

 **MEASLES
& RUBELLA**
INITIATIVE

2015 **ANNUAL SUMMARY**



2015 IN NUMBERS



178,000,000
children

vaccinated against measles or measles-rubella in 2015 in **39 countries**



307,230,190

doses of measles containing vaccine were procured¹



83% of measles

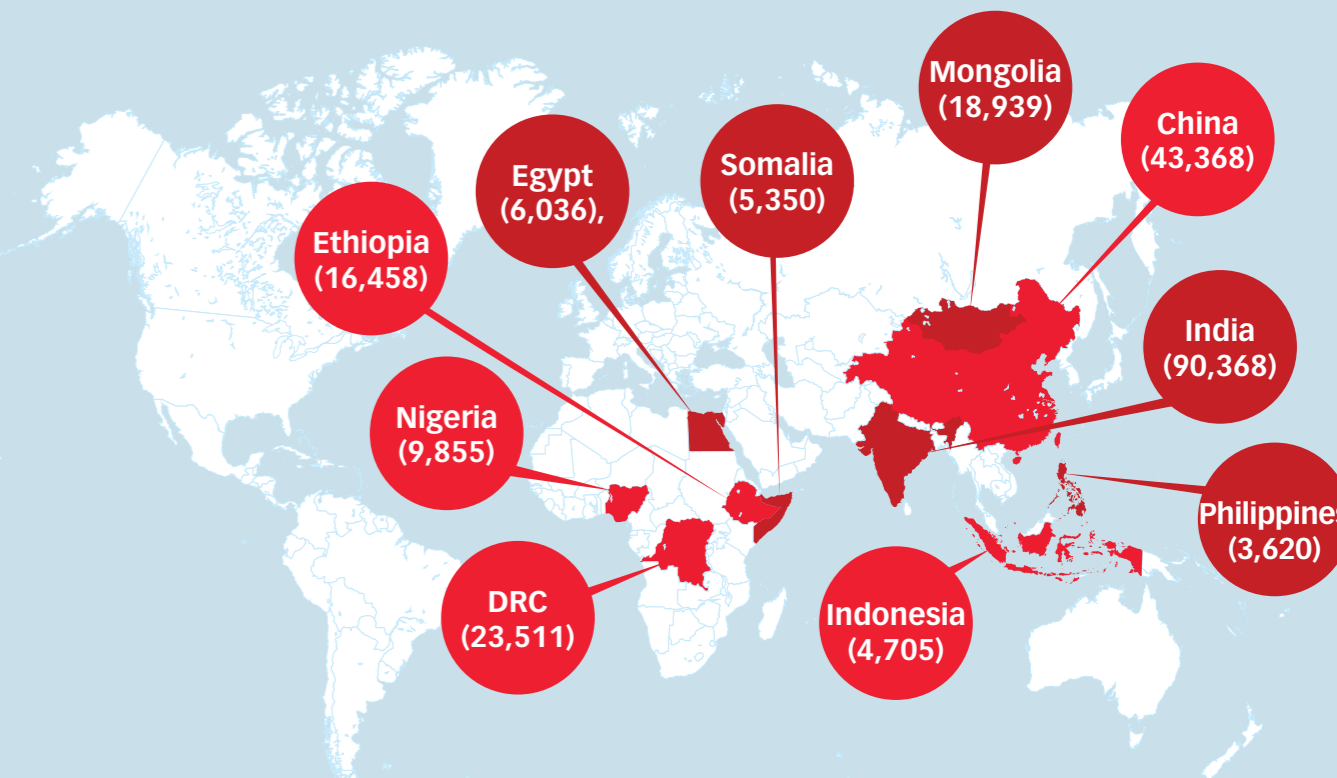
SIAs delivered additional health interventions including oral polio vaccine, vitamin A, deworming medication, tetanus toxoid and rubella vaccination



\$15.6 million

spent in **eight countries** utilizing the **Outbreak Response Fund (ORF)** - Democratic Republic of the Congo, Djibouti, Ethiopia, Kyrgyzstan, Liberia, Nepal, Sudan, Somalia. The ORF helped vaccinate more than **9.3 million children under emergency conditions.**

