

universities, religious, civic and cultural organizations, are aimed at enabling people in their communities to ensure sustainable development. Particularly relevant is the inclusion of prevention programmes rather than relying solely on remediation and treatment. Countries ought to develop plans for priority actions, drawing on programme areas (a) to (e) which are based on cooperative planning by the various levels of government, NGOs, and local communities. An appropriate international organization, such as the World Health Organization (WHO) should coordinate these activities. A]

PROGRAMME AREAS

3. The following programme areas are developed in this chapter of Agenda 21.

- A. Meeting basic health needs, including provision of safe food, adequate and balanced nutrition, clean drinking water and adequate sanitation, *particularly in rural areas* - ISSUE PUT INTO CENTRAL GROUP AT PRIORITY.
- B. Control of communicable diseases
- C. Protecting vulnerable groups *in rural*
- D. Meeting the urban *and rural* health challenge
- E. Reducing health risks from environmental pollution and hazards

A. MEETING BASIC HEALTH NEEDS

Basis for action

4. Health ultimately depends on the ability to successfully manage the interaction between the physical, spiritual, biological and economic/social environment. Sound development is not possible without a healthy population, yet most developmental activities affect to some degree the environment which, in turn, causes or exacerbates many health problems. Conversely, it is the very lack of development that adversely affects the health condition of many people and which can be alleviated only through development. The health sector cannot accomplish basic needs and objectives on its own; it is dependent on social, economic, and spiritual development while directly contributing to it. It is also dependent on a healthy environment, including the provision of a safe water supply and sanitation, and the promotion of a safe food supply and proper nutrition. Particular attention should be directed towards food safety with priority on the elimination of food contamination by pathogens, and post-harvest spoilage; comprehensive and sustainable water policies to ensure safe drinking water and sanitation to preclude both microbial and chemical contamination. Education and appropriate services regarding responsible planning of family size (with respect for cultural, religious, and social traditions) also contributes to these intersectoral activities. These activities presuppose the building of a health infrastructure for primary health care especially for women and