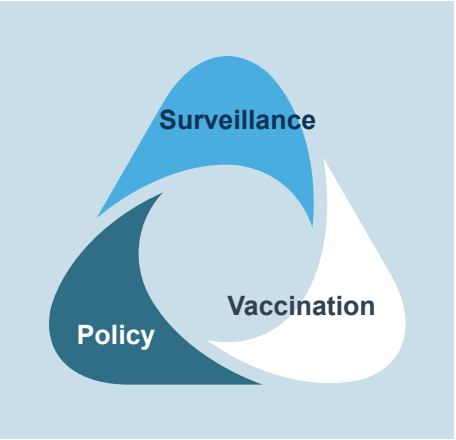
Combined Measles and Rubella Vaccine

Protecting Children from Death and Lifelong Disability

MEASLES & RUBELLA PARTNERSHIP

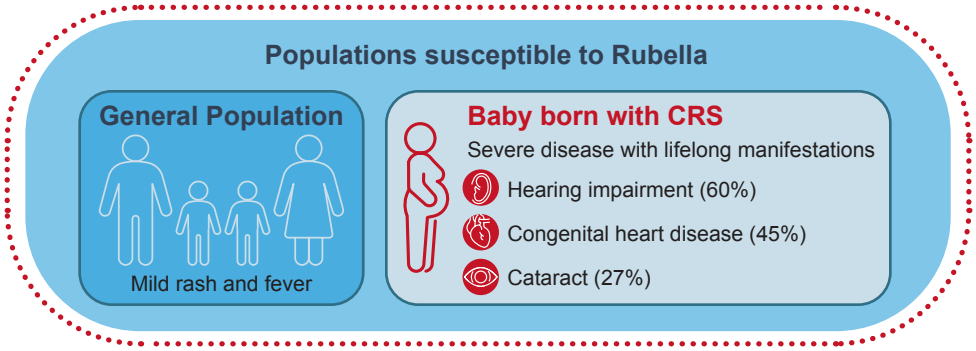
End Congenital Rubella Syndrome (CRS) on the Way to Measles Elimination

- Introducing the combined measles and rubella vaccine (MR) gives countries a cost-effective way to reduce the burden of CRS while the wide-age-range catch-up campaign helps make progress toward measles elimination.
- MR can also be distributed in five-dose vials which are proven to increase vaccination rates, especially in more remote regions.
- The delivery systems, policies, and surveillance are already in place to provide MR vaccine and monitor its impact on rubella and CRS.



90% of children born to women with rubella infection in early pregnancy are born with CRS

- CRS causes lifelong disabilities including hearing impairment, congenital heart disease, cataract, and impaired cognitive development.
- Vaccinating all children is the best way to prevent CRS. Immunizing children reduces rubella virus transmission to pregnant women and protects girls before they can become pregnant. Rubella vaccine is 95% effective and provides long-lasting immunity.



Eliminate Rubella and CRS

- Currently, 98 countries have achieved rubella elimination.
- The African Regional Committee established a goal that at least 80% of Member States will be verified for elimination of measles and rubella by 2030.
- To prevent CRS, WHO recommends that all countries introduce the combined measles and rubella vaccine into routine immunization programs and conduct a campaign to vaccinate children nine months to 15 years old.

Protecting Children from Rubella Reduces the CRS Burden

As access to combined measles and rubella vaccines has increased, CRS cases have declined.