



One is too many

Ending Child Deaths from
Pneumonia and Diarrhoea

Key Findings
2016

unite for
children

unicef 

ENDING PNEUMONIA AND DIARRHOEA DEATHS IS WITHIN OUR GRASP

Pneumonia and diarrhoea are responsible for the unnecessary loss of 1.4 million young lives each year and are a threat to sustainable development for the world's poorest nations.

But we have the knowledge and the tools to do better. Child deaths due to diarrhoea and pneumonia are largely preventable – **even one death is too many.**

The fact that children continue to die from these diseases is a reflection of deep inequalities. UNICEF's global report, *One is too many: Ending Child Deaths from Pneumonia and Diarrhoea*, makes the case for renewed efforts to tackle an age-old problem.

The report provides an overview of the coverage of high impact protective, preventive and treatment interventions, illustrating the startling

divide between those being reached and those children being left behind. The report also looks forward to project the potential lives saved by scaling up effective interventions in the context of the 2030 development agenda, and provides recommendations to guide policy action at the national level.

Read the full report at: uni.cf/oneistoomany

1 out of 6 childhood deaths were due to **pneumonia** in 2015



This translates to: →



920,000 childhood deaths per year



2500 childhood deaths per day



100 childhood deaths per hour



1 childhood death per 35 seconds

1 out of 10 childhood deaths were due to **diarrhoea** in 2015



This translates to: →



526,000 childhood deaths per year



1400 childhood deaths per day



60 childhood deaths per hour



1 childhood death per 60 seconds

Pneumonia and diarrhoea deaths disproportionately concentrated among the poor

Low and lower-middle income countries are home to 62 percent of the world's under-5 population, but account for more than 90 percent of global pneumonia and diarrhoea deaths.

	Percentage of children under 5 represented in each income group	Percentage of diarrhoea deaths	Percentage of pneumonia deaths
High-income	10%	<1%	<1%
Upper-middle-income	28%	9%	10%
Lower-middle-income	47%	60%	59%
Low-income	15%	32%	31%

1 in 4 deaths



among children under 5 is caused by either **pneumonia or diarrhoea**

Percentage distribution of population of children under age 5 and distribution of deaths attributed to diarrhoea and pneumonia by income levels

Source: Population of children under age five : United Nations Population Division WPP 2015 Rev.; Cause of death: WHO and Maternal and Child Epidemiology Estimation Group (MCEE) estimates 2015; Income levels: World Bank Income classification 2016

NO CHILD NEEDS TO DIE FROM PNEUMONIA AND DIARRHOEA

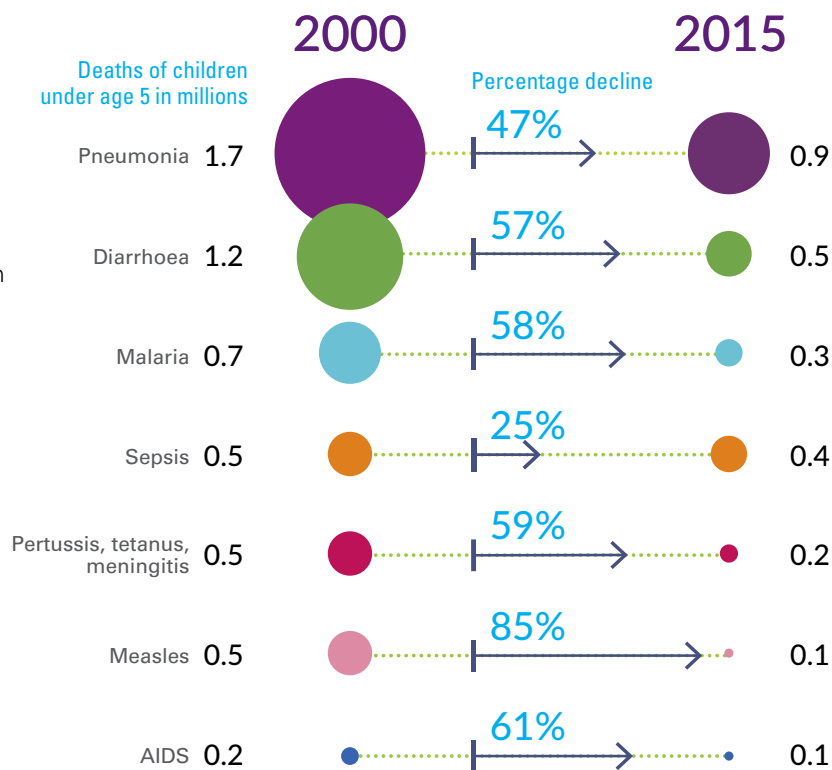
Pneumonia and diarrhoea deaths are dropping – but not quickly enough

Deaths from these two diseases declined by nearly half between 2000 and 2015, from 2.9 million deaths to the current 1.4 million. But this rate is still low compared with declines in other common childhood illnesses during this time.

