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# IMPLEMENTATION OF THE NATIONAL STRATEGIC PLAN FOR DOG MEDIATED RABIES IN TANZANIA

United against rabies meeting

**Date:** 23<sup>rd</sup> – 25<sup>th</sup> September 2024  
Cape Town, South Africa

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Fisheries, TANZANIA



# Presentation outline

- 
- 1) Introduction
  - 2) Rabies distribution in Tanzania
  - 3) Overview of the National rabies control strategy
  - 4) Stakeholders for rabies control activities
  - 5) Mobilization of National resources
  - 6) Efforts, Success and Challenges in rabies control

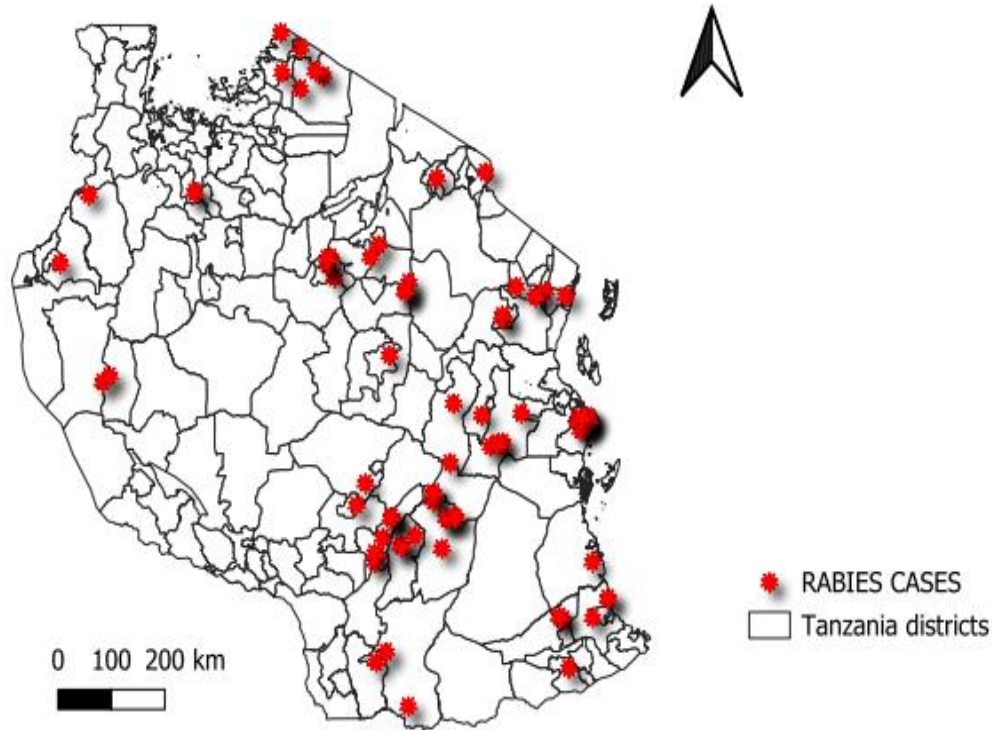


# Introduction

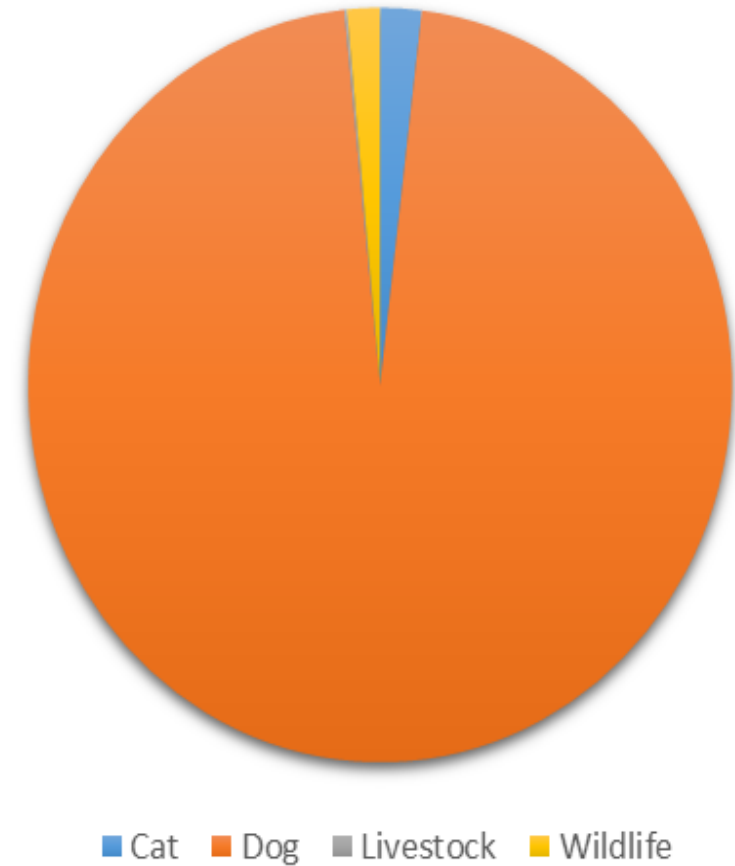
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- Rabies is a viral zoonotic disease with serious socio economic impact
  - It is a fatal but preventable viral disease
  - In Tanzania, Rabies was first documented in 1930s
  - It has become endemic in the country with varying patterns between regions
  - In the country the disease is causing an estimated 1,499 human deaths annually (with at least 98% attributable to rabid domestic dogs)

