

Renewed for action

REPORT FROM THE ACTION PLAN DRAFTING COMMITTEE

In responding to deliberations of the plenary sessions and findings of the subsequent working groups of the Interlaken Consultation, the Action Plan Drafting Committee observed that whereas the Decade might not have reached its coverage targets it has made remarkable achievements. It has greatly heightened the level of priority of this sector in country and external support agencies development programs responding to the needs of low income communities. It has gained world-wide acceptance of low-cost technologies and established the importance of community involvement in project development and implementation. It has also catalyzed the establishment of substantial sector resources such as the UNDP/World Bank Program and WHO program support in line with Decade goals.

With the nearing of the end of the Decade there are growing and widespread concerns that much remains to be done; that lessons learned during the Decade must now be applied on a much wider scale; and that the scope of activities which have already been expanded to include community participation and hygiene education be further broadened to include such concerns as environmental protection.

There was broad realisation that collaboration between external support agencies involved in this sector is essential if the remaining unserved populations are to be reached and if the Health for All goals are to be achieved by the end of this century. It was concluded that a collaborative framework should be established to support expanded efforts in accelerating and widening the scope of activities through to the year 2000. This framework should have at its centre a Collaborative Council in which external support agencies (ESA's) are strongly represented. The Collaborative Council should also include other active participants in Decade activities such as the UN agencies and the NGO's; further, the existing WHO Secretariat's role with respect to the Decade's Steering Committee should be expanded and transformed to relate to the needs of the Council.

... to provide also funds for stability of the Council

The Council's program should incorporate water supply, sanitation, hygiene education and broader environmental protection concerns such as wastes and waste-water reuse, solid wastes management, drainage and hazardous wastes

Realisation

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management. The existing UNDP/World Bank program should provide a focus for the Council's activities and be joined by other collaborating agencies such as WHO, UNICEF and the PROWESS project in responding to development programming requirements of this sector. It should respond to country and ESA specific priorities and requirements. It should also work in the broader area of sector strategies and policies in support of the implementation of large scale programs. Although research and development will form part of the Council's work, emphasis will be placed on capitalizing on past experiences gained and lessons learned by incorporating them into full scale development projects.

Initially, there will be geographic foci which will be identified based on needs and potential benefit criteria. This core group of countries will be expanded as the Program progresses into the 1990's.

While concurring to the above concepts and recommendations, members of the action plan drafting committee underlined that ESA commitment to them would require further consideration and discussion. Proposals for funding for example, should be ^{not} country focussed in that ~~the vast majority~~ ^{not} of ESA support is closely linked to expressed country priorities and requirements. Thus requests for funding could not be general in nature but must be detailed in accord with well defined specific development objectives.

Immediately following the Interlaken Consultation, the UNDP/World Bank program will prepare a descriptive document based on its Strategy Paper and the Kalbermatten/McGarry ^Tpresentation outlining the Collaborative Council's objectives, work plan, organizational framework and estimated funding requirements. This will involve inputs from WHO during the month of November. This document will be informally presented to all ESA's and multi-lateral agencies active in the sector for discussion, comment and elaboration. These informal presentations will be completed by March 1, 1988 leading to the document's finalization including the preparation of a detailed work plan and funding proposals for the entire Collaborative Program. The objective will be to establish the Collaboration Council no later than year end 1988.

T Leo Interlaken

Beyond the above emphasis on regional work, to
safeguard vulnerable resources, particularly coastal areas.
Include development

