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## **UN spotlights role of immunization in saving lives worldwide**



Child being given an oral vaccine

29 April 2011 – An annual global push by the United Nations to spotlight the role that immunization plays in saving lives, especially those of children, will wrap up on Sunday after a week of vaccination campaigns, training sessions, exhibitions and round-table discussions around the world.

Immunization Week 2011 was marked in nearly 180 countries and territories across five major regions this year, a record, according to the UN World Health Organization ([WHO](#)).

Vaccinations were carried out against numerous diseases, including diphtheria, hepatitis B, influenza, measles, mumps, maternal and neonatal tetanus, polio, rubella, whooping cough and yellow fever.

Outreach teams have been visiting communities with limited access to regular health services such as those living in remote areas, urban fringes and internally displaced persons (IDPs) to administer vaccines.

The week of events was first celebrated in the Americas in 2003 and has since spread to the European and Eastern Mediterranean region