

Zinc

Saves Kids®

Life-changing stories....from Peru

Zinc sprinkles change the life of little Marcelito



Marcelito Cardenas with his Mother adding zinc sprinkles to his food.



In Ventanilla, an urban district north of Lima, Peru, six children out of ten suffer from anemia. Sitting in the waiting room of the local health center in March 2010, three-year old Marcelito Cardenas suffered from anemia with an alarmingly low hemoglobin rate of 10.5 (the average hemoglobin rate for children of this age ranges from 12.5 to 13). "He looked so pale, was tired all the time, slept a lot and wouldn't eat," said Marcelito's mother of her son.

The doctors at the health centre gave Marcelito a six-month treatment of sprinkles including 5mg zinc; the improvement in his health was visible immediately. Marcelito started eating well and slowly even asked his mother not to forget to add the zinc sprinkles to his food. "My son is happy to eat his food with the sprinkles. It does not alter the flavor of the food at all," said his mother.

Today Marcelito is talkative, playful and a very alert little boy. More important, he does not suffer anymore from anemia and his hemoglobin rate has risen to 12.6.

Information and photos provided by UNICEF Peru

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