



international pediatric association
association internationale de pédiatrie
asociación Internacional de pediatria

Statement to the World Health Assembly 2014

Global Eradication of Measles, Rubella and Congenital Rubella Syndrome

International Pediatric Association

May 2014

Immunization programs have saved millions of lives, reduced disability and protected global health. The Global Vaccine Action Plan (GVAP) provides clear direction toward reaching all children. The IPA strongly supports its principles and its full implementation.

The Global Polio Eradication Initiative (GPEI) focuses priority attention to prevent the expanding terror of polio. Now, opportunity exists to eradicate measles, rubella and congenital rubella syndrome (CRS) in a manner that hastens GPEI, and strengthens national capacities for routine immunization (RI). The commitment by all six WHO Regions to achieve regional measles elimination on or before 2020 demonstrates the high priority that is now established for pursuing these goals.

Immunization programs stimulated by the Measles and Rubella Initiative (MRI) have reduced measles to 122,000 deaths per year and CRS with severe lifelong disability to about 130,000 cases per year. Measles and rubella epidemics remain severe challenge for every country but these tragedies are not inevitable. PAHO has demonstrated elimination of endemic measles and rubella via programs of RI and periodic supplemental immunization activities.

WHO clarified its recommendation on the use of rubella vaccine (RV) in 2011, leading an increasing number of countries to include this vaccine in their public health program. The GAVI Alliance committed >\$500 million to support introduction of RV for its eligible countries. Control/elimination/eradication goals are feasible in all the remaining WHO regions.

The IPA urges the WHA to adopt a strong resolution for global eradication of measles and rubella by 2020. GPEI and MRI synergies can help each member state better organize efficient introduction of new vaccines, reduce net health expenditures and reduce perceptions of competition by requiring the multi-year planning essential for sustainable success of the GVAP.

The International Pediatric Association (IPA) is a non-governmental organization with a membership of 144 National Pediatric Societies from 139 countries, 10 Regional Pediatric Societies representing all areas of the world, and 13 International Pediatric Specialty Societies. The IPA works collaboratively with member societies to mobilize networks of pediatricians for advocacy and programs in child health, working whenever possible with UN agencies. IPA works in close partnership with the American Academy of Pediatrics (AAP) on global vaccine priorities, and with AAP and the Albert B Sabin Vaccine Institute (SVI) on the Measles and Rubella Initiative.

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