



tetanus

IMMUNIZING WOMEN, PROTECTING MOTHERS AND NEWBORNS.

WALK WITH US ON A ROAD WHERE PROGRESS IS MEASURED IN LIVES.

PURPOSE

In 1998, the U.S. Fund for UNICEF, in partnership with UNICEF, individual Americans, foundations, corporations, governments and other funding agencies, began to walk a difficult, rugged road across 57 countries around the world. Our goal is the global elimination of maternal and neonatal tetanus as a public health problem for women and newborns by 2005. We plan to realize this goal by immunizing women in their child-bearing years and teaching hygienic birthing practices. With your help, our efforts can be successful, sustainable and cost effective.

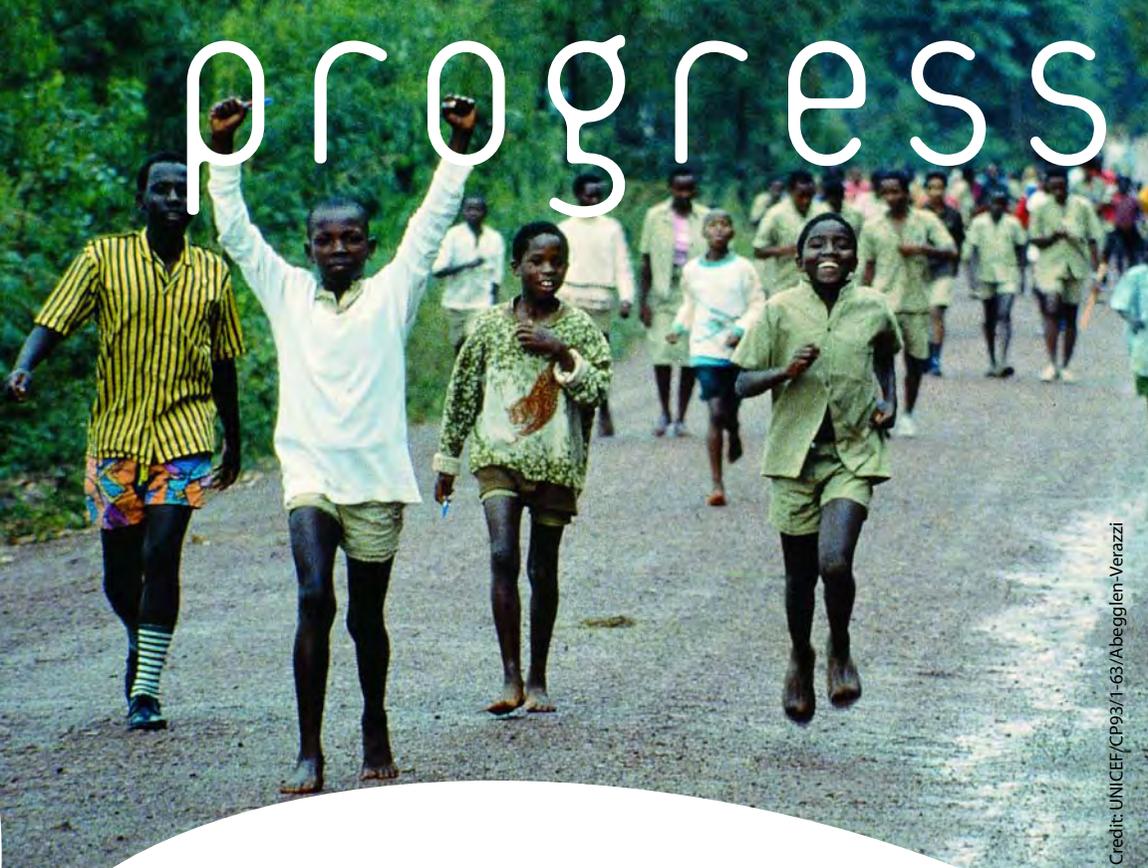
Maternal and neonatal tetanus, an entirely preventable but too often fatal condition, happens when tetanus spores, a common bacteria found in soil everywhere, come in contact with open cuts, a routine circumstance during birth for both mothers and newborns. Once in the body, the bacteria releases a powerful neurotoxin that disrupts nerve transmission from the spinal cord to muscles. After incubating for 3 to 12 days, the infection causes mild muscle spasms, first in the jaw, neck and face then the chest, back and abdomen and sometimes the laryngeal muscles, which hinders breathing. Left untreated, the infection spreads quickly, causing sudden, wrenching muscle seizures that result in loss of life in most cases.

