



# shot@life

UNITED NATIONS  
FOUNDATION

Shot@Life educates, connects, and empowers individuals to champion global vaccines as one of the most effective ways to save the lives of children around the world. Our campaign rallies the public to advocate and fundraise for global childhood vaccines. We believe that by encouraging people to learn about, advocate for, and donate to fund vaccines, we can decrease the 1.5 million annual vaccine-preventable childhood deaths and give every child the opportunity to survive and thrive.

Shot@Life works with partners and volunteers in the United States and around the world to ensure that lifesaving vaccines reach children everywhere. Funds raised by Shot@Life support our campaign advocacy activities and events, as well as aid our partners UNICEF, the World Health Organization, and Gavi, the Vaccine Alliance in the global coordination, purchase, delivery, and administration of immunizations. Our advocacy works to ensure that U.S. government support for global childhood immunization programs remains strong.

## Why Vaccines?

Vaccines are one of the most cost-effective ways to save and improve the lives of children worldwide. Every \$1 invested in vaccination efforts saves more than \$50 in healthcare costs, lost wages, and lost productivity due to illness (Johns Hopkins International Vaccine Access Center). Without these lifesaving tools, children have no protection against deadly and debilitating diseases like measles, polio, pneumonia, and rotavirus.

Vaccination efforts have already changed the tide of history. Immunizations have saved the lives of more children than any other medical intervention in the last 50 years. But conflict and the COVID-19 pandemic took a major toll on routine immunization delivery during the past several years, leaving 25 million more children unvaccinated and at risk of contracting preventable, deadly infectious diseases. We must work to reach every last child.

## Our Movement

Together, we are building a movement to help children access lifesaving vaccines. Our grassroots network includes more than 3,200 trained champions across the U.S. and 350,000 online supporters who advocate, fundraise, and raise awareness on behalf of global childhood immunization programs. Your voice, your time, and your actions can change a child's life forever.

## Did You Know?

- **1 in 5 children in the world does not have access to lifesaving immunizations (UNICEF).**
- **Around the world, a child dies every 20 seconds from a disease that can be prevented with a vaccine (CDC).**
- **Total U.S. funding for global vaccine programs is less than 1% of the annual federal budget.**

# Key Diseases

## Measles

Measles, a highly contagious disease caused by a virus, is transmitted primarily through the air or direct contact. Beginning with a high fever and inflamed eyes, measles can result in serious complications, including blindness and swelling of the brain. In the last 20 years, the measles vaccine is estimated to have averted more than 30 million deaths globally (CDC). Despite this progress, measles killed 207,000 people in 2019, with the highest number of cases in 23 years (UN News).

## Polio

Polio is a highly infectious disease that primarily affects children under the age of five. It attacks a child's nervous system and can cause total paralysis or even death. As long as a single child remains infected with polio, children everywhere remain at risk of contracting the disease. While no cure exists, polio is effectively prevented by vaccination. Since 1988, polio cases have decreased by 99.9%, and more than 19 million people are walking, thanks to the polio vaccine (WHO).

## Pneumonia

Pneumonia is the single largest infectious cause of death in children worldwide. Derived from the pneumococcal bacterium, pneumonia causes lungs to fill with pus and fluid, limiting oxygen intake and proper breathing. Pneumonia kills more than 800,000 children every year (UNICEF). Children whose immune systems are compromised by malnutrition and other factors face an especially high risk of contracting pneumonia.

## Diarrheal Disease

Diarrheal disease is the second leading cause of death in children under the age of five, accounting for 1 in 9 deaths. Annually, there are millions of cases of childhood diarrheal disease worldwide, and more than 800,000 children die from the disease (CDC). Rotavirus — the leading cause of severe childhood diarrheal disease — is most commonly found among children living in low-resource settings who lack access to primary health care. Vaccines have proven to be an effective prevention measures, averting two-thirds of deaths caused by rotavirus.

Sources Updated 8/2022:

Johns Hopkins - <https://vaccineroi.org/>; UNICEF - [unicef.org/press-releases/unicef-reaches-almost-half-worlds-children-life-saving-vaccines](https://www.unicef.org/press-releases/unicef-reaches-almost-half-worlds-children-life-saving-vaccines); CDC - [cdc.gov/globalhealth/immunization/default.htm](https://www.cdc.gov/globalhealth/immunization/default.htm); CDC - [cdc.gov/media/releases/2021/s1110-measles-progress.html](https://www.cdc.gov/media/releases/2021/s1110-measles-progress.html); UN News - [news.un.org/en/story/2020/11/1077482](https://www.un.org/en/story/2020/11/1077482); WHO - [who.int/news/item/10-06-2021-countries-reaffirm-commitment-to-ending-polio-at-launch-of-new-eradication-strategy](https://www.who.int/news/item/10-06-2021-countries-reaffirm-commitment-to-ending-polio-at-launch-of-new-eradication-strategy); UNICEF - [data.unicef.org/topic/child-health/pneumonia/](https://data.unicef.org/topic/child-health/pneumonia/); CDC - [cdc.gov/healthywater/pdf/global/programs/globaldiarrhea508c.pdf](https://www.cdc.gov/healthywater/pdf/global/programs/globaldiarrhea508c.pdf); WHO - [who.int/news-room/facts-in-pictures/detail/immunization](https://www.who.int/news-room/facts-in-pictures/detail/immunization)



## Did You Know?

- **Vaccines save 4.3 million lives each year (WHO).**
- **Vaccines play a critical role in reaching UN Sustainable Development Goal 3: reducing preventable childhood deaths.**