Global setbacks threaten gains made against rubella, measles

Progress towards more equitable protection against rubella and measles was seen in every region of the world but progress toward measles elimination ended and surveillance deteriorated in the early stages of the COVID-19 pandemic globally.

With the COVID-19 pandemic overwhelming national health systems and workers and halting routine immunization services in many countries, surveillance systems collapsed, interrupting data flows and causing delays in detection of outbreaks.

In 2020, the number of measles cases dropped to just under 150,000, the number to standardized quality-controlled laboratories. This drop was 99 percent – the largest annual increase of estimated missing cases since 2015. A major fraction of these cases were in just 10 countries: Afghanistan, Angola, Brazil, Democratic Republic of Congo, Eswatini, India, Myanmar, Pakistan and the Philippines.

The current situation with measles is the result of disruptions caused by the COVID-19 pandemic globally. With the COVID-19 pandemic overstretching national health systems and supply chains, and with COVID-19 related deterioration of immunization services, and surveillance systems to prevent measles transmission.

The number of never vaccinated children, referred to as the unimmunized, the highest number since 2009. Despite the setbacks in progress towards measles elimination, 24 supplementary immunization activities (SIAs) were conducted in 2020, well below the 85 percent coverage needed to ensure that all children, most of whom were children.

Progress towards measles elimination was already backsliding pre-pandemic. The reversal in routine immunization coverage caused by the COVID-19 pandemic came when measles was already having a devastating effect on communities, with a daily death toll of 300 to 400 children.

The outbreaks in 2019 came on the heels of stagnating measles and routine vaccination rates for a decade, with measles vaccination data and below the 85 percent coverage level needed to prevent outbreaks.

Progress towards rubella elimination goals

Despite the setbacks in progress towards measles elimination, 46 countries in 2020 reached 80 percent immunity, up from 70 percent in 2019. An estimated 23 million children were vaccinated in 2020, well above the 80 percent coverage level needed to prevent outbreaks.

Measles and rubella elimination targets will help drive progress towards global eradication of these two diseases.

With the COVID-19 pandemic overstretching national health systems and supply chains, and with COVID-19 related deterioration of immunization services, and surveillance systems to prevent measles transmission.

The number of never vaccinated children, referred to as the unimmunized, the highest number since 2009.

Despite the setbacks in progress towards measles elimination, 24 supplementary immunization activities (SIAs) were conducted in 2020, well below the 85 percent coverage level needed to ensure that all children, most of whom were children.

Progress towards measles elimination was already backsliding pre-pandemic. The reversal in routine immunization coverage caused by the COVID-19 pandemic came when measles was already having a devastating effect on communities, with a daily death toll of 300 to 400 children.

The outbreaks in 2019 came on the heels of stagnating measles and routine vaccination rates for a decade, with measles vaccination data and below the 85 percent coverage level needed to prevent outbreaks.

Progress towards rubella elimination goals

Despite the setbacks in progress towards measles elimination, 46 countries in 2020 reached 80 percent immunity, up from 70 percent in 2019. An estimated 23 million children were vaccinated in 2020, well above the 80 percent coverage level needed to prevent outbreaks.

Measles and rubella elimination targets will help drive progress towards global eradication of these two diseases.

With the COVID-19 pandemic overstretching national health systems and supply chains, and with COVID-19 related deterioration of immunization services, and surveillance systems to prevent measles transmission.

The number of never vaccinated children, referred to as the unimmunized, the highest number since 2009.

Despite the setbacks in progress towards measles elimination, 24 supplementary immunization activities (SIAs) were conducted in 2020, well below the 85 percent coverage level needed to ensure that all children, most of whom were children.

Progress towards measles elimination was already backsliding pre-pandemic. The reversal in routine immunization coverage caused by the COVID-19 pandemic came when measles was already having a devastating effect on communities, with a daily death toll of 300 to 400 children.

The outbreaks in 2019 came on the heels of stagnating measles and routine vaccination rates for a decade, with measles vaccination data and below the 85 percent coverage level needed to prevent outbreaks.

Progress towards rubella elimination goals

Despite the setbacks in progress towards measles elimination, 46 countries in 2020 reached 80 percent immunity, up from 70 percent in 2019. An estimated 23 million children were vaccinated in 2020, well above the 80 percent coverage level needed to prevent outbreaks.

Measles and rubella elimination targets will help drive progress towards global eradication of these two diseases.

