

Key Opinion Leader Statements on the Release of the Integrated Global Action Plan for the Prevention and Control of Pneumonia and Diarrhoea

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Global

Dr. Koki Agarwal, Director, Maternal & Child Health Integrated Program (MCHIP)

"I extend my support to the release of the Global Action Plan of the Prevention and Control of Pneumonia and Diarrhoea (GAPPD)," said Dr. Koki Agarwal, director of USAID's Maternal & Child Health Integrated Programme (MCHIP). "The GAPPD provides a framework to prevent and treat disease in children using proven interventions that have already contributed to major reductions in child mortality. Aligned with MCHIP's mission to utilize an integrated approach across health programmes, this first-ever unified effort to protect children from two leading killers at once—pneumonia and diarrhoea—will save countless lives and help countries achieve their Millennium Development Goal 4 (MDG 4) targets."

Dr. Greg Allgood, Director and Founder, Proctor & Gamble Children's Safe Drinking Water Programme

"The tools to save children's lives are in our hands," said Dr. Greg Allgood, director and founder of the P&G Children's Safe Drinking Water Program. "Clean drinking water, exclusive breastfeeding, adequate nutrition and basic hygiene practices like handwashing with soap are all proven to protect children from the deadliest threat that most children face - diarrhoea and pneumonia. I absolutely love the GAPPD because it uses an integrated approach to provide proven solutions at scale."

Dr. Seth Berkley, CEO of the GAVI Alliance

"We need to integrate the life-saving immunisation that GAVI supports with treatment to prevent and control pneumonia and diarrhoea. Together with our partners, we can end the preventable deaths of more than two million children a year by 2025. GAVI welcomes the integrated Global Action Plan for the Prevention and Control of Pneumonia and Diarrhoea (GAPPD) developed by the World Health Organization (WHO) and UNICEF, two major GAVI Alliance partners, and released today in a special Lancet series."

Dr. Thomas Brewer, Deputy Director on the Enteric and Diarrheal Diseases team at the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation

"Thanks to new vaccines, improved sanitation, and more effective treatments, we have made great strides in tackling the leading killers of kids: pneumonia and severe diarrhoea," said Dr. Thomas Brewer, deputy director on the Enteric and Diarrheal Diseases team at the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation. "But there is more work to be done and this new integrated approach shows how the world is uniting to give all children a healthy start to life."

John Cahill, CEO, McCann Health

"The Global Action Plan shines a light on the twin challenges of educating families to recognize the danger signs of pneumonia and diarrhoea and encouraging them to seek care quickly from a qualified professional," said John Cahill, CEO of McCann Health. "At McCann Health, we believe commercial approaches to 'create demand' for quality healthcare products and services will ultimately bend the curve and enable the world to achieve significant and sustainable reductions in child mortality. Using approaches we have refined over many decades with our private sector clients to understanding the fundamental 'truths' within individuals, and using this information to create effective communications directed toward vulnerable populations, a virtuous cycle of consumer empowerment and economic development is initiated that becomes self-reinforcing and enables entire communities to improve their quality of life."

Raymond Chambers, United Nations Secretary-General's Special Envoy for Financing of the Health Related Millennium Development Goals and for Malaria

"I congratulate WHO and UNICEF for launching the Integrated Global Action Plan on Pneumonia and Diarrhoea, two critical causes of child death that must be addressed in our quest to achieve the Millennium Development Goal on child mortality," Raymond Chambers, United Nations Secretary-General's Special Envoy for Financing of the Health Related

Millennium Development Goals and for Malaria. “To achieve this goal, we must save the lives of 4.4 million children by the 31 December 2015 deadline. Accelerating progress dramatically against diarrheal deaths and pneumonia deaths - the latter of which in Africa can be tied to our efforts against malaria - will be critical to our collective effort, and I look forward to doing whatever I can to enable faster progress.”

Dr. Ciro A. de Quadros, Executive Vice President of the Sabin Vaccine Institute and Co-chair of the Rotavirus Organization of Technical Allies (ROTA) Council

“When taking on big challenges like ending pneumonia and diarrhoea deaths in children, we must use every tool we have,” said Ciro A. de Quadros, executive vice president of the Sabin Vaccine Institute and co-chair of the Rotavirus Organization of Technical Allies (ROTA) Council. “By fighting pneumonia and diarrhoea together with a comprehensive approach that includes vaccines—like rotavirus and pneumococcal conjugate vaccines—breastfeeding, good nutrition, access to safe drinking water, sanitation, better household air quality, oral rehydration therapy, zinc, antibiotics and oxygen, millions more lives can be saved.”

