



# IMPACTinACTION

## WASH and NTD Collaborations that Work

### Prevention in Action: changing behaviours to fight Dengue

Dengue, and other mosquito-borne viral diseases such as Zika and chikungunya are a growing threat to public health globally. Latin America bears 77% of global cases, including severe illness and deaths. In Argentina, the [NGO Mundo Sano](#) (“Healthy World”) has learnt the importance of community involvement in disease prevention, and since 2017 has been working with school children and their families to create learning experiences that raise children’s commitment to disease prevention.

The educational programme “Prevención en Acción: recursos pedagógicos para un mundo sano” (Prevention in Action: Pedagogical resources for a healthy world) was launched in 2019, oriented towards school-age children, with the aim to provide specific and attractive pedagogical material to familiarise children with the subject, and enable them to act as excellent promoters of change in their community.

The resources focus on key measures to control Dengue transmission, including prevention of the breeding of mosquito vector *Aedes aegypti* in water containers in and around the houses, and avoidance of mosquito bites using repellents and insecticides.

The programme employs a one-hour workshop in which the facilitator interacts with the students using a suitcase of recreational resources, as well as a remote option, using an educational kit organised in three stages for use by teachers, with guidance from Mundo Sano.

#### Achievements and successes

Starting in the North of Argentina, the project soon spread to other parts of the country as well as neighbouring Paraguay, following increased demand from teachers and educational institutions. Since the start of the Programme, 280 workshops have been held in 132 schools in Argentina and Paraguay, engaging 5920 children, 269 teachers and 101 voluntary participants. Since the launch of the remote Kit, it has been employed by 180 schools from 13 provinces. Success factors and innovations include:



- Well-designed and entertaining **educational materials** that take into consideration the learning process and ensure that the subject is addressed in an accessible and attractive way;
- **Community recognition** of Mundo Sano as an expert organisation, leading to strong demand for workshops;
- Strong **participant satisfaction** measured through surveys among participating children and teachers; during 2023, 98% of the children said that they had fun and found the workshop interesting, while 96% said they would like to repeat the activity another time (Total of 1679 surveys);
- The simplicity of the materials and the play resources enabled the **involvement of volunteers** in programmes delivery, thereby increasing its reach to more localities; and
- Mundo Sano offers **personalised follow-up of the Digital Kit**, with continuous support provided to teachers to ensure the material is understood and that it is sustainable over time.

#### Challenges and lessons learned

A key challenge was adapting the materials to the context of different areas and schools. This meant ability to implement the programme without electricity, projectors, televisions, and resources provided by the school, as well as implementation in open or constrained spaces. The content also had to

be easily understood by students from different socioeconomic backgrounds.

Additionally, implementation during the Coronavirus pandemic created new challenges by preventing face-to-face interaction using the resource suitcase. This led to the joint development by Mundo Sano, teachers and headteachers of the Digital Kit, making it possible to reach different contexts and undertake implementation at different times of the year.

Using the experiences accumulated over five years of implementation, certain changes have been made. Some schools that do not have access to the internet, devices to access materials or resources for printing, have been supported with printed materials from the Digital Kit. Additionally, Mundo Sano is exploring the possibility of applying a mixed approach of both modalities, so that contact with teachers can be sustainably maintained throughout the year.

Future plans include continuing to increase the reach of the programme; involvement of broader community audiences such as adolescents and adults; undertaking a research study to determine the effectiveness of the materials; and increasing the involvement of volunteers.

[Click here to see a video on YouTube.](#)



“Impact in Action” is a series showcasing successful collaborations between WASH (Water, Sanitation, and Hygiene) initiatives and Neglected Tropical Disease (NTD) programmes. Curated by the NNN WASH Working Group in partnership with WHO, this series brings together insightful case studies from around the globe. Each story highlights innovative strategies and tangible outcomes resulting from integrating WASH practices with NTD control and elimination efforts. View more case studies and download [WASH and health working together: a ‘how-to’ guide for neglected tropical disease programmes, second edition.](#)