Although the country has achieved 98% reduction of measles and rubella incidence, it needs to maintain high quality case-based surveillance, close the MR gaps rapidly and implement the planned campaigns in 2019. Future funding must also be secured to support MR surveillance, RI and SIAs. The success of Nepal’s health history is a reason to believe that it has successfully controlled rubella.
High MR1 coverage (~90%) is the backbone of the high impact immunization interventions. Rubella cases have been reduced by 98% in 2017 compared to its base year 2008. This has been made possible by the joint efforts of political leaders, health workers, community members and international organizations. Population immunity in the general population has also been sustained at relatively high levels, thus giving a rubella-free legacy to the future generations.

Measles and rubella/CRS surveillance

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**Significant events**

- **1988**: MCV1 introduced as part of its Expanded Programme on Immunization (EPI).
- **2004**: Outbreak surveillance started.
- **2004**: Mandatory reporting on measles and rubella started.
- **2012**: Full immunization declarations initiative introduced. MR campaign conducted (9 months–15 years).
- **2013**: MRCV1 (with rubella component) introduced in routine immunization (RI).
- **2015**: Second dose of MRCV2 introduced in EPI. National Verification Committee formed. Subnational level SA (MR vaccines) conducted (6–59 months).
- **2016**: Subnational-level SA (MR vaccines) conducted (6–59 months). National Public Health Laboratory last accredited.
- **2018**: Verification that Nepal has adequately controlled rubella and CRS.

**Notes:**
- As per current federalization structure, district structure is kept. However, two districts Nawalparasi and Rukum are divided. Nawalparasi district declared FID in 2014, whereas did not declare FID in 2015 and 2016. The districts are kept in the map as FID districts.
- *Main office* 1
*Field offices* 15
*Active surveillance sites* 79
*Weekly reporting sites* 735
*Informers* 1,149

**MR vaccination coverage and no. of confirmed rubella cases**

*Includes laboratory-confirmed and clinically compatible cases.

**Source:** Country report and WHO UNICEF estimates of national immunization coverage series.
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The success of Nepal's health history is a reason to believe that it has successfully controlled rubella.

What made Nepal successful in controlling rubella?
- Strong leadership
- Careful planning and implementation
- Strong health system
- A passionate workforce that took ownership of the programme
- Community participation
- Quality assurance
- Careful monitoring

Immunity profile by birth cohort in Nepal, 2017

- 100% Immune due to past infection
- 100% Protected by routine vaccination
- 83% Protected by maternal antibodies
- 12% Susceptible

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Rubella at a Glance
Nepal, 2018

Sustainability indicators
- Evidence of monitoring and review of progress and corrective action taken
- Well-planned, - implemented and - evaluated work plans at all levels
- Provision of additional vaccination programs to the national and subnational level
- Quality assurance
- Capacity for epidemiological investigation and analysis of outbreaks at the national and subnational level
- National measles, rubella and rubella control campaign plans or equivalent available
- Sustained funding for laboratory and logistics procurement
- Sustainability indicators

*Based on a modelled output from the Measles Strategic Planning Tool