



Annual Report of the WHO Collaborating Center for Education of Health Technicians

2006

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**ESCOLA POLITÉCNICA DE SAÚDE
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Introduction

The objective of this report is to give a brief overview of the technical cooperation activities developed by the Polytechnic School of Health Joaquim Venâncio (EPSJV)/Oswaldo Cruz Foundation during the period August 2005 to August 2006, as Collaborating Center of the World Health Organization (WHO) for the Education of Health Technicians.

The structure of this document allows visualizing the technical cooperation activities according to the regions, in which they were established. Thus, differently from the previous report, which was organized according to the activities towards implementation of the Work Plan of the Collaborating Center, such activities are now reported as accomplished technical cooperation actions, seen that the establishment of technical cooperation with a governmental agency or teaching institution implies in carrying out the different activities of the Work Plan agreed at the time the EPSJV was assigned as a Collaborating Center. Furthermore, this report shows the collaboration activities of this Center with regional offices of WHO.

For this reason, the report was divided according to the technical cooperation actions carried out in the African continent and the region of the Americas. The reactivation process of the International Network for Education of Health Technicians (RETS), for encompassing both regions, was included as a separate item.

1) Africa

- **Angola**

- **Technical Cooperation with the National Direction of Human Resources/
Angolan Ministry of Health**

The proposal for technical cooperation between EPSJV and the National Direction of Human Resources of the Angolan Ministry of Health (DNRH/MINSA) began to be delineated on occasion of the visit of an Angolan delegation to the School, in October of 2005. In this delegation participated the representative of the National Department of Human Resources of that Ministry and representatives of the direction of the teaching body of the Technical School in Health of Luanda, as well as from the Medium and Superior Education Institute of Benguela.

During 10 days, a work plan was elaborated and defined according to the priorities established by the involved institutions. Participants in this process were the representative of the School for Nursing, Alfredo Pinto, of the Federal University of Rio De Janeiro (UNIRIO), and of the Technical School for Nursing, Isabel dos Santos/Health Secretariat of the State of Rio De Janeiro, and representatives of EPSJV, in charge of the execution of this cooperation proposal.

As agreed at that moment, the establishment of cooperation and interchange in the fields of education and research will involve managers and teaching staff of the Technical Professional Schools in Health (ETPs) in Luanda, Benguela, Huíla, Huambo, Cabinda and Malange.

The established priorities are ranked as follows:

- 1 - Elaboration and revision of the curriculum of the courses for promotion and specialization in the areas anesthesia and reanimation; instrumentation; mental health and psychiatry; intensive care; mother-child care; neonatology; recording and information; maintenance of equipment; oral health and health management;
- 2 – Education of educators on technical specialization level (nursing technicians and nurses) in the areas described under item 1;
- 3 - Qualification of school managers;
- 4 - Elaboration and adaptation of didactic material for the areas described in item 1 and others;
- 5 - Qualification of nursing supervisors (technicians in nursing and nurses): health management (management techniques for nursing and service units);
- 6 - Specialization *lato sensu* in neonatology; intensive care and professional education in health. Residence *lato sensu* in trauma-orthopedics.

In October of the same year, a mission of EPSJV visited Angola with the objective to gather and systemize information on the work, education and health policies of that country in order to assist the ETPs in the curricular organization and planning of actions towards educating educators, pedagogical and management coordinators for these schools. Moreover, the theoretical-methodological bases that substantiate the conception of professional education and subsidize the proposal for reorganization of the Technical Schools were discussed with the body of directors of the Schools of Luanda, Benguela and Lubango, the Technical Institutes of Huambo, Bié, Malange and Cabinda and the National Direction. Concluded this stage, the the following actions were agreed to for the year 2007 (see Appendix 1): qualification in pedagogical management for the leading body of the ETPs; education of educators in the areas laboratory and nursing and revision of the curriculum of the respective courses for promotion from auxiliary to medium-technical level; and implantation of the courses for maintenance of equipment and information and recording in health.