Michael Elliott, President and CEO, The ONE Campaign

“Where you were born shouldn’t dictate whether you live or die. Every child deserves a fair chance at a healthy life,” said Michael Elliott, president and CEO of the ONE Campaign. “Action is the answer and by prioritising the fight against pneumonia and diarrhoea, we can help give every child a fair start. We are firmly committed to building the political support and momentum needed to help countries make the GAPPD a reality.”

Dr. William Foege, Professor of International Health, Emory University and Gates Fellow

“My 14-year-old grandson, Max, recently asked, “If it is true that we lose thousands of children daily from preventable problems, why isn’t that the newspaper headline each day or the lead story in the nightly news?” said Dr. William Foege, Emeritus Presidential Distinguished Professor of International Health, Emory University and Gates Fellow. “It is an embarrassing question. While tremendous progress has been made over the last 20 years and millions of children’s lives have been saved, we simply have not done our best. But now we hold in our hands proven solutions to protect the world’s most vulnerable children from the biggest threats they face. We can make pneumonia and diarrhoea part of history rather than part of their present. But the power of science is in its use. It is the use of these tools that will define us. As Primo Levi taught us, if we have the power to prevent torture and don’t use it, we become the torturers.”

Dr. Julio Frenk, Dean of the Faculty, Harvard School of Public Health

“Ending preventable child deaths from pneumonia and diarrhoeal disease is not just good public health, it’s the right thing to do,” said Dr. Julio Frenk, Dean of the Faculty at the Harvard School of Public Health. “With the release of the Global Action Plan for the Prevention and Control of Pneumonia and Diarrhoea (GAPPD), we have a tool in place to combat these preventable illnesses once and for all. If we do this right, the ripple effects for equity, education and poverty reduction could be monumental. Implementation of the GAPPD—and our collective ability to save millions of lives—will require focused interventions that make safe drinking water, sanitation, hygiene, nutrition, primary health care and health information and education available to everyone. The GAPPD is a key piece of the puzzle, and now is the time to make it matter.”

Rana Hajjeh, Director, Division of Bacterial Diseases, US Centres for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC)

“Too many children all over the world are still dying from pneumonia and diarrhoea,” said Anne Schuchat, assistant surgeon general, United States Public Health Service and acting director, US Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) Center for Global Health and Rana Hajjeh, director, Division of Bacterial Diseases, US CDC. “The GAPPD framework provides the keys to help partners and programs work together to optimize introduction and uptake of multiple new interventions and better use of long-term strategies.”

Karl Hofmann, President and CEO, PSI

“Simple, affordable solutions exist to save children’s lives,” said Karl Hofmann, President and CEO, PSI. “I’m very happy to see that the new Global Action Plan for the Prevention and Control of Pneumonia and Diarrhoea prioritizes these proven strategies and ensures that we tackle these critical diseases in an integrated and coordinated way to reach the most vulnerable children.”

Dr. William Keenan, Executive Director of the International Paediatric Association

“There is absolutely no reason children today should die from pneumonia and diarrhoea,” said William Keenan, executive director of the International Pediatric Association. “We have the tools to stop these deaths and we must. By coordinating efforts to tackle two diseases that can be defeated, we have the power to save millions of children’s lives.”

Ban Ki-moon, Secretary-General, UN

"Renewed action on pneumonia and diarrhoea is critical to achieving the Millennium Development Goals (MDG) and the aims of the Every Woman Every Child movement," said Ban Ki-moon, the United Nations Secretary-General. "The Global Action Plan shows how access to vaccines and treatments, especially antibiotics, oral rehydration salts and zinc, and sanitation interventions, can save millions of lives. Our generation of global health and development leaders has an opportunity to create the healthiest generation of children the world has ever known. We must all rise to the challenge and accelerate our work as the 2015 MDG deadline draws near."

