

directing council

PAN AMERICAN
HEALTH
ORGANIZATION

XXXIII Meeting

Washington, D.C.
September-October 1988

regional committee

WORLD
HEALTH
ORGANIZATION

XL Meeting



INDEXED



Provisional Agenda Item 4.2

CD33/28 (Eng.)
12 August 1988
ORIGINAL: SPANISH

REPORT OF THE SPECIAL SUBCOMMITTEE ON WOMEN, HEALTH, AND DEVELOPMENT

The Directing Council of the Pan American Health Organization, at its XXVII Meeting (1980), recommended, in Resolution XVII, the creation of a Special Subcommittee on Women, Health, and Development of the Executive Committee to examine the World Plan of Action proposed by the Conference of Copenhagen and to prepare an implementation plan, specifically adapted to the health needs of women in this Region.

This Subcommittee elaborated a Regional Five-Year Plan of Action on Women, Health and Development (WHD) and formulated the Regional Strategies for the future of the Program on Women, Health, and Development, which were approved by the XXII Pan American Sanitary Conference in Resolution XII (1986).

The Special Subcommittee on WHD of the Executive Committee meets annually to monitor and evaluate the activities of the Program on WHD and to recommend actions in this area.

The document in the Annex provides, for the information of the Directing Council, the Report of the Meeting of the Special Subcommittee on Women, Health, and Development, held in Washington, D. C., from 11 to 14 April 1988. The agenda of the meeting included, among other items, a review of the Organization's program activities in women, health, and development for 1987-1988; proposed research guidelines on women, health, and development and a detailed summary of the activities from June 1987 to April 1988 of the Program on WHD (see Appendix).

The 101st Meeting of the Executive Committee reviewed the Report of the Special Subcommittee and adopted the following resolution (Resolution II) for the consideration of the Directing Council:

THE 101st MEETING OF THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE,

Having seen the report of the Special Subcommittee on Women, Health, and Development (Document CE101/24),

RESOLVES:

To recommend the following resolution to the XXXIII Meeting of the Directing Council for its approval:

THE XXXIII MEETING OF THE DIRECTING COUNCIL,

Having seen the report of the Special Subcommittee on Women, Health, and Development (Document CD33/28);

Bearing in mind the previous resolutions adopted by the Governing Bodies of PAHO on women, health, and development, in particular Resolution CSP22.R12 of the XXII Pan American Sanitary Conference; and

Taking into account Resolution WHA40.9 adopted by the Fortieth World Health Assembly,

RESOLVES:

1. To urge the Member Countries:
 - a) To fulfill the provisions of point 2, paragraph 3, of Resolution CSP22.R12 of the XXII Pan American Sanitary Conference, with regard to strengthening of the national focal points in the Woman, Health, and Development Program;
 - b) To develop training programs for all health personnel at the different levels of the Women, Health, and Development Program on its objectives, content, and strategies, so that they will be able to attend to the comprehensive health needs of women;
 - c) To increase significantly the participation of women at the directing and decision-making levels within the institutions of the health sector;
 - d) To continue to carry out the research necessary for the design of policies and the implementation of programs that will substantially improve the current living conditions and the health of women, giving priority to the subject areas recommended in the report of the Subcommittee.

2. To request the Director:
 - a) To intensify efforts so that all the technical programs of the Organization will develop activities aimed at fulfillment of the eight strategies on women, health, and development approved by the XXII Pan American Sanitary Conference;
 - b) To continue promoting interaction with other international agencies, institutionalizing it through agreements and accords for the coordination of activities and the mobilization of resources for the Women, Health, and Development Program;
 - c) To incorporate the priority subject areas recommended by the Subcommittee into the research grant program of the Organization;
 - d) To continue efforts aimed at increasing the participation of women in PAHO with a view to attaining the goal of 30% for professional and higher-level positions, as approved by Resolution CSP22.R12, and at the same time increasing the participation of women as temporary and short-term consultants, working with the national focal points on the identification of candidates;
 - e) To step up mobilization of the resources required for implementation of the approved Regional strategies and for the promotion, execution, and dissemination of specific activities under the Women, Health, and Development Program at the country and regional levels;
 - f) To report every two years to the Directing Council on the progress achieved in the eight strategies of the Women, Health, and Development Program.

REPORT OF THE SPECIAL SUBCOMMITTEE ON
WOMEN, HEALTH, AND DEVELOPMENT

The Special Subcommittee on Women, Health, and Development met on 11-14 April 1988 in Washington, D.C., to consider the progress of the program on Women, Health, and Development (WHD) and to determine future measures to be implemented.

