A roadmap to defeat meningitis

Meningitis Research Foundation

About the meningitis roadmap

The World Health Organization (WHO) and leading experts from around the world have come together to create the first ever global plan to help defeat meningitis. The meningitis roadmap sets out a global vision for meningitis to 2030 and an action plan to get there.

The roadmap will support countries around the world to defeat meningitis, a largely preventable disease, by detailing the key actions that need to be prioritised between now and 2030.

Other diseases, such as malaria, HIV, pneumonia and diarrhoea, all have global targets set but this is the first coordinated global action to defeat meningitis.

Who is involved?

The draft roadmap has been created by a technical taskforce of experts based in organisations who have played key roles in tackling meningitis to date:

World Health Organization

CDC — Centers for Disease Control and Prevention

PATH

Meningitis Research Foundation

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unicef for every child

Have your say :

Your voice has never mattered more. Help shape the meningitis roadmap by telling us what you would change or prioritise in your country to ensure meningitis is defeated.

Visit www.meningitis.org/have-your-say to take part in the survey and take a stand against meningitis.

Why is a roadmap needed?

While other vaccine-preventable diseases have seen child death rates drop by **70-90%**,

meningitis progress is drastically behind

dropping just **53%** between 1990 and 2017.

One of the reasons for this is because other diseases have global targets that show governments what action must be taken.

About meningitis

Meningitis is a swelling around the brain and spinal cord caused by infection. It is a deadly disease that strikes without warning and can kill in 12 hours.

More than **5 million people** are affected by meningitis globally each year.

Babies, young children and teenagers are most at-risk of meningitis, but it can strike anyone at any time.

Around one in ten people affected will die, and between 20-40% of people who survive have permanent damage such as hearing loss, brain damage or amputations.
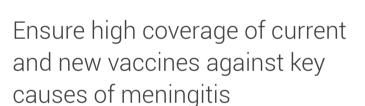
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The meningitis roadmap provides coordinated action towards defeating meningitis.

It aims to:

- Eliminate epidemics of bacterial meningitis
- Reduce cases and deaths from vaccine-preventable meningitis
- Reduce disability and maximise quality of life for people affected by meningitis

Prevention and epidemic control

Ensure high coverage of current and new vaccines against key causes of meningitis

Develop affordable new vaccines against key causes of meningitis

Effective evidence-based vaccination policies in place

Effective strategies in place to prevent GBS infection in infants (the main cause of meningitis in newborn babies)

Effective strategies in place that prevent meningitis outbreaks

Diagnosis and treatment

Make tools available that will diagnose bacterial meningitis more easily

Effective policies in place to diagnose and treat maternal/infant GBS (the main cause of meningitis in newborn babies)

Ensure health workers are trained and provided with resources to identify, diagnose, and treat meningitis quickly

Appropriate high quality treatment and support that reduces the impact of meningitis

Disease surveillance

Ensure effective systems are in place to record and monitor cases of bacterial meningitis

Effective guidance on surveillance of infant GBS disease (the main cause of meningitis in newborn babies)

Ensure effective strategies are in place for recording and monitoring impairments due to meningitis, such as amputations and deafness

Improved systems for better data on meningitis to strengthen monitoring and provide more accurate information on the disease

Support for people affected

Strengthen early recognition and management of complications or impairments following meningitis in health care and community settings

Increase availability and access to appropriate care for people directly or indirectly affected by meningitis

Advocacy and engagement

Ensure funders and policymakers appropriately prioritise efforts to defeat meningitis

Ensure people know the signs, symptoms and consequences and seek appropriate healthcare

Increase awareness of disability due to meningitis and available services

Ensure that people are aware of their rights to meningitis prevention, treatment and support and are able to demand them

Maintain high public confidence in meningitis vaccines