The countries with the largest number of reported measles cases to September 2015 are:



658,558
volunteers

mobilized their communities



112,461

rubella samples tested



In Uganda, Lions Clubs members held **33 district meetings** and funded **1,134 radio ads** in local languages



Rubella vaccine has been introduced into the routine immunization schedule in **157 countries (76%)** with 11 more countries expected to do so in 2016



656,763

healthcare workers activated **253,568 vaccination sites**



146,925

measles samples tested



159 countries (82%)

have introduced **measles second dose** to their routine immunization schedule



In Papua New Guinea, the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints mobilized **3000 volunteers** and funded **1.2 million SMS messages**



122 countries (63%) have immunization coverage **>90%** with the first dose of measles containing vaccine



Between 2000 and 2014, **measles mortality dropped 79% globally.**

Africa has the largest gains with an estimated **86% drop** in measles mortality.

Measles Supplementary Immunization Activities 2015 by WHO Region:

Africa: Benin, Cameroon, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Eritrea, Ethiopia, Guinea, Guinea-Bissau, Liberia, Malawi, Mali, Niger, Nigeria, Sierra Leone, Togo, Uganda, Zimbabwe **Americas:** Chile, Dominican Republic **Eastern Mediterranean:** Afghanistan, Djibouti, Egypt, Iran, Iraq, Pakistan, Saudi Arabia, Somalia, Sudan, Syria, United Arab Emirates, Yemen **Europe:** Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan **South East Asia:** Myanmar, Nepal, Timor Leste **Western Pacific:** Mongolia, Papua New Guinea, Vanuatu, Viet Nam

¹In addition to scheduled SIAs, total procurement of measles/measles-rubella vaccine includes outbreak response vaccination and humanitarian emergencies in 2015

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

2015 WAS A PIVOTAL YEAR IN THE GLOBAL FIGHT AGAINST MEASLES AND RUBELLA.

Not only was measles incidence down from 2014, but the number of measles-related deaths decreased an estimated 79% from 2000, accounting for 17.1 million lives saved due to measles vaccination. This is staggering proof that highlights the immense work that countries and our many dedicated partners have put forth to maintain high levels of control despite a number of large outbreaks.

And let's not forget some truly remarkable news. In 2015, the Americas became the first WHO region to be declared free of endemic transmission of rubella, a contagious disease causing multiple birth defects as well as fetal death when contracted by women during pregnancy. This accomplishment is the culmination of 15 years of incredible work, proving that a vaccine preventable disease can be eliminated with existing strategies that the Measles & Rubella Initiative (M&RI) has worked tirelessly to implement.

The 2015 summary shows just what it takes to realize these gains. For instance, 178,000,000 children were vaccinated against measles or measles-rubella in 39 countries with the help of more than 653,000 health care workers. The M&RI either supported these activities financially or provided technical assistance in each instance. More than 658,000 volunteers were mobilized from key partners including the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, the Lions Clubs International, and the Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies. This is what it takes to reach every last child whether they're in an urban slum or mountainous region.

It also takes reliable and sufficient funding to plan and implement high-quality successful measles elimination activities. Unfortunately, in recent years M&RI has seen significant funding shortfalls. In 2015, there was a \$47 million dollar funding gap resulting in 40 million children not being vaccinated due to delayed campaigns or scaled back activities. This is far too many when measles is a major cause of child deaths globally with more than 115,000 deaths per year, and rubella remains the leading infectious cause of birth defects affecting more than 100,000 newborns per year.

Other significant challenges persist, including sub-optimal country ownership of national immunization programmes, sustaining immunization in emergencies, improving surveillance and the battle against 'vaccine hesitancy' in some communities. None of this is insurmountable as

measles and rubella elimination is imminently achievable if we make a commitment to work together. We know this from the experience of the Americas and as the Western Pacific Region marches steadily towards measles elimination.

A major step forward in addressing the under-funding impeding global progress to meeting established measles and rubella elimination goals was announced in late 2015 to close out the year. Gavi, the Vaccine Alliance approved a new support package increasing its commitment from US\$ 600 million to US\$ 820 million. This financial boost will benefit Gavi-eligible countries with funding to conduct periodic follow up measles/measles-rubella supplementary immunization activities for children under five years of age. It also provides support for a one time catch up vaccination campaign targeting children under 15 years of age to another 50 Gavi-eligible countries yet to introduce rubella-containing vaccine to their schedules.

