

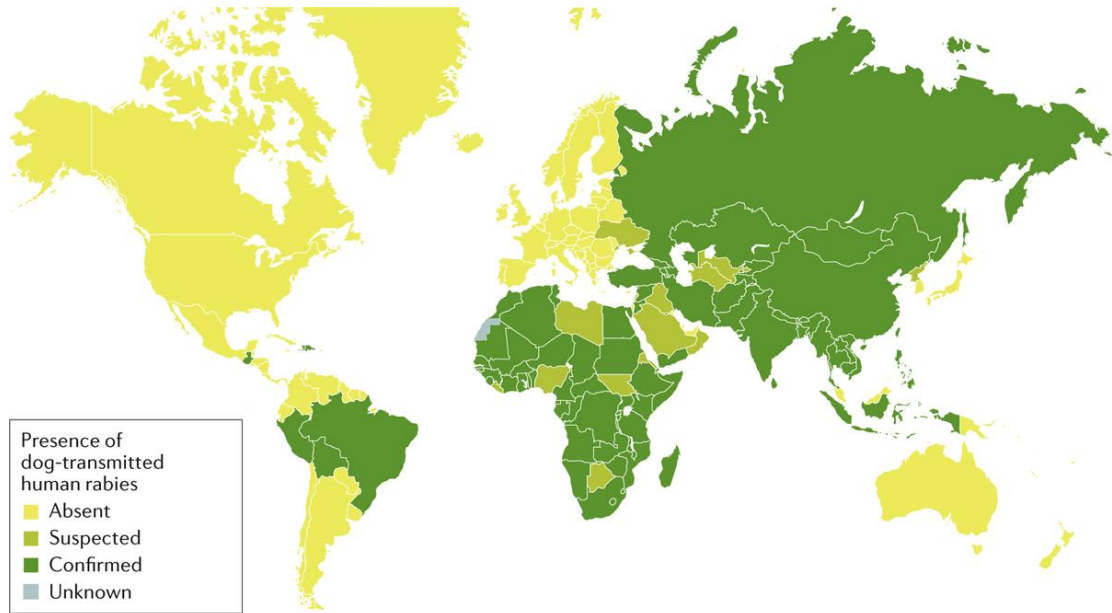


United Against Rabies Country Partnership Programme



Dr Anthony Fooks

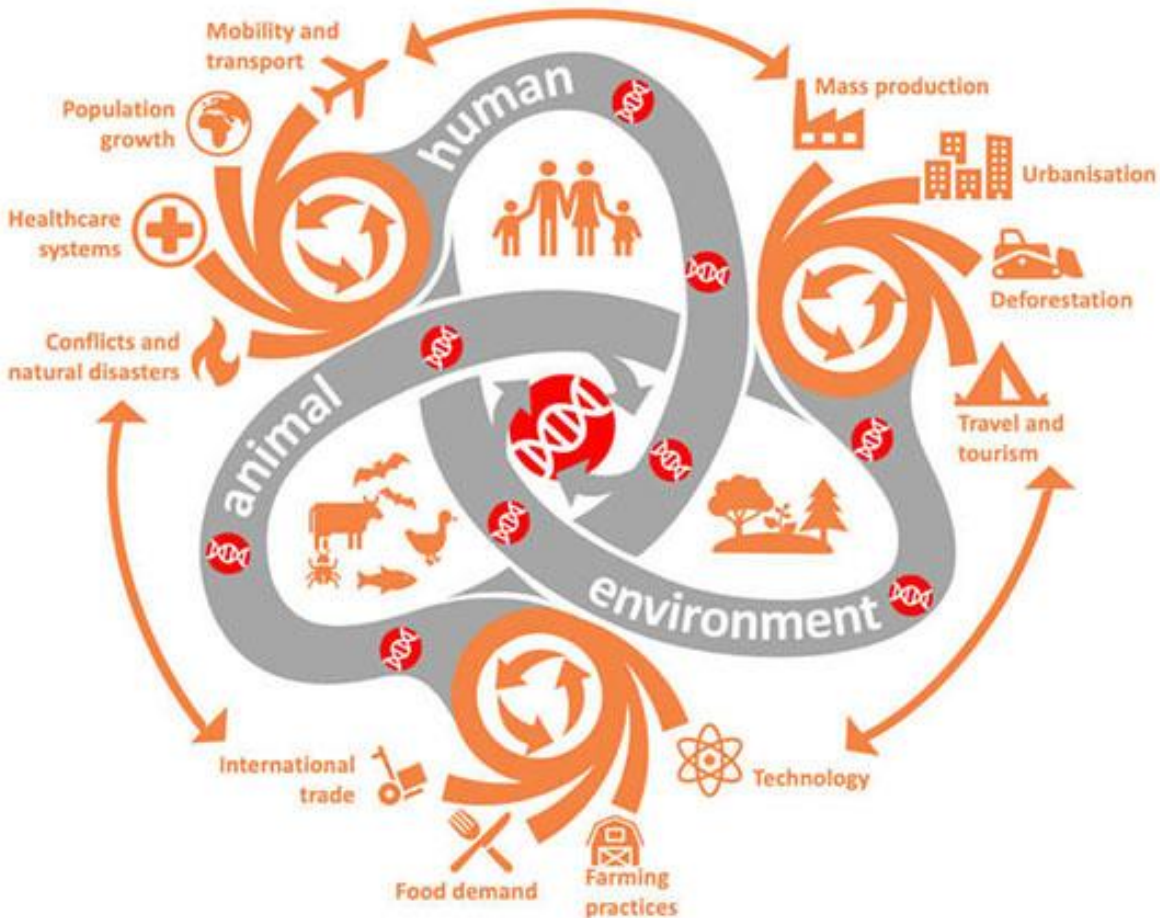
UAR Stakeholder Meeting 6-8 November 2023



Nature Reviews | Disease Primers

- Noted in 2022 that **country engagement** was a critical area for UAR Forum to address
- Countries requesting support and experts available to support → but **challenges in defining specific needs then connecting these with the best technical expertise**
- Lack of national strategic plans also make this hard to prioritise activities for support
- 2023 Priority Area: Engage rabies-endemic countries and support development and implementation of National Strategic Plans

Aim



- ❖ Provides broader, One Health support to recipient country over 1-3 years
- ❖ Connects country needs with relevant expertise, while developing a 'package' of rabies support to help other countries formulate requests
- ❖ Activities that contribute to the established national strategic plan and national priorities
- ❖ Complements ongoing activities and work of other stakeholders → but still prioritizing the requests of the country



WOAH Twinning: Rabies

Workshop Rabies,
Changchun, CHINA



Builds on experience of WOAHP Laboratory Twinning projects:

- UK & China: Changchun Veterinary Research Institute (CVRI), PR **CHINA** (2009 – 2012) designated as an OIE / WOAHP Reference Laboratory for rabies in 2013
- UK / USA & India: KVAFSU/CVA/Crucell Rabies Diagnostic Laboratory, **INDIA** (2015 – 2019) designated as an OIE / WOAHP Reference Laboratory for rabies in 2020
- UK & Sierra Leone: Teko Rabies Laboratory, **SIERRA LEONE** (*ongoing, to be completed 2023*)

Dr Huancheng Guo, China setting up
a PCR reaction





Supporting rabies control in India

Earlier this year, Tony Fooks and colleagues described how, under a laboratory twinning project, the UK's OIE Reference Laboratory for rabies, based at the APHA in Weybridge, is helping the Changchun Veterinary Research Institute in the People's Republic of China to help the institute develop the skills and methods necessary to become an OIE Reference Laboratory itself (VR, March 5, 2014). Now, the APHA is taking part in this project to build rabies diagnosis capability in Beijing.