The Subcommittee is composed of representatives from Argentina, Bahamas, El Salvador, Mexico, and Uruguay. In addition to these Members, UNICEF attended as an observer.

The delegates from Argentina, El Salvador, and Bahamas were elected as Chairperson, Vice Chairperson, and Rapporteur, respectively. The agenda included, among other items, a review of the Organization's program activities in Women, Health, and Development for 1987-1988 and research guidelines on WHD.

I. ACTIVITIES OF THE PROGRAM ON WOMEN, HEALTH, AND DEVELOPMENT (WHD)
1987-1988

The Regional Advisor presented a detailed report on the activities carried out. A brief description of some of the most important topics follows.

Special emphasis was given to the strengthening of the National Focal Points (NFP) and those of PAHO/WHO, by means of different actions such as the Latin American and Spanish-speaking Caribbean Meeting held in Caracas, in which were analyzed the strategies of the Program until 1990, among other aspects, and by means of training of the same in the Methodology of Research, Preparation, and Management of Projects, and other courses offered by the Latin American Center for Perinatology and Human Development.

An important achievement was the decision to include the subject on Women, Health, and Development within the research priorities of the Organization. This opens the possibility to carry out integrated research on the health of women and their biological, cultural, social, economic, and political conditions in order to define policies and actions specifically directed at women.

Within the area of research, one should also mention the situational analyses on the health and situation of women in Antigua, Bahamas, Barbados, Belize, Guyana, Jamaica, Saint Lucia, and Trinidad and Tobago, as well as the plan to develop research in health of working women.

A project profile was also elaborated on women, health, and development in Central America, to be presented as part of the Plan for Priority Health Needs in Central America and Panama (PPS/CAP) at the Second Conference in Madrid (April 1988).

In terms of promotion, PAHO has sponsored important events in Argentina, through the "Third National Meeting on Women, Health, and Development"; in Venezuela, through "The Health Fair"; and the seminar on the "Participation of Women in Community Health Programs" held in Cuba. The project "Sierra Peru" was also given support.

The WHD Program expanded greatly during 1987-1988, inviting and/or participating in activities of other organizations of the inter-American system, such as the Inter-American Development Bank (IDB) and the Inter-American Commission of Women of the Organization of American States (ICW/OAS) and of the United Nations system, such as UNICEF and the World Bank.

The Regional Advisor carried out intensive activities to promote the Program through events internal to PAHO and through those sponsored by other international organizations.

In the areas of information and publications, different documents were prepared which cover a wide range of subjects and which have great significance for the countries and the Organization.

The document "Summary of Activities 1987-1988 of the Program on WHD" is attached for the complete information of the Subcommittee (Appendix).

The Subcommittee received the report of the Technical Programs of the Organization:

II. WHD ISSUES RELATED TO PAHO TECHNICAL PROGRAMS

A. Maternal and Child Health

A written report submitted to the Subcommittee informed on the activities aimed at diminishing the incidence of maternal mortality and on a summary of research carried out. The Subcommittee considered that cooperation with the WHD Focal Points is important in order to encourage this assessment of the observed mortality rates and to make the information available to the Subcommittee on Women, Health, and Development.

B. Health of the Adult

The PAHO Regional Program Coordinator for Health of the Adult informed the Subcommittee of the activities of the Program, including those related to breast and cervical cancer, problems associated with alcohol and tobacco consumption, mental health, and health problems of the elderly, among others.

In relation to mental health, the Subcommittee was advised that the majority of patients attending mental health clinics were women. The Subcommittee considered the mental effects on women caused by violence, pathology of other members of the family, and the stress caused from performing two or three different occupations. Thus, the Subcommittee considered it necessary to develop research models for intervention and special programs for women to address this problem.

The needs of the elderly require greater attention. The Subcommittee was advised by representatives of the American Association of Retired Persons of their collaboration with PAHO to organize a workshop in October 1988 which will focus on this topic.

C. The Status of Women in PAHO

The Subcommittee was made aware of the increase in numbers of women employed by the Organization as short-term consultants and temporary advisers, even though the ratio of women to men has not increased. Little advancement was noted in the representation of women in permanent positions at the decision-making level during the past year. As there is slow progress in attaining the 30% target set for the year 1990, the Subcommittee saw the need for redoubling efforts and undertaking investigations for the utilization of new strategies.