# Rabies distribution in animals (2022 - 2023)

Distribution of Rabies in Tanzania 2022 -2023

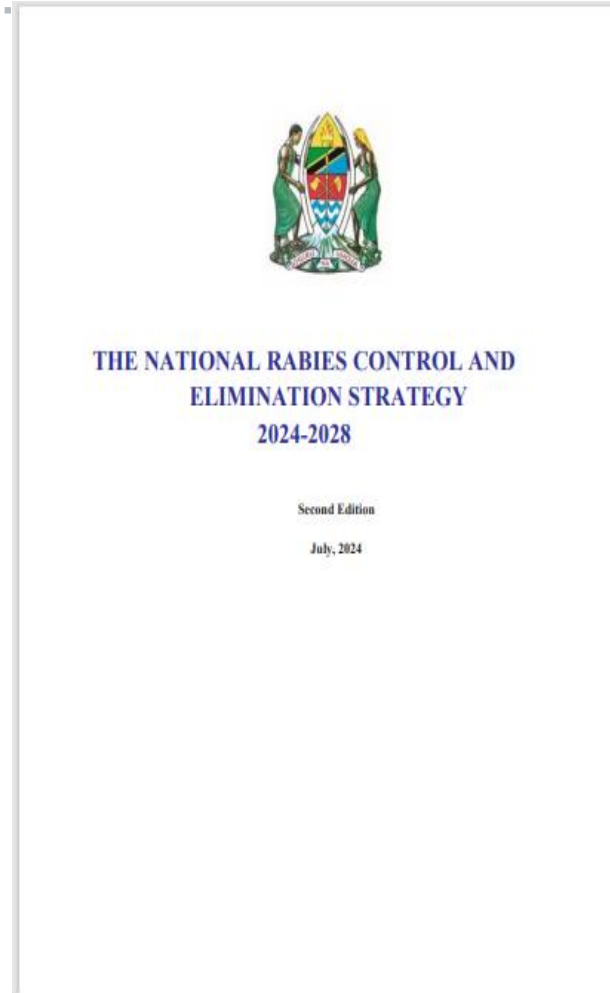
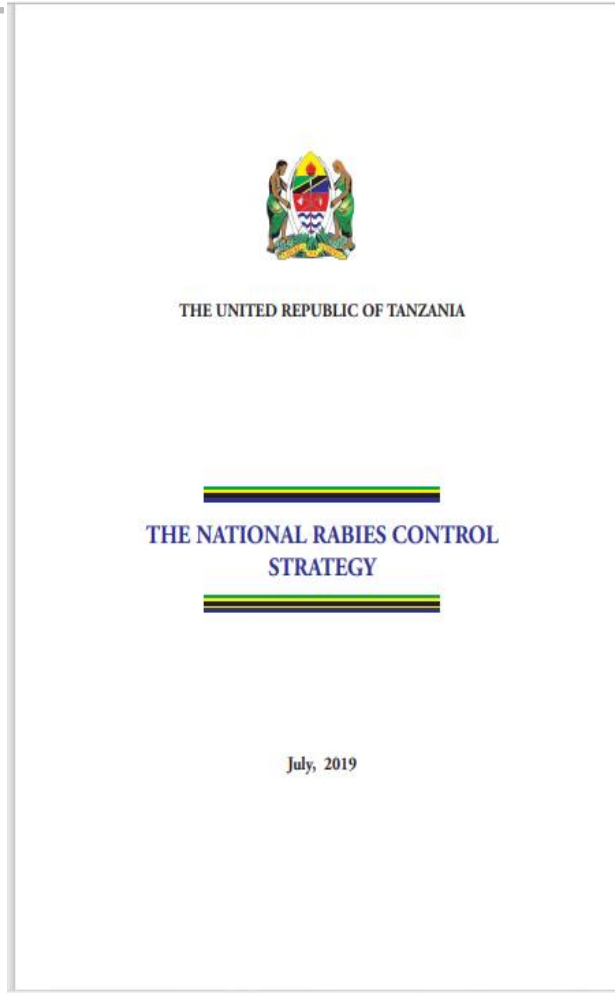


