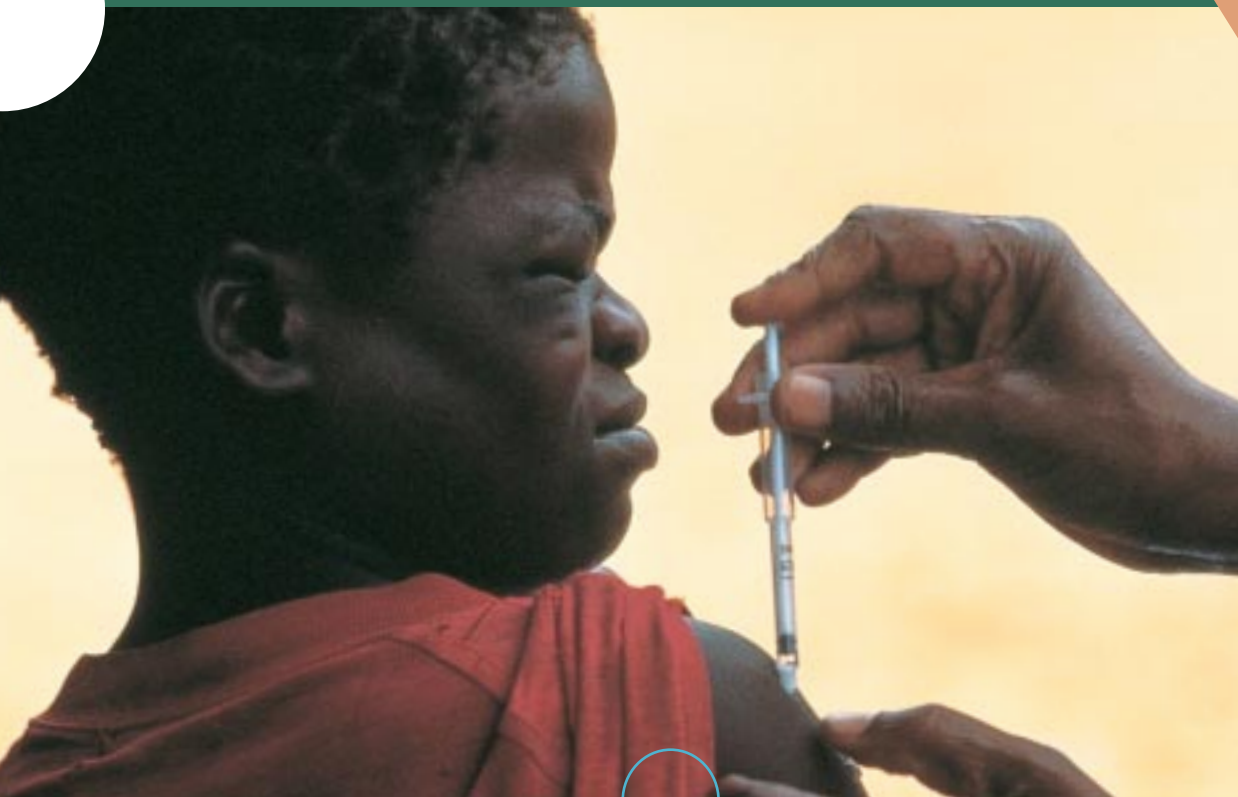


Goal

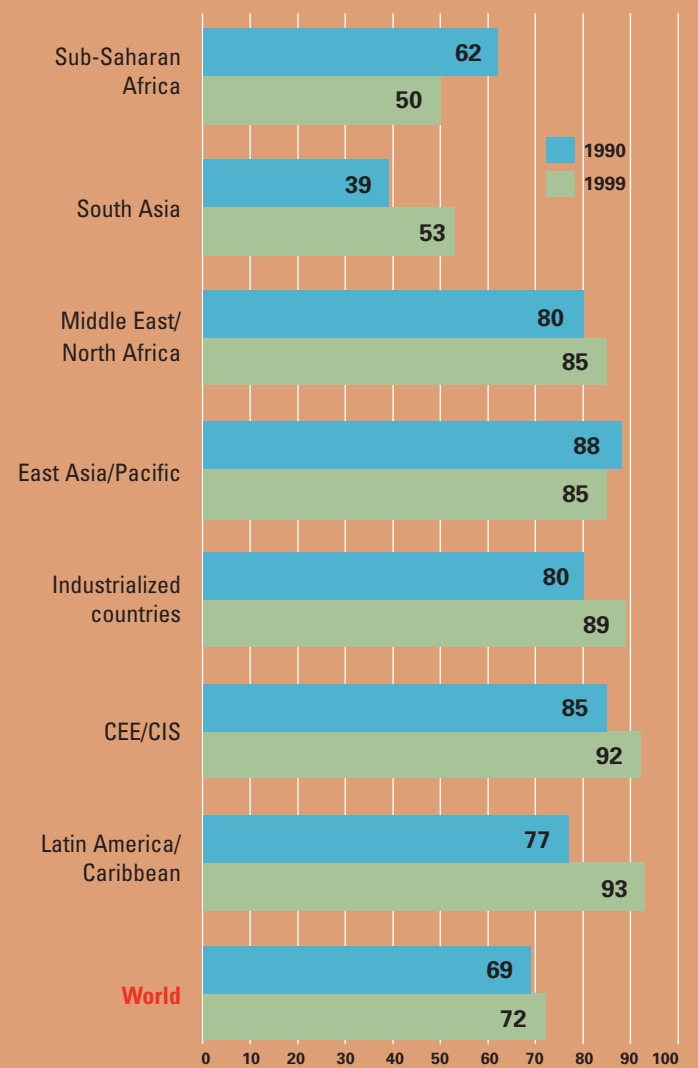
Reduction by 95 per cent in measles deaths and reduction by 90 per cent of measles cases compared to pre-immunization levels by 1995, as a major step to eradication of measles

» Measles



Immunization improved in every region but two

Percentage of measles coverage by region, 1990 and 1999



Source: WHO/UNICEF, 2001.

Result

Reported annual measles cases declined by almost 40 per cent between 1990 and 1999. Worldwide, coverage with one dose of measles vaccine remained stable at about 70 per cent during the decade.

