

programme, assuring that it is operating successfully, then turning its attention to new challenges.

Thus far, WHO has launched specific programmes with objectives common to all. These include: the strengthening of national health services, professional and technical education, and measures against the communicable diseases, and certain non-communicable ones; the provision of permanent world-wide advisory and technical services of general international interest; medical research, and the co-ordination of health with other economic and social activities.

The fourth general programme followed these general principles but its preparation was also guided by WHO's prospective responsibilities to an increasing number of members with various national health needs arising from the rapid growth of their populations and from their socio-economic development plans and aspirations, as well as from current and expected advances in the medical and allied fields. Particular attention has been paid under this plan to the health needs of countries that have recently acceded to independence.

In practical terms, these general programme outlines may, perhaps, be best illustrated by taking a cross-section of activities during 1966. In summary, activities during the past year disclose that WHO continued its planned programme to assist member countries in fighting communicable diseases and in improving their health services. Education and training of health personnel at all levels were maintained as a major preoccupation, and co-ordination of medical research was further developed.

The work of WHO in 1966 was financed by a regular budget of \$44,-481,800. Additional resources for international health work came from the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP)<sup>1</sup> and the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF)<sup>2</sup>.

The nineteenth World Health Assembly met in Geneva from May 3 to 20. It reviewed WHO's 1965 activities and approved the programme and budget for 1967, totalling \$51,515,000.

The Assembly examined the *Third Report on the World Health Situation* prepared by WHO. Dr. M.G. Candau, Director-General, referring to the *Report*, said that the challenge faced by WHO at its birth was still there. He emphasized that, in spite of striking advances in world health during the previous 20 years, the gap between the developed and the developing parts of the world had become even greater.

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<sup>1</sup> See Pages 26, 106

<sup>2</sup> See Page 51.