Achievements in the fight to stop measles and rubella.

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

2017: Milestones and Progress in the Global Fight Against Measles and Rubella

The Measles & Rubella Initiative’s (M&RI) efforts have helped save 21.1 million lives and reduced the estimated annual number of measles deaths worldwide to 20,000. However, further gains will require a concerted effort to improve vaccination coverage.

Sustaining the progress in the fight against measles is challenging—and the reason why the work of M&RI remains crucial to improving health and saving the lives of millions. Since its founding as an international partnership in 2001, the Initiative’s goals have remained the same, which are to:

- reach every child everywhere with safe, effective measles vaccines;
- work with country ministries of health to strengthen routine immunization systems;
- train and supply health workers;
- provide technical assistance to identify cases of disease and respond to outbreaks快速地;
- provide necessary financial funding.

The Initiative’s efforts to support routine vaccination and supplemental immunization campaign efforts resulted in the vaccination of 2.9 billion children in 80 countries from 2000 through 2016.

Progress against rubella and congenital rubella syndrome (CRS)

With more than 100,000 cases of CRS estimated each year, the M&RI is working with countries to increase vaccination coverage and surveillance systems to reach every child with the lifesaving vaccines.

These efforts are yielding positive results. The number of reported rubella cases dropped to 22,281 in 2017 from a high of 277,844 in 2000. This number is expected to continue to decline as the Initiative continues its efforts.

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