Creative Instruction

Ghanaian Mother’s Hope in Ghana completed a project they called, “The Secret to Being Strong,” featuring a coloring book given to children at school to teach them how to control their health to prevent intestinal worms. Debi Frock, the American executive director, says, “The Child Health Foundation grant helped to share the secret of good health with 1,778 children and 150 women.” The group also used story and song to promote the message and has delivered 2,000 coloring books to various schools.

Ms. Frock has also put reports of this success on the Foundation’s Facebook page and has made a YouTube video, link to it available on our website. Clearly, we are very pleased with this project which will radiate beyond the community. For more information go to www.gmhope.org.

We’ve Made a Difference

According to UNICEF, annual deaths of children under 5 dropped from about 12 million in 1990 to 6.9 million last year.

Better access to vaccines, good nutrition and basic medical and maternal care are responsible. That’s what Child Health Foundation does. You read about it here.

But about 19,000 deaths still occur every day. And most of them are preventable. So we need to do more and we need your help. Our overhead is less than 8%, so you can know that 92% of what you give will go to save these and improve the lives of children everywhere.

We and the children of the world thank you very much for what you have contributed before and if you wish to give again this holiday season, please use the envelope enclosed, go to our website and donate with your credit card, or continue to give at your workplace.

Hygiene Promoted

Ruwwo, India, is working to empower mothers with complete knowledge of enteric diseases and skills to prevent and manage them. They have thus far conducted education programs for mothers of children less than 5 years of age in each of 10 villages. Mother-in-laws and leaders of self-help groups have also been targeted to help change attitudes and have been encouraged to use their influence to promote use of good water sources and use of oral rehydration salts for prevention of dehydration. In the photo, young mothers gather for training. This is their interim report.

Tippy Tap

Grampari, India, seeks to improve child health by increasing hand washing behavior among students, and leveraging them as agents of change in their communities. An awareness program has been conducted in 5 schools reaching 257 children. Visiting each school six times over the course of the school year, a health education team employed new approaches to promote hand-washing including the introduction of tippy taps, pictured here.

The tippy tap is a ‘hands-free,’ low-cost, water conserving hand washing device. Whereas this tool is a practical and fun device for the children, it was necessary to combine it with a behavioral push to ensure long term change. To this end, they performed 6 follow-ups to reinforce the message. Videos, coloring contests, posters, games, and skits were used. Interim results show that many of the students not only use the tippy-tap at school, but have built them for their families in their homes. We will hear more.

Full reports of projects available upon request.
Out! Worms

Spandan, India, received a grant to determine the effectiveness of the delivery of anthelmintics in the treatment of worms. In their final report they say that they selected 30 sample villages, covering 1000 families (1256 children) aged 1 to 5 yrs. Another 1218 children in another village served as controls. Albendazole was the drug used and it was administered in de-worming camps in phase one in July 2011. When the camps in phase two were held in Feb. 2012, the community was much more cooperative because they could already see that it had taken effect. The results were assessed using weight and height, days of sickness, school attendance, and motivation. The results showed a significant positive change in the children in the sample village as compared to the controls. The organization will continue to implement the delivery of treatment and efforts are now being made to have the government implement treatment as a part of regular immunizations of children.

Good Training

PAMICAWIK, Kenya, is improving hygiene behavior of children under 5. In their interim report they say that they have held training sessions, shown here, to teach advising children to wash their hands after using the toilet, to cover food and boil water. They have also taught the use of ORS and how to prepare the homemade kind. As a result, they report, there has been a reduction in illness as well as hospitalization costs, and better management of diarrhea when it occurs. They expect the rate of diarrhea to go down from 70% to 20% of clinic visits.

CHF Supports Cholera Research

Cholera, a severe infectious diarrheal disease with, if not treated, a high mortality rate, is acquired by the ingestion of contaminated water and/or food, spread from infected individuals. Cholera occurs in many developing countries because of lack of clean drinking water and poor sanitation. It is estimated that worldwide, 100,000 people die each year from cholera.

Cholera is a threat each year to Bangladesh and is of great public health importance. For these reasons a team of investigators from Johns Hopkins University (two on our Board) and the ICDDR,B (International Center for Diarrhoeal Disease Research, Bangladesh) supported by the National Institutes of Health, has been studying cholera in rural Bangladesh for the last 13 years. The aim of the study is to predict when outbreaks of cholera will occur, thereby protecting the population by knowing when to improve treatment facilities, when to increase public education on water and sanitation, and when to provide immunization with cholera vaccines when these soon become available.

Because these studies require certain sophisticated reagents and equipment that is not available locally, the Foundation purchases and ships this material to Bangladesh.

R. B. Sack

Working with Medical Students

Medsar in Rwanda, after recruiting 30 medical students from the faculty of medicine at National University of Rwanda (NUR) that would work with the project as volunteer peer educators and contacting all stakeholders of the project including those that accepted to donate for the project, conducted a 3-day training of volunteers that helped them to select what is necessary to people in the field about enteric diseases and mother’s teaching methods. Community Health Workers were also trained especially in management of diarrhea with oral rehydration therapy. Secondly, they held teaching sessions with the mothers. This is their interim report.