

Pneumonia Facts: The World

Pneumonia is a deadly disease, especially for children in developing countries

- ◆ Pneumonia kills more than 1.5 million children under 5 every year.^[1] In fact, pneumonia and diarrhea are the two leading causes of deaths in children under 5 worldwide.^[1]
- ◆ An estimated 98% of children who die of pneumonia live in developing countries.^[2]

Pneumonia causes needless suffering and stress

- ◆ Each year, there are more than 150 million episodes of pneumonia in young children in developing countries,^[3] and more than 11 million children need hospitalization for pneumonia.^[4]
- ◆ Pneumonia is an economic burden for families and communities, contributing to the cycle of poverty.

Pneumonia is a problem with solutions

- ◆ We know how to **protect** and **prevent** children from catching pneumonia, and how to **treat** those suffering with this illness.

Take action to fight pneumonia

- ◆ Raise awareness about pneumonia among leaders and health providers
- ◆ Educate the public about pneumonia
- ◆ Advocate for more funding
- ◆ Hold a World Pneumonia Day event
- ◆ Proclaim November 12th as World Pneumonia Day



We can **protect** from pneumonia

- ◆ Exclusive breastfeeding during the first 6 months of life is an important and easy way to help protect children from pneumonia and many other diseases.^[5]
- ◆ Worldwide, less than 40% of babies receive exclusive breastfeeding in the first 6 months of life.^[6]
- ◆ Other strategies: good nutrition, hand-washing, and reduced indoor air pollution^[5]

Vaccines can safely and effectively **prevent** pneumonia before it occurs

- ◆ New vaccines against Hib and pneumococcus—bacteria that cause up to half of childhood pneumonia deaths—^[7] can prevent a significant portion of disease.^[5]
- ◆ While many countries now or will soon provide the Hib vaccine, most children in developing countries still lack access to the pneumococcal vaccine.
- ◆ Other preventive strategies are: measles and pertussis (whooping cough) vaccines, zinc supplementation, HIV prevention, and antibiotic prophylaxis for people with or exposed to HIV.^{[5],[8],[9],[10]}

Children should have access to effective and affordable **treatment**

- ◆ Treatment for most types of serious pneumonia is usually antibiotics, which typically cost less than one dollar per dose.
- ◆ Effective case management strategies can help to ensure that children receive the right treatment for pneumonia quickly.^[11]
- ◆ Worldwide, fewer than two-thirds of children with pneumonia are taken to an appropriate health care provider.^[6]
- ◆ Only an estimated 1 of every 5 children with pneumonia receives antibiotics.^[12]

**It's time to stand up, speak out and join the fight against child pneumonia.
Take action now to help save the lives of millions of children around the world.**

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