

Current initiatives

Medicus Mundi Catalunya

All on-going Medicus Mundi Catalunya projects supporting Primary Health Care in Angola and Mozambique are specifically focused on children under 5 years old. The ministries are provided support to carry out scheduled vaccination campaigns; collaboration is supplied for necessary vaccinations derived from occasional outbreaks of infectious diseases. Health Ministry protocols on external health practices are reinforced. Support is also provided for the implementation of the Comprehensive Care System of Childhood Diseases.

Farmacéuticos Mundi

Farmacéuticos Mundi supplies food and pharmacological support to the communities that have been worst stricken by the hunger crisis in Niger. This involves developing workshops with mothers on issues related to the balanced nutrition of their children, which include the preparation of food using local products and also making available the necessary drugs to combat malnutrition-related diseases. These kinds of workshops are also part of the education for health programmes in development projects in Central America.

Brazil

Brazil's National Policy on Food and Nutrition promotes healthy food practices and prevention of nutrition disorders, especially at infancy. It also involves publishing materials to support the work on healthy food habits carried out by community agents.

UNICEF

From the beginning, UNICEF has always advocated children's survival, and therefore, the reduction of the child mortality rate.

UNICEF establishes five priorities, all of them related to children's life: early childhood care, immunisation, education, prevention of the spread of HIV/AIDS and protection of children against violence, exploitation, abuse and discrimination.

In Pakistan, UNICEF collaborates with the WHO and the Ministry of Health to vaccinate 800,000 children under 15 against measles. This priority was established as a result of the earthquake in October 2005.

The measles vaccine is safe, efficient and affordable (the cost is under one dollar).

The Global Alliance for Vaccines and Immunization (GAVI)

It is a partnership that involves pharmaceutical companies, governments of developing countries and UNICEF, amongst others. It was created with the goal of combating the standstill in the global levels of immunisation and the lack of access to vaccines, especially for children.

Amongst GAVI's initiatives, it is to be emphasized that Merck & Co. committed to donate one million doses of the MMRII ® vaccine against parotiditis, measles and German measles in Honduras.

It would be worth evaluating whether these vaccination initiatives will continue to be developed in the future, since immunisation is not achieved with sporadic vaccination sessions, but by ensuring that the entire population has received the basic vaccines as outlined by the extended immunization programmes.