With the COVID-19 pandemic overstretching national health systems and supply chains, and with COVID-19 related deterioration of immunization services, and surveillance systems to prevent measles transmission.

The number of never vaccinated children, referred to as the unimmunized, the highest number since 2009.

Despite the setbacks in progress towards measles elimination, 24 supplementary immunization activities (SIAs) were conducted in 2020, well below the 85 percent coverage level needed to ensure that all children, most of whom were children.

Progress towards measles elimination was already backsliding pre-pandemic. The reversal in routine immunization coverage caused by the COVID-19 pandemic came when measles was already having a devastating effect on communities, with a daily death toll of 300 to 400 children.

The outbreaks in 2019 came on the heels of stagnating measles and routine vaccination rates for a decade, with measles vaccination data and below the 85 percent coverage level needed to prevent outbreaks.

Progress towards rubella elimination goals

Despite the setbacks in progress towards measles elimination, 46 countries in 2020 reached 80 percent immunity, up from 70 percent in 2019. An estimated 23 million children were vaccinated in 2020, well above the 80 percent coverage level needed to prevent outbreaks.

Measles and rubella elimination targets will help drive progress towards global eradication of these two diseases.

With the COVID-19 pandemic overstretching national health systems and supply chains, and with COVID-19 related deterioration of immunization services, and surveillance systems to prevent measles transmission.

The number of never vaccinated children, referred to as the unimmunized, the highest number since 2009.

Despite the setbacks in progress towards measles elimination, 24 supplementary immunization activities (SIAs) were conducted in 2020, well below the 85 percent coverage level needed to ensure that all children, most of whom were children.

Progress towards measles elimination was already backsliding pre-pandemic. The reversal in routine immunization coverage caused by the COVID-19 pandemic came when measles was already having a devastating effect on communities, with a daily death toll of 300 to 400 children.

The outbreaks in 2019 came on the heels of stagnating measles and routine vaccination rates for a decade, with measles vaccination data and below the 85 percent coverage level needed to prevent outbreaks.

Progress towards rubella elimination goals

Despite the setbacks in progress towards measles elimination, 46 countries in 2020 reached 80 percent immunity, up from 70 percent in 2019. An estimated 23 million children were vaccinated in 2020, well above the 80 percent coverage level needed to prevent outbreaks.

Measles and rubella elimination targets will help drive progress towards global eradication of these two diseases.

With the COVID-19 pandemic overstretching national health systems and supply chains, and with COVID-19 related deterioration of immunization services, and surveillance systems to prevent measles transmission.

The number of never vaccinated children, referred to as the unimmunized, the highest number since 2009.

Despite the setbacks in progress towards measles elimination, 24 supplementary immunization activities (SIAs) were conducted in 2020, well below the 85 percent coverage level needed to ensure that all children, most of whom were children.

Progress towards measles elimination was already backsliding pre-pandemic. The reversal in routine immunization coverage caused by the COVID-19 pandemic came when measles was already having a devastating effect on communities, with a daily death toll of 300 to 400 children.

The outbreaks in 2019 came on the heels of stagnating measles and routine vaccination rates for a decade, with measles vaccination data and below the 85 percent coverage level needed to prevent outbreaks.

Progress towards rubella elimination goals

Despite the setbacks in progress towards measles elimination, 46 countries in 2020 reached 80 percent immunity, up from 70 percent in 2019. An estimated 23 million children were vaccinated in 2020, well above the 80 percent coverage level needed to prevent outbreaks.

Measles and rubella elimination targets will help drive progress towards global eradication of these two diseases.

With the COVID-19 pandemic overstretching national health systems and supply chains, and with COVID-19 related deterioration of immunization services, and surveillance systems to prevent measles transmission.

The number of never vaccinated children, referred to as the unimmunized, the highest number since 2009.

Despite the setbacks in progress towards measles elimination, 24 supplementary immunization activities (SIAs) were conducted in 2020, well below the 85 percent coverage level needed to ensure that all children, most of whom were children.

Progress towards measles elimination was already backsliding pre-pandemic. The reversal in routine immunization coverage caused by the COVID-19 pandemic came when measles was already having a devastating effect on communities, with a daily death toll of 300 to 400 children.

The outbreaks in 2019 came on the heels of stagnating measles and routine vaccination rates for a decade, with measles vaccination data and below the 85 percent coverage level needed to prevent outbreaks.