Dr. Jim Yong Kim, President, World Bank

"A world where two million fewer children die from pneumonia and diarrhoea is achievable because we already have the solutions - the vaccines and medicines, clean water and energy, and other key services vital to healthy childhoods," said Dr. Jim Yong Kim, president, World Bank. "The critical challenge is delivery to the children who need these interventions the most. The World Bank is committed to investing in the health of children and in health systems that can sustainably deliver quality, affordable health care to the most vulnerable children. We welcome the Global Action Plan and look forward to deepening our collaboration with partners engaged in maternal and child health."

Don Lindsay, President and CEO of Teck Resources

"Of the 7 million children who don't reach their 5th birthdays, one in three die because they cannot get access to treatments like zinc and oral rehydration salts (ORS) for diarrhoea and antibiotics for pneumonia," said Don Lindsay, President and CEO of Teck Resources. "This is why Teck Resources, in partnership with the Canadian Government, the Micronutrient Initiative and UNICEF, is investing in ORS and zinc treatments for children in Africa, Asia and South America. By building health systems that can deliver zinc and ORS and by educating families to seek these treatments for their children, we can save millions of young lives, strengthening families, communities and nations."

Venkatesh Mannar, President, The Micronutrient Initiative

Nutrition interventions, such as zinc treatment for diarrhoea, vitamin A supplementation to boost children's immune systems and appropriate complementary feeding as of six months of age, are all important in reducing child deaths from diarrhoea and pneumonia. The Micronutrient Initiative (MI) is proud to have been working with governments in their commitment to reducing deaths from these child killers through nutrition interventions and supports increased effort by the global health community to support governments through the Integrated Global Action Plan for the Prevention and Control of Pneumonia and Diarrhoea (GAPPD). Only through concerted and cohesive action will we save and improve children's lives.

Dr. Thomas K. McInerney, MD, FAAP, President, American Academy of Paediatrics

"Paediatricians, in the United States and across the globe, can and should play an active role in the elimination of preventable disease and death from pneumonia and diarrhoea," said Dr. Thomas K. McInerney, president of the American Academy of Paediatrics (AAP). "The AAP applauds the GAPPD's integrative approach to tackling two of the most deadly illnesses for children under age 5. We look forward to partnering with the World Health Organization, UNICEF and many other organizations to ensure that every child – no matter where he or she lives – is given the chance for a healthy, productive life."

Mandy Moore, singer-songwriter/actress; Global Ambassador for PSI

"The Global Action Plan for the Prevention and Control of Pneumonia and Diarrhoea is a significant step in the fight to reduce preventable childhood deaths," said Mandy Moore, singer-songwriter, actress and global ambassador for PSI. "Through my travels with global health organization PSI, I have seen many of these integrated solutions in action -- such as interventions to ensure access to safe drinking water and sanitation, antibiotics to treat pneumonia, and oral rehydration solution and zinc to treat diarrhea. I know that through this coordinated action we can save millions of lives, allowing children the opportunities to grow to their full potential."

Dr. Tony Nelson, Professor of Paediatrics, The Chinese University of Hong Kong, Hong Kong

"It is fascinating how we often fail to appreciate the value of some of life's simplest things," said Tony Nelson, professor in paediatrics at The Chinese University of Hong Kong. "The two leading causes of death and disease in children under 5 years of age will be tackled by The Global Action Plan for the Prevention and Control of Pneumonia and Diarrhoea (GAPPD). This plan focuses on protection, prevention and treatment using very simple measures: exclusive breastfeeding, vaccines, vitamin A, zinc, oral rehydration solution, oxygen and antibiotics. These simple measures are

highly cost-effective and potentially available to all children. Our complex challenge is to ensure that all mothers, fathers, grandparents, health professionals, communities and politicians value and implement these simple interventions.”

Paul Polman, CEO, Unilever

“Our goal at Unilever is to help more than a billion people to improve their hygiene habits and bring safe drinking water to 500 million people reducing the incidence of diseases like diarrhoea and pneumonia,” said Paul Polman, CEO, Unilever. “The Global Action Plan acknowledges that hand washing with soap, clean water and sanitation are among the most cost-effective health interventions for reducing the incidence of both pneumonia and diarrhoea in children under age 5 and that is why Unilever is committed to expanding our investments and deepening our engagement in partnership with governments and non-government organizations as part of our Sustainable Living Plan”.

