

*executive committee of  
the directing council*

PAN AMERICAN  
SANITARY  
ORGANIZATION



*working party of  
the regional committee*

WORLD  
HEALTH  
ORGANIZATION



22nd Meeting  
Washington, D. C.  
April 1954

CE22/17 (Eng.)  
20 April 1954  
ORIGINAL: ENGLISH

Topic 19: UTILIZATION OF SURPLUS FUNDS FROM 1953

The Directing Council, at its VII Meeting, resolved to establish the level of the Working Capital Fund at \$1,200,000 for the year 1954. As a result of this action the surplus funds, amounting to \$144,089 in excess of the amount necessary to maintain the 1954 level of the Working Capital Fund, were transferred to a Special Fund to be disposed of in accordance with the wishes of the Pan American Sanitary Conference.

The Director therefore requests that the Executive Committee consider the advisability of utilizing this Special Fund for the intensification of the campaign against smallpox in the Americas.

The recommendation of the Director is based upon the views expressed by the governing bodies of both the Pan American Sanitary Organization and the World Health Organization with regard to the importance of smallpox as an international problem. A resumé of the resolutions of these governing bodies and a report on the smallpox campaign in the Americas is attached as Annex I.

Should the above recommendation of the Director receive favorable consideration, the following resolution may be appropriate:

THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE,

NOTING that the surplus funds from 1953, in the amount of \$144,089, were placed in a Special Fund at the disposal of the Pan American Sanitary Conference;

CONSIDERING the recommendation of the Director regarding the utilization of this Fund for the intensification of the campaign against smallpox; and

IN VIEW of the fact that the eradication of this disease is a world-wide public health problem,

RESOLVES:

1. To recommend to the XIV Pan American Sanitary Conference that the Special Fund established by virtue of the surplus of funds from 1953, in the amount of \$144,089, be authorized for the intensification of the campaign against smallpox in the Americas.

2. To recommend to the XIV Pan American Sanitary Conference that the level of the Working Capital Fund be re-established at \$1,200,000 for the year 1955.

CAMPAIGN AGAINST SMALLPOX

From the time of the colonization of the Americas, smallpox has constituted an important disease in the Continent. In spite of efforts made by various governments for the control of smallpox, this disease continues to be an important public health problem in the Americas.

The information at hand on the incidence of this disease shows clearly its importance. During the five-year period between 1948 and 1952, 85,900 cases and 14,200 deaths caused by smallpox were reported to this office by the public health administrations of 17 countries. It should be pointed out that, in many instances, the information received is far from complete.

Smallpox is a disease that still affects the entire world, in spite of the discovery of a simple and effective weapon against it more than 150 years ago.

Furthermore, it must be remembered that this disease is an international problem in the sense that in many countries outbreaks result from importation, which constitutes a potential problem for all health administrations. Any action against smallpox would make more effective the new WHO Sanitary Regulations N<sup>o</sup> 2, a matter of general concern to all governments.

The XIII Pan American Sanitary Conference (Ciudad Trujillo, 1950) recommended to Members the development of a systematic program of smallpox vaccination and revaccination in the respective territories with a view to eradicating this disease, and that such programs be developed under the auspices of the Pan American Sanitary Bureau in agreement with the interested countries.

The Directing Council, at its VI Meeting (Havana, 1952), established a special fund of \$75,000 to be utilized in the initiation of a supplementary program against smallpox in 1953. The Council further authorized the Executive Committee to include such a program in the inter-country programs of the Proposed Program and Budget of the PASB for 1954.

The VI World Health Assembly, also concerned with this problem, passed a resolution requesting the Executive Board "to proceed with a detailed study of the means of implementing a campaign against smallpox, this study to include, inter alia, consultation with Member States and with WHO Regional Committees."

In compliance with the decision of the Directing Council, the PASB established a program against smallpox. Since one of the most important difficulties encountered in a campaign of smallpox vaccination is that of poor transportation facilities and the consequent deterioration of glycerinated lymph vaccines during the time that elapses before they can reach their destination, it was considered advisable to stimulate the local production of dry vaccine in sufficient amounts. This type of vaccine, locally produced, resolves the problems of transportation and climate, and the difficulty of acquiring large quantities of the vaccine from producing countries.

For this purpose, an expert specialized in the production of dry smallpox vaccine visited several countries and gave advice and assistance to health authorities in establishing production laboratories for dry vaccine.

The PASB, through agreements signed with various governments, is furnishing essential supplies and equipment to enable laboratories in those countries to prepare potent and perfectly controlled vaccines. The Bureau is also furnishing technical assistance, promoting the training of personnel, and furnishing a certain amount of equipment required for the vaccination campaigns.

Such equipment has already been provided to Peru, Ecuador, and Bolivia. Materials are being procured for Argentina and it is expected that during the current year similar equipment will be supplied to Brazil and Cuba.

The funds voted by the VI Directing Council will be nearly exhausted at the end of this year. As it will be very important not only to maintain this program in operation but to extend its benefits to other countries in the region, so as to achieve the final eradication of the disease, additional funds are necessary. Taking this fact into consideration, it is suggested that the Executive Committee assign the surplus funds of PASB from 1953 for the purpose of supplementing the fund of \$75,000 for a region-wide program against smallpox.

The purpose of the region-wide program against smallpox would be to encourage and assist countries to develop effective, permanent, and economical control measures as an integral part of their national public health services.

PASB would provide to the American countries:

1. Advisory services with regard to the techniques of laboratory diagnosis of smallpox and production of smallpox vaccine.

2. Consultant services for the planning and implementation of national smallpox eradication campaigns, with special emphasis on their integration into the general public health services of the countries.
3. Assistance and advice in the preparation of national legislation for the prevention of this disease.
4. Supplies and equipment for production laboratories and for vaccination campaigns.
5. Facilities for the training of local personnel in the techniques of vaccine production and in the planning and organization of field work.