

# Kenya: Engaging communities, local authorities, and private sector actors to prioritize rabies elimination at the local level.

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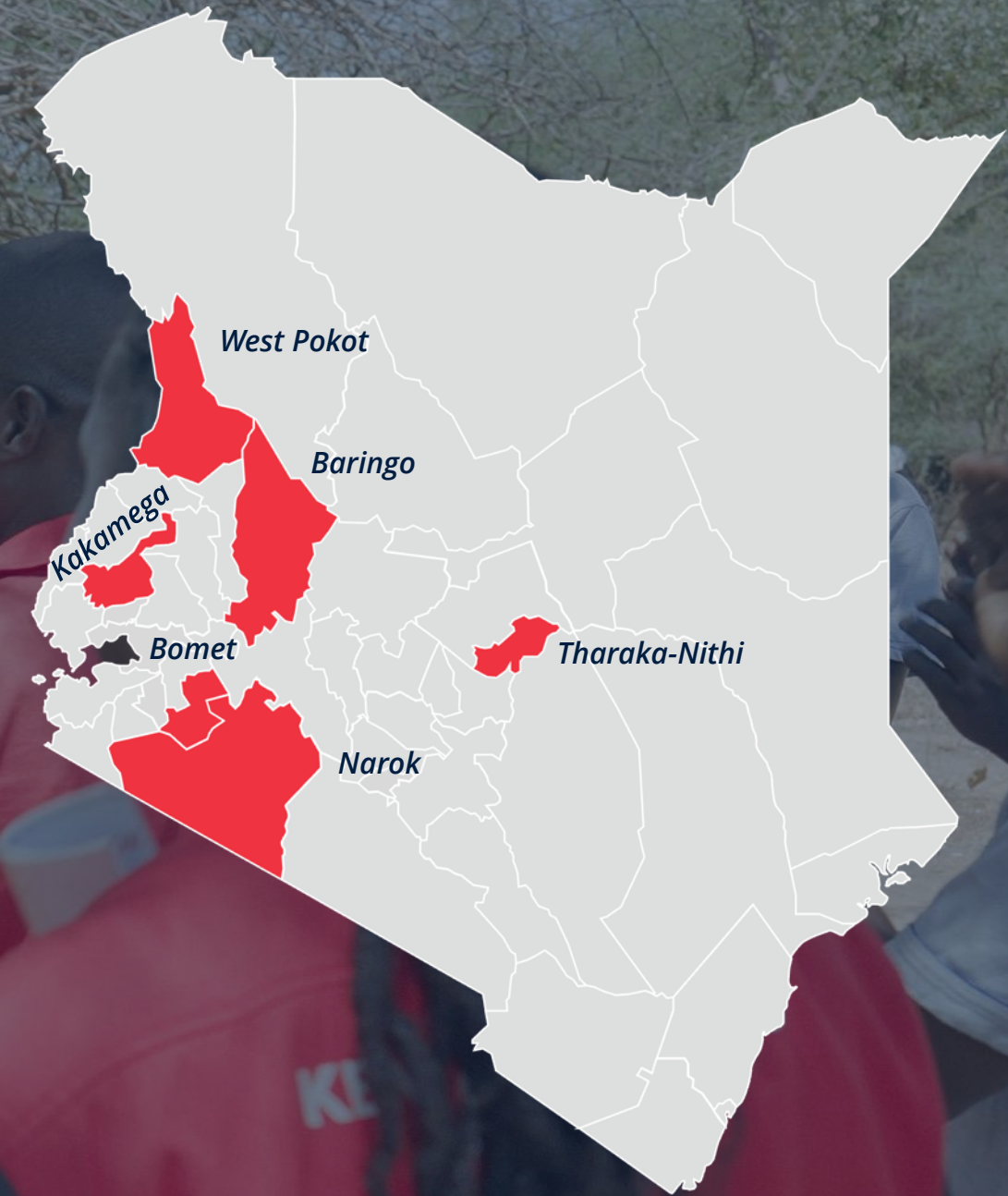
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# Goal

*Strengthened epidemic and pandemic preparedness and outbreak response through a whole-of-society, all-hazard approach.*

## Programme focus counties



# Objectives

To strengthen infectious disease outbreak prevention, detection, and response efforts at the community level.

To strengthen National Society capacity to prepare for and respond to emergencies, including epidemic and pandemic threats.

To promote and support key stakeholder engagement in health security with a One Health approach.







