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EVALUATION OF THE STRATEGIES OF HEALTH FOR ALL BY THE YEAR 2000: COMMON
FRAMEWORK AND FORMAT

The Thirty-seventh World Health Assembly met in Geneva on 7-17 May 1984. Foremost on the agenda was the review of progress in implementing the strategies of health for all by the year 2000 (HFA/2000). The Assembly adopted Resolution WHA37.17 urging Member Countries to accord the highest priority to monitoring and evaluating the strategies of HFA/2000. In particular, Member Countries were urged to "...further strengthen the managerial capacity of the health systems, including the generation, analysis and utilization of the information needed." Delegates stressed that this did not necessarily mean complex systems, but appropriate, effective ones. WHO and the Regions were asked to ensure the provision of "...intensive, appropriate and targeted support..." to Member Countries.

Earlier World Health Assemblies have consistently called upon Member Countries to prepare plans of action for monitoring and evaluating their own strategies for accomplishing the goals of HFA/2000.

In February 1984, the WHO Global Program Committee--comprised of staff from the decision-making levels of the WHO Secretariat, at Geneva and the six Regional Offices--approved a document entitled "Evaluating the Strategies of Health for All by the Year 2000: Common Framework and Format" (CFF). The CFF was approved in response to earlier World Health Assembly mandates to monitor and evaluate progress toward HFA/2000. The stated rationale for the document was to assist the Member Countries to review their commitment to HFA/2000 and to determine what had been accomplished. Two activities are emphasized in the CFF. First, Member Countries are encouraged to compare their current efforts against the monitoring report completed in 1983. Second, Member Countries are encouraged to review their health strategies to see where improvements can be made in their health delivery systems.

The CFF is to be completed by March 1985 at the country level. Then each WHO Region is to summarize the country documents and prepare regional summaries. The final report prepared at WHO Headquarters will contain a global synthesis, regional syntheses and country summaries. The final report will be published in 1986, in the six official WHO languages, as the "Seventh Report on the World Health Situation."

The CFF is to be completed by March 1985 at the country level. Then each WHO Region is to prepare country summaries and regional summaries based on the information received from the countries. A mock-up of a summary country review is to be prepared at WHO Headquarters and sent to the Regions by the end of July 1984. The country review mock-up and the formats for the regional and global summaries will be discussed at the next meeting of the WHO Secretariat's Programme Development Working Group (PDWG), scheduled for the fall of 1984.

The final report will contain a global synthesis (estimated at 150 pages), regional syntheses (estimated at 35 pages per Region) and country summaries (estimated at five pages per country). The report will be published in 1986 in the six official WHO languages as the Seventh Report on the World Health Situation.

The CFF contains 85 questions grouped under 26 headings. Basically there are three types of questions in the CFF. One type focuses on statistical data, a second type on the development of strategies and mechanisms for implementing HFA/2000, and a third type on obstacles encountered in redirecting health strategies at the country level. Many of the first type and some of the second type can be answered at PAHO Headquarters using basic data previously received from the countries and maintained in the PAHO Statistics Office (PHS) and the country narratives from the AMPES (American Region Programming and Evaluation System). The third type of question is more appropriately dealt with at the country level.

The 92nd Meeting of the Executive Committee of PAHO (June 1984) endorsed the recommendation of the Long-Term Planning and Programming Subcommittee that a field test be conducted on the use of the CFF before all Member Countries are asked to complete the document. Therefore, the following actions will be taken.

1. Field Test

- PAHO staff will complete partially the CFF for several countries using basic data obtained from PAHO's Statistics Office and other sources, including the country narratives from AMPES;

- PAHO staff will discuss the partially completed CFF with the Country Representatives and representatives from the Member Countries and assist the Member Countries in completing the CFF;
 - Member Countries will be requested to finalize the CFF and return an endorsed copy to PAHO.
2. Revision of the process based on the results of the field test.
 3. Discussion of the revised process at the Directing Council Meeting in September 1984.
 4. Implementation of the process for completing the CFF in all countries in the Region by March 1985.