

# Fact Sheet: World Pneumonia Day

12th November 2019

## Ending preventable pneumonia deaths: a global priority

- Pneumonia is the leading cause of death in children and in the elderly.
- Each year almost 700,000 children die from pneumonia.
- Every minute, 2 children die from pneumonia.
- 80 percent of deaths are in children under 2 years.
- Almost all deaths occur in low and middle-income countries.
- Pneumonia can lead to lifelong health impairment.
- Although breastfeeding is a key preventative strategy against childhood pneumonia, only 40 percent of children less than six months old are exclusively breastfed.
- Although effective immunisations are available to prevent pneumonia, globally 170 million children in low and middle-income countries are not vaccinated against pneumonia.
- Pneumonia is treatable with antibiotics; oxygen may be needed for more severe pneumonia.
- Only 1 out of 3 children who need antibiotics for pneumonia receive them.

## About the Forum of International Respiratory Societies (FIRS)

[The Forum of International Respiratory Societies](#) (FIRS) is an organisation comprised of the world's leading international respiratory societies working together to improve lung health globally: [American College of Chest Physicians](#) (CHEST), [American Thoracic Society](#) (ATS), [Asian Pacific Society of Respirology](#) (APSR), [Asociación Latino Americana De Tórax](#) (ALAT), [European Respiratory Society](#) (ERS), [International Union Against Tuberculosis and Lung Diseases](#) (The Union), [Pan African Thoracic Society](#) (PATS), [Global Initiative for Asthma](#) (GINA), and the [Global Initiative for Chronic Obstructive Lung Disease](#) (GOLD).

The goal of FIRS is to unify and enhance efforts to improve lung health through the combined work of its more than 70,000 members globally.

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International Union Against  
Tuberculosis and Lung Disease  
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