

PNEUMONIA AND PNEUMOCOCCAL DISEASE: KEY FACTS, ISSUES AND SOLUTIONS

PNEUMONIA

- Pneumonia is the leading infectious cause of death in children under 5 years of age
- Pneumonia kills approximately 2 million children every year, according to the World Health Organization (WHO)
- Control and prevention of pneumonia is possible through vaccination, case management, improved nutrition, and risk factor modification (e.g., controlling indoor air pollution)

PNEUMOCOCCAL DISEASE AND VACCINES

- *Streptococcus pneumoniae* (a.k.a. pneumococcus) is a bacterium that is a major cause of pneumonia, meningitis, blood stream infections and ear infections
- Pneumococcal disease occurs in persons of all ages and in all countries
- According to the WHO pneumococcal disease kills approximately 1.6 million people per year, including between 800,000 and 1 million children
- Children with HIV/AIDS are up to 40 times more likely to get pneumococcal disease than children without HIV/AIDS
- Antibiotic resistance makes treatment more complicated and expensive
- Pneumococcal conjugate vaccination is safe and effective for preventing severe childhood pneumococcal disease caused by serotypes included in the vaccine
- Pneumococcal conjugate vaccines are proven safe & effective in Africa and Asia
- Extended protection conjugate vaccines, currently under development, that include 10 or more serotypes are expected to provide a high level of protection throughout the world
- Introducing the currently available 7-valent pneumococcal vaccine now will start saving lives, and facilitate the roll-out of newer, extended protection vaccines as they become available
- WHO recommends pneumococcal conjugate vaccines for developing countries

WHAT WE CAN ACHIEVE

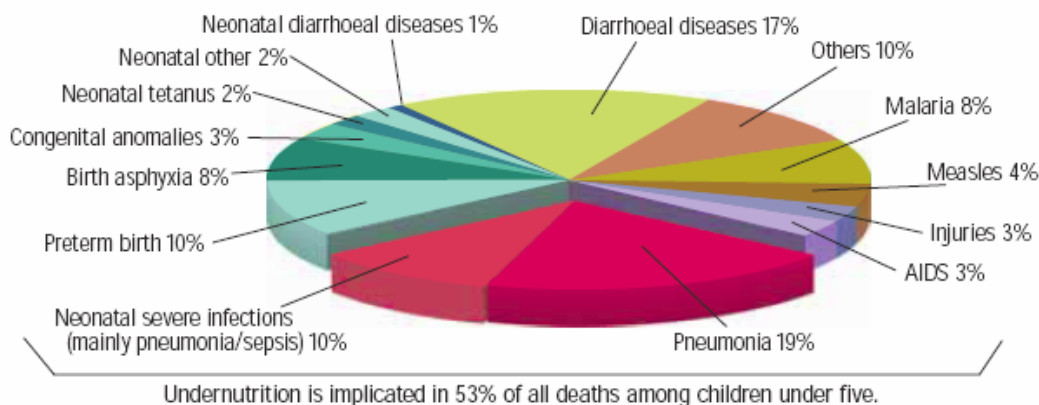
- Introduction of the licensed 7-valent vaccine in two to six developing countries by 2010 through GAVI commitment
- The potential to save the lives of 5.4 million children by 2030 through an Advanced Market Commitment (AMC), which will help provided a sustainable and affordable supply of extended protection vaccines
 - *On 9 February 2007 the governments of Canada, Italy, Norway, Russia and the United Kingdom, together with the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation, pledged US\$1.5 billion to launch the first AMC for pneumococcal vaccines*
- Reductions in adult pneumococcal disease incidence through herd immunity through the use of pneumococcal conjugate vaccines in children
- Healthy populations and stronger economies
- More robust health care systems in poor nations. Immunization programmes provide the opportunity to deliver not just vaccines but other life-saving health services.
- Progress towards United Nations' Millennium Development Goal #4: reducing childhood mortality rates by two-thirds by 2015

WHAT'S NEEDED NOW

- Awareness about pneumonia as a global health problem and the solutions to control and prevent it
- Support to strengthen delivery systems in developing countries
- Financing for vaccine procurement
- Funding for research to evaluate vaccine effectiveness
- Routine surveillance to measure vaccine impact
- Collaborative partnerships and coordinated actions to accelerate the efforts to reach MDG4

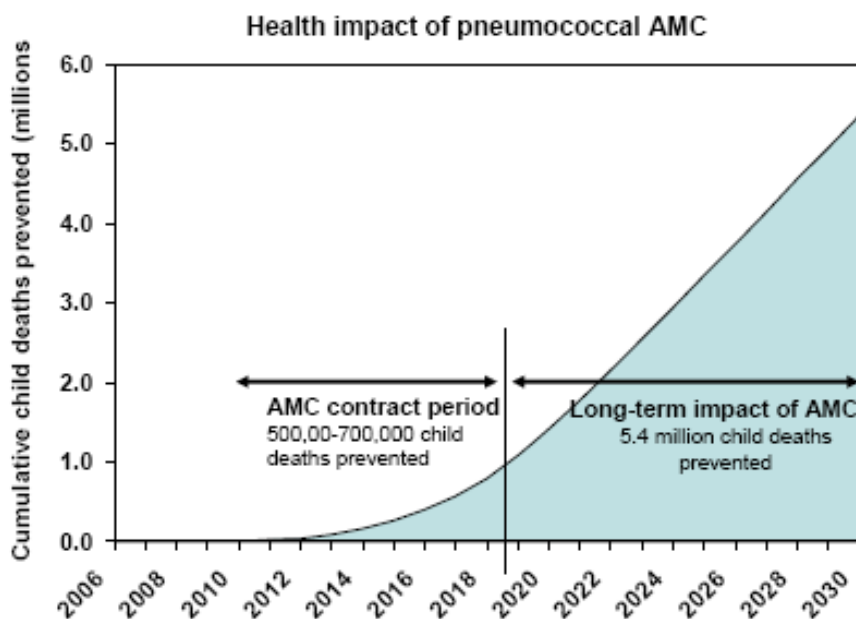
PNEUMONIA IS THE LEADING KILLER OF CHILDREN WORLDWIDE

Global distribution of cause-specific mortality among children under five, 2004



Source: UNICEF. Pneumonia: the forgotten killer of children. New York/Geneva: UNICEF/WHO; 2006 (Accessed 2007 March 06). Available from:

http://www.unicef.org/publications/files/Pneumonia_The_Forgotten_Killer_of_Children.pdf



Source: The World Bank. AMC Pilot Proposal. 2006 (Accessed 2007 March 06, cited 2006 September 07). Available from: <http://siteresources.worldbank.org/INTVACCINES/Resources/382924-1160177658934/AMCPilotProposal.pdf>