

Global Pneumonia Interventions

Pneumonia is the #1 killer of children under age 5 worldwide – responsible for 18% of all child deaths. In 2011 alone, 1.3 million young children died from this preventable and treatable illness.

Controlling childhood pneumonia requires an integrated package of interventions to protect, prevent, and treat the disease, as outlined in WHO and UNICEF's 2009 Global Action Plan for the Prevention and Control of Pneumonia (GAPP) report. Fortunately, many of the interventions targeted at pneumonia also help control other childhood diseases, such as diarrhea, and should be part of a comprehensive approach to child survival.



Protect *children by providing an environment of low pneumonia risk*

- Exclusive breast feeding during the first six months of life and adequate nutrition through age five protect children from pneumonia, diarrhea, malnutrition, and other diseases.
- Regular hand washing and access to clean water and sanitation protect children against pathogens that cause pneumonia, diarrhea, and other diseases.
- Eliminating household air pollution, especially smoke from unsafe cookstoves, reduces the risk of severe pneumonia in children.



Prevent *children from becoming ill with pneumonia*

- Vaccines against pneumococcus, Hib, pertussis, and measles can prevent a significant portion of pneumonia cases from ever occurring.
- Other preventative strategies include: zinc supplementation for children with diarrhea, prevention of HIV infection in children & antibiotic prophylaxis for HIV-infected children.



Treat *children who become ill with pneumonia*

- Antibiotics, especially amoxicillin, can be used to treat pneumonia, and typically cost less than \$1 per dose.
- Effective, integrated case management strategies, ensure that children receive proper and timely treatment for pneumonia.
- Improving access to services and increasing awareness and demand for services within communities is crucial to controlling pneumonia.



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global coalition against
child pneumonia