

PANAMA

NATIONAL PRIORITIES FOR PAHO TECHNICAL COOPERATION

- > To develop national competencies with regard to equity in health, including the improvement of health information and surveillance systems, the analysis and quality of the data, and research; and to engage in activities to promote linkage, aimed at reducing inequalities in health.
- > To develop intersectoral work strategies, mobilize technical, scientific, political, and financial resources to advance health promotion, and establish technical, political, and social support network at all levels.
- > To improve strategies and activities aimed at promoting and developing healthy lifestyles and living environments, with emphasis on priority groups such as children, adolescents, workers, indigenous populations, and women, with a special focus on the accident and violence prevention, as well as other aspects related to mental health.
- > To strengthen national regulatory and oversight capacity for exercising leadership and providing technical assistance in matters related to health, and to develop local means of action necessary for the operation and maintenance of health systems and services.
- > To reduce the burden of disease and mortality among the poor and other vulnerable population groups, as well as their risk factors, strengthening the prevention and control of communicable and noncommunicable diseases, with emphasis on emerging and reemerging diseases as well as national capacity for their detection and surveillance.
- > To improve the performance of the national health system to increase equity in benefits, efficiency, and the effectiveness of services to meet the health needs of the population.
- > To strengthen information, communication, and training strategies, prioritizing both the development and systematization of mechanisms for the dissemination and production of scientific and technical information and training in public health and epidemiology, with a focus on health workers and the population in general.
- > To strengthen the development of national institutions with regard to the prevention, mitigation, and response to natural disasters in order to reduce the health risks to vulnerable populations.
- > To strengthen national capacity to develop a comprehensive, effective approach that will improve the health of neglected indigenous populations.
- > To develop national capacity in areas linked with environmental health and sustainable development, and develop methods and technologies suited to local needs.
- > To support the institutional development of organizations and agencies in charge of administering resources for health, education, agriculture, and the environment, even at the local level, to reduce the existing gaps among the different groups and regions.

PROJECTS

SUPPORT FOR NATIONAL HEALTH DEVELOPMENT

PURPOSE

To optimize the management and coordination of the Technical Cooperation Program in Panama.

EXPECTED RESULTS

- Technical Cooperation Program effectively managed, coordinated, and executed.
- Technical and administrative capacity of staff in the Representative Office improved to facilitate execution of the cooperation program.

- National participation strengthened in compliance with regional and subregional agreements, treaties, and initiatives.
- Enhanced PAHO/WHO presence in interinstitutional forums and in dealings with other cooperation agencies.
- Emerging initiatives.
- National capacity for the design and implementation of TCC projects strengthened.

SITUATION INFORMATION AND ANALYSIS

PURPOSE

To increase national capacity for information analysis and health-situation monitoring, with emphasis on the search for equity in health.

EXPECTED RESULTS

- National health information system strengthened by the end of 2005, through the improvement of data entry and analysis systems and their use in policy-making; the promotion of training and research on health-related inequalities.
- Methodological proposal prepared to show gender and intercultural inequities and those of other neglected groups, to generate national and sectoral policies, through cooperation, to reduce inequalities for the principal vulnerable groups.
- Strategy in place, aimed at strengthening the dissemination of public information and health-related communications.
- Institutional strengthening of research and transfer of health technologies.

HEALTH POLICIES AND HUMAN RESOURCES

PURPOSE

To strengthen the country's capacity to develop a national health policy, under the leadership of the Ministry of Health.

EXPECTED RESULTS

- Specific public health policies formulated.
- Priority areas for developing regulations identified.
- Human resources development strengthened at the national and institutional levels.
- Process established to improve technical and policy aspects of occupational health.
- Strategic issues for national health development (national accounts, equity) identified.

HEALTH PROMOTION

PURPOSE

To facilitate activities to promote healthy lifestyles.

EXPECTED RESULTS

- National health promotion plan established with the leadership of the Ministry of Health.
- Support provided for the development of plans for health promotion in priority groups (children, adolescents, indigenous population, older adults, etc.).
- Comprehensive strategy implemented to improve lifestyles.
- National health strategy to address violence and accidents established.
- National mental health plan in place.
- Nutritional and food security activities programmed and executed with multisectoral participation.

HEALTH AND THE ENVIRONMENT

PURPOSE

To help protect the health of the population by cooperating with national institutions in the identification, evaluation, prevention, and control of environmental risks and reducing vulnerability to natural disasters.

EXPECTED RESULTS

- Consensus-based national strategy established by the subsector to increase coverage of water and sanitation services.
- Contribution made to strengthening the promotion, protection, and monitoring of drinking water quality.
- Technical capacity of the environmental health sector strengthened, along with legislative and management processes.
- Institutional health system for emergencies and disasters strengthened, along with others agencies.
- Specific projects for the prevention of environmental and health risks executed.

HEALTH SERVICES

PURPOSE

To strengthen the organization of public health systems and services, and to develop new forms to manage the services and new health care models.

EXPECTED RESULTS

- Few forms to manage the services and new health care models developed.
- Master Plan for Investment in Health developed.
- Proposal submitted for a National Health Services Network.
- Information systems established.

DISEASE PREVENTION AND CONTROL

PURPOSE

To strengthen national capacity to reduce morbidity and mortality from communicable and noncommunicable diseases.

EXPECTED RESULTS

- Proper integration and operation of the Surveillance System strengthened.
- National capacity for the prevention of the principal noncommunicable diseases strengthened.
- National capacity for the prevention and control of the principal communicable diseases strengthened.

MANAGEMENT AND COORDINATION OF THE NATIONAL PROGRAM

PURPOSE

To optimize management of the technical cooperation program.

EXPECTED RESULTS

- Logistical support provided for the technical cooperation program.
- Human resources necessary for effective management of the technical cooperation program, available.

RESOURCES (US\$)

		Regular budget	Other sources	All funds
Total 2002-2003		2,257,200	303,400	2,560,600
Total 2004-2005		2,348,800	-	2,348,800
Percentage of estimated expenditure	Country program support	49%	-	49%
	Intersectoral action and sustainable Development	17%	-	17%
	Health information and technology	4%	-	4%
	Universal access to health	27%	-	27%
	Disease control and risk management	2%	-	2%
	Family and community health	1%	-	1%