



MIP/01/APR.SDE.4  
24 April 2001

WORLD HEALTH ORGANIZATION

# MEETING OF INTERESTED PARTIES

GENEVA, 18 TO 29 JUNE 2001

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## Area of work: sustainable development

### Progress report 2000

#### **CONTEXT: THE NEED TO LINK HEALTH OUTCOMES WITH DEVELOPMENT AGENDAS**

1. Ill-health is a barrier to getting out of poverty as well as pushing people into poverty. Increasing health inequities have an adverse effect on economic growth. Improving health of the poor can contribute to reducing poverty and promote faster economic growth. Efforts are under way to scale up interventions that address the major disease conditions that affect the poor. These efforts should be complemented by:

- pro-poor health policies, giving improved health a higher priority in poverty reduction goals;
- overall development policies that protect and promote health of the poor including policies in key sectors such as energy, transport, housing, agriculture;
- actions that promote the positive and minimize the negative health impacts of globalization; cross-border flows of money, goods, services, ideas and people.

#### **THE ROLE OF THE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH IN SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT (HSD): MAKING HEALTH A MAJOR DEVELOPMENT ISSUE**

2. To equip governments, international development partners and civil society with knowledge and skills to tackle new and emerging issues to health in development and to integrate health into overall poverty reduction strategies.

#### **HSD work areas**

- Globalization, trade and health

- Cross-sectoral policies and interventions
- Health and human rights
- Pro-poor health policies
- Health of indigenous peoples and other vulnerable groups

### **Core functions**

3. **Developing policies and influencing international development agendas** by integrating health dimensions into current development thinking. As a result, HSD-developed policies and positions are being adopted by WHO senior management and are reflected in the outcomes of international development processes.

4. **Building and sharing the knowledge base** on the linkage between development policies and health. Regular consultations with internal and external expert groups and partnerships with academia and other international development agencies ensure that HSD work addresses key issues of global concern.

5. **Developing tools, guides and training** for WHO staff and country policy and decision-makers. Increasing demand for HSD support from countries indicates that this function will expand during 2001.

6. **The following pages** highlight the main activities in each of HSD's work area.

## GLOBALIZATION, TRADE AND HEALTH

**Objective:** To develop knowledge and technical capacity to influence the development agendas to make globalization work for the poor.

	<b>Developing policies and influencing international development agendas</b>	<b>Building and sharing the knowledge base</b>	<b>Developing tools, guides and training</b>
<b>Key activities 2000</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>– WHO position papers for WTO ministerial conference 2000; UNCTAD X meeting</li> <li>– Contribution to the formulation of WHO’s positions on opportunities and risks of globalization and trade for health</li> <li>– Policy inputs into national process examining the effects of globalization for health</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>– Establishment of research agenda based on inputs from internal and external expert groups</li> <li>– Development of analytic frameworks</li> <li>– Technical papers in the areas of globalization and health, global public goods for health and global health governance</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>– Technical briefing at the World Health Assembly on trade and health</li> <li>– Intercountry workshops on development of tools to analyse the impact of globalization on health at country level</li> <li>– Guide “Negotiating Health Development”</li> </ul>
<b>Key activities 2001</b>	<p>Develop WHO strategy and technical inputs for international conferences:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>– United Nations-Least Developed Countries III</li> <li>– United Nations Financing for Development</li> <li>– WTO ministerial meeting 2001/2002</li> </ul> <p>Initiate WHO strategy for promoting international policy coherence between trade and health</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>– <i>WHO Bulletin</i> Special Issue on Globalization and Health</li> <li>– Book “Crossing boundaries – Health policies in a Globalizing World” (with the London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine)</li> <li>– Book “Global Public Goods for Health”</li> <li>– Support to country based research and policy development</li> <li>– Initiate activities to monitor and track the implication of the General Agreement on Trade and Services for health services</li> <li>– Contribute to Working Groups 2, 4, 6 of the Commission on Macroeconomics and Health (CMH)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>– Publication of “Public Health, Health Policy and Multilateral Trade Agreements”</li> <li>– Guide “Negotiating across Boundaries” – how to promote policy coherence between public health and development agendas</li> <li>– WHO/WTO course on health and trade</li> </ul>

## CROSS-SECTORAL HEALTH POLICIES AND INTERVENTIONS

**Objective:** To develop knowledge and technical capacity to influence non-health sectors to take into account public health interests and objectives.

	<b>Developing policies and influencing international development agendas</b>	<b>Building and sharing the knowledge base</b>	<b>Developing tools, guides and training</b>
<b>Key activities 2000</b>	Contribution to achieving the health objectives of Agenda 21: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>– Global cabinet paper and background documentation on Agenda 21</li> <li>– Participation in activities of the Interagency Committee on Sustainable Development (IACSD) and Commission on Sustainable Development (CSD)</li> <li>– Meeting on “Global Nutrition Transition and Sustainable Agriculture in the 21st century” (CSD 8)</li> <li>– Thematic review chapter 6, Agenda 21</li> </ul>	HSD/Child and Adolescent Health and Development cross-cutting initiative on household energy, fuel poverty and the indoor environment launched, including WHO/USAID workshop, background papers and case studies	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>– Book “Health and Environment in Sustainable Development Planning: the Role of Indicators”</li> <li>– Review of health and sustainable development planning mechanisms</li> <li>– Review of health impact assessment procedures and frameworks</li> </ul>
<b>Key activities 2001</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>– Develop WHO position papers and strategy for World Summit on Sustainable Development (WSSD) (RIO +10)</li> <li>– Participate in work of CSD, 9th and 10th sessions, including organization of meetings in energy and transport</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>– Technical papers and guidelines on health impact selected development sectors: housing, energy, transport, and agriculture</li> <li>– Contribute to CMH Working Group 5 on interventions outside the health sector</li> <li>– Book on health and sustainable development</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>– Guidance materials on cross-sectoral policies and for use in countries interventions, planning and decision-making processes, and health impact assessments</li> </ul>

## HEALTH AND HUMAN RIGHTS

**Objective:** To develop knowledge and technical capacity to foster a strong interaction between the promotion of health and the promotion of human rights.

