

In addition, the WHO is responsible for the direction and co-ordination of all international health work and, in this capacity, advises and gives technical direction and supervision to health activities or health aspects of programs carried out through other agencies, including the Technical Assistance Administration and the United Nations Children's Fund.

The *Joint FAO/WHO Food Standards Program*, controlled by the Codex Alimentarius Commission, was established in November 1961 at the eleventh session of the Conference of the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO). Its establishment was approved and its statutes adopted by the sixteenth World Health Assembly. The thirteenth FAO Conference and the eighteenth World Health Assembly approved the incorporation of the Program into the regular programs of work and budgets of the FAO and the WHO. The purpose of the Program is to develop internationally-accepted food standards with a view to facilitating inter-country trade and to protecting consumers. The Program is administered by an Executive Committee consisting of the Chairman and Vice-Chairman of the Codex Alimentarius Commission, together with six further members, elected by the Commission for a two-year term from among its members on a geographical basis.

The work of the World Health Organization, like that of the United Nations itself and the other Specialized Agencies, is financed through contributions assessed against each of its members in accordance with a scale based largely on the principle of capacity to pay. The working budget for 1974 totals in excess of \$108 million (U.S.). This figure reflects only the amount member states are willing to contribute and bears little relation to the money needed to meet all the health requirements of the world, the cost of which is beyond the resources available. The result is a continuous pressure to devise projects and methods that will yield the greatest improvement for the largest number of people in return for the smallest expenditure of funds.

Some recent projects are the following:

- (1) *The malaria-eradication campaign.* On September 30, 1973, of the estimated 1,877 million persons living in the originally malarious areas of the world, 1,380 million (74 per cent) were in areas where malaria had been eradicated or where eradication programs were in progress.
- (2) *The smallpox-eradication campaign.* Since 1967, the first year of the global campaign, the number of countries and territories reporting smallpox cases has dropped from 43 to 11, and the number where it is considered endemic from 30 to 4. Nevertheless, as a result of major epidemics in Bangladesh, India and Pakistan in



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