



2025 United Against Rabies Stakeholder Meeting

7 – 9 October 2025

This meeting is co-hosted by the Queen Saovabha Memorial Institute.

Venue: Room 302, Rattana Withayapat Building, King Chulalongkorn Memorial Hospital, Bangkok, Thailand

AGENDA

Please note that this agenda may be subject to change

Time	Session/Activities
	Tuesday 7 October 2025
8.30 – 9.00 AM	Registration of participants
9.00 – 9.45 AM	Welcome and opening address <ul style="list-style-type: none">- Prof. Visith Sitprija, Queen Saovabha Memorial Institute Overview of the United Against Rabies Forum and 2025 Priorities <ul style="list-style-type: none">- <i>Professor Lucille Blumberg, National Institute for Communicable Diseases, South Africa</i> Key 2025 United Against Rabies Forum outputs <ul style="list-style-type: none">- <i>Dr Rachel Tidman, World Organisation for Animal Health</i>
9.45 – 11.15 AM	Session 1: Engaging priority rabies-endemic countries and supporting the development and implementation of National Strategic Plans <p>This session will feature presentations from countries and regional organisations actively developing and implementing National Strategic Plans for rabies. Speakers will highlight how they are adapting strategies to national contexts, using United Against Rabies (UAR) tools and resources, and tackling common challenges such as ensuring access to vaccines, strengthening coordination, and scaling up interventions like dog vaccination. The presentations will also explore progress to date, persistent gaps, and how the UAR Forum can best support countries in advancing towards “Zero by 30.”</p> Moderated by Dr Pebi Purwo Suseno, Ministry of Agriculture, Indonesia <p>Presentations/speakers: Update on Thailand’s National Strategic Plan:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">- <i>Dr Weerapong Thanapongtharm, Department of Livestock Development, Thailand</i>

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	<p>Update on Malawi's National Strategic Plan (recorded):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - <i>Dr Julius Chulu, Department of Animal Health and Livestock Development, Malawi</i> <p>Update on African Regional Strategy for rabies elimination:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - <i>Dr Hiver Boussini, African Union Inter-African Bureau for Animal Resources</i> <p>India's National Rabies Control Program:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - <i>Dr V Jaya Chandra Reddy, Livestock Health, India</i> <p>Discussion: How can the United Against Rabies Forum support this priority area?</p>
11.15 – 11.45 AM	<i>Coffee break and networking*</i>
11.45 – 1.00 PM	<p>Session 2: Engaging local authorities and communities to prioritise rabies elimination at the local level</p> <p>Moderated by Dr Lucille Blumberg, National Institute for Communicable Diseases, South Africa</p> <p>Presentations/speakers:</p> <p>Internet of Good Things:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - <i>Speaker to be confirmed, UNICEF</i> <p>Engagement of Local Authorities in rabies control and elimination (virtual):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - <i>Dr Tara Singh Bam, Asia Pacific Cities Alliance for Health and Development</i> <p>Positive Cities Initiative and Dog Population Management:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - <i>Dr Elly Hiby, International Companion Animal Management Coalition</i> <p>Impactful Rabies Elimination Programs: Building Community Capacity:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - <i>Dr Andre Coetzer, Global Alliance for Rabies Control</i> <p>Discussion: How can the United Against Rabies Forum support this priority area?</p>
1.00 – 2.30 PM	<i>Lunch and networking*</i>
2.30 – 4.00 PM	<p>Session 3: Facilitating access to human PEP, including supporting the implementation of Gavi's strategy on rabies</p> <p>Moderated by Dr Bernadette Abela, the World Health Organisation</p> <p>Presentation/speakers:</p> <p>Update on the Gavi investment in rabies post-exposure prophylaxis:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - <i>Dr Simbarashe Mabaya, Gavi the Vaccine Alliance (virtual)</i>