Dr. Mathuram Santosham, Professor of International health and Pediatrics at the John Hopkins School of Public Health and co-chair of the ROTA Council

“Incredible progress has been made in recent years and millions of child deaths have been averted,” said Mathuram Santosham, professor of international health and pediatrics at the John Hopkins School of Public Health and co-chair of the ROTA Council. “But too many children are still dying from preventable diseases like pneumonia and diarrhoea. We can change this by abandoning the old ‘either/or’ approach to saving child lives and improving their health. No more should we say, ‘pneumonia or diarrhoea. Disease prevention or treatment.’ It is time for an ‘and’ approach to saving child lives, and the GAPPD provides a roadmap for doing just that using comprehensive strategies.

Dr. Anne Schuchat, Assistant Surgeon General, US Public Health Service and Acting Director, US CDC

“Too many children all over the world are still dying from pneumonia and diarrhoea,” said Anne Schuchat, assistant surgeon general, United States Public Health Service and acting director, US Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) Center for Global Health and Rana Hajjeh, director, Division of Bacterial Diseases, US CDC. “The GAPPD framework provides the keys to help partners and programs work together to optimize introduction and uptake of multiple new interventions and better use of long-term strategies.”

Cynthia G. Whitney, Branch Chief, Respiratory Diseases, US CDC

“Every child death is a tragedy, yet each year 2 million children die from pneumonia and diarrhoea,” said Cynthia G. Whitney, branch chief, Respiratory Diseases, US Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. “The GAPPD provides clear direction on interventions that can prevent these deaths. Now is the time to put this plan into action.”

Andrew Witty, CEO, GlaxoSmithKline

“GSK welcomes the Global Action Plan and its twin focus on pneumonia and diarrhoea which together kill more children under 5 than any other diseases,” said Andrew Witty, CEO, GlaxoSmithKline. “We are pleased to contribute to prevention efforts by delivering millions of doses of low cost vaccines against the leading causes of pneumonia and diarrhoea for the world’s most vulnerable children. We continue to work with partners to help increase access to treatments for children with pneumonia and to invest in training health workers to improve diagnosis, treatment and vaccine coverage for children in even the remotest areas. At GSK, we believe that with a concerted effort on both the prevention and treatment sides, we can lift the massive burden of child pneumonia and diarrhoea from families, communities and health systems in developing countries.”

Africa

Dr. George Armah, Senior Research Fellow and Associate Professor, University of Ghana, Ghana

“I have seen first-hand the devastation pneumonia and diarrhoea have caused among Africa’s children and their families,” said Dr. George Armah, senior research fellow and associate professor at the University of Ghana. “As a researcher, I also know the transformative power of vaccines. In clinical study after clinical study, I’ve seen lives changed. We can shield our children from some of the deadliest threats they will face with just a few vaccine doses. By ensuring tools like vaccines reach every child who needs them as part of the full prevention and treatment continuum, we can rewrite history and make diseases like pneumonia and diarrhoea a thing of the past. I’m proud of Ghana for leading our continent in implementing lifesaving solutions for our children. With the GAPPD, we now have the power to save so many more young lives.”

Dr. Roma Chilengi, Country Lead, Absolute Return for Kids (ARK), Zambia

“In Zambia, pneumonia and diarrhoea are the leading causes of death for children under the age of 5. It makes sense to focus our efforts in tackling these two diseases together and to do so using an integrated framework of interventions,

which can be easily understood and implemented by caregivers and health workers. The Centre for Infectious Disease Research ARK programme in Zambia has been promoting an integrated approach to diarrhoea control and so we welcome the recommendations of the GAPPD and renewed international efforts to tackle these two deadly but highly preventable diseases.”

Dr. Chris Elemuwa, National Pneumonia Focal Point and the National Primary Health Care Development Agency (NPHCDA), Nigeria

“The launch of the Global Action Plan for the Prevention and Control of Pneumonia and Diarrhoea (GAPPD) describes the important, integrated, strategic approach to preventing the silent killers of children – pneumonia and diarrhoea. The strategy outlines the commonalities in the prevention and treatment solutions for both the diseases. From strengthening surveillance, to new vaccine introductions, to appropriate treatment – we know how to protect the world’s most vulnerable children. In Nigeria, we are committed to achieving the goal of reducing child mortality and will stop at nothing to achieve it. We encourage all partners, at local, national and global levels to work in unison. Together, we can make a difference.”

