



PERMANENT MISSION OF PORTUGAL  
GENEVA

OHCHR REGISTRY

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The Permanent Mission of Portugal to the United Nations Office and other International Organizations presents its compliments to the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights and referring to the note OHCHR/RRDD/HRESI, has the honour to enclose the reply by the Portuguese Authorities to the questionnaire on preventable mortality and morbidity of children under 5 years of age as human rights concerns.

The Permanent Mission of Portugal avails itself of this opportunity to renew to the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights the assurances of its highest consideration.

Geneva, 14 April 2014



Office of the High Commissioner  
for Human Rights  
Palais Wilson  
Geneva

**REPLY OF PORTUGAL TO THE OHCHR'S QUESTIONNAIRE ON  
PREVENTABLE MORTALITY AND MORBIDITY OF CHILDREN UNDER  
5 YEARS OF AGE AS HUMAN RIGHTS CONCERN – HRC RESOLUTION  
24/11**

**1. Has your government developed a national policy/strategy/action plan aimed at reducing mortality and morbidity of children under five years of age?**

Yes. The new National Health Programme for Children and Youth, launched in June 2013, covers all children living in Portugal up to 18 years of age, including undocumented migrant children, as regulated by Order n<sup>o</sup> 25360/2001, of 21 December. The priorities of this new National Health Program are:

- a) Identification and support for children with special needs, at-risk or particularly vulnerable;
- b) Reduction of inequalities in access to health services;
- c) Recognition and empowerment of first care givers (parents and other adults of reference).

According to the Program, during routine child health evaluations, pediatricians should:

- a) Evaluate growth and development of the child and record the data in the Child Health Bulletin on paper or eBulletin;
- b) Promote, whenever possible, healthy behaviors, including those related to :
  - i. Nutrition, suitable for different ages and individual needs, promoting balanced eating behaviors;
  - ii. Regular physical exercise, play and other recreational activities in open spaces and unpolluted environments, stress management;
  - iii. Prevention of harmful consumption;
  - iv. Adoption of security measures, reducing the risk of accidents.
- c) Promote:
  - i. Immunization against communicable diseases according to the National Immunization Plan in force;
  - ii. Oral health;
  - iii. Prevention of emotional and behavioral disorders;
  - iv. Prevention of accidents and poisonings;
  - v. Prevention of abuse;
  - vi. Prevention of risks arising from inadequate sun exposure;
  - vii. Exclusive breastfeeding up to 6 months.
  - viii.
- d) Identify at an early stage situations that may jeopardize the life or affect the quality of life of children, such as birth defects;
- e) Prevent, identify and know how to address common diseases in various ages, including strengthening the role of parents and other caregivers, alerting for signs and symptoms;
- f) Flag and provide continued support for children with chronic diseases/disabilities and their families and promote effective liaison with the various stakeholders involved;
- g) Assure the achievement of genetic counseling when appropriated for parents or children, by referral to specialist services;
- h) Identify, support and guide children and families who are victims of abuse and violence, such as neglect, physical, psychological and sexual abuse, bullying, harmful traditional practices, including female genital mutilation;