

## 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 21 June 2024, the country reported 49 human rabies deaths, an increase of 25% compared to the same period in 2023 (38 deaths). Of these, 12 deaths were reported from the central region.

In the central region, human rabies deaths have been reported in several provinces, such as Binh Thuan, Binh Dinh, Quang Binh, and Quang Tri provinces. From 2020 to 2023, Binh Thuan province consistently recorded the highest number of human rabies deaths in the region, the province reporting two to four human rabies deaths each year. However, there is a sharp increase in the number of human rabies deaths in the province in 2024. In the first six months of the year alone, seven human rabies deaths have been reported, marking the highest number of human rabies deaths in the country.

To support Binh Thuan province as well as the central 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 Binh Thuan 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 Binh Thuan province and the central region of Viet Nam.

### 3. Planned timelines (subject to confirmation)

Start date: 22 August 2024  
End date: 10 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 current status, gaps and challenges of the rabies surveillance, reporting, response, and 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 received Post Exposure Prophylaxis (PEP) at the three levels, and 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, mechanism of dog and cat management and vaccination, and collect data on the number of dog and cat vaccinated, the rate of dog & cat vaccination, and difficulties and challenges in dog and cat management and vaccination.
- Explore community perspective on dog and cat management and vaccination and seeking Post Exposure Prophylaxis (PEP) after dog/cate bites.
- Prepare a report on the current status, gaps and challenges of the rabies surveillance, reporting, response, and risk communication activities; human and animal rabies vaccination; coordination and collaboration activities of the animal and human health sector at three levels; and community perspective on dog vaccination and seeking PEP after dog/cat bites.
- Conduct a meeting to disseminate and validate review results and to discuss actions and a work plan to address the identified gaps and challenges.
- The APW holder including the team lead and his/her team members will report to WCO Viet Nam's responsible officer as a prime WHO focal point verbally and in writing the progress of the review a regular basis.
- 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 WHO 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 vaccine at the animal health and human health facilities at three levels.

Key informant including:

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

Members of group discussion including:

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

Secondary data collection and observation of the availability of the IEC materials and vaccine including number of people received PEP, number of dog/cat vaccinated will be implemented at the animal health and human health facilities at three levels including private vaccination sites.

The qualitative data analysis will used for this review.

#### **Output/s (and expected timeline)**

Output 1: A plan and tools to review the current status, gaps and challenges of the rabies surveillance, reporting, response, and risk communication activities of the animal health and human health sectors; the coordination and collaboration between human and animal health sectors in rabies prevention and control at three levels; the availability, accessibility and affordability of human and animal rabies vaccine, and mechanism of dog & cat management and vaccination; and community perspective on dog and cat vaccination and seeking PEP of the dog/cat bites **(15 September)**.

- Deliverable 1.1: A detailed plan for the review.
- Deliverable 1.2: The tools of the review including
  - o Semi-structured questionnaires for key informant interview
  - o Key points for focus group discussion

- Checklist, 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 at three levels.

**Output 2:** Conduct review on the current status, gaps and challenges of the rabies surveillance, reporting, response, and risk communication activities of the animal health and human health sectors; the coordination and collaboration between the two sectors in rabies prevention and control activities at three levels; the availabilities of human and animal rabies vaccine, and mechanism of dog & cat management and vaccination; and community perspective on dog and cat vaccination and seeking PEP when bitten by dog or cat **(31 October)**

- Deliverable 2: A report of the review

**Output 3:** Meeting to disseminate and validate review results and discussion on actions, work plan to address the identified gaps and challenges **(15 November)**.

- Deliverable 3.1: A detailed plan including agenda for the meeting to validate review results and discussion on actions, work plan to address the identified gaps and challenges including workshop agenda
- Deliverable 3.2: A report of the meeting to validate review results and discussion on actions, work plan to address the identified gaps and challenges.

**Output 4:** Final APW report at the end of contract **(10 December 2024)**

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

## 5. Specific requirements

Requirement	Team lead/ Institution	Team members
<b>Qualification</b>	Essential: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Academic background in public health and related field</li> <li>○ Holding a Master's or higher qualification in public health.</li> <li>○ Demonstrated a basic knowledge in epidemiology, and infectious disease surveillance systems.</li> </ul> Desirable: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Proven record of publications in disease surveillance, epidemiology, including in international peer reviewed journals.</li> </ul>	Essential: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Academic background in public health and related fields, including BPH or other preventive medicine aspects.</li> <li>○ Demonstrated a basic knowledge in public health surveillance systems in Viet Nam.</li> </ul> Desirable: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Holding master's qualification in public health, epidemiology or other relevant fields.</li> </ul>
<b>Experience</b>	Essential: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Extensive (7 years or more) experience in public health/ epidemiology/ infectious disease surveillance and response activities and research.</li> </ul> Desirable: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Experience conducting surveys/ research on infectious disease surveillance.</li> <li>○ Prior experience working with WHO and/or other international development partners and</li> </ul>	Essential: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Good (3 years or more) experiences in public health, infectious disease surveillance/ laboratory or epidemiology work.</li> </ul> Desirable: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Experiences conducting survey/ research on infectious disease surveillance, especially national notifiable diseases system.</li> <li>○ Prior experience working with WHO and/or other development partners,</li> </ul>

	academic institutions in infectious diseases.	academic institutions in infectious disease.
<b>Skills/ Technical skills and knowledge</b>	<p>Essential:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Extensive (7 years or more) experience in public health practice and/or infectious disease surveillance and response.</li> <li>○ Ability to work independently and in a team.</li> <li>○ Sound knowledge in qualitative and/or quantitative research.</li> </ul> <p>Desirable:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Experiences participating in and/or conducting infectious diseases study and/or research</li> <li>○ Have a strong knowledge and network with the Government network on infectious disease surveillance system</li> </ul>	<p>Essential:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Good (3 years or more) experience in public health practice and/or infectious disease surveillance and response.</li> <li>○ Ability to work in a team.</li> <li>○ Good knowledge in infectious disease research.</li> </ul> <p>Desirable:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Experiences participating in and/or conducting infectious diseases study and/or research</li> </ul>
<b>Language</b>	<p>Essential:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Excellent communication and written skills in English.</li> </ul> <p>Desirable:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Excellent comprehension in disease modelling terminologies and communication in English.</li> </ul>	<p>Essential:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Good communication and written skills in English.</li> </ul> <p>Desirable:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Basic comprehension in disease modelling terminologies and communication in English.</li> </ul>

### 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

### 6. Place of assignment

Either in Hanoi or another City in Viet Nam where the in-person working will ideally be taking place and based on the technical proposal.

### 7. Cost

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

### 8. Medical clearance

NA

### 9. 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 Hanoi, traveling to Hanoi might be required for meeting(s) and direct interaction with WCO team and/or MOH, based on the technical proposal.