The Subcommittee considered that an apparent factor in the increased participation of women in PAHO in professional positions is related to the scarce access of women to executive levels in health in the countries.

The Subcommittee on Women of the PAHO Staff Association submitted its report of activities for 1987-1988 to the Subcommittee on WHD in which it pointed out the situation of women within the Organization.

D. Research

The Subcommittee reviewed the Regional Forward-Looking Strategies, the Special Subcommittee's Report of 1987, and proposed Guidelines for Research on Women, Health, and Development.

In reviewing the research activities of the Organization, the Subcommittee was grateful to know that Women, Health, and Development had been added as a priority for the Research Grant Program. The Subcommittee expressed congratulations to the Director for this inclusion.

In 1986, the Subcommittee on WHD had identified the need for a document to guide empirical research into the problems of health of women.

The document, prepared by a consultant, was viewed by the Subcommittee as a positive instrument which, with further refinement, would stimulate research and related requests for support. Thus, more complete information might be compiled on the various stages of women's life cycle, national priorities, and on the development of programs to meet identified needs.

Even though it is possible that other PAHO programs could cover some aspect of a comprehensive research agenda related to women's health, the Subcommittee deemed it absolutely necessary to establish a specific area of research on women's health, with its own priorities, objectives, and methods.

After in-depth discussion, the following priority areas for research were recommended by the Subcommittee:

1. Access and utilization of physical and mental health services by all women.
2. Place of women in the health systems of the Member Countries, and how to improve their status within these systems.
3. Effects of two and three occupations on the mental health of women.
4. Review of legislation and policies to ascertain to what extent they contain any kind of discrimination against women.
5. Evaluation of technologies available to address specific health problems of women and to develop new technologies more adequate and appropriate to women's needs as health workers and users of health services.
6. Participation of women in the production, processing, and distribution of food and access of all women to proper nutrition at each stage of life.
7. Tendencies, modalities, and support of licit and illicit drug consumption, including tobacco and alcohol, and their effects on family life.
8. Identification of the different forms of violence against women and the pathology involved. Domestic, public, and institutional violence and its impact on the mental, physical, and social health of women and on legislation and culture.
9. The well-being of women in the elderly years.

10. How to make men and women aware of the right to their own sexuality and reproduction, with special emphasis on the problems of abortion and maternal mortality.

The Subcommittee received information regarding the participation of international organizations, and welcomed the exchange of information from representatives of UNICEF, ICW/OAS, and the IDB.

It was agreed that joint action with different agencies such as these was important for the Subcommittee on WHD as well as for their representatives in various countries with National Focal Points in WHD, especially in order to coordinate actions, efforts, and resources at regional and national levels.

III. ACTIVITIES CARRIED OUT DURING APRIL - MAY 1988

- The Regional Adviser of the Program on Women, Health, and Development participated in the National Symposium on Changing Patterns of Health and Disease in Canadian Women which was held in Ottawa from 18 to 20 April 1988.
- The Caribbean Workshop on Women, Health, and Development was organized by PAHO, CARICOM, and the Government of Trinidad and Tobago. It took place in Port-of-Spain, Trinidad from 4 to 6 May 1988. The participants were delegates from the English and French-speaking Caribbean, most of whom were National Focal Points of the Program on WHD, and representatives from several international agencies. The participating Caribbean countries, in collaboration with the other members of the Workshop, elaborated a Subregional Plan of Action on Women, Health, and Development which will be implemented at subregional level during the biennium 1988-1989.
- PAHO and the World Bank are financing the preparation and implementation of a project entitled "Water, Women and Development," which will take place in two States in Mexico. The main aspect of the project will be on improving the health and well-being of women. The World Bank has contributed substantially to this project.

SUMMARY OF ACTIVITIES OF THE
PROGRAM ON WOMEN, HEALTH, AND DEVELOPMENT

June 1987-April 1988

SPECIAL SUBCOMMITTEE ON WOMEN, HEALTH, AND DEVELOPMENT
Washington, D.C., 11-14 April 1988

SUMMARY OF ACTIVITIES OF THE PROGRAM ON WOMEN, HEALTH, AND DEVELOPMENT

The Subcommittee on Women, Health, and Development (WHD), which met in June 1987, examined the summary of activities by the Secretariat of the Program and listened to the reports on the technical programs at PAHO. The topics examined were maternal mortality, cancer among women, smoking habits, consumption of drugs and medications, occupational health, the health of elderly women, mental health, health education and community participation, the problems of the adolescent, and the situation of women at PAHO. The Subcommittee approved the document "Structure and Functions of the National Focal Points" presented to the Executive Committee.

