For the very first time, there is a global plan to simultaneously tackle two of the leading killers of children: pneumonia and diarrhoea. The Integrated Global Action Plan for the Prevention and Control of Pneumonia and Diarrhoea (GAPPD), released April 12 by the World Health Organization (WHO) and UNICEF, represents an integrated and intensified effort to reduce deaths and illnesses from these diseases and lays out the following framework for scaling up interventions to protect children, prevent disease and treat children who do become sick.

**Protect**
- Children with good health practices from birth
  - Breastfeed exclusively for 6 months
  - Provide adequate complementary feeding
  - Supplement diet with nutrients like vitamin A

**Prevent**
- Children from becoming ill
  - Vaccinate against pertussis, measles, Hib, pneumococcal disease and rotavirus
  - Wash hands with soap
  - Improve access to safe drinking water and sanitation
  - Reduce household air pollution
  - HIV prevention
  - Provide cotrimoxazole prophylaxis for HIV-infected and exposed children

**Treat**
- Children who are ill
  - Improve care-seeking behaviour and referral to health facilities
  - Leverage case management at the health facility and community levels
  - Use amoxicillin and oxygen to treat pneumonia; low osmolarity oral rehydration solution (ORS) and zinc to treat diarrhoea
  - Continue feeding (including breastfeeding)

Achieving maximum impact will require coordination among:
- Governments
- Experts
- Civil Society Organisations
- Nongovernmental Organisations
- Donors
- Multilateral Institutions
- Private Sector
- Advocates

The GAPPD provides the most up-to-date strategies and evidence needed to significantly reduce childhood death and illness. The plan’s integrated approach is designed to be far more effective and efficient than previous single disease focused approaches because many of the solutions needed to fight pneumonia and diarrhoea are complementary. The GAPPD is designed to inform country policies and practices and national governments are expected to take the lead on implementation and to be accountable for progress.