CDC Measles-Rubella Elimination Team
--Vision and Mission--

• **Vision:** A world without measles and rubella

• **Mission:** Work with partners to achieve regional elimination goals
Global Immunization Division has staff in all WHO regions
Congressional Appropriations to CDC/GID, 1991-2017 ($224 M FY17)

- Measles and other vaccines
- Polio
Strategic Principle
“Measles-and-Rubella” elimination

“WHO recommends that countries take the opportunity offered by accelerated measles control and elimination activities to introduce rubella containing vaccines.”

Both diseases are similar fever-rash illnesses
• Suspected measles cases are also tested for rubella infection
• Suspected measles outbreaks can in fact be rubella outbreaks

Rubella elimination can be achieved using measles elimination strategies.

Measles & rubella are one vaccine
• No increase in cost for vaccine delivery
• Same vaccination schedule
• The cost per MR dose is ~$0.50 (vs. $0.25 for measles only)

Rubella easier to eliminate!
• Less infectious virus
• Vaccination is more effective
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Mandates and Objectives

• CDC’s Strategic Framework for Global Immunization 2016-2020:
  – Goal 1: Control, Eliminate or Eradicate VPDS to Reduce Death and Disability Globally
  – Priorities and Objectives
    • Measles and rubella/ congenital rubella syndrome (CRS) elimination
    • Eliminate measles and rubella virus transmission
    • Develop strategies to verify measles and rubella/CRS elimination; monitor progress
    • Use measles elimination strategies to strengthen immunization programs
• Regional Measles Elimination Goals
• Global Vaccine Action Plan (GVAP) goals: Measles elimination in 4 WHO regions by 2015 and 5 by 2020
Building Measles and Rubella Laboratory Network (GMRLN) on the Polio Laboratory & Surveillance Network (>700 labs)

- The GMRLN started in 2000, and is now the largest globally-coordinated laboratory network supporting surveillance in 191 countries.
- 723 GMRLN labs in 165 countries include:
  - 506 subnational
  - 180 national
  - 14 regional reference
  - 3 global specialized laboratories
- In 2015, 188 (97%) member states were implementing measles case-based surveillance.
- As of Mar 2016, the GMRLN sequence databases contained 27,984 entries for measles viruses and 1,555 entries for rubella viruses.
Genetic Characterization of Measles Viruses to Track Transmission

Global transmission of measles viruses from the Philippines, 2014