FACT:

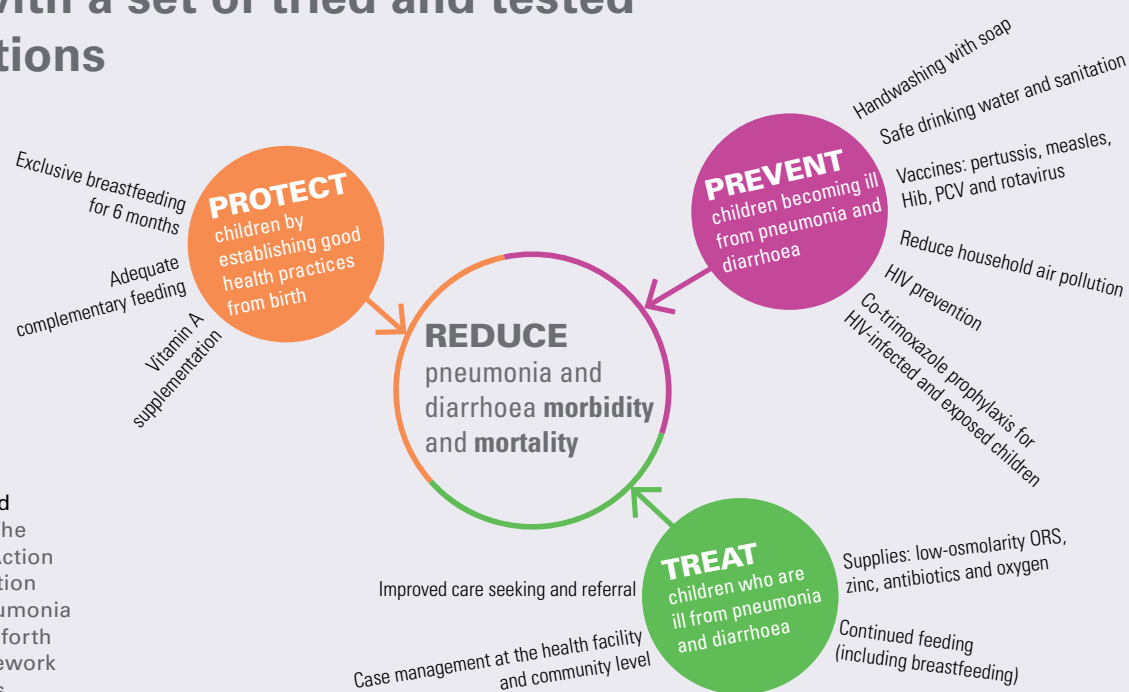
Around half of childhood pneumonia deaths are associated with air pollution. The effects of indoor air pollution kill more children globally than outdoor air pollution. At the same time, around 2 billion children 0-17 live in areas where outdoor air pollution exceeds international guideline limits.

Source: *Clean the air for children*, UNICEF, 2016



Reductions in child mortality for common childhood illnesses, 2000-2015
Source: WHO and Maternal and Child Epidemiology Estimation Group (MCEE) estimates 2015

