



EVERY BREATH COUNTS

PNEUMOCOCCAL VACCINE SCORECARD

MAIN FINDINGS

Twenty countries account for 80% (120,000) of the **additional child lives** that could be saved with full coverage (90%) of the PCV by 2030

Twelve countries are in Africa, six are in Asia, and two in the Middle East, and 13 are **eligible for financial support** from Gavi, the Vaccine Alliance

Eleven of the 20 countries are **fragile and conflict-affected** according to the World Bank (Nigeria, Chad, Somalia, DRC, South Sudan, Ethiopia, Iraq, Afghanistan, Mozambique, Mali, Cameroon)

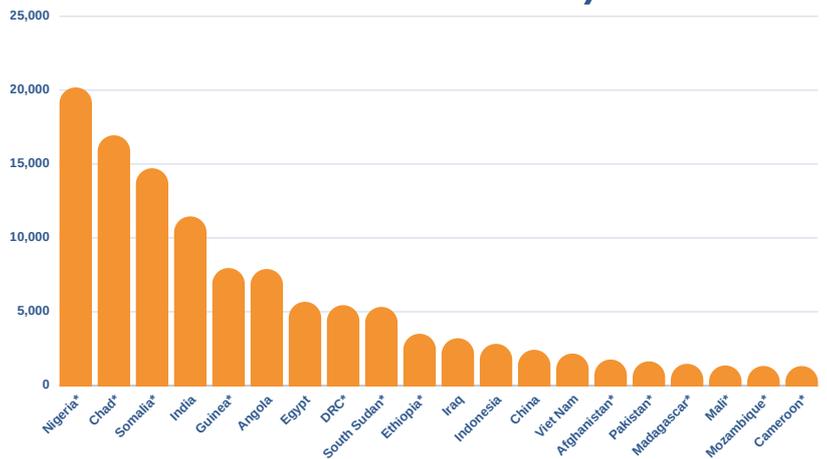
Of great concern, four countries have **yet to introduce PCV** (Guinea, Egypt, China, and Viet Nam)

National governments and global vaccine and humanitarian agencies must prioritize high PCV coverage as a critical **Child Survival Action** strategy in the countdown to the 2030 SDG deadline

Visit:

[https://stoppneumonia.org/
/issues/prevent/](https://stoppneumonia.org/issues/prevent/)

Top 20 countries where increases in PCV coverage can save the most children's lives by 2030



*Eligible for support from Gavi, the Vaccine Alliance, 2025

Source: Lives Saved Tool (LiST), 2025

Twenty countries account for 80% of the **additional children's lives** that could be saved if every country achieved 90% coverage of one of the most powerful pneumonia-fighting vaccines by 2030, the pneumococcal conjugate vaccine (PCV), according to the Lives Saved Tool (LiST).

The 120,000 lives saved are in 20 countries spread across Africa, Asia, and the Middle East. Most (13) are **eligible for financial assistance** from Gavi, the Vaccine Alliance (Gavi). More than half (11) are defined as **fragile and/or conflict-affected** by the World Bank. Four have yet to introduce the PCV (Guinea, Egypt, China, and Viet Nam).

With just five years remaining to the deadline for achieving the child survival **Sustainable Development Goal (SDG)**, these 20 governments must prioritize 90% PCV coverage to protect their children.

Global vaccine and humanitarian agencies must provide countries with the information and resources needed to maximize the cost-effectiveness of their PCV programs, especially a ready supply of affordable PCVs and optimized dosing schedules.

PNEUMOCOCCAL VACCINE SCORECARD

CALL TO ACTION

National governments and global vaccine and humanitarian agencies must:

1. Ensure that vulnerable populations know that the PCV vaccine prevents the leading bacterial cause of childhood pneumonia
2. Accelerate PCV coverage to the **Immunization Agenda 2030** target of at least 90% before 2030
3. Explore **catch-up PCV campaigns** to protect older, unvaccinated children, including those in displaced persons and refugee camps
4. Maximise the cost-effectiveness of PCV programs (e.g., by selecting affordable PCVs, **reducing dosing schedules**,* etc.)
5. Include PCV coverage as part of **national child survival strategies** and publish progress annually

*Note the **evidence** that two doses of PCV are as effective as three and the **WHO Position Paper** advising countries on when to switch.

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Photo: PCV introduction in Somalia, 2025

HIGH RETURN ON PCV COVERAGE

High and sustained PCV coverage delivers:



Reductions in child pneumonia, meningitis, and sepsis deaths, accelerating achievement of Sustainable Development Goal 3.2 - a child mortality rate of at least 25 deaths per 1,000 births by 2030



Reductions in catastrophic health care costs for families required to pay the high costs of child pneumonia, meningitis, and sepsis hospitalization



Reductions in antimicrobial resistance as higher PCV vaccination means lower demand for antibiotics to treat pneumonia, meningitis, and sepsis

PCV INNOVATION

The World Health Organization (WHO) currently prequalifies three PCVs for children protecting against 10 and 13 strains of pneumococcal disease. But there are efforts underway to produce pneumococcal vaccines that protect against 14, 15, 20, and even 25 strains. If these efforts are successful, PCVs will become an even more effective tool in the fight to reduce pneumococcal deaths among children and adults:

