

WORLD HEALTH  
ORGANIZATION

REGIONAL COMMITTEE

Seventh Session  
Manila  
7-13 September 1956

Agenda Item 7

REGIONAL OFFICE FOR  
THE WESTERN PACIFIC

WP/RC7/2  
24 August 1956

ORIGINAL: ENGLISH

ACTION TAKEN BY GOVERNMENTS WITH REGARD TO THE  
IMPLEMENTATION OF THE VARIOUS RESOLUTIONS PASSED DURING  
THE SIXTH SESSION OF THE REGIONAL COMMITTEE

The Regional Director has the honour to submit to the Regional Committee the attached reports received from Member Countries with regard to the implementation of the recommendations adopted during the sixth session of the Committee.

ACTION TAKEN BY GOVERNMENTS WITH REGARD TO THE  
IMPLEMENTATION OF THE VARIOUS RESOLUTIONS PASSED DURING  
THE SIXTH SESSION OF THE REGIONAL COMMITTEE

1 WP/RC6.R3 - Distribution of Project Reports

The majority of the governments in the Region have agreed to the distribution of project reports provided the report is cleared in advance with the responsible government.

2 WP/RC6.R8 - Environmental Sanitation

2.1 Brunei

"The improvement of water supplies, sanitary systems, and insect control are the main goals of the Brunei Government Health Department, and these receive constant attention. Attention is given to these matters in urban and rural areas and some success has been achieved in this field."

2.2 Fiji

"The Government is endeavouring, through the Medical Department and local authorities, to improve environmental sanitation in the villages and rural areas. The media through which this is being attempted includes Assistant Medical Practitioners, Health Sisters and Health Nurses. They are in direct contact with the rural and village population and are under the supervision of District Medical Officers. These Officers also collaborate with School Teachers of the Education Department.

An increasing number of villages are installing a piped water supply and, through health education, sewage and refuse disposal is being improved. Some rural authorities have instituted organized garbage collection.

Health Inspectors, Assistant Health Inspectors and Mosquito Inspectors also conduct their appropriate duties in urban and village areas."

2.3 Netherlands New Guinea

"The Government has taken due note of the views expressed in resolution WP/RC6.R8. However, it is faced with basic problems posed in the sanitation of small rural communities with highly unsophisticated inhabitants.

For the improvement of tap water systems in urban centres, an amount of 1.3 million guilders (Neth.) was voted in 1955 (covering 10% of the population under administration).

A request was sent to WHO for a fellowship in environmental sanitation in 1957."

2.4 North Borneo

"The Government of North Borneo has been engaged since 1953 in an urban sanitation programme for the principal war-devastated urban communities. The United Nations Technical Assistance Board, acting through the World Health Organization, has assisted the Colony by providing an expert consultant and by the provision subsequently of two international public-health engineers, who, for a period of two years, have been engaged together with the staff of the Public Works and Medical Services Department in making surveys and preparing detailed plans and contract documents. In regard to one of the schemes, construction has already been initiated."

2.5 Sarawak

"The Government of Sarawak has given very high priority to projects of environmental sanitation and we have obtained the assistance of WHO in preparing a plan for water-borne sewage for the town of Kuching. The sum of \$7 177 108 has been provided in addition to the ordinary annual budget for the purpose of improving water supplies."

2.6 United States Territories in the Pacific

"The health services in the Pacific Territories under United States jurisdiction continue to give attention both to the short- and long-term aspects of environmental sanitation. The development of regular services to promote all aspects of environmental sanitation is continuing, as, for example, in the sanitary disposal of wastes. The training of indigenous health workers, through providing for attendance of courses in the Territories and elsewhere, is part of a long-term programme to develop a corps of well-qualified health personnel, including sanitarians, to staff adequate health services in the Territories."

2.7 Viet Nam (Translated from French)

"Viet Nam recognizes the necessity of improving environmental sanitation and priority has been given to this programme. An environmental sanitation service has been established in the Secretariat of State for Health and programmes are being implemented on: drinking water, pit privies for rural areas, water supplies and building of sewerage systems for urban centres and anopheles control."

3 WP/RC6.R11 - Public Information Activities

3.1 Brunei

"No action to report on this resolution."

3.2 Fiji

"The Public Relations Officer is the correspondent with the Public Relations Officer at the Regional Headquarters. Appropriate opportunities are taken to make reference to WHO activities in Fiji through the press and on public occasions such as at the Annual Graduation Ceremony at the Central Medical School."

