



## 2021 CAPITOL HILL TALKING POINTS

### SHOT@LIFE MOBILIZE TO IMMUNIZE – UPDATED 10.20.21

#### 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 House and Senate appropriators for sustaining strong funding for global child immunization programs in their FY22 bills. But it's clear the pandemic has jeopardized decades of progress in global child immunization. When the House and Senate Conference their bills later this year, we ask both chambers to support the highest possible funding level to prevent a catastrophic increase in preventable disease and to finish the job of polio eradication.
- 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 through COVAX, the ground-breaking multilateral facility that is accelerating the development, production, and equitable access to COVID-19 vaccines, treatments, and diagnostics.
- Americans and your constituents support these goals. 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.

#### SECTION II: WHY GLOBAL VACCINES?

#### THE PROBLEM: KIDS DIE EVERY DAY FROM VACCINE-PREVENTABLE DISEASES AND THE COVID-19 PANDEMIC THREATENS TO ERASE DECADES OF PROGRESS

## 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](mailto:libby.foley@mail.house.gov))

UNF Contact: Brian Massa,  
[bmassa@unfoundation.org](mailto:bmassa@unfoundation.org)

- Even before the pandemic, every 20 seconds, a child died from a vaccine-preventable disease, resulting in 1.5M deaths every year and accounting for nearly a third of all childhood deaths.
- In just one year, the pandemic has erased more than a decade’s worth of progress, leaving 3.7 million more children un- or under-vaccinated in 2020 than in 2019. Of these 23 million children, 17 million are considered “zero-dose children,” who have not received a single dose of *any* vaccine.

### **THE SOLUTION: EQUITABLE, AFFORDABLE ACCESS TO 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 2019 measles deaths surged to 207,500 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.
- So far, there have been only two cases of wild polio this year, one each in Afghanistan and Pakistan. **We have an “[incredible epidemiological window](#)” to finally rid the world of this disease for good. However, to do so, an urgent injection of funding is needed.**
- 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 through COVAX 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 \$140 million in public health assets, workforce, community relationships, and Emergency Operations Centers to support the pandemic response in over 50 countries.
- 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 30,000 staff around the world to trace the spread of COVID-19, coordinate outbreak response, educate the public about the pandemic, and train thousands of additional health workers to surge capacity.
- For instance, the program trained 7,000 community health agents in Nigeria alone and also reached nomadic communities in Kenya.
- 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, 30 polio campaigns were delayed in 28 countries, leaving roughly 80 million children unvaccinated against polio and other infectious diseases.
    - In Pakistan, one of two remaining countries where wild polio exists, 40 million high-risk, unvaccinated children under the age of five missed vaccinations.
    - 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. Since the pandemic began, suspended measles campaigns have put 160 million kids in 38 countries 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 future deaths in low-income countries, while strengthening the health systems of 69 countries and generating \$150B in economic benefits.

#### SECTION IV: THE 'ASK'

For meetings with House and Senate offices:

- **Between Oct. 22 -29, please Tweet support for global polio eradication on World Polio Day (Oct. 24):**
  - Please visit [bit.ly/worldpolioday2021](https://bit.ly/worldpolioday2021) to view a selection of pre-drafted tweets covering U.S. leadership in polio eradication and global health security contributions of the polio program to COVID-19 response.
  - Contact Brian Massa ([bmassa@betterworldcampaign.org](mailto:bmassa@betterworldcampaign.org)) to make a statement for the Record
- **For the final Fiscal Year 2022 package, please fully fund U.S. government global vaccine activities at the highest levels included in the Senate appropriations bills:**
  - **Labor-HHS-Appropriations Subcommittee**
    - \$231 million for CDC Global Immunization Division
      - \$181 million for CDC/GID polio eradication activities
      - \$50 million for CDC/GID measles elimination programs
  - **State and Foreign Operations (SFOPS) Appropriations Subcommittee**
    - \$101 million for USAID polio eradication efforts
    - \$290 million for Gavi, the Vaccine Alliance
    - \$134 million for UNICEF

- \$124 million for WHO (assessed contributions)

#### **SECTION V: CLOSING & SHARING YOUR EXPERIENCE**

- ***Thank the Member/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@betterworldcampaign.org](mailto:bmassa@betterworldcampaign.org)