Rabies cases in animals by species



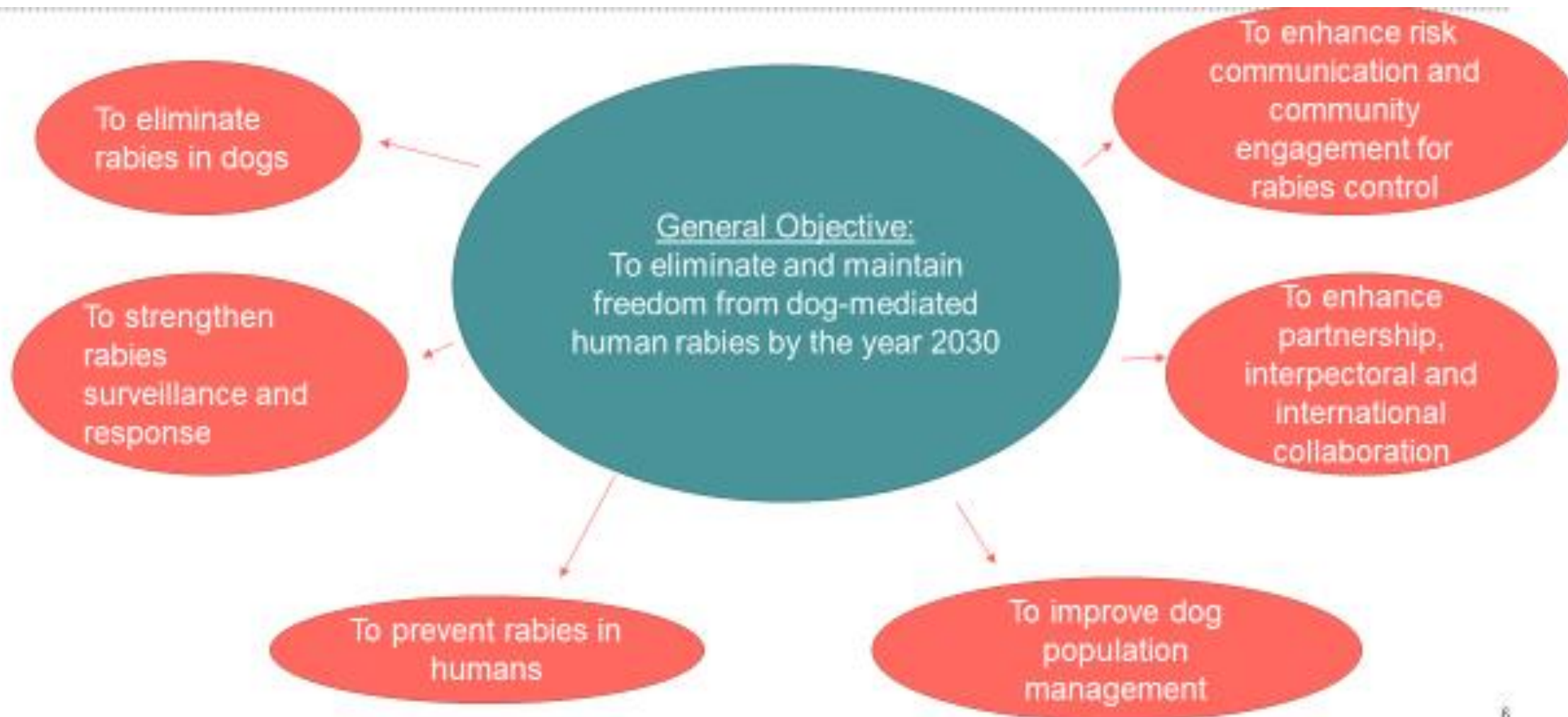


# The National rabies control strategy



- Developed using One Health Approach
- First version was developed on 2019
- The second version developed on 2024
- To be implemented over 5 years to 2028

# Objectives of the Strategy





# Stakeholders involved (1/3)

No.	Stakeholders	Role
1	Ministry of Livestock and Fisheries	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>❖ Rabies surveillance and control of rabies in animals through its Directorate of Veterinary Services</li> <li>❖ Policy formulation, regulations, and strategies development for rabies control in animals</li> </ul>
2	Tanzania Veterinary Laboratory agency	❖ Diagnosis, research and vaccines production
3	Tanzania Livestock Research Institute	❖ Conduct research activities/ Research clearance
4	Training institutions	❖ Responsible for Research and training
5	Ministry of Health	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>❖ Rabies surveillance and prevention of rabies in human</li> <li>❖ Policy formulation, regulations, and strategies development for rabies control in animals</li> </ul>
6	Tanzania Medicines and Medical Devices Authority	❖ Responsible for regulation of drugs and vaccines
7	Dog owners	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>❖ Bringing dogs for vaccination</li> <li>❖ Compliance to legal requirements on dog ownership</li> </ul>



