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REPORT OF PAHO ACTIVITIES IN SOCIAL AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

Resolution XXXIII of the XVI Pan American Sanitary Conference recognized the role of health in social and economic development and the responsibility of the Organization to assist the Member Governments in working towards health and other goals of the Charter of Punta del Este, and invited the Director to take steps to assure the fullest involvement of the Organization in this effort.

The Charter of Punta del Este recognizes that national development requires "improvement of human resources and widening of opportunities by raising general standards of education and health..." In Resolution A-2 the ten-year program to achieve this is outlined.

In reporting this activity, it must be kept in mind that there is a record of inter-American cooperation for improvement in health which has had notable successes. The knowledge and skills exist, and are being used for the achievement of the health goals of the Decade of Development and the Charter of Punta del Este, although the rate of progress varies from country to country and is, in general, slower than that desired by health workers.

Accelerating the rate of improvement of health in the Americas will require securing greater returns from present health activities and concurrent expansion of programs in accordance with national priorities and plans. In the words of Resolution A.2, "Programs in process of execution should not be interrupted while these plans are being prepared but should, on the contrary, be extended to other communities, and other plans having economic and social significance should be undertaken giving priority to emergency plans in some of the countries..."

In keeping with the instructions of the Governing Bodies and with the sense of the Charter of Punta del Este and the Decade of Development, the program of the Organization has involved continued cooperation with Member Governments in strengthening basic health services as well as in developing other programs meeting specific national and regional needs.

In addition, there has been reorientation and strengthening of the program of the Organization in several specific fields. For health planning, a report on training activities will be found in Document CD14/9, Report on the Formulation of Planning Methodology and the Training of Health Planners. Furthermore, since the signing of the Charter of Punta del Este it has been Bureau policy to utilize country-project, Zone, and Headquarters consultant staff to provide assistance to Member Governments in health planning when requested. In this way regular staff have cooperated in the preparation of health plans for Bolivia, Chile, Colombia, the Dominican Republic, Haiti, and Honduras, and are continuing to assist those Governments which are still in the process of preparing their first national health plans. At the same time, specialized short-term consultants have been utilized when requested, as in Ecuador, El Salvador, and Nicaragua, and specialists in planning have been assigned on a long-term basis to Zones I, IV, and VI.

To improve consultant capability, steps have been taken to provide further training in planning for personnel of the Organization. Three senior officials were trained in the Johns Hopkins course (see Document CD14/9) and a further group will be assigned to the 1963 course in Santiago, Chile. As part of a continuing responsibility, resources of Bureau staff were made available in support of the Tripartite Missions for assistance in national planning of the Organization of American States, the Economic Commission for Latin America, and the Inter-American Development Bank. These groups have already begun to work in Haiti, Paraguay, Uruguay, and the countries of Central America.

The Bureau has maintained close relations with the Committee of Nine of the Alliance for Progress, and has participated in the review of health plans by the Committee by providing technical assistance and information to the Committee of Nine and its ad hoc plan review committees both in Washington and in the field.

The Bureau has also maintained close relations with the secretariat of the Inter-American Economic and Social Council, and in particular has provided technical staff for the health subcommittee of Special Committee VI (health, housing, and community development) of the IAECOSOC.

It is considered significant at this point to present the data available to the Organization as of 1 August 1963 on the status of national health planning by the Member Governments which are signatory to the Charter of Punta del Este.

Country	National Health Planning body established	Health plan in preparation	Health plan submitted
Argentina	X	X	-
Bolivia	X	-	X*
Brazil	-	X	-
Chile	X	-	X*
Colombia	X	-	X*
Costa Rica	X	X	-
Dominican Republic	X	-	X
Ecuador	-	X	-
El Salvador	-	(b)	-
Guatemala	X	X	-
Haiti	X	-	X*
Honduras	X	-	X*
Mexico	X	-	X*
Nicaragua	X	X	-
Panama	X	-	X*
Paraguay	X	X	-
Peru	X	X	-
Uruguay	X	X	-
Venezuela	X	-	X*
Total:	16	9(b)	9

* Plan submitted to Committee of Nine of the Alliance for Progress as part of national plan for economic and social development

a Two-year plan

b Unofficial information indicates that a plan is in preparation in El Salvador.

The importance assigned by the Member Governments to work in the field of environmental sanitation is reflected in the level of Bureau activity in providing assistance. In 1962, one or more Bureau consultants in environmental sanitation gave assistance, for instance, to each country signatory of the Charter of Punta del Este.

In addition to the work of eight full-time consultants on water supply, 17 short-term consultant assignments were completed in the field of water supply design, 11 on water service administration, 4 on water rates, 1 on sewerage, 5 on sewage treatment, 3 on well drilling, 1 on laboratory work, and 1 on public information and health education for water programs.

Close liaison was maintained with the Inter-American Development Bank on all issues of mutual interest, with primary emphasis on assistance in preparing requests by Member Governments for IADB loans in the field of environmental sanitation. Country project and Zone Office staff collaborated with IADB officials in the field and also provided technical advisory services to World Bank missions in Latin America.

A single index of the extent of the hemispheric program in improvement of potable water supplies is found in the reports of three major international sources of credit for this purpose. Through 31 December 1962, the Inter-American Development Bank had authorized water loans totalling \$157,541,000 to 11 signatory countries which had agreed to match this sum with local contributions of \$150,152,000. More than 11 million people will be benefited by the water services involved. Including loans from the United States Import-Export Bank and the International Development Association of the World Bank, plus related local contributions, a grand total of \$420,000,000 has been committed to water works projects.

In fulfillment of the charge of Resolution XXXIII "to take the steps necessary to assure the involvement of the Bureau with respect to survey, planning, and program operation in social and economic development undertaken by the Organization of American States, the Inter-American Development Bank, the United Nations Economic Commission for Latin America, other organizations, both multilateral and bilateral, in accordance with the Charter of Punta del Este," the Bureau has developed new relationships with some agencies and has strengthened existing relationships with others of the family of multilateral and bilateral international agencies and voluntary organizations which have the common objective of support of national social and economic development.

These activities in support of social and economic development are an expression of the fundamental purpose of the Pan American Health Organization which is stated in Article 1 of the Constitution as follows: "... to promote and coordinate efforts of the countries of the Western Hemisphere to combat disease, lengthen life, and promote the physical and mental health of the people."

In other terms the responsibilities for, and potential contributions of the health professions to, social and economic development are stated in the Proposals for Action of the United Nations Development Decade as follows:

"There is now greater insight into the importance of the human factor in development, and the urgent need to mobilize human resources. Economic growth in the advanced countries appears to be attributable in larger part than was previously supposed to human skills rather than to capital. Moreover, the widening of man's horizons through education and training, and the lifting of his vitality through better health, are not only essential pre-conditions for development, they are also among its major objectives."

The experience of the Organization in 1962 and the first part of 1963 has shown that activities in the field of economic and social development are inseparable from those in the field of planning. For this reason, the economic and social development functions of the Organization were consolidated in the Office of Planning in early 1963.

In the Charter of Punta del Este the signatory Governments agree:

"To press forward with programs of health and sanitation in order to prevent sickness, combat contagious disease, and strengthen our human potential."

It is confidently anticipated that, in accordance with the directive of the Governing Bodies and in the spirit of the Development Decade and the Alliance for Progress, the program of the Organization which is already based upon the recognition of the fact that health of a people is an essential element of a nation's progress, will be further strengthened and enlarged so that it may become increasingly productive in support of social and economic development in the Americas.