



Pan American Health Organization



*Regional Office of the
World Health Organization*

Elimination of Rubella and Congenital Rubella Syndrome in the Americas: Progress Report

**140th Session of the Executive Committee
Washington, D.C., 25-29 June, 2007**

2003 & 2006 Directing Council Resolutions

Calls Member States to:

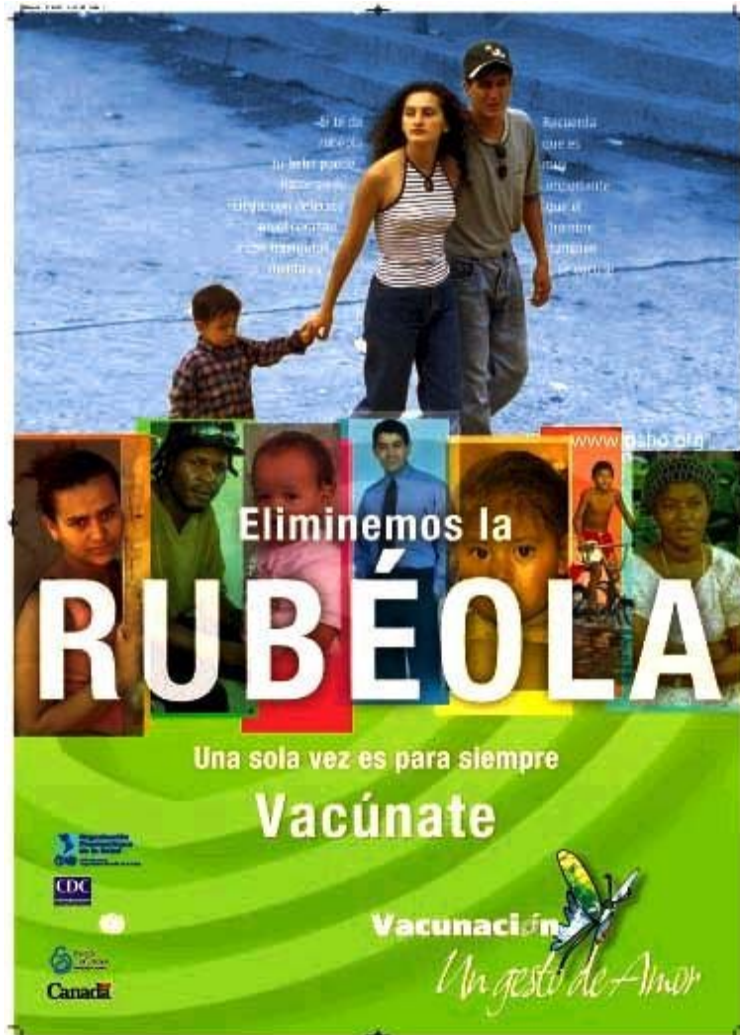
44th DC, September 2003

(g) “eliminate rubella and congenital rubella syndrome from their countries by the year 2010...”;

47th DC, September 2006

(a) “implement policies and operational strategies to meet the rubella and CRS elimination target by 2010...”;