Because the vaccine has been widely available in the United States for 70 years, many Americans think tetanus is a thing of the past — the reason you get a shot after stepping on a rusty nail and nothing more. The devastating truth is that in 1998 alone, 215,000 newborns and 30,000 women died from tetanus infections worldwide. By comparison, only one newborn fatality occurred in the United States. As we enter a new millennium, tetanus still persists anywhere there is poverty, inadequate health services and unclean birthing practices that expose the umbilical cord to bacteria.

challenge



progress

A group of children are running on a dirt road. In the foreground, a boy in a white shirt and shorts has his arms raised in a celebratory gesture. To his left, a girl in a yellow and black striped shirt and colorful shorts is also running. To his right, a girl in a green patterned shirt and shorts is running. Further right, a girl in a green shirt and shorts is running. In the background, many other children are running along the road. The word 'progress' is written in large, white, lowercase letters across the top of the image.

Our response to this public health problem started with the global identification of communities at risk. These often hard-to-reach communities have been our initial destination as we strive to immunize 100 million women of child-bearing age with three rounds of tetanus toxoid vaccine — providing approximately fifteen years of protection against tetanus.

Delivering much needed vaccine is one aspect of the journey. We are also teaching women of child-bearing age the benefits of improved birthing conditions and providing supplies to promote hygiene, such as disposable clean delivery kits. These simple delivery kits contain

plastic flooring to prevent contact with dirt containing tetanus spores, a clean string to tie the umbilical cord, a clean razor to cut the umbilical cord, soap and simple pictorial instructions. Clean birthing practices will also reduce the incidence of other potentially fatal diseases, such as sepsis.

A commitment to flexible partnerships that provide a range of meaningful opportunities has made it possible for many to join in our journey. Our partners may take responsibility for funding selected national plans-of-action to eliminate maternal and neonatal tetanus. They may also finance discrete components needed by many nations such as syringes, vaccine, safe syringe disposal boxes, clean birthing kits, transportation logistics, immunization cards and training of healthcare workers. In addition to UNICEF and the U.S. Fund for UNICEF, our

partners include donor nations, the World Health Organization, the United Nations Population Fund, BD, the world's leading manufacturer of injection devices, the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation and individuals. To reach our destination we need \$100 million over five years. Much more needs to be done to speed financial and medical resources to the affected nations. Every dollar counts and each new partner helps us save lives.