Summary of the Activities at the Regional and National Levels

In order to promote and coordinate activities on WHD in each country of the Region, the Member Governments have designated National Focal Points (NFP) which constitute the institutional nexus between the PAHO WHD Program and the Ministries of Health and other institutions dealing with women in the countries. In addition, the Organization has designated a staff member in each PAHO/WHO Representation which acts as the focal point for the Program.

Various activities have been developed which aim at strengthening the NFPs, among them the Latin American Conference on Women, Health, and Development held in Caracas from 1-4 September 1987 with participation by the NFP from 19 countries, by the focal points from the Program in the PAHO/WHO Country Representative Offices, and by representatives from the Inter-American Development Bank, the Inter-American Commission on Women (CIM), the Agency for International Development, the Director of UNICEF for the Americas, and the Subsecretariat and Coordinator for Improving the Situation of Women from the Secretariat of the United Nations. From this meeting arose important recommendations for the Member Governments, PAHO, and the international agencies to strengthen the Regional Strategies for WHD (1986).

Noteworthy among the activities aimed at institutionalizing the NFPs has been the adoption of intersectoral agreements in some countries. Paraguay has established, in a resolution by the Minister of Public Health and Social Welfare, an integrated committee with representatives from the various sectors. The PAHO Representation, in coordination with the Ministry, has prepared a Workshop on Information about the WHD Program for this Committee in order to prepare it for the subregional meeting of the Southern Cone that will take place in Asunción, Paraguay.

An important and notable achievement at PAHO has been the decision to include the topic of Women, Health, and Development in the research priorities of the Organization. This creates the possibility of carrying

out comprehensive research on women's health and its biological, cultural, social, economic, and political determinants in order to define policies and actions for improving the condition of women. This WHD priority will also include research on violence in general, mental health, the use of legal drugs (sedatives and stimulants) and illegal drugs, the non-biological aspects of AIDS, the risks to which the population of women is exposed, and the consequences of the entrance of women into the work force. These research needs were set by the WHD Subcommittee and recommended at the international meetings for the Program.

In order to cooperate with the Member Governments, the PAHO Programs for Research Coordination and Development and WHD are working with a consultant to prepare a Research Development Plan permitting the Member Governments to have a general operational and conceptual framework for the development of comprehensive research. This Plan is the basic document to be examined by the Subcommittee this year.

Research on women in the different stages of biological development is covered in the priorities on growth, development, and reproduction; on chronic diseases, by those on adults, aging, and health; and those on the situation of women in the work force, as well as by the health and work priority.

In order to carry out the recommendation expressed by the WHD Subcommittee in Resolution VII adopted by the Executive Committee (June 1987), the Secretariat, in coordination with the Programs on HPE/HW, DRC, HPA, and HPM, participated in the organization and development of a working group that met in Washington, D.C., from 24 to 28 August 1987, in order to prepare a Plan for the Development of Health Research on the Working Woman that is contributing to the promotion of research on this topic in the Region. Three consultants from Brazil, Colombia, and Venezuela, with cooperation from the above-indicated PAHO programs, prepared this research Plan which includes conceptual aspects, research characteristics and general guidelines for defining priorities, producing content in the area of studies of concrete situations, and defining priorities, and general guidelines for collaborative multicenter research project on "Double Days and the Health of the Working Woman."

With a view toward contributing to the training of National Focal Points, the Secretariat requested collaboration from the Latin American Center on Perinatology and Human Development, so that NEFs/PAHO can participate in courses on research methodology, particularly in the preparation and management of projects, as well as in other types of training activities that improve the performance of their functions as focal points.

In cooperation with HBI the second "Annotated Bibliography on WHD," containing 135 documents, was prepared.

With co-sponsorship by PAHO, the Ministry of Health and Social Action in Argentina held the Third National Meeting on Women, Health, and Development on 19-20 November 1987 in Buenos Aires. Approximately 300 women in the country participated, along with five international guests from Brazil, Cuba, Dominican Republic, Nicaragua, and Venezuela, the WHD/PAHO Regional Adviser, and the UNICEF Coordinator in the Southern Cone.

Also with support by PAHO, the Family Health Fair was held in Caracas, Venezuela.

