

Issue Brief

www.unfoundation.org | info@unfoundation.org | 202.887.9040



Global Health

Each year, almost 8 million children under five years of age die from common diseases, and close to 300,000 women and adolescent girls die due to complications during pregnancy and childbirth. Fortunately, most of these deaths are preventable.

Since our founding, the UN Foundation has made improving women's and children's health one of our top priorities. We connect people, ideas, and resources to help the UN address key global health priorities. Together, we deliver life-saving vaccines and anti-malaria nets to children, provide clean cookstoves to families, harness the latest mobile technologies to improve public health, and empower women with the tools to plan their families and have safe pregnancies. A major focus for the UN Foundation and our partners is to mobilize the private sector into innovative, meaningful action in support of the UN Secretary-General's *Every Woman, Every Child* initiative.

We have worked hand-in-hand with the World Health Organization (WHO), the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF), the UN Population Fund (UNFPA), other UN leaders, and the Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria, to develop and expand major initiatives to prevent disease and help children and women survive and thrive.

The UN Foundation works with the UN to create innovative campaigns and initiatives to secure happier and healthier futures for women and children across the globe.

Our program priorities include:

Saving children's lives

Giving children a shot at life - Combining the resources of the UN Foundation, UN partners, civil society organizations, and donors, the Global Polio Eradication Initiative and the Measles & Rubella Initiative have succeeded in reducing polio cases by 99 percent worldwide and measles deaths in Africa by 92 percent. Building on these commitments, the UN Foundation launched a new campaign – Shot@Life – to raise awareness and resources in the U.S. to immunize children in developing countries against vaccine preventable diseases like measles, polio, pneumonia, and rotavirus.

Preventing malaria - The UN Foundation created the award-winning *Nothing But Nets* campaign – a grassroots initiative to raise awareness and funds to send lifesaving bed nets to Africa. We are working in partnership with The United Methodist Church, the Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod, and Lutheran World Relief to raise up to \$120 million to support their malaria programs in Africa and the Global Fund, all to reach the UN's goal of eliminating malaria deaths by 2015. Also, the UN Foundation works with the UN, non-governmental organizations, and private sector partners to strengthen the Roll Back Malaria Partnership at the World Health Organization, which coordinates malaria prevention and treatment worldwide.

Empowering women and girls

Expanding access to reproductive health services - More than 222 million women around the globe wish to control the spacing and timing of their children, but lack the access to voluntary reproductive health and family planning services and information. The UN Foundation is committed to achieving the global goal of universal access to reproductive health care services by 2015. We support and advocate for initiatives that improve the quality of services around the world; promote efforts to expand availability of reproductive health commodities; and recognize reproductive health and family planning as a critical component of the global health and development agenda.

Empowering and educating adolescent girls - Adolescent girls are disproportionately at risk of maternal death and disability, their newborns at higher risk of dying, and 1 in 7 girls in developing countries is married by age 15 – often to a man twice her age or older. The UN Foundation is working in partnership with the UN Adolescent Girls Task Force to support programs that improve girls' access to age-appropriate health and nutrition information and services, as well as keep them educated, healthy, free from violence, and empower them as leaders. Girl Up, a “for girls, by girls” campaign of the UN Foundation, gives American girls the opportunity to channel their energy and compassion to raise awareness and funds for UN programs that help some of the world's most vulnerable adolescent girls.

Innovating for better health outcomes

Developing innovative financial tools - After years of steady increases in funding for development programs, foreign aid is flat-lining and in many cases dwindling. Donors and grant recipients alike are demanding new financial products to better manage their procurement and finances in order to increase the value for donor money. In response, the UN Foundation developed the Pledge Guarantee for Health (PGH), a financial tool that helps grant recipients increase their aid effectiveness. Through PGH, recipients can reduce their procurement costs by as much as 20%, better maintain their inventory, and meet on-the-ground demand in real time. The result: an innovative financing tool that leaders, donors, and organizations worldwide can use to enhance value for money and maximize health impact.

Harnessing mobile technology - With over 5.9 billion mobile subscribers in the world, mobile phones and wireless networks provide the opportunity to increase the ability of patients and health care workers to access health information and services more quickly, as well as bridge gaps in the delivery of health services in underserved communities around the world. The UN Foundation hosts the mHealth Alliance, a public-private partnership that fosters collaborative solutions to bring mobile-based health solutions to scale.

Promoting the adoption of clean cookstoves and fuels - Cooking shouldn't kill, but exposure to smoke from traditional cookstoves and open fires – the primary means of cooking and heating for nearly 3 billion people in the developing world – causes nearly 2 million premature deaths annually, including over 800,000 deaths in young children and over 1 million deaths from noncommunicable diseases. The Global Alliance for Clean Cookstoves is a new public-private partnership led by the UN Foundation to save lives, improve livelihoods, empower women, and combat climate change by creating a thriving global market for clean and efficient household cooking solutions.

By the Numbers

- Delivered \$200 million for polio eradication efforts to help reduce the geographic range of polio from 30 to 3 countries and mobilized over \$570 million for the Measles & Rubella Initiative.

- Raised more than \$40 million from hundreds of thousands of individuals to distribute more than 6 million nets for malaria prevention in Africa through the *Nothing But Nets* campaign.

- Delivered bed nets for 1.6 million people to Zambia 3 months ahead of schedule and before the peak of the deadly rainy season, using the innovative financing of the Pledge Guarantee for Health.

- Re-granted nearly \$6 million to U.S. based NGOs under the Strengthening U.S. Leadership on International Reproductive Health and Family Planning Initiative.

- Together with partners, committed \$400 million by 2015 to the UN Secretary-General's *Every Woman, Every Child* initiative to help the UN address key global health priorities.