## RABIES AWARENESS & KNOWLEDGE

## HIGH AWARENESS & LOW GENERAL KNOWLEDGE OF RABIES

### **79%** of the study population were aware of rabies and there was general familiarity with local terms for a rabid dog.

## **56** EN TIN EN PENK" "Craze dog"

many informants demonstrated their awareness of rabies by referring to it by its common local names.

Informants linked "madness" and rabies in descriptions of rabies.

A child informant from Makama believed that "mad dogs are carriers of rabies," and a health worker from Kapethe believed that rabies is "caused by a mad dog biting someone." Another health worker characterized rabies as "this is when a dog bites someone and that person end up being crazy just like the dog," and a child informant from Ropolon described rabies as "a sickness that we get from mentally retarded dogs."

### NO KNOWLEDGE

**34%** of the study population did not know what causes rabies

**66** This is the type of sickness we do not have better understanding but we have the idea that it is a killer disease."

### MYTHS AND MISCONCEPTIONS

a few health worker informants referred to rabies as :

origin of rabies: 15% germs and

which is described as a skin disease with rashes and body hair loss

## beliefs about cause or origin of rabies:

15% germs and rubbish7% spiritual origins

<5% from feces and urine, or inherited

### CORRECT KNOWLEDGE

- **38%** knew that rabies is a virus that makes animals sick; only one person in the entire study area knew that the virus attacks the brain of it victim.
- **66** It is a type sickness that do affect dogs. I really do not know where dogs get it from but whenever a dog becomes infected with it, its brain ceases to be normal and if it bites any human being, the person will also become infected with rabies."

# **95% 🖄**

of participants from Constituency 31 were aware of rabies compared to 68% and 67% in Constituencies 35 and 37/38.

We believe that mad dogs are carriers of rabies. If they bite somebody the person can easily be infected by rabies and he sometimes bark like a dog."

### INCOMPLETE KNOWLEDGE

66 The only thing that I know about rabies is, we [humans] get it from dogs."

There was a lack of detailed knowledge about the causes, symptoms, and transmission pathways; knowledge of rabies was limited to rabies in dogs.

**66** As for the cat, rabies was born with it and the sooner the cat scratch or bites you then you are confirming to have the virus."

- **66** The rabies virus is already found in the teeth of a mad dog, when it bites a person then it pass the sickness to that individual."
- **66** Seeing a dog with its condition has change like have rash and sore all over it body that is another sign of rabies."

## KNOWLEDGE OF TRANSMISSION OF RABIES WAS VARIABLE

**38**%

poor care given to animals by their owners

I believe that when a dog is not taken care of properly it can develop rabies because it can interact with other animals in the community that may possibly have the sick."

**75**%

which animal can transmit rabies? r owners eating dead or sick animals or "all sort of food" when it roams freely and scavenges for food
taken taken rabies dog bites someone, if that person is your relative you should not touch because that

•• If a rables dog bites someone, if that person is your relative you should not touch because that person will behave the same as the dog and if you the relative don't be careful, he or she bite you then automatically you will get infected."

15%

- **77%** through the bite of a rabid animal
- 2% scratch of a rabid animal
- 3% contact with saliva
  - eating or touching meat from a rabid animal
- touching the brain of a rabid animal
  - touching or petting a sick animal

## KNOWLEDGE OF SYMPTOMS WAS FAIR

#### IN PEOPLE

informants believed that "if someone has been bitten by a dog, the person will behave like the dog." Many participants reported that people with rabies would bark like a dog, salivate, and develop skin rashes and sores just like dogs.

The person's condition or looks will change, when the poison overcomes the person, [they] will bark like a dog and sometimes even began acting like dog, wanting to bite other people."

### IN ANIMALS



66 Animals that have been infected by the rabies virus will bite anyone who comes their way even the person hasn't done anything to them and the moment this animal bites you, then you have become infected with the rabies virus. "

of job aids and resources for health

workers to use in the field and for

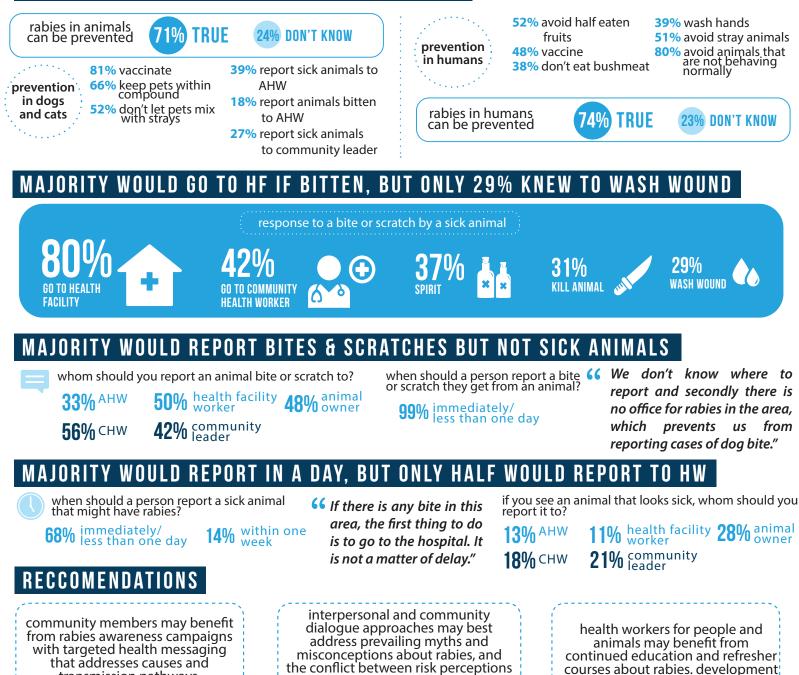
on-the-job training may also

contribute to standardizing the

information that is relayed to

community members.

## MAJORITY BELIEVED RABIES CAN BE PREVENTED



with targeted health messaging that addresses causes and transmission pathways, appropriate first aid responses, and the need for prompt treatment. such campaigns may help facilitate a shift from awareness to knowledge building. interpersonal and community dialogue approaches may best address prevailing myths and misconceptions about rabies, and the conflict between risk perceptions and participation in risk behaviors. these approaches afford individuals opportunity to share experiences and discuss the issues that influence their current beliefs, perceptions, and behaviors.