

FOREWORD

For more than 60 years, the Kellogg Foundation has been a proud supporter of the Pan American Health Organization (PAHO). In collaboration with PAHO, the Foundation has done some of its most lasting and important work in Latin America and the Caribbean. And one of the proudest success stories from this fruitful partnership has been the Salt Fluoridation project. Because of this effort, millions of people across the region can enjoy healthier, happier, and more productive lives.

Our founder, W.K. Kellogg, was a pragmatic visionary who believed in “applying knowledge to the problems of people.” The salt fluoridation program embodies this principle by combining scientific knowledge with political coordination and grassroots education. Additionally, the project was able to build on the impressive gains in water fluoridation, which resulted from an earlier Kellogg Foundation/PAHO partnership. Yet the salt fluoridation effort was distinct in its ability to deliver oral health benefits to remote locations where no municipal water supplies existed. As is true with most good ideas, the techniques pioneered by this project can be readily adapted by other nations and communities that seek to establish similar oral health programs.

Without question, there is much that can be learned from the history of this remarkable initiative. As we consider the current challenges in public and oral health that face Latin America and the world, we encourage the professionals and lay people who read *Promoting Oral Health: The Use of Salt Fluoridation to Prevent Dental Caries* this useful book to apply its lessons in as many ways and places as possible.

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