2013 was an unprecedented year for rotavirus vaccines, the best tool to prevent severe rotavirus disease and the deadly, dehydrating diarrhea that it causes. These important policy initiatives and compelling scientific evidence hold great promise for 2014 and beyond.

1. **Closing the access gap through policy initiatives**
   - Middle-income countries gain access to rotavirus vaccines at lower cost through a new UNICEF initiative.
   - Relaxed age restrictions in new WHO position paper on rotavirus vaccines allow more kids to be vaccinated.

2. **10 new country introductions of rotavirus vaccines**
   - Country National Immunization Program rotavirus vaccine introductions: 52 total, **10 in 2013**

3. **Scientific evidence confirming high rotavirus burden and substantial vaccine impact**
   - GEMS results: rotavirus confirmed as the #1 cause of moderate-to-severe diarrhea in kids under 5 in Africa & Asia.
   - ROTAVAC® Phase III clinical trials results: new low-cost Indian-made rotavirus vaccine is safe & efficacious.

Unanticipated benefits:
- Infant vaccination may indirectly protect older children and adults from severe diarrhea.
- Rotavirus vaccines may prevent rotavirus-related seizures.

Significant impact data from:
- Australia
- Bolivia
- El Salvador
- Honduras
- Mexico
- South Africa
- United States
- Venezuela

For more information about rotavirus, please visit rotavirus.org.