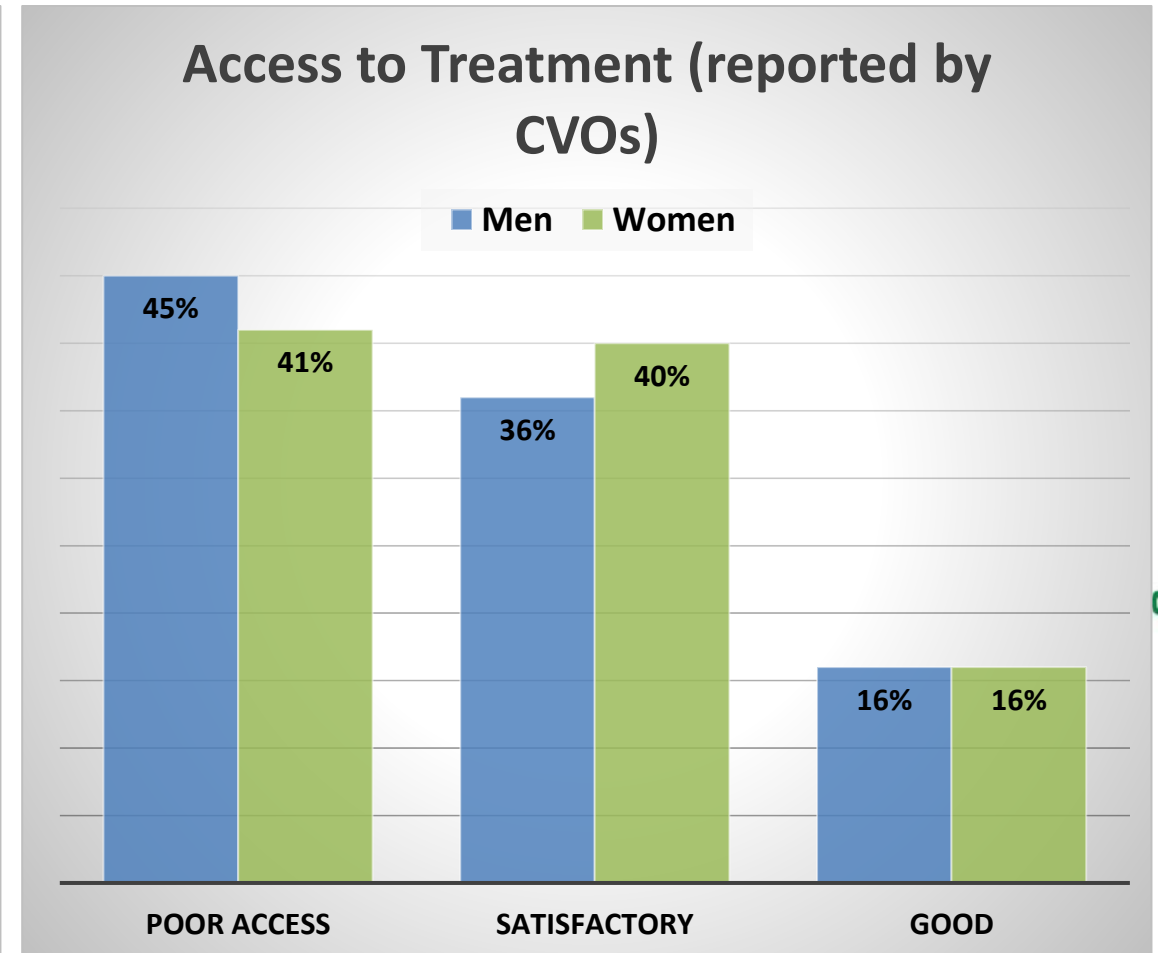
