

مشروع قرار

Draft resolution

**REGIONAL COMMITTEE FOR THE
EASTERN MEDITERRANEAN**

**EM/RC72/R.2(D)
September 2025**

**Seventy-second session
Agenda item 5(a)**

Zero-dose children: addressing inequity in routine immunization coverage in the Eastern Mediterranean Region

The Regional Committee,

Having reviewed the technical paper on zero-dose children: addressing inequity in routine immunization coverage in the Eastern Mediterranean Region;¹

Recognizing that zero-dose children remain disproportionately concentrated in marginalized, conflict-affected and underserved settings, and are at heightened risk of vaccine-preventable diseases, including measles, rubella, poliomyelitis and diphtheria;

Noting that reaching zero-dose children is a key priority under the Immunization Agenda 2030 (IA2030), and that strengthening routine immunization systems is essential to achieving universal health coverage;

Recalling resolution EM/RC44/R.6 on regional measles elimination, and recognizing that rubella elimination is both technically and programmatically feasible through integrated strategies using existing measles infrastructure;

Recognizing further that 18 countries in the Region have introduced rubella-containing vaccine, yet rubella and congenital rubella syndrome (CRS) remain endemic in several countries;

Acknowledging the opportunity provided by the 2024 recommendation of the Strategic Advisory Group of Experts on Immunization (SAGE) to accelerate rubella elimination, including in countries that have not yet achieved high coverage of measles-containing vaccine;

1. URGES Member States to:

- 1.1 Adopt, implement and sustainably finance national policies and strategies to identify, reach and vaccinate zero-dose children, with a focus on the most marginalized populations, through strengthened primary health care systems, community engagement, culturally appropriate approaches including addressing gender equality, and the use of innovation and technology to ensure continued connection to health services beyond immunization;

¹ EM/RC72/6.

- 1.2 Enhance surveillance to ensure timely and effective outbreak investigation and response for measles and rubella in endemic countries and in countries verified as having eliminated these diseases in the event of reintroduction;
- 1.3 Reaffirm national commitments to measles elimination, for example arising from resolution EM/RC44/R.6, adopt a regional goal for rubella and CRS elimination, and implement rubella and CRS elimination strategies to:
 - 1.3.1 Achieve and sustain rubella elimination in low-incidence countries by 2030;
 - 1.3.2 Stop rubella outbreaks in high-incidence countries by 2030; and
 - 1.3.3 Achieve rubella elimination in high-incidence countries by 2035;
- 1.4 Report annually on progress in reducing the number of zero-dose children to the Regional Immunization Technical Advisory Group (RITAG), and on progress towards measles and rubella elimination to the Regional Verification Commission for Measles and Rubella (RVC-MR);

2. REQUESTS the Regional Director to:

- 2.1 Continue to provide technical support to Member States in strengthening the technical and managerial capacities of their national immunization programmes;
- 2.2 Support Member States in the development and implementation of strategies to reduce the number of zero-dose children by enhancing the delivery and reach of primary health care services;
- 2.3 Assist Member States in developing strategies and documenting evidence for certification, verification and validation of eradication, elimination and control of targeted vaccine-preventable diseases;
- 2.4 Intensify advocacy and resource mobilization efforts and strengthen partnerships with global and regional agencies to support national immunization programmes and safeguard regional immunization achievements;
- 2.5 Report annually to the Regional Committee on progress in reducing the number of zero-dose children and in achieving the eradication and elimination of vaccine-preventable diseases, as part of the annual progress report on implementation of IA2030 in the Eastern Mediterranean Region.