The Gavi strategy complements the work that the M&RI has been coordinating globally since 2001 as our work continues apace with the verification process of measles and rubella elimination, surveillance through a network of more than 700 laboratories and outbreak response which funnelled US \$15.6 million to eight countries.

Together with governments, our work for the past 15 years to end measles and rubella is at a tipping point and 2015 saw breakthroughs that must be capitalized upon. We know what needs to be done to ensure that the current 115,000 deaths per year that still occur from measles, and the approximately 100,000 babies born with congenital rubella syndrome are brought to an end, but only with political commitment, partnership and financial investment on our side.

We have committed to move faster to end measles and rubella. Let's move faster, together, in 2016.

The Measles & Rubella Initiative Partners

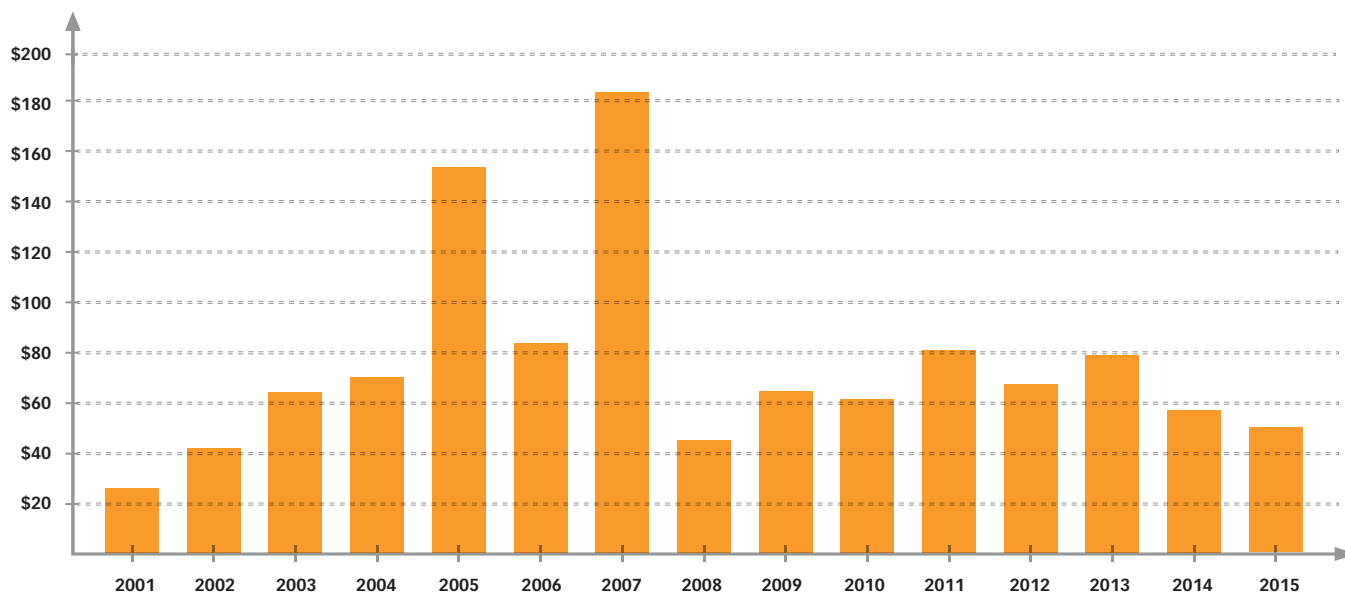


www.MeaslesRubellaInitiative.org

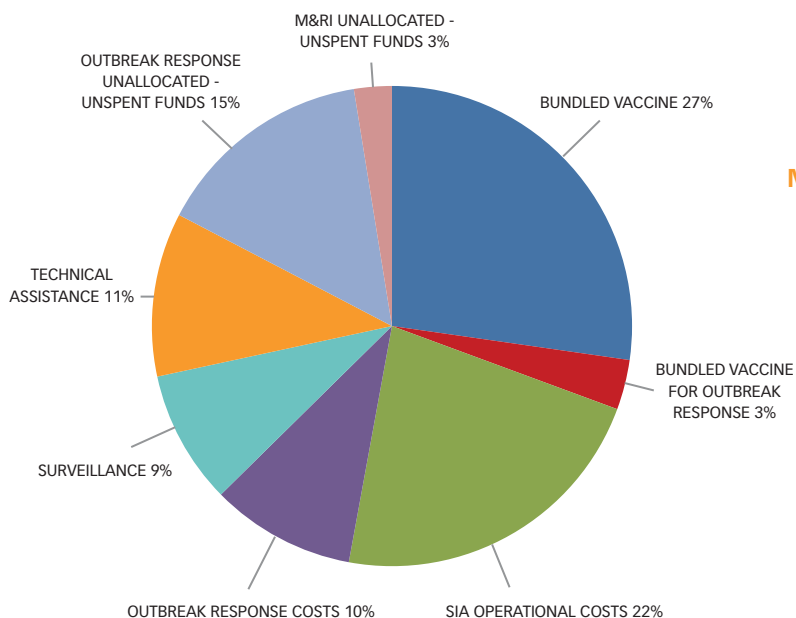
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FINANCIALS

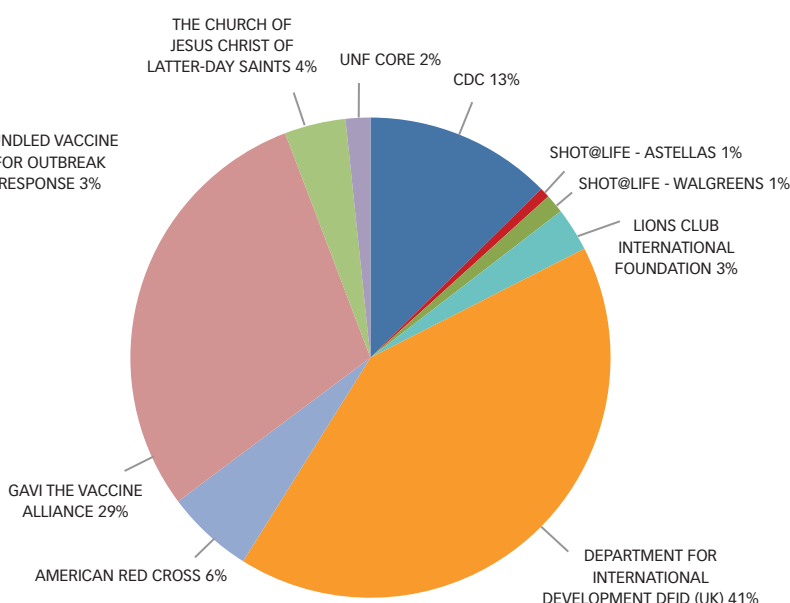
CUMULATIVE DONATIONS 2001 TO 2015 = USD\$ 1.15 BILLION • TOTAL CONTRIBUTIONS TO M&RI BY YEAR



USE OF M&RI FUNDS 2015: USD\$ 52 MILLION



M&RI DONORS 2015: USD\$ 52 MILLION



KEY SUPPORTERS OF THE M&RI INCLUDE COUNTRIES AND GOVERNMENTS AFFECTED BY MEASLES, RUBELLA AND CRS, AND THE FOLLOWING:

American Academy of Pediatrics, American Red Cross, Anne Ray Charitable Trust, BD, Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation, Canadian International Development Agency (CIDA), Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints, Gavi, the Vaccine Alliance, Global Payments, Inc., Herman and Katherine Peters Foundations, IFPMA, International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies, International Pediatric Association, Izumi Foundation, Japanese Agency for Development Cooperation (JICA), Lions Clubs International, Merck Co. Foundation, Norwegian Ministry of Foreign Affairs, ONE Campaign, Red Cross and chapters, Rockefeller Foundation, Sabin Vaccine Institute, Shot@Life, Task Force for Global Health, UK Department for International Development, Vodafone Foundation, World Bank, Women's National Basketball Association, and many individual private donors.