

WORLD HEALTH
ORGANIZATION

الهيئة الصحية العالمية
المكتب الإقليمي لشرق البحر الأبيض

ORGANISATION MONDIALE
DE LA SANTÉ

REGIONAL OFFICE FOR THE
EASTERN MEDITERRANEAN

BUREAU RÉGIONAL DE LA
MÉDITERRANÉE ORIENTALE

REGIONAL COMMITTEE FOR THE
EASTERN MEDITERRANEAN

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ORIGINAL: ENGLISH

Sub-Committee B

SUB-DIVISION ON PROGRAMME

MINUTES OF THE FIRST MEETING

Held at the Palais des Nations, Geneva, on Monday

28 September 1959, at 4.15 pm

CHAIRMAN : Dr. N. Etemadian (Iran)

CONTENTS

Proposed Programme and Budget Estimates for 1961 for the
Eastern Mediterranean Region

Present :

Government Representatives

France	Dr. P. Faure Mlle. N. Trannoy
Iran	Dr. M. Etemadian Dr. P. Khabir
Israel	Dr. S. Etosh Dr. S. Syman Dr. M. Kahany
Italy	Mr. P. Aslan

Secretariat

Secretary to the Sub-Committee	Dr. A.H. Taba, Regional Director
Representative of the Director-General	Dr. P. Dorolle, Deputy Director-General
Deputy Secretary to the Sub-Committee	Dr. A. El Halawani, Deputy Regional Director

Representative of the Technical Assistance Board

Technical Assistance Board	Mr. J.R. Symonds
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Representatives of Non-Governmental Organizations

International Association for the Prevention of Blindness	Professor A. Franceschetti
International Confederation of Midwives	Miss H. Paillard
International Council of Nurses	Miss H. Nussbaum
International Federation of Gynaecology and Obstetrics	Professor W. Geisendorf
International Union of Architects	Mr. W.F. Votter
League of Red Cross Societies	Mr. E. Fischer
Medical Women's International Association	Dr. V.J. Peterson

PROPOSED PROGRAMME AND BUDGET ESTIMATES FOR 1961 FOR THE EASTERN
MEDITERRANEAN REGION (Item 15 of the Agenda; document EM/RC9/3)

The REGIONAL DIRECTOR, introducing Document EM/RC9/3, explained that the document included not only the proposed Programme and Budget Estimates for 1961 but also the revised budget for the year 1960. Both of these were presented in the light of discussions with representatives of the various countries.

It would be noted that the document consisted of two parts:

(1) introduction and (2) a summary recapitulating the activities by major subject headings. Country and inter-country programmes were set out in alphabetical order of the countries concerned. In addition two annexes showed (1) the malaria eradication programme and (2) a list of projects requested by Governments and for which no funds were available at the time of preparation of the document. The presentation of the document was similar to that of the Official Records of WHO, i.e. narratives explaining the respective project proposals were records on the pages facing the appropriate budget estimates.

The Technical Assistance programme comprised projects in two categories, one for the year 1960 showing the Governments' submissions to TAB for WHO projects, and the other for the programme to be financed from Technical Assistance funds in 1961. The latter should be considered as merely tentative since it was dependent on the eventual availability of funds.

The main consideration before Sub-Committee B was in connexion with the 1961 Regular Programme, to which Sub-Committee A had suggested two slight amendments: that the establishment of a regional virology training centre (page 139) should be postponed until 1962, and the amount earmarked for that purpose allocated to fellowships; and that only one sanitary engineer instead of two, should be recruited under the environmental sanitation programme for 1961, the balance of funds to be used for training purposes.

The implementation of the additional projects included in Annex II depended on the availability of extra funds and therefore had not been included in the proposed programme and budget estimates.

Dr SYMAN (Israel) congratulated the Regional Director on the excellent presentation of the document on which he only wished to make a few general remarks. Apart from the additional projects mentioned in the Annex, he entertained some doubt as to whether those in category II might not also have to be abandoned and therefore wondered whether it was not misleading to have listed them.

Turning to pp. 6 and 7, which gave a most interesting picture of actual performances, he noted a slight increase in most of the programmes. However, while allocations for mental health had increased, no provision had been made in the regular budget for work on nutrition and he wondered whether that could be attributed to a lack of requests by Governments. The same applied to other items on pages 6 and 7.

He was happy to see an increase in education and training allocations but asked for clarification on the 50% reduction for fellowships as between 1959 and 1961, although he wished to express special thanks for the increase of fellowships granted to Israel.

As to extra-budgetary figures, he understood that the funds allotted for malaria (p. 6) referred to UNICEF contributions, in which case special thanks were due to that Organization for their help in so many fields. He would be interested to know whether UNICEF was also contributing funds for virus disease control and for nursing.

He noted, in particular, that the staff of the Regional Office had only been slightly increased and congratulated the Regional Director on having accomplished so much without an increase in personnel.

He expressed particular satisfaction at the recent trend in inter-country projects. Although Israel was not a beneficiary or in a position to contribute actively to those programmes, they considered that that was one of the most important forms of regional collaboration.

The REGIONAL DIRECTOR answering Dr Syman thanked him for his constructive and appreciative comments. Work on nutrition was not always shown under that heading but might be comprised in MCH or education and training projects. It would be seen from page 19 that a post for a special adviser on nutrition was provided for in the 1959 budget and for the two succeeding years.

Though it was true that appropriations for fellowships appeared to be higher in 1959 than in 1960, the figure included savings which had been diverted to that programme: hence the higher estimate than had previously been approved for 1959. The 1960 figure was similarly subject to revision at a later stage if savings became available.

The first line of figures for extra budgetary funds on malaria shown on page 6 referred to UNICEF contributions and the second line to funds from MESA.

Projects under the heading of virus diseases related mainly to trachoma and UNICEF was participating in them.

He was grateful for the tribute paid to the staff of the Regional Office. It was indeed doing more work with the addition only of an officer in the education and training section. He also welcomed the approval expressed for the inter-country projects which had been endorsed by Sub-Committee A as an important means of regional collaboration.

The CHAIRMAN suggested that the Sub-Committee approve a draft resolution on the lines adopted by Sub-Committee A concerning the programme and budget estimates.

It was so agreed.

The meeting rose at 4.55 p.m.