

Zero-dose children:

Addressing inequity in routine immunization coverage in the Eastern Mediterranean Region

EM/RC72/6

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Eastern Mediterranean Region

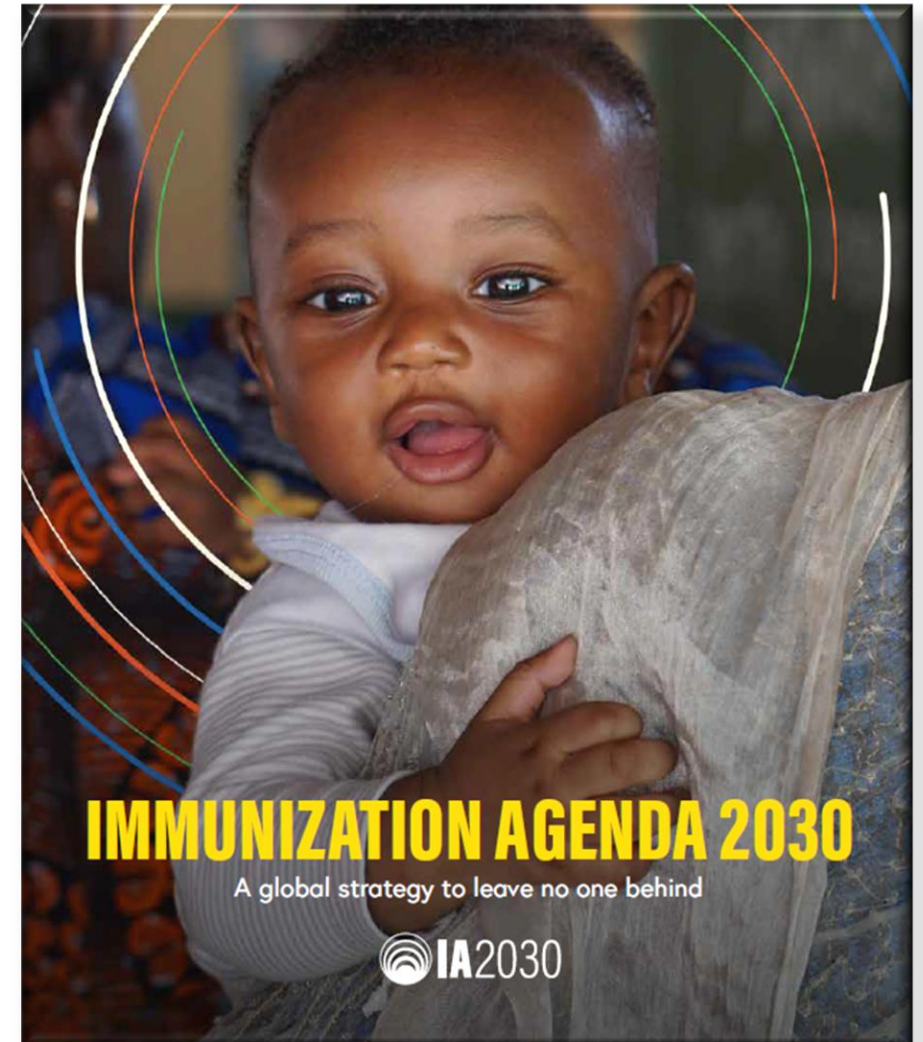


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Action. Access. Equity.

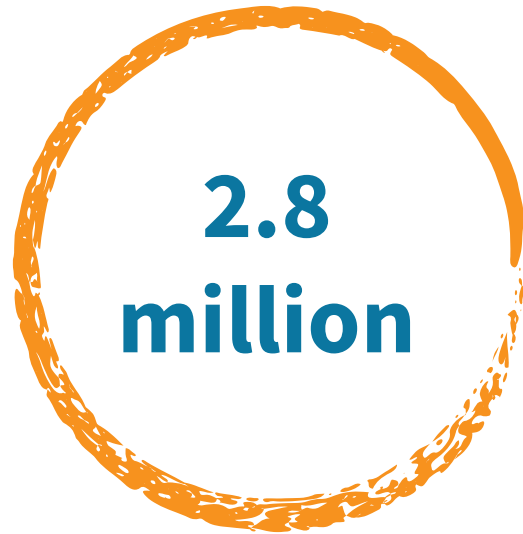
RC72

IA2030 – a global commitment

- IA2030 was endorsed by the Seventy-third World Health Assembly in November 2020 (WHA73/9)
- Reduction of zero-dose children and rubella elimination are among the impact goal indicators of the IA2030
- The Eastern Mediterranean Region to align with other WHO regions and have a regional rubella elimination goal



Annual burden of zero-dose children and congenital rubella syndrome in the Eastern Mediterranean Region



**Zero-dose
children**



**Congenital rubella
syndrome**

Data source:

CRS: [Estimates of the global burden of Congenital Rubella Syndrome, 1996-2019 – PubMed](#).

Measles: Eastern Mediterranean Region vaccine-preventable disease (VPD) surveillance database.

Zero-dose children: WUENIC estimates.

Rubella elimination

An achievable goal

- Similar epidemiology to measles
- Combination vaccine (MR*/MMR**) available
- Lower vaccination coverage required
- Synergy with measles elimination strategy

*MR: Measles-rubella

**MMR: Measles-mumps-rubella



Targets for the regional rubella elimination goal

- **Achieve and sustain rubella elimination** in low-incidence countries by 2030
- **Stop rubella outbreaks** in high-incidence countries by 2030
- **Achieve rubella elimination** in high-incidence countries by 2035



Timeline: Member States consultation

Preparatory phase

The technical paper and draft resolution sent to country technical teams for review

Informal consultation

Separate webinars for

Formal Member State consultation

May
2025

23 Jun.
2025

24 Jun.
2025

25 Jun.
2025

16 Jul.
2025

Gavi-eligible
countries

non-Gavi eligible
middle-income
countries

high-income
countries

Participants included national EPI managers, NITAG Chairs and members, country immunization partners and stakeholders

Member States consultation

Key feedback and outcomes



Support

for a regional
rubella
elimination goal



Emphasis

on risk for congenital
rubella syndrome
and service delivery
in fragile settings



Suggests

improved performance
measurement and
culturally-appropriate
interventions

Proposed resolution EM/RC72/R.2

URGES the Regional Director to:



continue

technical support for
Member States



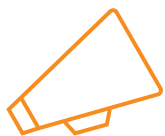
support

development and implementation
of zero-dose strategies



assist

in certification and
verification of
elimination of
vaccine-preventable
diseases (VPDs)



advocate

for resource
mobilization

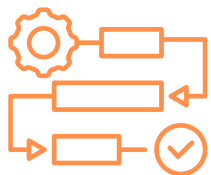


report

on progress to the Regional Committee annually on zero-
dose children and the eradication/elimination of VPDs

Proposed resolution EM/RC72/R.2

URGES Member States to:



implement

strategies to address
zero-dose children



enhance

surveillance and
early outbreak
detection



adopt

a rubella
elimination goal



report

on progress to the
RITAG* and RVC*
annually

*RITAG: Regional Immunization Technical Advisory Group

*RVC: Regional Verification Commission