

Case study



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At only three years old, Luciano dos Santos Rocha Junior from Brazil is one of the 360 million people worldwide suffering disabling hearing impairment. His mother, Suenia, contracted rubella during her second month of pregnancy with Luciano.

Luciano's story is especially tragic because immunization of women against certain childhood diseases (like rubella, meningitis, measles and mumps) can prevent the development of hearing loss during pregnancy.



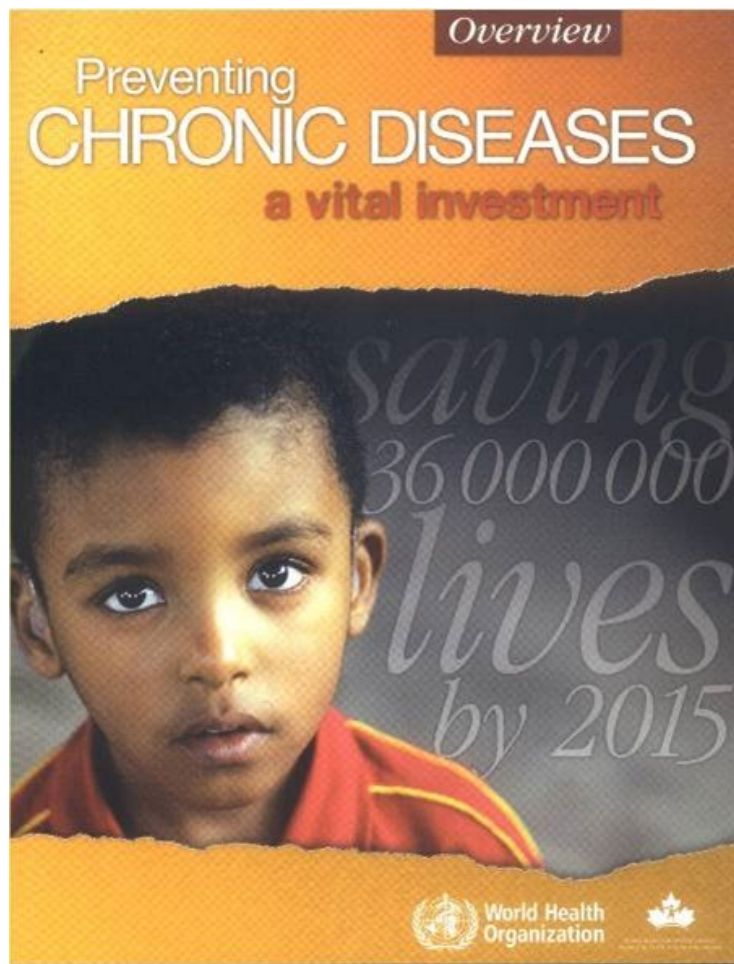
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Luciano's disability was spotted by his mother not long after birth. A local hospital confirmed the problem and enrolled Luciano in a special program for deaf children.

Unlike many deaf and hearing impaired people who feel isolated and find it difficult to integrate into society, Luciano's family and the team at the hospital are ensuring he and his parents have the support they need. He is attending weekly classes to help him learn to speak and lip-read.

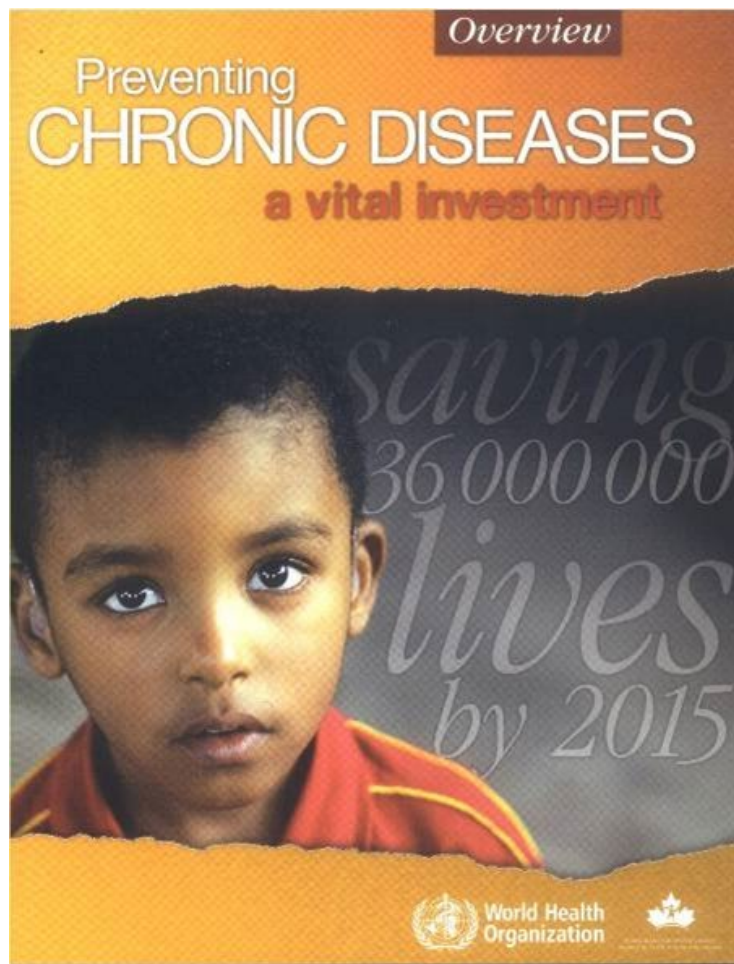
# Preventing chronic diseases: a vital investment

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Any comments about Luciano's story?

Exercise:

What would you like to change in your country to reduce the burden of hearing loss?

[discuss in pairs or threes]