



The US Coalition for Child Survival, established in 2000, is a coalition of organizations and individuals united to strengthen U.S. and global commitment to improve the survival and health of children in developing countries.



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Take Action for Child Survival and Health

We increase awareness and understanding of unmet health needs, effective basic health interventions, and additional resources needed to improve child survival and health.

We mobilize commitment and action to achieve the child and maternal survival goals as set forth in the Millennium Development Goals and as agreed to by the United States and nearly every country.

We promote increasing the level of funding from U.S. public, private, and multilateral funding sources for child, newborn, and maternal survival and health.

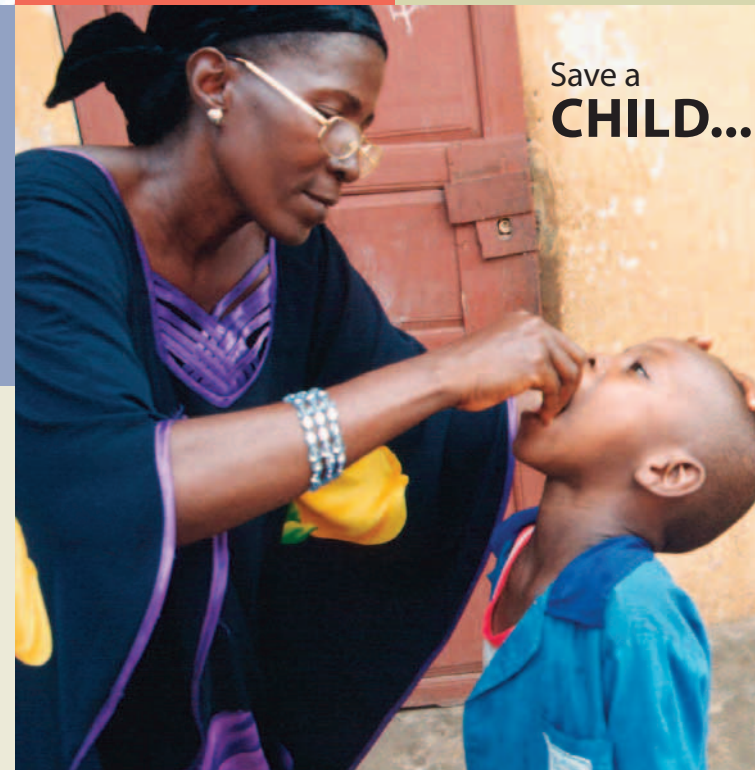


Coalition members have the opportunity to:

- Participate in the Coalition's national child survival advocacy campaign, which includes briefings on Capitol Hill, member-sponsored advocacy days, legislation drives, and special U.S. and global child health day events.
- Network, exchange information, and partner with a wide range of international child survival organizations.
- Gain exposure through the Coalition's media outreach, Web site, and publications.
- Share experience and expertise by participating in the Coalition's Speakers Bureau.
- Establish a live Web link to their organizations' sites from the Coalition's Web site.

Some of our members are:

- Academy for Educational Development
- CARE
- Christian Children's Fund
- Christian Connections for International Health
- CORE Group
- Food for the Hungry
- Future Generations
- Global Health Council
- Global Ministries, United Methodist Church
- Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health
- John Snow, Inc.
- Management Sciences for Health
- The Partnership for Child Health, Inc.
- PATH
- RESULTS
- Save the Children
- The GAVI Fund
- U.S. Fund for UNICEF
- United Nations Association of the USA
- World Relief



Save a **CHILD...**

help a **FAMILY...**

build a **FUTURE —**

support America's values

Membership is free. To get involved and join the US Coalition for Child Survival, please e-mail info@usccs.org. For more information, visit www.child-survival.org.

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Global Child Survival and Health Facts:

Under-five child mortality has declined by 50 percent since 1970. However, more than 10 million children worldwide still die before their fifth birthday.



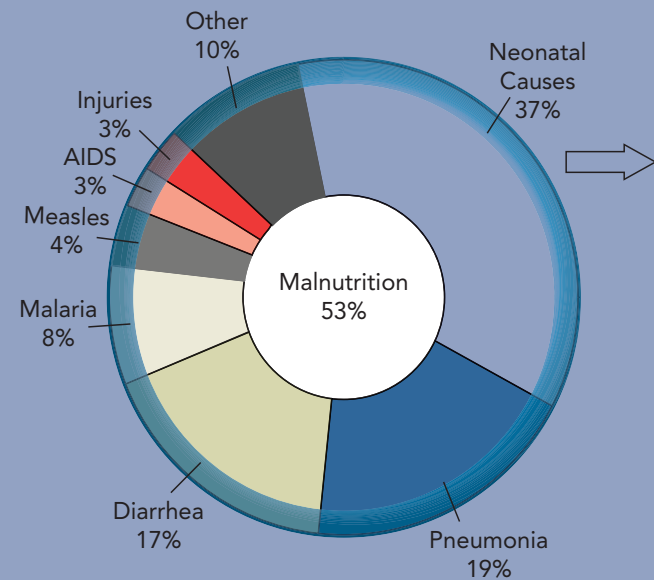
A majority of these deaths are from preventable or treatable causes: pneumonia, diarrhea, malaria, and measles. Four million deaths, roughly equivalent to the number of children born annually in the U.S., occur during the neonatal period – the first 28 days of life – due to premature birth, infection, asphyxia, and congenital conditions. Malnutrition, which weakens children’s ability to ward off illness, contributes to more than half of all child deaths.

