



# United Against Rabies Forum

## 2023 Review

### Priority areas and achievements of 2023

The United Against Rabies Forum is now coming to the end of its third year of activities and encompasses 70 organisations from a diverse range of sectors, with representation from more than 30 countries.

We are delighted to share that with the support of our United Against Rabies Forum members, the 2022 '[Experts Call to Action on Rabies](#)', successfully contributed to the [unpausing of Gavi's commitment](#) to include rabies post-exposure prophylaxis (PEP) in their investment strategy.

The United Against Rabies Forum also continued to respond to the needs of the rabies community and we are pleased to highlight following outputs that were made available in 2023:

- [Oral vaccination of dogs against rabies: Recommendations for field application and integration into dog rabies control programmes](#)
- [Public Information Toolkit for Rabies Prevention](#)
- [Dog vaccination – barriers and solutions](#)
- [Rabies Today Podcast](#)

Our [United Against Rabies Forum webinars](#) and [newsletters](#) allowed us to share these outputs with the wider rabies community and continue to advocate for the importance of rabies control.

We encourage stakeholders to make use of these resources, share these more widely with your own networks and provide feedback to make these more useful.

The Forum consists of many experts who are willing and available to support rabies control and elimination efforts, and we encourage you to contact the Global Rabies Coordinator

([globalrabiescoordinator@woah.org](mailto:globalrabiescoordinator@woah.org)) if you have any queries regarding the above resources, or require technical support for your rabies control programme.

### United Against Rabies Meeting 2023

The [2023 United Against Rabies Forum Stakeholder Meeting](#) was held 6-8 November 2023 as a hybrid event, with in-person participation taking place at the Headquarters of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations in Rome, Italy. This hybrid format allowed wider and more inclusive participation of United Against Rabies Forum members and ensured that all members had an opportunity to review the activities and outputs of 2023 and propose priority activities for 2024.

This meeting highlighted the importance of national strategic plans for rabies control, noting that One Health, intersectoral and evidence-based plans are critical for ensuring government commitment and taking advantage of opportunities to mobilise resources. There are numerous tools and resources available to help in the drafting, budgeting, implementation and monitoring of these national strategic plans, in particular the [United Against Rabies Forum template](#) and [Toolbox](#). National strategic plans should be validated by all the competent authorities in the country, and [WOAH endorsement](#) of these plans can help improve national and global recognition of country efforts and leverage additional resources.

Following the [unpausing of the Gavi strategy on rabies PEP](#), there is an ongoing process to develop guidelines on criteria for application for countries. Among those criteria, countries seeking to access the Gavi investment will need to show commitment to tackling rabies at the animal source. In line with this opportunity, countries are encouraged to implement protocols to use biologicals more prudently, including implementing intradermal regimes, using wound

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risk assessment tools, and implementing integrated bite case management. Countries should contact the World Health Organization if support is needed in drafting Gavi applications, implementing intradermal PEP regimes, or forecasting PEP needs.

Following recommendations from United Against Rabies members in 2022, work is ongoing to develop a Monitoring and Evaluation framework of '[Zero by 30: the Global Strategic Plan to end human deaths from dog-mediated rabies by 2030](#)' and to develop a database of experts and list of rabies points of contact for each country to help facilitate connection between United Against Rabies Forum members and countries.

### **United Against Rabies in 2024**

In 2024 the United Against Rabies Forum will prioritise activities that directly contribute to the following objectives, reporting directly to the Steering Group:

- ✦ Engage priority 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.
- ✦ Facilitate access to human PEP, including supporting the implementation of the Gavi strategy on rabies.
- ✦ Promote improved surveillance, data sharing, and data reporting.
- ✦ Support advocacy and resource mobilisation for rabies control.

United Against Rabies Forum members are encouraged to propose activities that align with the 2024 priorities for the United Against Rabies Forum using this [activity proposal form](#).

The Steering Group will continue to act as an advisory board and facilitate connection between

rabies stakeholders but will transition to include new members to address the evolving needs of the United Against Rabies Forum. United Against Rabies Members wishing to express interest in participating in the Steering Group should complete [this form](#) or contact [globalrabiescoordinator@woah.org](mailto:globalrabiescoordinator@woah.org).

During 2024 the United Against Rabies Forum will continue to engage with the wider rabies community through our webinars and newsletters to share news and events and highlight key outputs – and you can [sign up for our mailing list](#) on the United Against Rabies website.

We look forward to continuing to work with you, so please stay in touch and share your events, news, and updates by contacting us through our website, or on social media.

### **Membership**

United Against Rabies Forum membership is open to organisations committed to rabies control and elimination. Members are encouraged to promote and support the goals and activities of the Forum. Membership is free of charge and is valid for 3 years. Prospective members are encouraged to visit [www.UnitedAgainstRabies.org](http://www.UnitedAgainstRabies.org) or contact the Global Rabies Coordinator ([globalrabiescoordinator@woah.org](mailto:globalrabiescoordinator@woah.org)) for further information.

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[www.UnitedAgainstRabies.org](http://www.UnitedAgainstRabies.org)

*For further information about our work or membership, or to share any news or events, please write to [globalrabiescoordinator@woah.org](mailto:globalrabiescoordinator@woah.org)*

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