Children and Vaccines

Vaccines are one of the most cost-effective and successful public health solutions available, saving the lives of two to three million children each year. Vaccines are among the safest medical products available.

Immunization Impact

- Global mortality attributed to measles, one of the top five diseases killing children, declined by 79% between 2000 and 2015 thanks to expanded immunization, saving an estimated 20.3 million lives.
- A global immunization campaign has reduced the number of polio cases by more than 99% since 1988.
- **Gavi**, the Vaccine Alliance has supported the immunization of nearly 580 million children since 2000, preventing more than eight million deaths.
- For every $1 that goes to immunizing a child, there is a savings of $16 across his or her lifetime in reduced treatment costs and greater productivity.

Remaining Challenges

- More than 19 million children do not have complete 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 nearly a third of the deaths of children under five.
- Improved vaccination coverage would save the lives of 1.5 million additional children each year.

U.S. Commitments Make a Difference

- **Gavi**, the Vaccine Alliance helps low-income countries buy new and underused vaccines.
- **The U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID)** helps countries strengthen logistics systems to transport vaccines to clinics where they are needed, helps countries budget their own funds for immunization programs, and trains health workers to target hard-to-reach populations.
- **The U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC)** 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 (UNICEF)** procures vaccines for Gavi and buys the vaccines for all global campaigns not covered by Gavi, including for polio, neonatal and maternal tetanus, and measles.
- The **World Health Organization’s** Global Vaccine Action Plan provides a roadmap for bringing the full benefits of immunizations to all people by 2020.
- The United States works alongside 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 AAP supports the strengthening of national immunization systems by collaborating with the CDC and national pediatric societies in Ethiopia, Indonesia, Kenya, Nepal, Nigeria, the Philippines, Tanzania, and Uganda.