



TWENTY-NINTH WORLD HEALTH ASSEMBLY

INDEXED

Provisional agenda item 3.14.5

COORDINATION WITH THE UNITED NATIONS SYSTEM

HEALTH ASSISTANCE TO REFUGEES AND DISPLACED PERSONS IN CYPRUS

Report by the Director-General



1. Introduction

1.1 The Twenty-eighth Health Assembly in resolution WHA28.47¹ requested the Director-General "to continue and intensify health assistance to refugees and displaced persons in Cyprus in addition to any assistance made available within the framework of the efforts of the Coordinator of United Nations Humanitarian Assistance in Cyprus and report to the Twenty-ninth World Health Assembly on such assistance".

1.2 The Director-General's report to the Twenty-eighth World Health Assembly (document A28/26) provided information on the action taken to meet the Government's public health needs during the early phase of the emergency. The present report deals with the joint UNHCR/WHO actions during the period from January 1975 to March 1976 in response to requests from the Government for health assistance to refugees and displaced persons in the Island.

2. Assistance provided in 1975

2.1 On 10 January 1975 the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees in his capacity as Coordinator of United Nations Humanitarian Assistance in Cyprus, launched his second appeal to the international community at large for an additional contribution of US\$ 9 million to meet the basic needs of refugees and displaced persons. In that appeal it was estimated that US\$ 600 000 was necessary to provide further emergency medical assistance for over 200 000 persons particularly at risk in the winter months.

2.2 The Organization recruited under its regular budget a number of consultants to help the authorities concerned in the North and South Sectors of Cyprus in assessing the health situation and in identifying the priority needs in the public health field. These consultants visited Cyprus as follows:

- (a) a public health adviser for three weeks in March/April 1975;
- (b) the regional adviser in maternal and child health for one week in June/July 1975;
- (c) the regional adviser in laboratory health services for one week in June/July 1975;
and
- (d) a senior public health administrator for six weeks in July/August 1975.

During their assignments the WHO consultants worked in close collaboration with the health administrations in the North and South Sectors, the Cyprus Red Cross, the UNHCR Mission, the representatives of UNDP and WFP, and all the administrative services concerned with relief measures in the Island.

¹ WHO Official Records, No. 226, 1975, p. 24.

