

Pastoral da Criança Child Pastorate - Brazil

Mission

“So that all the children have life in abundance” (Cf. Jo 10, 10). The mission of Pastoral da Criança (Child Pastorate) is to promote the development of the poor children, from the maternal womb to the 6 years old, in such a way that their families and communities can carry through its proper transformation, through basic health instructions, nutrition, education and citizenship, based on the Christian spirituality (mystic) that joins faith and life.

Vision

We work for a world without preventable maternal-infantile deaths and where all the children, even the most vulnerable ones, will live in an environment fit to their development. (Cf. Isaiah chapter 65, from vesicle 16).

Believing

- Joining the Mission of Pastoral da Criança
- Ethics (transparency, honesty, justice, equity)
- Simplicity
- Not Discrimination (race, color, profession, nationality, sex, religious creed or political party)
- Commitment with the results
- Perseverance
- Valuation of children, pregnant women and families
- Joy for serving
- Multiplying Knowledge
- Go and meet the other, search proximity

The volunteer leader of Pastoral da Criança has three main activities:

- Monthly visit the followed up families
- Life Celebration Moment - Weight Control Day
- Monthly meetings of reflection and evaluation

Pastoral da Criança capacitates all its volunteers. The basic training is 52 hours on the Leader's Guide. The strategy is to multiply knowledge and solidarity among poor families, through capacitated community leaders, that live at the same community.

The leaders assume the task to instruct and follow up the neighbour families on basic actions of health, nutrition, education and citizenship, like:

- Rights
- Development of the child
- Breastfeeding

- Nutrition
- Oral Hygiene
- Immunization
- Prevention of home accidents
- Prevention of diseases
- Health Risk Signals

Pastoral da Criança developed an efficient and agile Information System to evaluate and monitor its activities in the community. The system collects, analyze and take back to the community the information regarding health, nutrition and education of children and pregnant women.

The community leaders send a monthly report called FABS to the headquarter of Pastoral da Criança. The data enables each coordination level, from the national to the community, evaluate the results and plan better the actions to be done in a short, medium and long terms.

Reasons for being well succeeded:

- Indicators simple and well understood by the leaders
- Catholic Church structure involved
- Volunteer work
- Results fed back regularly, interpreted and acted upon
- Information fully available 45 days after the end of the reporting month
- Total cost of the Pastorate: US\$ 0.92 per child/month
- information system to provide feedback for action

Results

Pastoral da Criança contributes to reduce the child mortality in Brazil. Besides, it helps to create opportunities for the integral development of children.

In the poor communities where Pastoral da Criança works, the child mortality rate is 9,3 deaths for every thousand child born alive. The national average in Brazil is 15,6 deaths per one thousand, according to the Brazilian Institute of Geography and Statistics data of 2010.

Pastoral da Criança in 3.962 municipalities of Brazil

States (100%)	27
Communities accompanied	38.116
Community Leaders	119.686
Total Followed up Children	1.432.772
Total of Volunteers taking part in communities	220.216
Average number of Families accompanied monthly	1.154.392
Average number of Expectant Mothers accompanied monthly	74.707

Source: Pastoral da Criança Information System, data of 2011

Pastoral da Criança International

On November 18th/2008, the Pastoral da Criança International was founded in Uruguay. It supports the use of the Pastoral da Criança methodology in 18 countries.

The Pastoral da Criança International has the following partners, among others:

- Salute e Sviluppo – Catholic Religious
- Order of Saint Camillus
- Family Foundation, USA
- UNICEF – United Nations Children's Fund
- ABC – Brazilian Agency Cooperation of the Ministry of Foreign Relations of Brazil
- OPAS – Pan American Health Organization
- Odebrecht Group, Brazil
- HSBC Bank
- Gerdau Group, Brazil
- CELAM – Conference of the Latin American

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