... but

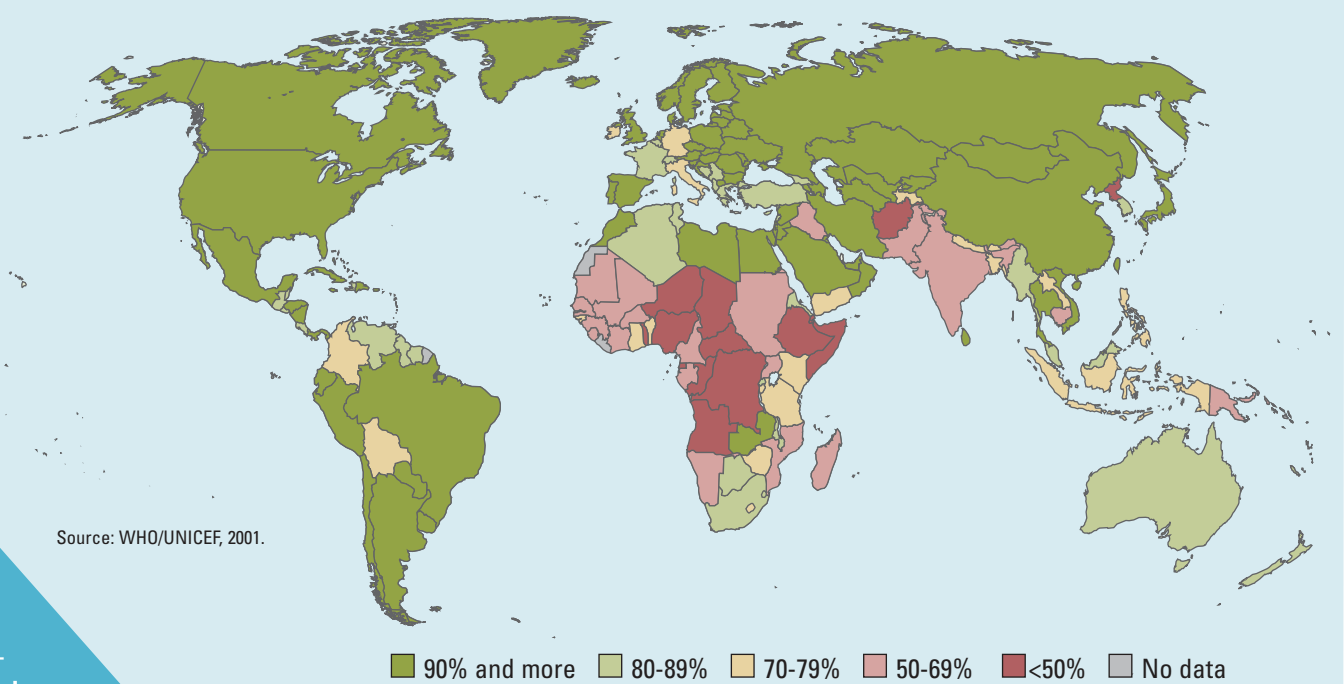
Measles continues to be a major killer of children in sub-Saharan Africa and South Asia mainly because of failure to deliver at least one dose of measles vaccine. Vaccination coverage was below 50 per cent in 14 countries in 1999. Increased efforts are needed to tackle the new goal to reduce measles deaths by half by 2005.

Issue

Measles is a deadly but vaccine-preventable disease that mainly attacks children under five. When it does not kill, it can cause blindness, malnutrition, deafness or pneumonia. Because measles is highly contagious, vaccination coverage levels need to be maintained at least at 90 per cent.

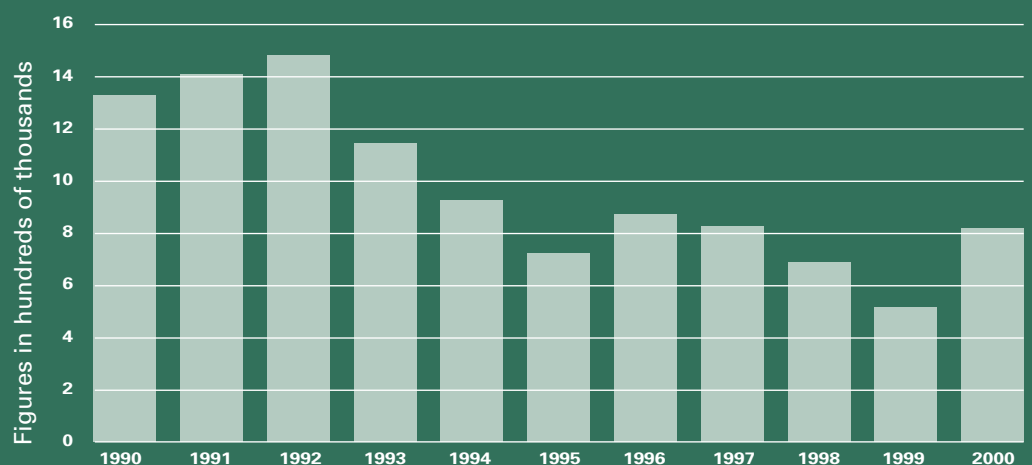
Measles immunization coverage, 1999

Percentage of children immunized against measles



Declining numbers

Reported measles cases worldwide* dropped by almost 40 per cent, 1990-2000



*Officially reported cases underrepresent the true number of annual new cases. However, the reduction in the number of reported cases indicates that the actual number of measles cases declined. Better reporting and measles outbreaks account for the increase in 2000.

Source: WHO, 2001.