FIELD OFFICE: UNITED STATES/MEXICO BORDER

National Priorities in Health

Serve as a conduct for information dissemination for the U.S. / Mexico Border on health (including health core data, environmental health, health profiles), networks and activities.

Promote international and interinstitutional alliances for border health including coordination, joint planning, and implementation of program/projects in that context.

Provide the Secretariat function for the U.S./Mexico Border Health Association (USMBHA) and its subcomponents. This would include strengthening the efforts of the USMBHA’s Binational Health Councils.

Facilitate ongoing invitations for development of priorities for border health including sustainability of policies on health and environment.

Projects

1. Information and Communicating for Health

Expected Results
- By late 2003, the information needed to follow up on border health and environment situations requiring binational intervention in the localities and border states will be available for the United States, Mexico, and especially the 10 border states and sister communities;
- The epidemiological report on health and environmental health and on the institutional resources of the Mexico-United States border region will have been managed on a timely basis;
- A documentation center will be operational, providing technical documents, historical and institutional reviews of the Office, and a module for the sale of PAHO/WHO publications;
- Systematic models for mass communication will have been generated for the distribution of scientific and epidemiological information to the population in general;
- Initiatives for the epidemiological surveillance of infectious and noninfectious diseases will have been supported.

2. Health Alliances for the Sister Cities

Purpose
For the biennium 2002-2003, political participation will increase and local institutional technical capabilities will be strengthened in terms of the detection and management of health problems and hazards along the border, as a function of geographical areas and specific issues.
**Expected Results**
- A healthy sister city network will have been implemented, and will be running specific projects on health protection and the environment;
- Proposals will have been developed for the improvement of deficiencies, and for strengthening the environmental and public health capacities of the border communities.

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### 3. Purpose of Executive Secretariat of USMBHA

**Purpose**
Autonomy and strengthening of the U.S.-Mexican Border Health Association (USMBHA) will have been achieved.

**Expected Results**
- USMBHA will have alternatives in order to achieve institutional autonomy;
- The administrative and technical integrity of USMBHA will remain, until it is in a position to assume [autonomy].

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### 4. Political Sustainability for the Border Health Initiative

**Purpose**
Binational coordination/cooperation in border health will remain coordinated and functioning, with defined priorities, to include the harmonization and coherence of laws and regulations on aspects concerning health and the environment in the Mexico-United States Border Region.

**Expected Results**
- A binational political forum will have been supported, and will have defined cross-border cooperation priorities in health and allocated resources for addressing issues that require a binational approach;
- Local levels will have been incorporated in the implementation and adoption of binational agreements to move bilateral projects into the operational phase.

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**PROPOSED BUDGET ALLOCATION**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Appropriation Level</th>
<th>Regular Budget</th>
<th>Other Sources</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Health in Human Development</td>
<td>134.8</td>
<td>121.3</td>
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<tr>
<td>Health Promotion and Protection</td>
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<td>-</td>
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<tr>
<td>Environmental Protection and Development</td>
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<td>-</td>
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<tr>
<td>Disease Prevention and Control</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
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<tr>
<td>Governing Bodies and Coordination</td>
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<td>1,360.9</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td><strong>1,219.4</strong></td>
<td><strong>1,482.2</strong></td>
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