

## immunizations **Immunizations Save Children's Lives**

Worldwide

- *Two million children die every year from vaccine-preventable diseases.*
- *Nearly 400,000 children die from measles every year.*
- *For \$17, a child can be vaccinated against six major diseases.*

With more than 60 years of experience in saving children's lives, UNICEF has helped communities throughout the world vaccinate their children against major diseases. Working with various governmental and community partners, UNICEF boosted immunization rates from 5 percent in 1974 to nearly 80 percent today.

Despite this feat, much work needs to be done. Every year, more than 2 million children die from diseases that could have been prevented by vaccines. Measles, a disease practically eradicated in the United States, claims the lives of 242,000 people annually. Just \$17 can vaccinate a child against the six major childhood illnesses: polio, diphtheria, whooping cough, tetanus, tuberculosis, and measles. Few interventions yield better results for the health and survival of children than immunization.

### **UNICEF is the Global Leader in Vaccine Supply**

- *Vaccines have saved over 20 million children since 1988.*
- *UNICEF empowers local communities to routinely vaccinate their children against disease.*
- *Immunizations are the most cost-effective way to save children's lives.*

Immunizations increase a child's resistance to disease and have saved over 20 million

lives in the past two decades. Working in more than 150 countries and territories, UNICEF is the global leader in vaccine supply, reaching 55 percent of the world's children. UNICEF works with governments and partner agencies to ensure that every child is vaccinated against the top six childhood diseases.

Working closely with its government partners, UNICEF holds *National Immunization Days* to jumpstart immunization coverage. These country-wide campaigns immunize millions of children, including those living in the most hard-to-reach areas. Notably, UNICEF and its partners have even been able to negotiate temporary cease-fires between warring factions during times of conflict, allowing health professionals to safely enter war zones and vaccinate children during *National Immunization Days*.

While *National Immunization Days* are effective, UNICEF's ultimate goal is to empower local communities to administer vaccinations on a regular basis. For instance, UNICEF supports the "Training of Trainers" method, which teaches health workers how to train village volunteers in health practices like immunization. With UNICEF's assistance, local communities can acquire the skills and supplies needed to vaccinate their children routinely.

Regardless of the logistical complexities, politics, or the cultural issues at play, UNICEF has the know-how and resources to get the job done. For over 60 years, UNICEF's staff of professionals has worked simultaneously at the household, village, state, country, or regional level to create lasting positive change for children all over the world.

*Let's do whatever it takes to save a child.*



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