

## **SARE: Stepwise Approach towards Rabies Elimination. A planning tool for countries**

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Dog-transmitted human rabies causes yearly fatalities, especially affecting the rural poor in African and Asian countries. Due to competing priorities, lack of resources and chronic under-reporting of cases, the World Health Organization (WHO) classifies rabies as a neglected zoonosis. To support rabies-endemic countries to develop and implement a sustainable rabies elimination strategy, the Food and Agricultural Organization of the United Nations (FAO), the Global Alliance for Rabies Control (GARC) and WHO, developed the Stepwise Approach towards Rabies Elimination (SARE) tool. SARE is an expert-reviewed non-prescriptive roadmap following six stages. SARE provides links to the operational and technical sections of the Canine Rabies Blueprint ([www.rabiesblueprint.com](http://www.rabiesblueprint.com)).

The SARE stages range from ‘Stage 0’– no information on rabies, to ‘Stage 5’– valid and timely data confirming rabies elimination. For a country to determine its stage when starting, the developers recommend holding a multi-sectorial rabies stakeholder consultation. In order to progress to a next stage, some essential goals need to have been achieved. Throughout all stages the crucial core activities to maintain and progressively extend are: targeted dog vaccination, raising awareness on rabies, availability and accessibility to post-exposure prophylaxis. The developers continue to improve SARE using the experience shared by countries and regions, and welcome your interest and input.