Adult Vaccination Campaigns for Rubella Elimination, The Americas, 1998–2007



English-speaking Caribbean 1998–2001

Chile 1999

Costa Rica 2001

Brazil 2001-2002

Honduras 2002

El Salvador 2004

Ecuador 2004

Nicaragua 2005

Paraguay 2005

Colombia 2005

Bolivia 2006

Argentina 2006

Peru 2006

Dominican Republic 2006

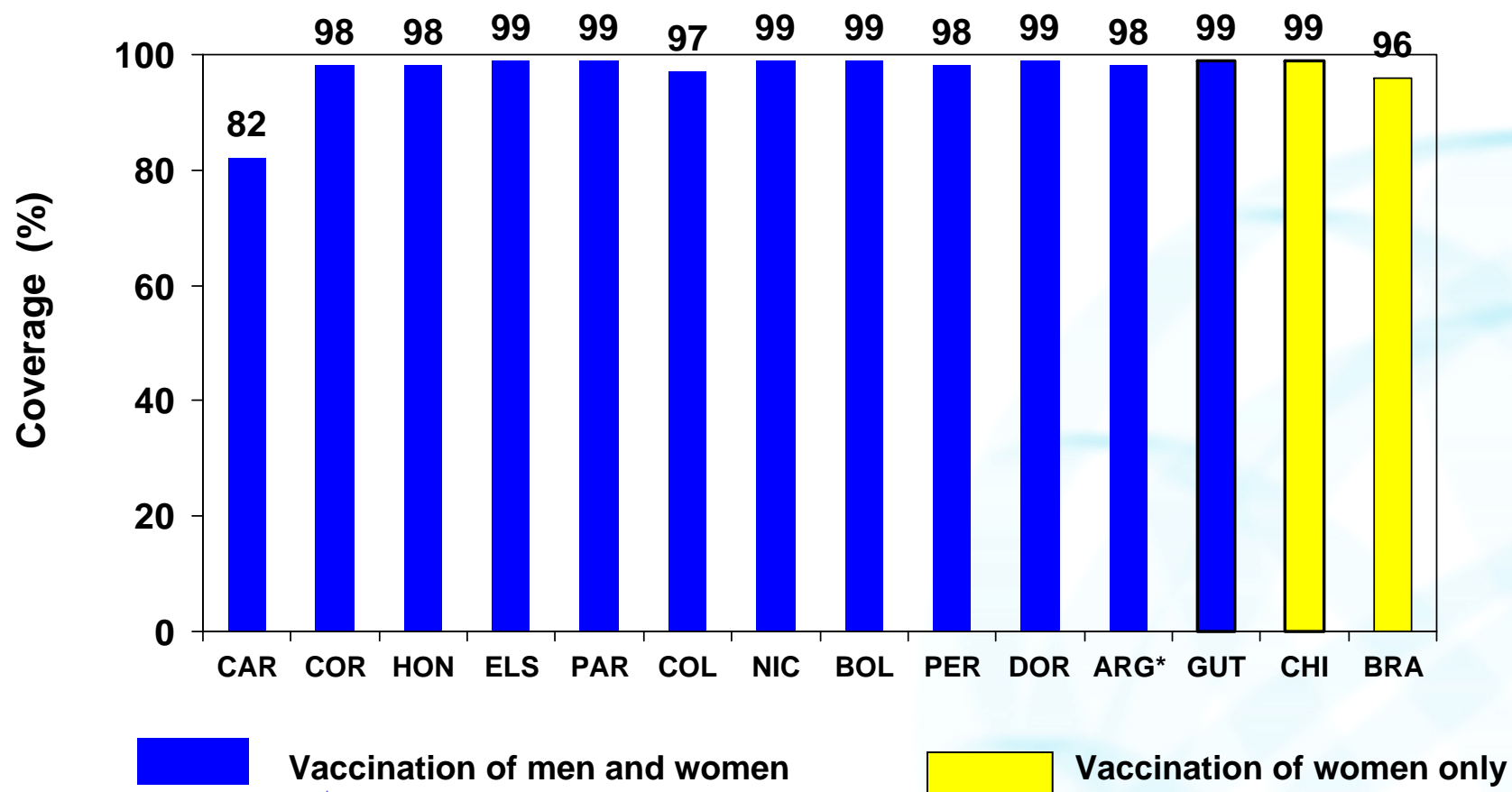
Guatemala 2007

TOTAL: 116 million vaccinated

Keys to Success in Rubella Elimination Mass Vaccination Campaigns

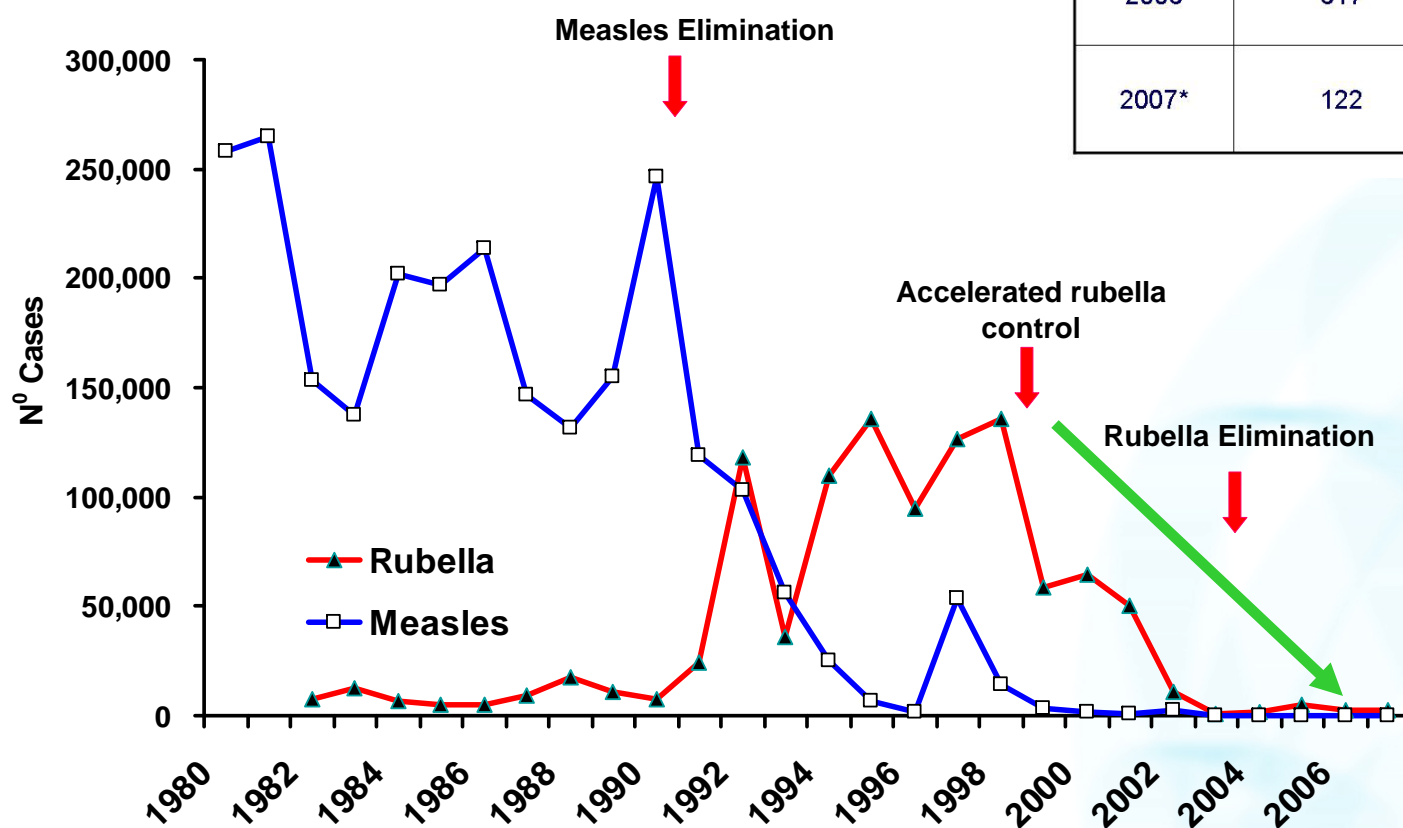
- **Political commitment and participation at the highest level**
- **Strong presence in the mass media**
- **Intensive social mobilization and local micro-planning**
- **Involvement of scientific societies, other social actors, and the media**
- **Timely and sustained technical support**

Rubella Vaccination Coverage in Selected Countries of the Americas, 1998-2007



Impact of Rubella and Measles Elimination Strategies The Americas, 1980–2007*

Year	Suspected CRS Cases	Countries Reporting Cases
2006	617	94% reported by 4 countries (CHI, BRA, COL, PER)
2007*	122	97% reported by 3 countries (CHI, COL, HON)



