# Fifth Meeting of the WHO South-East Asia Regional Verification Commission for measles and rubella

Meeting report 6–7 July 2020 (Virtual)



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#### **Acronyms**

COVID coronavirus disease

CRS congenital rubella syndrome

DQA data quality assessment

EPI Expanded Programme on Immunization

IVD Immunization and Vaccine Development

LQMS laboratory quality management system

MCV measles-containing vaccine

MR measles-rubella

MRCV measles and rubella-containing vaccine

NVC National Verification Committee

PT proficiency testing

RCV rubella-containing vaccine

RVC Regional Verification Commission

SEA South-East Asia

SEA-RVC South-East Asia Regional Verification Commission

SIA supplementary immunization activity

US CDC United States Centers for Disease Control and Prevention

UTC coordinated universal time

UNICEF United Nations Children's Fund

WHO World Health Organization

WHO HQ WHO headquarters

#### **Executive summary**

The Regional Verification Commission (RVC) for measles and rubella elimination for the WHO South-East Asia Region (SEA-RVC) was established by the Regional Director in March 2016 to verify progress towards measles and rubella elimination and rubella/congenital rubella syndrome (CRS) control in the Region.

The name of this Commission was changed in 2020 to "WHO South-East Asia Regional Verification Commission for measles and rubella elimination (SEA-RVC)" following the adoption of the resolution on "Measles and rubella elimination by 2023" by all Member States at the Regional Committee for South-East Asia in September 2019. The Fifth Meeting of the SEA-RVC was held virtually on 6–7 July 2020.

The key objective of the meeting was to review the country progress reports on measles elimination and rubella/CRS control, submitted by national verification committees (NVCs), and verify the progress made.

The methodology for review of individual country progress reports was based on the framework for verification of measles and rubella elimination in the Region endorsed by the SEA-RVC during its Fourth Meeting in 2019 and published in February 2020.

Following an extensive review of the reports, the SEA-RVC verified Maldives and Sri Lanka as having eliminated endemic rubella. The Commission also verified that measles elimination has been sustained in Bhutan, the Democratic People's Republic of Korea (DPR Korea), Maldives, Sri Lanka and Timor-Leste. It also categorized the remaining countries as endemic for measles and rubella. The SEA-RVC also recognized that significant progress has been made towards measles and rubella elimination in the remaining countries of the Region.

The SEA-RVC acknowledged the significant progress made by all countries in the Region towards measles and rubella elimination and requested the World Health Organization (WHO), NVCs and Member States to provide some additional country-specific information at the next meeting to ensure better review of progress towards achieving the 2023 goal of measles and rubella elimination in the SEA Region.

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