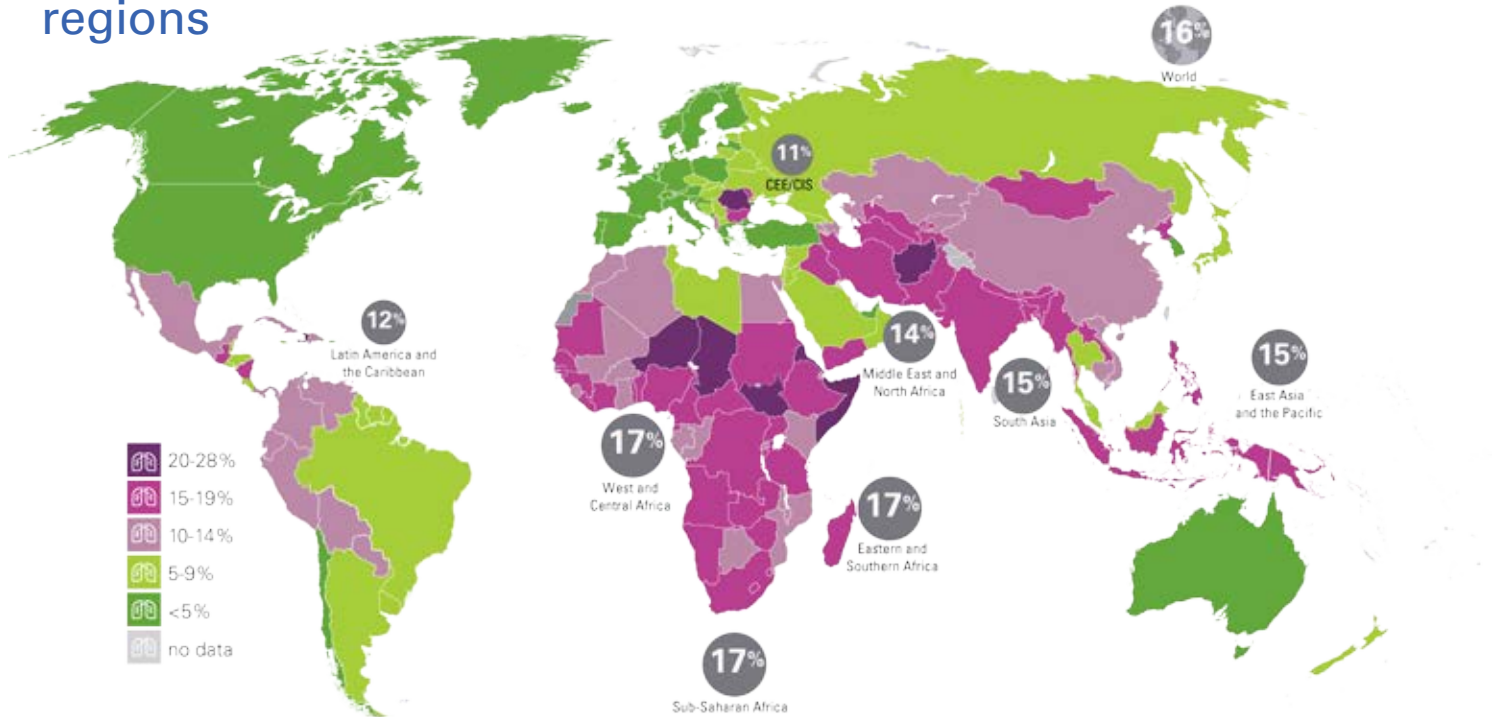
We can end most diarrhoea and pneumonia deaths with a set of tried and tested interventions



Protect, Prevent and Treat Framework: The Integrated Global Action Plan for the Prevention and Control of Pneumonia and Diarrhoea sets forth an integrated framework of key interventions.

