

CFTC ACTIVITIES IN THE HEALTH FIELD, 1977-80

Paper prepared by the Commonwealth Secretariat

The Commonwealth Fund for Technical Cooperation (CFTC) has continued to contribute to development in the health sector and in particular to the education and training of the middle-level and high-level personnel required. The Fund has made assistance available through the following programmes:

- (a) the General Technical Assistance Programme, which provides advisory and operational experts for short-term or long-term assignments at the request of Commonwealth developing countries;
- (b) the Education and Training Programme, which provides awards, at the request of governments, to enable people from Commonwealth developing countries to undertake study or training programmes in other Commonwealth developing countries, and supports training activities arranged by a variety of Commonwealth and other organisations;
- (c) the Academic Exchanges Programme, which provides awards for short-term visits between staff of universities in the developing countries of the Commonwealth;
- (d) projects of the Secretariat's Medical Division.

General Technical Assistance Programme

2. More than 300 experts were fielded by the CFTC during 1979 in response to requests received from Commonwealth governments, and a significant number of these were in the health field. Over the period 1977-80 the experts provided have included chief medical officers; senior medical officers; professors of medicine and surgery; specialists in gynaecology, dermatology and pathology; clinical tutors in a variety of medical disciplines; advisers on health manpower; and public health engineers.

Education and Training Programme

3. Some 50 countries, including associated states and dependencies, have made use of the awards provided by the Education and Training Programme, which enable about 2,000 students to undertake courses, training attachments or study visits each year.

4. These awards fall into three categories. The first comprises awards tenable at professional, technical or vocational institutions, such as the Dental Auxiliary School in Jamaica, the Evelyn Hone College in Zambia (which trains health inspectors), the Barbados Community College and the Fiji School of Nursing. The second category consists of awards tenable at universities or similar institutions (e.g. the Fiji School of Medicine). These are mostly confined to first degree

or diploma studies with a clearly identifiable professional or vocational bias, such as pharmacology and radiography, and short courses designed to meet specific training needs, such as courses in advanced nursing. The third category consists of awards for training attachments and study visits.

5. The Education and Training Programme also provides support for training seminars, workshops and courses arranged by regional health agencies, such as the West African Health Community; the Regional Health Secretariat for East, Central and Southern Africa; and the Health Section of the Caribbean Community Secretariat. Examples include the regional courses in health management held at the Ghana Institute of Management and Public Administration and at the East and Southern Africa Management Institute in Arusha, the regional course for medical technicians at the Swaziland College of Technology, and the regional seminar on community health nursing held in Barbados in 1979.

6. Directories prepared and published with CFTC funding include Health training, a directory of Commonwealth resources, Commonwealth Secretariat, 1979.

Academic Exchanges Programme

7. Under the Academic Exchanges Programme, which is funded by CFTC and jointly administered by the Commonwealth Secretariat and the Association of Commonwealth Universities, awards for periods not exceeding three months are made to university staff of Commonwealth developing countries for:

- (a) attachments to universities in other Commonwealth developing countries to obtain greater experience and training;
- (b) study visits to universities in other Commonwealth developing countries to enhance their ability to contribute to national development;
- (c) university exchange between Commonwealth developing countries, with a specific developmental objective in view;
- (d) participation in university-sponsored seminars and conferences in Commonwealth developing countries, which are developmentally orientated.

Projects of the Secretariat's Medical Division

8. In addition, the CFTC finances seminars and workshops organised by the Secretariat's Medical Division (and other functional divisions). Examples are the medical-legal workshops held in 1979 and the meeting on the special health problems of island developing and other specially disadvantaged countries, held in January 1980.

Programmes for Southern Africa

9. The CFTC was responsible for coordinating the Special Commonwealth Programme for Zimbabweans, established in 1966, which enabled more than 4,500 Zimbabweans to find study places, scholarships and employment opportunities as a result of offers made by 30 Commonwealth governments. This programme, which included the health field, made an important contribution to the creation of Zimbabwe's stock of high-level

and middle-level manpower. Data on trained Zimbabweans living in other countries were supplied to the Zimbabwe Government to help the new administration to fill key posts.

10. As part of the Special Programme, the CFTC has administered the Commonwealth Zimbabwe Scholarship Fund (CZSF) which has provided scholarships in Commonwealth developing countries for Zimbabweans who had left Rhodesia either for political reasons or in order to obtain opportunities for education and training that were not available to them in their own country. A number of CZSF awards were made for training in the medical field. Following the Lancaster House Agreement no new awards have been made and the CZSF is being gradually wound down; the last students will complete their studies in 1983-84.

11. Under the Commonwealth Programme for Namibia, Commonwealth governments provide assistance to Namibian refugee students both bilaterally and multilaterally through contributions to programmes administered by the CFTC, the United Nations and other agencies, in order to prepare Namibians for the post-independence development of their country.

