

NEPAL

I.) BACKGROUND INFORMATION

Nepal covers 147,181 sq. km and shares its borders with China and India. Nepal's population is estimated at around 31 million (2014), with about 17 percent living in urban areas (2011). Its GDP per capita (PPP) amounts to 1,500 USD. In 2011, 25.2 percent of the population lived below the poverty line. With a high income inequality it is ranked according to the Human Development Index of 2013 in 157th place, amongst the countries with low human development.^{i ii}

Rabies is endemic in Nepal. The most common lyssavirus present is Genotype 1 (Rabies virus, RABV), with human infections being mostly due to the canine biotype.ⁱⁱⁱ

Human rabies is a notifiable disease in Nepal. The Department of Livestock services developed a 10 year Rabies Control Strategy in 2010^{iv}.

II.) HUMAN RABIES EPIDEMIOLOGY

Human rabies cases are sometimes laboratory confirmed, but mostly diagnosed on clinical grounds only. One estimation speak so 100 to 150 human annual deaths due to rabies^v. A more recent study estimates that 1,500 people die from rabies every year^{vi}.

According to the OIE World Animal Health Information System in 2011 Nepal reported 28 cases of rabies in humans^{vii}. In 2012, 11 human rabies cases were confirmed at the Central Tropical Hospital^{viii}.

III.) RABIES VECTORS^{ix}

The main vector for rabies in Nepal is the domestic dog. In 2011, Nepal reported 35 cases of rabies in dogs. The following year, 2012, the number of cases was reported as unknown, though the presence of the disease was indicated. In the first half of 2013, there were 7 dog rabies cases and 10,178 vaccinated as a response to the outbreak.

Nonetheless, a significant number of livestock, especially cattle, die from rabies every year. In 2011, 38 cases were reported, and 38 in the first half of 2013.

Rabies in wildlife is most likely present in Nepal. However, wildlife rabies surveillance is not in place (including bat rabies specific surveillance), and no data is available for the years 2011 to 2013.

IV.) RABIES BIOLOGICS AVAILABILITY

Rabies post-exposure prophylaxis (PEP) is available at no cost at 54 hospitals in the country^x.

ⁱ CIA (2013). The World Factbook: Nepal. <https://www.cia.gov/library/publications/the-world-factbook/geos/np.html> [accessed 24.04.2014]

ⁱⁱ UNDP (2013). The Rise of the South: Human Progress in a Diverse World. Human Development Report 2013. New York: UNDP. http://hdr.undp.org/sites/default/files/reports/14/hdr2013_en_complete.pdf [accessed 24.04.2014]

ⁱⁱⁱ Pant GR, R Lavenir, FYK Wong, A Certoma, F Larrous, et al. (2013). Recent Emergence and Spread of an Arctic-Related Phylogenetic Lineage of Rabies Virus in Nepal. *PLoS Negl Trop Dis*; 7(11):e2560. doi:10.1371/journal.pntd.0002560

^{iv} Pant GR (2013). Rabies Control Strategy in SAARC member countries. <http://www.oie.int/doc/ged/D12940.pdf> [accessed 23.04.2014]

^v Pant GR (2013). Rabies Control Strategy in SAARC member countries. <http://www.oie.int/doc/ged/D12940.pdf> [accessed 23.04.2014]

^{vi} Hampson K and Partners for Rabies Prevention (in prep). Estimating the global burden of endemic canine rabies.

^{vii} OIE World Animal Health Information System. Nepal.

http://www.oie.int/wahis_2/public/wahid.php/Countryinformation/reporting/reporthistory [accessed 23.04.2014]

^{viii} Pant GR (2013). Rabies Control Strategy in SAARC member countries. <http://www.oie.int/doc/ged/D12940.pdf> [accessed 23.04.2014]

^{ix} OIE World Animal Health Information System. Nepal.

http://www.oie.int/wahis_2/public/wahid.php/Countryinformation/reporting/reporthistory [accessed 23.04.2014]

^x Pant GR (2013). Rabies Control Strategy in SAARC member countries. <http://www.oie.int/doc/ged/D12940.pdf> [accessed 23.04.2014]