

*executive committee of
the directing council*



PAN AMERICAN
SANITARY
ORGANIZATION

*working party of
the regional committee*

WORLD
HEALTH
ORGANIZATION



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REPORT OF WORKING PARTY ON THE PROPOSED PROGRAM AND BUDGET FOR 1956

A Working Party on the Proposed Program and Budget, composed of Dr. Jorge Jiménez Gándica (Colombia), Dr. Lucien Pierre-Noël (Haiti), Dr. Enrique Zacarías Arza (Paraguay), Dr. Frederick J. Brady (United States of America), held two meetings on April 26 and 27. The group had the assistance of Dr. Bichat Rodrigues (Brazil), Dr. Félix Hurtado (Cuba), Dr. Felipe García Sánchez (México), Mr. Howard B. Calderwood and Dr. Charles L. Williams, Jr. (United States of America), and the Director, Dr. Fred L. Soper, and staff of the Pan American Sanitary Bureau. Dr. Pierre-Noël was elected chairman.

The Working Group studied its terms of reference. The document presented to the Executive Committee is essentially the same as the budget document (CE23/2) presented to the XIV Pan American Sanitary Conference as a provisional draft. The Conference endorsed the World Health Organization Regional Program and Budget for 1956 and approved as a provisional draft the program and budget of the Pan American Sanitary Bureau for 1956. The Executive Committee is charged with a review of the 1956 proposals of the Pan American Sanitary Organization (CE25/2 and Corrigendum), which differ chiefly from that presented to the Conference by the addition of \$100,000 for malaria eradication activities.

The Working Party noted that the estimates of UN Technical Assistance funds and of other extra-budgetary funds are subject to considerable variation.

The total budget for the Pan American Sanitary Organization for 1956 amounts to \$2,200,000 of which \$2,100,000 will be assessed against Member States (page 6). This budget is \$100,000 more than the budget for 1955, owing to an additional amount proposed for malaria eradication activities, in accordance with the authorization of the XIV Pan American Sanitary Conference (Resolution XLIII).

The Director pointed out that some proposed country projects are not at this stage based on formal agreements although they have been discussed with governments, and some latitude must necessarily be allowed the Director in making changes.

The Working Party examined each item in the budget document and debated many items in detail.

Attention was called to the increase in the budget estimates for the 1956 meeting of the Directing Council (page 9) amounting to about \$27,000. The Director pointed out that the 1956 meeting of the Directing Council will be held away from Headquarters, in accordance with the resolution of the XIII Pan American Sanitary Conference (Resolution VIII) and, therefore, will be more costly. There was considerable debate regarding the usefulness of holding the meetings away from Headquarters, considering their increased cost.

The Working Party noted that the item for home leave is increased by \$19,365 in 1956 over 1955. The Director indicated that home leave is provided every second year by the staff rules and, because of the dates of beginning employment of members of the staff, this item is considerably larger in even-numbered years than in odd-numbered years.

The Working Party pointed out that, inasmuch as the Directing Council meets away from Headquarters in even-numbered years with increased costs and home leave is increased in even-numbered years, the Director should make a study to find a method whereby both increases would not fall in the same years.

Under Section 2 of Part III dealing with programs, the increased emphasis to "malaria and insect control" was noted. This increase is due to the special appropriation of \$100,000 given by the XIV Conference.

The publications of the Pan American Sanitary Bureau were reviewed.

With regard to specific projects, questions were asked relating to their evaluation, duration, methods of operation, and sources of funds. The explanations given by the Director for each of these items were satisfactory to the Working Party.

However, the Working Party wishes to call the attention of the Executive Committee to several specific items of note.

The Working Party expressed concern that health programs may receive less emphasis in the Technical Assistance Programs as a result of the recent resolution of the Economic and Social Council. This resolution provided that the distribution of funds for different activities within a country would be determined by the country itself. In this respect, several Representatives indicated that difficulties within their own governments might arise because of the competition among the various ministries in devising and obtaining approval of their respective projects. According to reports, in some Ministries of Foreign Affairs the plan of the activities of the Technical Assistance Program has been presented. The announcement of this program aroused fears as to the financial part that might correspond to public health. The Director pointed out that the World Health Organization, as a participating agency in the Expanded Program, would not receive less than 85% of that of the previous year. However, with the new procedure, health projects under this program could be increased provided that the health authorities within the countries are able to obtain a higher proportion within "the integrated country program". He stated that in any case the Pan American Sanitary Bureau would do what it could within its budgetary limitations to assure continuance of worthwhile Technical Assistance projects. The Working Party suggested that the Director should inform the health authorities of various countries that in the next few months country programs will be proposed for the Expanded Program of Technical Assistance and the health authorities should (1) prepare their proposals in time to receive adequate consideration and (2) impress upon their governments the importance of health programs within the total country program of Technical Assistance.

It was pointed out that in certain countries no programs were being financed by the Pan American Sanitary Organization funds. The Director indicated that the Bureau considered that all programs were of concern to the Bureau, which was interested in seeing that they were properly financed, but was less concerned as to the source of the funds. In those countries without projects financed by the Pan American Sanitary Organization there are projects administered by the World Health Organization and financed either by its regular budget or with Technical Assistance funds.

The Working Party noted that the Directing Council had endorsed the proposal for the creation of a Zoonosis Center (page 123) to be financed by the Program of Technical Cooperation of the Organization of American States. The activities of such a center would be of immediate concern to public health.

With regard to the \$100,000 increases for malaria eradication (page 121) in both 1955 and 1956, the Director has entered this amount as a total sum without showing the proportions to be used for personal services, travel, etc., except as crude estimates shown on pages 13 and 19. The Director stated that the method of use will be dependent upon the development as the program progresses in 1955.

The Working Party expressed concern about the continued participation of the Bureau in the work of the Pan American Foot and Mouth Disease Center (page 127). This Center has been operating for some years and its program has been highly commended. It was undertaken in conformance with a resolution of the XIII Pan American Sanitary Conference (Resolution XX), which stated that the Bureau would participate until such time as some other inter-American specialized agency was prepared to take full charge. It was the concensus that aftosa is not a disease of immediate importance to public health, although it may affect human nutrition and is one of considerable concern to agriculture. The Working Party believes that the Director should study methods whereby the Foot and Mouth Disease Center can be operated by another agency within the inter-American system rather than by the Pan American Sanitary Bureau. His recommendations as the result of such a study should be presented to the Directing Council.

The Working Party believes that the proposed program and budget of the Pan American Sanitary Bureau for 1956 is soundly conceived and can be carried out by the funds expected to be available. It recommends the Executive Committee's endorsement.