# Stakeholders involved (2/3)

No	Stakeholders	Role
8	National Institute for Medical Research	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>❖ To carry out medical Research</li> <li>❖ To provide ethical clearances for medical research</li> </ul>
9	Ministry of Tourism and Natural Resources	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>❖ Supporting research initiatives and monitoring programs to study wildlife populations and disease dynamics, including rabies</li> </ul>
10	Tanzania Wildlife Research Institute (TAWIRI)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>❖ Wildlife diseases surveillance</li> <li>❖ Coordinating wildlife research</li> </ul>
11	The President's Office - Regional Administrative and Local Government (PORALG)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>❖ Coordinating with the relevant stakeholders to implement response and control measures for rabies</li> <li>❖ Resource mobilization</li> </ul>
12	Prime Minister's Office/One Health section	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>❖ To coordinate multi-sectoral efforts in rabies control and prevention</li> <li>❖ Coordination of resource mobilization</li> </ul>





# Stakeholders involved (3/3)

No	Stakeholders	Role
13	Ministry of Home Affairs	❖ Take lead to law and by-laws enforcement
14	Development partners and non-governmental organizations	❖ Funding ❖ Research on rabies
15	University networks (AFROHUN)	❖ workforce training ❖ risk communication and community engagement
16	Animal Welfare Societies	❖ Vaccination of dogs ❖ Dog population management ❖ Awareness creation ❖ Resources mobilization
17	Tanzania animal Health Organisation (TAHO)	Vaccination of dogs Dog population management Awareness creation Resources mobilization

# Resources mobilization for implementation of the Strategy

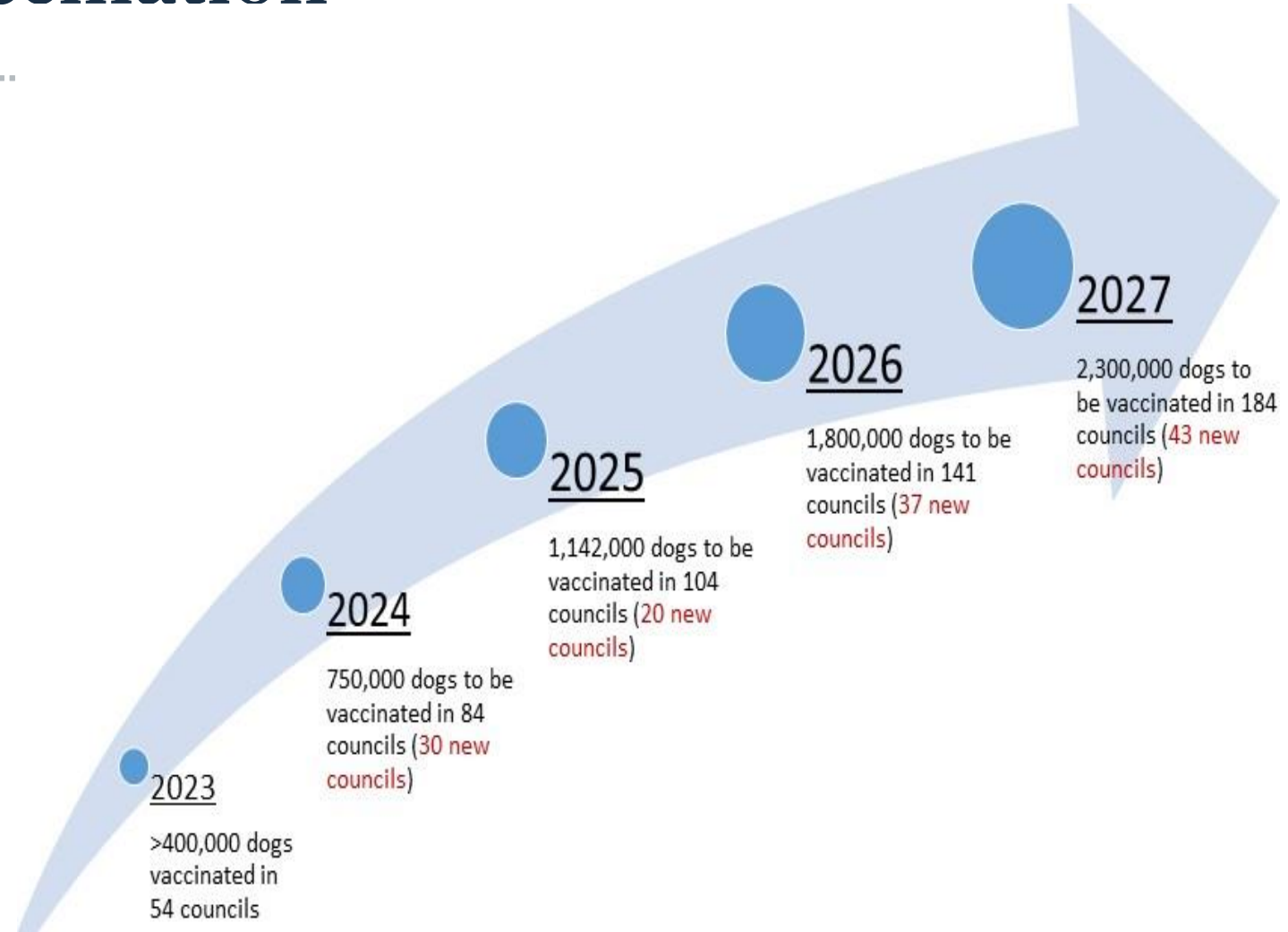
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Resources for implementation of NSP are mainly from:

