



children first.

Health and Immunization

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Maternal and Child Health around the World

Great progress has been made in the past 25 years in preventing the deaths of children under five. Between 1990 and 2016, the number of children under five dying every year fell from 12.7 million to 5.6 million. But this progress has not been universal. Still, every day about 15,000 children die from things we can prevent.

Malaria, diarrhea and pneumonia are among the top five killers of children under the age of five. Low-cost, proven solutions like oral rehydration salts to treat life-threatening diarrhea or insecticide-treated mosquito nets to prevent malaria are still not available for every child who needs them.

Meanwhile, millions of children lack access to simple and affordable vaccines to protect them from diseases like polio, measles and tetanus. Nearly half of all child deaths happen in the first 28 days of life. One in every three births takes place without a skilled birth attendant or health care worker. Babies who don't survive their first month often perish from preventable causes such as sepsis, respiratory infections, or contaminated water.

These preventable child deaths are linked to a lack of national capacity to design, carry out, and maintain national health systems. Many countries still lack trained health workers, adequate supply chains, well-equipped and sanitary health facilities, and policies that meet the needs of marginalized and poor families.



Five-month old Alexander receives a check-up and immunizations.

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About UNICEF

The United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) works in more than 190 countries and territories to put children first. UNICEF has helped save more children's lives than any other humanitarian organization by providing health care and immunizations, clean water and sanitation, nutrition, education, emergency relief and more. UNICEF USA supports UNICEF's work through fundraising, advocacy and education in the United States. Together, we are working toward the day when no children die from preventable causes and every child has a safe and healthy childhood.

For more information, visit unicefusa.org.

UNICEF in Action

UNICEF helps shape governments' health policies and budgets, train health care workers, and strengthen immunization and community health programs, while simultaneously working with local actors — religious leaders, community health workers, municipal authorities and families — to generate demand for health services.

UNICEF's support to governments and communities includes:

- Scaling up maternal, newborn and child health care services.

- Ensuring the availability of pre-natal and post-natal obstetric and newborn care.
- Promoting breastfeeding and vaccinating children against deadly diseases.
- Ensuring the availability of essential medical supplies and drugs.
- Increasing access to rapid diagnostic testing for killer diseases.
- Strengthening national health systems to prepare and respond to health crises.

2017 UNICEF Health and Immunization Snapshot

In 2017, UNICEF:

- Invested \$1.37 billion in its health programs around the world.
- Reached 45% of the world's children with vaccines, procuring 2.4 billion doses of vaccines for 102 countries, valued at \$1.3 billion.
- Helped vaccinate 60.6 million children against measles and 60.4 million against diphtheria, tetanus and pertussis.
- Engaged in polio eradication programs in over 50 countries.
- Delivered more than 1.3 billion doses of oral polio vaccines.
- Since 2014, an additional 10 countries have eliminated maternal and neonatal tetanus, averting an estimated 81,000 newborn deaths.
- Helped reduce the price of a complete set of childhood vaccines to \$18, including a 50% reduction in the cost of pentavalent vaccine.
- Supported the training of over 83,000 community health workers, with more than 240,000 such workers trained since 2015.
- Ensured access to health care services for 15.2 million women and children in emergencies.
- Provided insecticide-treated bednets to nearly 1 million families. ●

Simple, proven, low-cost solutions could save millions of mothers' and children's lives every year. UNICEF works at the highest levels of government and with grassroots actors to ensure that every child can survive and thrive.



Two little girls wait to be seen by health workers in a camp for the displaced near Baghdad, Iraq. The medical center provides vaccinations, nutrition and health services to vulnerable children displaced by conflict and crisis.