

Terms of Reference

This consultancy is requested by:

Unit:	Health Security (HS)
Division:	CO/ VNM

1. Purpose of the APW

The APW holder (local agencies, organizations, or institutions) is expected to implement capacity building activities on rabies disease prevention and control in Viet Nam. The aim is to accelerate the country's progression to the global goal "Zero by 30" - no human rabies deaths by 2030. The APW holder will work in close collaboration with the Health Security Team of the WHO Viet Nam Country Office (WCO).

2. Background

Viet Nam reported 82 human rabies deaths in 2023, an increase of 12 deaths compared to 2022. From the beginning of 2024 until 4 July 2024, the country reported 53 human rabies deaths, an increase of 25% compared to the same period in 2023 (40 deaths). Out of these, 15 deaths were reported from seven southern provinces, including Ben Tre (4 deaths), Tay Ninh (4 deaths), Long An (3 deaths), as well as Binh Phuoc, Ca Mau, Dong Nai and Kien Giang each having reported one death.

The southern region of Viet Nam consists of 20 provinces. Before 2018, this region reported less than 10 human rabies deaths each year, except in 2015, 11 deaths were reported. However, since 2018 to date, the number of human deaths due to rabies has been increased sharply. In the five-year period from 2018 to 2022, a total of 124 human deaths were reported in the region, a 2.73-fold increase compared to the 47 deaths reported in the previous period from 2013 to 2017. At provincial level, Ben Tre province reported the highest number of deaths, with 24 deaths in the period from 2018 to 2022 - an increase of 24 times compared to the one death reported in the period from 2013 to 2017.

To support Ben Tre province as well as the southern region of Viet Nam in achieving the goal of "Zero by 30", the WCO Viet Nam is inviting applications from local institutions, agencies, or organizations to conduct a review of rabies prevention and control in Ben Tre province. This review will aim to identify all barriers and gaps in these efforts. The findings will inform and guide appropriate actions to decrease human rabies deaths in Ben Tre province and the southern region of Viet Nam.

3. Planned timelines (subject to confirmation)

Start date: 28 August 2024

End date: 19 December 2024

4. Work to be performed - Description of the tasks

Under the guidance of the WCO Viet Nam's responsible officer, the APW holder (including the team lead and his/her team) is expected to undertake the following tasks:

- Review the status, gaps, and challenges of the rabies surveillance, reporting, response, as well as risk communication activities of the animal and human health sectors at provincial, district, and communal levels (*hereafter three levels*).

- Review the coordination and collaboration activities in zoonotic diseases, especially rabies prevention, surveillance, response, and risk communication between animal health and human health at the three levels.
- Explore the availability, accessibility, and affordability of human rabies vaccine, the number of dog/ cat bites treated with Post Exposure Prophylaxis (PEP) at the three levels. Additionally, assess the number of rabies vaccination sites, including private vaccination sites, at each level.
- Review the availability, accessibility, and affordability of dog vaccines at three levels. Examine the mechanisms of dog and cat management and vaccination. Collect data on the number of vaccinated dogs and cats, the dog and cat vaccination coverage, and any difficulties and challenges management and vaccination these animals.
- Explore the community's perspective on dog and cat management, vaccination practices, and the process of seeking PEP after dog or cat bites.
- Prepare a report on the status, gaps, and challenges related to the rabies surveillance, reporting, response, and risk communication activities. Include an assessment of human and animal rabies vaccination efforts, coordination, and collaboration activities between the animal and human health sector at three levels, and community's perspective on dog vaccination and seeking PEP after dog or cat bites.
- Conduct a meeting to disseminate and validate the review results, and to discuss actions and develop a work plan to address the identified gaps and challenges.
- The APW holder, including the team lead and his/ her team members, will regularly report both verbally and in writing to WCO Viet Nam's responsible officer, who serves as the prime WHO focal point, on the progress of the review.
- Develop a final report at the end of the APW contract.

Method(s) to carry out the activity

- The APW holder will be working closely with the WCO Viet Nam to implement the above-mentioned activities and to write the report.
- Proposed methods include key informant interviews using semi-structured questionnaires, focus group discussions, secondary data collection, and observation of the availabilities of the IEC materials and vaccines at animal health and human health facilities across three levels.

Key informants include:

- Family members of the human deaths caused by rabies
- Animal health and human health staff at three levels

Members of the group discussion include:

- Neighbours of human deaths caused by rabies
- Head of villages

Secondary data collection and observation will include the availability of the IEC materials and vaccine, as well as the number of people who received PEP and the number of dogs or cats vaccinated. This will be conducted at animal health and human health facilities across three levels including private vaccination sites.

Qualitative data analysis will be employed for this review.