The Regional Adviser presented a Technical and Scientific Seminar at PAHO on the topic "Reflections on Women, Health, and Development in Latin America."

Four consultants from Argentina, Brazil, Cuba, and Nicaragua prepared the working document that was presented at the Seminar on "Participation by Women in Community Health Programs," which was held in Santiago, Cuba from 1-5 February 1988. This document included the topics: Community Participation in Health Programs, Community Participation and Education, Women and Community Participation, and Current Influences on Participation by Women in Latin America. In addition, a document was prepared on "Reflections for the Preparation of a Strategy for Women's Participation in Health."

Through HPA, an agreement was made between the American Association of Retired Persons (AARP) and PAHO, for an expert in the area of middle-aged and elderly women to compile information related to these population groups. This study will be the focal document at a meeting that will be held from 17-20 October 1988 at the Headquarters of the Organization.

The meeting will consist of three main areas: a) health aspects; b) psychosocial aspects; and c) economic/financial aspects. Some 20 professionals from 15 countries will attend, in addition to special guests from some international organizations.

It is hoped that this meeting will produce a comprehensive profile on the situation of middle-aged and elderly women in Latin America and the Caribbean.

The Regional Adviser for the Program has been invited to participate in the following activities: Commemoration of the sixtieth anniversary of the creation of the Inter-American Commission on Women, a specialized agency of the Organization of American States (Washington, D.C., February 1988); and a workshop on evaluating the Focal Points of UNICEF by the Regional Program on Women's Participation in Development (Caracas, 23-26 February 1988). The latter meeting produced a proposal for a joint PAHO/UNICEF work plan including, among other things, permanent information exchange and participation in subregional meetings

by the Focal Points in both institutions. This initiative for cooperation in the field of women is included in the guidelines for cooperation established in the Memorandum of Understanding between PAHO/UNICEF, in effect since 1983.

During Women's Week in Puerto Rico (from 8-12 March), the School of Health-related Professions of the University of Puerto Rico invited the Regional Adviser for the Program to present a conference on "Women and Health in the American Hemisphere" and to participate in a dialogue on "Women and Health in the Professions."

A situational analysis of the health and general situation of women has been concluded in the following countries of the Caribbean: Antigua, Bahamas, Barbados, Belize, Guyana, Jamaica, Saint Lucia, and Trinidad and Tobago. This work will be the focal document for the Meeting on WHD in the Caribbean to be held in Port-of-Spain, Trinidad and Tobago from 4-6 May 1988.

In Peru cooperation is being provided to promote the Organizations of Women for Health in the "Sierra-Peru" project.

The Organization has supported several projects and activities that respond to the health needs of women. Two subregional workshops on the integration of the health sector in order to control cancer of the uterine cervix have been carried out: one in the English-speaking Caribbean (16-18 May) and the other in the Andean Area (26-30 May). National workshops on the same goal were supported in Colombia and Venezuela.

Taking into account the importance of cancer to the health of women, there was continued promotion of education activities for the prevention of cancer among women, especially routine self examination and life style changes. An analysis of the epidemiological situation of breast cancer in the Region was initiated and an evaluative review of the use of technology for detection (mammography) was made. In order to support the health services in their programs for controlling cancer of the throat, an instrument for monitoring and evaluation (uniform guidelines) was prepared.

There was participation in the Latin American Meeting on WHD (Caracas) with the theme: Cancer and other Chronic Disease Problems in the Context of Comprehensive Care of the Adult.

In Argentina, expansion of programs for controlling cancer of the uterine cervix was supported in four provinces.

During the year, numerous support activities for the WHD program related to the problem of maternal mortality were carried out, as one of the priorities indicated by the Governing Bodies of PAHO in answer to the high death rate recorded in Latin America. It is estimated that in the

Region there are still 34,000 deaths, largely preventable with the available technology, occurring from causes related to pregnancy, delivery, and puerperium.

The basic document "Maternal Mortality" has been revised; it will be analyzed at the regional meeting of researchers and program directors to be held in Sao Paulo, Brazil in April 1988, with WHO cooperation. Based on the information provided in the document, a pamphlet was prepared to disseminate to community, press, students, and especially women's organizations the problem and the strategies for intervention to control it. By the end of 1987 this pamphlet was in the final review phase.