PARTNERSHIP





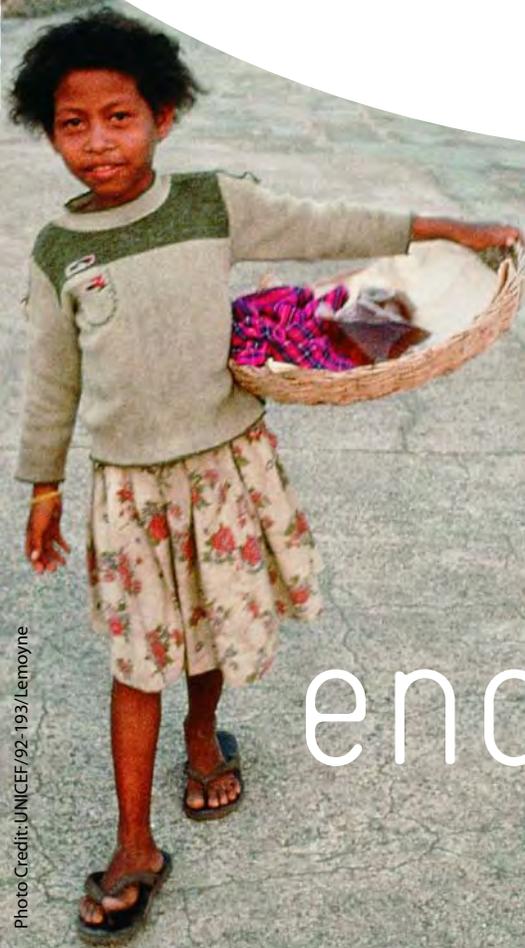
sustainability & ACCOUNTABILITY

Our ability to sustain advances is strengthened in three specific ways. First, by asking that one-quarter of all resources allocated come from those nations where maternal and neonatal tetanus is still a public health hazard, our partnership can rely on the ongoing support of local governments. Second, UNICEF will provide technical assistance to ensure progress and to strengthen immunization services in hard-to-reach communities through both existing and innovative strategies, such as school immunization programs. Finally, in order to measure and maintain progress towards maternal and neonatal tetanus elimination, surveillance will be established at the community level.

To guarantee accountability, UNICEF and the U.S. Fund for UNICEF will convene a Program and Resources Coordinating Committee twice a year to update achievement country planning and funding status. The committee will include representatives from partners and others participating in the effort, including Non-Governmental Organizations (NGOs), donor nations, multilateral funders, foundations, corporations and individuals. A report from each meeting will be distributed.

The road we travel in eliminating the tragedy of maternal and neonatal tetanus is not easy. Because our progress is hard won, it helps to know each step taken brings us closer to a world for children free of preventable suffering and death. We have traveled roads like this before and know our way. By walking this road together, our partnership is building a future where all children are safe to grow, play and dream. We cannot stop to rest. On this journey, progress is truly measured in lives.

For more information,
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endurance



Photo Credit: UNICEF/CP95/4-44/Maas

The Campaign to Eliminate Tetanus in Mothers and Newborns



Photo Credit: Sondeep Shankar/U.S. Fund for UNICEF

The Campaign to Eliminate Tetanus in Mothers and Newborns

The U.S. Fund for UNICEF is leading a global effort to eliminate needless deaths of mothers and newborns caused by tetanus. Through the partnership of individual Americans, businesses, private foundations, government resources and other funding agencies, achievement is within our grasp.

Maternal and Neonatal Tetanus (MNT) is one of the most easily prevented diseases. Low-cost anti-tetanus immunization and use of basic hygiene techniques during childbirth can eliminate tetanus. In 1998 alone, 250,000 newborns and mothers died from tetanus. In the United States, by comparison, there was only one reported case of neonatal tetanus.

Many partners including the World Health Organization have joined with BD (Becton Dickinson) and the U.S. Fund for UNICEF in this extraordinary campaign to save children's lives and protect their mothers. With your support, Maternal and Neonatal Tetanus can be eliminated as a public health threat worldwide by 2005. Our goal is to support large-scale immunization for women of childbearing years and education about hygienic birthing practices.

What is Maternal and Neonatal Tetanus?

Tetanus is a disease caused by naturally occurring bacteria in the environment that enter a body through open wounds. Most Americans associate tetanus with stepping on a rusty nail, which causes a puncture wound and the need for a tetanus booster to prevent infection.

Imagine the scene: an otherwise healthy baby is born to a non-immunized mother. Tetanus is introduced to the baby's system during or shortly after birth. Within days, tetanus, acting like a powerful poison, spreads throughout the body causing spasms, stiffness and arching of the spine. The muscles contract, often producing the eerie "smile" of lockjaw. The spasms may develop into convulsions that can be triggered by the slightest sound, touch or light. Breathing becomes more difficult as the spasms occur more frequently. In over 70 percent of cases, mothers and infants die a horrible, tortuous death.

This tragedy is often repeated because mothers are not aware that by protecting themselves through immunization, they can protect their newborns. Maternal and Neonatal Tetanus is prevalent where poverty, lack of hygiene, and inefficient or no health services exist. Tetanus infects mothers through unsafe birthing practices and newborns when the umbilical cord is exposed to tetanus spores during birth.

