

Vaccines are one of the most cost-effective and successful public health solutions available. They save the lives of approximately 2.5 million children each year.

Immunization Impact

- Global mortality attributed to measles, one of the top five diseases killing children, declined by 74 percent between 2000 and 2010 thanks to expanded immunization.
- Since 1988, a coordinated global immunization campaign has reduced the number of polio cases by more than 99 percent, saving more than 10 million children from paralysis and bringing the disease close to eradication.
- Recent studies estimate that scaling up the use of existing vaccines in 72 of the world's poorest countries could save 6.4 million lives and avert \$6.2 billion in treatment costs and \$145 billion in productivity losses by 2020.
- Gavi, the Vaccine Alliance helps low-income countries buy new and underused vaccines. Gavi plans to immunize an additional 300 million children to save an addition 5 to 6 million additional lives by 2020.

Remaining Challenges

- One in five children, including 22 million infants, do not have access to life-saving vaccines. Their communities often lack resources we take for granted, including the financing to buy vaccines, logistical systems to deliver them and keep them cold, vaccine safety monitoring systems, and a trained health workforce.
- Every 20 seconds, a child dies of a vaccine-preventable disease like pneumonia or diarrhea. Vaccine-preventable diseases account for a quarter of the deaths of children under five.

U.S. Commitments Make a Difference

- **Gavi, the Vaccine Alliance** supported the immunization of 440 million children between 2000 and mid-2013, preventing approximately six million deaths.
- **The U.S. Agency for International Development** helps countries strengthen logistics systems to transport vaccines safely to clinics where they are needed, helps countries budget their own funds for immunization programs, and trains health workers to target hard-to-reach and under-immunized populations.
- **The U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention** provide countries with technical assistance and disease surveillance support, with a focus on eradicating polio, reducing measles deaths, and strengthening routine vaccine delivery.
- **The United Nations Children's Fund** procures vaccines for the Gavi Alliance and buys the vaccines for all global campaigns not covered by Gavi, including for polio, neonatal and maternal tetanus, and measles.
- In 2012 **the World Health Assembly** approved a Global Vaccine Action Plan, which recognizes immunization as a core component of the human right to health and lays out a roadmap for bringing the full benefits of immunizations to all people by 2020.
- The United States works alongside other dedicated partners through the **Measles & Rubella Initiative**, the **Global Polio Eradication Initiative** and the **Global Action Plan for the Prevention and Control of Pneumonia and Diarrhea**.

The American Academy of Pediatrics recognizes the unparalleled value of vaccines and strong immunization systems to advance child health equity.

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