Dr. Dorothy Esangbedo, President-elect of the Union of National African Paediatric Societies and Associations and Immediate Past President of the Paediatric Society of Nigeria, Nigeria

“The introduction of new vaccines that target the leading causes of pneumonia and diarrhoea, greater access to quality, affordable ORS, zinc and amoxicillin to treat diarrhoea and pneumonia and a greater focus on water, sanitation hygiene and nutrition are initiatives that should collectively have great impact in reducing two million child deaths from pneumonia and diarrhoea,” said Dr. Esangbedo, president-elect of the Union of National African Paediatric Societies and Associations and immediate, past president of the Paediatric Society of Nigeria. “The need to pursue this approach comprehensively and to ensure that all communities are reached is urgent. It is the duty of all who advocate for optimum child health in Nigeria to support the Global Action Plan’s focus on reaching the most vulnerable children and to work in partnership with the government of Nigeria to ensure that services reach children in the remotest communities.”

Tayo Fariogun, Executive Director, Health and Sustainable Development Association (HESDAN), Nigeria

“Today, the global health community rallies around an important strategy to reduce child mortality with the release of the Global Action Plan for the Prevention and Control of Pneumonia and Diarrhoea (GAPPD),” said Tayo Fariogun, executive director of Nigeria’s Health and Sustainable Development Association (HESDAN). “The GAPPD highlights the proven interventions to protect the world’s children against these two ruthless diseases. Improved nutrition, access to life-saving vaccines and receiving timely care and treatment are several interventions that can make the difference between life and death for a child. We commend the release of this new report and encourage governments, partners and communities to employ the action steps outlined in the GAPPD.”

Dr. Shabir Madhi, Executive Director, The National Institute for Communicable Diseases, Division of NHLS, South Africa

“Tackling the two leading killers of children together just makes good sense,” said Dr. Shabir Madhi, executive director of the National Institute for Communicable Diseases, Division of NHLS in South Africa. “So many of the solutions that protect children and prevent and treat pneumonia and diarrhoea are complementary, and they have been proven time and again to get results that save lives. The science is there. Now it’s up to policymakers to do their part.”

Dr. Ado Jimada Gana Muhammad, Executive Director and CEO, National Primary Health Care Development Agency (NPHCDA), Nigeria

“I congratulate WHO and UNICEF on today’s launch of the Global Action Plan for the Prevention and Control of Pneumonia and Diarrhoea (GAPPD),” said Dr. Ado Jimada Gana Muhammad, the executive director and CEO of the National Primary Health Care Development Agency (NPHCDA) in Nigeria. “This is an important and timely document. It lays out the strategy and interventions needed to reduce the number of children’s lives needlessly lost to pneumonia and diarrhoea. In 2010 alone, more than 240,000 Nigerian children died from these two diseases. The government has made child health a top priority and although we have seen a decrease in the number of young lives lost, there is much more we can do. Under Nigeria’s Saving One Million Lives Initiative, we are accelerating access to life-saving health care for women and children. The GAPPD’s framework provides us with a common, integrated platform to address two of the leading child killers. It underscores the importance of our current efforts, such as diarrhoea prevention through health education and sanitation improvements delivered by a massive deployment of Village Health Workers in various communities; and introduction of the pneumococcal conjugate vaccine, a powerful instrument to fight pneumonia. As the GAPPD shows us, we have many tools in our arsenal, but we must bring them to scale. I urge all stakeholders to join us in this effort.”

Senator Dr. Ifeanyi Okowa, Chairman, Nigeria Senate Committee on Health

"Today's release of the Global Action Plan for the Prevention and Control of Pneumonia and Diarrhoea (GAPPD) by WHO and UNICEF, is a milestone in child health efforts—marking the first time an integrated approach has been outlined to tackle two of the leading killers of children," said senator Dr. Ifeanyi Okowa, chairman of Nigeria's Senate Committee on Health. "In 2010 alone, pneumonia and diarrhoea claimed the lives of more than 2 million children globally, about 240,000 of whom were Nigerians. We must act quickly. Proven ways to prevent, control and treat pneumonia and diarrhoea exist. While in Nigeria we have made great strides to reduce child mortality, our work is far from finished. The GAPPD strategy to fight pneumonia and diarrhoea is crucial to deploying a concerted effort in our communities, our country and throughout the world, to save our children."