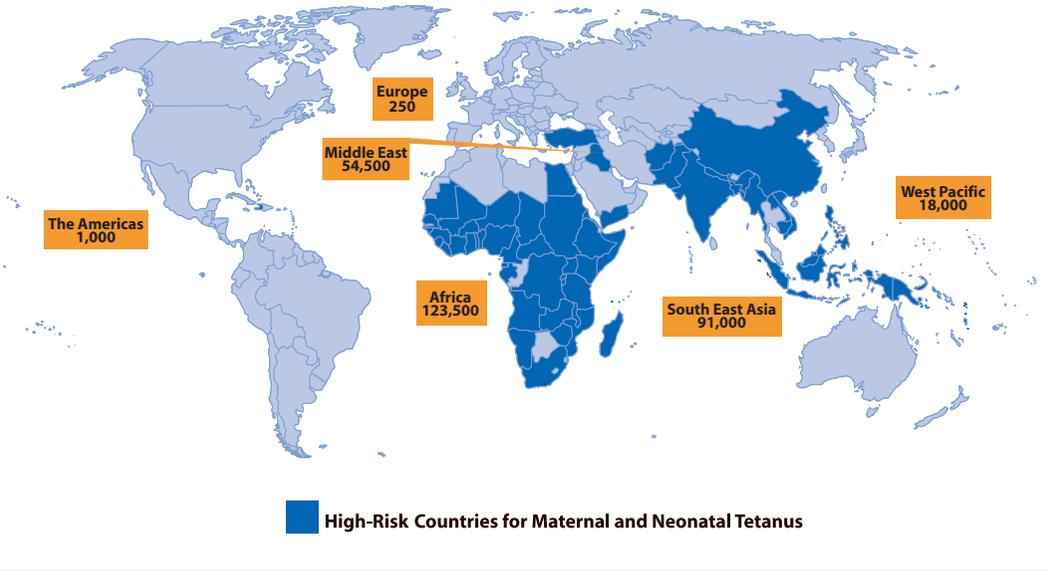
Immunizing women of childbearing age with the Tetanus Toxoid (TT) vaccine before childbirth and the use of hygienic birthing conditions are highly effective in preventing tetanus deaths.



The effects are devastating.

ESTIMATED TETANUS CASES

57 COUNTRIES AT HIGH-RISK



A Campaign for a New Millennium

Current global challenges dealing with the health and well-being of poor mothers and their newborns are generating the need for alliances between private and public enterprises.

The MNT partnership was formed in 1998. UNICEF, the World Health Organization (WHO), the U.S. Fund for UNICEF and BD, the world's leading manufacturer of injection devices, joined together to eliminate the devastation of Maternal and Neonatal Tetanus.

Together, we are implementing an extremely effective program of low-cost tetanus immunization and health education in 57 high-risk countries. Our efforts are based on a WHO/UNICEF strategy and its past successes to eliminate tetanus-related deaths in more than 100 countries.

Campaign Strategic Goals:



- Identifying all districts in 57 countries at high risk.
- Immunizing more than 100 million women of child-bearing age with three rounds of TT vaccine.
- Improving birthing practices through "clean delivery kits" and education materials. A kit includes plastic floor covering to avoid contact with dirt or animal waste, a clean string to tie the umbilical, a clean razor to cut the umbilical cord, soap and instructions for use of the kit.
- Documenting achievements by districts.
- Improving immunization services and establishing community surveillance and school immunization programs.

Progress on our \$100 million campaign:

Multi-year grant of cash and syringes from BD	\$17 million
Multi-year grant from the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation	\$26 million
Personal contributions and organization gifts	\$1 million
Proposals to be submitted internationally in support of MNT	\$46 million
Outstanding goal	\$10 million

Steps to Successfully Sustain Tetanus Protection:

- Administering three doses of TT, which provides up to 15 years of protection, to women of childbearing age. Protected mothers will then pass on immunity to their newborns.
- Requiring participating countries to commit some of their own resources for tetanus elimination programs. As a result of this project, future immunization campaigns will have greater coverage, particularly in hard-to-reach places.
- Building on routine immunizations by giving school children three doses of TT during the first three school years. Thus, full protection against tetanus can be achieved before childbearing begins.



Photo Credit: UNICEF/CP93/1-63/Abegglen-Verazzi

Join a dynamic global partnership to end needless suffering and death. Help us eliminate Maternal and Neonatal Tetanus as a public health threat. For more information please contact:



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