Output/s (and expected timeline)

Output 1: A comprehensive plan and tools to review the current status, gaps and challenges in the following areas: rabies surveillance, reporting, response, and risk communication activities within the animal health and human health sectors; the coordination and collaboration between these sectors in rabies prevention and control at three levels; availability, accessibility, and affordability of human and animal rabies vaccine; mechanisms for dog and cat management and vaccination; and community perspective on dog and cat vaccination as well as seeking PEP for dog or cat bites **(20 September)**.

- Deliverable 1.1: A detailed plan for the review.

- Deliverable 1.2: Review tool, including
 - o Semi-structured questionnaires for key informant interviews
 - o Key points for focus group discussions
 - o Checklists and forms for secondary data collection and observation of the availability, accessibility, and affordability of the IEC materials and vaccine at the animal health and human health facilities across three levels.

Output 2: Conduct review of the current status, gaps, and challenges in the following areas: rabies surveillance, reporting, response, and risk communication activities within the animal health and human health sectors; coordination and collaboration between the two sectors in rabies prevention and control activities at three levels; availabilities of human and animal rabies vaccine, as well as mechanism of dog and cat management and vaccination; and community perspectives on dog and cat vaccination and seeking PEP when bitten by dog or cat **(4 November)**

- Deliverable 2: A comprehensive report on the review

Output 3: Meeting to disseminate and validate review results, and to discuss actions and develop a work plan to address the identified gaps and challenges **(20 November)**.

- Deliverable 3.1: A detailed plan, including the agenda for the meeting, which will cover the validation of review results and discussion of actions, and the development of a work plan to address the identified gaps and challenges including workshop agenda
- Deliverable 3.2: A report summarizing the meeting, including the validated review results, discussed actions, and the work plan developed to address the identified gaps and challenges.

Output 4: Final APW report at the end of contract **(19 December 2024)**

- Deliverable 4.1: A comprehensive final APW report summarizing all activities carried out, including all tasks listed above, and proposed follow-up activities as needed.

5. Technical Supervision

The selected APW holder will work on the supervision of:

Responsible Officer:	Technical Officer, Health Security team	Email:	
Manager:	Team Coordinator, Health Security team	Email:	

6. Specific requirements

Requirement	Team lead/ Institution	Team members
Qualification	Essential: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> o Academic background in public health and related field o Master's or higher qualification in public health. o Demonstrated a basic knowledge in epidemiology, and infectious disease surveillance systems. Desirable: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> o Proven record of publications in disease surveillance, epidemiology, including in international peer reviewed journals. 	Essential: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> o Academic background in public health and related fields, including BPH or other preventive medicine aspects. o Demonstrated a basic knowledge in public health surveillance systems in Viet Nam. Desirable: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> o Master's qualification in public health, epidemiology, or other relevant fields.

Experience	<p>Essential:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Extensive (7 years or more) experience in public health/ epidemiology/ infectious disease surveillance and response activities and research. <p>Desirable:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Experience conducting surveys/ research on infectious disease surveillance. ○ Prior experience working with WHO and/or other international development partners and academic institutions in infectious diseases. 	<p>Essential:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Good (3 years or more) experiences in public health, infectious disease surveillance/ laboratory or epidemiology work. <p>Desirable:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Experiences conducting survey/ research on infectious disease surveillance, especially national notifiable diseases system. ○ Prior experience working with WHO and/or other development partners, academic institutions in infectious disease.
Skills/ Technical skills and knowledge	<p>Essential:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Extensive (7 years or more) experience in public health practice and/or infectious disease surveillance and response. ○ Ability to work independently and in a team. ○ Sound knowledge in qualitative and/or quantitative research. <p>Desirable:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Experiences participating in and/or conducting infectious diseases study and/or research ○ Have a strong knowledge and network with the Government network on infectious disease surveillance system 	<p>Essential:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Good (3 years or more) experience in public health practice and/or infectious disease surveillance and response. ○ Ability to work in a team. ○ Good knowledge in infectious disease research. <p>Desirable:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Experiences participating in and/or conducting infectious diseases study and/or research
Language	<p>Essential:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Excellent communication and written skills in English. <p>Desirable:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Excellent comprehension in disease modelling terminologies and communication in English. 	<p>Essential:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Good communication and written skills in English. <p>Desirable:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Basic comprehension in disease modelling terminologies and communication in English.

Other skills and competencies

- Excellent interpersonal and communication skills
- Ability to plan and prioritise challenging workloads
- Demonstrated ability to work as part of a team

7. Place of assignment

The in-person work will ideally take place in Ha Noi or another City in Viet Nam, based on the technical proposal.

8. Cost

The submitted proposal with detailed budget breakdown will be reviewed and decided based on the technical requirements, timeliness, and value for money.

9. Medical clearance

NA

10. Travel

The APW holder including the team lead and his/ her team members will be working at base. If the APW holder is based outside of Ha Noi, traveling to Ha Noi might be required for meeting(s) and direct interaction with WCO team and/ or MOH, based on the technical proposal.

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