



United Against Rabies Forum

2025 Review

Key achievements of 2025

In 2025 the United Against Rabies Forum continued to serve as a global, multi-stakeholder platform to support progress towards the elimination of dog-mediated human rabies. The United Against Rabies Forum now brings together 97 organisations spanning national governments, international organisations, NGOs, academia, research institutes, private sector partners, and civil society. 41 countries are represented, including many with a high-burden of dog-mediated rabies and growing participation from Africa and Asia.

During 2025, the United Against Rabies Forum expanded and consolidated a range of practical tools and guidance to support national and regional rabies control and elimination efforts. Key outputs include:

- ✦ [The Global Monitoring and Evaluation Framework and Indicators;](#)
- ✦ [The National Strategic Plan Library;](#)
- ✦ [Guidance on cross-cutting approaches for rabies;](#)
- ✦ [Dissemination of monthly 'Scientific Watch Bulletin on Rabies';](#)
- ✦ [New episodes of the 'Rabies Today' podcast;](#)
- ✦ [#28DaysLater Social Media Toolkit;](#)
- ✦ ['Strengthening Rabies Surveillance: Where Do Lateral Flow Devices Fit?' webinar](#) and associated ['Overview of LFD Tests for Field Application'.](#)

Together, these outputs form an evolving, accessible resource base to support planning, implementation, coordination, and advocacy across the rabies community.

By the end of 2025, a number of countries and regions had reached tangible milestones in rabies control and elimination. Since the launch of 'Zero by 30' in 2018, 57 countries accessed high-quality dog rabies vaccines through the PAHO Revolving Fund or WOAHA Vaccine Bank since the launch of 'Zero by 30'; 31 countries have a national strategic plan publicly available through the [National Strategic Plan Library](#); four countries have now received WOAHA endorsement of official control programmes for dog-mediated rabies, including [Tanzania in 2025](#); one country has achieved WHO validation of zero human deaths from dog-mediated rabies; and 16 countries have self-declared rabies freedom to WOAHA.

Five countries have now applied for Gavi support to access human rabies post-exposure prophylaxis, and three countries are receiving comprehensive support through the United Against Rabies Country Partnership Programme.

At a regional level, the ASEAN Rabies Elimination Strategy was updated, and progress was made toward launching the Pan African Strategy to Eliminate Rabies in Africa, reinforcing political commitment and regional coordination toward the 'Zero by 30' goal.

Through its convening role, shared tools, and country-focused support, the United Against Rabies Forum continues to demonstrate its value as a platform for coordination, knowledge exchange, and collective action. In 2025, this included supporting new financing pathways for rabies prevention and control, strengthening surveillance discussions, and accelerating progress toward national elimination milestones. The United Against Rabies Forum will continue to refine and promote its resources to ensure they remain relevant, accessible, and responsive to country needs.

United Against Rabies Meeting 2025

The [2025 United Against Rabies Forum Meeting](#) was held from 7–9 October 2025 in Bangkok, Thailand, and was co-hosted by the Queen Saovabha Memorial Institute. The meeting was delivered as a hybrid event, enabling participation across regions and sectors.

Discussions highlighted that, while a wide range of tools and resources are available through the United Against Rabies Forum, awareness and uptake remain uneven. Participants emphasised the need for improved dissemination, clearer signposting, and stronger coordination to support the effective use of existing tools and guidance, including those supporting surveillance, vaccination, and community engagement.

The importance of improving visibility, alignment, and collaboration across the network was also emphasised. Stakeholders were encouraged to share information on their activities through the [United Against Rabies Partnership Map](#) to enhance transparency and coordination. Participants further highlighted the value of cross-sectoral collaboration and proactive engagement by members, including through the identification and [proposal of activities](#) that contribute to shared objectives.

Gaps in human and animal rabies surveillance were identified as a continuing challenge, reinforcing the need for strengthened data collection and reporting to support both implementation and advocacy. Discussions reinforced the role of FAO, WHO, and WOAAH reference laboratories and collaborating centres in supporting surveillance and laboratory capacity building, including through the United Against Rabies Country Partnership Programmes. Participants were also encouraged to apply standardised rabies case definitions with human and animal rabies case definitions compiled in the [Minimum Data Elements](#) document.

United Against Rabies in 2026

In 2026, the United Against Rabies Forum will focus efforts on supporting progress towards the ‘Zero by 30’ goal through more targeted and strategic engagement. This will include

prioritising support to countries that demonstrate strong potential to achieve elimination milestones, such as those that applied for Gavi investment for human post-exposure prophylaxis, received WOAAH endorsement for official control programmes for dog-mediated rabies, or are engaged in an ongoing United Against Rabies Country Partnership Programme.

Building on existing collaborations, the United Against Rabies Forum will strengthen engagement with UNICEF to leverage experience in community engagement, education, and advocacy, recognising the critical role of these approaches in sustaining rabies control and elimination efforts.

The United Against Rabies Forum will also continue to explore opportunities for resource mobilisation and long-term sustainability, with the aim of maintaining momentum, supporting coordinated action across partners, and ensuring the continued availability and relevance of tools and resources for stakeholders in the lead-up to 2030.

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 or contact the Global Rabies Coordinator (globalrabiescoordinator@woah.org) for further information.

www.UnitedAgainstRabies.org

For further information about our work or membership, or to share any news or events, please write to globalrabiescoordinator@woah.org

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