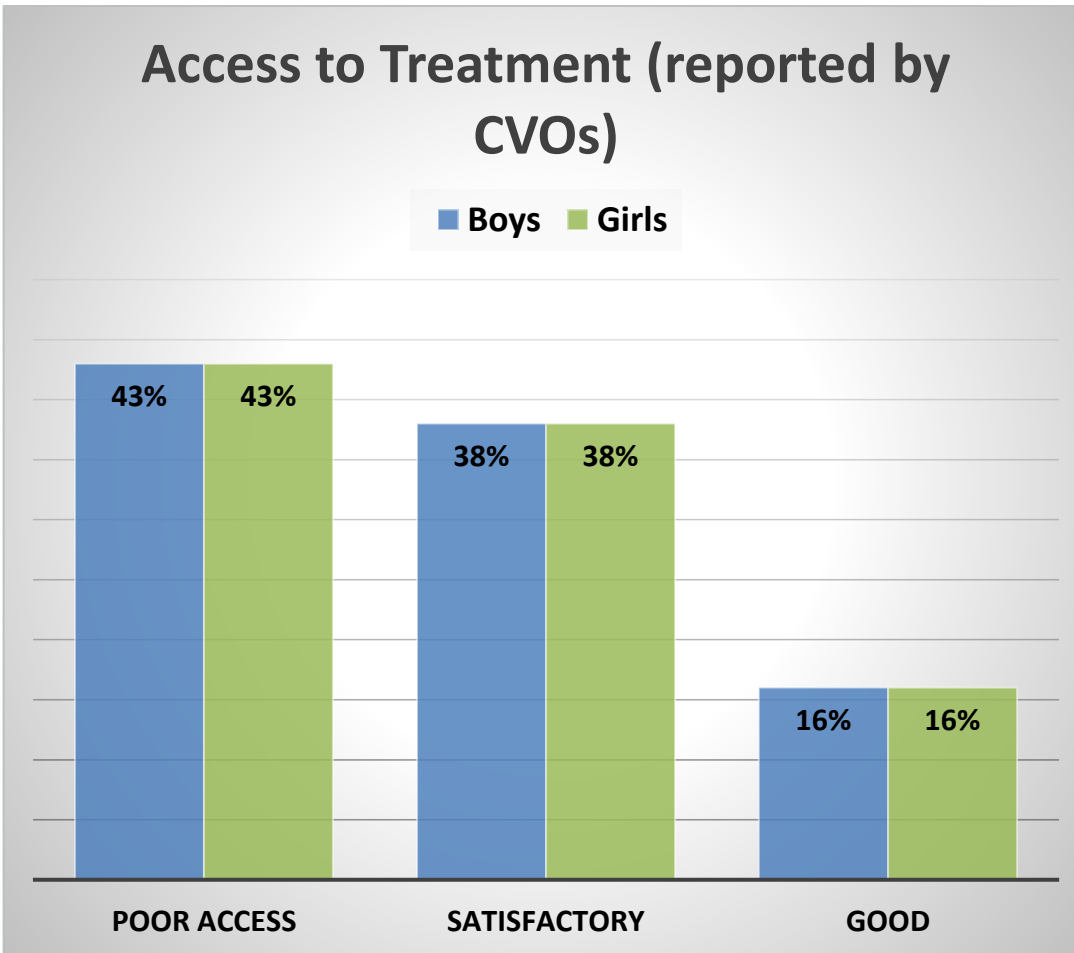
Boys or Girls



