

## SECTION I: INTRODUCTION

- Each member: introduce yourself and share where you are from.
- [I/We] represent the *Shot@Life* campaign in your [district/state]. The campaign is part of the UN Foundation and educates, connects, and empowers Americans to champion global vaccines as one of the most cost-effective investments the U.S. government can make to save the lives of children in developing countries.
- We support this cause in our communities by holding events, raising funds, and advocating to our elected officials. We are here today to talk about the power of global childhood immunization and how [Senator/Representative X] can play a leadership role in ensuring all kids have a shot at life.
- The President's FY21 budget drastically cuts foreign affairs programs by 22% and includes steep reductions to global child health programs. These programs help prevent and detect outbreaks overseas that protect Americans at home and abroad by enabling other nations to effectively respond to global health crises at their source. Cuts to these programs make us more vulnerable to novel viruses like COVID-19.

## SECTION II: WHY GLOBAL VACCINES?

### THE PROBLEM: KIDS DIE EVERY DAY FROM VACCINE-PREVENTABLE DISEASES

- Every 20 seconds, a child dies from a vaccine-preventable disease, resulting in 1.5M deaths every year and accounting for nearly one-third of all childhood deaths.

### THE SOLUTION: VACCINES!

- Vaccines are one of the safest, most cost-effective ways to save children's lives, improve health, and ensure long-term economic prosperity.
- Every year, immunization saves the lives of approximately 2.5 million children.
- The measles and rubella vaccine costs less than \$2 per child, yet in 2018 measles deaths surged to 142,300 due to declining vaccination rates in many countries.
- 30 years ago, polio paralyzed over 1,000 kids each day, but thanks to the polio vaccine, cases have dropped by 99.9% and the world is now nearly polio-free.
- The UN is a central partner in amplifying US investment in global vaccines as part of the Sustainable Development Goals, from UNICEF procuring vaccines that reach 45% of the world's children, to WHO coordinating emergency response. Combating the COVID-19 pandemic requires extensive international collaboration and coordination among WHO and UNICEF.

**Share your story:** *Why are you passionate about immunizing children? How have you been involved in your community? Do you have a personal connection to the issue?*

### Vaccine Success Stories

- 30 years ago, polio cases appeared in 125 countries across the globe, but now only two countries – Pakistan and Afghanistan – have active transmission. Nigeria has not had a case of wild polio since September 2016.
- Since 2000, the measles vaccine has prevented over 23.2 million deaths, a 73% reduction.
- Over the past 20 years, Gavi, the Vaccine Alliance, has supported over 430 vaccine introductions, prevented over 13 million deaths in low-income countries, and generated \$50 billion in future economic benefits since 2016.

### Additional Background on U.S. Global Immunization Activities

- The U.S. government has a long history of **bipartisan support for global health** and global immunization programs delivered through the work of USAID, CDC, and international organizations like GAVI, the Vaccine Alliance, WHO, and UNICEF.





## FAQs

### How do Shot@Life champions fight for global vaccines?

Grassroots champions like us raise awareness and funds to support the work of the U.S. government, United Nations, Gavi, the Vaccine Alliance, and other organizations to improve access to cost-effective vaccines in communities globally.

### Where is global vaccine funding located in the budget and how is it allocated?

Global vaccine funding is located in two appropriations bills:

- State, Foreign Operations and Related Programs (SFOPS)
- Labor, Health and Human Services, Education, and Related Agencies (LHHS)

| Activity                  | Agency                | Bill                   |
|---------------------------|-----------------------|------------------------|
| Polio                     | CDC<br>USAID          | LHHS<br>SFOPS          |
| Measles<br>Gavi<br>UNICEF | CDC<br>USAID<br>State | LHHS<br>SFOPS<br>SFOPS |

### Who can I contact to become more involved?

UN Foundation Contact:

- Brian Massa  
bmassa@unfoundation.org

## SECTION III: WHY CONGRESS SHOULD ACT NOW

- *Global Health investments protect U.S. security:* Preventing infectious diseases overseas protects Americans at home and abroad, and USG funding for immunization activities **helps nations build strong health systems to more efficiently respond to disease outbreaks, such as the Ebola crisis in the DRC and new emerging diseases like the novel coronavirus.**
- *A healthy country is a stable country:* **Disease outbreaks disrupt country economies**, jeopardizing trade and investment opportunities. The COVID-19 pandemic has ground country economies to a halt and threatens the livelihoods and security of millions of people.
- *Global measles outbreaks are on the rise:* During the first six months of 2019, WHO reported more measles cases (364,808 cases) worldwide than in any year since 2006. Regions with the biggest increases include the African Region (900%), Western Pacific (230%), and the European Region (150%). Even the U.S. reported more cases in 2019 (1,282) in 32 states, the largest number of cases since 1992.
- *High return on investment:* On average, every **\$1 invested in immunization produces \$44 in savings** in healthcare costs, lost wages, and productivity due to illness – a global health best-buy! Fully funding Gavi, the Vaccine Alliance, over its next Strategic Cycle from 2021-2025 will reach an additional 300 million children with vaccines, saving an additional 7-8 million lives.
- *It's the Right Thing to Do:* Supporting global vaccines is **part of our national character and a moral obligation.** We cannot turn our backs while children die needlessly from preventable diseases.

## SECTION IV: THE 'ASK'

- **For Fiscal Year 2021, fully fund U.S. government global vaccine activities at FY20 levels (all level-funding):**
  - **\$237 million for Polio eradication**, including:
    - **\$176 million for CDC** through the Labor-HHS Appropriations Subcommittee
    - **\$61 million for USAID** through the State and Foreign Operations (SFOPS) Approps. Subcomm.
  - **\$50 million for CDC measles elimination** through Labor-HHS Approps. Subcomm.
  - **\$290 million for Gavi**, the Vaccine Alliance, through SFOPS
  - **\$134 million for UNICEF**, through SFOPS
- **House and Senate offices: Sign on to the Gavi Replenishment Resolution cosponsored by:**
  - Senators Marco Rubio (R-FL) and Tim Kaine (D-VA)
  - Representatives Betty McCollum (D-MN-04) and Susan Brooks (R-IN-05)
- **Senate offices only: Sign on to the Polio Appropriations Dear Colleague cosponsored by:**
  - Senators Roger Wicker (R-MS) and Jack Reed (D-RI)

## SECTION V: CLOSING & SHARING YOUR EXPERIENCE

- **Thank the member of Congress/staffer** for their time and ask if they have any questions. If they ask a question you can't answer, don't worry! Have them contact Brian Massa, Director, Global Health Advocacy: [bmassa@unfoundation.org](mailto:bmassa@unfoundation.org).
- **Email the staffer** our folder of leave-behind materials.
  - "For your reference, I'm emailing you some helpful information that explains the value of U.S. investments in the fight for global vaccine access, our specific funding request, and ways for the Senator/Representative to get involved."
- **Ask the staffer/member of Congress if it is okay to take a screenshot of your meeting over Zoom or a selfie if you are on a phone call, and be sure to share the picture on social media, tagging @ShotAtLife, #VaccinesWork, and the social media handle of the member of Congress.**