
**Statement**

To whom it may concern

Desiderata Institute is a NGO who works to promote early diagnosis and access to treatment for children and adolescents with cancer. Childhood cancer in Brazil is the first cause of death, by disease, among children and adolescents. Despite high chances of cure in High Income Countries, the chances of cure in Brazil are below 60% and the public system has problems in registries, early diagnosis and access to treatment.

To address these issues, Desiderata have been working for 15 years in Rio de Janeiro, doing researches and studies, advocacy and convening public managers and policy makers to implement collective actions that face these problems. Besides that, we monitor if actions are being executed and how.

Unfortunately, children are not a priority in public policies. And when governments have an action plan, they don’t have accountability mechanisms. Like cancer, there are many other diseases that affect children and adolescents and commit whole lives. It is critical that countries must take a specific look at children and adolescents living with NCDs. They should not be viewed by the WHO members only from the perspective of preventing diseases in adults, controlling risk factors, but rather from the point of view of the number of children and adolescents living with NCDs and impacting not only their own lives, but of his entire family. Children and their families have been impacted daily because they have many difficulties to diagnose, to access the treatment and to live with the comorbidities.

In that sense, we would like to suggest that a child health Working Group could be created to monitor the situation of children and adolescents with NCDs in the world. Additionally, the WHO members could produce a report about the situation and publicize the results to the global community in order to improve child health specially in low-and middle-income countries.

Finally, we would like to reinforce and to encourage directly the WHO members to create coordinated actions, to direct more financial resources to the NCDs and to create transparent accountability mechanisms, looking more specifically to children and adolescents.

Sincerely,

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