– Technical cooperation with Health Direction of the Province of Luanda

The proposal of cooperation with the Health Direction of the Province of Luanda, was initiated on occasion of the visit to EPSJV of its director, Dr. Lubanzo Vita Vemba, in June 2005. Such visit was aimed at developing a proposal of cooperation in the fields biodiagnosis, maintenance of equipment, recording and information in health, management and human resources.

Thus, in March and April 2006 (see Appendix 2) the EPSJV organized the qualification of 29 workers from that Province Direction in the requested areas. The course had a total 240 hours, 40 hours of these destined to discussing the basic fundamentals of education in health, and the rest to the deepening of specific knowledge.

• Mozambique

— Technical Cooperation with the Ministry of Health of Mozambique in the field of biodiagnosis

Following a recommendation of Dr. Amilcar Tanuri (Federal University of Rio De Janeiro), responsible for activities of the Global Program of AIDS of the Center of Disease Control (CDC - Atlanta) in African countries of Portuguese language, the Ministry of Health of Mozambique, represented by Dr. Machone (responsible for the laboratory network), contacted EPSJV with the intent of establishing technical cooperation in the field of Biodiagnosis.

In answer to this request the EPSJV formulated proposals for technical specialization courses in the areas hematology, biochemistry, illnesses infecto-parasitic diseases and immunology.

The referred courses were offered with a load of 450 hours (3 months), with theoretical-practical lessons and a training-period aimed at specializing the medium-level professionals acting in laboratories for medical analyses in that country. The proposal was submitted to the Ministry of Health of Mozambique and at present we are waiting for reply.

— Technical Cooperation with Portuguese-speaking Countries - CPLP/ Fiocruz1

The Program for Support to the Qualification of Human Resources in Health of the Community of Portuguese-speaking Countries (CPLP) involves the Brazilian Agency of Cooperation (ABC) Fiocruz. The objective of the program is: a) the qualification of teachers in public health with emphasis to the areas management, epidemiological surveillance and hospital administration; and b) professional qualification in public health on intermediate and superior level.

As refers to the technical cooperation with Mozambique, until the present moment two missions of EPSJV visited Maputo. The purpose of these missions was:

- qualify teachers for developing the curriculum for courses directed to Public Health in a Workshop on Pedagogical Qualification;
- discuss and elaborate an action plan for establishing a support center for Professional Qualification in Public Health in Mozambique;
- adapt the curriculum of the Project for Management Development of Basic Units of the Unified Health System, part of the Cooperation between the Brazilian Ministry of Health and the Pan-American Health Organization (PAHO), to the local reality (according to the priorities established by the technicians of the Ministry of Health of Mozambique for the area of Management in Health);

In this sense, besides giving support to the strengthening of the teaching capacity, the Program financed computers, printers, date-show, etc, for implanting the referred Center in the Regional Center of Health Development - CRDS in Maputo.

Up to this moment, the following results were achieved:

- Qualification of twelve professors in different areas of qualification in health of the eleven provinces of Mozambique;
- Donation of computers and didactic-pedagogical equipment for starting the implantation of the Support Center for Professional Qualification in Public Health;
- Elaboration of a pedagogical proposal in cooperation with the local teaching body;
- Elaboration of a curriculum for the area of health management adapted to the reality of Mozambique;

The perspectives for continuing the activities of this Program in Mozambique are given by the scope of the Project itself that foresees a mission to Maputo. The main objective of this mission will be to continue the implementation of GERUS - Mozambique, with the purpose of qualifying teachers in the field of management of Health Units of the Health System of Mozambique. It also foresees the elaboration and production of printed didactic material for multiplying the Methodology of Pedagogical Qualification developed by the consultants of the Program and applied in the first mission.