PLWD

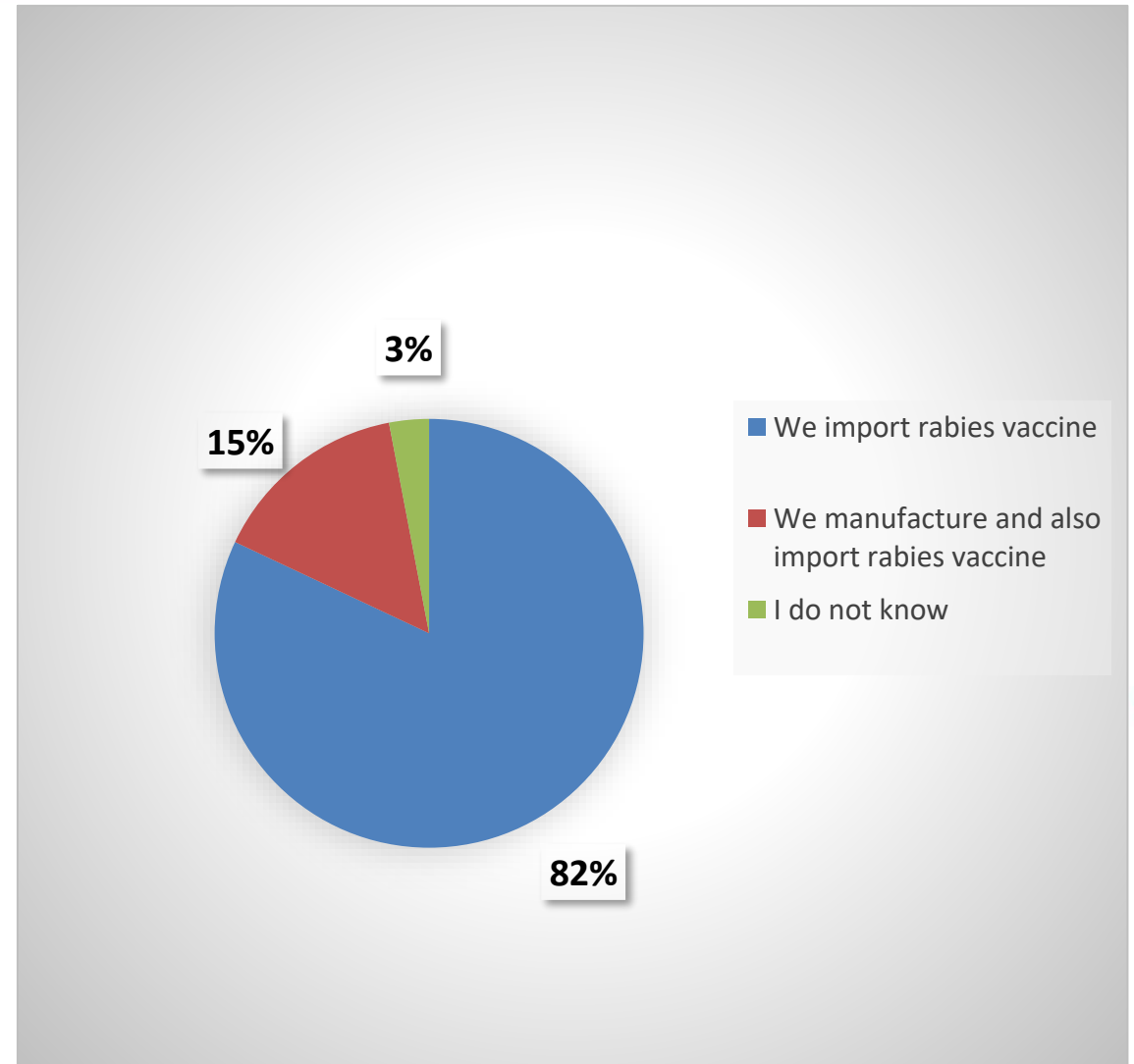


Gender and vulnerability disaggregated Data who has access to treatment?



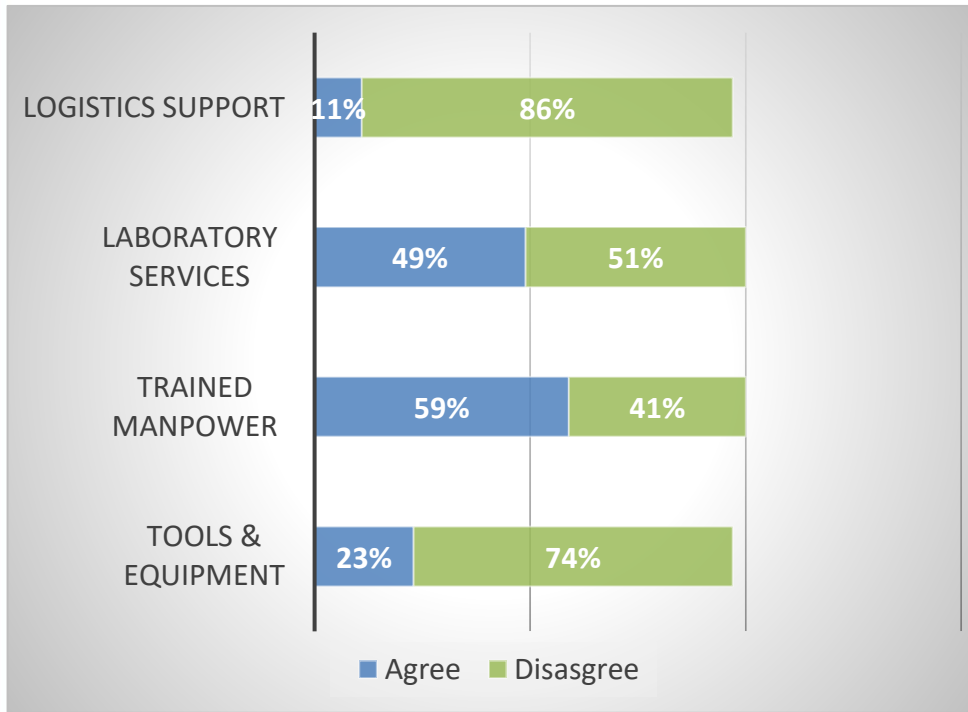
Institutional Capacity Vaccines

- Dog vaccination ranges from 5% to 60% across Africa
- No PrEp and PEP for veterinary, human and wildlife teams in the rabies process in most countries.
- 74% have national cold chain system for animal vaccines.
- 15% purchase through OIE vaccine bank. (8 Countries)
- Most countries have >50% vaccine deficit against planned.

