

February 2020



## **Demand Grows for the Bilikit™**

Babies born this year in Trujillo, Peru will get a healthier start in life, thanks to the Bilikit <sup>™</sup>. It is the second high-jaundice region in Peru where INMED Partnerships for Children/INMED Andes has introduced this ground-breaking trio of low-cost and portable technologies to screen for, diagnose and treat neonatal jaundice in low-resource regions.

Neonatal jaundice is the most common condition requiring medical treatment in newborns. Occurring in approximately 60% of term infants, it is usually self-resolving. However, an estimated 10% of all newborns have jaundice severe enough to require intervention. Left untreated, jaundice can lead to permanent neurological damage—and even death. Approximately 1 million newborns are affected by severe jaundice annually.

In Peru, where INMED is implementing the Bilikit<sup>™</sup> project, more than 90% of health facilities lack the equipment and training to adequately diagnose and treat neonatal jaundice, contributing to a rate of jaundice-linked brain damage up to 20 times higher than in high-income countries. INMED-trained health workers have screened more than 3,000 newborns at 13 health facilities serving remote communities. An additional seven hospitals will implement the Bilikit<sup>™</sup> in La Libertad in 2020.

"Before we had the Bilikit™, we had to conduct a lab test to detect bilirubin levels, which is not possible for babies in remote areas," said Nurse Nancy Aponte. "But now, from the first hours after birth, we can determine if a newborn is jaundiced." Getting treatment in the first days of life is critical to preventing irreversible neurological damage. Read more

We are delighted to announce that our partnership with USAID to bring our INMED Aquaponics™ program to individuals with disabilities AND our partnership with the Mondelēz International Foundation to deliver our Health in Action program to disadvantaged communities have both entered Phase II. This speaks volumes about the transformational impacts these programs have had on vulnerable individuals and communities. Kudos to our stellar team at INMED South Africa for all the hard work and dedication to scaling the impact!



INMED's aquaponics program with USAID is improving the access of disabled people, especially women and youth, to new adaptive technologies and financing to help them generate income and integrate into the mainstream economy. Phase II is expected to reach 2,000 additional adults, youth and school children with disabilities via online and community-based education in three new provinces—Eastern Cape, Gauteng and Northern Cape.



Phase II of Health in Action will expand the scope of youth development to a broader audience to foster entrepreneurship as a way to break poverty cycles and build stronger communities. Through a variety of community-based training, educational workshops and vocational opportunities in aquaponics and physical education, Phase II will further engage the professional expertise of local Mondelēz volunteers to support emerging entrepreneurs.

**Check Out Our Updated Web Site!** 



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