## Approaches used

- Community health promotion through household visits, focus groups, school health clubs, and edutainment events (e.g., mobile cinema sessions and school health competitions challenges.)
- Community dialogue sessions
- Community-based surveillance (CBS)
- Community-level partnerships with local actors (community leaders, private vets, local media)
- World Rabies Day Events





# Key figures



- **219** Community Health Units
- **2,326** Community Health Promoters trained on EPiC\*, **2,042** trained on CBS\*\*



- **344** trained school health clubs, equipped with Epidemic Control for Volunteers toolkits. **16** schools with informative wall murals

- **216** Community health assistants, **126** Animal Health Assistants (both trained on EPiC\* and CBS)\*



- **16** local radio stations engaged routinely



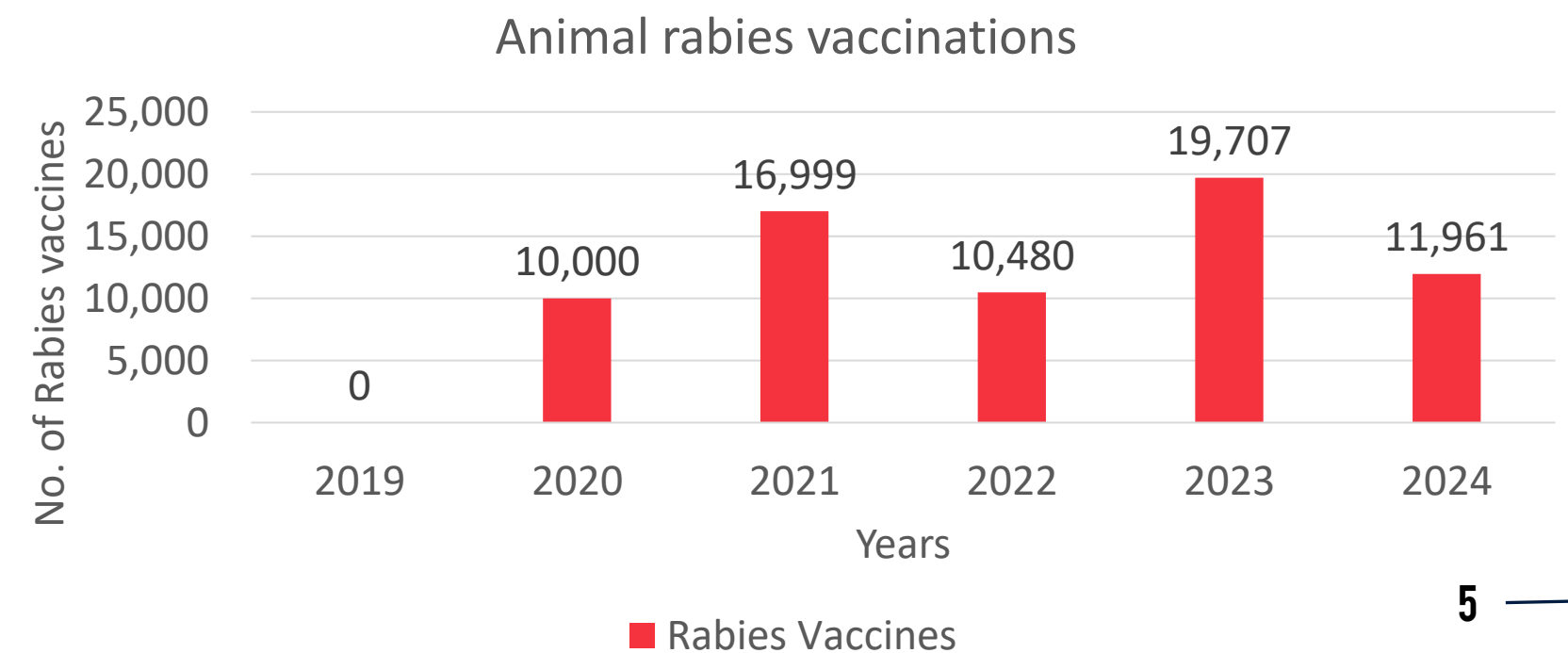
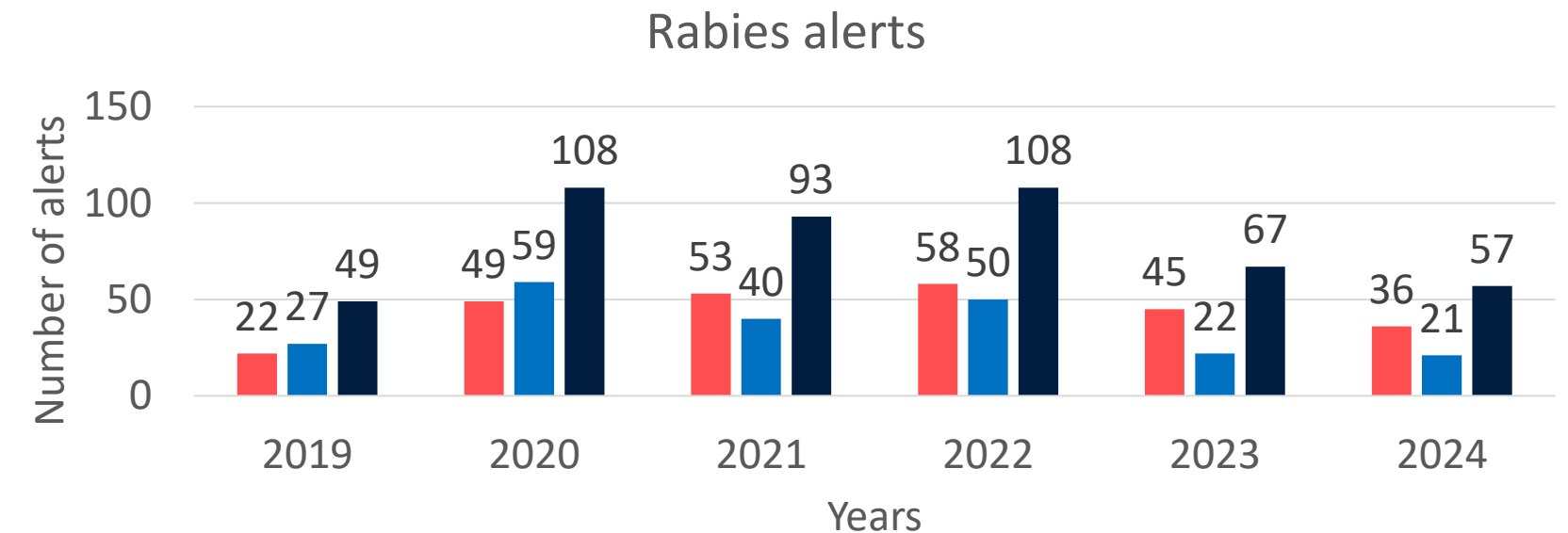
\***EPiC** – Epidemic Preparedness and Response in Communities

