BANISHED from Bhutan

Measles: A Killer Nailed
This is the story of how the Republic of Maldives led the way in eliminating Measles.
During the 1950s, Measles afflicted most children in Maldives
In 2000, WHO estimated that Measles accounted for 5% of under-five deaths globally.
Reducing this number was closely linked to the Millennium Development Goal 4
Then in 2013, the Regional Committee for WHO South-East Asia Region set the target of eliminating Measles from the region by 2020.
Maldives not only eliminated Measles, but led the way in doing so...
How did Maldives do this?
There were many factors that contributed to Maldives’ success…
Strong leadership
Constitutional guarantees with well backed National Immunization Policy
Visionary policy and planning at all levels
Key plans include:

• Comprehensive Multi-Year Plan (cMYP)
Financial commitment

Complete health financing by the government
Effective partnerships with:

- UN agencies
- International partners
- Government ministries
- Local health authorities
All ensuring immunization services are available at all health facilities.
Husnuvaa Aasandha – unlimited health insurance – launched in 2014
WHO has been a partner in the National Immunization Programme from the time of smallpox eradication till date.
Assuring health infrastructure and care at every island of the country
INDIRA GANDHI MEMORIAL HOSPITAL
WHO accredited in 2010 and 2014   Measles serology testing
Timely and accurate diagnosis of Measles
Counselling to complete vaccination and for healthy growth of a child
Atolls have adequate facilities for maintaining cold chain of vaccines.
Ownership of the immunization programme at the peripheral level
Passionate & committed health staff
More than 98% coverage of Measles vaccine at routine immunization in the last decade
Immunization teams deliver service at "hard-to-reach areas"
Quality assurance
Cold chain, logistics, safety and waste management
Measles made a notifiable disease
Supplementary immunization campaigns
Immunization campaigns
Community acceptance to Measles mass campaigns
Every individual has a part to play to eliminate MEASLES from our nation.

WE support
Measles and Rubella Campaign held in schools in partnership with Ministry of Education
Supervision, monitoring and timely action
Mobile health approach– an extremely successful initiative in the context of Maldives
Significant events
1976
National Programme on Immunization and Travel Health (NPITH) launched
1983
MCV 1 introduced in NPITH
1985
EPI launched
2000
Measles serology started in Indira Gandhi Memorial Hospital (IGMH)
2005
Outbreak;
Second Measles
campaign (MR)
2007
MCV 2 introduced in RI
2009
Last endemic Measles cases
2017
MR replacing Measles-only vaccine at 9 months
National Verification Committee formed
Validation of Measles elimination by RVC
On 20 April 2017, the WHO South-East Asia Verification Committee certified, based on the evidence submitted, that Maldives has...
Eliminated endemic Measles
The elimination of Measles from Maldives is a gift to the future generations.
Measles Elimination Sustainability Plan has been rolled out: Goodbye endemic Measles