

The interventions that could prevent or effectively treat the conditions that kill children and women of reproductive age are well known. Most are low cost- and highly cost-effective. Two in every three child deaths could be averted through provision of the most basic health services. Yet a health catastrophe that inflicts a human toll more deadly than the HIV/AIDS pandemic is allowed to continue. Nothing more powerfully underlines the gap between what we are able to do to overcome avoidable suffering and what we choose to do with the wealth and technologies at our disposal.

Of the 57 million deaths worldwide in 2002, one in five was a child less than 5 years old.

**Inequality matters.**

This initiative was made possible by the generous support of more than 16,000 AIGA members in 54 chapters and more than 150 student groups nationwide; the Human Development Report Office for the United Nations Development Programme; and designers everywhere who believe in the power of design for the public good.



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