12. The CFTC does not provide awards to refugee students from the Republic of South Africa. Instead, it refers applicants to UN and other scholarship-awarding bodies. The Secretariat is able to screen applications and to nominate suitably-qualified candidates for education and training awards offered by individual Commonwealth governments.

CFTC resources

13. The support that the CFTC is able to provide for development in the field of health, as in other fields, is dependent on the resources that are contributed to the Fund by member governments. Starting from a low base in 1971-72, the Fund grew rapidly as the following expenditure figures indicate:

	£ million	Percentage increase over previous years
1971-72	0.22	-
1972-73	0.62	180
1973-74	1.36	120
1974-75	2.89	110
1975-76	5.00	70
1976-77	7.68	54
1977-78	9.74	27
1978-79	11.34	16
1979-80	9.35	-17

14. At their meeting in Lusaka in August 1979, Commonwealth Heads of Government "recorded their appreciation of the work of the Commonwealth Fund for Technical Cooperation, and in particular the expeditious and flexible way in which the Fund responded to a wide variety of requests. They agreed that, while maintaining its reputation for informality and cost-effectiveness, the Fund expressed in a practical way the ideals of mutual assistance and functional cooperation and thus strengthened multilateral links amongst Commonwealth countries and peoples. Recognising the need for the Fund to grow in order to maintain its ability

to meet the expanding requirements of Commonwealth governments, and to be innovative in response to new needs, including housing, urbanisation and protection of the environment, Heads of Government called for a positive approach by all members to the provision of additional real resources, and they welcomed the intention expressed at the Meeting by a number of developed and developing countries to make significant increases in their contributions". (Paragraph 56 of the Lusaka communiqué.)

15. Unfortunately, although several Governments have substantially increased their contributions to the Fund, the CFTC's overall resources have not come up to the expectations of Heads of Government. Although a plan of expenditure of £13.5 million for 1979-80 was approved by the Fund's Board of Representatives, contributions actually received fell so far short of this figure that expenditure had to be pegged to £9.5 million. Inevitably, this meant that drastic cuts had to be made in the number of projects that could be financed, leading to a reduction in the number of experts that could be employed, in the number of scholarships that could be awarded, and in the support that could be provided for activities arranged by the Secretariat's functional divisions.

16. The Board of Representatives approved a plan of expenditure of £11.8 million for 1980-81, subject to the availability of resources. Even if the flow of contributions makes it possible for this target to be met, the scale of the Fund's activities in 1980-81 will not equal that of 1977-78, because of the effect of increased costs and inflation.

17. Until there is a substantial increase, in real terms, in the size of the Fund, the contribution that the CFTC can make in the health field, as in other sectors of social and economic development, will become smaller rather than larger. It is realised that Health Ministers are not normally responsible for determining the size of their governments' contributions to the CFTC, but the Fund's financial position has been set out in order that Ministers will be aware of the difficulties and will understand why the CFTC's ability to respond positively to their requests for assistance is, for the time being, severely limited.

Projects in the health field, 1977-80

18. The attached schedules provide details of the new projects and project extensions in the health field that were finalised by the CFTC in the period July 1977 to June 1980. The projects include experts and advisers provided under the Technical Assistance Programme and awards made under the Education and Training Programme.

Description of Project	Commencement Date and Duration	Nationality of Expert/Consultancy Firm or Location of Training Institution	Estimated Total Cost (£)
ANTIGUA			
Certificate course in advanced nursing education	Oct 1978 - 1 year	University of the West Indies, Jamaica	1,200
THE BAHAMAS			
Chief medical officer EXT (24) (OP cont Bah \$21,000)	Oct 1977 - 1 year	Britain	18,600
Statistical officer (medical) EXT (24) (OP cont Bah \$12,800)	April 1978 - 1 year	Sri Lanka	17,000
Chief medical officer (OP cont Bah \$14,000)	Aug 1978	Barbados	21,000
Engineer, Water and Sewerage Corporation EXT (24) (OP cont Bah \$12,400)	Sept 1978 - 1 year	Sri Lanka	19,500
Course in dental nursing	Sept 1978 - 2 years	Dental Auxiliary School, Jamaica	2,300
Diploma course in advanced nursing administration	Oct 1979 - 1 year	University of the West Indies, Jamaica	1,100
Diploma course in advanced nursing education	Oct 1979 - 1 year	University of the West Indies, Jamaica	1,400
BARBADOS			
Expert in public health engineering (OP cont Bds \$19,212)	April 1978 - 2 years	Uganda	33,000
Diploma course in radiography	Oct 1978 - 2 years	University Hospital West Indies, Jamaica	2,400
Diploma course in community health	Jan 1979 - 1 year	University of the West Indies, Jamaica	1,300
BELIZE			
Certificate course in advanced nursing education	Oct 1977 - 1 year	University of the West Indies, Jamaica	1,100

