



# United Against Rabies Forum

## 2024 Review

### Priority areas and achievements of 2024

At the end of its fourth year of activities we are delighted to share that the United Against Rabies Forum now encompasses more than 90 organisations from a diverse range of sectors, with representation from 38 countries.

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 2024:

- [Partnership Map](#)
- [Scientific Watch Bulletin on Rabies](#)
- [Human to Dog Ratio and Dog Population Estimate Repository](#)
- [Rabies Today Podcast – Season 2](#)
- [Updated rabies courses](#)
- [United Against Rabies Newsletters](#)
- [Webinars \(Developing a National Strategic Plan for Rabies Control; Bite case management and rabies; Maximising impact and overcoming resource wastage in mass dog vaccination\)](#)

These resources, and others, are freely available on the United Against Rabies website ([www.unitedagainstrabies.org](http://www.unitedagainstrabies.org)). We are committed to keeping these resources up to date and relevant for you, and we welcome any [feedback or recommendations](#) on making these more useful.

The Forum consists of many experts who are willing and available to support rabies control and elimination efforts. Please contact [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 2024

The [2024 United Against Rabies Stakeholder Meeting](#) was held as a hybrid event, 23-25 September in Cape Town, South Africa, following the 8<sup>th</sup> World One Health Congress. 106 participants representing 38 countries attended in person.

Rabies cases continue to be drastically underreported, contributing to poor visibility of the true burden of the disease. The [United Against Rabies Forum Minimum Data Elements document](#) provides guidance on surveillance, data collection and reporting, and we encourage countries to utilise existing case definitions to ensure that cases are captured and reported. However, it is critical that rabies control and elimination activities are started – lack of data should not prevent action.

It is essential that communities and local authorities are integrated into governmental rabies control programmes, and we encourage countries to nominate a point of contact for rabies to facilitate coordination of partners and activities at a national and subnational level. The [United Against Rabies Forum National Strategic Plan Template](#) and [Template for Landscaping of Resource Partners for Rabies](#) can help map roles and responsibilities of stakeholders, and we encourage organisations to submit their activities to the [Partnership Map](#) to improve transparency and connection on a global scale.

This meeting highlighted the importance of investing in effective, scalable and sustainable dog vaccination campaigns that are well linked with investments in other rabies control and elimination activities. The [United Against Rabies Toolbox](#) includes tools to help plan and monitor dog vaccination campaigns, and the '[Dog vaccination – barriers and solutions](#)' guidelines

---

provides guidance on overcoming common challenges. Mass dog vaccination campaigns should use high-quality, safe and efficacious vaccines as [emphasised by the WOAAH Rabies Reference Laboratory Network \(RABLAB\)](#), and the [WOAH Vaccine Bank](#) can support countries in accessing these.

We are delighted to share that countries are beginning [to submit their applications to Gavi, the Vaccine Alliance](#), for support in accessing human rabies vaccines for post exposure prophylaxis (PEP). We encourage countries to use WHO Prequalified vaccines, implement intradermal regimes and utilise [risk assessment tools](#) to ensure biologicals are used prudently and contact WHO if support is required in developing applications for Gavi.

Following your recommendations, we are committed to supporting countries to build Public Private Partnerships and connecting Ministries of Health and Ministries of Agriculture with Ministries of Finance to explore possible funding opportunities. We will also endeavour to ensure that existing funding opportunities are aligned with partners that can support other complementary rabies control activities to maximise impact.

### United Against Rabies in 2025

In 2025 the United Against Rabies Forum will continue to 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 2025 priorities for the United Against Rabies Forum using this [activity proposal form](#).

Our webinars and newsletters will continue throughout 2025 and we encourage you to [sign up for our mailing list](#) and contact [globalrabiescoordinator@woah.org](mailto:globalrabiescoordinator@woah.org) if you have any for webinar topics or suggestions for news items.

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.

---

[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)*

### Follow us

[Twitter](#) | [Instagram](#) | [LinkedIn](#) | [Facebook](#) | [Youtube](#)

---