

Pneumonia and Diarrhoea Fast Facts

“In spite of the huge toll on human life and the simplicity and cost-effectiveness of necessary interventions, relatively few global resources are dedicated to tackling these conditions. The public health investment in the control of childhood pneumonia and diarrhoea is not commensurate with the magnitude of these problems...Children are dying because those most at risk are not reached...Use of effective interventions remains too low.”

[Integrated Global Action Plan for Prevention and Control of Pneumonia and Diarrhoea \(GAPPD\)](#)

By the Numbers

- Together, pneumonia and diarrhoea are responsible for **nearly one-third of deaths** in children under age five
- These diseases claim almost **2 million** young lives each year
- Nearly **90%** of these deaths occur in sub-Saharan Africa and Southeast Asia
- Nearly as many children died from pneumonia and diarrhoea as from AIDS, malaria, measles, meningitis, injuries and all other post-neonatal conditions combined

Pneumonia and diarrhoea are two of the leading killers of children worldwide.

While tremendous progress has been made and child deaths have plummeted—**from 12 million in 1990 to fewer than 7 million in 2011**—too many children are still dying from pneumonia and diarrhoea. With better access to lifesaving prevention and treatment solutions and an integrated approach to fighting these diseases, countless lives can be saved.

Countries with Most Deaths among Children under 5 due to Pneumonia and Diarrhoea, 2010

Rank	Country	Deaths
1	India	609,000
2	Nigeria	241,000
3	Democratic Republic of the Congo	147,000
4	Pakistan	126,000
5	Ethiopia	96,000
6	Afghanistan	79,000
7	China	64,000
8	Sudan	44,000
9	Mali	42,000
10	Angola	39,000
11	Uganda	38,000
12	Burkina Faso	36,000
13	Niger	36,000
14	Kenya	32,000
15	United Republic of Tanzania	31,000
	Rest of World	537,000
	Total	2,197,000

Pneumonia and Diarrhoea: Tackling the World's Deadliest Diseases for the World's Poorest Children. United Nation's Children's Fund (UNICEF), June 2012. http://www.unicef.org/media/files/UNICEF_P_D_complete_0604.pdf

Reach Every Child:

- Only **39%** of infants under six months are exclusively breastfed
- Only **31%** of children with suspected pneumonia receive proper antibiotics
- Only **35%** of children with diarrhoea receive oral rehydration therapy