

United Against Rabies

From Bhutan to Sri Lanka: Passing the Baton towards Zero by 30

Hybrid from Colombo, Sri Lanka | 18 November 2026 | 90 minutes

Co-organized by WHO, WOA and FAO

Session

Welcome and objectives of the event
Opening remarks on behalf of the UAR

Setting the scene: Where does the Southeast Asia Region stand on Zero by 30?
Regional burden, progress, and the validation pathway for elimination of dog-mediated human rabies, WOA endorsement & vaccine bank

Session 1: Bhutan's journey to elimination

Key interventions (mass dog vaccination, PEP access, One Health surveillance, cross-border coordination), lessons learned, and sustaining rabies-free status

Passing the baton: Bhutan to Sri Lanka

Symbolic handover and group photo

Session 2: Sri Lanka, the next to reach zero?

Findings and recommendations of the 2025 external rabies programme review, actions taken since, and the roadmap to elimination

Session 3: Closing the gap and keeping the gains – experiences from PAHO

Remaining challenges and plan towards elimination, sustaining elimination efforts, keeping vigilant and avoiding fallbacks

Moderated discussion and Q&A: What it takes to cross the finish line

Sustained financing, dog population management, cross-border risk, community engagement, and maintaining status after elimination

Closing remarks on behalf of the UAR