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**PAN AMERICAN
HEALTH
ORGANIZATION**

XXXVI Meeting



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**RECOGNITION OF THE FIFTIETH ANNIVERSARY OF THE COOPERATION IN
HEALTH OF THE KELLOGG FOUNDATION IN LATIN AMERICA AND THE
CARIBBEAN**

In 1992 the Pan American Health Organization recognizes the important work done by the W. K. Kellogg Foundation for the well-being of the peoples of the Americas, in close collaboration with PAHO, during the last fifty years.

The Foundation's staff and expert advisors met in the early 1940s with leaders from both the United States and Latin America to identify ways to help Latin Americans while fulfilling the Foundation's mandate. The Foundation learned that Latin America had a serious shortage of well-prepared professionals--physicians, dentists, and nurses--to provide direct health care. In general, the Region had insufficient resources for the training of health care workers: adequate educational programs and teaching hospitals, teachers, facilities, and supplies. The decision that emerged from these discussions was to help people, especially children and individuals residing in rural areas, to help themselves, by offering education as a vital part of assistance. With these decisions, the Kellogg Foundation was poised for a major effort in Latin America.

The Foundation began with a strong program of fellowships, giving preference to students and professionals who were postgraduates preparing for teaching or governmental positions. Applicants were required to have a working knowledge of English, and a real commitment to return to their own countries when they had completed their training. Also, initial grants were provided for specific programs.

In response to chronic problems that had been exacerbated by war-time conditions, the Foundation granted funds in 1944 to control venereal disease and tuberculosis among Mexican and United States troops, and to develop continuing public health programs on both sides of the border. The Foundation, the Mexican Government, and the Pan American Sanitary Bureau joined in the effort.

The school-tested nutrition project--beginning in Michigan at the county level, and achieving national status in Mexico--finally led to the establishment of an international institution. In June 1946, six Latin American countries met in Guatemala City to talk about establishing an Institute of Nutrition for Central America and Panama (INCAP). By mid-1947, three of the countries--Guatemala, Honduras, and El Salvador--had ratified an agreement and had committed money. Guatemala provided the Institute's facility and its laboratories in Guatemala City. By 1949, Panama and Costa Rica had agreed to support the Institute. The Pan American Sanitary Bureau and the Kellogg Foundation, through grants made in 1949, also helped get the Institute started.

When the Foundation first provided funds, the plan was to offer fellowships in the health field. In an ongoing process, Kellogg fellows returned to their respective countries and several of them moved into significant leadership roles. Specific human needs were singled out by the fellows, and proposals were submitted to the Kellogg Foundation and other funding institutions. Additional fellows emerged from such programs and a second generation of projects developed, starting a multiplying effect and a continuous collaboration.

Similar to U.S. programming, Latin American and Caribbean efforts have changed in emphasis over time, expanding in certain directions, or narrowing in others as more pressing issues were revealed. Gradually, the Foundation implemented integrated programming, which began with the recognition that most of the problems that afflict people are not simple and self-contained, but complex and interconnected. This advance has enabled the Foundation to design integrated programs that provide for coordinated activities in education, dental and medical care, community and family health, nutrition, agriculture, and other areas.

During these fifty years, the Foundation has supported hundreds of innovative projects in such diverse areas as maternal and child health, nursing, dentistry, food production, nutrition, water quality, education, leadership, and public and community health.

These cooperative programming efforts have benefited the people of Latin America and the Caribbean in ways that promise to extend help across many decades to come. Yet much more remains to be done. Programs in Latin America and the Caribbean grow out of problems and solutions identified by Latin Americans and Caribbeans. Working through their own organizations and institutions, Latin Americans and Caribbeans are overcoming crucial human issues within the Foundation's categories of grant-making.

"We have continued to carefully weigh our options for helping our Latin American neighbors to help themselves" said Russell G. Mawby, the Foundation's chairman and chief executive officer. "Their potential and their ability is strong. They are making very real headway in a difficult, uphill journey."

"We determined that our goal would be to assist them by providing the means to develop leaders, educate professionals, and train people through educational and service models that could be replicated wherever a problem exists. It's a slow but solid approach. But the hard facts--based on a half century of experience in contributing to human progress--convince us it will produce the more lasting results." Since those early years, Kellogg Foundation grants have included faculty and curriculum development in universities; program and facility development in health education and service; and, from 1955 on, more programs in education, extension, and agriculture.

The annual report of the Foundation for 1991 shows payments to more than 1,700 active projects and commitments to more than 800 new projects in areas such as agriculture, health, youth, leadership, education, and others, with a total payment of more than US\$150 million. For the year ending August 1992, this total increased to over \$170 million.

Throughout the last fifty years, the W. K. Kellogg Foundation has been a constant partner of the Pan American Health Organization, lending the money to build the current headquarters building in Washington, D.C., collaborating in the creation of PAHO centers dedicated to educational development and information management, and supporting the development of the Region's educational programs and health professionals. For this outstanding contribution, the Pan American Health Organization offers its congratulations and sincere appreciation to the Foundation and joins it in celebrating this anniversary of its programs in Latin American and the Caribbean.