

Current initiatives

Medicus Mundi Catalunya

Medicus Mundi supports the health ministries in the child and maternal health areas by means of Primary Health Care programmes. In addition, it promotes the follow-up of pre-natal and post-natal visits and institutional deliveries. It also raises awareness through public talks addressed to the community, trains traditional midwives, collaborates in workshops and seminars for health staff, etc.

Since September 2005 in the region of Gaza, Mozambique, together with the healthcare actions already mentioned, an innovative programme is being carried out which involves the construction of new maternity units and waiting homes to ease the stay of pregnant women close to a health centre. In addition, an anthropological study is currently under way to understand the difficulties for the population in the use of health services. This goes beyond issues of distance and geographical access problems, since very often closeness of the services does not necessarily facilitate their use. It is also important to emphasise the cultural barriers that hinder the acceptance and use of these services.

Women's Association in Matagalpa (Nicaragua)

Since 1987 the Women's Association in Matagalpa has been developing a comprehensive women's health programme that includes sexual and reproductive rights, sexual practices, sexually transmitted diseases (HIV/AIDS amongst others) and family violence.

The Women's Association in Matagalpa is currently carrying out an awareness-raising and information programme about sexually transmitted diseases and HIV/AIDS, alongside **Farmacéuticos Mundi**, in the provinces of Estelí, Jinotega and Matagalpa.

UNIFEM (United Nations development fund for Women)

In Nigeria, UNIFEM supported the elaboration of the HIV/AIDS policy, which incorporates gender issues to health care services. This policy is intended to avoid discrimination against pregnant women and ensure equal access of men and women to antiretroviral drugs.