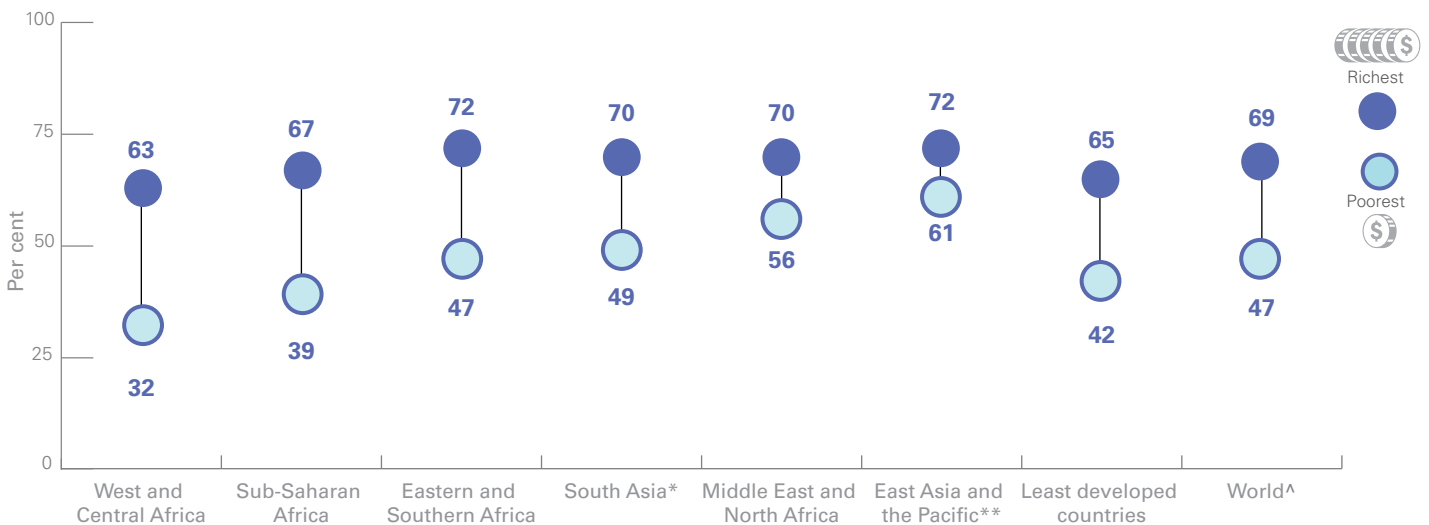


Child pneumonia deaths are concentrated in the poorest regions



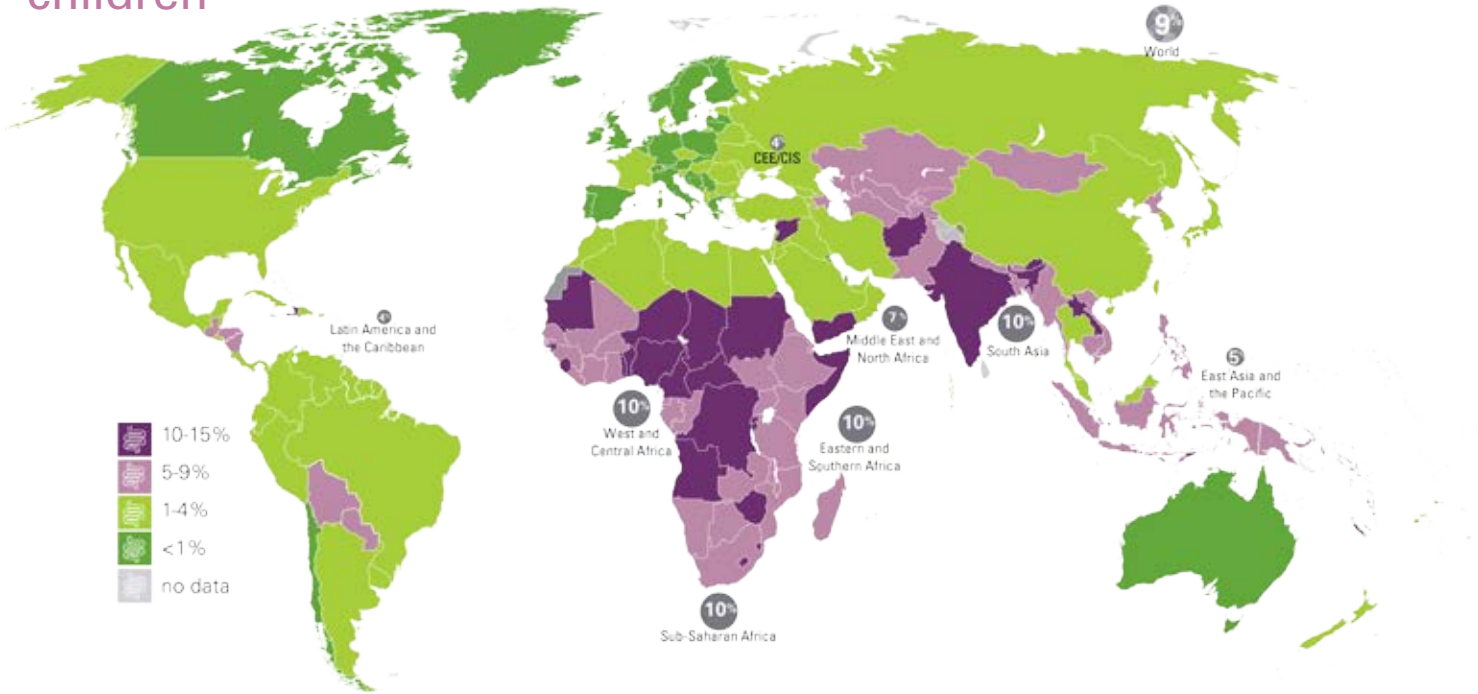
Percentage of deaths among children under age 5 attributable to pneumonia, 2015
 Source: WHO and Maternal and Child Epidemiology Estimation Group (MCEE) provisional estimates 2015


