

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 healthcare are most at risk. In fact, over 95% of rotavirus deaths are in low-income countries in Africa and Asia. 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.

By the end of 2018, Gavi, the Vaccine Alliance had supported the introduction of the rotavirus vaccine in 45 countries, leading to the immunization of more than 100 million children against rotavirus. Ultimately, increasing access to rotavirus vaccines in developing countries can prevent more than 2.4 million deaths by 2030.

Role of Shot@Life

Since the launch of the campaign, Shot@Life has raised enough money for Gavi to provide the equivalent of 204,000 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 (Updated 2/2021)

Gavi, the Vaccine Alliance - gavi.org/types-support/vaccine-support/rotavirus
World Health Organization - who.int/immunization/diseases/rotavirus/en/

Key Facts

Diarrheal diseases are the **second leading infectious cause of death** of children under the age of five.

In 2018, approximately **437,000 children** died from diarrheal diseases.

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

Using rotavirus vaccines in low-income countries can **save \$68 million in treatment costs** every year.

