

Strategy for Infectious Diseases Control at Grass Root Level in Developing Countries

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Government injections to public health have shown an important payoff.

For example, China achieved enviable improvement in the health status of its people between 1952 and 1982. Within 30 years China reduced infant mortality from 250 to 40 deaths per 1000 live births and decreased the prevalence of malaria from 5.5% to 0.3% of the population with total health expenditure of U.S. \$ 5 per capita.

Immunizations are currently saving and estimated 3 million lives a year. In addition to the six vaccines currently included in the EPI, other vaccine particularly those for hepatitis B and Yellow fever should be included.

However, it should be noted that to add the other vaccines to the EPI, mechanisms to ensure "Availability", "Accessibility" and "Affordability" of the vaccines have to be developed.

In future, more attention should be drawn to the strengthening of joint efforts among government, community, NGO and donors to develop more effective programmes against infectious diseases.