

## 2. Ongoing activities and current achievements

### 2.1 Demonstration Projects

Demonstration Projects have been established or are being initiated in many countries. This number has risen during the last 4 years from 4 to 16 countries. The initial countries being: Argentina, China, Senegal and Zimbabwe. Projects have been developed and implemented in Brazil and Pakistan, whilst projects are in various stages of planning in: AFRO: Kenya, EMRO: Afghanistan, Djibouti, Sudan, Somalia, Yemen, EURO: Georgia, SEARO: India, D.P. Korea, Myanmar and Indonesia.

#### Zimbabwe, AFRO

The Project aims to improve the quality of life of people with epilepsy in rural areas and is in the second phase of its development. Much has been achieved but progress has been hindered by financial and human resource problems, which are expected to be solved during this biennium.

#### Senegal, AFRO

The Senegalese Project has been completed. A survey has been conducted among a population of 4,500 people. A prevalence rate of 14.2% was found and the treatment gap amounted to 52%. This data will be submitted soon to peer-reviewed journals. Educational activities within the Project encompassed a.o.:

- Development and dissemination of awareness raising materials
- Organisation of focus groups with youth and women's associations on issues related to epilepsy
- Organisation of training seminars for teachers, the general public and private enterprises
- Public education for the entire country through local radio stations and national television

#### Argentina, AMRO/PAHO

A pilot Project has been completed. Work is being done on the statistical analysis of the studies performed on the general public, clergy and teachers. The study will be

published in Spanish and in English. The protocol for the Demonstration Project has been finalised. An updated budget and a plan for fundraising are being developed.

#### Brazil, AMRO/PAHO

A two-day workshop has been held in Brazil with the participation of representatives of the Brazilian League and Bureau and of the Campaign Secretariat. This national Project officially started on the 27th of September 2002. The first two phases, namely the epidemiological survey and the capacitation of health care providers, has been accomplished within a nine months period. As a part of the education component, the Brazilian Ministry of Health sent a letter to WHO Headquarters requesting the training of Family Health teams (there are 17,000 teams in the country) in epilepsy management to be considered part of the Global Campaign.

#### Pakistan, EMRO

Through a local initiative a Comprehensive Epilepsy Control Programme (CECP) was launched in Karachi in March 2001 and is now extending services all over Pakistan. A paper on the Project has been submitted to the WHO Bulletin.

#### China, WPRO

In China, 55,616 people were screened in 5 provinces. A paper based on the outcomes of the first phase of the Demonstration Project was published in "Neurology" in May 2003 and in a number of Chinese journals. A total of almost 2,000 new patients were treated. The lifetime prevalence of epilepsy was previously thought to be approximately 4/1,000. Thus it was estimated that there would be around 5 million people with epilepsy in China. Now, the prevalence is known to be nearer 7/1,000. Therefore, the number of people with epilepsy is more likely to be around 9 million. These preliminary results have already had an important political impact in China and it has been suggested that the Project should be expanded to the rural areas of the entire country.