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REPORT ON THE FORMULATION OF PLANNING METHODOLOGY AND THE TRAINING
OF HEALTH PLANNERS

In accordance with the recommendations of the Governing Bodies the Pan American Sanitary Bureau continued to expand its planning activities in 1962.

It entered into an agreement with the Center for Development Studies (CENDES) of the Central University of Venezuela and provided it with technical and financial assistance in formulating planning methodology.

The funds used for this purpose were those furnished by the Organization of American States for research and studies aimed at the formulation of practical recommendations.

The methodology being formulated will be used for planning in a specified area; first an appraisal of the health situation in the area will be made, then an assessment of the prospects of the situation, and finally the formulation of alternative plans, depending on the priority given to various problems. It will also indicate the ways and means by which these local plans are to be integrated into a national health plan which in turn will be part of the national economic and development plan of the country. This textbook in its present form is being used in training courses, and when in final form will serve as a health programming guide.

As a result of a further agreement with the Government of Venezuela a three-month course was conducted for 13 officials of the Government health services and was followed by field practice which enabled a start to be made on a plan for the State of Aragua, in accordance with the methodological bases formulated by CENDES. This plan will include an appraisal of the health situation in that state, for which purpose it has been divided into various program areas; that will be followed by a survey of the local problems and resources and of various proposed alternative solutions to the problems met with. The plan will serve as a

model for the development of programming in all parts of the country as well as a testing ground for the study and appraisal of administrative and teaching methods.

As a result of an agreement signed between the Pan American Sanitary Bureau and the Latin American Institute of Economic and Social Planning, which is administered by the United Nations Economic Commission for Latin America (ECLA), the first international training course for planners was held at the headquarters of the Institute in Santiago. This course ran for 11 weeks, from 8 October to 21 December 1962, and was attended by 20 officials of the ministries of health from 19 countries of Latin America to whom fellowships were awarded by the Organization.

The purpose of the course was to give students not only intensive training in the methods and procedures of health planning but also an over-all picture of the problems of economic and social development, so that they would be able to situate health in this process.

Field practice carried out in an area in the host country, provided an opportunity for practice in planning. This work, which was basically a teaching task, was done in the communities of Melipilla and San Antonio, where an appraisal was made of the local health situation and the causes of that situation were studied with a view to framing alternative solutions.

On completion of the course a seminar was held in order to permit an exchange of experiences and to discuss suitable methods for developing planning in the countries.

In January 1963 a seminar on the methodology of health planning was held at the School of Public Health in Chile. This seminar was assisted by the Bureau, which for one month provided the services of a consultant who had been one of the instructors in the planning course at the Institute.

In the same month a course on public health and health programming was given at the request of the Institute to the students of the course on programming the public sector being held at the Institute; this course was likewise given by one of the instructors which the Bureau had sent to the Institute. The purpose of the course was to show economists responsible for general intersectorial coordination what the problems of public health and the main public health needs were.

The Bureau will also give assistance to a two month-course to be held in April 1963 at the School of Public Health of Johns Hopkins University. This course will be financed in part by funds which the Agency for International Development (AID) has put at the disposal of the School of Public Health of Johns Hopkins University. The Organization will provide two instructors and will send a few fellows.