

From: International Zinc Association
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Happy and Healthy 2014!

Zinc Saves Kids' funds helped UNICEF to make tremendous advances in the fight against chronic malnutrition, multiple micronutrient deficiencies and acute diarrheal diseases. Since the launch of the program in 2010 several hundred thousands of children in Nepal and Peru have received multiple micronutrients (MNP) to combat early childhood malnutrition with irreversible lifelong consequences on physical growth and brain development and those suffering from acute diarrheal diseases, the second most common cause of childhood death in developing countries, received the lifesaving therapy of zinc and oral rehydration salts (ORS). In 2012/2013 the MNP programs and zinc/ORS coverage were significantly expanded in both countries.



Wiegel Makes Another Significant Contribution

For the fourth consecutive year Wiegel Group - one of the leading European hot-dip galvanizing companies with plants in Germany, Austria, Czech Republic and Slovak Republic - has contributed US\$ 30,000 in support of Zinc Saves Kids. "We are very happy with the progress made in the Zinc Saves Kids initiative and we want to take our part for maintaining and further developing the projects," commented

Peru: 2013 Highlights



Photo courtesy of UNICEF.

UNICEF supported the Government of Peru in

increasing the number of health establishments distributing zinc for diarrhea treatment from 45 to 188. This included training of 1,364 health professionals. A survey undertaken in health establishments in Loreto, which had distributed zinc for diarrhea treatment since 2012, showed a 63% reduction in the number of dysenteric diarrhea cases - the most severe form of diarrhea - treated between 2011 and 2013. While this reduction cannot entirely be attributed to zinc, it shows a marked downward trend.

The Health Resolution was enacted by the Ministry of Health on the supplementation for the prevention of anemia using MNP including 5 mg of zinc. In 2013 the Ministry of Health allocated US\$ 8.5 million for the purchase of MNP for the treatment of 720,000 children suffering from anemia and key micronutrient deficiencies including a lack of Vitamin A and zinc. By mid-2013 62 million sachets of zinc-containing MNP had been distributed to the health establishments in 14 regions for the treatment of 347,000 children.

“The support of the International Zinc Association has contributed to the reinforcement of the policy to reduce chronic malnutrition and anemia in Peru, two of the major public health concerns affecting the under five in Peru”, said Paul Martin, Representative UNICEF Peru. “The prevalence of chronic malnutrition fell from 28.5% in 2007 to 18.1% in 2012. Diarrhea which is one of the leading causes of childhood death in Peru declined by 2% in 2012.”

To learn more about the activities and achievements supported by Zinc Saves Kids in Peru [click here](#).

Nepal: 2013 Highlights



Photo courtesy of UNICEF.

In Nepal Zinc Saves Kids funding was instrumental in

Alexander Hofmann, Board of Directors, Wiegel Verwaltungs GmbH.

“This is commendable. Wiegel Group sets a standard like no other for all in the zinc and galvanizing industries,” stated Stephen Wilkinson.



IZA would like to thank the owners and staff of Zinkteknik who have continued their support presenting a Christmas gift to Zinc Saves Kids.



Thanks to all who supported Zinc Saves Kids in the past year!



supporting the integration of the community-based infant and young child feeding (IYCF) program with the MNP program in the six pilot districts (Makwanpur, Palpa, Corkha, Rasuwa, Rupandehi and Parsa) and the expansion of the integrated program to an additional nine districts. This required orientation and capacity building of more than 16,000 health workers, female community health volunteers, traditional healers, teachers and religious leaders. This group reached out to 130,000 mothers and an additional 70,277 children aged 6-23 months were supplied with MNP containing 4.1mg of zinc.

Although Nepal was one of the first countries to introduce the WHO/UNICEF recommended lifesaving zinc/ORS treatment for acute diarrheal diseases in 2005 little progress had been made until 2010. In 2010 the Government of Nepal supported by UNICEF, USAID and Micronutrient Initiative expanded the public sector zinc/ORS intervention to all 75 country districts. At the end of 2012 the Government's Health Management Information System reported a breakthrough: 92% of the 1,741,643 diarrhea cases treated in the public system received the 10-day zinc/ORS therapy.

To learn more about the activities and achievements supported by Zinc Saves Kids in Nepal [click here](#).

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