

REGIONAL STRATEGY AND PLAN OF ACTION for

# Measles and Rubella Elimination in the Western Pacific





# **Regional Strategy and Plan of Action for Measles and Rubella Elimination in the Western Pacific**

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# FOREWORD

I am pleased to present the *Regional Strategy and Plan of Action for Measles and Rubella Elimination in the Western Pacific*. Measles and rubella are serious diseases targeted for elimination in the Western Pacific Region, principally through the use of a highly effective and safe combined vaccine.

Since 2003 when the Regional Committee resolved to eliminate measles, the Region has succeeded in dramatically reducing measles morbidity and mortality through improving access to and utilization of measles-containing vaccine, strengthening immunization programmes and establishing surveillance systems and laboratory networks. However, a regional resurgence of measles from 2013 to 2016 revealed the need to better address a number of challenges not fully covered by existing strategic and guidelines documents.

In 2015, the Technical Advisory Group for Immunization and Vaccine-Preventable Diseases in the Western Pacific Region recommended that WHO update the *Western Pacific Regional Plan of Action for Measles Elimination (2003)* to include strategies for rubella elimination and guide Member States in developing new national plans to accelerate, achieve and sustain measles and rubella elimination. After a consultative development process, the Regional Committee endorsed the *Regional Strategy and Plan of Action for Measles and Rubella Elimination in the Western Pacific* in October 2017.

This new strategy and plan of action identifies a range of actions to better address remaining challenges for measles and rubella elimination in the Western Pacific Region. The strategy and plan of action is designed to be easily adapted for development of national plans of action for achieving and sustaining measles and rubella elimination, tailored to the specific strengths, challenges and issues faced by Member States. Recent experience in the Region has shown that to achieve measles and rubella elimination will require a shared effort across the Region to strengthen the ability of health systems to achieve and sustain high immunity to measles and rubella across the whole population, and strong systems exist to prevent, detect and respond to outbreaks.

With this new approach and renewed commitment, I am confident we can reach our shared goal of eliminating these two devastating, but preventable diseases from the Region.



Shin Young-soo, MD, Ph.D.  
Regional Director

## ABBREVIATIONS

AFR	acute fever and rash
AEFI	adverse event following immunization
CCDC	Chinese Center for Disease Control and Prevention
CRS	congenital rubella syndrome
DQS	data quality self-assessment
ELISA	enzyme-linked immunosorbent assay
EPI	Expanded Programme on Immunization
GSL	global specialized laboratory
IgG	immunoglobulin G
IgM	immunoglobulin M
IEC	information, education and communications
IPV	inactivated poliovirus vaccine
IU	international units
JRF	Joint Reporting Form
LabNet	laboratory network
LQAS	lot quality assurance sampling
MCV	measles-containing vaccine
MCV1	first dose of measles-containing vaccine
MCV2	second dose of measles-containing vaccine
MMR	measles, mumps and rubella (vaccine)
MMRV	measles, mumps, rubella and varicella vaccine
MNTE	maternal and neonatal tetanus elimination
MRCV	measles- and rubella-containing vaccine
MRCV1	first dose of measles- and rubella-containing vaccine
MRCV2	second dose of measles- and rubella-containing vaccine
MRI	Measles and Rubella Initiative
MR	measles-rubella (vaccine)
MV	monovalent measles vaccine
NMRL	national measles-rubella laboratory
NVC	national verification committee
OPV	oral poliovirus vaccine
PAHO	Pan American Health Organization

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