



Committee: WORLD HEALTH ORGANIZATION (WHO)

Committee Topic: VACCINATIONS IN DEVELOPING COUNTRIES

## 1.COMMITTEE BACKGROUND

The World Health Organization (WHO) is specialized agency responsible for international public health. They promote global health to keep the world safe. They make efforts to expand universal health care, as well as conducting research and developing partnerships to widen their impact on improving world health.

## 2. COMMITTEE TOPIC INFORMATION

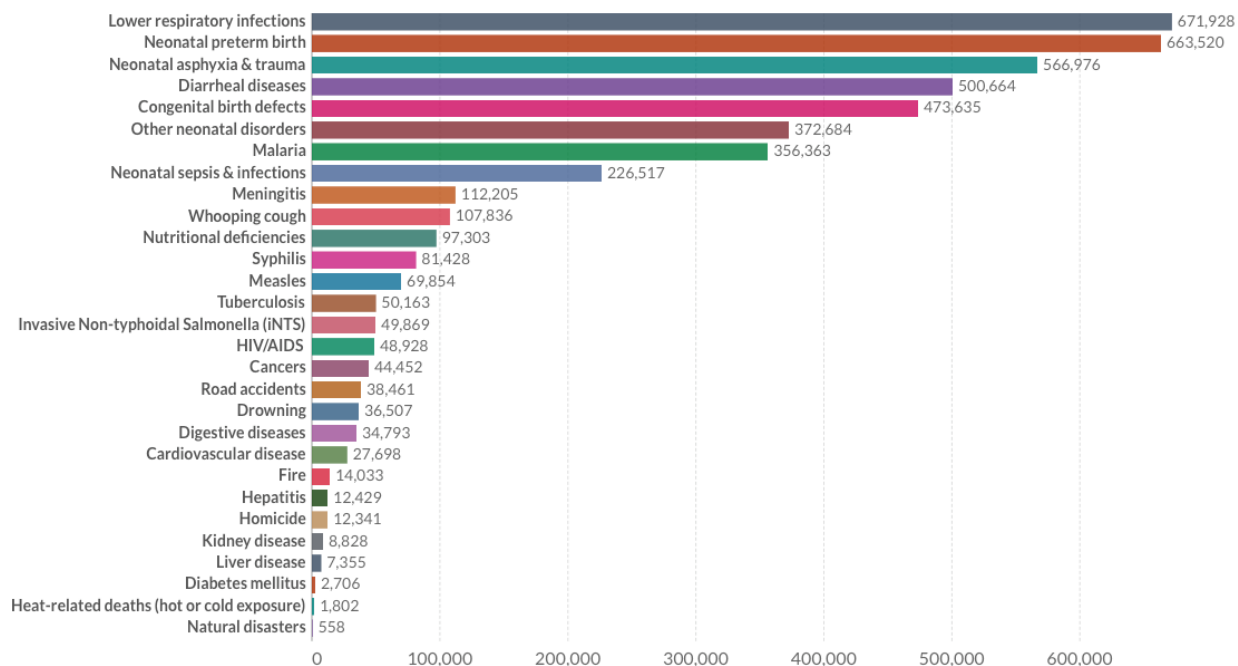
Immunization is a global health and development success story, saving millions of lives every year. Vaccines reduce risks of getting a disease by working with your body's natural defences to build protection. When you get a vaccine, your immune system responds.

## Causes of death in children under 5, World, 2019

Annual number of deaths by leading causes in children under 5 years old.

Our World  
in Data

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Source: IHME, Global Burden of Disease (GBD)

OurWorldInData.org/causes-of-death • CC BY

We now have vaccines to prevent more than 20 life-threatening diseases, helping people of all ages live longer, healthier lives. Immunization currently prevents 2-3 million deaths every year from diseases like diphtheria, tetanus, pertussis, influenza and measles. Global immunization is essential for attaining basic health among the population in developing countries. It ensures immune protection from threatening diseases like influenza, malaria, COVID-19, and measles.

Measles cases have continued to climb into 2019. Preliminary global data shows that reported cases rose by 300 percent in the first three months of 2020, compared to the same period in 2019. This follows consecutive increases over the past two years.

While this data is provisional and not yet complete, it indicates a clear trend. Many countries are in the midst of sizeable measles outbreaks, with all regions of the world experiencing sustained rises in cases. Current outbreaks include the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Ethiopia, Georgia, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Madagascar, Myanmar, Philippines, Sudan, Thailand and Ukraine, causing many deaths – mostly among young children.

Immunization is a key component of primary health care and an indisputable human right. It's also one of the best health investments money can buy. Vaccines are also critical to the prevention and control of infectious-disease outbreaks. They underpin global health security and will be a vital tool in the battle against antimicrobial resistance.

