Officially eradicated in 1980, smallpox was the first human disease fought on the global level. Nearly 1 out of 3 people who contracted the disease would die. Global cooperation through vaccination campaigns, surveillance and prevention measures eliminated smallpox and showed disease eradication was achievable.

Once a ‘scourge of societies’ and considered ‘one of the most dreaded animal diseases in history’, rinderpest was declared officially eradicated in 2011. The disease was highly fatal to livestock, often killing entire herds and devastating rural communities. A devastating outbreak in 1910 led to the creation of the World Organisation for Animal Health, which later led the vaccination campaigns that were the key to eliminating the disease.

Around 70 countries have seen outbreaks of PPR since it was first identified in 1942, with losses as high as a staggering USD$2.1 billion each year. The disease destroys the food and nutrition security of communities. OIE and FAO are working to eradicate this disease by 2030.

Every 10 minutes, a person will die from rabies, leading to 60,000 deaths per year. The preventable disease spreads to humans through a rabid animal bite, however, simple, inexpensive vaccinations can prevent animals from ever contracting the disease. Global eradication efforts are underway in all regions. Latin America has reduced cases 90% in the past 20 years, making many hopeful that this devastating disease can be eliminated in humans.

Learn more at AnimalHealthMatters.org