



shot@life

UNITED NATIONS
FOUNDATION

Shot@Life is a U.S. grassroots advocacy campaign of the United Nations Foundation that works to give more of the world's people access to lifesaving vaccines and all children a shot at life, no matter where they live. To do this, Shot@Life:

- **Educates**, raising awareness about global vaccine inequity and the need to strengthen global immunization systems;
- **Advocates**, leveraging our nationwide network of general supporters and trained grassroots advocates to push for strong U.S. government investment in the immunization work of our UN partners (UNICEF, World Health Organization, UNHCR, and Gavi, the Vaccine Alliance);
- **Partners** with corporations and individuals, mobilizing private resources in support of Shot@Life's vaccine advocacy work and the global immunization work of our UN partners.

Why Vaccines?

Vaccines are one of the most cost-effective ways to save and improve lives 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 childhood diseases like measles, polio, pneumonia, and rotavirus.

Vaccines 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 the routine delivery of vaccines, leaving 25 million more children completely unvaccinated and at risk of contracting preventable, deadly infectious diseases. We must work to regain the immunization ground lost over the past several years.

Join the Call - Vaccines for All!

Together, we are working to give more of the world's people access to vaccines and all children a shot at life. Our grassroots network includes more than 3,600 trained advocates across the U.S. and thousands of online supporters who advocate, fundraise, and raise awareness on behalf of global childhood immunization programs. Your voice, time, and support 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.**

Top Priority Diseases

Though Shot@Life works to give people of any age access to vaccines, protecting young children remains our priority. For this reason, we strongly advocate for vaccine programs to combat these deadly childhood 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 Feb. 2023:

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; 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/; 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 more than 4 million lives each year (WHO).**
- **Vaccines play a critical role in reaching UN Sustainable Development Goal 3: reducing preventable childhood deaths.**