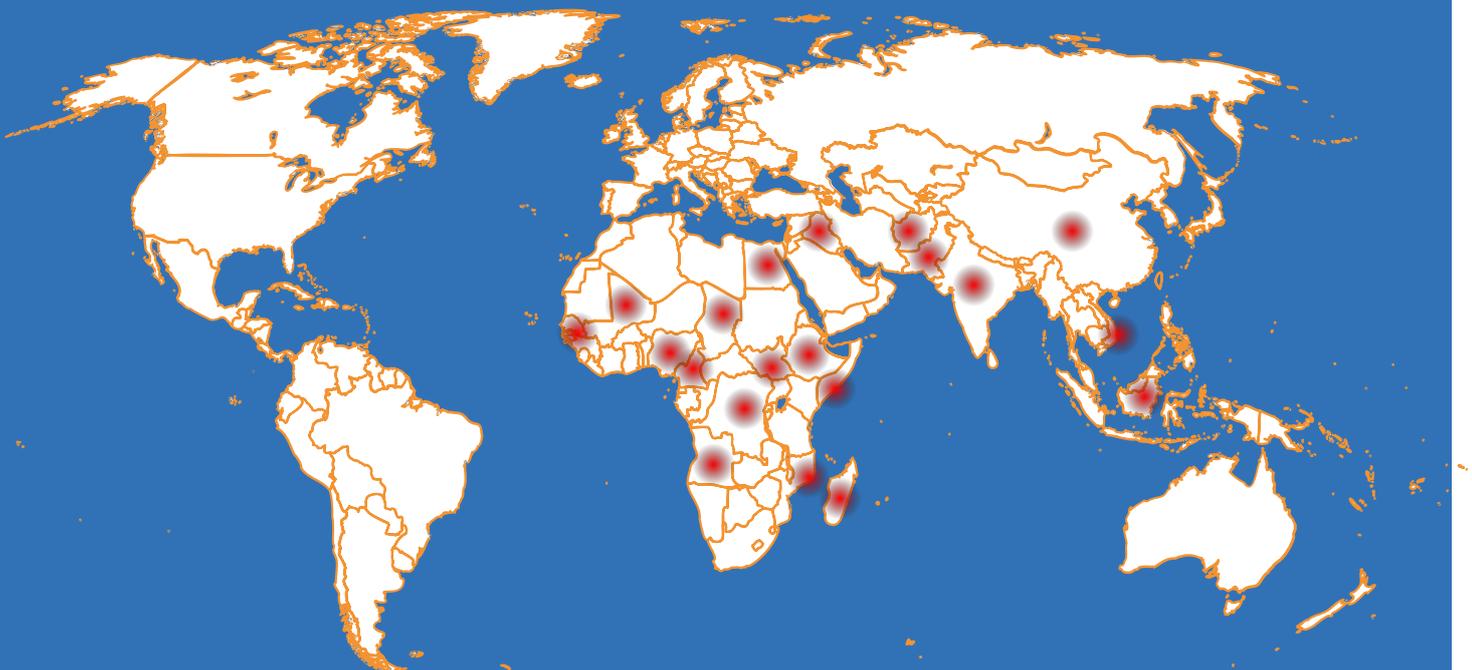
- **PCV-10:** Protects against 10 strains and is manufactured by GlaxoSmithKline as Synflorix® (including serotypes 4 and 18C) and the Serum Institute of India as PNEUMOSIL® (including serotypes 6A and 19A)
- **PCV-13:** Protects against 13 strains and is manufactured by Pfizer as Prev(e)nar®
- **PCV-14:** Protects against 14 strains and is being developed by Biological E as BE-PCV14
- **PCV-15:** Protects against 15 strains and is manufactured by Merck as VAXNEUVANCE® Approved for use in children in the USA in 2022
- **PCV-20:** Pfizer (20vPnC) is currently conducting clinical trials with a pneumococcal vaccine for children that protects against 20 pneumococcal serotypes
- **PCV-25:** Protects against 25 strains and is in early development by Inventprise and the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation as IVT-PCV-25

PNEUMOCOCCAL VACCINE SCORECARD

COUNTRY	CHILD PNEUMONIA DEATHS (2023)	% PCV COVERAGE (2024)	GAVI ELIGIBILITY (2025)	CHILD LIVES SAVED WITH 90% PCV COVERAGE (2025-2030)
NIGERIA	100,800	28%	Yes	20,200
CHAD	12,300	0%	Yes	16,900
SOMALIA	7,200	0%	Yes	14,700
INDIA	135,400	95%	No	11,500
GUINEA	6,100	0%	Yes	8,000
ANGOLA	5,100	62%	No	7,900
EGYPT	9,100	0%	No	5,700
DRC	24,000	63%	Yes	5,400
SOUTH SUDAN	4,100	0%	Yes	5,300
ETHIOPIA	14,300	73%	Yes	3,500
IRAQ	1,300	65%	No	3,200
INDONESIA	12,300	70%	No	2,800
CHINA	4,900	0%	No	2,400
VIET NAM	1,900	0%	No	2,200
AFGHANISTAN	9,700	57%	Yes	1,800
PAKISTAN	33,500	87%	Yes	1,600
MADAGASCAR	8,200	64%	Yes	1,500
MALI	6,400	83%	Yes	1,400
MOZAMBIQUE	7,900	55%	Yes	1,300
CAMEROON	8,600	76%	Yes	1,300

Sources: Global Burden of Disease 2023, WHO/UNICEF Estimates of National Immunization Coverage (WUENIC), 2024

20 TOP PRIORITY PCV COVERAGE COUNTRIES



These 20 countries are home to 80% of the child lives saved with 90% PCV coverage by 2030 according to the [Lives Saved Tool \(LiST\)](#), 2025