

Summary of Program in Armenia

Elimination of Measles and Congenital Rubella Syndrome (CRS)

Partners: Armenian Ministry of Health, WHO, UNICEF, U.S. Department of State

- 2008 marks the fourth year of the successful cooperation of the VRF and the Ministry of Health to eradicate measles and prevent congenital rubella syndrome in Armenia.
- The VRF supplies the country with 50% of the annual requirement for the vaccine against measles, mumps, and rubella (MMR). UNICEF supplies the other 50%.
- The routine vaccination against MMR covers all children aged 12 months and 6 years (about 70,000 children every year).
- To accelerate the eradication of measles and the prevention of congenital rubella syndrome in the country, the VRF partnered with the Ministry of Health, UNICEF, the World Health Organization (WHO) and the U.S. Department of State to conduct a mass immunization campaign against measles and rubella in October 2007.
- All individuals in Armenia ages 6 years to 27 years - a total of 924,000 individuals representing a vaccination coverage rate of 98% - were vaccinated against measles and rubella in October 2007.
- The VRF supported the campaign by financing and organizing the social mobilization of the targeted population (in particular, preparation of printed material i.e. posters, leaflets for the general population; methodological support for health professionals; video reels, TV programs, printing and posting of external advertisements, and banners)
- Following the mass immunization campaign, the VRF is continuing to support the routine vaccination of children against MMR to ensure that the country remains free of measles and rubella.

Sustainability: The Armenian Ministry of Health will finance 100% of the children's vaccination program against MMR starting January 2010.