

directing council



PAN AMERICAN
HEALTH
ORGANIZATION

XIII Meeting

regional committee

WORLD
HEALTH
ORGANIZATION

XIII Meeting



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TO THE REGIONAL COMMITTEE

Priorities in Health Programs

At this time the importance of health as an essential component for social progress and economic development is well recognized by the health authorities of the Americas. Furthermore, the Act of Bogotá (1960) and the Charter of Punta del Este (August 1961) have firmly established this principle as a decision of the Governments of the Hemisphere. Major emphasis is on national planning not only of health programs for the next decade but also for the sound integration of health planning into the national plans for economic and social development.

The General Program of Work of the Organization continues to be based upon the concept of assisting Governments to take the next appropriate steps in the orderly development of their national health services. The national health authorities in determining their plans for the next decade will consider the international assistance required for their continuous advancement. Priorities established for the program of the Organization will continue to be the result of the needs and requests of the Governments. With the development of careful and adequate national health plans, priorities will become established on the basis of the needs of each country. Thus the Organization will be in a much improved position to determine priorities and international planning will emerge on a more solid basis. The improvements in health which will follow from such sound planning can continue to lead the way towards economic and social development.

The General Program of Work of PAHO/WHO for the period 1962-1965 is described in Document CD13/27; it encompasses the following basic programs: (1) Strengthening of National Health Services, (2) Promotion of measures against diseases with completion of programs for the eradication of smallpox, the urban vector of yellow fever, yaws and malaria, (3) Education and training of professional and auxiliary personnel, and (4) Research whereby the Organization provides international cooperation in stimulating, coordinating and promoting research.

In addition, certain international services are required. For example, the Organization is accumulating more complete information on health conditions and facilities in the Americas and is becoming a regional information center for health workers. The compilation and analysis of statistical material from all countries and regional activities for international standards such as on biological products and the International Classification of Diseases, and activities on geographical epidemiology are central services provided on a regional basis.

Thus, the priorities for health programs of the Organization are essentially as given in the document of General Program of Work for 1962-1965 (CD13/27), adapted as necessary to the needs of the countries as established by national health planning.