Progress towards rubella elimination goals

Despite the setbacks in progress towards measles elimination, 46 countries in 2020 reached 80 percent immunity, up from 70 percent in 2019. An estimated 23 million children were vaccinated in 2020, well above the 80 percent coverage level needed to prevent outbreaks.

Measles and rubella elimination targets will help drive progress towards global eradication of these two diseases.

With the COVID-19 pandemic overstretching national health systems and supply chains, and with COVID-19 related deterioration of immunization services, and surveillance systems to prevent measles transmission.

The number of never vaccinated children, referred to as the unimmunized, the highest number since 2009.

Despite the setbacks in progress towards measles elimination, 24 supplementary immunization activities (SIAs) were conducted in 2020, well below the 85 percent coverage level needed to ensure that all children, most of whom were children.

Progress towards measles elimination was already backsliding pre-pandemic. The reversal in routine immunization coverage caused by the COVID-19 pandemic came when measles was already having a devastating effect on communities, with a daily death toll of 300 to 400 children.

The outbreaks in 2019 came on the heels of stagnating measles and routine vaccination rates for a decade, with measles vaccination data and below the 85 percent coverage level needed to prevent outbreaks.

Progress towards rubella elimination goals

Despite the setbacks in progress towards measles elimination, 46 countries in 2020 reached 80 percent immunity, up from 70 percent in 2019. An estimated 23 million children were vaccinated in 2020, well above the 80 percent coverage level needed to prevent outbreaks.

Measles and rubella elimination targets will help drive progress towards global eradication of these two diseases.
In 2020, the number of completely unvaccinated children increased by 3.4 million.

An estimated 23 million children under the age of one year did not receive basic vaccines, which is the highest number since 2009.

In 2020, the reported number of measles cases dropped to just under 150,000. Measles incidence dropped to 22 per million.

The estimated number of measles cases in 2020 was 7.5 million.

Large and disruptive outbreaks were reported in 26 countries, 17 of which occurred in the Africa region. These large outbreaks suggest that measles cases were likely underestimated in 2020, likely due to COVID-19 effects. Measures to mitigate COVID-19, such as social distancing and mask use, may have also helped prevent measles transmission.

WHO European Region could soon be the second region in the world to achieve verified rubella elimination status, following the Region of the Americas in 2015.

Global coverage for measles dropped from 86% in 2019 to 83% in 2020.

111,903 specimens were tested for measles.
96,728 specimens were tested for rubella.

32 countries vaccinated nearly 129 million children during supplemental immunization activities with WASH financial support.

111,903 specimens were tested for measles.
96,728 specimens were tested for rubella.

149,796 measles cases in 2020.
32 countries vaccinated nearly 129 million children during supplemental immunization activities with WASH financial support.

UNICEF procured and delivered 162 million doses of measles vaccines on behalf of 71 countries in 2020.

179 countries (92%) including Nigeria, introduced a 2nd dose of the measles vaccine in their immunization schedule.

173 countries (89%) provided rubella vaccines in their immunization schedule, up from 65 countries in 1996.

In 2020, the number of completely unvaccinated children increased by 3.4 million.

An estimated 23 million children under the age of one year did not receive basic vaccines, which is the highest number since 2009.

In 2020, the reported number of measles cases dropped to just under 150,000. Measles incidence dropped to 22 per million.

The estimated number of measles cases in 2020 was 7.5 million.

Large and disruptive outbreaks were reported in 26 countries, 17 of which occurred in the Africa region. These large outbreaks suggest that measles cases were likely underestimated in 2020, likely due to COVID-19 effects. Measures to mitigate COVID-19, such as social distancing and mask use, may have also helped prevent measles transmission.

WHO European Region could soon be the second region in the world to achieve verified rubella elimination status, following the Region of the Americas in 2015.

Global coverage for measles dropped from 86% in 2019 to 83% in 2020.

111,903 specimens were tested for measles.
96,728 specimens were tested for rubella.

32 countries vaccinated nearly 129 million children during supplemental immunization activities with WASH financial support.

UNICEF procured and delivered 162 million doses of measles vaccines on behalf of 71 countries in 2020.

179 countries (92%) including Nigeria, introduced a 2nd dose of the measles vaccine in their immunization schedule.

173 countries (89%) provided rubella vaccines in their immunization schedule, up from 65 countries in 1996.