



SPANISH ASSOCIATION OF PAEDIATRICS

Child health and international cooperation: A paediatric approach[☆]



M. Sobrino Toro^{a,*}, I. Riaño Galan^b, Q. Bassat^c, J. Perez-Lescure Picarzo^d,
M. de Aranzabal Agudo^e, X. Krauel Vidal^f, M. Rivera Cuello^g, en representación del
Comité de Cooperación Internacional de la Asociación Española de Pediatría

^a *Área de Pediatría, Departamento de Farmacología, Pediatría y Radiología, Facultad de Medicina, Universidad de Sevilla, Sevilla, Spain*

^b *Servicio de Pediatría, Hospital San Agustín, Avilés, Asturias, Spain*

^c *Centre for International Health Research Hospital Clínic, Universitat de Barcelona, Barcelona, Spain*

^d *Área de Cardiología Infantil, Hospital Universitario Fundación Alcorcón, Madrid, Spain*

^e *Atención Primaria Osakidetza, Spain*

^f *Hospital Sant Joan de Dèu de Barcelona, Spain*

^g *Unidad de Gestión Clínica del Área Sanitaria Este Málaga, Servicio Andaluz de Salud, Málaga, Spain*

Received 3 November 2014; accepted 8 November 2014

KEYWORDS

International cooperation;
Infant global health;
Infant mortality;
Infant malnutrition

Abstract The international development cooperation in child health arouses special interest in paediatric settings. In the last 10 years or so, new evidence has been presented on factors associated with morbidity and mortality in the first years of life in the least developed countries. This greater knowledge on the causes of health problems and possible responses in the form of interventions with impact leads to the need to disseminate this information among concerned professional paediatricians. Serious efforts are needed to get a deeper insight into matters related to global child health and encourage paediatricians to be aware and participate in these processes. This article aims to provide a social paediatric approach towards international cooperation and child health-related matters.

© 2014 Asociación Española de Pediatría. Published by Elsevier España, S.L.U. All rights reserved.

[☆] Please cite this article as: Sobrino Toro M, Riaño Galan I, Bassat Q, Perez-Lescure Picarzo J, de Aranzabal Agudo M, Krauel Vidal X, et al. Salud infantil y cooperación internacional: una aproximación pediátrica. An Pediatr (Barc). 2015;82:367.

* Corresponding author.

E-mail addresses: sobrino@us.es, drsobrinotoro@gmail.com (M. Sobrino Toro).

PALABRAS CLAVE

Cooperación internacional;
Salud global infantil;
Mortalidad infantil;
Malnutrición infantil

Salud infantil y cooperación internacional: una aproximación pediátrica

Resumen La cooperación internacional al desarrollo en salud infantil despierta un especial interés en el ámbito pediátrico. En los últimos decenios se han ido revelando nuevas evidencias en torno al análisis de los factores vinculados a la morbilidad y mortalidad en las primeras etapas de la vida en los países menos adelantados. Este mayor conocimiento del origen de los problemas de salud y las posibles respuestas en forma de intervenciones con impacto determina la necesidad de su divulgación entre los profesionales de Pediatría interesados. Se hacen necesarios mayores esfuerzos para profundizar en materias relacionadas con salud global infantil y favorecer el que los pediatras conozcan y participen en estos procesos. Este artículo pretende ofrecer un acercamiento pediátrico social hacia los elementos relacionados con cooperación internacional y salud infantil.

© 2014 Asociación Española de Pediatría. Publicado por Elsevier España, S.L.U. Todos los derechos reservados.

Introduction

The Asociación Española de Pediatría (AEP: Spanish Association of Paediatrics) has not failed to respond to the growing interest in international cooperation among paediatricians in Spain. In 2011, with a view to channelling these concerns, it set up a working group which has raised awareness of the culture of cooperation and solidarity with developing countries in child health.¹

Paediatrics must take a broad view and facilitate access to the best and most up-to-date methods for diagnosing and treating illness, as well as preventing them, promoting health and fostering adequate growth and development. This should be extended to all children without exception.

Paediatricians occupy a privileged position in that remarkable process of transformation by which children, after almost two decades, turn into adults, and they must take on areas of responsibility and professional commitment, together with other professionals and authorities, that extend to a setting beyond the geographical limits of their own country.

In this article we will try to address the subject and reflect on some of its defining features.

From international health to global health

Since the mid-1990s the field of international health has been renamed "global health".² This term implies the study and practice of health issues that transcend borders, in rich and poor regions.

Countries with greater resources help those that have fewer or none, although in many cases there are unexploited resources in the receiving countries and doubts continue to arise about conditioning factors or dependencies created by certain forms of cooperation, which have proved contentious.

International cooperation in development is based not only on the ethical principle of solidarity, but also on responsibility and on the need to recognise human rights beyond frontiers, cultures, races and religions.^{1,3}

The field of global health must involve a rights-based approach. The Convention on the Rights of the Child (1989) establishes the right to survival and development among its governing principles.⁴ Paediatrics, and those who practise it, must act as guarantors of the contents of the Convention, by encouraging knowledge of and compliance with them.

Major efforts have been made in recent decades to improve global child health. In some cases, paradoxically, initiatives designed to solve problems by cost-effective means have provided answers applicable to countries that are not poor. This is true, for example, of oral rehydration salts, and of "kangaroo care", initiated in Colombia in response to lack of resources. Attention should be drawn to the systematic work of the WHO Growth Assessment and Surveillance Unit, led by Mercedes de Onís, which resulted in the publication, in 2006, of the first international growth and development standards for all children under five years, valid all over the world.⁵

Childhood and adolescence: arguments for cooperation in health

Analysing the distribution of world population by geographical region and paediatric age group (<18 years), and particularly those under 5, for the year 2012 (Fig. 1), we can see that out of a total of 7041 million people, 2124 million – approximately 31% – were aged under 18 and 652 under 5 (a little over 9%).⁶

One in every three inhabitants of the planet is under 18 and almost one in ten has not yet reached the age of 5. But as Fig. 1 shows, the distribution is not uniform, and in Sub-Saharan Africa practically one in two members of the population is of paediatric age.

Recognising the best evidence on the major problems affecting child health and some of the alternatives for treating them has been an essential task. The successive publications in the so-called "Lancet Series" have reconsidered many of the elements that define the reality of child health in a global health context, particularly in the most deprived countries.

Download English Version:

<https://daneshyari.com/en/article/4145272>

Download Persian Version:

<https://daneshyari.com/article/4145272>

[Daneshyari.com](https://daneshyari.com)