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CO-ORDINATION AND INTEGRATION OF INTERNATIONAL  
STATISTICAL PROGRAMMES

INTERNATIONAL STATISTICAL PROGRAMMES, 1977-1981

Report of the Secretary-General

Addendum

Add the following text at the end of chapter III, section B:

9. World Health Organization (WHO)

Programme 1. Development of health statistical services  
(Code: B (a), B (b), 1.7)

1. This programme was initiated to formulate standards and principles for the planning, evaluation and management of national health statistics, and to provide advisory services to countries for the improvement of their health statistics system. It will be redirected by adopting a purpose-oriented approach in which the development and operation of health information systems will be linked directly with the decision-making processes in the health administration. To this end, emphasis will be placed on the promotion of close communication between the producers and users of statistical information. The programme constitutes the most important component of technical assistance in health statistics by WHO. The establishment and promotion of the activities of national committees on vital and health statistics will continue to be encouraged in order to improve national and international co-ordination of health statistics. This is a continuing programme. Estimated average annual direct costs will be \$US 2 million.

Programme 2. Training in health statistics  
(Code: B (a), B (b) 1.7)

2. This programme comprises (a) granting fellowships; (b) organizing training

courses, workshops and seminars; (c) formulating criteria for the planning and evaluation of training; and (d) disseminating information and providing advice on training in medical records and health statistics. The activities cover training of both statisticians at professional and intermediate levels and users of statistics, e.g., health planners and administrators. This is a continuing programme. Estimated average annual direct costs will be \$US 270,000.

Programme 3. Dissemination of statistical information  
(Code: A, B (a), C 1.7)

3. The objective of this programme is to collect, analyse and disseminate international health statistics. Statistics on mortality, morbidity, health resources and their utilization are published in the World Health Statistics Annual and the World Health Statistics Report, and unpublished information is available on request. The World Health Statistics Report, which has hitherto been published monthly, will be issued quarterly and greater emphasis will be given to providing processed, analysed and interpreted information rather than raw data. The timeliness of the statistical information has been improved by computerization of the data-handling procedure. Close collaboration will be maintained with the United Nations and other agencies in exchanging data. This is a continuing programme. Estimated average annual direct costs will be \$US 600,000.

Programme 4. International Classification of Diseases  
(Code: B (a) 1.7)

4. Under this programme, the ninth revision of the International Classification of Diseases (ICD) will be published for introduction into use on 1 January 1979, and a number of regional training courses will be held to familiarize coding supervisors with the new revision. As companion volumes to the ICD, supplementary classifications of procedures in medicine and of impairments and handicaps will be published in a provisional form for trial purposes. An adaptation of the ICD to oncology (ICD-O) will be issued for use in cancer registries and other agencies specializing in cancer statistics. The programme embraces work on medical nomenclature, intended to emerge as an international nomenclature of diseases, the elaboration of recommendations, definitions and standards to improve international comparability and co-ordination of the work of international reference centres for disease classification. This is a continuing programme. Estimated average annual direct costs will be \$US 300,000.

Programme 5. Health statistics methodology  
(Code: B (a), C 1.7)

5. This programme is designed to provide mathematical and statistical support to all components of the WHO over-all programme, including the design and analysis of health surveys and other investigations, epidemiological modelling and systems methodology. Special attention is given to the operational problems of health service delivery and the optimum allocation of resources, particularly in assisting decision-makers in a practical choice of intervention strategies. Information is also collected and disseminated on developments in medical computing. This is a continuing programme. Estimated average annual direct costs will be \$US 600,000.

Programme 6. Health demography and family health statistics  
(Code: A, B (a) 1.3, 1.7)

6. A major part of this programme is related to (a) health demography and (b) statistical support to family health programmes. The activities on health demography are focused on improvement of knowledge of interrelationships between health and population dynamics and on development of new and more efficient methodologies. Large-scale international comparative studies of social and biological factors of perinatal, infant and early childhood mortality in relation to fertility patterns will be completed. A series of manuals on family planning statistics and on methods of fertility and mortality analysis will be published. A programme of monitoring world population trends, particularly with regard to mortality and morbidity, will be established. The statistical support to family health programmes is directed towards collecting, processing and analysing information required for programme management and evaluation through setting up an international data collection system. Elaboration of new methodologies for analysing family health trends and patterns will be developed. Estimated average annual direct costs will be \$US 200,000; and the programme will be financed mainly by the United Nations Fund for Population Activities (UNFPA).

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