



2020 CAPITOL HILL TALKING POINTS RACE TO ERASE FALL ACTIVATION

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 would have drastically cut foreign affairs programs by 22% and included steep reductions to global child health programs. **We are grateful to Congress for rejecting these cuts and recently passing a Continuing Resolution that included level-funding for our programs through December 11, 2020.**
- 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 VACCINE?

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 a 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.

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 others organizations to improve access and equity in developing countries to cost-effective, high-impact vaccines

“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	LHHS
	USAID	SFOPS
Measles	CDC	LHHS
Gavi	USAID	SFOPS
UNICEF	State	SFOPS

“Who can I contact to become more involved?”

House Global Health Caucus
Co-Chairs:
Rep. Betty McCollum (D-MN)
(Libby Foley
libby.foley@mail.house.gov)

Rep. Susan Brooks (R-IN)
(Sam West
sam.west@mail.house.gov)

UNF Contact: Brian Massa,
bmassa@unfoundation.org

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? Have you been involved in your community or have a personal connection?*

The Global Polio Eradication Initiative (GPEI) and COVID-19 Response

- GPEI mobilized its public health assets, workforce, community relationships, and Emergency Operations Centers to support the pandemic response
- GPEI's global polio disease surveillance network was utilized to detect COVID-19 cases, increase laboratory testing capacity, and streamline data management
- The program provided thousands of staff to trace contacts, educate the public, coordinate outbreak response, and train other health workers. For instance, in Nigeria alone the program trained 7,000 community health agents

SECTION III: WHY CONGRESS SHOULD ACT NOW

- *The COVID-19 pandemic forced the suspension of vaccinations, jeopardizing decades child immunization progress:*
 - Over the summer at least 68 countries reported substantial disruption of routine immunization services
 - Through July 2020, roughly 60 million children did not receive the polio vaccine, and roughly 178 million children are at risk of not receiving the measles vaccine in 2020
 - In Pakistan, one of the remaining polio hotspots, 800,000 high-risk children under the age of five may not receive the polio vaccine.
 - If polio is not eradicated, within a decade we could see a resurgence of cases that could paralyze 200,000 kids around the world every year.
- *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 coronavirus pandemic.**
- *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. **Total global loss in just the travel and tourism sector, for instance, is estimated to be more than \$8 trillion in 2020 and 2021.**
- *Even before the pandemic, global measles outbreaks were 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 when children die needlessly from preventable diseases.

More 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. **In August 2020, Africa was declared wild polio-free.**
- 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, preventing over 13 million deaths in low-income countries, and generated \$50 billion in future economic benefits since 2016.



SECTION IV: THE 'ASK'

- **For the final Fiscal Year 2021 bill, fully fund U.S. government global vaccine activities at FY20 levels:**
 - **\$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
- **Please include in any future emergency supplemental appropriations package at least \$11 billion for global health programs** through SFOPS:
 - Of which, \$4 billion for Gavi and \$382 million for WHO pandemic response as part of the United Nation's global Humanitarian Response Plan (HRP)

SECTION V: CLOSING & SHARING YOUR EXPERIENCE

- ***Thank the Member/staffer for their time and ask if they have any questions. If they ask a questions you can't answer, don't worry! Have them contact Brian Massa, Director, Global Health Advocacy: bmassa@unfoundation.org***