3.3 Netherlands New Guinea

"The Government in accepting and endorsing the view expressed in this resolution, realizes that improvement of information activities has to be an integral part of its health education programme.

Important information in respect to the aims and activities of WHO was circulated on World Health Day. In collaboration with the Literature Bureau of the South Pacific Commission, posters and leaflets on health improvement were designed and consequently distributed throughout the territory."

3.4 North Borneo

"Occasional health talks in three languages have been made from Radio Sabah and a regular series is planned for the future. The Medical Services Department makes a point of being represented at native festivals and annual open air markets which are held from time to time throughout the Colony. Health talks are given on these occasions and exhibits designed to promote health education are displayed."

3.5 Sarawak

"The Government of Sarawak has this year employed a press officer, attached to the Information Office, part of whose duties will be concerned with the publicizing of health activities. Regular health broadcasts are made in three languages from Radio Sarawak."

3.6 United States Territories in the Pacific

"Appropriate information and materials from the Western Pacific Regional Office of WHO are distributed directly to the Territories for their use."

3.7 Viet Nam (Translated from French)

"The Secretary of State for Information closely co-operates with the Department of Social Welfare and Health for the distribution of information received from WHO."

4 WP/RC6.R12 - Legislative Developments in the United Nations Expanded Programme of Technical Assistance

4.1 Brunei

"There is nothing to comment upon, except that the Development Plan for Brunei provides very generously for the development of the Medical and Health Service."

4.2 Fiji

"Officers concerned with health administration in Fiji are invariably consulted when schemes requiring assistance are put forward."

4.3 Netherlands New Guinea

"The Government has taken note of the suggestions made in resolution WP/RC6.R12 and gives careful consideration to projects for the achievement of better health within the framework of the general programme planning."

4.4 North Borneo

"There is no action to report on this resolution."

4.5 Sarawak

"There is no action to report on this resolution."

4.6 United States Territories in the Pacific

"This resolution would appear to apply primarily to countries which receive significant amounts of technical assistance funds for health programmes. It may be said in general, however, that the United States and the Territories recognize the importance of health to the general development of the Territories, and are continuing efforts to develop health services which will best meet the needs of a population living under the particular conditions in the area--i.e. a relatively sparse population on widely scattered islands."

4.7 Viet Nam (Translated from French)

"The requests submitted by the Secretariat of State for Social Welfare and Health concerning health projects have always been met by the body dealing with the assignment of Technical Assistance funds."

5 WP/RC6.R19 - The Integration of Field Projects in Long-Term Health Planning

5.1 Brunei

"No long-term field projects using external assistance are in progress or planned for at present."

5.2 Fiji

"The WHO-assisted yaws control project is providing additional information regarding the state of the public health, particularly in the rural areas, which will facilitate the execution of health programmes undertaken by the Medical Department.

It is realized that in WHO-assisted inter-country projects it is desirable, if at all possible, to render assistance to enable neighbouring territories to bring diseases prevalent in their territories under control to avoid introduction of the diseases to areas where diseases have been brought under control."

5.3 Netherlands New Guinea

"The Government is fully convinced of the importance of careful integration of field projects in long-term health planning. The Department of Public Health institutes services for control of malaria, yaws, tuberculosis, leprosy and infant mortality, having a permanent character. The activities of these services are developing satisfactorily and the people of Netherlands New Guinea are gaining a growing awareness of their beneficial results."

5.4 North Borneo

"A malaria-control scheme which is at present in the pilot stage is being carried out with the assistance of technical experts supplied by the World Health Organization. The complete scheme envisages full integration of the project in the long-term health planning programme of the Colony. The work is also being co-ordinated with a similar scheme in the adjacent territory of Sarawak and it is hoped that co-ordination will likewise eventually be achieved with any antimalarial project carried out in Indonesian Borneo."

5.5 Sarawak

"The major field project at present in operation in Sarawak is already fully integrated with the assistance of WHO expert personnel. This is the antimalaria project."

5.6 United States Territories in the Pacific

"Although the Pacific Territories under U.S. jurisdiction do not have field projects receiving WHO technical assistance, it can be said that the United States and Territories are in full accord with the objective of developing integrated balanced health services, and are endeavouring to attain this objective."

5.7 Viet Nam (Translated from French)

"The WHO maternal and child health project is integrated into the Maternal and Child Health Division of the Medical Service of the Department of Social Welfare and Health; the Tuberculosis Expert will act as adviser to the Chief of the Tuberculosis Section of the same department; the BCG programme will be integrated into this section; the Sanitary Engineer will act as the adviser to the Chief of the Environmental Sanitation Service."