

## SMALL DOG, GREAT DANGER: BATTLING RABIES IN CAMBODIA

In Cambodia, GIZ is collaborating with the local government to help reach its goal of eliminating rabies with a crosssectoral approach. This is crucial because the risk of infection is not only high but deadly and often threatens people within their own homes.

**BATTAMBANG.** "Our dog was still very small. That's why I never worried that he might have rabies," says Soeun Oun, who lives in the province of Battambang in Cambodia. But suddenly, the dog behaved strangely. "The puppy ran around wildly and tried to bite people in the street," he remembers. And it got worse. When Soeun Oun worked in the rice field one day, his wife called him: the puppy had bitten six family members and a neighbour.

In Cambodia, an estimated 800 people die from rabies every year. Most transmissions originate from domestic dogs. The Southeast Asian country inhabits many of them: on average, there is one dog per three people. To protect people from a fatal infection after a bite, they require post-exposure prophylaxis (PEP), which aims to control the spread of the disease. However, this depends on sufficient awareness and access to adequate healthcare. With the support of the GIZ global project, an effective rabies control programme has been piloted in different provinces in Cambodia. The intervention is based on the international and national rabies elimination strategy which relies on the One Health approach. This approach connects the animal, human, and environmental health sectors to prevent the outbreak of infectious diseases, particularly zoonoses. Since 2021, 525 people have been trained by the project across sectors in Cambodia, and many more have been sensitised to the issue.



Soeun Oun's family was saved thanks to the rabies initiative jointly implemented by the local human and animal health authorities as well as GIZ. "I am very happy that the field officer reacted immediately! Without him, I would have been very afraid for my family," Soeun Oun says.



WATCH ON YOUTUBE:



The Rabies Vaccination Campaign  
in Battambang / Cambodia

### The Global Programme Pandemic Prevention and Response, One Health

The Global Programme Pandemic Prevention and Response, One Health (PPOH) started in 2021 to work with national, regional and international partners to take measures to better prevent and respond to epidemics and pandemics with a One Health approach. The programme continues from September 2024 as "Programme Pandemic Resilience, One Health".

It is implemented by the Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) GmbH on behalf of the Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ).