COUNTRY BASICS

Ecuador — BASICS II Country Program

Child Survival Program Overview

BASICS I began work in Ecuador in 1997, concurrent with the introduction of Integrated Management of Childhood Illness (IMCI) as the national child care policy. Project work continued with the transition to BASICS II, and the Project applied an integrated approach to child health in the Province of Imbabura. In September 2001, when USAID health sector assistance in Ecuador came to an end, BASICS II transitioned all aspects of the project to an independent Ecuadorian NGO named FUNBBASIC (*Fundación de Bienestar y Atención Básica Social, Institucional, y Comunitaria*). The Ecuador program successfully demonstrates the sustainability objective pursued by all BASICS II programs: the continuance of technical interventions by in-country organizations.

Technical Approach

The BASICS II—and now FUNBBASICS—community-based integrated child health approach in Imbabura Province blends prevention and treatment of prevalent childhood diseases. Emphasis is on exclusive breastfeeding, growth promotion, appropriate treatment and care-seeking for acute respiratory infections (ARI), and use of oral rehydration. The program also works to enhance advocacy for child health, to strengthen community organization and health systems, and to design behavior change counseling interventions.

Since its transition to non-governmental organization (NGO) status, FUNBBASIC has collaborated in the field of child health and nutrition with United Nations agencies, such as the World Food Programme and the World Health Organization/Pan-American Health Organization (PAHO), and with other NGOs. FUNBBASIC is accredited by the Ministry of Social Welfare to present projects for infant health funding and maintains the programs initiated under BASICS II with other funding.

Interventions

The following technical interventions, initiated by BASICS II, have been carried out by FUNBBASIC since March 2001.

Nutrition

Breastfeeding and appropriate child feeding. FUNBBASIC finalized implementation of the Direct Monitoring System for Nursing Mothers, called MADLAC, in eight hospitals. The organization also provided training in breastfeeding and complementary feeding to postgraduate pediatric students at the nursing school and designed a board game in Spanish promoting breastfeeding and appropriate complementary feeding for the University of Connecticut.

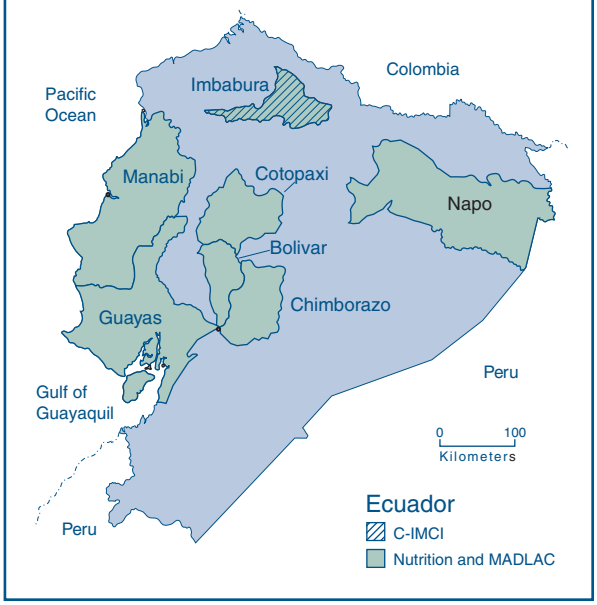
UNICEF financed the publication of a guide developed by FUNBBASIC for community volunteers for the promotion of breastfeeding and complementary feeding. The Ministry of Public Health uses the guide in all of its operative health units.

IMCI

The program in Imbabura Province has had a substantial impact on the use of oral rehydration therapy (ORT). From 1994–1999, the proportion of children under five years of age with diarrhea who received ORT in Imbabura increased significantly from 51% to 74% while the national rates remained similar between 1994 (73%) and 1999 (70%). During the same time period, the proportion of children under five years with diarrhea who received more fluids increased significantly from 36% to 46% in Imbabura, while nationally the proportion decreased significantly from 57% to 44%. The proportion of children in Imbabura who received more fluids and the same or more food during diarrhea increased significantly from 5% to 25%; nationally it decreased significantly from 25% to 18%. Over the same time period, care-seeking for ARI in children under five years of age remained similar at both levels. For children under two years of age, however, the rate held steady at about 40% in project intervention areas while it decreased significantly at the national level.

FUNBBASIC provided training in integrated management of chilhood illnesses (IMCI) for MAP International staff and worked with the Ministry to revise the IMCI qualification modules. FUNBBASIC also provided technical support to the Cotopaxi Provincial Directorate of Health for expansion of the "Promoting Key Practices" project. This regional IMCI at the community level project works with the American Red Cross, PAHO, and Ecuador's Ministry of Public Health.

BASICS II Intervention Area



Health Status Overview

Total population of Ecuador	13.2 million[a]
Under 5 mortality (CMR)	45.4/1000 live births[a]
Infant mortality (<1 year) (IMR)	33/1000[a]
DPT3 coverage (among children 12–23 months)	88%[b]

a. PHNIP Country Health Statistical Report: Ecuador, March 2002 Reference Document.

b. WHO Vaccine Preventable Disease: Monitoring System, 2001 Global Summary, WHO/Geneva, 2001