



## One Health-oriented Interventions in Namibia

# OneHealth Namibia

## Field Study for Oral Immunisation of Dogs in the Context of the Namibian Rabies Control and Workshops on AMR Monitoring Systems

### Duration

2020–2021

### Budget/year

approx. 179,000 EUR

### Partner country

Namibia

### Challenges addressed by the project

Oral rabies vaccination (ORV), as a complementary approach to parenteral mass dog vaccination campaigns, is perhaps the most neglected tool in the global fight against dog-mediated rabies. Through the implementation of a benchmark ORV field pilot study, the Friedrich-Loeffler-Institut (FLI) will improve the rabies elimination efforts of the Republic of Namibia using a high safety profile oral rabies vaccine and achieve greater acceptance of this method in the SADC region of Africa.

The establishment of a sound animal health surveillance system is one essential component of One Health surveillance. Data obtained from the environment and animal health sector can be assessed in cooperation with the human sector through joint data analysis, resulting in inter-sectoral problem solving. The FLI will support the Republic of Namibia to apply antimicrobial resistance (AMR) surveillance for the animal health sector, including livestock and wildlife.

### Objectives

- » Conduct an ORV pilot study in the northern communal areas of the Republic of Namibia
- » Improve the national rabies elimination strategy through dog population estimation
- » Conduct assessments on animal health surveillance systems
- » Conduct workshops on AMR surveillance and harmonization of protocols
- » Conduct joint AMR field research
- » Coordination of German One Health activities in the Republic of Namibia through local representation

### Overview of activities

Challenges at the human-animal-environment interface (zoonotic diseases, such as rabies, but also food-borne diseases and AMR) continue to have major impacts on health, livelihoods and economies. Many countries recognise the benefits of taking a One Health approach that is multi-sectoral and multidisciplinary to build national mechanisms for coordination, communication, and collaboration to address health threats at the human-animal-environment interface.

The global strategic plan to eliminate human deaths from dog-mediated rabies by 2030 is a prime example of the One Health concept. Since 2015, the Republic of



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Ondangwa, Oshana region in the North of  
Namibia



Countryside in the Oshana region in the North of  
Namibia



Wildlife boma at the School of Veterinary  
Medicine, Neudamm Campus, Namibia



Outbuildings and livestock area at the School  
of Veterinary Medicine, University of Namibia,  
Namibia

(Photos ©Frank Busch)

Namibia, in close collaboration with the OIE and with support from the FLI, has implemented a national dog rabies elimination programme. Following recommendations from the OIE and WHO, the FLI has provided technical support to conduct an ORV field pilot study in endemic areas in the Northern Communal Areas of Namibia using a safe and cost-effective oral rabies vaccine. The implementation of said field trial, as a supplementary measure to mass dog vaccination campaigns, is funded by the German Federal Ministry of Health. Initiatives such as this allow the FLI to work closely with national One Health key stakeholders in the Republic of Namibia and may serve as a blueprint for the SADC member states in Africa and beyond.

Following established collaborations, the One Health Namibia project will also support Namibian partners on other key One Health issues, namely animal health surveillance. In an assessment phase, the project will analyse existing local data sets and determine criteria relating to the planning and implementation of Animal Health/One Health studies. It will review available local systems for data acquisition and analysis and assess how existing data may be incorporated into key databases depending on the country's needs and vision. Moreover, workshops will be conducted with the aim to harmonize methods followed by monitoring studies (with an initial focus on AMR). The latter will serve as a blueprint to generate valid data which eventually feeds into an Animal Health/One Health surveillance system.

### Partner institutions

- » Ministry of Agriculture, Water and Land Reform (MAWL), Namibia
- » Ministry of Health and Social Services (MoHSS), Namibia
- » Directorate of Veterinary Services (DVS), Namibia
- » University of Namibia (UNAM): Faculty of Agriculture and Natural Resources: School of Veterinary Medicine (SoVM), Namibia
- » World Organization for Animal Health (OIE), France
- » World Health Organization (WHO), Switzerland

### Supporting institution in Germany/Contact

Friedrich-Loeffler-Institut – Federal Research Institute for Animal Health  
Institute of International Animal Health/One Health

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