

Mission Rabies Education Monthly Report – November 2018

Overview

We have been visiting the last remaining schools in Blantyre District and reached 32,449 children in the last four weeks.

Schools have been shut for the major Diwali holidays in India, but we have focussed our attention on community work in the beach areas ensuring that holidaymakers (and the people who look after them) know how to stay safe.

AFRICA

Malawi

The education teams have spent the past month visiting schools that had been missed in Blantyre District during the long school holidays. We have now finished visiting all schools in Lunzu zone and Kunthembwe Traditional Authority. Our teams have tagged four new schools not yet on government list during this programme:

- Chiguma primary school
- Chilandepa primary school
- Mafunde Junior Primary school
- Katambazolo Primary school

During a visit to Ntenjera Primary School in Lunzu, the Primary Education Advisor for the Lunzu zone paid a special visit to watch the teams deliver their lessons. He thanked Mission Rabies for taking the time to ensure that life-saving lessons were delivered to children in his area. In addition to all the children in school in Lunzu, our teams never miss an opportunity to educate any children they find skipping class (see photo above).



We have also been continuing our sensitisation work, reaching out to youth clubs and traditional authorities. The teams held a meeting in the traditional authority of Makata, in Lunzu Blantyre, where a girl had died of rabies a number of years ago. At the end of the session, participants explained that there had been long-running disputes in the community after her death as people had accused each other of witchcraft. Thanks to Mission Rabies, the community have now accepted that the girl must have been a victim of rabies.

Some members of the education team have been supporting our One Mission project by conducting livestock surveys. The surveys have provided a useful platform from which they have been able to gather renewed interested in rabies prevention. As Chiku, our most senior Education Officer, puts it "[The] Livestock survey has played a big role in our Rabies Sensitisation in community, most people here in Malawi are so close with livestock. Almost each and every house has got chicken or a goat, so whenever we ask the community to chat about livestock they don't hesitate to gather at one place. After doing the survey, we start rabies sensitisation taking advantage of the [crowd that gathered for the] livestock survey." Our teams find it incredibly rewarding to help the community deal with issues facing their livestock whilst being able to share information that will keep those communities safe from rabies.

ASIA

India

Schools have been closed during the past few weeks due to the Diwali holidays, Lakshmi pooja and Gandhi Jayanthi.

Following a request from the government, we conducted a large amount of public education around the beach areas during the school holidays, providing workshops for beach cleaners, lifeguards, employees of hotels and beach resorts as well as beach shack owners and workers. We were also invited to give a talk at the National Institute of Oceanography.



Building on this work, Dr Murugan held a meeting with the Department of Tourism to discuss the potential for further collaboration, as well as a number of meetings with the District Collectors of North and South Goa.

We have also been working with the Dean of the medical college and the Animal Health Department to secure funding for WVS to sterilize the street dogs on their campus in Curca panchayat. This project developed from an education event at the Medical College earlier this year.

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 (up to 1st Nov)	633,656	13,861	231,423
Total	2,323,861	54,431	481,786