Globally, children in the richest households are most likely to be taken for care for their pneumonia symptoms



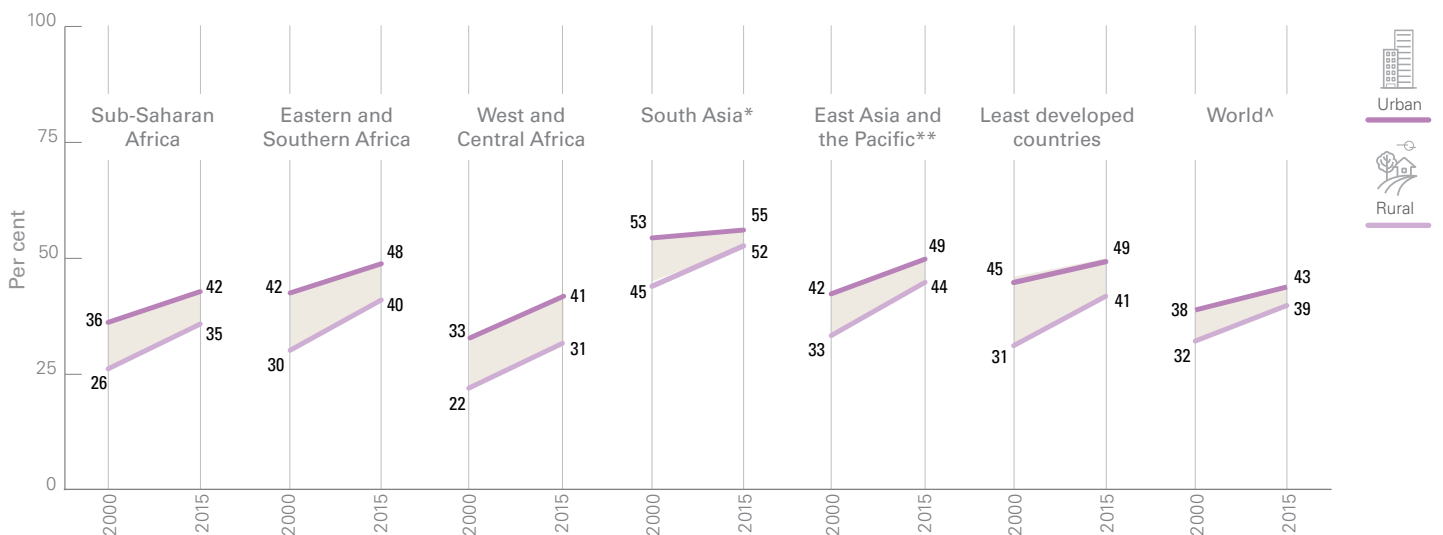
Percentage of children with symptoms of pneumonia taken for care to a health provider, by wealth quintile and region, 2015
 Source: UNICEF Global databases 2016 based on DHS and MICS. *Excludes India, **Excludes China, ^Excludes India and China. Estimates for year 2015 include data for the 2010-2015 period. Global estimates include 49 countries covering 56% of the underfive population in 2015 (excluding China and India for which data was not available).


Diarrhoea claims the lives of the world's most vulnerable children



 Percentage of deaths among children under age 5 attributable to diarrhoea, 2015
Source: WHO and Maternal and Child Epidemiology Estimation Group (MCEE) provisional estimates 2015

Diarrhoea treatment with ORS is becoming more equal between urban and rural households – but coverage levels are still unacceptably low across almost all regions