News & Reports

Feature

Laboratory twinning to build capacity for rabies diagnosis

Rabies

In 2009, the UK's OIE Reference Laboratory for rabies, based at the APHA in Weybridge, was awarded a project to twin with the Changchun Veterinary Research Institute in the People's Republic of China to help the institute develop the skills and methods necessary to become an OIE Reference Laboratory itself. Here, Tony Fooks, Trevor Drew and Changchun Tu describe the OIE's twinning project and the success that has since been realised in China.

Rabies is a major disease threat to animal and human health, especially in resource-limited countries. Of the estimated 31,000 human cases of rabies annually in Asia, China accounts for approximately 1000 cases each year, most probably resulting from bites from rabies-affected dogs. The key to reducing the human burden of rabies is therefore the elimination of rabies in dogs. If this goal were to be realised, it would result in a concomitant reduction of human mortality. For these reasons, there is an imperative to build laboratory capacity in rabies-endemic countries.

News & Reports

World Rabies Day

Rabies control: going beyond human and animal health services

EVENTS to mark the 10th annual World Rabies Day on September 28 took place across the world under this year's theme of 'Rabies: educate, vaccinate, eliminate'. Almost 270 events were held, ranging from mass vaccination and awareness-raising drives to photography competitions, fun runs and charity cake-baking events.

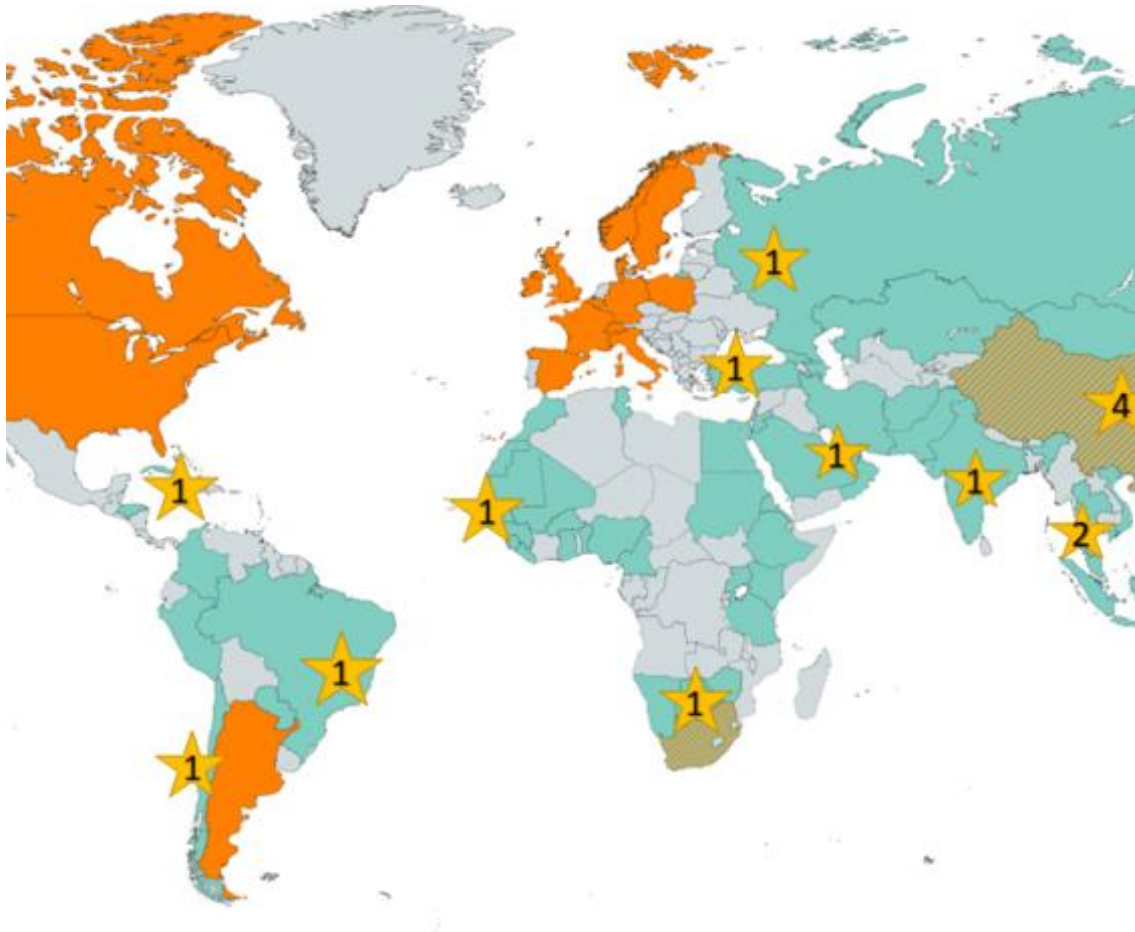
In a press release, the Global Alliance for Rabies Control (GARC), which introduced World Rabies Day in 2007, said that rabies control needed to go beyond human and animal health services. Although preventable, rabies kills an estimated 60,000 people every year, mostly children in Africa and Asia. The GARC noted that