**% Reduction
(1998 to 2006)
Rubella = 97.9%**

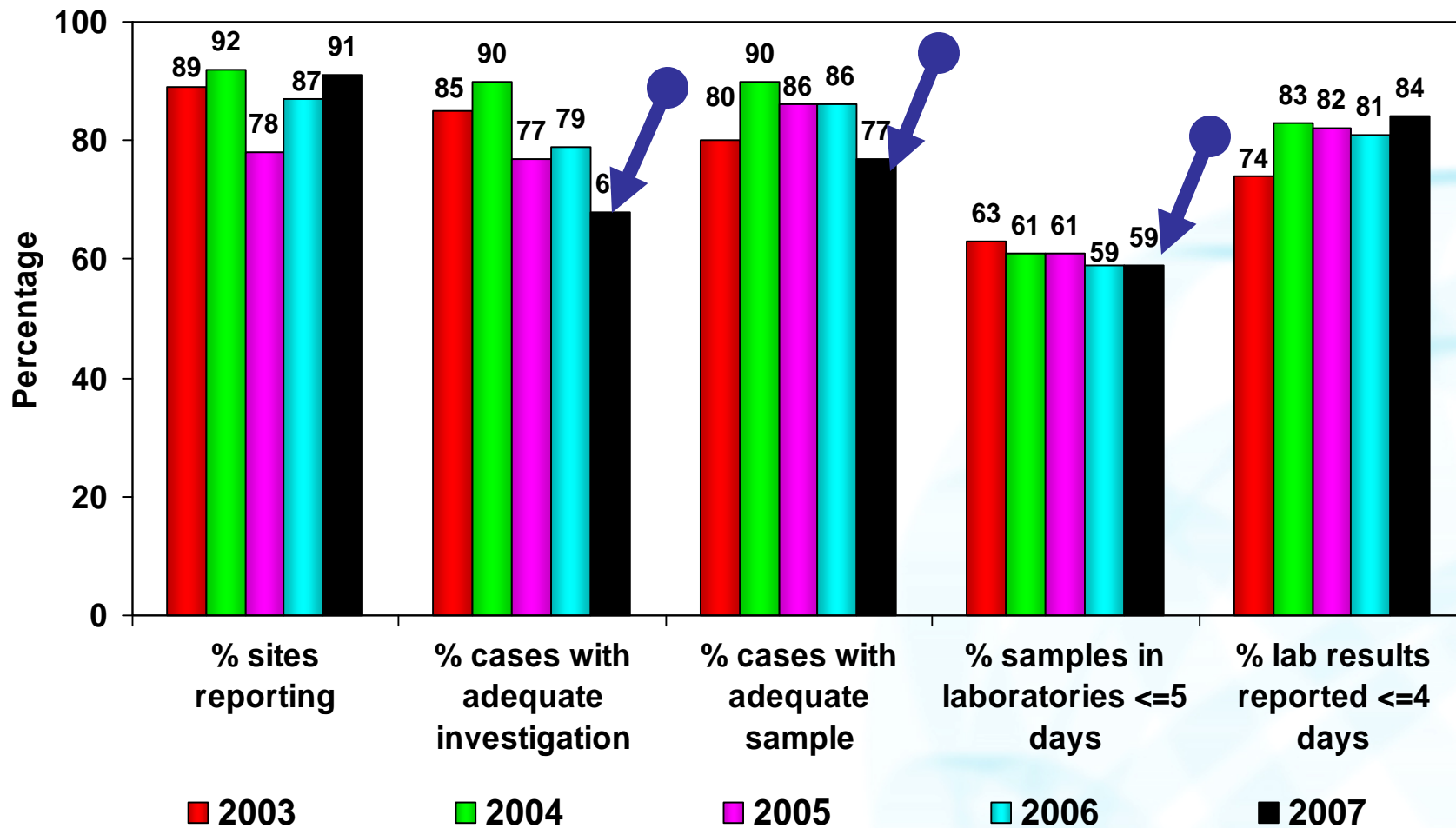


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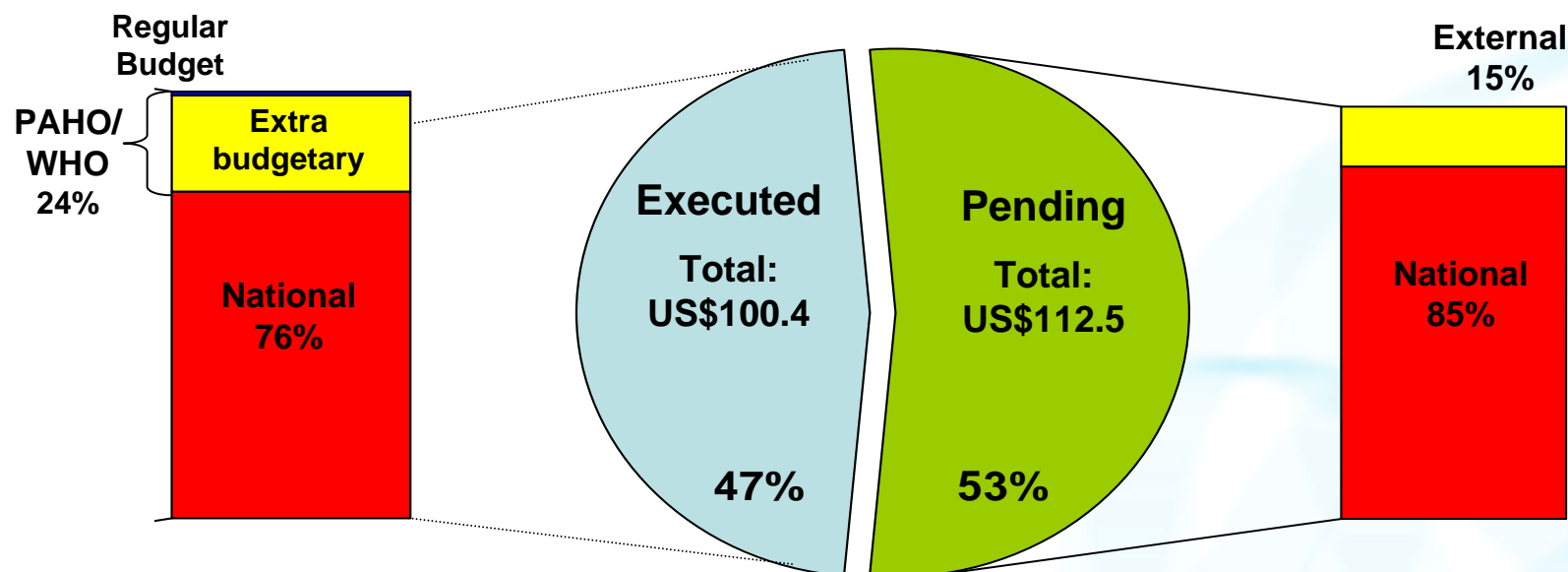
Source: Country reports.

* Includes rubella and measles cases reported to PAHO as of epidemiological week 33/2007.

Integrated Measles-Rubella Surveillance Indicators, Region of the Americas, 2003-2007*



Budgetary Implications of Rubella Initiative, 2003-2010



Total Financing: \$212.9 million



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Estimated initial cost (2003-2010): US\$ 210 million

Source: Rubella and CRS Elimination in the Americas: Plan of Action 2004-2010

Partners for Rubella and CRS Elimination



Added Value of the Rubella and CRS Elimination Initiative

- Strengthens health services for newborns, children, and adult men and women
- Reduces inequities in maternal health outcomes
- Fosters a culture of prevention
- Generates lessons learned which have implications for the introduction of future vaccines
- Provides essential experiences to facilitate the transition from child to family immunization
- Consistent with MDGs (#4 and #5)

Next Steps...

**Document the
interruption of
endemic rubella
virus
transmission**

- Determine what are the necessary data requirements for countries to document rubella and measles elimination*
 - Considering:
 - Epidemiological data for rubella and CRS
 - Population immunity (vaccine coverage, routine, follow-up campaigns, adolescent and adult campaigns, post partum vaccination (post campaign)
 - Evaluation of rubella and CRS surveillance systems
 - Molecular epidemiology
- Formation of an international expert committee to independently verify the interruption of endemic transmission in the Americas



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***Workshop held in San José, COR (May '07) to begin development of protocol to document elimination**

THANK YOU!

<http://www.paho.org/immunization/>