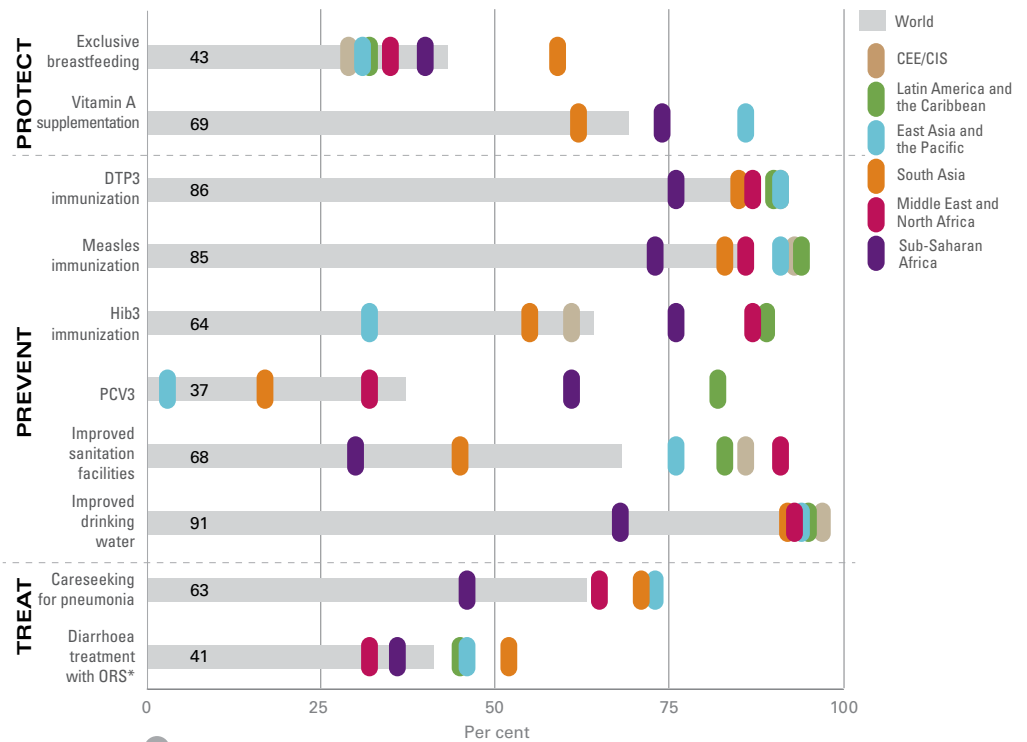


 Percentage of children under 5 with diarrhoea receiving oral rehydration salt solution, by residence. 2000 and 2015

Source: UNICEF global databases 2016 based on MICS, DHS and other nationally representative sources. Note: Global estimates are based on a subset of 70 countries, covering 50% of population under five 2015 in urban areas and 79% in rural areas. Regional estimates represent data from countries covering at least 50% of regional under five population.

