The United States’ investments in global health are among the most impactful and cost-effective solutions our nation can support. Measurable progress has been made toward achieving an HIV/AIDS-free generation, ending preventable child and maternal deaths, and ridding the world of polio, measles and rubella, guinea worm, diphtheria, whooping cough, tetanus, deadly diarrhea, respiratory infections and malaria. These efforts save millions of lives overseas, while strengthening the US economy and promoting health security.

Investing in global immunization saves lives. Effective vaccines and immunization systems are critically important elements of US global health programs. With strong American support, the world has made tremendous progress in fighting vaccine-preventable diseases. For example, efforts to immunize every child have reduced new polio cases by 99.9 percent, leaving the world nearly polio free.

Investing in global immunization benefits Americans. Infectious diseases are just a plane, train, or car ride away. US support for global immunization programs protects Americans from disease outbreaks overseas, before they reach us at home. Strong immunization systems also provide a platform for better disease detection and response. For example, in 2014, Nigeria was able to rapidly replicate its polio immunization infrastructure and emergency operating center to respond to and contain an imported case of Ebola.

Immunization is among one of the most cost-effective health interventions available and grows economies. For every dollar invested in global health, there is a 10–20-fold return in economic benefits, fostering greater independence and increased participation by low and middle-income countries in the global economy. The US also leads the world in vaccine research, development, innovation, and production, driving jobs domestically. For example, new vaccines for diseases such as Zika have been fast-tracked for development to protect both Americans and global communities.

US leadership is critical to continued progress. Despite significant progress, too many individuals still do not receive the vaccines they need to survive and thrive. Sustained US investments in immunization are important for America’s continued prosperity and global stability.

Facts

- Immunization prevents between 2 to 3 million deaths every year.¹
- Worldwide, nearly 20 million children under the age of five are unimmunized. An estimated 1.5 million children die every year from diseases that can be prevented by vaccination.²
- In the countries that make up 80 percent of the world’s under-five child deaths, over half of the poorest children are not fully vaccinated.³
- For every $1 USD invested, there is a $44 return across the lifespan of an immunized child, reflective of lower treatment costs and productivity gains.⁵
- At an estimated cost of almost $11,000 USD per case of measles imported to the US, even a small outbreak can result in millions of dollars in economic loss.⁶
- Reducing vaccine-preventable diseases is critical to controlling antimicrobial resistance, a threat which could kill 10 million people by 2050.⁷

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⁴ UNICEF data.
US DEPARTMENTS AND AGENCIES

US Agency for International Development (USAID) - USAID provides technical and commodity assistance to more than 70 countries supporting national child immunization programs in partnership with Gavi, UNICEF, and WHO, among others. This assistance is directed at increasing access to new and underutilized vaccines, the research and development of new vaccines, generating demand, training health workers, strengthening capacity, and upgrading vaccine logistics.

US Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) - CDC's Global Immunization Division (GID) focuses on children, adolescents, and adults who are at the highest risk for illness and death from polio, measles, and other vaccine-preventable diseases. GID protects Americans at home by building public health infrastructure and capacity globally, responding to vaccine-preventable diseases where they occur and preventing imports.

US Food and Drug Administration (FDA) - The FDA regulates products produced in other countries and used in the US, including vaccines and vaccine delivery technologies. The FDA also works with less experienced countries to build their own capacity to regulate the development and production of vaccines.

US National Institutes of Health (NIH) - NIH engages in global health throughout its 27 institutes and centers, supporting vaccine research and development on infectious diseases such as Ebola, Zika, and HIV/AIDS, as well as translating promising vaccine technologies into products.

US Department of Defense (DoD) - The DoD works to safeguard civilian and military health in areas where troops may be deployed and has supported the development of one of every four vaccines approved by the FDA. DoD conducts vaccine research for threats like malaria, dengue, Ebola, and HIV/AIDS.

INTERNATIONAL EFFORTS

Gavi, the Vaccine Alliance - Gavi was launched to create equal access to vaccines for the world’s poorest countries. Investments in Gavi have supported the immunization of more than 700 million children against life-threatening diseases such as pneumonia, measles, and diarrhea since 2000, preventing more than 10 million deaths. The Alliance’s goal of immunizing an additional 300 million children by 2020 would prevent an additional 5 to 6 million deaths.

UNICEF - UNICEF is a major partner with the United States in fighting vaccine-preventable diseases, including polio, measles, and maternal/neonatal tetanus, especially during humanitarian crises. UNICEF is the largest buyer of vaccines in the world, procuring vaccines for Gavi, and plays a critical role in delivering vaccines to children.

World Health Organization (WHO) - WHO’s work in vaccines and immunization covers a range of activities including shaping vaccine research and development, evidence-based recommendations, strengthening routine immunization to meet elimination and coverage targets, improving national capacity and accelerating control of vaccine-preventable diseases.

Coverage rates for three doses of diphtheria-tetanus-pertussis vaccine in USAID’s 25 priority countries - used as an indicator for how well countries provide routine immunization services - increased by 10 percent between 2008 and 2015, representing a total of more than 390 million children vaccinated during that time period.

CDC serves as the lead technical immunization agency, working to fully eradicate polio and to decrease measles cases by 95 percent. These successes are supported by CDC’s ability to monitor infectious diseases, having tracked over 1,500 outbreaks in more than 190 countries.

NIH is partnering with pharmaceutical company, GlaxoSmithKline, to develop several Ebola vaccine candidates and is sponsoring trials in Africa run by a Liberia-US clinical research partnership.

FDA’s Center for Biologics Evaluation and Research serves as a mentor to the African Vaccine Regulatory Forum and helped develop a vaccine against meningitis A— the first vaccine ever developed specifically for Africa, which is expected to protect more than 400 million people by 2020.

The US Military HIV Research Program led the first HIV vaccine clinical trial to provide proof that a vaccine could prevent HIV infection. Early research at the Walter Reed Army Institute of Research contributed to the development of the first-ever effective malaria vaccine candidate.

Through the Advance Market Commitment (AMC), pneumococcal vaccines are available to Gavi-supported countries at no more than $3.50 a dose, less than 10 percent of the public price in the USA. In 2019, Gavi secured the lowest price offer from one of its pneumococcal vaccine suppliers of $2.90 per dose.

In 2017, UNICEF remained the largest buyer of vaccines and procured 2.44 billion doses, helping reach 45 percent of the world’s children with lifesaving vaccines.

World Health Organization (WHO) - WHO’s work in vaccines and immunization covers a range of activities including shaping vaccine research and development, evidence-based recommendations, strengthening routine immunization to meet elimination and coverage targets, improving national capacity and accelerating control of vaccine-preventable diseases.

PATH - Dedicated to the health of all children

American Academy of Pediatrics

Gavi - The Vaccine Alliance

GLOBAL CITIZEN

Global Health Council

International AIDS Vaccine Initiative