

# 2<sup>nd</sup> Global Forum on **CHILDHOOD PNEUMONIA**

# Key Messages





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# For the Forum



**Key/umbrella message:** The Second Global Pneumonia Forum will enable countries to rapidly reduce child pneumonia deaths and accelerate achievement of the child survival Sustainable Development Goal (SDG). By ensuring all children are protected with the pneumonia-fighting vaccines, and have access to fast and accurate diagnosis and effective treatment with antibiotics, oxygen and therapeutic food, every country can drive child pneumonia deaths down to the levels needed to achieve the SDGs.

**Supporting message 1:**

Pneumonia is the leading infectious cause of child death in the world. On average, more than 2,000 children die every day from pneumonia - one child every 45 seconds. Almost all of these deaths occur in low- and middle-income countries and almost all are preventable.

**Supporting message 2:**

By bringing together senior government health officials, UN and global health agencies, the private sector, and the CSO community, the 2nd Global Forum on Childhood Pneumonia will strengthen the partnerships that will drive the next wave of child survival progress.

**Supporting message 3:**

There are highly cost-effective tools to stop children dying of pneumonia like vaccines, antibiotics, oxygen and therapeutic foods to treat wasting. The Forum will generate the new commitments needed to ensure these tools are reaching the children most vulnerable to death.

**Foundational:**

- Every year, pneumonia claims the lives of approximately 700,000 children under the age of five. Three out of every four deaths are among children under the age of one. .
- The pandemic has caused the largest backsliding in childhood vaccination in almost three decades. In 2021, 25 million children missed out on life saving vaccines. First-dose measles coverage has dropped to 81%, the lowest level since 2008, and just 51% of children globally receive three doses of the powerful pneumococcal conjugate vaccine (PCV), with 46 countries experiencing declines in PCV coverage during the pandemic.
- In addition, millions of children are now living in areas with food shortages with the most vulnerable in 15 countries including Ethiopia, Somalia, South Sudan, Burkina Faso, Chad, Mali, and the Democratic Republic of the Congo. In the 15 countries there are an estimated 8 million severely wasted children, more than 27 million living in severe food insecurity; and more than 40 million living in severe food poverty.
- 54 countries are now off-track to reduce child deaths to the levels required to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). 80% of those countries are in Africa.
  - These countries cannot make rapid progress to closing the SDG 3 achievement gap without reducing pneumonia deaths. The 14 countries coming to the forum are home to 60% of all child pneumonia deaths.
  - If these countries can drive coverage of the PCV, measles and DTP vaccines to above 90%, reduce childhood wasting and exposure to air pollution, and ensure that children with pneumonia are diagnosed and treated quickly with antibiotics, oxygen, and therapeutic foods where necessary, they could reduce pneumonia deaths by more than 80%.
- Now is the time to build health systems that can deliver the vaccines and other essential health services to every child to reduce child pneumonia deaths and accelerate progress to the SDG child survival goal.



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# Post Forum



| Event/Moment                       | Message  |
|------------------------------------|--|
| SOWC Launch and WIW (April)        | <p>Vaccines save millions of lives every year, but far too many children in the world are not being vaccinated. Historic backsliding has put many more children at risk of vaccine preventable diseases, including pneumonia. But millions of children could be reached this year through large-scale catch-up efforts to vaccinate and protect the children that missed out due to pandemic-related disruptions, and those who were already missing out. For that to happen, we need governments to immediately prioritize action to tackle historic backsliding in immunization and commit to reaching every child with all routine and essential vaccines now, and in the future. As was highlighted at the Forum, and in the Declaration, Governments should expand outreach services in underserved areas to identify and reach missed children with all essential life saving vaccines.</p>  |
| World Health Assembly (May)        | <p>In April 2023, leaders came together for the Second Global Pneumonia Forum and many new commitments were made in order to secure progress. The Forum organizers and delegates encourage the adoption of the <a href="#">‘Increasing Access to Medical Oxygen’ resolution</a> at the Seventy-Sixth World Health Assembly. Further, Member States are encouraged to support events and publicly recommit to reaching every child with pneumonia fighting vaccines as part of progress towards Immunization Agenda 2030 goals</p>  |
| Gavi MTR (June)                    | <p>The Spanish Minister for Foreign Affairs, European Union and Cooperation, José Manuel Albares Bueno, will co-host Gavi’s high-level Global Vaccine Impact conference, the Mid-Term Review of the current strategic period (2021-2025), on 13 to 15 June 2023 in Madrid. Held under the patronage of the Prime Minister of Spain, Pedro Sánchez Pérez-Castejón, this in-person conference will provide another key opportunity for leaders of partner countries and other members of the Vaccine Alliance to take stock of the state of vaccination in lower-income countries, assess performance and impact – including how we can extend the protection provided by vaccines against pneumonia – and write the next chapter of global immunisation together. Since Gavi’s inception 23 years ago, the Alliance has protected generations of children, more than one billion of them, from potentially fatal infectious diseases like pneumonia, and that is why the conference’s theme will be “Raising Generation ImmUnity”. This will be a critical moment to reflect on how to save more lives with vaccines in the countries most in need for the years ahead.</p> |
| Chad PCV intro meeting (September) | <p>In April 2023, leaders came together for the Second Global Pneumonia Forum and many new commitments were made in order to secure progress. The Forum organizers and delegates encourage all countries to introduce the Pneumococcal Conjugate Vaccine and are ready to support all stakeholders involved in this endeavour.</p>   |
| SDG Summit (September)             | <p>In April 2023, leaders came together for the Second Global Pneumonia Forum and many new commitments were made in order to secure progress. The Forum organizers and delegates asserted in the Declaration that unless progress is made and the number of children dying from Pneumonia decreases dramatically, we will not reach the ambition set out in the SDGs and specifically target 3.2. All those gathered now, as the world marks the halfway point of Agenda 2030, must understand the scale of what needs to be done and work together to achieve our shared Goals.</p>   |
| UN HLM on UHC (September)          | <p>In April 2023, leaders came together for the Second Global Pneumonia Forum and many new commitments were made in order to secure progress. The Forum organizers and delegates recognise the importance of achieving universal health coverage and how through strengthening primary health systems all countries will be better able to reach all children with the tools required to prevent, diagnose and treat pneumonia and accelerate progress on child survival.</p>  |
| World Pneumonia Day (November)     | <p>In April 2023, leaders came together for the Second Global Pneumonia Forum and many new commitments were made in order to secure progress. This World Pneumonia Day, 6 months on from the forum, the progress that has already been made is a cause for celebration.</p>  |



## Evergreen

- Primary health care provision is the vital pathway to reducing pneumonia deaths. Governments must prioritize equitable access to primary health care, including prevention through immunization, reduction in wasting, and diagnosis and treatment of common causes of illness and death - for every child

## Key resources

[Child Health Spotlights](#) - Country data for selected high-burden countries on leading threats to the survival of children under the age of five - focussing on Pneumonia and Diarrhoea.

### Please note:

- These messages have been fact checked by UNICEF's data team for accuracy.
- These messages are about the Second Global Pneumonia Forum overall and therefore intentionally general in nature, anyone is welcome to adapt to their national context and/or develop messaging on specific commitments.
- This is a living document and the Post Forum messages can be updated at any time, pending review and sign off.