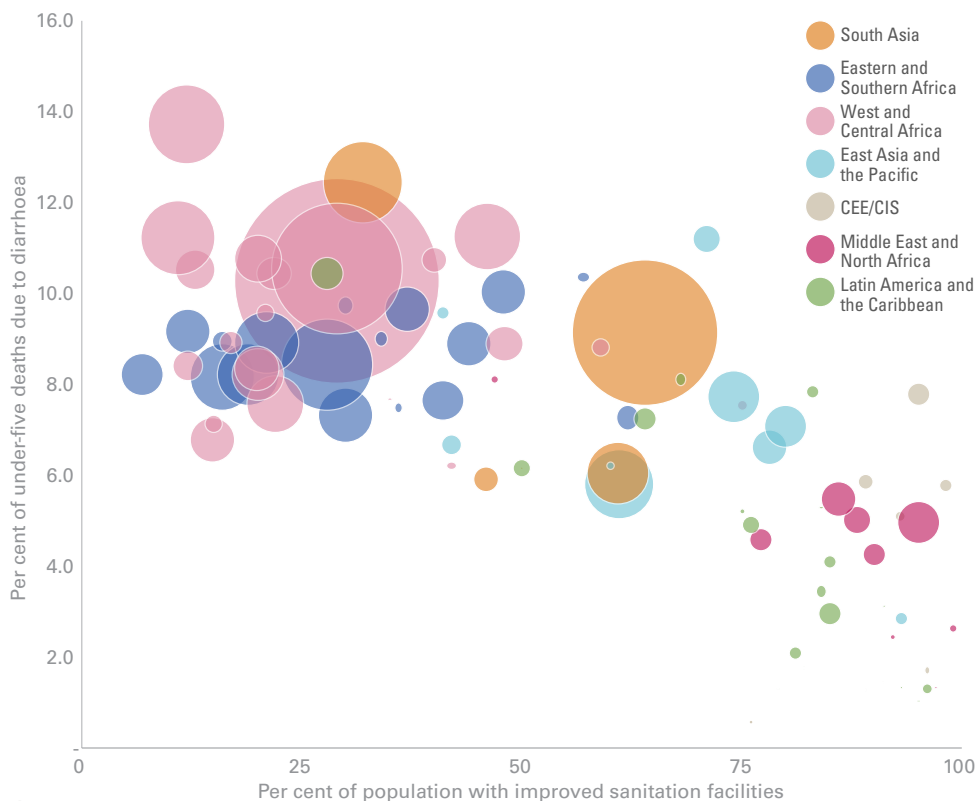
WE KNOW WHAT WORKS: PROTECT, PREVENT AND TREAT

Yet, too few children are benefiting from the key protective, preventative and treatment interventions that save lives



Global coverage of effective interventions, 2015

Source: UNICEF global databases 2016, WHO/UNICEF estimates of immunization coverage 2015, WHO/UNICEF JMP estimates 2015



Countries with improved sanitation facilities have fewer childhood diarrhoea-related deaths

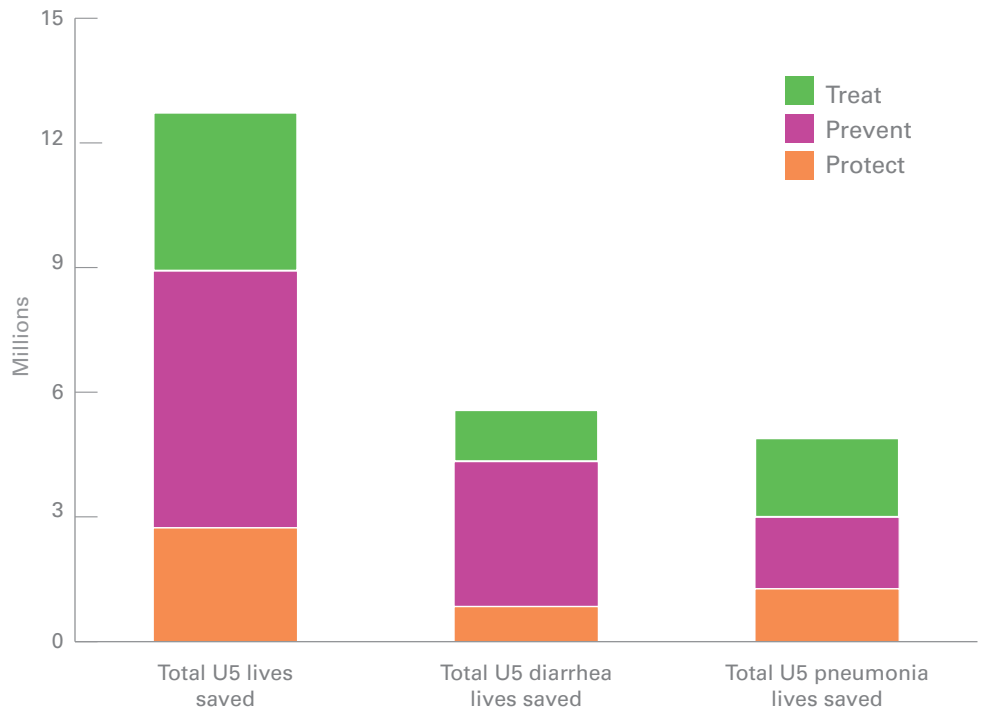
Relationship between population with improved sanitation facilities and under-5 deaths due to diarrhoea

About the graph:

- The size of each bubble represents the number of deaths caused by diarrhoea annually among children under 5 in the given country or area in 2015. The horizontal axis shows the percentage of population using improved facilities. The vertical axis shows the percentage of under-five deaths caused by diarrhoea in the given country.

