

## Mission Rabies Education Monthly Report – March 2019

### Overview

We completed our pilot education programme in Ghana reaching nearly 14,000 children in 93 schools.

It was Carnival season in Goa! We were there in full force flying the flag in front of an estimated 70,000 people and distributing 20,000 leaflets to spectators.

Our teams in Goa and Malawi have also been supporting the vaccination team with increased community engagement in two areas where confirmed rabid dog cases have been picked up by our surveillance teams.

### AFRICA

#### Malawi

Our education officers have spent time running community awareness in an area of 4 sub-urban communities (Chileka, Mpemba, Machinjiri, Kanjedza) where our surveillance teams picked up 3 confirmed rabid dogs. We want to ensure that people in these communities are being observant, so that any potentially rabid dogs are reported to us immediately. 500 adults and 28 children were sensitised during this outreach.



Education Officer, Alice, sensitizing community members

A woman in Machinjiri thanked our team for returning to her village. She told the team about a particular week when she was bitten by a dog while she was washing clothes along a river. The dog jumped and grabbed hold of her hand. She had received a Mission Rabies workshop before the incident, so she knew to immediately start washing the wound with soap and water and then went to the hospital for five injections.

Our Education Officers also delivered training to 15 rangers and managers from Michiru Nature Reserve in Blantyre District, Malawi. The rangers work on a variety of conservation projects with communities who live within the reserve, so they have plenty of opportunities to share information on rabies. We also used the opportunity to improve their understanding of animal welfare. Alice and William, two of our permanent education officers, trained the rangers on rabies, dog bite prevention

and dog bite first aid. This was followed by a presentation from Jo about her research showing improved rabies knowledge of primary school children following Mission Rabies lessons. Dagmar then presented on animal welfare and dog behaviour while Colins from the Blantyre SPCA discussed wildlife and how we can work together in preventing animal cruelty.



Rangers attentively listening to Mission Rabies education message

## Ghana

The numbers are in from the education campaign in Ghana: A total of 13,977 children and 819 teachers were educated! This pilot project used existing public health education infrastructure to deliver key messages to communities. 65 trained community health officers delivered the rabies education in 93 schools in the project area.



Ghana's community health workers using Mission Rabies education techniques in schools

## ASIA

### India

It was carnival season in Goa this month and we used the opportunity to engage the community again – being a part of the carnival procession in Panaji and Margao. We feel that this year was even better than last year in terms of community participation. It was estimated that around 30,000 people took part at Panaji and about 40,000 in Margao. We distributed 20,000 leaflets to the public. It was the first time that we had taken part in the carnival at Margao. We decided to include Margao this year, because it is the city with the highest dog population and highest number of dog bites (5,360 dog bites recorded at the 3 Margao hospitals during 2018). The carnival is a great way to promote dog vaccination and distribute our getting along with dog leaflets on dog behaviour. We were really happy with the response of people at the event.



The Carnival was a team effort showcasing the work of Mission Rabies and WVS. Karlette and her team participated on both days with her surgical vehicle. Praveen attended with the Truck and his team who provided great support. The truck was again the star attraction, but this year we also had additional support from 40 student volunteers from Donapaula High school who carried banners and placards ahead of the truck. A very special thank you to Julie and all the vaccinators who decided to forego their Sunday rest day to take part in the Carnival procession. The vaccinators were great ambassadors for the project - demonstrating catching and helping the education teams distribute leaflets.



The following week, on the 8<sup>th</sup> March, we participated in an International Women's Day Celebration organised by the Junior Chamber International of Goa to talk about Rabies Control.

Following the identification of confirmed rabid dog cases in Arambol, Pernem, by the surveillance team, we diverted education resources to the city to support the vaccination response. We will focus

our activities there over the coming week. On Friday 22<sup>nd</sup> March, Dr Murugan and Ashok met with the Secretary of Arambol Panchayat and the Secretary of Madrem Panchayat to remind them of our key rabies prevention messages and secure their help with advertising our rabies response hotline and the vaccination campaign that has already started in the panchayat. We have been pushing the hotline number locally, so people know they need to call the Mission Rabies immediately if they see a dog they suspect is rabid.

### Mission Rabies Education Summary

Year	Children Educated	Teachers Reached	Community Members Sensitised
2013	59,600	500	3,000
2014	119,479	3,847	1,732
2015	223,588	5,230	45,840
2016	543,141	10,971	69,133
2017	744,397	20,022	130,658
2018	723,687	16,384	243,011
2019	80,818	3,315	4,764
<b>Total</b>	<b>2,494,710</b>	<b>60,269</b>	<b>498,138</b>