

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

*21–23 June 2022
Bali, Indonesia
Report of the Meeting*



World Health
Organization

South-East Asian Region

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Abbreviations and acronyms

COVID-19	coronavirus disease
CRS	congenital rubella syndrome
DQA	data quality assessment
EPI	Expanded Programme on Immunization
IEAG-MR	Indian Expert Advisory Group on Measles and Rubella
IgM	Immunoglobulin M
IVD	Immunization and Vaccine Development Department (of WHO SEARO)
LQMS	laboratory quality management system
MCV	measles-containing vaccine
MeaNS	measles nucleotide surveillance system
MR	measles–rubella
MRCV	measles and rubella-containing vaccine
NVC	National Verification Committee
PT	proficiency testing
RCV	rubella-containing vaccine
RubNS	rubella nucleotide surveillance system
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, Atlanta
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 seventh meeting of the SEA-RVC was held between 21-23 June 2022 in Bali, Indonesia.

The key objective of the meeting was to review the country progress reports on measles and rubella elimination, 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 received from nine NVC and the follow-up discussions and interactions with representatives of the NVCs of the nine countries, the commission verified that Measles Elimination has been sustained in Bhutan, Maldives, Sri Lanka and Timor-Leste. The commission could not evaluate the status of DPR Korea and Myanmar in the absence of the Annual progress report from their NVCs. The commission also verified that rubella elimination has been sustained in Maldives and Sri Lanka. The commission identified that rubella has been eliminated in Bhutan and Timor-Leste but will require additional evidence to verify elimination. The commission categorized the remaining countries as endemic for measles and rubella. The SEA-RVC also recognized significant progress made in remaining countries and acknowledged the impact of COVID-19 pandemic on the measles and rubella elimination activities across the Region.

The SEA-RVC acknowledging the significant progress made by all countries in the Region towards measles and rubella elimination 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

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