



Key Messages for World Pneumonia Day **Pneumonia: A Devastating Toll**

Pneumonia is deadly, especially for children

- More than 1.5 million children die from pneumonia each year.¹
- Pneumonia is the leading cause of death among children under 5 years of age worldwide.²
- One child dies from pneumonia every 20 seconds. That's 4,300 young lives lost every day.³

Most children who die of pneumonia live in developing countries

- An estimated 98% of children who die of pneumonia live in developing countries.⁴
- For every 1 child that dies of pneumonia in a developed country, more than 2000 children die of pneumonia in developing countries.⁵

Pneumonia causes needless suffering and stress on families

- Pneumonia also causes needless suffering through illness and hospitalization.
- Each year, there are more than 150 million episodes of pneumonia in young children in developing countries, and more than 11 million children need hospitalization for pneumonia.^{6,7}

Pneumonia contributes to the cycle of poverty

- Pneumonia is an economic burden for families and communities.^{8,9}
- The financial costs of pneumonia include hospital stays and medications, transportation to health centers, and the caretakers' inability to work or take care of other family members while they are caring for a sick child.^{10,11}
- Families often must take out large loans to pay for care of their seriously ill child, which may further drag them into deep poverty.
- These costs further contribute to the cycle of poverty for many families.

¹ Black R, Cousens S, Johnson H, *et al.* Global, regional, and national causes of child mortality in 2008: a systemic analysis. *Lancet.* 2010; 375:1969-87.

² World Health Organization. World health statistics 2009. Geneva: World Health Organization; 2008. http://www.who.int/whosis/whostat/EN_WHS09_Full.pdf. Accessed September 6, 2009.

³ Black R, Cousens S, Johnson H, *et al.* Global, regional, and national causes of child mortality in 2008: a systemic analysis. *Lancet.* 2010; 375:1969-87.

⁴ World Health Organization. World health statistics 2006. Geneva: World Health Organization; 2006. <http://www.who.int/whosis/whostat2006.pdf>. Accessed September 6, 2009.

⁵ World Health Organization. World health statistics 2006. Geneva: World Health Organization; 2006. <http://www.who.int/whosis/whostat2006.pdf>. Accessed September 6, 2009.

⁶ Rudan I, Boschi-Pinto C, Biloglav Z, Mulholland K, Campbell H. Epidemiology and etiology of childhood pneumonia. *Bull World Health Organ.* 2008;86:408-16.

⁷ Rudan I, Tomaskovic L, Boschi-Pinto C, Campbell H. Global estimate of the incidence of clinical pneumonia among children under five years of age. *Bull World Health Organ.* 2004;82:895–903.

⁸ Hussain H, Waters H, Khan AJ, Omer SB, Halsey NA. Economic analysis of childhood pneumonia in Northern Pakistan. *Health Policy and Planning.* 2008;23(6): 438-442.

⁹ Srivastava NM, Awasthi S, Agarwal GG. Care-seeking behavior and out-of-pocket expenditure for sick newborns among urban poor in Lucknow, northern India: a prospective follow-up study. *BMC Health Services Research.* 2009;9:61.

¹⁰ Ayieko P, Akumu AO, Griffiths UK, English M. The economic burden of inpatient paediatric care in Kenya: household and provider costs for treatment of pneumonia, malaria and meningitis. *Cost Effectiveness and Resource Allocation.* 2009;7,3.

¹¹ Madsen, HO, Hanehøj M, Das AR, *et al.*. Costing of severe pneumonia in hospitalized infants and children aged 2–36 months, at a secondary and tertiary level hospital of a not-for-profit organization. *Tropical Medical and International Health.* 2009;14(10):1315-1322.