

# **SOLAR DISINFECTION OF DRINKING WATER AND ORAL REHYDRATION SOLUTIONS**

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## PREFACE AND ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

This document is a contribution towards the promotion of the *Revolution for Children* recently announced for launching in 1984 by UNICEF in the light of world support for Oral Rehydration Therapy (ORT) as one of the four simple interventions for the control of childhood diarrhoea and the associated condition of malnutrition.

As a practical guide for primary health care workers and those involved in national programmes for the control of diarrhoeal diseases, it provides concise background information on oral rehydration therapy. The text then deals with some practical issues pertaining to the preparation of oral rehydration solutions. However, the main emphasis has been placed on the disinfection of oral rehydration solutions, or the water used in their preparation, as achieved by exposure to sunlight in transparent containers.

The fundamental principles involved in this simple and inexpensive home-based technology are presented for a better understanding of the stepwise instructions which are to be delivered to housewives in rural areas of developing countries for household application.

Readers actively participating in the promotion of oral rehydration therapy in developing countries could make use of the simple technical knowledge needed to intelligently instruct peripheral health workers and mothers on the proper preparation and disinfection of oral rehydration solutions, with possible adaptations dictated by local conditions.

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We take great pride in having accomplished this task within a few weeks under the hardships of the prevailing conditions of war in this country. This is our humble contribution to the children of the world.

**Beirut, Lebanon  
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