

2021 CAPITOL HILL TALKING POINTS

SHOT@LIFE ADVOCATE2VACCINATE

SECTION I: INTRODUCTION

- Each member, starting with constituents: 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.
- We are grateful to Congress for passing a FY21 funding package that sustained full funding for global child immunization programs. But it's clear the pandemic has jeopardized decades of progress in global child immunization. We must now strengthen funding to prevent a catastrophic increase in preventable disease.
- According to a poll conducted by the Better World Campaign this past January, Americans ranked "global health, such as vaccine distribution and preventing future pandemics" as the #1 global issue they care about.
- These programs strengthen child immunization, but they also improve global disease detection systems that enable other nations to effectively detect and respond to a range of other diseases. Stopping diseases at their source is the most cost-effective approach, saves the most lives, and makes the world more resilient to new viruses that could cause the next pandemic.
- These investments in vaccine infrastructure, workforce, and technology will also be vital to ensuring COVID-19 vaccines reach every corner of the world, an essential element to end the current pandemic.

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 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.

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 and equity in low-income countries to cost-effective, lifesaving 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-Chair:
Rep. Betty McCollum (D-MN)
(Libby Foley
libby.foley@mail.house.gov)

UNF Contact: Brian Massa,
bmassa@unfoundation.org

- The measles and rubella vaccine costs less than \$2 per child, yet in 2019 measles deaths surged to 207,500 due to declining vaccination rates in many countries. The pandemic has only driven this number higher during the past 12 months.
- 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 almost half of the world's children, to WHO coordinating emergency response. Combating the COVID-19 pandemic requires extensive international collaboration and coordination among UN agencies, multilateral partners like Gavi, the Vaccine Alliance, and countries themselves.
- *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 pivoted nearly 6,000 staff around the world to trace COVID-19 contacts, coordinate outbreak response, educate the public about the pandemic, and train thousands of additional health workers to surge capacity.
- For instance, in Nigeria alone the program trained 7,000 community health agents and also reached nomadic communities in Kenya
- And in India, polio micro-plans were utilized in Uttar Pradesh to survey 208 million people twice in three months for COVID-19.

SECTION III: WHY CONGRESS SHOULD ACT NOW

- *The COVID-19 pandemic forced the suspension of vaccinations, jeopardizing decades child immunization progress:*
 - Soon after the pandemic was first declared, at least 68 countries reported substantial disruption of routine immunization services.
 - Over a four-month period in 2020, 60 polio campaigns were delayed, leaving roughly 80 million children unvaccinated against polio and other infectious diseases.
 - In Pakistan, one of two remaining countries where wild polio exists, 800,000 high-risk, unvaccinated children under the age of five were identified.
 - If polio is not eradicated, within a decade we could see a resurgence of 200,000 new cases each year, at the cost of \$14 billion by 2050.
 - In 2020, of the 26 countries that were forced to suspend measles immunization campaigns, 18 reported outbreaks. Suspended measles campaigns put 94 million kids at risk of missing measles vaccinations.
- *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.**
- *A healthy country is a stable country:* **Disease outbreaks disrupt country economies**, jeopardizing trade and investment opportunities. The COVID-19 pandemic has devastated country economies and threatens the livelihoods and security of millions of people. **If COVID-19 vaccines are not distributed equitably amongst advanced economies and developing economies, the cost to the world economy could reach \$9.2 trillion.**
- *Even before the pandemic, global measles outbreaks were on the rise:* During the first six months of 2019 WHO reported more measles 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, generating \$80-\$100 billion while catalyzing \$3.6 billion in domestic co-financing.
- *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 25.5 million deaths, a 63% reduction.
- Over the past 20 years, Gavi, the Vaccine Alliance, has immunized 822 million children, saving more than 14 million deaths in low-income countries.

SECTION IV: THE 'ASK'

- **For the Fiscal Year 2022 bill, fully fund U.S. government global vaccine activities:**
 - **Labor-HHS-Appropriations Subcommittee**
 - \$271.2 million for CDC Global Immunization Division
 - \$211.2 million for CDC/GID polio eradication activities
 - \$60 million for CDC/GID measles elimination programs
 - **State and Foreign Operations (SFOPS) Appropriations Subcommittee**
 - \$65 million for USAID polio eradication efforts
 - \$290 million for Gavi, the Vaccine Alliance
 - \$134 million for UNICEF
 - \$119 million for WHO (assessed contributions)
- **Please support the FY22 Polio Eradication Appropriations Letter**
 - There is a time-sensitive opportunity to sign on to a “Dear Colleague” letter calling on the need to fully fund polio eradication activities at CDC and USAID to wipe out this virus once and for all.
 - The House polio appropriations letter is live, co-sponsored by Rep. Steve Cohen (D-TN-09) and Rep. Joe Wilson (R-SC-02).
 - The Senate version is anticipated in the next few weeks. We expect the previous year’s lead sponsors—Sen. Roger Wicker (R-MS) and Sen. Jack Reed (D-RI)—will sponsor the letters once again.

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@betterworldcampaign.org