1. The government (Annual budget)
2. Development partners
3. Non- government organizations
4. Animal welfare Organizations

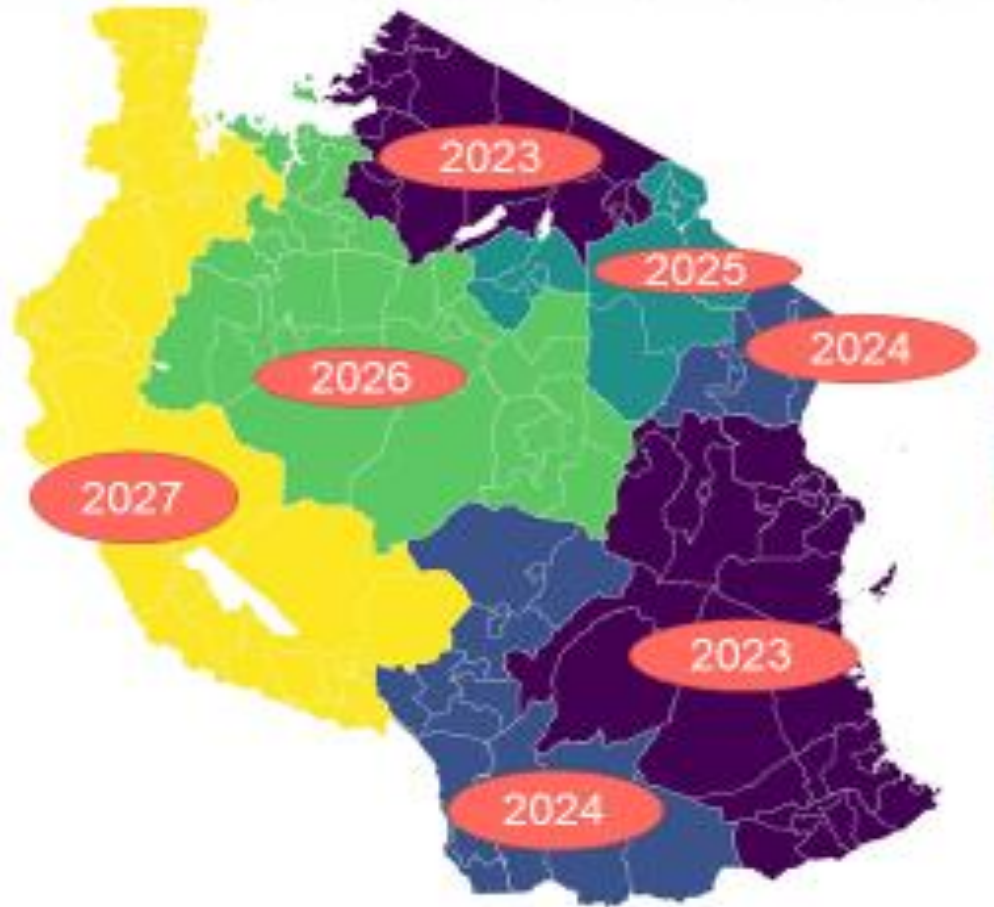
# Scaling up of dog Vaccination

- ❑ Tanzania is estimated to have 2,776,918 dogs
- ❑ The target is to vaccinate 70% of the dog population
- ❑ These dogs are distributed in 184 councils



