

DECLARATION OF TALLOIRES

12 March 1988 - Talloires, France

Remarkable health progress has been achieved during the past decade. Global recognition that healthy children and healthy families are essential for human and national development is steadily increasing. Consensus has been reached on the strategy for providing essential community primary health programmes. The international community has become engaged in partnership with national governments in the creation of successful global programmes, ensuring the availability of financial support and appropriate technologies. These include:

immunization programmes, which now protect more than 50% of infants in developing countries with polio or DPT vaccines, preventing some 200,000 children from becoming paralyzed with polio and over a million children from dying each year from measles, whooping cough, or neonatal tetanus;

diarrhoeal diseases control programmes which now make life-saving fluids (particularly oral rehydration salts) available for 60% of the developing world population, the use of which may be preventing as many as 1 million deaths annually from diarrhoea;

initiatives to control respiratory infections which hold promise in the years ahead of averting many of the 3 million childhood deaths from acute respiratory infections each year in developing countries not prevented currently by immunization;

safe motherhood and family planning programmes which are so important in protecting the well-being of families.

Progress to date demonstrates that resources can be mobilized and that rapid and effective action can be taken to combat dangerous threats to the health of children and mothers, particularly in developing countries.

This progress is the result of:

enthusiastic world-wide agreement for the development of health strategies based on primary health care;

the commitment of national governments, multi- and bilateral development agencies, non-governmental organizations, private and voluntary groups and people in all walks of life to give priority to these programmes;

co-ordinated action by the sponsors of the Task Force for Child Survival: UNICEF, the World Bank, UNDP, WHO and the Rockefeller Foundation.

We, The Task Force For Child Survival, conveners of the meeting "Protecting the World's Children - An Agenda for the 1990s" in Talloires, France on 10-12 March 1988:

1. EXPRESS appreciation and admiration for the efforts made by the developing countries to reduce infant and child deaths through primary health care and child survival actions.

2. COMMIT OURSELVES to pursue and expand these initiatives in the 1990s.

3. URGE national governments, multi- and bilateral development agencies, United Nations agencies, non-governmental organizations and private and voluntary groups to commit themselves to:

increase national resources from both developing and industrialized countries devoted to health in the context of overall development and self-reliance;

improve women's health and education, recognizing the importance for women themselves, recognizing women's contribution to national development and recognizing that mothers are by far the most important primary health care workers;

accelerate progress to achieve Universal Childhood Immunization by 1990 and to sustain it thereafter;

accelerate progress to eliminate or markedly reduce as public health problems the other main preventable causes of child and maternal mortality and morbidity, striving to reach sustained universal coverage of children and mothers by the year 2000;

assure the development of new vaccines and technologies and their application, particularly in developing countries, as they become appropriate for public health use;

promote expanded coverage of water supply and sanitation;

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pursue research and development, including technology transfer, in support of the above actions.

4. **SUGGEST** that the following be considered by national and international bodies as targets to be achieved by the year 2000:

the global eradication of polio;

the virtual elimination of neonatal tetanus deaths;

a 90% reduction of measles cases and a 95% reduction in measles deaths compared to pre-immunization levels;

a 70% reduction in the 7.4 million annual deaths due to diarrhoea in children under the age of 5 years which would occur in the year 2000 in the absence of oral rehydration therapy, and a 25% reduction in the diarrhoea incidence rate;

a 25% reduction in case/fatality rates associated with acute respiratory infection in children under 5 years;

reduction of infant and under five child mortality rates in all countries by at least half (1980-2000), or to 50 and 70 respectively per 1000 live births, whichever achieves the greater reduction;

a 50% reduction in current maternal mortality rates.

Achievement of these targets would result in the avoidance of tens of millions of child deaths and disabilities by the year 2000, as well as a balanced population growth as parents become more confident their children will survive and develop. The eradication of poliomyelitis would, with the eradication of smallpox, represent a fitting gift from the 20th to the 21st centuries.

5. **DRAW** world attention to the potential for enlarging upon the successes outlined above to encompass low cost, effective initiatives to:

improve the quality and coverage of educational services to obtain universal primary education and 80% female literacy, and

virtual elimination of severe malnutrition of under five children while also significantly reducing moderate and mild malnutrition in each country.

6. **WELCOME** the progress being made in drafting the Convention on Rights of the Child and join the United Nations General Assembly in urging completion of the Convention in 1989, the 10th anniversary of the International Year of the Child.

We are convinced that vigorous pursuit of these initiatives aimed at protecting the world's children will ensure that children and mothers - indeed whole families - will benefit from the best of available health technologies, making an essential contribution to human and national development and to the attainment of Health For All By The Year 2000.



The Task Force For
Child Survival

**PROTECTING THE
WORLD'S CHILDREN:
AN AGENDA FOR THE 1990's**

March 10-12, 1988