



## **Global Coalition against Pneumonia Celebrates Gates Foundation's Record \$10 Billion Investment in Life-saving Vaccines**

January 29, 2010

Bill and Melinda Gates today announced an unprecedented investment of \$10 billion over the next 10 years to support the research, development and delivery of life-saving vaccines for the world's poorest countries. This extraordinary investment – which is in addition to the \$4.5 billion the foundation has already invested in vaccines over the past decade – will help ensure that more children receive protection against pneumonia, the world's No. 1 killer of children under five, as well as severe diarrhea and other preventable diseases.

The Global Coalition against Pneumonia joins the Gates Foundation in its call to make 2010-2020 “the decade of vaccines.” While much more is needed to make lifesaving vaccines available to every child in every country, the Gates Foundation's investment is a powerful shot in the arm in our race to meet the United Nations Millennium Development Goal of reducing child deaths by half by 2015.

Pneumonia takes the lives of more children under 5 than measles, malaria, and AIDS combined. The disease takes the life of one child every 15 seconds, and accounts for 20% of all deaths of children under the age of 5 worldwide. While pneumonia affects children and families everywhere, it has the most deadly impact in South Asia and sub-Saharan Africa, where 98% of pneumonia deaths occur. It can be prevented with simple interventions, and treated with low-cost, low-tech medication and care.

The Global Coalition against Pneumonia, made up of nearly 100 influential health organizations from around the globe, marked the first annual World Pneumonia Day in November 2009. This year, World Pneumonia Day will be on November 12. We urge all world leaders, policy makers, and members of the global health community to mark this date in their calendars and make the fight against pneumonia a top priority.

### ***About The Global Coalition against Pneumonia***

*The Global Coalition against Child Pneumonia and the World Pneumonia Day Coalition, was established in April 2009. It seeks to bring focus on pneumonia as a public health issue and to prevent the millions of avoidable deaths from pneumonia that occur each year. The coalition is grounded in a network of international government, non-governmental and community-based organizations, research and academic institutions, foundations, and individuals that have united to bring much-needed attention to pneumonia among donors, policy makers, health care professionals, and the general public. Learn more at [www.worldpneumoniaday.org](http://www.worldpneumoniaday.org).*