

employ this same commitment by engaging global nutrition and international development experts, as well as by involving consortia of corporations, major foundations, UN agencies, leading NGO (such as the International Union of Nutritional Sciences) and government development agencies.

The Lancet paper⁽²⁾ states that 'the intricacy of undernutrition as a global problem seems to defy simple, directed and uniform programmes. We will not effectively improve child survival unless we untangle this web [of interactions]'. The authors call for a 'knowledge base on the necessary support and institutional capacity that enables these interventions to work and improve child survival'.

If the global burden of undernutrition is to be combated successfully and in ways that link its solution to avoiding a worsening of the crises in overweight and obesity, the need for strong public-private partnerships to support practical interventions at the population level is not only necessary, but critically urgent.

Derek Yach, MBChB, MPH
Vice President, PepsiCo Global Health Policy
700 Anderson Hill Road
1-2 Purchase, NY 10577, USA
Email: Derek.yach@pepsico.com

Zoë A Feldman, MPH
Consultant, PepsiCo Global Nutrition and Health Policy
700 Anderson Hill Road
3-3 Purchase, NY 10577, USA
Email: Zoe.feldman@pepsi.com
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Leaf concentrate. Undernutrition Benefits for children in Mexico

Madam

I have been following your correspondence on clinical observations of the benefits of leaf concentrate when given to children, pregnant women and nursing mothers and undernourished adults^(1–6). I wish to record our experience in Mexico over the last nine years.

My Association was founded in 1841 and is dedicated solely to philanthropic activities. It is certified as an institution of public benefit. One of our activities is the production and distribution, free of charge, of leaf concentrate products.

Our mission here is to find solutions to the poor diets and malnutrition that exist in certain sectors of the population. The leaf concentrate initiative is led by Dr Carlos Gonzalez, nutritionist at the National Autonomous University of Mexico. He is responsible for receiving the concentrate and producing and distributing all the leaf products that we provide free to 25 000 children who attend fifty-four institutions (such as schools, orphanages, community centres) in Mexico City and surrounding states. Most children receive 5 g of concentrate daily, with more being given to those whose health requires it.

Our products are very well accepted by the children. We have numerous testimonials and professional and official data as well as statistics collected by ourselves. These show the remarkable results of our products and that there have never been any negative effects.

We rely on the support of professors and directors of private institutions and official organisations, such as the National Institute of Nutrition and the National Paediatric Institute, who bear witness to the results obtained in combating malnutrition and anaemia together with an improvement in the children's performance at school and in their physical and mental development.

Henry Bremond Pellat
President, Asociacion Franco Mexicana Suiza y
Belga de Beneficencia IAP Calz. Legaria 449 Col.
Deportiva Pensil
Mexico, DF 11470
doi:10.1017/S1368980009005485

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Editor's note

We will be pleased to hear from readers who have experience of the effects of concentrate made from leaves of local plants. We will also be pleased to hear from readers who have doubts about the benefits of leaf concentrate or who believe that other nutritional methods to alleviate malnutrition and address disease are preferable.