- **Equatorial Guinea**

The EPSJV was consulted by the WHO representation in Africa about the possibility of organizing courses for qualifying workers in Equatorial Guinea in the areas:

- Nursing;
- Laboratory techniques;
- Obstetrics;
- Anesthesia and Reanimation;
- Statistics;
- Odontology;
- Nutrition;
- Hygiene and Sanitation.

For carrying through this cooperation in the areas in which the Brazilian legislation allows the development of graduation or specialization courses, a partnership with the Center for Graduation of Health Service Personnel Dr Manuel of the Souza Costa² was established, contemplating the areas nursing, odontology and nutrition.

The proposal has been submitted to the referred representation of WHO and we are presently waiting for reply.

- **Cape Verde**

The WHO representation in Geneva directed a proposal to the EPSJV for establishing a Polytechnic School of Health in Cape Verde, to be responsible for the education of technicians and also for promoting the education of educators and continued education of the workers in this country.

EPSJV was asked to send a mission to Cape Verde for evaluating the situation in this area in order to elaborate a proposal for the establishment of a Polytechnic School. WHO would support the project by providing scholarships for the students of Cape Verde as well as technical support for monitoring and evaluating the project.

At the moment we are trying to raise funds from different organisms for organizing this cooperation.

- **Ethiopia**

Dr Wuleta Lemma, researcher of the Tulane University and advisor of the Ethiopian Ministry of Health asked EPSJV for technical cooperation in the area of information and records in health aimed at implementation of the information system in health of that country. The proposal aims at technically graduating approx, 100 workers of the health system, besides the establishment of a technical course in this country, including the adaptation of didactic material. We are planning a mission for the first trimester of 2007 in order to elaborate of a work plan for this proposal.

2) Latin-America

- **TCC Bolivia/ Brazil and Paraguay**

The project for technical cooperation between countries (TCC) “Colaboración Interinstitucional por el Fortalecimiento of la Formación de Técnicos and Auxiliares como Actores Esenciales de la Atención de Salud” between Bolivia, Brazil and Paraguay (see Appendix 3) was approved by the regional Office of WHO in the Region of the Americas, with EPSJV as coordinator. The institutions involved in this project are: for Brazil, the EPSJV and the School for Technical Education in Health Prof Jorge Novis3 (Bahia); for Paraguay, the National Institute of Health; and for Bolivia, the Japanese-Bolivian Technical School in Health with Andean Cooperation.

The activities agreed between the institutions involve revision and adaptation of the curriculum in the areas nursing, information and records, maintenance of equipment and traditional medicine, besides discussion of the theoretical and methodological bases of technical qualification in health.

The activities carried out in Bolivia and Paraguay involved approximately 40 people of each country, including professors and managers of regional centers involved in technical qualification. In the first trimester of 2007, a meeting will be held at the EPSJV, for evaluating the activities in order to continue the cooperation and for deepening the discussions.

The expected results of this TCC are:

- Strengthening the technical capacity of the educators of the teaching staff of the Technical School of Cochabamba and the National Institute of Health in Assunción;
- Updating of the curriculum of the courses for nursing aids and health records (Technical School of Cochabamba);
- Adaptation of the curriculum of the course for technicians in recording and information, and maintenance of equipment (Technical School of Cochabamba and National Institute of Health of Assunción);

- Interchange of experiences and good practices for planning and education of technicians and auxiliary personnel with respect to aspects related to the interculturality and traditional medicine (Technical School of Cochabamba and National Institute of Health of Assunción).

- **Colombia**

The Center of Education in Administration in Health - CEADS⁴ directed a request for cooperation to the EPSJV for adaptation and updating of the curriculums of the technical courses in the areas nursing, public health, administration and pharmacy as well as qualification of teachers involved in this course. At the moment we are looking for financial resources for developing this cooperation.

- Development of the research project with the title “Professional Education in Health in Brazil and countries of the Mercosul: perspectives and limits for integral education of workers in face to the challenges posed to the health policies”.

