



# CHISU Results in Action

## Multisectoral Collaboration for Rabies Prevention: The One Health Approach

### **Launching a preventive vaccination campaign against rabies in Sabou District, Burkina Faso**

#### BACKGROUND

The Country Health Information Systems and Data Use (CHISU) program, funded by the United States Agency for International Development (USAID), supports the Government of Burkina Faso in strengthening disease and event surveillance systems using the One Health approach. This multi-sectoral approach involves the ministries in charge of health, livestock, and the environment in order to provide an effective response to public health threats.

To facilitate the implementation of One Health activities, the Government of Burkina Faso established a One Health Executive Secretariat (SE-OH). CHISU supports the SE-OH in the implementation of One Health activities, and in this case, through an investigation and comprehensive response to the death of two people from rabies in the Sabou health district in late 2022.

Protecting humans from rabies requires immunization of pets such as dogs, cats, and monkeys. A person is vaccinated when they are bitten by an animal suspected of having rabies (or when the animal's vaccination status is unknown). Burkina Faso's animal immunization campaign raises awareness about the urgent need for human rabies vaccination whenever a person is bitten by an animal that may have the disease.

---

Country Health Information Systems and Data Use (CHISU) is USAID's flagship data and information system program to strengthen host country capacity and leadership to manage and use health information systems to improve evidence-based decision-making. [www.chisuprogram.org](http://www.chisuprogram.org)

## OBJECTIVES

This rabies vaccination campaign was part of a comprehensive response to the death of two people from rabies in the Sabou health district in October and November 2022. A joint investigation was commissioned by the regional authorities and carried out with the technical and financial support of CHISU. The overall objective of the rabies vaccination campaign was to improve the level of rabies vaccination coverage in companion animals in the West Central region.

The campaign also aimed to:

- Mobilize all actors involved in the fight against rabies at the local and provincial levels, and in particular breeders, producers, traditional and religious leaders, associations, groups of breeders, and specialists in animal, human, and environmental health, in order to increase support for the campaign
- Raise awareness among the population about the seriousness of rabies and how to prevent it
- Vaccinate at least 2,000 pets against rabies throughout the Boulkiemdé Province

## STEPS TAKEN

CHISU played an active role in the preparations, the launch, and supporting the implementation and assessment of the campaign. Technical working meetings allowed the team to design the banner and radio messages to raise awareness among the population and refine the logistics of the campaign.

The official launching ceremony took place in Sabou on March 6, 2023 with approximately 330 people attending, including provincial and regional authorities in charge of One Health efforts, traditional chiefs, civil society, technicians from the three One Health ministries, agro-sylvo-pastoral producers, the population, and technical and financial partners. Naaba Yemde II of Sabou, Canton Chief and First Traditional Chief, provided a word of welcome and blessing, and the Prefect of Dabou, CHISU Country Director Dr. Kebe, and the High Commissioner of the Boulkiemdé province all gave speeches. The launch was marked by an inaugural vaccination session by the officials of the ceremony. On the sidelines of the ceremony, Dr. Kebe was interviewed by the local press about CHISU's interventions in the area.

The vaccination phase lasted 10 days, from March 6 to 15, 2023. The campaign reached a total of 1,450 animals out of the targeted 2,000 in the Boulkiemdé province (73 percent).

In the three CHISU-supported municipalities (Sabou, Sourgou, and Thyou), 366 pets were covered: 267 dogs, 72 cats, and 27 monkeys. In addition to immunization, other activities included community sensitization through radio messaging, supervision of vaccinators, and reporting. CHISU provided technical and financial support through the supervision and implementation of the data reporting framework.

## RESULTS + NEXT STEPS

This campaign shows a successful One Health response to an urgent public health threat. Through this campaign, the population of Central West region was made aware of the seriousness of rabies and the role of vaccinating pets. Considering the area of Sabou and its three communes covered by CHISU activities, partial data indicate 366 animals were vaccinated. This experience should be duplicated in the other regions and provinces of the country in order to improve rabies prevention in Burkina Faso.



Officials at the launch of the rabies vaccination campaign in Sabou.



Inaugural vaccination sessions attended by the customary chief (left photo) and the High Commissioner of the Boulkiemde province, Sanou Siaka (right photo).



The Prefect of Sabou and Dr. Kebe presenting a certificate of recognition to a champion of rabies control in Sabou.



This publication was produced with the support of the United States Agency for International Development (USAID) under the terms of #7200AA20CA00009. Views expressed are not necessarily those of USAID or the United States government.