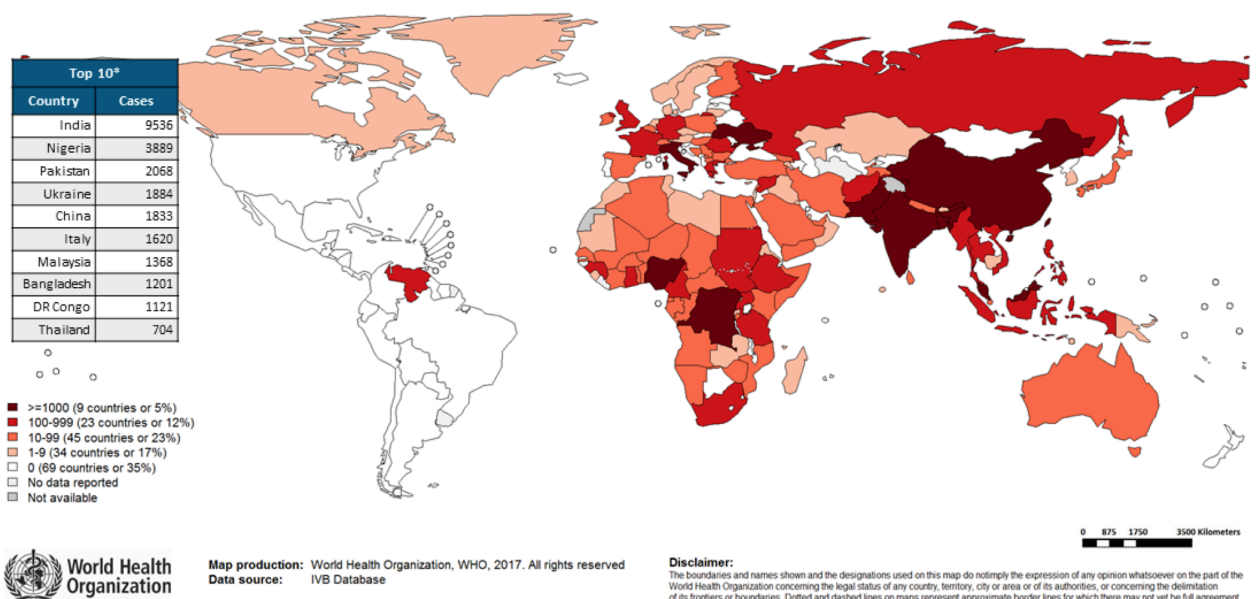
Yet despite tremendous progress, far too many people around the world – including nearly 20 million infants each year – have insufficient access to vaccines. In some countries, progress has stalled or even reversed, and there is a real risk that complacency will undermine past achievements. It is more essential in

developing countries that may not have the financial capacity to fund for the immunization equipment. Vaccines are critical for the prevention and control of diseases and therefore making this topic essential in achieving world health. Some countries have a large amount of population that doesn't believe in modern medicine, instead they believe in traditional medicine.

Reasons for lack of vaccines in less developed countries

Poor health infrastructure, a lack of funding for training and deploying medical staff, as well as vaccine storage issues have all played a part. Also, vaccine hesitancy and skepticism could be playing a significant role.

### Number of Reported Measles Cases (6M period)



Based on data received 2018-01 - Surveillance data from 2017-06 to 2017-11 - \* Countries with highest number of cases for the period

### 3. CURRENT ACTION (UNITED NATIONS)

With governments and partners such as the Measles & Rubella Initiative, Gavi, the Vaccine Alliance, UNICEF and others, response operations are underway to bring country outbreaks under control, strengthen health services, and increase vaccine coverage.

- After conducting emergency vaccination campaigns targeting 7 million children from 6 months through 9 years of age, Madagascar is now seeing overall declines in measles cases and deaths.
- In the Philippines, over 3 890 000 doses of the measles and rubella vaccine have been given to children aged under 5 years.
- In the Democratic Republic of the Congo, the country is preparing to launch a combined response with polio vaccine.
- In collaboration with local health authorities, WHO and UNICEF conducted a nationwide measles and rubella vaccination campaign in Yemen reaching more than 11.6 million (90%) children aged 6 months–16 years across the country.



Responding to measles and rubella requires a range of approaches to ensure all children get their vaccines on time, with particular attention to access, quality and affordability of primary care services. It will also take effective public-facing communication and engagement on the critical importance of vaccination, and the dangers of the diseases they prevent.

#### 4. TOPIC IDEAS FOR YOUR COMMITTEE POSITION PAPER (WHO)

- What is the vaccination rate in your country?
- What are the barriers to people receiving vaccines in your country?
- How can we distribute the vaccines fairly in underdeveloped countries?
- How can we fund the production of vaccines?
- Which countries need the most vaccines?
- How can we tackle cultural reasons for vaccine hesitancy?

## 5. COUNTRY DELEGATIONS TO WHO

- Afghanistan
- United states
- UK
- Argentina
- Brazil
- Canada
- Chile
- China
- Colombia
- France
- India
- Iraq
- Italy
- Jamaica
- Japan
- Nigeria
- Sudan
- Haiti
- Syria
- Ghana
- Kenya
- Tanzania



## 5. USEFUL RESOURCES

- [www.un.org](http://www.un.org)
- [www.who.int](http://www.who.int)