



ECONOMIC SUPPORT FOR NATIONAL HEALTH FOR ALL STRATEGIES



WORLD HEALTH ORGANIZATION
Geneva

Economic Support for National Health for All Strategies



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The World Health Organization is a specialized agency of the United Nations with primary responsibility for international health matters and public health. Through this organization, which was created in 1948, the health professions of some 165 countries exchange their knowledge and experience with the aim of making possible the attainment by all citizens of the world by the year 2000 of a level of health that will permit them to lead a socially and economically productive life.

By means of direct technical cooperation with its Member States, and by stimulating such cooperation among them, WHO promotes the development of comprehensive health services, the prevention and control of diseases, the improvement of environmental conditions, the development of health manpower, the coordination and development of biomedical and health services research, and the planning and implementation of health programmes.

These broad fields of endeavour encompass a wide variety of activities, such as developing systems of primary health care that reach the whole population of Member countries; promoting the health of mothers and children; combating malnutrition; controlling malaria and other communicable diseases including tuberculosis and leprosy; having achieved the eradication of smallpox, promoting mass immunization against a number of other preventable diseases; improving mental health; providing safe water supplies; and training health personnel of all categories.

Progress towards better health throughout the world also demands international co-operation in such matters as establishing international standards for biological substances, pesticides and pharmaceuticals; formulating environmental health criteria; recommending international nonproprietary names for drugs; administering the International Health Regulations; revising the International Classification of Diseases, Injuries and Causes of Death; and collecting and disseminating health statistical information.

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Foreword

This publication is the outcome of a series of activities, including studies, consultations and meetings, designed to clarify issues and identify options for optimum mobilization and use of resources in actions aimed at achieving health for all. These activities provided a substantial input to the Technical Discussions held during the Fortieth World Health Assembly (May 1987) on economic support for national health for all strategies. During these Discussions a number of important recommendations were made (see Chapter VI) which formed the basis for resolution WHA40.30, adopted by the Fortieth World Health Assembly.

Resolution WHA40.30 adopted by the Fortieth World Health Assembly, May 1987

Economic support for national health-for-all strategies

The Fortieth World Health Assembly,

Appreciating the outcome of the Technical Discussions held at the Fortieth World Health Assembly on economic support for national health-for-all strategies, and recalling resolution WHA39.22 on the Technical Discussions held during the Thirty-ninth World Health Assembly;

Reaffirming that health is an integral part of development and is therefore the responsibility of the health sector, other related sectors, the individual and the community in general;

Further reaffirming that the goal of health for all can only be achieved through primary health care, which requires major reorientation of policies and perspectives in the way health is perceived, protected, provided and delivered;

Aware that the prevailing adverse trends in the world economy, aggravated in the developing countries by the formidable burden of servicing external debts and the deterioration of the balance of trade, jeopardize the possibilities of many countries to reach the goal of health for all by the year 2000;

Stressing the need for continued political leadership and determination in the face of these adverse trends in order to achieve the goal of health for all in the spirit of social equity;

Mindful of the need to intensify action to increase economic support for national strategies for health for all and in particular to mobilize and utilize health resources, with emphasis on social relevance, equity, managerial efficiency and effectiveness;

1. URGES Member States:

- (1) to continue to ensure that the health of the most disadvantaged and vulnerable population groups is protected when economic adjustment policies are designed and implemented;
 - (2) to consider the responsibilities and contributions of all potential partners in health development, including health-related sectors, the community, social security agencies, nongovernmental organizations, and the private sector, when developing national health-for-all strategies, and to establish appropriate mechanisms to achieve their maximum involvement and collaboration in financing health development;
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- (3) to review their current patterns of resource allocation in the health sector and reorient as appropriate their spending priorities, including allocation of any additional resources for the provision of primary health care, giving preferential attention to the underserved and the neediest segments of population;
 - (4) to strengthen the capacity of local bodies to mobilize, channel and allocate resources and ensure that monies raised by health services remain at the disposal of the health sector;
 - (5) to take urgent steps to reduce waste and increase efficient use of resources through technical and administrative decentralization, better management, information and supervision;
 - (6) to pay particular attention to the choice of technologies appropriate to each level of the health care system with a view to improving efficiency and effectiveness, and develop methods for cost control with due regard to maintaining the quality of care;
 - (7) to encourage more rational use of drugs, thereby avoiding misuse and wastage of resources;
 - (8) to establish a programme for better management and maintenance of equipment through appropriate procedures, training of personnel, and ensuring the availability of spare parts;
 - (9) to pay special attention to health manpower development in order to raise appreciation of the need for efficiency and cost control through new and innovative teaching/learning experiences which concentrate on *in situ* problem-solving methods and the use of practical health system research;
 - (10) to establish realistically the costs of implementing their national health-for-all strategies and plans which reflect national priorities, paying particular attention to future recurrent costs, to identify the means of closing any gaps between resources required and available, and to review health policies and strategies with the joint involvement of ministries of health, planning, finance and other relevant ministries;
 - (11) to evaluate the adequacy of existing revenue-raising measures and to explore new financing options consistent with the overall goals of equity and effectiveness;
 - (12) to strengthen their capacities in financial planning and management at all levels, particularly at the district level, through training in financial analysis, health economics and financial planning and management; by strengthening management information systems; and by incorporating research and economic analysis as an important input in the process of decision-making;
 - (13) to consider regulatory measures that will be effective in controlling cost increase and maintaining an acceptable level of quality in the health services, public and private;
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- (14) to promote individual responsibility for health through the adoption of healthy life-styles and other measures which protect their population from avoidable health risks, thereby also reducing the future financial burden on the health care system;
 - (15) to publicize their health plans to get public understanding and support;
 - (16) to focus on the education of the public in the appropriate use of health care services, paying special attention to the role of women in health and health care, and optimizing the use of the mass media in such educational activities;
- 2. APPEALS again to the developed countries to increase their cooperation with, and assistance to, developing countries through bilateral and multilateral channels, including WHO, in implementing their national health-for-all strategies, in a spirit of self-reliance, mutual respect and social equity in the international economic field;
 - 3. CALLS upon international and bilateral agencies to increase their support to developing countries to accelerate the implementation of national strategies for health for all, and in particular to help strengthen national capacities in research and development, in economic analysis and in financial planning and management;
 - 4. REQUESTS the Director-General:
 - (1) to publish the report of the Technical Discussions on this issue and disseminate it widely to governments, organizations and agencies of the United Nations system, academic institutions and other intergovernmental, nongovernmental and voluntary organizations;
 - (2) to continue to monitor the impact of economic trends and policies on the health status of the most disadvantaged and vulnerable groups, and to help Member States to identify ways of mitigating their adverse repercussions;
 - (3) to promote the exchange of information and experiences among countries on approaches and options being used for expanding domestic economic support for health for all and for the optimum use of their resources;
 - (4) to give further guidance to countries on methodologies and potentialities of using different options for financing;
 - (5) to intensify technical cooperation with Member States to improve national capabilities in financial planning and management and economic analysis of health strategies, through relevant training and research activities, including the strengthening of centres for such training and research in developing countries;
 - (6) to review and strengthen as appropriate WHO capacity at regional and global levels to provide the required technical support to countries in financial
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planning and management and in economic analysis of their health policies and strategies, and to mobilize additional resources for intensifying such support;

(7) to include in progress reports on the implementation of the health-for-all strategy, in-depth reviews of efforts within countries to obtain economic support for their national strategies, including the use of nationally relevant indicators related to resource allocation.