



REGIONAL OFFICE FOR

**World Health
Organization**

Africa

AFR/RC53/R6
4 September 2003

REGIONAL COMMITTEE FOR AFRICA

ORIGINAL: ENGLISH

Fifty-third session

Johannesburg, South Africa, 1–5 September 2003

RESOLUTION

SCALING UP INTERVENTIONS AGAINST HIV/AIDS, TUBERCULOSIS AND MALARIA IN THE WHO AFRICAN REGION

The Regional Committee,

Noting with concern that HIV/AIDS, tuberculosis and malaria are poverty-associated and the most important communicable diseases in the African Region and acknowledging the efforts made by the Regional Committee in adopting resolutions AFR/RC40/R7 (1990), AFR/RC46/R2 (1996), AFR/RC50/R5 and AFR/RC50/R12 (2000) and by Member States in developing and implementing plans in line with these commitments;

Concerned that implementation of existing strategies for the three diseases has not been effective; that coverage and access to interventions remain low and impact limited due to inadequate human and financial resources and infrastructure and to unaffordable drugs and commodities;

Recalling the commitments made by Heads of State, the United Nations system and international partners in the Abuja Declaration and programmes for action on malaria, HIV/AIDS, tuberculosis and other related infectious diseases and the United Nations General Assembly Special Session on HIV/AIDS (UNGASS); and encouraged by the opportunities offered through the Global Fund to Fight AIDS, TB and Malaria;

Recognizing the urgent need to scale up the available cost-effective interventions in order to reduce the associated morbidity, mortality and human suffering;

1. **URGES** Member States:

- (a) to develop appropriate policies and legislation to create a supportive environment for scaling up interventions at district and community levels and strengthen national health systems to enhance interventions against HIV/AIDS, tuberculosis and malaria in the context of health as a public good;
- (b) to allocate increased national resources for activities to fight these diseases, ensuring their adequate reflection in national development and health sector plans and budgets;
- (c) to accelerate the implementation of multi-sectoral responses, clarifying the roles and contributions of different sectors and coordination structures or mechanisms and

assuring sufficient capacity, in ministries of health, to lead the health sector activities;

- (d) to improve the quantity and quality of staff involved in management, service delivery and monitoring and evaluation of programmes, harnessing the under-utilized capacity in national academic, training and research institutions and advocating with international partners for long-term support towards human capacity development;
- (e) to promote and fund inter alia operational research and research on traditional medicines as part of district health plans, ensuring that solutions to implementation constraints and the most effective approaches to scaling up programmes are identified;
- (f) to engage new and existing partners such as private health care providers, the corporate sector, traditional health care providers, the NGOs and community-based organizations to participate in programme implementation and service delivery related to the three diseases and orientate and train health care workers in participatory approaches and facilitation skills;
- (g) to decentralize the management of programmes and interventions, enhancing capacity at district and local levels and establishing mechanisms for resource allocation and disbursement which ensure adequate financing at these levels;
- (h) to incorporate the existing cost-effective intervention packages for these diseases into the essential health packages for delivery at all levels and accelerate the coordination and integration of planning, training, service delivery, monitoring and evaluation of activities with relevant programmes and services;
- (i) to advocate with the international community for increased resources to support implementation of effective actions;
- (j) to accelerate the implementation of initiatives such as in-country pre-packaging, distribution to peripheral levels and bulk purchasing arrangements, in order to make drugs, diagnostic tools and other commodities accessible and affordable to the beneficiary groups;

2. REQUESTS international partners to intensify support to countries, particularly in strengthening health facilities as well as human and financial resources at all levels of the health system, in order to reverse the trend of the diseases;

3. REQUESTS the Regional Director:

- (a) to provide technical support to Member States in the development and implementation of strategic plans for scaling up interventions against these diseases and in enhancing the capacity of health systems;
- (b) to support operational research and documentation and disseminate information on effective approaches to scaling up interventions;

- (c) to advocate for more resources and long-term international support to be provided for strengthening human capacity and infrastructure within all levels of health systems;
- (d) to collaborate closely with the Global Fund to Fight AIDS, TB and Malaria, advocating for mechanisms which facilitate rapid disbursement of funds to countries;
- (e) to monitor the scaling up interventions and report on progress to the Regional Committee every years.