

Stepwise approach towards 2030 - Eliminating rabies in Tanzania using One Health Approach

Niwael Mtui-Malamsha¹, Folorunso Fasina¹, Raphael Sallu¹, Elias Ponsiano¹, Joshua Kimuta², Fred Kivaria², Serge Nzietchueng², Charles Bebay², Hezron Nonga³, Japhet Killewo⁴
¹Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, Dar es Salaam, United Republic of Tanzania, ²Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, Nairobi, Kenya, ³Ministry of Livestock and Fisheries, Dodoma, ⁴Africa One Health University Network (AFROHUN), Tanzania.

The **multisectoral coordination mechanisms** and using a **One Health Approach** has proved that an effectively coordinated and successful vaccination of communal dogs and cats populations are possible within a **short time** and **at a reduced cost**. Shortfall in the workforce remains a constant challenge for most countries in meeting desirable health outcomes. Engagement of **students under professional supervision**, facilitated adequate vaccination coverages for dogs and cats, a Herculean task for the subnational veterinary offices.

Abstract Reference
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BACKGROUND

Rabies is a fatal but preventable viral disease with high human and animal costs. Through committed multi-sectoral and transdisciplinary collaborations, rabies can be eliminated. However, in Africa and parts of Asia, rabies remains endemic and continue to cause human deaths annually. Tanzania accounts for at least 1,500 human deaths and significant cases of dog-mediated rabies annually. To mitigate the impact and eradicate rabies, Tanzania developed a collaborative 'National Rabies Control Strategy, 2017 – 2030', which classified the country into seven zones based on risk profiling of rabies and ongoing efforts towards rabies elimination.

METHODS

FAO partnered with the government of Tanzania, and other international collaborators to: 1) Implement the joint risk assessment (JRA); and 2) Prioritize animal vaccinations against rabies, risk communication and community engagement in high-risk districts. In addition, FAO also works in partnership to train future One Health Workforce. Recently, intervention strategies were undertaken in Moshi (2019) and Kisarawe (2021) to demonstrate One Health engagements. Students (n = 100) in the fields of medicine, veterinary medicine, biological sciences, environmental science and medical informatics were trained and awarded certificates. Field intervention were tracked in real time using the GARC data logger.

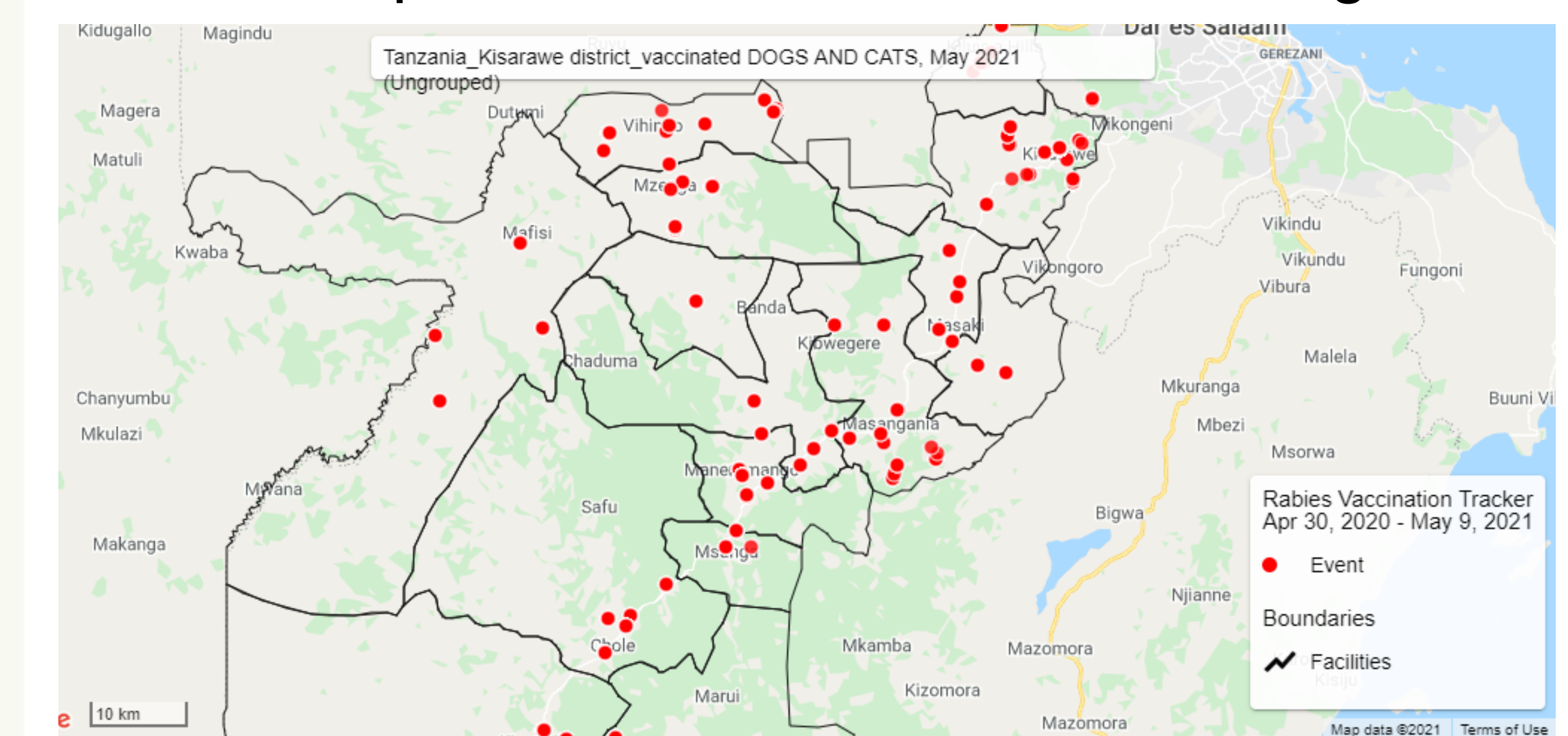
RESULTS

Over 34,885 dogs and cats have been vaccinated (>74% vaccination coverage). Over 836,353 persons were protected and nearly 49,000 students and pupils were reached. No single case of dog-mediated human rabies has been reported from these districts.



CONCLUSIONS

Multidisciplinary and multisectoral approaches such as One Health and related concepts offer opportunities for synergistic expertise to address complex health threats. The connections between humans, animals, and the environment necessitate collaboration among sectors to comprehensively understand and reduce risks and consequences on health and wellbeing.



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MORE INFORMATION / REFERENCES

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CONTACT

Folorunso Fasina, FAO ECTAD, Tanzania, Email: folorunso.fasina@fao.org.