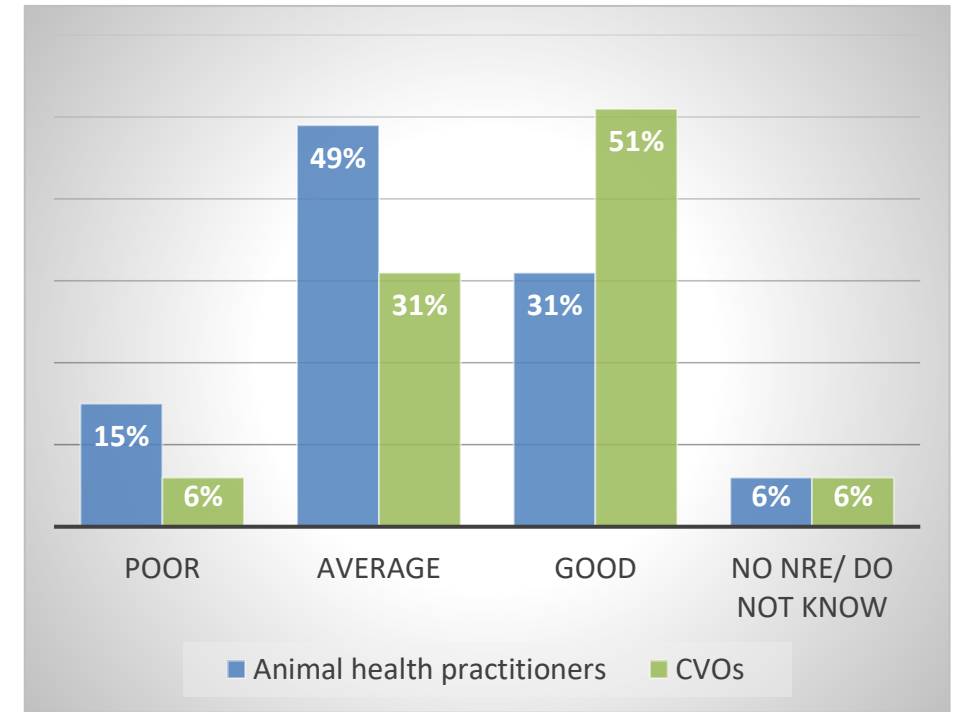


Institutional Capacity logistics, equipment, knowledge

- Logistics, tools and equipment to deliver NRE

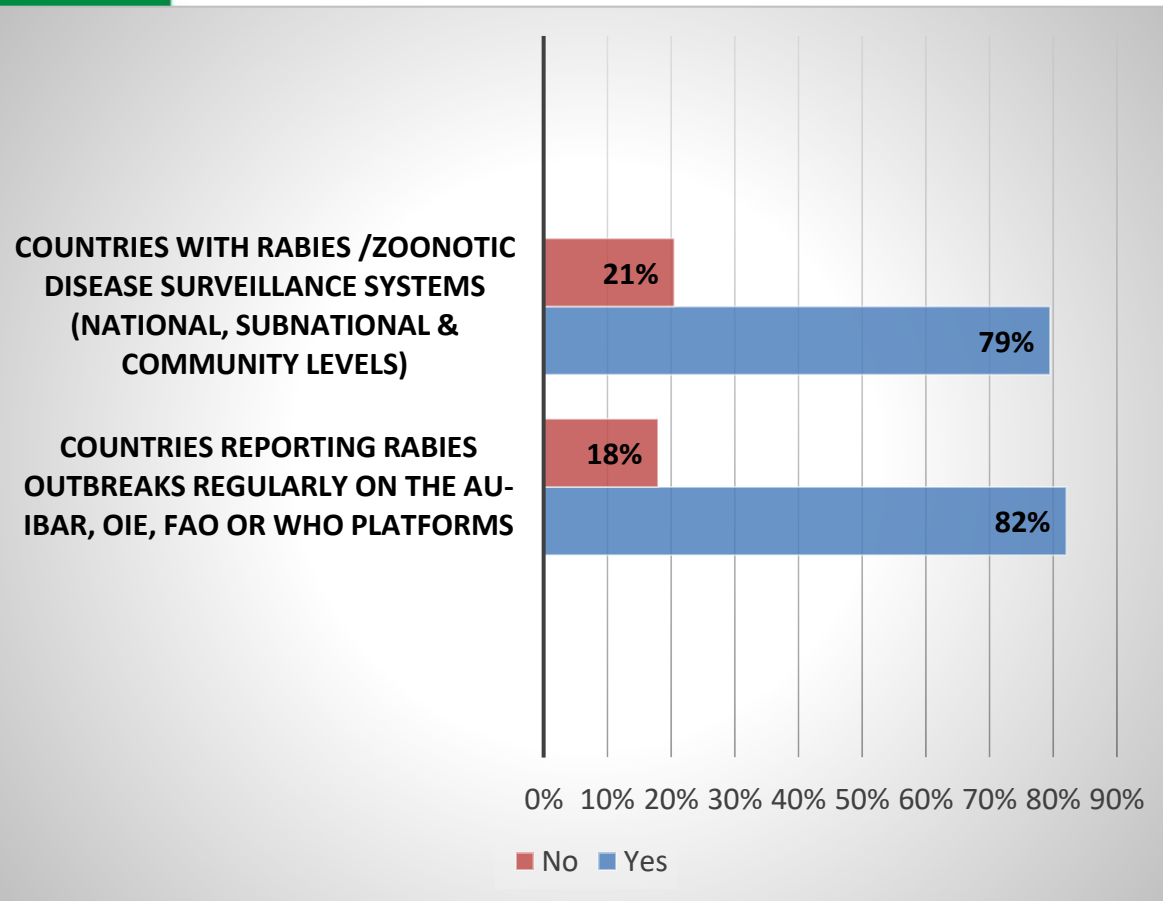


- Technical knowledge to run the NRE program



Monitoring & Surveillance

Countries with in-country rabies/zoonoses surveillance and reporting to WOA, FAO, AU-IBAR, or WHO



