

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

The Impact of Vaccines

- Thanks to expanded access to vaccines, global mortality attributed to measles, one of the top five diseases killing children, declined by 79% between 2000 and 2015, saving an estimated 20.3 million lives.
- The Global Polio Eradication Initiative has reduced the number of polio cases by more than 99% since 1988.
- Gavi, the Vaccine Alliance has supported the immunization of more than 700 million children since 2000, preventing more than 10 million deaths.

Remaining Challenges

- At least 19 million children do not have complete access to life-saving vaccines. Their communities often lack resources such as 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.
- Countries including the US are seeing a resurgence of measles as a result of growing vaccine hesitancy concerns, putting the lives of children at risk.

U.S. Commitments Make a Difference

- **Gavi, the Vaccine Alliance** helps resource-poor countries buy new and underused vaccines.
- **The U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID)** helps countries to strengthen logistics systems to transport vaccines to clinics; budget their own funds for immunization programs; and train health workers to target hard-to-reach populations.
- **The U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC)** provides 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 pediatric societies in the Democratic Republic of Congo, Ethiopia, Indonesia, Kenya, Nepal, Nigeria, the Philippines, Tanzania, and Uganda. In 2019, the AAP is working to transition technical assistance to regional partners in order to build regional and country-ownership of pediatric society engagement in immunization systems improvement.

Extend the benefits of immunization

- Support funding for USAID, the CDC's Global Immunization Division, Gavi, and UNICEF
- Help countries transition from polio eradication to routine immunization, prevention and public health services, in line with the Polio Eradication and Endgame Strategic Plan
- Integrate immunization campaigns with routine healthcare systems
- Ensure access to immunization for adolescents, including for the human papillomavirus (HPV), a main cause of cervical cancer, and the hepatitis B virus (HBV), a major cause of liver cancer
- Ensure access to birth doses of the hepatitis B vaccine

