Evaluation activities in 2003; proposed evaluations for 2004

PROGRAMME BUDGET PERFORMANCE EVALUATION

1. Evaluations of programme budget performance are part of a biennial monitoring and evaluation cycle and focus on the delivery of the Programme budget. This evaluation involves assessment of achievements of the contribution of each WHO office to expected results, and overall achievement of the expected results by the whole Organization. During 2003, a simulation exercise was carried out for two areas of work, namely, Child and adolescent health and Sustainable development, and lessons were learned which will be applied to the evaluation of the biennium 2002-2003 that will be performed early in 2004.

PROGRAMMATIC AND THEMATIC EVALUATIONS

2. Programmatic and thematic evaluations are two types of evaluations that are part of WHO’s Evaluation Framework. Programmatic evaluations focus on a specific area of work. They address progress towards WHO objectives and provide an in-depth understanding of how and why achievements have been realized over several years and examine their impact, cost-effectiveness and sustainability. The scope of programmatic evaluations may be limited to a regional office, an intercountry programme, a country-office programme of a given region, or be Organization-wide in nature.

3. Thematic evaluations focus on selected topics that may be greater or lesser than, or of a different nature from, an area of work. Topics that lend themselves to this type of evaluation would include for example new work processes, procedures or techniques, or the Organization’s core functions. The scope of thematic evaluations may range from a single country to the entire Organization. In terms of their basic purpose, principles and depth of analysis, thematic evaluations are similar to programmatic evaluations.

4. During 2002-2003 the six regional offices conducted programmatic or thematic evaluations. It is common practice for regional offices to submit the evaluations to their regional committees. The Executive Board does not review these evaluations.
5. The following six regional evaluations undertaken in the biennium 2002-2003 were:

- Africa: Evaluation of training activities of the technical divisions in the African Region (planned completion: November 2003)

- The Americas: Evaluation of the Pan American Center for Sanitary Engineering and Environmental Sciences (CEPIS) (submitted to the Regional Committee at its Fifty-fourth session (2002))

- South-East Asia: South-East Asia regional evaluation of the Supplemental Intercountry Programme (Part I completed and submitted to the Regional Committee at its Fifty-fifth session (2002); Part II completed and submitted to the Regional Committee at its Fifty-sixth session (2003))

- Europe: Evaluation of the Mental Health Programme in the Regional Office for Europe (planned completion: December 2003)

- Eastern Mediterranean: Response of Roll Back Malaria programme to country needs in the Eastern Mediterranean Region (planned completion: October 2003)

- Western Pacific: Programmatic evaluation of tuberculosis control through technical cooperation at country level in the Western Pacific Region (completed and submitted to the Regional Committee at its Fifty-fourth session (2003))

6. The principal challenge is to ensure that the findings and lessons learned from these programmatic and thematic evaluations are acted upon in terms of WHO’s current programme, and taken into account in planning the future work of the Organization.

COUNTRY EVALUATIONS

7. WHO is committed to improving its strategic approach at country level. Country evaluations are a vital and necessary element of this commitment. Before institutionalizing the country evaluation, which is a general requirement under WHO’s Evaluation Framework, its scope, content, approach and methodology need to be designed and tested. To that end three pilot country evaluations will start during the fourth quarter of 2003. Preliminary terms of reference are under discussion by a task force comprised of headquarters and regional staff and regional planning officers.

8. The pilot evaluations will be conducted in Uganda (African Region), Nepal or Myanmar (South-East Asia Region), and a country to be identified in the Western Pacific Region.

9. Lessons learned from the pilot country evaluations will contribute to the development of the eleventh General Programme of Work and the related strategic programme budgets.

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1 Evaluation of the Pan American Center for Sanitary Engineering and Environmental Sciences (CEPIS). Document CSP26/17.


PROPOSED EVALUATION FOR 2004

10. In addition to the ongoing programmatic evaluations, one thematic evaluation is foreseen for 2004, namely WHO’s Fellowship Programme.

11. As part of its contribution to development of health systems that equitably improve health outcomes, WHO contributes to the process of building sustainable national capacity through its Fellowships policy. The policy is implemented through WHO’s Fellowship Programme, which is decentralized and administered by headquarters and the regional offices. The Programme provides opportunities for advanced study and exchange of scientific knowledge and techniques in public health fields, which are usually not available in the Fellow’s home country. It is linked to approved national health priorities and should form an integral part of the country’s policies for development of health personnel.

12. The process of executing the Programme is codified in the WHO manual and relates to such matters as selection criteria and procedures, placement, review and monitoring and reporting. As at September 2003 WHO has spent US$ 31.2 million in this area in the biennium 2002-2003.

13. The Fellowships Programme, which is used by WHO as a mechanism for development cooperation, has undergone some changes in the past several years in terms of duration of studies, placement locations and administration. A limited number of reviews have been done so far on fellowships. In the context of working in and with countries under the umbrella of country cooperation strategies,¹ it would be opportune to conduct a global evaluation of WHO’s Fellowships Programme.

OBJECTIVES AND SCOPE OF THE EVALUATION

14. The purpose of the evaluation is systematically to assess the contribution of the Fellowship Programme towards developing sustainable national capacities in the area of health and human resources. The specific objectives are:

   - to assess the performance of the Fellowship Programme for relevance and effectiveness in national capacity-building
   - to look at alternative mechanisms to enhance human resources capacity outside the formal Fellowships Programme
   - to identify successes and lessons learned
   - to present recommendations for the future direction of the Programme.

The evaluation will be conducted and concluded during 2004.

15. The Committee is invited to consider the above proposal.

¹ See document EB111/33.