\*\***CBS** – Community-based surveillance



# Key achievements / Lessons learned

- **Catalyzing counties to budget and procure rabies vaccines**
  - Narok procured human rabies vaccine due to sustained advocacy by COHU\*:
    - 2020: 30 doses
    - 2021: 20 doses
    - 2022: 385 doses
    - 2023: 1,335 doses
    - 2024: 705 doses
  - Bomet county procured animal rabies vaccines:
    - April 2023: 12,000 vaccines
    - June 2023: 24,160 anti-rabies vaccine doses
- **Strengthened Partnership**
  - VSF Germany has supported with rabies vaccines in Narok, Bomet and Baringo
  - Partnering with Boehringer Ingelheim in Narok and Bomet in school health programmes and provision of rabies vaccines.



\*COHU – County One Health Unit





## Key achievements / Lessons learned

- **Early detection and early response:** Community-based surveillance allows for alerts to be escalated to human and animal health actors and response measures to be taken quickly.
- **Cooperation from communities to co-fund rabies campaigns.** Some communities contribute to the procurement of doses while others contribute to the logistical support of the vaccinators where vaccines have been provided for free by partners.
- **Local media supporting with reporting of rabies cases from communities.** Callers can call the station reporting diseases of concern in their areas including rabies. For instance, in 2023, 1 rabies case was reported from Pokot Central in West Pokot county.





## Key challenges

- No data on population of dogs in the counties to support planning for vaccination campaigns.
- Inadequate supply of vaccines in communities (humans and animals).
- Weak sample referral for laboratory diagnosis due to lack of resources and limited animal laboratory services at the counties. Lab services are regionalized.
- Irresponsible dog ownership and poor food waste management resulting in stray dogs.
- Understaffing of government animal health officers.



## Recommendations

- ✓ Conduct surveys/census for dogs and cats
- ✓ Conduct advocacy sessions with the government to allocate resources for procurement of vaccines and deploy human resources by the Department of Veterinary Services to enhance the availability of vaccines for response.
- ✓ Advocacy sessions with the government to allocate resources for laboratory logistics to enhance sample collection and referral.
- ✓ Community sensitizations on responsible dog ownership and proper waste disposal to stray dogs in shopping centers and towns.
- ✓ Enhanced advocacy for more staff recruitment and engagement with private vets.

Rabies is **100%** preventable.  
Thank you!

For more information, visit:  
Epidemic and Pandemic Preparedness