Marking World Rabies Day with a mass dog rabies vaccination drive in Quezon City in the Philippines, where vaccination stations were set up in strategic areas. In the Philippines, 200 to 250 people die of rabies each year and, in 2015, 24 cases of rabies in dogs and three human rabies cases were reported in Quezon City.

- ❖ Identified three pilots (based on available WOA/Rabies Reference Laboratories and countries they had existing strong relationships)
 - China – Indonesia
 - India – Nepal
 - South Africa – Malawi
- ❖ Developed draft proposals based on recipient country needs and national strategic plans
- ❖ Refining proposals in consultation with regional colleagues, UAR Steering Group, external stakeholders already providing support
- ❖ Developing overarching document outlining steps in establishing partnership programmes, and identifying key areas of support for countries



Country Partnership Timeline



Recommended timeline:

- April 2023: Establish activity focal point and participants
- April – June 2023: Develop recommended ‘package’ for rabies support
- July – September 2023: Explore potential UAR Forum members and rabies endemic countries that could be candidates for piloting country twinning programme
- September – November 2023: Finalise agreements for pilots



Country Partnerships: China & Indonesia



Changchun Veterinary Research Institute, CHINA

and



Diseases Investigation Centre Bukittinggi, INDONESIA

China and Indonesia

- China: Dr Changchun Tu
- Indonesia: Dr Yul Fitria

Objectives:

- Enhancing diagnostic capacity of national reference laboratory
- Establishing nationwide epidemiology and surveillance network
- Piloting dog rabies eradication in a selected island



Country Partnerships: India & Nepal

**KVAFSU-CVA Rabies Diagnostic
Laboratory,**

**WOAH Reference Laboratory for
Rabies, Bengaluru, India**

and

**Department of Livestock
Services, Nepal**

❖ **India and Nepal**

- India: Dr Shrikrishna Isloor
- Nepal: Dr Sujan Rana

❖ Objectives:

- Strengthen rabies surveillance
- Strengthen laboratory capacity for rabies diagnosis
- Institutionalize a coordinated rabies control programme



Country Partnerships: Republic of South Africa & Malawi



WOAHP Rabies Reference Laboratory at Onderstepoort, RSA

and

Central Veterinary Laboratory (Malawi)

Republic of South Africa and Malawi

- RSA: Dr Claude Sabeta
- Malawi: Dr Jospeh Nkhoma

Objectives:

- Improve rabies surveillance in Malawi
- Enhance diagnostic capacities and capabilities
- Improve knowledge of rabies epidemiology in Malawi
- Strengthen collaboration across the region
- Increase collaboration with the Ministry of Health
- Finalise the national rabies control plan of Malawi

Next steps



- ❖ Continue refining proposals for country partnership processes
- ❖ Start activities of pilot Country Partnership Programmes in 2024
- ❖ Capture experiences to refine the overarching process
- ❖ Identify further participants for Country Partnership Programmes in 2024-2025