- Countries mostly use passive surveillance
- Surveillance hampered mostly due to poor training
- Lack of clinical care and diagnostic confirmation.
- No clear channels of reporting from community to national level.
- Or clear Human & Animal health collaborative surveillance & reporting systems
- No clear transboundary and cross continental reporting system or platforms

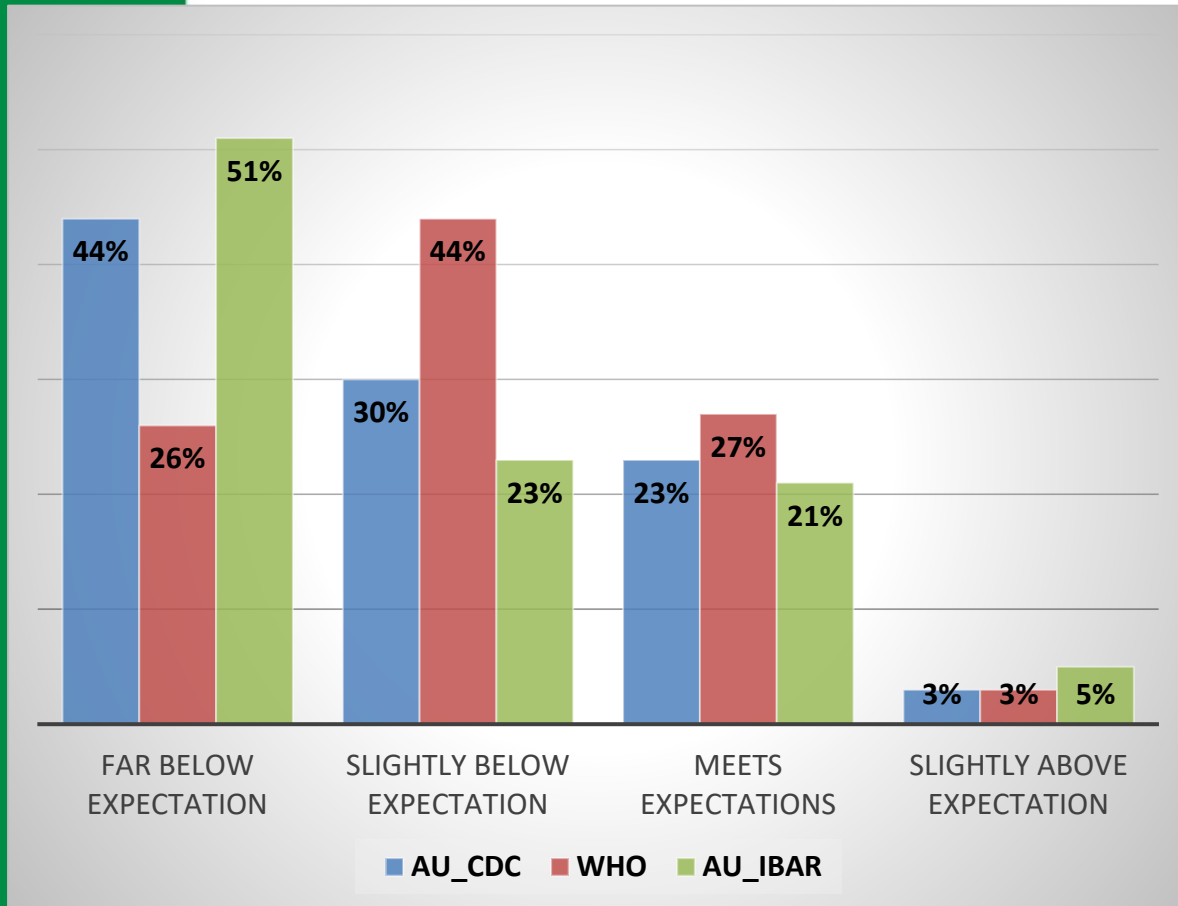
National Coordination

- Inadequate inter-sectoral coordination between livestock and wildlife authorities
- Poor technical and institutional coordination between the organisations, networks, private partners and government stakeholders
- Limited Cross-boundary linkages and collaborations.
- 38% CVOs said YES and 62% said NO to country's laws providing a robust institutional framework for NRE and DPM
- 72% NRE is at formative stages; NRE advanced (Uganda, Kenya, Algeria, Morocco); NRE developed (Eritrea, Tanzania, Rwanda, Tunisia)
- 54% CVOs country's rabies control laws and animal welfare laws (namely, dog ownership regulations, breeding, owning, selling, disposal, and registration) LACK strong institutional integration for OH rabies coordination.
- 18% countries have specific rabies laws and regulations providing legal basis for rabies activities (Morocco, Zimbabwe, Uganda, Mali, Algeria, Kenya and Tanzania).
- Most Countries have Zoonotic Contingency plans as building block. BUT Togo, Libya, and Djibouti NO contingency plans.
- 11 countries have rabies plans (National Rabies Elimination Strategies)