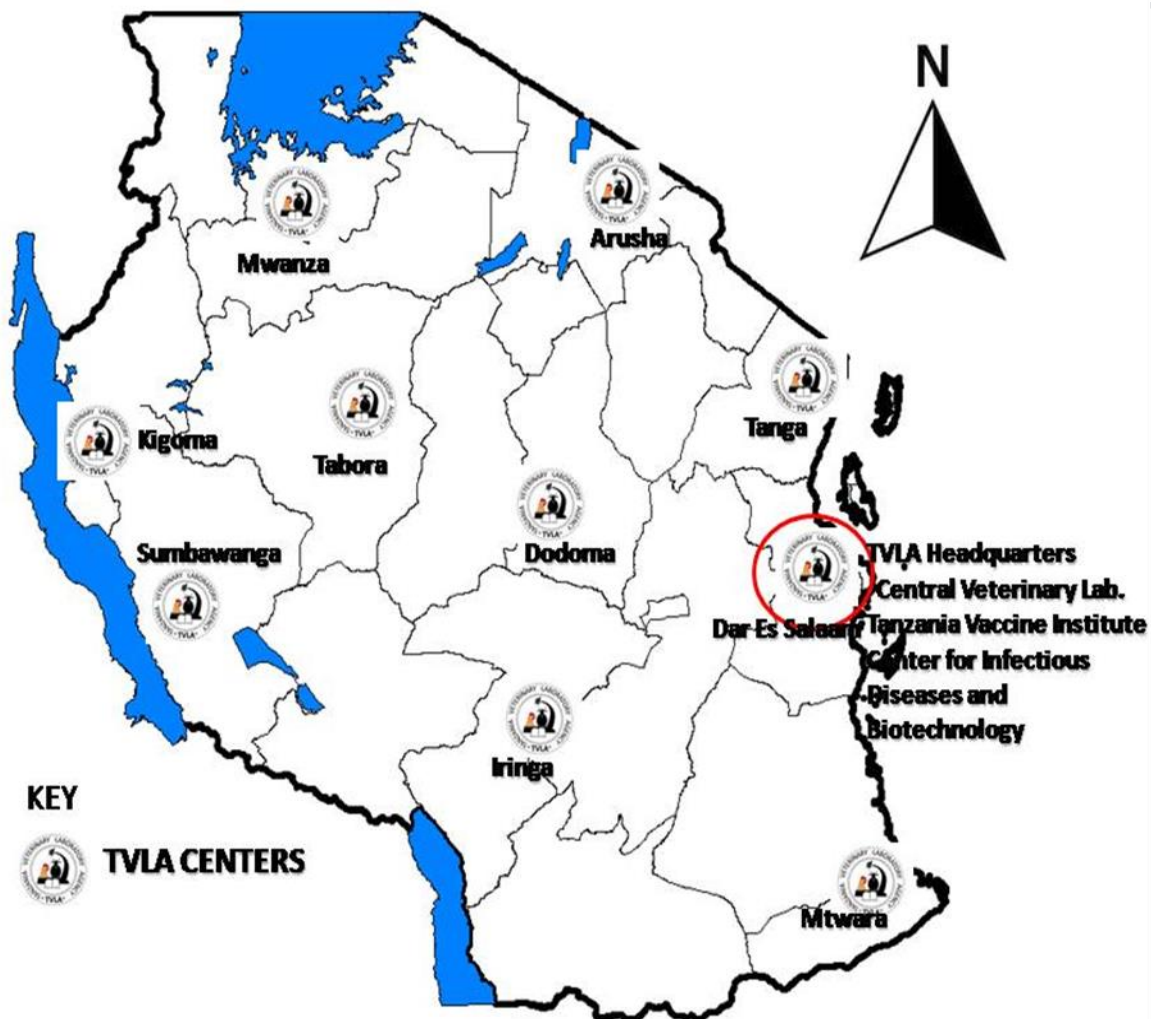


# Projected plans to scale-up countrywide mass dog vaccinations in Tanzania



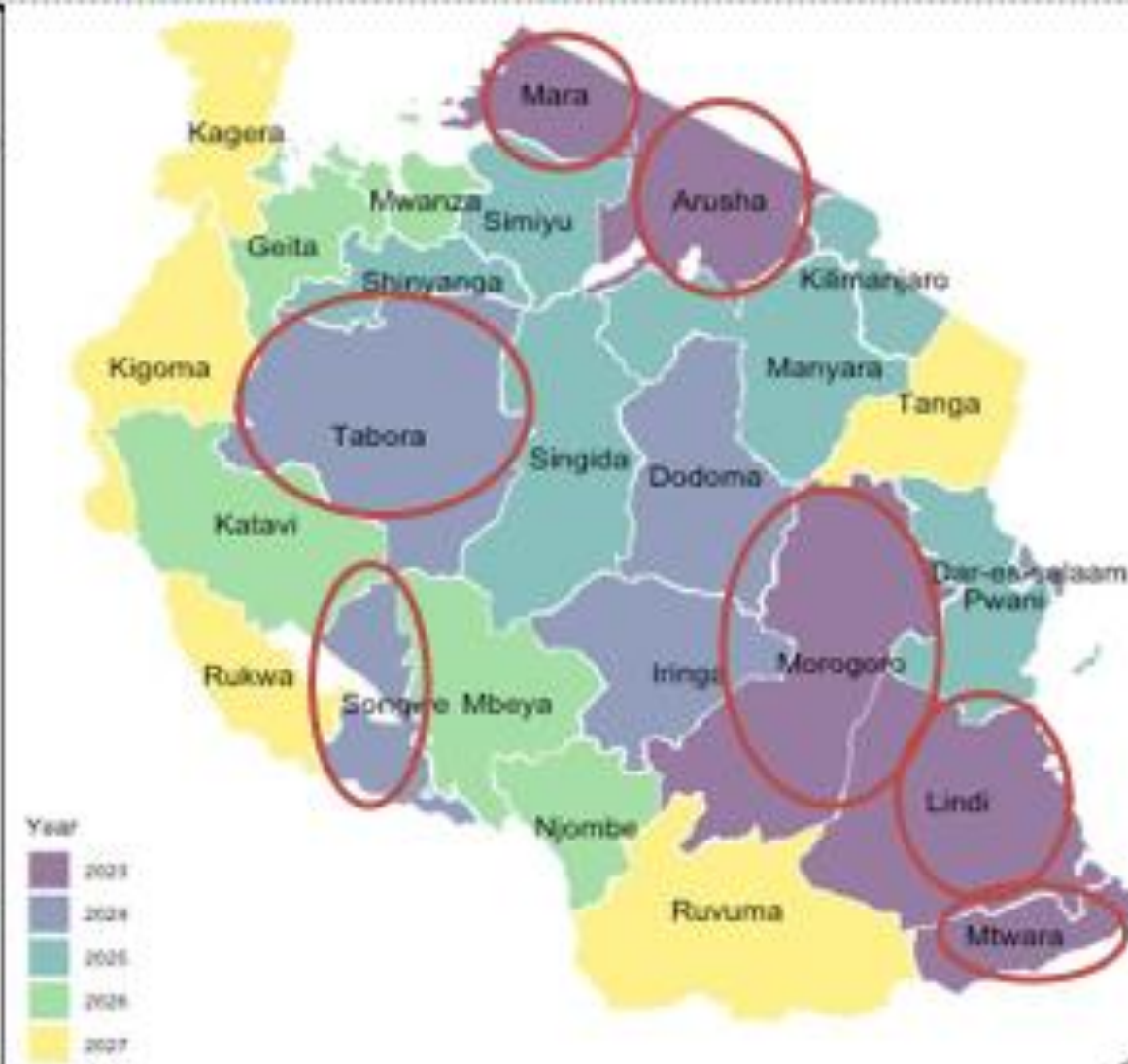
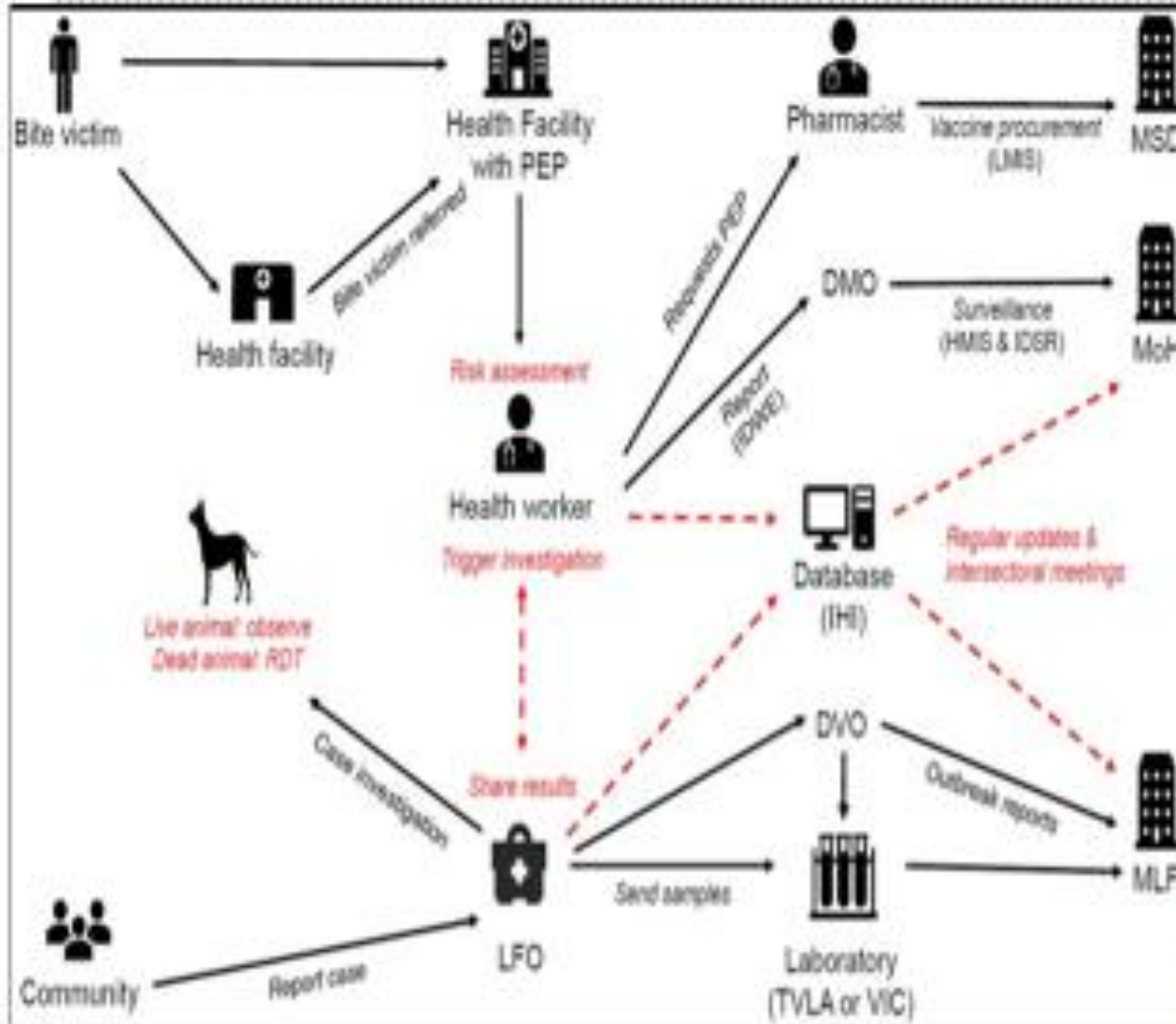
- ❑ The implementation of the strategy will be scaled up from areas with experience in delivering vaccines
- ❑ In 2023, dog vaccinations were conducted in over 54 councils
- ❑ Vaccination experience observed in 2023 is being used to expand our efforts and scale up dogs vaccinations in other councils
- ❑ Vaccination campaign is delivered through a central vaccination point (CP) approach