As pointed out before, the central goal of this research is to know and analyze the quantitative and qualitative offer of professional education in health in Brazil and in the Mercosul countries (Argentina, Paraguay and Uruguay). As to the quantitative dimension, this investigation will identify the number of courses (types and modalities), professional qualifications, offering institutions, the vacancies they offer respectively, number of enrollments etc. with respect to functions on technical level. The collected information will subsidize the health management authorities of the investigated countries and international health organizations (especially WHO and PAHO) in the elaboration of policies for organizing and strengthening the health systems. The qualitative dimension, on the other hand, will try to obtain directives, references, political-pedagogical and epistemological principles and conceptions for furnishing a basis for the respective curriculums. It is intended to identify the theoretical- methodological hegemonic references in professional education in health and to come to a conclusion with regard to the limits and possibilities for the construction of projects from the perspective of integral and polytechnic education in taking into consideration the faced challenges.

This proposal will be developed within the scope of the Institutional Scholarship Program for Scientific Initiation (PIBIC) of the National Council for Scientific and Technological Development (CNPq), with the participation of one grant holder in the field of International Relations. This grant has a duration of 12 (twelve) months to count from August 2005 (with possibility of yearly renewals, according to the judgment of the supervisor). Among other products, this project should result in the production, in printed and/or electronic version, of a catalogue of technical professions in health in Brazil and the other countries of the Mercosul and in the publication of a book on the national and international state of art of professional education in health, with emphasis to the epistemological, pedagogical and methodological directives that form the bases of the political-pedagogical and curricular projects.

3 - Reactivation of the International Network for the Education of Health Technicians

The International Network for the Education of Health Technicians (RETS) is a joint initiative of institutions and organizations, directly or indirectly involved with the education and qualification of technical personnel for the health area. The main objective of the Network is strengthening the national health systems through promoting interaction between the member countries. It is based on the assumption that the qualification of workers is a basic dimension for the implementation of public policies meeting the health needs of the population. Therefore the Networks seeks collecting and systematizing knowledge able to subsidize the elaboration of international cooperation policies, to promote discussions and to share experiences and demands regarding the education of technical personnel in health.

The idea to create the Network appeared in 1996 in the City of Mexico during a meeting convoked by the Pan-American Health Organization (OPAS) with the participation of Brazil, Colombia, Costa Rica, Cuba and Mexico, its founding members. During its first five years of functioning, between 1996 and 2001, the RETS reached only countries of the Region of Americas. Reactivated in 2005 through an initiative of PAHO, the Network faced the challenge of expanding its activities to countries of all continents that identify a need of technical cooperation in the field of education of health technicians. Currently, the RETS congregates 98 institutions from 20 countries among representations of the World Health Organization (WHO), governmental agencies, technical teaching institutions and associations of technicians (see Appendix 4).

As foreseen in the 2004 report, on September 8, 2005, the Executive Secretariat of the RETS was transferred from the School of Public Health of Costa Rica to the EPSJV (see Appendix 5). At that moment the EPSJV proposed the International Forum of Education of Technicians in Health to take place during the 11^o World Congress of Public Health and 8^o Brazilian Congress of Collective Health, in August of 2006.

The first official meetings with members of the Network were held during this Forum, where the following topics were presented, discussed and agreed: its statute, its work plan and the reference document "Bases for a Plan for the Development of Health Technicians". (see Appendices 6, 7 and 8). In the mentioned work plan it was agreed that creation of a website and publication of a four-monthly journal in three languages, would be strategic for potentiating the production of information and knowledge among the members of the network, besides allowing access to the production and the work developed by the 37 Brazilian Technical Schools composing the network of technical schools of the Unified Health System (RET-SUS). Investment in the communication area is considered one of the ways for strengthening the revitalization process of the RETS, helping to share knowledge and studies in the area of education of health technicians.

The next meeting will be held during the I Congress of Technology of Health, to take place in Cuba, during the period April 23-26, 2007. This meeting will seek to deepen some of the topics defined as priorities in order to implement some of the actions foreseen in its work plan.