While child mortality rates have declined by about one percent every year for the past 20 years, millions of children (particularly in sub-Saharan Africa and parts of South and Southeast Asia) still die because they lack access to basic health care.

Current programs are substantially improving child survival and health, but much more can and should be done. Six million children could be saved annually through a package of basic, low-cost interventions like vitamin A supplementation, oral rehydration therapy, and immunization.

While we know what works, more funding is needed to stop the avoidable deaths of children.

This chart illustrates the interrelationship between malnutrition and the other major causes of child deaths worldwide. (Jennifer Bryce, et al. 2005)



The Role of the United States in Saving Children’s Lives

The United States has been a leader in child health over the past 30 years, and millions of children are alive today because of the programs it supports. However, despite strong public backing for these programs, U.S. government spending for child survival has declined by as much as 20

percent since the mid-1990s. The US Coalition for Child Survival advocates for increasing funding for these important programs. The Coalition believes that now is the time for the United States to demonstrate global leadership and commitment by increasing its investment in proven programs that contribute to child survival and health.

6 Million Children Every Year Can Be Saved

Take Actions to Improve Child Survival and Health

Expand Routine Immunization

Immunization has saved two million lives per year in the last two decades. Immunization rates for the six major vaccine-preventable diseases – pertussis (whooping cough), tuberculosis, tetanus, polio, measles and diphtheria – have risen from under 10 percent in the 1970s to nearly 80 percent today. More recently, coverage has leveled off. Worldwide, about 30 million children are still not reached with routine immunization each year; rates in some African countries have dropped to less than 50 percent.

percent (one out of every five) childhood deaths in Africa. By increasing the number of children who sleep under bed nets treated with long-lasting insecticide, and giving children effective drugs for treating malaria, more than one million lives could be saved.

Promote Proper Child Feeding and Deliver Essential Micronutrients

Although malnutrition has decreased 17 percent in the past decade, the rate of decline has been alarmingly slow in recent years, leaving 20 percent of children in the poorest countries to suffer serious developmental conditions. Promoting exclusive breastfeeding for the first six months of an infant’s life can reduce malnutrition, improve growth, and save lives.

In addition to breastfeeding, access to micronutrients is critical for children to grow, develop and survive. Deficiencies in vitamin A, zinc, iodine and iron can lead to blindness, severe infection, poor growth, mental retardation, and an increased risk of death. Given directly as supplements or through fortified food, micronutrients are an inexpensive and effective way to prevent these deficiencies.

Prevent, Diagnose, and Treat Acute Respiratory Infections, Diarrhea, and Malaria

Acute respiratory infections, usually in the form of pneumonia, contribute to more than two million deaths of children under five every year. Many of these deaths could be prevented through a five-day course of antibiotics, which costs as little as 30 cents.

Since 1990, childhood deaths from diarrhea have declined by 50 percent. Nevertheless, two million children still die every year from diarrhea. Key measures to reduce cases of diarrhea are to ensure access to safe drinking water and improved sanitation, good personal and food hygiene, and health education about how infections spread. Additional lives can be saved by giving children with diarrhea oral rehydration salts (ORS) – a simple solution of sugar, salt, and clean water that costs less than 50 cents to treat a single child.

Malaria kills a child every 30 seconds – about 800,000 children under five every year. The disease accounts for 20

percent (one out of every five) childhood deaths in Africa. By increasing the number of children who sleep under bed nets treated with long-lasting insecticide, and giving children effective drugs for treating malaria, more than one million lives could be saved.

Ensure Safe Pregnancy, Childbirth, and Newborn Care

Each minute, one woman dies from complications during pregnancy and childbirth. Four million newborns die in their first month of life, mostly from premature birth, infections, birth asphyxia, and unsafe delivery practices. Proper care before, during, and after delivery could prevent most of these newborn and maternal deaths. Child survival could be also improved by providing access to skilled birth attendants; giving basic information on the importance of birth spacing and breastfeeding; warming and drying newborns; and preventing and treating infections.

Be a part of the effort to improve the survival and health of children around the world. Join the US Coalition for Child Survival today.

www.child-survival.org