

Communities against Rabies Exposure (CARE) Project

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- 3) Sorsogon Provincial Veterinary Office-SPVO,
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- 5) Marikina City Veterinary Office-MCVO
- 6) Cainta Municipal Health Office-CMHO
- 7) Indonesia Directorate for Animal Health- IDAH

Inter-sectoral collaboration through the direct involvement and commitment of local authorities and community members are key to the successful implementation of a sustainable rabies prevention and control programme.

The Communities against Rabies Exposure (CARE) Project was implemented in 2012 in the Philippines (Provinces of Sorsogon and Ilocos Norte, City of Marikina, and Municipality of Cainta) and in 2014 in Indonesia (Nias Island in North Sumatra) through the support of the World Animal Protection and the UBS Optimus Foundation. The principal objective of the CARE approach is to enable a community-led and sustained effort towards the elimination of the threat of rabies in humans and dogs.

Project interventions included the following: recruitment of village volunteers for the conduct of mass dog vaccination and as rabies speakers in the community; creation of local rabies committees; enacting local ordinances to support the rabies programme; capacity building for laboratory, field and media personnel; development of stakeholder-specific communication materials; strengthening information sharing between medical and animal health personnel – a “one health approach” for early warning and rapid response for rabies suspect cases; and animal movement management campaign.

The value and impact of the CARE approach has been demonstrated. There were no human rabies cases reported while animal rabies cases decreased in most of the project sites in the Philippines during the course of the project. All indications are that community-led interventions against rabies will continue beyond the involvement of donor funding, offering the potential of sustained rabies control and elimination.