



Rabies in Morocco

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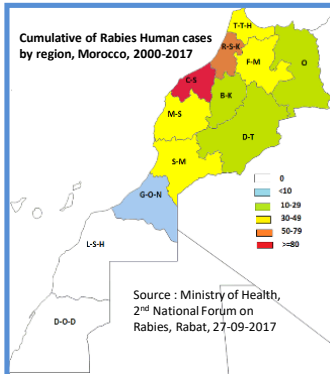


INTRODUCTION

Rabies continuous to be endemic in Morocco, with all provinces being affected except the Saharan provinces, and to date control efforts deployed by the sectors involved have failed to achieve the goal of eliminating the disease.

The epidemiological situation of human rabies in Morocco remains critical in 2017 :

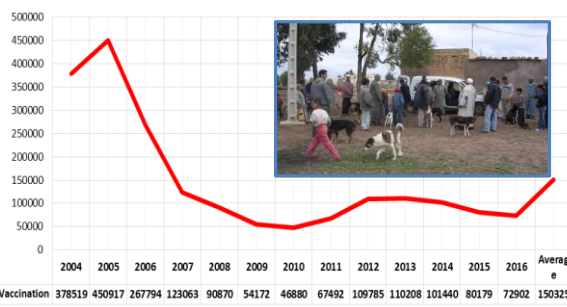
- **15 rabies deaths** among which 8 confirmed in the laboratory.
- Based on the data from 2000 to 2017, an average of 21 rabies deaths are recorded continuously each year. The majority of regions are affected (map opposite);
- The dog is involved in 94% of reported cases.



ANIMAL RABIES IN 2017

- 234 animal rabies cases in 2017 (Average of 300 cases between 2004 and 2017)
- About 25% of dogs vaccinated
- An average of 150,325 dogs vaccinated / year during the period 2004-2016
- Increasing the vaccination coverage rate remains one of the major challenges of the national rabies control program.

Annual evolution of dogs vaccination against rabies, Morocco 2004-2016



**Dogs:
94% in
cause**



POST-EXPOSURE PROPHYLAXIS (PEP)

- **Vaccination schedule:** 4-dose IM Zagreb Regimen (2-1-1: D0 – 2 injections and 1 injection at J7 and J21.
- **Vaccine used:** Verorab
- **65 000 people received PEP.**
- The vaccination is given free of charge in 265 rabies centers in the country. The acquisition of the vaccine is provided by the municipalities.

National rabies coordination is carried out in the framework of the National program implemented since 1986. Ministry of Health, Ministry of Agriculture and Ministry of Interior are the main actors. In recent years, some ONGs, such as National Association of Fight Against Rabies (AMLR) have begun to play an important role in the prevention and control of the disease.

KEY ACTION POINTS

Actions	Achieved or Progress so far?	Challenges	Future actions
1. Revision of the strategy of the program and revitalization of all control activities.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • National Program since 1986, revised in 2003 (multisectoral aspect). • Strengths and weaknesses of the program analyzed and highlighted. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Real political commitment and better involvement of actors. • Improved accessibility to human vaccination centers. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Development of a national plan for the elimination of the disease covering the period 2019-2030
2. Increase in the vaccination coverage rate of dogs.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Local manufacture of the vaccine. • Availability of the vaccine in all provinces and prefectures. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Better knowledge of the socio-ecology of dogs • Shy adhesion of dog owners to vaccination (to improve) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Conduct socio-ecological surveys on canine populations. • Implement oral vaccination for inaccessible dogs (complement to parenteral vaccination) and carry out awareness campaigns.
3. Skills enhancement of professionals through new training/ learning methods.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Celebration of World Rabies Day since 2007: a training and awareness opportunity. • Developing and Uploading a Rabies Training Tutorial: Let's Learn Together to Fight Rabies. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Training approach based on the "pedagogy of reality". 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Development and implementation of a training plan in support of the national plan to eliminate rabies