



PRIMARY HEALTH CARE



This two year old weighs only
14 pounds.





DEVELOPMENT AND HEALTH

In the section on Malaria, you were introduced to the concept of Primary Health Care.

These are a range of methods designed to improve overall health standards in an LEDC.

They are meant to be useful in rural areas where sophisticated technologies are impossible and un-affordable.





'Barefoot
Doctors'

These are local people,
trained in basic first aid
medical care.

They can dispense medical
care for minor ailments
including giving injections
when necessary.

They are also important in
childbirth.





- These barefoot doctors are much **cheaper to train** and so **more** can be used to service **wider areas**.
- A **great many more people** can be treated than if more specialised medics were to be used.
- Routine medical situations are dealt with **locally in rural clinics**.
- Even **in urban districts**, these clinics are proving vitally important.
- **Aid programmes** can contribute effectively as the clinics can be fairly easily set up.





- Local health workers are more likely to be accepted by people, and speak the language/ understand customs, etc.
- Only most severe cases are sent to hospitals.
- Most problems are easily sorted in the local area- eg oral rehydration for diarrhoea(see next slide).
- Local education programmes are set up.
- Cheaper versions of drugs to reduce costs.
- More economically viable- better cost/value.





One life-saving treatment given in the local clinics is **ORAL REHYDRATION** (a salt, sugar and water solution) to tackle chronic diarrhoea.

Mass vaccination programmes

Cheaper pharmaceuticals are used rather than the expensive ones we use. There is a risk, however, that they are less safe.



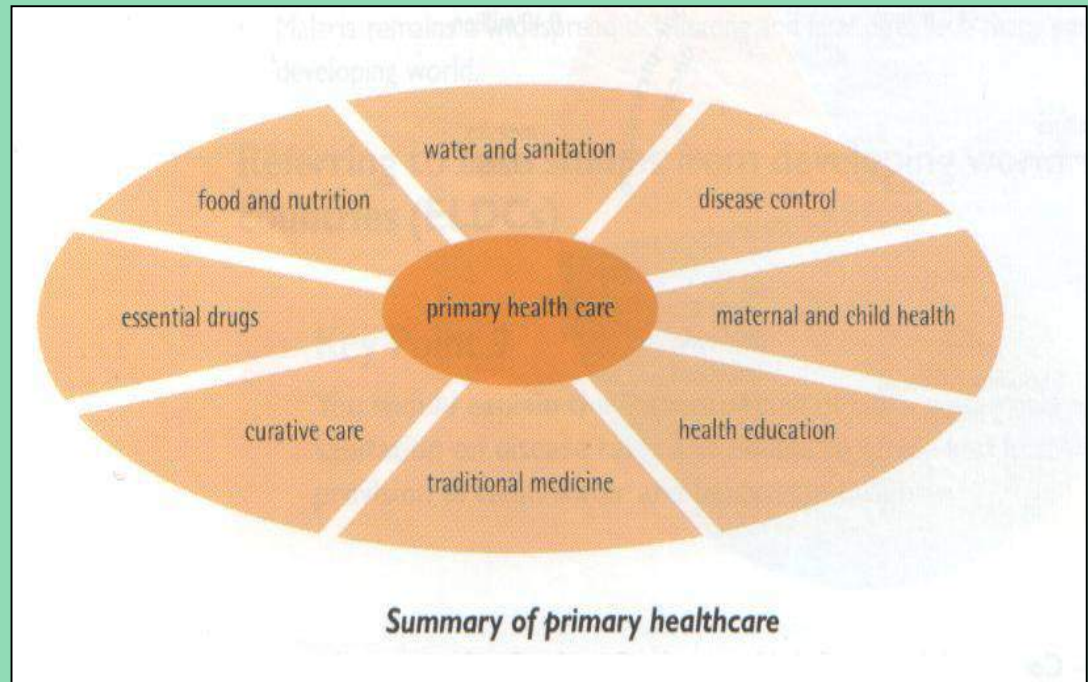


DEVELOPMENT AND HEALTH

Costs are also reduced by doing this, as **only the most serious and complex cases are sent to hospital**, often hundreds of miles away.

Most clinics teach basic health education programmes.

These are often supported by National Health Campaigns.





DEVELOPMENT AND HEALTH

Effective
hygiene controls

Birth control

Dietary
needs

Disease
prevention

Water
purification

Traditional
medicine

Infant
Health issues



end

Now watch the video about PHC
Tape 9 number 3