

Mission Rabies Education Monthly Report – March 2018

Overview

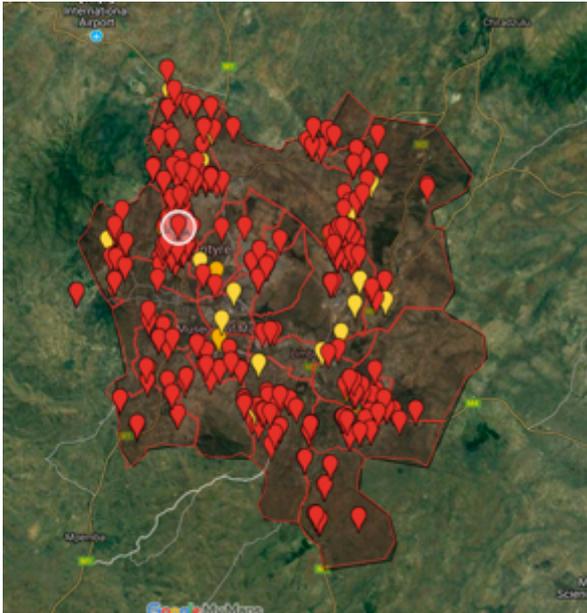
We continue to improve on last year's performance at all project locations where our education programme is active. We reached 157,418 people up to the end of February compared to 62,826 in 2017. This puts us on track to pass the milestone of 1 million children educated in Malawi by the end of May 2018. We aim to have educated 2 million globally by the end of July 2018. In Malawi, we completed our programme for small private schools in Blantyre District that started in July 2017. The project enabled us to reach 201 new schools serving over 36,000 children who had never received a rabies awareness lesson before. We have also completed a special outreach programme to Mangochi District covering Cape Maclear and Monkey Bay that reached over 4,000 new children. Our school programme in Goa has slowed as we approach exam season, but we have used this as an opportunity to introduce new initiatives for rural community health workers.

AFRICA

Malawi

We started the month with a special outreach programme in Mangochi District, working in both Cape Maclear and Monkey Bay. Our education team reached 4,091 children who had never been rabies educated before. These children now know what rabies is, how to avoid it, and have learnt vital first aid that can ultimately save their lives. The children were incredibly excited to receive our lessons (as you can see from the photo below) and our new Mission Rabies song was a big hit at every school we visited!





Last April, we raised additional funds to reach 200 small schools that would otherwise have been out of our reach. The project was delayed slightly due to the period of civil unrest last year, but we completed the programme last week. We were able to visit 201 schools, reaching 36,471 children and 1,430 teachers. You can see a map of the schools to the left. The project also helped us identify a number of new schools that will be used as static points during the vaccination campaign this year. Another bonus was that our work in these smaller schools generated positive coverage in the press with two newspaper articles and one piece on television during the campaign.

The very last school we visited was a Muslim school in Blantyre (see left). Despite the fact that dog ownership is much lower among the Muslim community, the children were incredibly receptive to the lesson. Everyone was especially interested in the fact that rabies can affect other mammals, such as cats. Chiku got a lot of questions from both staff and pupils. The school leadership were so impressed with the lesson that they arranged for him to do an interview on the local Islamic community radio station.

On the 19th March, we held the annual Head Teachers' meeting with the District Education Authorities to get approval for our annual education programme in Blantyre. The meeting was success with all head teachers giving their endorsement for the programme to go ahead as planned.



ASIA

India

Goa

We continue to focus our efforts on the two Taluka's where vaccination is currently underway: Ponda and Tiswadi. We have also been conducting additional work in Salcette, to mop up schools that were missed earlier this year, and conducting government liaison work in Canacona. We are approaching the key exam period in Goa with exams taking places this week and next. The schools increasingly focus on exam preparations and it is always difficult to get school appointments in this period. We reached 9,544 children in 107 schools during the first three weeks of March. This compares to 23,570 in 139 schools during February. We have therefore started to increase the proportion of community work each week. We want to target key community groups and organisations, so we can reach high

numbers of relevant people. An example of this are the Anganwadi centres, which provide basic health care and support mothers and children in rural India. Dr Murugan has secured permission from the State Director of Women and Child Development to deliver workshops to Anganwadi workers to educate them about rabies. Joan arranged our first meeting for 162 Anganwadi workers in Ponda taluka on 8th March – International Women’s Day (picture right). We have also increased the number of visits to Primary Health Centres to ensure the display of our posters at these locations.



Ranchi

It is exam season in Ranchi, so Manoj has focussed on supporting the vaccination team over the last few weeks - reaching 978 people in the community.



Above: Dr Murugan teaching children at Red Rosary Primary School in Tiswadi

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	751,133	20,341	130,658
2018	114,529	3,130	39,759
Total	1,811,470	44,019	290,122