Professor Adebiji Olowu, President, Paediatric Association of Nigeria

"The Paediatric Association of Nigeria is a leading advocate for the prevention of pneumonia and diarrhoeal deaths among children," said Professor Adebiji Olowu, president of the Paediatric Association of Nigeria. "We support the introduction of new vaccines that target the leading causes of pneumonia and diarrhoea; greater access to quality, affordable oral rehydration salts (ORS), zinc and amoxicillin to treat diarrhoea and pneumonia; and a greater focus on water, sanitation, hygiene and nutrition initiatives. We welcome the Global Action Plan's focus on reaching the most vulnerable children and pledge our support to work in partnership with the government of Nigeria to ensure that services reach children in the most remote communities."

Dr. Samba Ousmane Sow, Associate Professor of Medicine, University of Maryland School of Medicine, Mali

"Diarrhoea, pneumonia – diseases like these that we can prevent and treat should not be the top killers of Africa's children today, especially when we have so many powerful tools to protect them," said Dr. Samba Ousmane Sow, associate professor of medicine at the University of Maryland School of Medicine. "Solutions like vaccines, handwashing with soap, good nutrition, adequate sanitation, breastfeeding and safe drinking water provide a powerful one-two punch, protecting children from both pneumonia and diarrhoea."

Dr. Oyewale Tomori, President, Nigerian Academy of Science, Nigeria

"The burden of pneumonia and diarrhoea weighs heavily on the children of sub-Saharan Africa," said Dr. Oyewale Tomori, president of the Nigerian Academy of Science. "We certainly can change this. We must support the countries and communities on the front lines, encouraging governments to meet the legitimate demands of the communities and ensure that the children with the greatest needs have access to lifesaving tools like rotavirus and pneumococcal vaccines."

Professor Fred Were, President, Eastern African Paediatric Association and Kenyan Pediatric Association, Kenya

"Millions of children's lives can be saved from pneumonia and diarrhoea through coordinated efforts. On behalf of the Eastern African Paediatric Association, I congratulate all the stakeholders that were involved in the development of the Global Action Plan for the Prevention and Control of Pneumonia and Diarrhoea (GAPPD). GAPPD released by the World Health Organization and UNICEF provides the latest strategies and evidence needed to reduce the two leading killers of children.

Together, pneumonia and diarrhoea account for nearly one-third of deaths in children under five years of age, claiming more than two million lives each year. I'd like to express my support for this Global Plan and my conviction that its implementation at the country level will be worthwhile.

The toll is greatest amongst the poorest children. The plan's integrated approach will be far more effective and efficient than single disease focused approaches because many of the solutions needed to fight pneumonia and diarrhoea are complementary. With the release of the GAPPD, I strongly urge countries and donors to prioritize the fight against pneumonia and diarrhoea through integrated policies, programs and increased resources.

Finally, as a child health champion, I remain steadfast and urge paediatrics, civil society, private sector and the governments' commitment to see the success of GAPPD, both nationally and globally.

Asia

Dr. Shams El Arifeen, Director, Centre for Child and Adolescent Health, ICDDR,B

"Given that icddr,b's history is rooted in the discovery of oral rehydration solution and zinc in the treatment of diarrhoea, it is very gratifying that there is global momentum behind scale-up of these essential interventions in saving the lives of children," said Dr. Shams El Arifeen, director of the Centre for Child and Adolescent Health at ICDDR,B.

Dr. Lulu Bravo, Professor of Paediatric Infectious and Tropical Diseases, University of the Philippines, Philippines

“The prevention of disease continues to be a focus for the Philippines. In 2012, we became the first country in Southeast Asia to introduce rotavirus vaccines, which protect children from diarrhoea and the outlook for 2013 is equally promising as we prepare to introduce pneumococcal conjugate vaccines, which protect children from pneumonia,” said Dr. Lulu Bravo, professor of paediatric infectious and tropical diseases, University of the Philippines Manila. “These vaccines, which are already saving the lives of children around the world every day, will make a huge impact for our children and they are just two of the proven interventions included in the new Global Action Plan.”

Professor Eng Hout, Secretary of State for Health, Ministry of Health, Cambodia

“The Ministry of Health Cambodia supports the Development of Global Action Plan for Pneumonia and Diarrhoea (GAPPD) which will be launched on the 12th April, 2013 in Washington and London.

