

EC Partners

UNAIDS

INS

FEREDSALUD

Facts and Figures

- EC contribution: € 1.8 million (52% of total)
- Duration: 2003 - 2006
- Possibility of prenatal HIV transmission reduced from 40% to 3.6%



EUROPEAN
COMMISSION

Fight against HIV/AIDS

Reducing HIV mother-to-child transmissions in Colombia

"Transmit only love to your child"

"I advise all pregnant women to attend to the prenatal control, even if they do not feel sick. Life gives you surprises like it gave to me with this terrible diagnosis. But otherwise I could not have been able to save my daughter".

Luz Esperanza, 32 years old mother living in Quindío, Colombia



Context

The growing number of HIV infections in women of fertile age has meant an increase of prenatal transmission. The National Project for the Reduction of Mother-to-Child Transmission, coordinated by an inter-institutional alliance the Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS (UNAIDS), the National Institute of Health (INS) and the Colombian Federation of Hospital Cooperatives (FEREDSALUD) was developed based on the experience of seven regional initiatives supported by UNAIDS since 1999. Activities were initiated on a national scale in April 2003, thanks to the funding of the European Commission.

Objectives

- To promote recognition and awareness among Colombian women of reproductive age, of the importance of knowing their serological status for HIV infection
- To provide free HIV testing and integral health care for pregnant women infected with HIV, including antiretroviral treatment

Impact

- Activities were held in 1 225 health institutions reaching 368 449 pregnant women
- In 202 municipalities, 940 HIV-positive pregnant women were diagnosed
- 4 844 health professionals were trained in the HIV mother to child prevention strategy
- The Mother to Child project initiated in 2003 has been implemented in 919 municipalities (84 % of the national territory)

Fight against HIV/AIDS

EuropeAid

Reducing HIV mother-to-child transmissions in Colombia

“Transmit only love to your child”

Luz Esperanza's story

Luz Esperanza, 32 years old, a housewife lives in the region known as the Coffee Axis, the primary coffee growing region in Colombia. She got pregnant and went to the Departmental Health Service in Quindío. With the support of the HIV Mother to Child Transmission Reduction Project, she was able to take the HIV test, but obtained unexpected results. *“I never thought I could be infected. I was scared of this illness; so many things are said about it. However, through time, the project's staff prepared me and gave me the capacity to control the disease”.*

Luz Esperanza was tested on the second month of her pregnancy. One of this National Initiative's objectives is to be able to test women during the first three months of their pregnancy; so antiretroviral treatment can start from the 14th week of pregnancy and achieve optimal control in the prevention of mother to child transmission. *“Every time I took the pills the project gave me or every time I made tests, I could only think about my baby; in my sadness I was only hoping to see it born healthy”.*

The transmission prevention treatment was completely successful. *“The project's staff was always very kind to me and my daughter; they took care of the vaccines and gave me milk substitute for her”.*



Banner of the campaign "Transmit only love to your child"