Elimination of Rubella and Congenital Rubella Syndrome in the Americas: Progress Report

140th Session of the Executive Committee
2003 & 2006 Directing Council Resolutions

Calls Member States to:

44th DC, September 2003
(g) “eliminate rubella and congenital rubella syndrome from their countries by the year 2010...”;

47th DC, September 2006
(a) “implement policies and operational strategies to meet the rubella and CRS elimination target by 2010...”;

Pan American Health Organization

  Chile 1999
  Costa Rica 2001
  Brazil 2001-2002
  Honduras 2002
  El Salvador 2004
  Ecuador 2004
  Nicaragua 2005
  Paraguay 2005
  Colombia 2005
  Bolivia 2006
  Argentina 2006
  Peru 2006
  Dominican Republic 2006
  Guatemala 2007

TOTAL: 116 million vaccinated
Keys to Success in Rubella Elimination Mass Vaccination Campaigns

• Political commitment and participation at the highest level
• Strong presence in the mass media
• Intensive social mobilization and local micro-planning
• Involvement of scientific societies, other social actors, and the media
• Timely and sustained technical support

Coverage (%)

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Source: Country reports.

*Vaccination of women and groups of men considered at high risk only.
Impact of Rubella and Measles Elimination Strategies
The Americas, 1980–2007*

Source: Country reports.
* Includes rubella and measles cases reported to PAHO as of epidemiological week 33/2007.
Integrated Measles-Rubella Surveillance Indicators, Region of the Americas, 2003-2007*

Source: Country reports.
* Data reported until epidemiological week 33/2007.
Budgetary Implications of Rubella Initiative, 2003-2010

Estimated initial cost (2003-2010): US$ 210 million

Total Financing: $212.9 million

Source: Rubella and CRS Elimination in the Americas: Plan of Action 2004-2010
Partners for Rubella and CRS Elimination
Added Value of the Rubella and CRS Elimination Initiative

- Strengthens health services for newborns, children, and adult men and women
- Reduces inequities in maternal health outcomes
- Fosters a culture of prevention
- Generates lessons learned which have implications for the introduction of future vaccines
- Provides essential experiences to facilitate the transition from child to family immunization
- Consistent with MDGs (#4 and #5)
Next Steps…

- Determine what are the necessary data requirements for countries to document rubella and measles elimination*

  - Considering:
    - Epidemiological data for rubella and CRS
    - Population immunity (vaccine coverage, routine, follow-up campaigns, adolescent and adult campaigns, post partum vaccination (post campaign)
    - Evaluation of rubella and CRS surveillance systems
    - Molecular epidemiology

- Formation of an international expert committee to independently verify the interruption of endemic transmission in the Americas

*Workshop held in San José, COR (May ’07) to begin development of protocol to document elimination
THANK YOU!

http://www.paho.org/immunization/