

# SAVING LIVES THROUGH CHILDHOOD VACCINES



## Providing Access to Life-Saving Vaccines Around the World

Vaccines are one of public health's greatest success stories. Diseases that once devastated populations are now easily prevented through the use of vaccines. One of the most powerful vaccine initiatives to invest in is measles control and elimination. Measles vaccination carries one of the highest health returns for money spent, saving lives at an estimated < \$200 per life saved.

## Case Study: The Measles and Rubella Initiative – A Global Measles Control Program

### Problem

- Measles is a highly infectious virus causing severe disease, disability, and death, with the worst outcomes occurring in children, the malnourished, and those with compromised immune systems.
- In 2011, there were 158,000 measles-related deaths and an annual 10.4 million DALYs, or healthy life years lost, due to measles.
- Gaps in vaccine access due to decreased funding, healthcare access, and a lack of awareness have resulted in millions of children being missed by the life-saving vaccine, including 20.1 million infants who did not receive one dose of measles vaccine in 2011.

### Solution

- A safe, effective measles vaccine has been in use since the mid-1960s.
- It only costs about one dollar to administer one dose of the vaccine.

### How it works

- The Measles and Rubella Initiative uses effective, evidence-based practices to deliver vaccines to children around the world.
- Three key components of the program include:
  1. Providing vaccines through routine health clinic services or periodic campaigns in communities
  2. Raising awareness and mobilizing communities to increase the demand for the vaccine
  3. Building capacity to detect and to respond to measles outbreaks quickly through case-based surveillance

### Reach/Scale

- The Measles and Rubella Initiative has vaccinated over 1.1 billion people against measles since 2001, working specifically in priority countries where vaccine coverage levels are low.
- By bridging the gaps in vaccine access, measles elimination is possible.

## COST PER IMPACT PROFILE – MEASLES CONTROL PROGRAMS

### Cost Per Impact

- Cost per child life saved: ~\$150-200
- Cost per Disability Adjusted Life Year (DALY) averted: ~\$7

### Average Cost

- ~\$1 per dose of vaccine (includes all delivery costs)
- ~\$2 to fully immunize a child against measles (2 doses)

### Representative Impacts

- Accelerated measles control activities have led to an 85% reduction in global measles-related mortality, from 1.1 million deaths in 1990 to 158,000 deaths in 2011.
- This success in measles mortality reduction accounts for ~25% of the total decline in childhood mortality since 1990.

(SEE CASE STUDY ON WEBSITE FOR REFERENCES AND SOURCES OF DATA)



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