

Meeting Report

CONSULTATION ON REGIONAL MEASLES AND RUBELLA ELIMINATION IN THE WESTERN PACIFIC



19–21 April 2017
Manila, Philippines



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WORLD HEALTH ORGANIZATION
REGIONAL OFFICE FOR THE WESTERN PACIFIC

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MEETING REPORT

**CONSULTATION ON REGIONAL MEASLES AND RUBELLA
ELIMINATION IN THE WESTERN PACIFIC**

Convened by:

WORLD HEALTH ORGANIZATION
REGIONAL OFFICE FOR THE WESTERN PACIFIC

Manila, Philippines
19–21 April 2017

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NOTE

The views expressed in this report are those of the participants of the Consultation on Regional Measles and Rubella Elimination in the Western Pacific and do not necessarily reflect the policies of the conveners.

This report has been prepared by the World Health Organization Regional Office for the Western Pacific for Member States in the Region and for those who participated in the Consultation on Regional Measles and Rubella Elimination in the Western Pacific in Manila, Philippines from 19 to 21 April 2017.

ABBREVIATIONS

China CDC	Chinese Center for Disease Control and Prevention
CRS	congenital rubella syndrome
EPI	Expanded Programme on Immunization
IEC	information, education and communication
IgM	immunoglobulin M
MCV	measles-containing vaccine
MMR	measles–mumps–rubella
MR	measles–rubella
MRCV	measles–rubella containing vaccine
NVC	national verification committee
RCV	rubella-containing vaccine
RVC	Regional Verification Commission
SIA	supplementary immunization activity
SRVC	Subregional Verification Committee
TAG	Technical Advisory Group on Immunization and Vaccine-Preventable Diseases in the Western Pacific Region
VIDRL	Victorian Infectious Diseases Reference Laboratory

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Keywords:

Measles – prevention and control / Rubella – prevention and control / Disease eradication

SUMMARY

The Consultation on Regional Measles and Rubella Elimination in the Western Pacific was held on 19–21 April 2017 in Manila, Philippines. The Consultation was attended by 27 participants from 17 countries and areas; chairpersons from the Technical Advisory Group on Immunization and Vaccine-Preventable Diseases in the Western Pacific Region (TAG), Regional Verification Commission for Measles Elimination in the Western Pacific and Subregional Committee for the Verification of Measles Elimination in Pacific island countries and areas; 4 representatives of partner organizations; and 10 World Health Organization (WHO) staff members from the Regional Office for the Americas, Regional Office for Europe and Regional Office for the Western Pacific.

The participants discussed progress towards achieving measles and rubella elimination since the establishment of the measles elimination target date for the Western Pacific Region in 2005, the recent resurgence in measles in 2013–2016, as well as the challenges, issues and lessons learnt by countries and areas. Participants discussed the unrecognized burden of congenital rubella syndrome (CRS) in the Western Pacific Region due to rubella infection in pregnant women. Participants discussed in detail the strategies proposed in the draft regional strategy and plan of action for measles and rubella elimination. Finally, participants discussed possible target dates for regional rubella elimination.

The Consultation concluded that all countries and areas in the Western Pacific should act urgently to address the disease burden due to CRS by enhancing efforts to achieve progress towards rubella elimination. It was concluded that it is critical to establish the earliest achievable regional target year for rubella elimination as soon as possible to enhance the commitment of Member States and partners to rubella elimination in the Region. Acknowledging the target date of 2020 recommended by the TAG and set by the Global Vaccine Action Plan, the Consultation concluded that while many countries can achieve rubella elimination by 2020, some countries with particular challenges such as large and diverse populations will require a phased approach and need a slightly longer period to interrupt endemic rubella virus transmission.

The Consultation recommended that all countries and areas in the Western Pacific Region further collaborate and coordinate with other Member States, WHO and partners in achieving and sustaining measles elimination in the Region. A further recommendation was for all countries and areas in the Region to set a regional target year for rubella elimination as soon as possible to urgently address immunity gaps among current adolescents and young adults while they can be reached for

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