

*executive committee of
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PAN AMERICAN
HEALTH
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PLAN OF ACTION FOR THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE REGIONAL STRATEGIES OF HEALTH
FOR ALL BY THE YEAR 2000: PROGRESS REPORT

The XXVIII Meeting of the Directing Council (1981), in Resolution XI, requested the Director to inform the XXI Pan American Sanitary Conference on the measures adopted by him in the light of the Plan of Action. This document highlights some of the most significant activities undertaken to begin fulfilling PAHO's catalytic role in this continental effort.

The paper summarizes the main approaches and the organization of the series of high-level multidisciplinary seminar-workshops. It also briefly describes other important activities being carried out to define the implications of the Plan of Action and to steer the work of the Organization toward the goals and objectives of the Regional Strategies.

The Executive Committee may wish to review this summary as a basis for its discussions and for its recommendations to the Pan American Sanitary Conference.

In a parallel process to the formulation, discussion and approval of the Regional Plan of Action by the Member Governments of PAHO, steps have already been taken to adapt the Organization to the challenges which lie ahead. Since the approval of the Regional Strategies by the XXVII Meeting of the Directing Council (1980), emphasis has been given to the interdisciplinary, interdivisional, "horizontal" approach in the provision of PAHO's technical cooperation. Managerial and technical staff at all levels have been, and continue to be, intensely involved in joint activities related to the Regional Strategies and the Plan.

Furthermore, and in order for PAHO to have the necessary flexibility in the re-allocation of its resources in line with the Plan of Action, the Director prepared and submitted to the Governing Bodies a transitional program and budget proposal for 1982-1983. This program and

budget proposal was approved by the XXVIII Meeting of the Directing Council (1981). One of its salient features was the inclusion of six special development projects to support key, innovative activities in support of implementation of the Regional Plan during this transitional period.

Essentially, it can be said that the majority of the Organization's current activities are being geared to strengthen its catalytic role in each country and in the Region as a whole, as mandated by the Plan of Action. Some of these activities are highlighted in this summary as illustrations of the type of actions which have been initiated.

Seminar-Workshops

A vital first step for carrying out the Regional Plan of Action throughout the Americas is the planning and development of activities aimed at implementing national and regional strategies for health for all by the year 2000. Thus PAHO has designed a program to assist government decision-makers and operational level staff, as well as key PAHO field staff, to attain a broader, in-depth knowledge of the Plan of Action.

To this end, the Organization has initiated a series of seminar-workshops to promote a shared interpretation of the contents of the Regional Plan, of its implications, and of the necessary actions for its implementation. Specifically, the seminar-workshops have been designed to meet several objectives. First, to interpret the conceptual and operational approaches of the Regional Plan of Action and to assess its compatibility with national plans and actions in the health field; second, to analyze the necessary steps to launch the process toward health for all; and, last, to identify the main sectoral, intersectoral, politico-economic and operational implications of the Plan of Action at the national level.

More than 40 PASB professional staff have contributed to the drafting of background material. This material constitutes a preliminary analysis of the implications of the Plan of Action and the initial steps needed for implementing it. They represent working drafts which are being constantly revised based on the experience and insights gained in each seminar-workshop.

Ten seminars have been scheduled throughout the current year. Three of them have already taken place as of this writing: on 16-26 February, 16-26 March and 15-23 April, respectively. Representatives from 21 countries have attended these meetings, including Bahamas, Barbados, Bolivia, Brazil, Canada, Colombia, Dominica, Ecuador, Grenada, Guatemala, Guyana, Mexico, Nicaragua, Panama, Paraguay, Peru, St. Vincent

and the Grenadines, Trinidad and Tobago, United States of America, Uruguay and Venezuela. The seminar-workshops have also been attended by PAHO staff from the field and from Headquarters.

The remaining seminars have been scheduled for the following dates:

May	-	10-18
June	-	7-15
July	-	19-27
August	-	16-24
October	-	18-26
November	-	8-16
December	-	6-14

The experience thus far has been a positive one. The recent seminars have resulted in very productive discussions, and the sharing of information and ideas among national authorities from countries facing a common challenge--health for all by the year 2000. It is hoped that by the end of the year more than 250 individuals from the Region will have an in-depth understanding of the Plan and the actions required. A continuation of the process will be encouraged, including the conduct of similar seminar-workshops at the country and subregional levels.

Financial Studies and Budgetary Guidelines

PAHO has been working on the financial and budgetary implications of the Regional Strategies and the Plan of Action. This study stems from a decision at the 86th Meeting of the Executive Committee (1981) asking the Director to analyze the matter and to report to the Executive Committee at its 88th Meeting. It will be submitted to the Subcommittee on Long-Term Planning and Programming of the Executive Committee, which will report to the full Committee under a separate agenda item.

Likewise, the Director has prepared another study containing criteria and guidelines for the proposed program and budget of PAHO for 1984-1985, and for the provisional draft of the Program Budget of WHO for the Region of the Americas for 1984-1985. This will also be discussed by the Subcommittee on Long-Term Planning and Programming and reported to the Executive Committee.

Actions at the Level of the International System

The Director and other PASB staff have been actively involved in promoting, explaining and seeking support for the Plan of Action with other agencies of the international system. Presentations, joint staff meetings and other communications have increasingly taken place between PAHO and other international organizations, including the Organization of

American States, the Inter-American Development Bank, the World Bank, the Economic Commission for Latin America, and other UN agencies. In this regard it is worth noting--as indication of PAHO's efforts and of the increasing awareness of the Region's foreign affairs community regarding health matters--that the recent meeting of the General Assembly of the OAS in Castries, Saint Lucia, officially endorsed the Plan of Action.

Women and Health

The Director has taken a number of steps to ensure the integration of the Regional Plan of Action for Health for All and the Five-Year Regional Plan of Action on Women in Health and Development. A report on these steps will be submitted to the Special Subcommittee on Women in Health and Development. The Executive Committee will consider this subject under a separate agenda item.