International Form on Education of Health Technicians

The International Forum on Education of Health Technicians was held from August 21 to 25, 2006, as part of the program of the 8th Brazilian Congress on Community Health and 11th World Congress of Public Health. Organized by the EPSJV/Fiocruz, the event was promoted by the RETS, WHO, PAHO, RET-SUS, the Secretariat of Management of Work and Health/Ministry of Health, the International Federation of Public Health Associations (WFPHA) besides counting on support from the Vice Presidency of Research and Technological Development of FIOCRUZ, the Brazilian Association of Collective Health (ABRASCO), and the Secretariat of Science and Strategic Supplies of the Ministry of the Health and UNESCO.

On the first and the last days of the Forum the RETS held a meeting. As part of the reactivation process of the RETS, the purpose of these meetings was to present, discuss and approve the statute and the work plan for next the two years. Approximately 70 persons, coming from Argentina, Chile, Colombia, Costa Rica, Cuba, Paraguay, Peru, Angola, Spain, Ethiopia and Mozambique, besides an expressive group of national representatives, were present. On August 22, 23 and 24, panels were organized approaching topics related to the education and health policy in Latin America and Portuguese-speaking African countries. These panels counted with about 300 participants per day (see Appendix 9).

As a by-product of the meeting we produced a CD ROM with the proceedings of the event containing the full program of the Forum including the videos and files of the presentations of each speaker. The CD ROM contains also the works about education of technicians presented during the Congress, the work plan of the RETS, its statute and the reference document "Bases for a Plan of Development of Technicians in Health".

4 - Cooperation Project Within the Agreement Fiocruz-Inserm "Developmente of Operational and Biosafety Procedures in Experimental Laboratory Animal Breeding Centers in Technological Platforms" Between the EPSJV and the Institut Federatif of Recherche Louis Bugnard

As pointed out in the previous report, this two-years project is aimed at elaboration of Operational Standard Procedures for biological containment in animal breeding and experimental centers involving transgenic animals and *Knock outs*, and at qualification of workers who operate experimental breeding centers in such platforms for assuring *Specific Pathogen Free* (SPF) experimental conditions.

Activities developed in 2006 were: evaluation of the course on biosafety in animal houses of the EPSJV by French researchers, besides the visit of Brazilian researchers to INSERM, and the construction of the Home Page of the project.

Appendix I

- Term of Cooperation MINSA/EPSJV-Fiocruz (October/2006).
- Informe Politécnico – Year VIII – N° 92 – October/2006.

Appendix II

- Term of International Cooperation between the Health Direction of the Province of Luanda and EPSJV-Fiocruz (Deember/2005).
- Informe Politécnico – Year VII – N° 84 – November/2005.

Appendix III

- Term of Technical Cooperation between countries (CTP) between Bolivia, Brazil and Paraguay: "Inter-Institutional Collaboration for Strengthening the Education of Technicians and Auxiliary Personnel Essential in Healthcare".
- Informe Politécnico – Year VIII – N° 94 – December/2006.

Appendix IV

- Folder of the International Network of Education of Technicians in Health (RETS) in Portuguese, Spanish and English.

Appendix V

- Term of Transfer of the Executive Secretariat of RETS to EPSJV/Fiocruz.
- Informe Politécnico – Year VII – N° 82 – September/2005.

Appendix VI

- Work plan of the RETS 2006/2008.

Appendix VII

- Statute of the International Network of Education of Technicians in Health.

Appendix VIII

- Reference document “Bases for a Plan for the Development of Technicians in Health”.

Appendix IX

- Program of the International Forum of Education of Technicians in Health
- Informe Politécnico – Year VII – N° 85 - December/2005.
- Informe Politécnico – Year VIII – N° 90 – October/2006.
- Informe Politécnico – Year VIII – N° 91 – October/2006.