

WHA29.58 Schistosomiasis

The Twenty-ninth World Health Assembly,

Noting with satisfaction the Director-General's report on schistosomiasis, prepared in accordance with resolution WHA28.53, and the activities undertaken so far;

Noting also with concern the spread of schistosomiasis in areas where water resources schemes are being planned or implemented;

Recognizing that considerable resources would be required in terms of finance and manpower for effective large-scale control programmes;

Realizing that the control of schistosomiasis requires further basic and applied research to develop new tools and operational methodology compatible with the financial resources of Member States;

1. RECOMMENDS that Member States promote, within the framework of their health programmes, the acquisition of scientific knowledge on all aspects of this disease and the organization of appropriate services, and that they establish the priority to be given to the control of schistosomiasis in accordance with the importance this disease presents as a public health problem;
2. URGES Member States in which schistosomiasis is or could become endemic to take into account the epidemiological aspects of this disease when planning and implementing water management schemes, and to undertake specific measures to prevent the spread of the disease into new areas and neighbouring countries;
3. REQUESTS the Director-General:
 - (1) to expand the activities of the Organization in the field of schistosomiasis;
 - (2) to further promote research on diagnosis, control methods of the disease, including its chemotherapy, and on methods for the elimination of snail intermediate hosts;
 - (3) to take all necessary steps to harness international support for prevention of the disease in water management schemes.