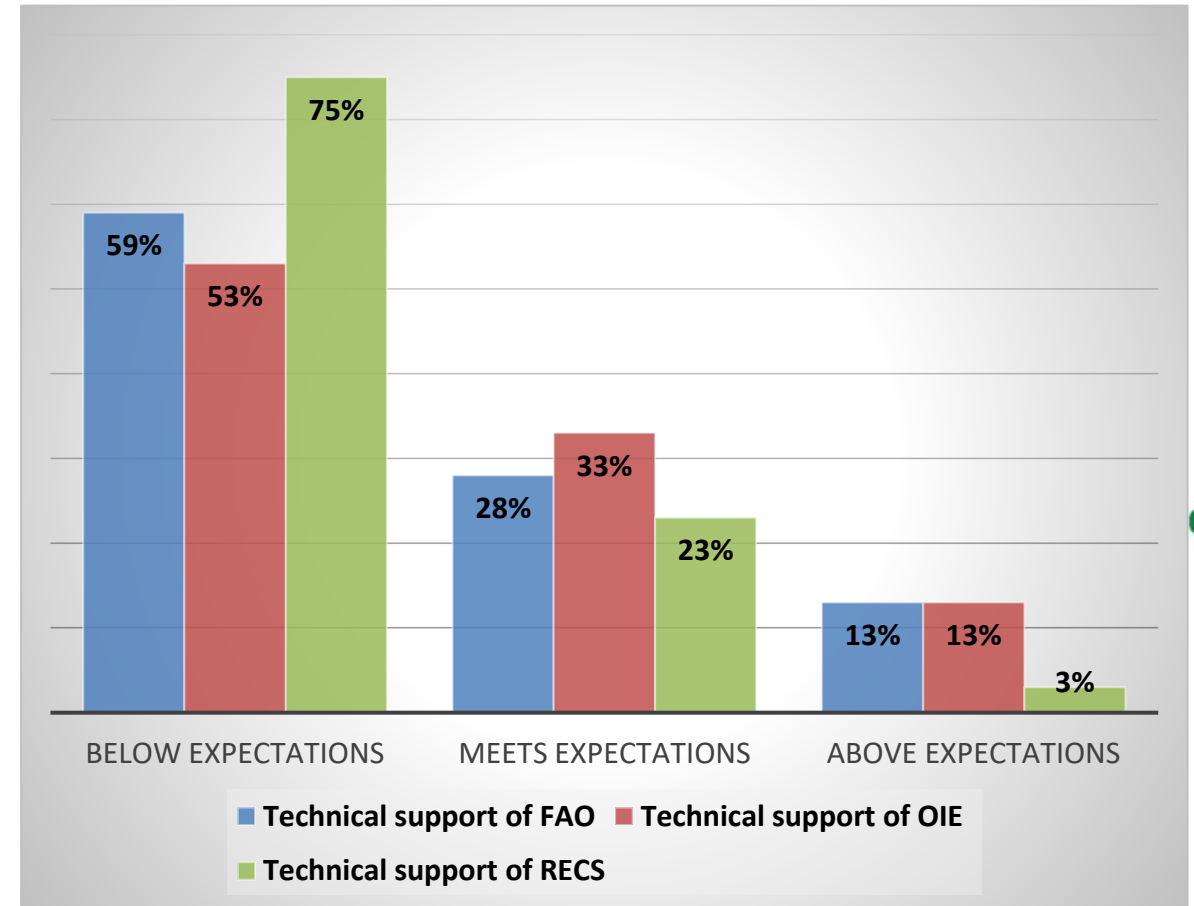


Continental Coordination

Leadership and coordination of rabies elimination at the continental level for AU-IBAR, AU-CDC & WHO (CVO rating)