	<b>Developing policies and influencing international development agendas</b>	<b>Building and sharing the knowledge base</b>	<b>Developing tools, guides and training</b>
<b>Key activities 2000</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>– Based on consultations with experts and other agencies of the United Nations system, elaboration of a draft WHO strategy on health and human rights</li> <li>– Technical input to the general comment on the right to health for the United Nations Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights</li> <li>– Contributions to the United Nations High Commission on Human Rights</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>– Seminar Series on “Health, Ethics and Human Rights” in WHO</li> <li>– Annotated bibliography on health and human rights initiated</li> <li>– Data base on global health and human rights actors</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>– Participate in joint UNDP-Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR) mission to Yemen aimed at integrating health and human rights concerns into the national development plan</li> </ul>
<b>Key activities 2001</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>– Finalize WHO human rights strategy</li> <li>– Contribute with technical inputs to United Nations High Commission on Human Rights and the World Conference on Racism</li> <li>– Position paper to streamline and strengthen WHO’s interaction with the United Nations human rights treaty bodies</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>– Initiate project on the health and human rights of migrants</li> <li>– Workshops on health and human rights indicators (with Evidence Information for Policy)</li> <li>– Technical guidance and input to other WHO programmes and regional offices to integrate human rights in health</li> <li>– Technical papers and publication series on human rights and different health topics</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>– Participate in workshop on integrating human rights in the national development plan, as part of the joint UNDP-OHCHR Yemen project</li> <li>– Develop and test health and human rights training modules</li> <li>– Respond to country requests</li> </ul>

## PRO-POOR HEALTH POLICIES

**Objective:** To develop knowledge and technical capacity to link health issues with poverty reduction policies at all levels.

	<b>Developing policies and influencing international development agendas</b>	<b>Building and sharing the knowledge base</b>	<b>Developing tools, guides and training</b>
<b>Key activities 2000</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>– Executive Board paper on poverty and health</li> <li>– WHO Position paper “Health as a precious asset” to the World Social Summit +5</li> <li>– Participation in precoms and main session of World Social Summit +5</li> <li>– International meeting “Partnership in Health and Poverty: Towards a common agenda”</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>– Technical papers on poverty, equity, and health</li> <li>– Session at the International conference on health research for development Bangkok</li> <li>– Expansion of the International Poverty and Health Network (Healthlinks)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>– World Health Chart – Information Technology tool on health and economic indicators</li> <li>– Collaboration between World Bank, Regional Office for Africa, and UNICEF on health on Poverty Reduction Strategy Papers (PRSPs) in sub-Saharan Africa</li> <li>– Contribution to the World Bank Rapid Guidelines on health in PRSPs</li> </ul>
<b>Key activities 2001</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>– Contribute to OECD/Development Assistance Committee and United Nations Development Group work on poverty and health</li> <li>– “Partnership Poverty and Health” continues with the World Bank, the European Commission, the United Kingdom Department for International Development and other agencies to develop a common research agenda</li> <li>– Networking with nongovernmental organizations, academia, and parliamentarians</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>– <i>WHO Bulletin</i> special issue on Health in Poverty Reduction</li> <li>– Technical papers on health in development</li> <li>– Country case studies and regional meeting (South-East Asia Region)</li> <li>– Report on the policy study on health and poverty reduction (desk study and country case studies)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>– Workshops on health PRSPs in sub-Saharan Africa, with WHO, Regional Office for Africa, World Bank and UNICEF</li> <li>– Develop long-term programme in sub-Saharan Africa on “Capacity building on health in PRSP”</li> <li>– WHO position paper and technical tools on health in PRSPs at country level</li> <li>– Tools for integrating gender aspects in health and poverty policies</li> </ul>

## HEALTH OF INDIGENOUS PEOPLES AND OTHER VULNERABLE GROUPS

**Objective:** To develop knowledge and technical capacity to link health issues with development policies of relevance to indigenous peoples and migrants.

	<b>Developing policies and influencing international development agendas</b>	<b>Building and sharing the knowledge base</b>	<b>Developing tools, guides and training</b>
<b>Key activities 2000</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>– Report of the international consultation on the health of indigenous peoples (formed base for WHA resolution)</li> <li>– Policy review on the health of indigenous peoples in Russia initiated</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>– Review of health policies for indigenous peoples in selected countries initiated</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>– Revised version of the publication “The health of indigenous people”</li> </ul>
<b>Key activities 2001</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>– Review of health and environment policies of arctic indigenous peoples</li> <li>– Regional plans on health of indigenous peoples (with regional offices)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>– Mapping current indigenous peoples health research knowledge gaps and research methods</li> <li>– Technical papers on nutrition and health of indigenous peoples</li> <li>– Establish scientific working group on indigenous peoples health</li> <li>– State of the art – review of key health and development issues for migrants</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>– Atlas on arctic indigenous peoples health patterns (with Regional Office for Europe, WHO/PAHO and UNEP)</li> <li>– Compendium of indigenous peoples health research institutions and activities</li> </ul>

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