# Strengthening of rabies surveillance



- ❑ Central Veterinary Laboratory (CVL - CIDB) is accredited to confirm rabies
- ❑ Capacity building on surveillance is ongoing (Through In- Service Applied Veterinary Epidemiology (ISAVET)/ Field Epidemiology and Laboratory Training Program (FELTP))

# Integrated bite case management system in Tanzania



# Dog population management



- ❑ Dog population management is a key in rabies control
- ❑ It intends to decrease the number of unwanted and ownerless dogs over time
- ❑ Uncontrolled increases in domestic dog populations can result in either a reduced vaccination coverage or an increase in resources that are required annually
- ❑ In Tanzania dog population management is done mainly through Castration and spaying

# Awareness and Community engagement

□ Awareness campaigns are being conducted, E.g. during World rabies day, One Health day, Veterinary day and exhibitions

□ Education programmes on rabies (formal and informal) are often conducted through talk shows, leaflets

□ NGOs and CBOs are in front line in rabies advocacy activities

□ There is maximum media engagement especially during campaigns





# Awareness and community engagement activities: 2023



Zone	Programs			Students reached	Teachers reached	Newspapers
	Radio	Television	Schools			
<b>Central</b>	3	2	2	1,091	4	1
<b>Lake</b>	3	2	9	7676	136	0
<b>Eastern</b>	2	3	0	24,327	187	8
<b>Southern</b>	2	0	3	1,783	23	0
<b>Southern - Highland</b>	2	3	5	10,132	39	1
<b>Western</b>	3	0	2	777	16	0
<b>Northern</b>	1	0	7	7,401	47	0
<b>Southern-Western highlands</b>	1	1	4	1,970	35	0
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>25</b>	<b>55,157</b>	<b>489</b>	<b>10</b>



# Success

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- Surveillance system is in place (Including IBCMS which is being scaled up)
  - Laboratories are accredited for rabies test
  
  - There is a strong multi sectoral collaboration in rabies control activities
  
  - Request of Endorsement of the NSP has been submitted to WOAHI
  
  - Public- private partnership has grown in rabies control activities
  
  - Tanzania is a home to many researches on rabies

# Challenges

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- Inadequate rabies vaccines
  
  - Hard-to-reach areas requires a door to door approach which is much more expensive
  
  - Stray dogs
  
  - The methods used to manage dog population are costly and they need skilled labor
  
  - Currently, PEP is expensive



# Conclusion

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- Rabies is a fatal disease
- Tanzania is in a front line, ready and committed to keep fighting the disease
- We welcome all possible partnerships that are aiming at rabies control and prevention in the country

# Acknowledgement



World Organisation  
for Animal Health  
Founded as OIE



Food and Agriculture  
Organization of the  
United Nations

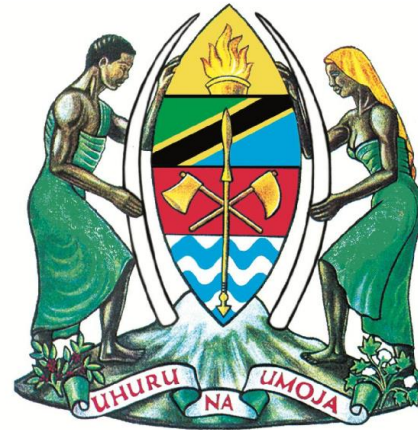


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Thank  
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