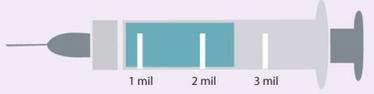


Strengthening Immunization Systems

The Issue: We're not reaching every child

IMMUNIZATION PREVENTS BETWEEN 2 & 3 MILLION DEATHS EVERY YEAR



Yet 1 in 5 kids are missing out.



Immunization programs are the entry point into primary health care in many countries, often providing the only access for mothers and young children. However, immunization programs in resource-poor countries face many barriers to success, including shortages of vaccines, untrained staff and supervisors, and unreliable power supply. The result:

Each year almost 22 million children miss life-saving vaccines, leaving them vulnerable to disability and death from preventable diseases.

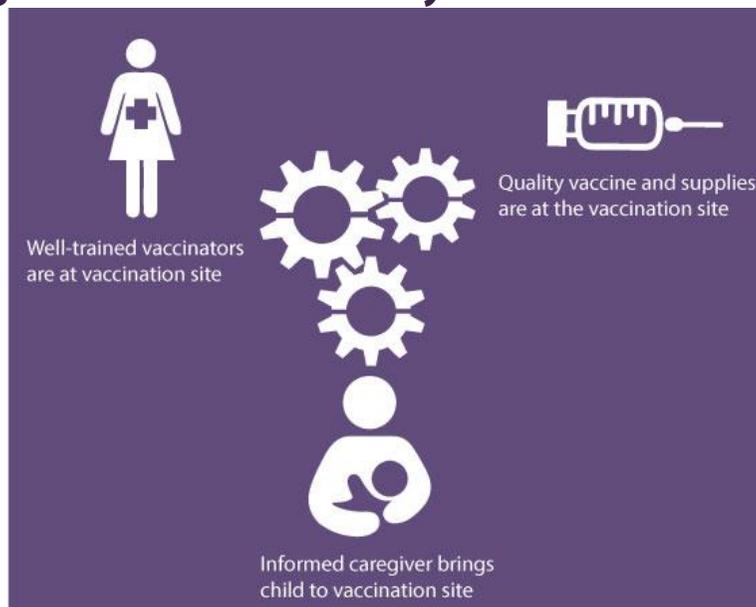
If immunization programs do not reach these children, they are also unlikely to receive other preventive health services.

The Solution: Better immunization systems

The goal of an immunization system is to ensure every eligible person is vaccinated with all recommended vaccines in quality condition and by trained vaccinators. A strong national immunization system achieves and sustains high coverage with all recommended vaccines. This leads to high levels of population immunity which protects the population from infection when diseases strike.

An immunization system includes all of the human and logistical components needed to ensure the regular delivery and use of vaccines and the monitoring of their positive and adverse impacts. Eligible people are vaccinated in a timely manner according to a known (national) schedule of vaccines.

What makes a good immunization system?



By The Numbers

21.8 Million

Number of children that do not get the vaccines they need each year.

10 Countries

Number of countries that contain 70% of the world's unimmunized babies.

400 Children

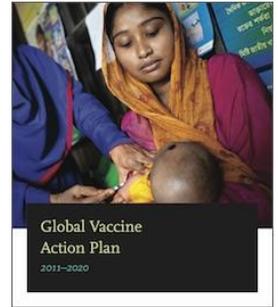
Number of kids that die from measles every day – 16 children every hour.

One Half

Proportion of countries that use vaccines against pneumonia, which is the #1 infectious disease killer of children 5 and under.

CDC Helps Countries Improve Their Immunization Systems

CDC partners closely with countries to improve immunization systems to reach every child. Our work is aligned with the [Global Vaccine Action Plan 2011-2020](#), endorsed by the World Health Assembly in May 2012. The Plan, called GVAP, is a framework to prevent millions of deaths by 2020 through more equitable access to existing vaccines for people in all communities. This is how we contribute to achieving such an important mission:



Enhance the global immunization workforce: STOP & START

- Identify staffing strategies that lead to solutions for the rapidly changing needs of global public health
- Programs making a big impact:
 - Stop Transmission of Polio (STOP) program, which trains hundreds of public health professionals from around the world and sends them to the places with the greatest need to end polio, measles, and other VPDs
 - Strengthening Technical Assistance for Routine Immunization Training (START), which is similar to the STOP program but focuses on routine immunization on-the-job training in Uganda and Ethiopia

Support partners' disease detection and prevention efforts:

- Provide technical assistance and training on vaccine preventable disease surveillance: assist with reviews of country disease surveillance systems, immunization service programs, and post-vaccine introduction evaluations
- Assist partners with the introduction of new vaccines through economic analysis, planning/implementation and evaluation/program improvement

Shape global immunization policies:

- Support the creation and effectiveness of national immunization technical advisory groups (TAGs) in making evidence-based vaccine policy in partner countries
- Participate in global immunization policy groups and boards to foster strong vaccine recommendations, like the Strategic Advisory Group of Experts on Immunization, Regional TAGs and certification committees

Strategic use of information for decision-making:

- Provide guidance and training to improve data management, including data collection, data entry, collation and reporting: Perform data quality assessments and create responsive training programs; District-level Data Improvement Teams project in Uganda
- Promote and train on maximizing the use of data for action: Data analysis, interpretation and communication lead to evidence-based decision making, program design and policy changes to improve health outcomes

Conduct operational research for program improvement:

- Identify research on interventions designed to improve access, increase demand for and use of immunizations, for example: Assessing the effectiveness and acceptability of integrating immunization services with HIV testing and treatment in Tanzania
- Remove barriers and overcome vaccine storage and management issues to provide evidence-based recommendations to improve immunization programs

For more information, please visit our website: www.cdc.gov/globalhealth/immunization