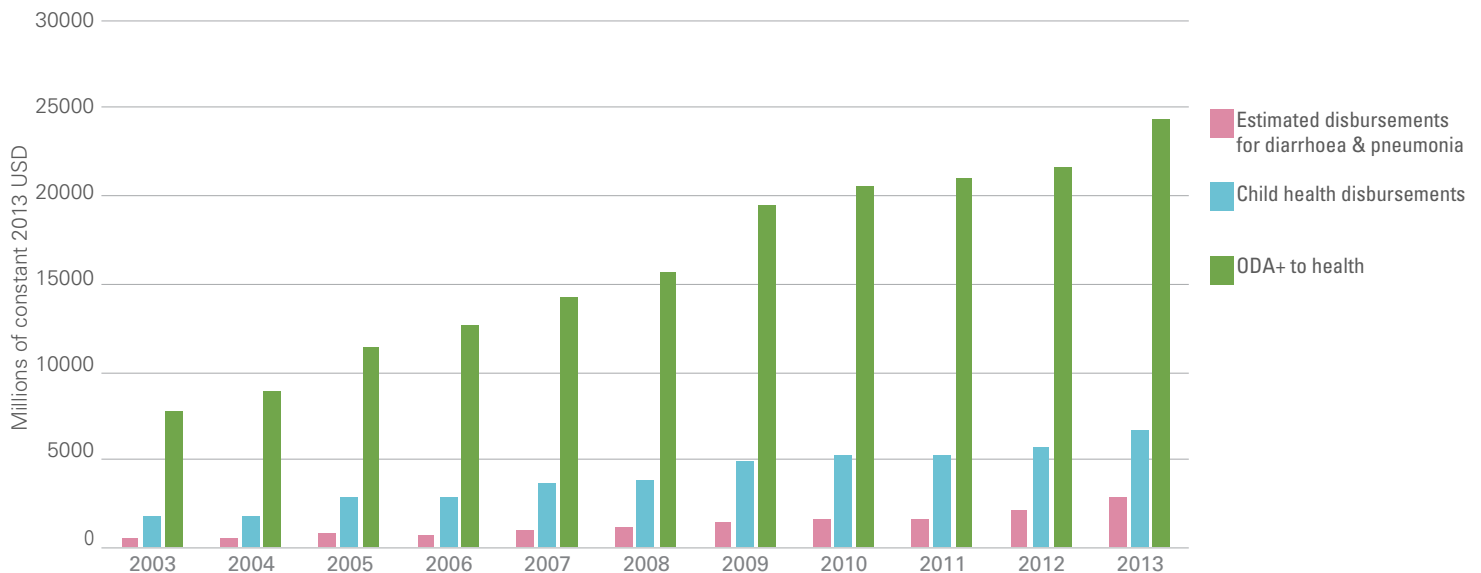
THERE IS GREAT POTENTIAL TO SAVE LIVES WITH HIGH COVERAGE OF THE MOST EFFECTIVE INTERVENTIONS

Over 12 million children's lives could be saved by 2030 by scaling up protect, prevent and treat interventions to 90 percent



Estimated lives saved (2015 to 2030) from scaling up protect, prevent and treat interventions
 Source: Johns Hopkins University, Lives saved estimates using the Lives Saved Tool (LiST), October 2016

We need greater targeted financial investments to make this happen; yet pneumonia and diarrhoea continue to receive only a fraction of global health investments



Trends in disbursements targeting diarrhoea and pneumonia relative to child health disbursements
 Source: Estimates based on the Countdown to 2015 dataset on ODA+ for reproductive, maternal, newborn, and child health.

TOWARDS A WORLD WHERE NO CHILD DIES OF PNEUMONIA AND DIARRHOEA

We need coordinated efforts to:

Implement protect, prevent and treat interventions and allocate targeted national and donor financing.

Invest in front line health services, including community management, to reach vulnerable populations and ensure rapid assessment and treatment.

Improve household survey data collection, health management information systems

and vital registration to better estimate the burden of diarrhoea and pneumonia and monitor treatment.

Guarantee access to essential commodities – such as ORS and zinc for diarrhoea; and medical oxygen and Amoxicillin dispersible tablets for pneumonia.

Leverage tools and innovations to increase coverage in hard to reach places.



Faster progress to end pneumonia and diarrhoea deaths is critical to achieving the Sustainable Development Goals

- Healthy children are the foundation of robust economies and thriving communities and nations; they are the lifeblood of sustainable development. But without greater investments from governments and partners, two of the most preventable and easily treatable childhood illnesses will thwart the achievement of the SDGs, particularly Goal 3 on ending preventable child deaths and reducing mortality.
- Targeted funding to scale up effective in-country programme implementation will be critical in driving progress towards the 2030 SDG agenda.



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This brochure was prepared by UNICEF's Data & Analytics Section, Division of Data, Research, and Policy in collaboration with Health Section, Programme Division.

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For the full report including references, indicators and definitions, please visit: uni.cf/oneistoomany

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