

FIGHTING FOR BREATH:

The Global Forum on Childhood Pneumonia

29-31 January 2020, Barcelona, Spain at CosmoCaixa

OVERVIEW

photo credit: Save the Children's Fighting for Breath report

Why do we need a Global Forum on Childhood Pneumonia?

ISGlobal, Save the Children, UNICEF, Every Breath Counts, Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation, "la Caixa" Foundation, USAID and Unitaid have joined forces to address one of the greatest and gravest health challenges facing children around the world. **Pneumonia is the single biggest infectious killer of children, claiming over 800,000 lives annually, yet pneumonia remains a neglected disease both nationally and globally.**

Almost all of the deaths are readily preventable through vaccination and treatable with low-cost antibiotics and oxygen. Still, the death toll continues. The poorest children are most at risk because of high rates of malnutrition, low vaccine coverage and limited access to correct diagnosis and timely treatment. With the movements to strengthen primary healthcare and achieve universal health coverage gathering pace, now is the time to accelerate efforts to end preventable child pneumonia deaths.

We are convinced that a breakthrough on pneumonia is within reach.

What will the Global Forum achieve?

This is not a forum for reflection, but a call to action to deliver concrete measures with the potential to save hundreds of thousands of children's lives.

The Global Forum is a major opportunity to ensure that pneumonia is at the forefront of national and global health agendas; galvanise national action; and mobilise the donor community to ensure achievement of the Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) on child survival and the Global Action Plan for Pneumonia and Diarrhea (GAPPD) target of three child pneumonia deaths per 1,000 live births. The Global Forum will increase awareness of the scale of the pneumonia challenge, agree practical pathways that governments and their partners can take to meet that challenge through stronger more equitable health systems.

This will also be a moment to support the Gavi 2020 replenishment efforts. Thanks to Gavi, [The Vaccine Alliance](#), the pneumococcal conjugate vaccine (PCV) has reached more than 140 million of the world's most vulnerable children, yet still more than half (53%) are not fully covered. Gavi provides a powerful mechanism for preventing pneumonia and saving lives – and it will feature prominently at the Global Forum.

When and where is the Global Forum?

- **Dates:** 29-31 January 2020
- **Location:** [CosmoCaixa](#), Barcelona, Spain
- **Hosts:** ISGlobal, Save the Children, UNICEF, Every Breath Counts, Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation, "la Caixa" Foundation, USAID and Unitaid
- **Audience:** 300 participants, including government ministers and senior planners from high-burden countries, leaders of United Nations and multilateral development agencies, major donors, non-governmental organisations, and corporations, and the pneumonia research community
- **Format:** The Global Forum will combine high-level keynote addresses together with panel presentations, individual TED-style talks and 'chat-show' discussions, with ample opportunities for audience interaction and networking

What outcomes are expected?

- 1) **Global Forum Action Statement:** Specific and measurable actions that governments and international development agencies will pursue to end preventable child pneumonia deaths by 2030 in their respective countries and globally, with a major focus on reducing the major risk factors associated with pneumonia death, and closing vaccination, diagnosis and antibiotic and oxygen treatment gaps for the most vulnerable children. This will accelerate actions on breakthrough innovations.
- 2) **Pneumonia Control Strategies:** Political commitments from governments in high-burden countries to develop national strategies to achieve the target of three child pneumonia deaths per 1,000 births by 2030. As part of efforts to improve primary health care and achieve universal health coverage, this will be supported where necessary by international development assistance.
- 3) **Gavi Replenishment:** Increased financial support from national governments and donors to improve coverage of the pneumonia-fighting vaccines, especially the pneumococcal conjugate vaccine (PCV), especially among the most vulnerable children and commitments from vaccine manufacturers to improve the affordability of vaccines.
- 4) **Pneumonia Progress Report:** A bi-annual report holding all parties accountable for progress on reducing child pneumonia deaths, including timely data on coverage of the most critical prevention, diagnosis and treatment services and levels of domestic spending, international development assistance and infectious disease research spending allocated for pneumonia-related activities.
- 5) **Global Health and Development Agenda:** Inclusion of pneumonia in national and international health policies, programmes and events relating to child survival, infection control, vaccination, primary healthcare and universal health coverage.

How to be involved in the Global Forum?

For more information please visit the [Bill & Melinda Gates](#) and [Stop Pneumonia](#) websites.