In the area of research, there was promotion of projects aimed at improving the records on maternal mortality and finding determinants and improving the quality of services for regulating fertility and providing care during pregnancy, delivery, and puerperium. There was support for a research project in Buenos Aires, Argentina, and the extension of the project to four provinces was approved. Some projects in Sao Paulo (Brazil) and Medellín (Colombia) were concluded and others are being prepared in several countries. In Mexico, there was support for the preparation phase of a project to study the biological and psychosocial determinants of maternal mortality.

There was also emphasis during the year on the need to evaluate the maternal and child health services in order to improve quality and help reduce the high maternal death rate, which is particularly linked to problems of organization in the services. By the end of 1987 some 200 gynecobstetrical services in 15 countries of the Region had been evaluated and it was becoming evident that the aspects of programming and administration were the most deficient, both in outpatient care and in interaction, which reveals a need to significantly improve the use of standards, procedures, and alternate technologies, and the operation of middle-sized or small maternity units.

From 16-18 February 1988, in Bogotá, Colombia, the VI Technical Meeting for Interagency Cooperation between UNICEF and PAHO/WHO was held. Among the points covered in this meeting were some related to the Program on Women, Health, and Development. Advances in the Regional Program and its programming were reported. There were also agreements made on activities for communication and coordination at the country level between the National Focal Points and the offices of UNICEF and PAHO; and at Regional level, it was agreed to establish coordination between the Regional Advisers from both organizations for the exchange of information, plans, and programs in order to carry out joint projects. In addition, it was agreed to have participation by the PAHO/WHO Regional Adviser in the meetings of the UNICEF focal points, beginning with the meeting in Caracas from 23-26 February 1988, with the participation of the UNICEF Regional Adviser as an observer at the meetings of the Subcommittee on Women, Health, and Development.

During 1987 there were a variety of activities on the organization and dissemination of information about WHD program support. Notable among them are the Guidelines for Community Education on Perinatal Health, a manual on Community Health Education for Adolescents, a Supplement to the Health Guidelines for Adolescents, and Guidelines for Community Education on Child Development and Growth. Also prepared were a Bibliography on Health Education and Community Participation, a study on Community Participation and Development for Women's Health, and others on the Costs and Benefits of Community Participation in Water and Sanitation Projects.

For personnel training, a series of audiovisuals on entering the field of health education was prepared.

With a view toward aiding the Organization in its effort to increase women's participation in PAHO toward the goal of 30% in professional and higher level positions, as well as to increase women's participation as temporary advisers and short-term consultants at meetings, workshops, and seminars, the Secretariat, in conjunction with the Personnel Office, the technical programs, the Representatives of PAHO/WHO, and the National Focal Points of the Program on Women, Health, and Development, have undertaken activities to promote the identification and recruitment of candidates. Currently the goal of 30% drafted by PAHO has reached 25%. It is noteworthy that two women have been named Country Representatives for the Dominican Republic and for Trinidad and Tobago. Another professional woman has been promoted to the position of Coordinator for the Adult Health Program.

Activities Programmed for April-December 1988

The WHD Program expects to carry out the following activities:

- The Subregional meeting for the Caribbean, in Port-of-Spain, Trinidad and Tobago, from 4-6 May, in cooperation with the Ministry of Health in that country and with CARICOM. Delegates from all the countries of the Caribbean will participate.
- The Andean Subregional meeting, in Bogotá, Colombia, from 27-29 July, in cooperation with the Colombian Ministry of Health. There will be delegates from Bolivia, Colombia, Ecuador, Peru, and Venezuela.
- The Subregional meeting of the Southern Cone, from 17-19 August, in Asunción, Paraguay, in cooperation with the Ministry of Public Health and Social Welfare. There will be representatives from Argentina, Brazil, Chile, Paraguay, and Uruguay.
- The Subregional meeting for Central America, Panama, and Belize, in Managua, Nicaragua, from 28 August to 1 September. Representatives from Belize, Costa Rica, El Salvador, Honduras, Guatemala, Nicaragua, and Panama will participate.

At all these meetings there will be participants from the NFP and the PAHO WHD Program, as well as other international and national guests connected with the field of women in health and development.

The general objectives of these meetings will be to follow up the activities of the Program in the countries and to prepare subregional plans of action for WHD to promote cooperation among developing countries. Also, continuing support will be provided to establish information and documentation centers in the countries of the Region.

- From 18 to 20 April, the Regional Adviser of the Program has been invited to participate in a National Symposium on Changing Patterns in Health and Disease in Canadian Women, to be held in Ottawa, Canada.
- Support will continue to be given to the establishment of Information and Documentation Centers in countries of the Region.