

INTRODUCTION: HEALTH FOR ALL THE ETHIOPIAN JOURNAL OF HEALTH DEVELOPMENT

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The Regional Director for Africa of the World Health Organization can hardly fail to be most gratified at finding himself among contributors to the first number of the Ethiopian Journal of Health Development.

The title chosen for this review is in itself a guarantee of the mental attitude which founders and editors of the review intend to adopt towards national health problems. For me it is also a source of personal satisfaction to be present at the foundation of a new institution for promoting attainment of the target which WHO's Member States have set themselves, namely "Health for All by the Year 2000". Our aim is, indeed, to try to achieve that objective organized and achieved in the context of a policy of social justice. While deriving from a social need, health is perceived as a fundamental right of all citizens.

Ethiopia, like many other countries in Africa and elsewhere in the world, is confronted, as this century draws to a close, by health problems linked to the present day socioeconomic situation and exacerbated by unfavourable climatic factors. Communicable, infectious and parasitic diseases, such as bacillary and amoebic dysentery, malaria, tuberculosis, schistosomiasis and onchocerciasis are the main causes of morbidity found in our Region. For some years the problems of malnutrition and undernutrition have been made worse by persistent drought, which has struck young children first. National demographic developments tend to make this aspect of health problems especially acute.

The *Ethiopian Journal of Health Development* has therefore been founded at the right time.

I am convinced that providing objective information to the public is a powerful means for educating and mobilizing communities, and that the latter ask nothing better than to understand the why and the wherefore of their condition, in order to gain control of the methods which might improve it.

The happy initiative which the arrival of this journal represents may contribute to raising the level of health of the populations of Ethiopia which has the great good fortune to have its own national spoken and written language, and which has recently made an impressive effort to raise the level of literacy. If, as I hope, the *Ethiopian Journal of Health Development* succeeds, by a judicious selection of articles, in interesting the political decision-makers, health workers and others in related sectors at all levels, as well as the general public, and thereby becomes a reference work in questions of health development, we may expect Health for All to become a reality in this country before the year 2000 of the Ethiopian calendar.

I therefore wish the *Ethiopian Journal of Health Development* every success in reaching readers both inside and outside Ethiopia. At the same time I congratulate very sincerely all who have contributed, whether directly or indirectly, to launching it.

Long live the *Ethiopian Journal of Health Development!*