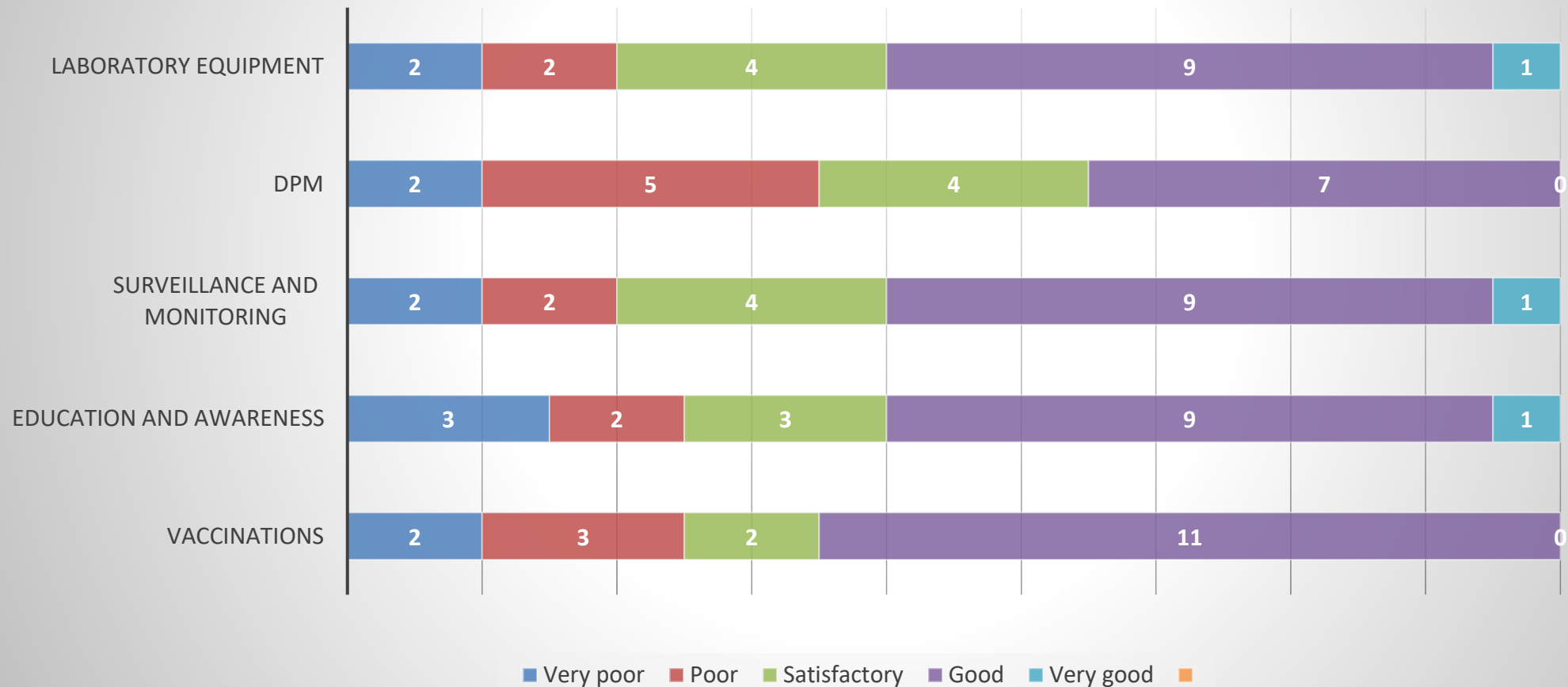


Regional Coordination



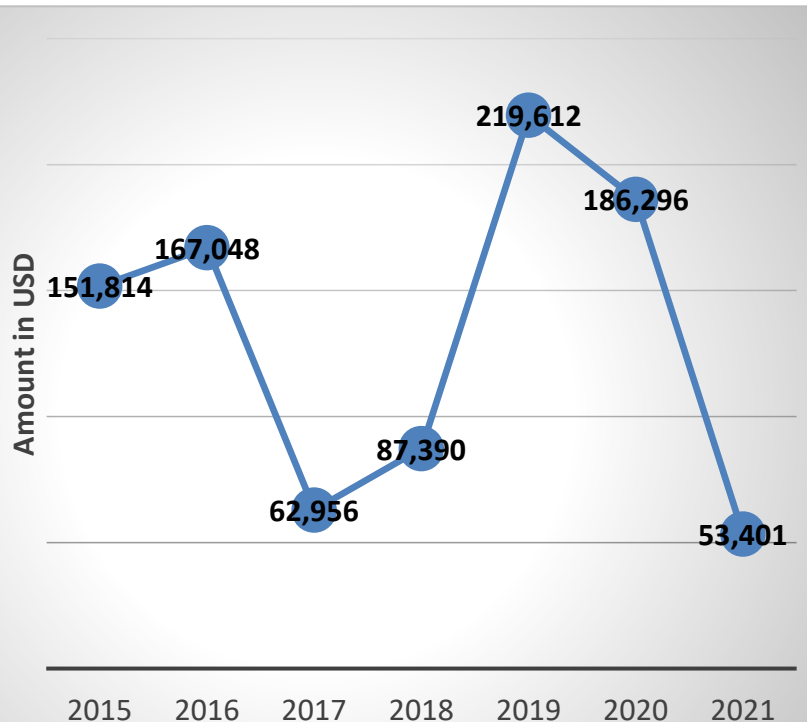
www.au-ibar.org

Quality of the SARE planning, 18 CVOs done SARE



Prioritization of Rabies & Budgets

Trend in annual rabies budget between 2015 and 2021, (n=13)



