

Denmark

Denmark, a valuable partner of the Pan American Health Organization, is an important advocate for international development. Among Organization of Economic Coopera-

tion and Development countries, Denmark has consistently provided the largest amounts of official development assistance in relation to its economy. Denmark's development strategy is formulated by the Danish International Development Agency (DANIDA), which since 1992 is part of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. (To learn more about Denmark's development policies, visit www.um.dk.)

PAHO and Denmark have cultivated an important partnership and together have provided significant support to the Central American region during the last 10 years. Financial support from Denmark remained high throughout the last four bienniums (Figure 11). Most cooperation has centered on a major project, PLAGSALUD, whose goal is to reduce pesticide poisoning and to develop successful alternatives to the use of pesticides in Central America. PLAGSALUD began in 1994 in Costa Rica and Nicaragua but has since expanded to include Belize, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras, and Panama. Phases I and II of PLAGSALUD resulted in advances in epidemiological surveillance, research, education, legislation, coordination with other organizations, and decentralization of resources to the local level. The project is now entering its third and final phase.

One of the most effective and practical results of PLAGSALUD—achieved through collaboration among ministries of health, agriculture, environment, work, and education, as well as universities, nongovernmental organizations, and workers—has been the formation of over 300 intersectoral local commissions on pesticides. The project has focused on educating both local residents and experts about the dangers of pesticides. Each country has produced educational materials aimed at exposed workers, students, and the community. Local-level training courses have equipped health professionals with knowledge about research methodology on pesticides. A number of experts at the local and national levels have been trained to work as facilitators, and educational materials on pesticide poisoning prevention and alternatives to the



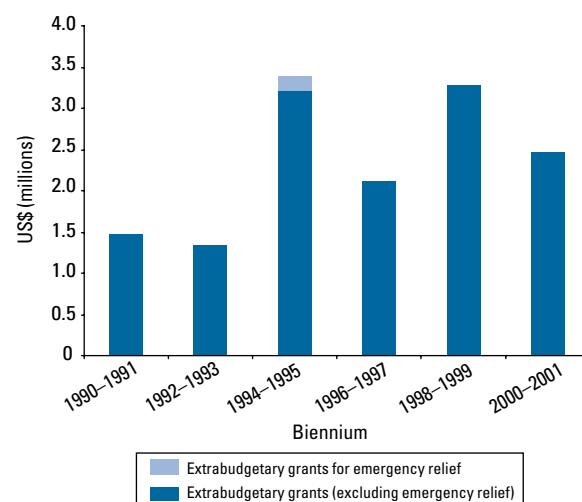
use of pesticides has been produced in all the countries. Subregional education materials have also been created and made available, including distance education courses for health personnel, agricultural technicians, and educators. In addition, information relating to pesticides has been incorporated into university and technical education curricula in the health and agriculture fields.

The participating countries have made significant progress in epidemiological surveillance and all now include pesticide intoxication in their lists of notifiable diseases. In addition, each country has analyzed its existing legislation relating to pesticides and progress is being made toward regional restrictions and bans on pesticides that cause serious harm to health and the environment.

The PLAGSALUD project has worked with other regional projects and organizations and has been able to successfully decentralize financial resources so that funding has a direct impact on local efforts. The comprehensive nature of the project has enabled the countries to adopt sustainable programs to counter the damaging effects of harmful pesticides, and the successes achieved thus far will have a lasting influence in Central America.

For a more extensive list of PAHO-Government of Denmark collaborations, see Table 2.

FIGURE 11. Resource mobilization by PAHO from the Government of Denmark (funds received), 1990–2001.^a



^aThese figures reflect contributions received by PAHO and may differ from the amounts committed by the Government of Denmark through its agreements with PAHO. These figures exclude extrabudgetary funds received by the Caribbean Epidemiology Center, the Caribbean Food and Nutrition Institute, and the Institute of Nutrition of Central America and Panama.

Sources: Pan American Health Organization. *Financial Report of the Director and Report of the External Auditor*. PAHO: Washington, D.C. Various editions.

TABLE 2. Selected PAHO projects supported by the Government of Denmark.

Project	Amount received (US\$) ^a	Project duration
Administration of Human Resources Development in Central America and Panama	373,948	11/89–12/98
PLAGSALUD II in Central America	6,918,973	12/96–7/01
Improving Water and Sanitation in Indigenous Communities	83,561	11/96–3/98
Support to MASICA: PLAGSALUD Bridge Phase	575,310	8/01–7/02
Total	7,951,792	

^aThese figures correspond to funds received during the period 1996–2001, and may include funds received after a project’s conclusion. They do not reflect funds received before or after this period and thus may not reflect the total funding received for a project. Neither do they include extrabudgetary funds received by the Caribbean Epidemiology Center, the Caribbean Food and Nutrition Institute, and the Institute of Nutrition of Central America and Panama.