Since 2000, the Ministry of Health, Cambodia has been working on integrating our programs and policies to improve prevention and treatment of diarrhea and pneumonia, and we are proud of our coordinated policies, improved access to care at the community level, and the implementation of integrated trainings for Village Health Volunteers (VHV). The Global Action Plan for the Prevention and Treatment of Pneumonia and Diarrhea is an important framework to help all countries provide the package of prevention and treatment solutions for diarrhea and pneumonia to protect children everywhere.

We believe that integrated policy and programs for diarrhea and pneumonia lead to improved and more coordinated service provision and that this will ultimately lead to improvements in health outcomes for children. We have witnessed first-hand the positive impacts of integrating programming related to these two diseases. As we move closer to 2015 we are keen to see concerted efforts aimed at improving the health of children to ensure that we meet MDG4. We are excited about the launch of the GAPPD as this helps to re-focus efforts on diarrhea and pneumonia and it provides a framework for integrated action to tackle the two leading killers of children under 5.”

Dr. Gagandeep Kang, Professor and Head, Wellcome Trust Research Laboratory, Division of Gastrointestinal Sciences, Christian Medical College, India

“Too many of our children are dying from diseases that can be prevented,” said Dr. Gagandeep Kang, professor and head of the Wellcome Trust Research Laboratory in the Division of Gastrointestinal Sciences at the Christian Medical College in India. “Vaccines, exclusive breastfeeding, better nutrition, handwashing with soap, these are just a few of the tools we have at our disposal to protect children from pneumonia and diarrhoea.”

Tony Nelson, Professor of Paediatrics, The Chinese University of Hong Kong, Hong Kong

“Pneumonia and diarrhoea are leading causes of death globally in children under the age of 5 years. In Hong Kong, we are fortunate that very few children die from these diseases. Nonetheless, for Hong Kong children under the age of five, approximately 1 in 10 hospital admissions are due to diarrhoea, 1 in 15 to pneumonia, 1 in 35 to rotavirus diarrhoea and another 1 in 35 to influenza,” said Tony Nelson, professor in paediatrics at The Chinese University of Hong Kong. “What many parents don’t realize is that a lot of these admissions could have been prevented with the use of two simple measures recommended by the GAPPD: exclusive breastfeeding and use of vaccines. We could also simplify diarrhoea treatment with greater use of oral rehydration solution. Preventing unnecessary hospital admissions would not only improve the quality of life for our children and families but could also save money within our health care system. Our challenge is to help all Hong Kong people – our mothers, fathers, grandparents, health professionals and policy makers – really value breastfeeding and ensure that all children be vaccinated against rotavirus and pneumonia.”

Dr. Samir Saha, Executive Director, The Child Health Research Foundation and Professor, Dhaka Shishu Hospital, Bangladesh

“As Bangladesh prepares to introduce pneumococcal conjugate vaccines, which protects children from pneumonia, I am proud of the commitment my country has made to saving children’s lives. It is a profound step forward,” said Dr. Samir Saha, executive director of the Child Health Research Foundation and Professor at Dhaka Shishu Hospital in Bangladesh. “But I know there is more we can do to protect our children from both pneumonia and diarrhoea. Vaccines are just one of the many powerful, tools we have to protect our children and we must use every tool we have at our disposal.”

Dr. Naveen Thacker, President-elect, Asia Pacific Paediatric Association and Standing Committee Member, International Paediatric Association, India

“We know what happens when the world comes together to take on killer diseases,” said Dr. Naveen Thacker, president-elect, Asia Pacific Pediatric Association and standing committee member, International Pediatric Association. “We’ve eliminated the threat of small pox and we are drawing close to eradicating polio. Pneumonia and diarrhoea could be next,

if we come together again to take action now by prioritising and implementing the integrated approach laid out in the GAPPD.”

Dr. Yonghang Yang, Beijing Children’s Hospital

“China is counted among the top 10 countries in the world with the greatest number of childhood deaths from pneumonia and diarrhoea,” said Dr. Yonghang Yang, Beijing Children’s Hospital. “We can and must do better for our children. From simple solutions like handwashing with soap to more innovative approaches like vaccines, we have the power to protect our children from pneumonia and diarrhoea and put a stop to these needless deaths.”