

became the Regional Office for the Americas. The Pan-American Health Organization, therefore, has its own budget in addition to the portion it receives from the WHO regular budget. Canada joined the PAHO in 1971.

The functions of the Organization fall into two main categories -- general international health services and advisory services and assistance to governments. The former, which can be provided only through an international agency, include:

- (a) the adoption and supervision of regulations to control the spread of communicable diseases through international traffic;
- (b) the collection and analysis of world epidemiological and statistical data on health conditions, including environmental factors;
- (c) the development of definitions and international standards covering the purity, potency and composition of pharmaceutical drugs, etc;
- (d) the production and distribution of technical information on health matters;
- (e) the stimulation, promotion and co-ordination of research within already existing research centres.

These are activities in which all countries have a potential interest and from which all are likely to derive direct benefit. One of the most valuable ways in which the Organization serves the interests of developing and advanced countries alike is in bringing together experts from round the world to discuss and, where appropriate, make recommendations on various problems. Through the reports of these expert committees, all countries have the benefit of the best opinion available.

By way of advisory services and assistance to governments, consultants, demonstrations, training courses, seminars, fellowships for training, etc., are provided to help strengthen health services and train health personnel in order that they may be equipped to take the initiative in dealing with the health problems of the countries concerned. These services are available to all countries without exception, on the condition that the governments concerned request the services, maintain administrative control over projects, share in the costs, provide counterparts and other personnel, and make provision for the continuation of work undertaken after assistance is terminated.