



United Against Rabies

2024 Recommendations and Priorities



United
Against
Rabies

Lord Alexander Trees
Stakeholder Meeting
6-8 November



National Strategic Plans

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- ❖ One Health, intersectoral and evidence-based national strategic plans are critical for ensuring government commitment and taking advantage of opportunities to mobilise resources (e.g. Pandemic Fund)
 - ❖ National Strategic Plans should be validated by all the competent authorities in the country, and involve communities and civil society.
 - ❖ Stakeholders should be realistic when drafting a national strategic plan – both in allocating adequate time for drafting this, and in terms of setting achievable targets than can then be built upon
 - ❖ Stakeholders should make use of the numerous tools and resources available to help in drafting, budgeting and implementing a national strategic plan
 - ❖ Evidence and data is important to inform policy, but stakeholders should not wait for rabies research to start – a national strategy should be drafted, then built upon as evidence becomes available



National Strategic Plans cont

- ❖ Domestic resource mobilisation should be a key part of these plans to ensure sustainability, and external investors will be more willing to support this. Funding pathways and opportunities should be identified early on in the process
- ❖ WOAH endorsement of these national strategic plans can help strengthen these plans, improve global recognition of country efforts and leverage additional resources
- ❖ Regional elimination strategies (e.g. the ASEAN regional strategy and the upcoming Continental Management Strategy for Africa) are invaluable in coordinating country efforts, and pushing countries to make commitments and develop national plans



GAVI and access to PEP

- ❖ Following the unpausing of the GAVI strategy on rabies PEP, there is an ongoing process to develop guidelines on what should be included as 'required' versus 'encouraged' criteria for application by countries
- ❖ Applications for countries will be open in June 2024, then open for submissions every quarter
- ❖ Stakeholders are encouraged to implement tools/protocols to use biologicals more prudently, including implementing intradermal regimes, use of wound risk assessment tools produced by WHO, and implementation of IBCM
- ❖ WHO are available to support countries in drafting these applications, implementing intradermal regimes and forecasting their PEP needs
- ❖ Improved surveillance is critical in order to generate the data to show that progress is being made, and the investment is having an impact
- ❖ UAR should link up with Gavi communication teams to improve awareness and communication



Proposed activities for 2024

Coordinating operational research

- ✧ Identify recommendations/clear way forward for LFDs (ongoing)
- ✧ Identify alternative for DFAT
- ✧ Support country level forecasting and logistics for optimizing placement of vaccines
- ✧ Update global burden estimates
- ✧ Use STAR IDAZ research coordination model to develop research coordination mechanism for rabies
- Liaise with organisations that can support supply chain issues

Dog Population Management

- ✧ Develop guidance on dog population surveying (with focus on free roaming dogs)
 - ✧ Study into effect of dog meat trade on rabies transmission dynamics on regional scale
 - ✧ Engagement of international umbrella organisations to address responsibility for dogs/cats
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- ✧ Surveillance
 - ✧ Promote/improve uptake of available tools and resources to support surveillance (e.g. available guidelines, digital tools for data reporting, National Bridging Workshops)
 - ✧ Regular and ongoing trainings in laboratory diagnosis
 - ✧ Explore applicability of 7-1-7 (Rapid improvement for early disease detection and response) framework for performance management indicator of health systems and rabies surveillance



Proposed activities for 2024

Oral Rabies Vaccination

- ✧ Application for registration of oral rabies vaccines for dogs with European Medicines Agency (ongoing)
- ✧ Explore Mutual Recognition Agreements in the East African Community for oral rabies vaccination licensure in East African countries
- ✧ Approach FAO/WHO for help with shipment/importation of oral rabies vaccines
- ✧ Cost-effective studies for ORV in various contexts

Communication and Advocacy

- ✧ Identify key audiences in 2024 and update messages and communications materials
- ✧ Continue to produce UAR Communication material (website content, social media, podcast – TBC)
- ✧ Identify rabies champions in rabies-endemic areas
- ✧ Support national efforts for resource mobilisation at national (or regional) level
- Continue efforts on global resource mobilisation, leveraging Gavi's expertise and network

Transboundary and Displacement Issues

- ✧ Find innovative ways to better engage community animal health workers to support rabies control
- ✧ UAR to engage with organisations involved in humanitarian sector (UNICEF, UNHCR/IOM, Red Cross/Red Crescent)

2023 Priority Objectives – do these need to be changed for 2024?

- Engage rabies-endemic countries and support development and implementation of National Strategic Plans
- Engage local authorities and communities to prioritise rabies elimination at the local level
- Engage with academic and industry partners to support country and regional implementation of rabies strategies
- Promote improved surveillance, data sharing and data reporting
- Support advocacy and resource mobilisation, including promoting access to human post exposure prophylaxis

2023 United Against Rabies Forum: Feedback survey



- Transition of the Steering Group
 - Process in development → keep watching our website and communications
 - If interested in the meantime, email globalrabiescoordinator@woah.org
 - Pending agreement on 2024 priority objectives
- Renovation of the UAR Forum website
 - Tools, resources, courses → What are we missing?
 - UAR Partnership Map
 - M&E Framework
 - Database of experts
- Communications and events
 - Webinars and podcasts → What topics do you want discussed?
 - Social media, newsletters → Sign up, share with your networks
 - UAR Photo Competition → Sign up online
 - 2024 Stakeholder Meeting → TBC, watch our newsletters!

2023 United Against Rabies Forum: Feedback survey



Thank you!

Contact:

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