

## About Pneumonia

Pneumonia is the single largest infectious cause of death in children worldwide. The most common bacterial cause of pneumonia is the pneumococcal bacterium (*streptococcus pneumoniae*).

While most healthy children can fight an infection from pneumococcal bacterium with their natural defenses, children whose immune systems are compromised by malnutrition and other factors common in the developing world, face a higher risk of developing pneumonia from the infection.

## Vaccination Strategy

The pneumococcal conjugate vaccine was developed to protect against strains of pneumococcal bacteria that are most common. The recent global introduction of these vaccines was a historic milestone in global health, as they were made available in record time to children in the world's poorest countries.

Introduction of the vaccine was the first step. The goal is to have countries incorporate the pneumococcal vaccine into routine immunization systems. Gavi, the Vaccine Alliance has already helped more than 50 countries regularly provide the vaccine, immunizing more than 109 million children.

## Role of Shot@Life

Shot@Life advocates for U.S. government support of global childhood immunization programs, which includes funding for Gavi, the Vaccine Alliance -- the world's largest supplier of pneumococcal vaccines to developing countries. In addition, Shot@Life raises funding and support from the private sector for Gavi. Since the launch of the campaign, Shot@Life has raised enough funding to provide the equivalent of nearly 127,000 pneumococcal vaccines to children in developing countries.\*

### Sources:

World Health Organization: <http://www.who.int/mediacentre/factsheets/fs331/en/>

Gavi, the Vaccine Alliance: <http://www.gavialliance.org/support/nvs/pneumococcal/#> \*Funds raised through the end of CY2017

## Key Facts

Pneumonia is the **single largest infectious cause of death** in children worldwide.

Pneumonia killed nearly **900,000 children in 2016**.

The **56% drop** in childhood deaths between 1990 and 2016 is attributed to many effective interventions, including the introduction of the **pneumococcal vaccine**.



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