

## About Rotavirus

Diarrhea is one of the leading causes of death among children globally. Rotavirus — the leading cause of severe childhood diarrhea — is found everywhere; however, children in communities with limited access to health care are most at risk. The best way to protect children from this disease is through immunization.

## Vaccination Strategy

Two oral vaccines are available to prevent rotavirus. Prevention is most effective when rotavirus vaccines are included in national immunization programs as part of a comprehensive strategy to control diarrheal diseases by scaling up both prevention and treatment.

Gavi, the Vaccine Alliance, set out to support the introduction of the rotavirus vaccine in 33 countries by the end of 2015. This objective was surpassed 12 months ahead of schedule, in 2014, when 16 countries added the vaccine to their routine immunization schedules. By the end of 2018, Gavi had supported the introduction of the rotavirus vaccine in 45 countries, leading to the immunization of more than 100 million children against rotavirus.

## Role of Shot@Life

Since the launch of the campaign, Shot@Life has raised enough money for Gavi to provide the equivalent of 174,000 rotavirus vaccines to children in low-income countries. This comes in addition to our advocacy efforts to ensure the U.S. government continues to support funding for health systems strengthening and additional global immunization programs.

### Sources:

World Health Organization: <http://www.who.int/immunization/diseases/rotavirus/en/>  
Gavi, the Vaccine Alliance: <http://www.gavialliance.org/support/nvs/rotavirus/>

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## Key Facts

Every year, more than **525,000 children** under the age of five die from diarrheal disease, nearly **1,400 each day**.

Children six months to two years of age **are most vulnerable** to infection.

**95%** of rotavirus-related childhood deaths occur in **developing countries**.

