



PAN AMERICAN HEALTH ORGANIZATION
WORLD HEALTH ORGANIZATION



27th DIRECTING COUNCIL

32nd SESSION OF THE REGIONAL COMMITTEE

Washington D.C., 22 September – 3 October 1980

RESOLUTION

CD27.R15

EXPANDED PROGRAM ON IMMUNIZATION

THE 27th DIRECTING COUNCIL,

Considering that immunization programs constitute one of the highest priorities of the Region;
Having noted that immunization coverage in the Region remains low, particularly for children under one year of age and pregnant women, and the limitations of the information systems necessary for the surveillance of the diseases included in the Expanded Program on Immunization (EPI);

Recognizing that good quality vaccine is of fundamental importance for the success of the Program;
Having taken note of the progress accomplished (Document CD27/16) in the development of regional strategies for the implementation of this Program, particularly the approach utilized for strengthening the managerial capabilities through the EPI training courses and the efforts to integrate these activities within the context of primary health care;

Taking note of the rapid establishment of the Regional Cold Chain Development Center recommended in Resolution XXI of the XXVI Meeting of the Directing Council;

Having considered the still limited capitalization of the EPI Revolving Fund and realizing that the feasibility studies for the establishment of this Fund approved by the XXV Meeting of the Directing Council, and subsequently by the XX Pan American Sanitary Conference,¹ showed that a level of US\$4 million would be necessary for its smooth operation; and

Bearing in mind that the achievement of the goals of the EPI by 1990 will be a milestone along the road toward attainment of health for all by the year 2000,

RESOLVES

1. To approve the training strategies being implemented and urge Member Governments to formulate specific plans for multiplying the EPI national training workshops at the primary health care level.
2. To recommend to Member Governments that vaccination activities be geared above all toward the high-risk groups of children under one year of age and pregnant women.
3. To institute a system that will allow for continuous evaluation of the coverage of the population.
4. To urge Governments, within their epidemiological surveillance systems, to give high priority to reinforcing the surveillance of the diseases included in this Program by means of guidelines applicable to all levels of the health system, in order to measure the real impact of EPI in reducing disease.
5. To recommend that countries which are involved in the production of DPT and BCG vaccines and which have installations equipped to perform tests and titrations on attenuated live virus vaccines, make every effort to comply with the requirements laid down by WHO for quality control of these products and provide support for strengthening national quality control services.
6. To commend the Director for his efforts in promoting the rapid development of the EPI in the Americas.
7. To recommend that the Director make efforts to include the EPI training materials in all PAHO-sponsored training of primary health care workers.
8. To request the Director to support the consolidation and operation of the Regional Cold Chain Development Center.
9. To ask the Director to study and present to the XXVIII Meeting of the Directing Council, in conjunction with the progress report, the alternatives for full capitalization of the EPI Revolving Fund to the needed level of US\$4 million, including restoration of the level of the Revolving Fund by timely reimbursements.

Sept.–Oct. 1980 OD 174, 73