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	<p>Thailand's Experience of Appropriate Post-Exposure Prophylaxis: A Model for Application:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - <i>Professor Terapong Tantawichien, Queen Saovabha Memorial Institute</i> <p>WHO tools and resources for appropriate use of rabies post-exposure prophylaxis:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - <i>Dr Bernadette Abela, World Health Organization</i> <p>UAR Country Partnership Programmes to boost rabies control efforts:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - <i>Dr Frederic Lohr, Mission Rabies</i> <p>Discussion: How can the United Against Rabies Forum support this priority area?</p>
4.00 – 5.00 PM	<i>Coffee break and networking*</i>
6.00 – 10.00 PM	<p><i>Baan Dusit Thani Restaurant, Bangkok</i></p> <p><i>Cocktail event and networking*</i></p> <p><i>Baan Dusit Thani Restaurant is a short walk from the meeting venue, but a shuttle will also be available for those who require it.</i></p>
	Wednesday 8 October 2025
9.00 – 10.30 AM	<p>Session 4: Promote improved surveillance, data sharing, and data reporting</p> <p>Moderated by Dr Gregorio Torres, World Organisation for Animal Health</p> <p>Presentations/speakers:</p> <p>Integrated Bite Case Management and Outbreak Response in the Philippines:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - <i>Dr Mary Elizabeth Miranda, Field Epidemiology Training Program Alumni Foundation, Inc, Philippines</i> <p>Tanzania's experience in data collection for WOAHP endorsement and Gavi application:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - <i>Dr Samwel Mngumi, Ministry of Livestock and Fisheries, Tanzania</i> <p>WOAH Rabies Reference Laboratory Network's (RABLAB) overview of LFD tests for field application (recorded):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - <i>Dr Paola De Benedictis, Istituto Zooprofilattico Sperimentale delle Venezie</i> <p>Discussion: How can the United Against Rabies Forum support this priority area?</p>
10.30 – 11.00 AM	<i>Coffee break and networking*</i>

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11.00 – 12.30 PM	<p>Session 5: Using film and social media for advocacy and resource mobilisation</p> <p>Moderated by Dr Alasdair King, Merck Animal Health</p> <p>Presentations/speakers:</p> <p>Overview of WHO, UNICEF and Gavi rabies film material and Reflection on #28DaysLater Campaign:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Ms Sarah Beeching, Oshun Partnership <p>War Tails Ukraine – please find here a link to the full video (password: Ple@seHe!p):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Mr Tim Kunin, Ms Khrystyna Drahomaretska, Greater Good <p>What we could do moving forward: Using film making to further the aims of UAR and rabies elimination:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Mr Chris Wilson, Zero30 Media <p>Discussion: How can the United Against Rabies Forum support this priority area?</p>
12.30 – 2.00 PM	<i>Lunch and networking*</i>
2.00 – 4.30 PM	<p>Field visit and side meetings*</p> <p>Participants are invited to visit the Queen Saovabha Memorial Institute (QSMI) Snake Farm, an institute specialising in antivenom production, research and public education, within a short walk from the meeting venue. Shuttle transport will also be available.</p> <p>While the site has no separate meeting rooms, space will be available in the main meeting room that afternoon for side-meetings or partner discussions for those not wishing to visit the Snake Farm. Please contact the Global Rabies Coordinator if you need help connecting with specific stakeholders.</p>
Thursday 9 October 2025	
9.00 – 10.30 AM	<p>Session 6: Planning for 2026 priorities</p> <p>The closing session will bring together discussions from across the meeting to assess whether the UAR Forum’s priority areas remain fit for purpose and responsive to stakeholder needs.</p> <p>Participants will reflect on progress achieved, identify persistent barriers, and consider how collective efforts can be better focused to accelerate towards Zero by 30.</p>

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	<p>The session will also define the activities and collaborations the network should prioritise over the next 12 months, ensuring the UAR Forum’s workplan for 2026 is both realistic and impactful.</p> <p>Moderated by Professor Lucille Blumberg, National Institute for Communicable Diseases, South Africa</p>
10.30 – 11.30 AM	<i>Coffee break and networking*</i>
11.30 – 12.30 PM	<p>Session 6: Planning for 2026 priorities continued</p> <p>Moderated by Professor Lucille Blumberg, National Institute for Communicable Diseases, South Africa</p> <p>Closing remarks</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Prof. Dr. Garmpimol C. Ritthidej, Queen Saovabha Memorial Institute
12.30 – 2.00 PM	<i>Lunch and networking, and departure*</i>

** Following feedback from previous United Against Rabies meetings, additional time has been included in the agenda to allow for networking and partner discussions. If you would like to connect with specific partners during this time, please contact globalrabiescoordinator@woah.org, who can help facilitate introductions.*

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