About Pneumonia

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

While most healthy children can fight an infection from pneumococcal bacterium with their natural defenses, children whose immune systems are compromised by malnutrition or other stressors, face a higher risk of developing pneumonia from a potential infection.

Vaccination Strategy

The pneumococcal conjugate vaccine was developed to protect against the most common strains of pneumococcal bacteria. The widespread introduction of these vaccines marked a historic milestone in global health, as the shots were rapidly made available to children in under-resourced settings.

Now the goal is to have countries incorporate the pneumococcal vaccine into routine immunization systems. Gavi, the Vaccine Alliance has already helped more than 59 countries consistently provide the vaccine, immunizing more than 183 million children in the process.

Role of Shot@Life

Shot@Life advocates for U.S. government support for global childhood immunization programs, which includes funding for Gavi, the Vaccine Alliance — the world's largest supplier of pneumococcal vaccines in low-income countries. In addition, Shot@Life raises funds and fosters private sector support for Gavi. Since the launch of the campaign, Shot@Life has raised enough money 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/#

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Key Facts

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

Pneumonia killed nearly **900,000 children in 2017.**

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