- Low awareness and thus low prioritization by policy makers & politicians
- It hinders creation of legal instruments for investment into rabies and DPM
- Leading to low or no provisions in national, health or veterinary budgets

Priority Intervention areas identified by the study



Recommendation Briefs

Institutional Policy

1. Develop a continental rabies elimination strategy.
2. Support national rabies control/ elimination and DPM strategies
3. Regional and continental bodies provides technical expertise, enhance coordination, improve leadership for NRE strategies.
4. Rabies protocols included in transboundary disease and DPM management at the national, regional and continental levels **NOT** lumped with other zoonotic diseases.
5. National level, the relevant public bodies should develop regulations that assign specific roles and responsibilities especially inter-ministerial and inter-departmental coordination in the reporting, information sharing, monitoring and surveillance of rabies elimination strategies.
6. Improve coordination of national One Health platforms by clarifying the roles and responsibilities of non-state actors.

Awareness Creation

1. Create awareness among the relevant parliamentary committees to provide budgetary support for the NRE.
2. Lobby governments and development partners to increase funding for sufficient supply of rabies vaccine for both dogs and front-line workers.
3. Create community awareness on dog population management - improving dog welfare, first aid to victims of dog bites, dog registration, fertility control and vaccination compliance.

Capacity Building

1. Strengthen the lobbying capacity of communities to demand that governments increase funding for rabies elimination.
2. Strengthen the capacity of border public health and security personnel to effectively undertake rabies cross-border monitoring and enforcement for dogs-in-transit.
3. Training of veterinary technicians in mass dog vaccinations, dog population management surveillance and reporting within the One Health system.
4. Training of human health technicians in dog bites management, monitoring, surveillance and reporting within the One Health system.
5. Map out the national laboratories, select some laboratories as the main rabies diagnostic and testing center's, equip them with cost effective diagnostic tools and train laboratory technicians in rabies diagnostics

6. Studies on dog ecology and epidemiology to guide evidence-based rabies elimination programming, monitoring and surveillance.
7. Undertake geo-referenced and species specific census for livestock, dogs and wildlife for CRE and NRE.
8. Incorporate gender-based programming to achieve over 70% coverage and that no dogs are left behind. Example: during mass vaccinations, dogs of vulnerable people may be missed out because they are unable to access the service. Furthermore, the interaction between gender and rabies is not taken into account when planning rabies elimination programs.

Mobilize Resources

1. Governments should increase animal health vote to animal resource budget - zoonotic disease ring fence rabies elimination budget.
2. Development partners to mobilize resources to support the Continental, Regional and National Rabies Elimination Strategy.

AU-IBAR Plans for 2023 and 2024

- Development and validation of African Union Zoonotic disease strategy together with Africa CDC
- Advocate for investment, coordination, collaboration and partnership for strategy
- Promote the WOAHA/GARC Stepwise approach in the control and elimination of Rabies
- Continued support for regional and national NRES
- Evaluate the Impact of Rabies on Animal resource sector in Africa
- *Develop a continental Strategy for Africa for elimination of dog mediated rabies by 2030 in with the 2015, the tripartite of WHO, FAO and WOAHA and the Global Alliance for Rabies Control (GARC) launched an End Rabies Now campaign to eliminate human rabies deaths by 2030 globally*
- Continues promotion of OH approach and strengthening intersectoral collaboration to address Zoonotic diseases.

AU-IBAR Plans for 2023 and 2024

- Submission of the report and draft decision on Rabies Elimination Africa to the 5th African Union Commission Specialized technical Committee (STC) on Agriculture, Rural Development, Water and Environment (ARDWE) 14-17 November, 2023, Addis Ababa, Ethiopia for endorsement by Ministers and onward submission to the Head of States and Government Summit Feb. 2024 for Executive Council Decision.
- Experts and Special Ministerial Meeting on 16 November 2023 still in Addis Ababa for advocacy/sensitization on rabies elimination
- Establishment of technical working group to initiate the development of the strategy (FAO, WOAHA, RECs, AU Agencies i.e IBAR, PANVAC, Africa CDC).

Take home Messages and conclusions

- Rabies remains a key challenge for the socio-economic development in the continent
- Awareness and advocacy on rabies should be a key priority for countries
- There is a need to set up robust mechanisms to ease availability and access to quality vaccines for prevention and post infection prophylaxis
- Need to improve deployment and delivery of vaccine especially the ‘Last Mile’ mostly at community level
- Institutional strengthening (policies, strategies, legislations, OH capacities, coordination) towards rabies elimination
- Develop a Continental Management Strategy for Africa for the elimination of dog-mediated rabies by 2030
- Advocate for investments, coordination, collaboration and partnerships, for the implementation of the Continental Management Strategy for Africa for the elimination of dog-mediated rabies by 2030

COPIES OF THE BASELINE SURVEY REPORTS ARE AVAILABLE FROM THE AU-IBAR, FOR INQUIRIES CONTACT

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Thank you

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