Description of Project	Commencement Date and Duration	Nationality of Expert/Consultancy Firm or Location of Training Institution	Estimated Total Cost (£)
BELIZE (Contd)			
Diploma course in community health	Oct 1979 - 1 year	University of the West Indies, Jamaica	1,100
BRITISH VIRGIN ISLANDS			
Diploma course in pharmacy	Sept 1977 - 3 years	College of Arts, Science and Technology, Jamaica	4,000
Course in operating theatre techniques	July 1978 - 1 year	University Hospital of the West Indies, Jamaica	1,100
CAYMAN ISLANDS			
Course for public health officers	Jan 1980 - 2 years	Barbados Community College	2,000
CYPRUS			
Adviser on sanitary engineering	July 1977 - 6 months	Britain	7,400
Consultant on treatment and disposal of sewage	Nov 1978 - 8 weeks	Britain	5,000
Adviser on treatment and disposal of pig wastes	May 1980 - 6 weeks	Britain	3,000
Course for senior hospital and health service administrators	July 1979 - 10 weeks	International Hospital Federation, London, UK	1,900
DOMINICA			
Course in operating theatre techniques	July 1977 - 1 year	University Hospital of the West Indies, Jamaica	1,200
Course in the care of the critically ill	Jan 1978 - 1 year	University Hospital of the West Indies Jamaica	900
Chief medical officer (OP cont EC \$16,200)	Aug 1978 - 9 months	Britain	11,500
Course in operating theatre techniques	July 1979 - 1 year	University Hospital of the West Indies, Jamaica	1,800

Description of Project	Commencement Date and Duration	Nationality of Expert/Consultancy Firm or Location of Training Institution	Estimated Total Cost (£)
FIJI			
Pharmacist EXT (24) (OP cont F \$5,700)	Jan 1978 - 1 year	New Zealand	10,600
Member, Medical Services Enquiry Commission	Sept 1978 - 3 months	Singapore	4,800
THE GAMBIA			
Medical student elective training	Nov 1977 - 2 months	Kenyatta National Hospital, Nairobi Kenya	1,300
GHANA			
Consultant in hospital administration	May 1979 - 6 months	Tanzania	6,300
GRENADA			
Post-basic training course in histopathology	Sept 1979 - 15 months	Queen Elizabeth Hospital, Barbados	2,700
GUYANA			
Course in dental nursing (2)	Sept 1977 - 1 year	Dental Auxiliary School, Jamaica	2,800
Course in dental nursing (2)	Sept 1977 - 2 years	Dental Auxiliary School, Jamaica	5,900
Diploma course in community health	Jan 1978 - 18 months	University of the West Indies, Jamaica	1,800
Diploma course in community health	Jan 1979 - 12-18 months	University of the West Indies, Jamaica	1,800
Intensive care course	Sept 1979 - 1 year	University Hospital of the West Indies, Jamaica	1,400
HONG KONG			
Adviser in speech therapy	June 1978 - 3 months	Britain	13,700
Clinical tutor in physical facilitation training	Nov 1978 - 4 months	Britain	9,200

Description of Project	Commencement Date and Duration	Nationality of Expert/Consultancy Firm or Location of Training Institution	Estimated Total Cost (£)
INDIA			
Lake pollution study	Aug 1977 - 6 months	New Zealand (CF)	22,600
LESOTHO			
Diploma course for health inspectors	Sept 1978 - 3 years	Evelyn Hone College Lusaka, Zambia	6,300
Gynaecologist, Queen Elizabeth II Hospital	July 1979 - 1 year	India	9,500
MALAWI			
Bachelor's degree course in pharmacy	Sept 1977 - 4 years	University of Science and Technology, Kumasi, Ghana	10,500
Advanced diploma course in nursing education (2)	Sept 1977 - 2 years	University of Nairobi Kenya	12,500
MALAYSIA			
Professor of medicine, National University (OP cont M \$54,780)	Jan 1978 - 2 years	Britain	44,000
Visiting professor of surgery, National University (OP cont M \$18,260)	Feb 1978 - 6 months	Britain	13,700
Professor of paediatrics, National University (OP cont M \$54,780)	Feb 1978 - 2 years	Britain	36,600
Training attachment in narcotics control	May 1978 - 4 weeks	Hong Kong	1,200
Professor of surgery, National University (OP cont £12,889)	Oct 1978 - 2 years	Guyana	53,200
Professor of medicine, National University (OP cont £14,250)	July 1979	Trinidad and Tobago	45,000
Adviser on health manpower and health management training	Nov 1979 - 2 months	Britain	6,000

Description of Project	Commencement Date and Duration	Nationality of Expert/Consultancy Firm or Location of Training Institution	Estimated Total Cost (£)
MALTA			
Speech therapist EXT (24) (OP cont M £1,250)	April 1979	Britain	11,500
NAMIBIA			
Nursing and paramedical courses (7)	July 1979 - 2 years	Barbados Community College, Bridgetown	10,000
PAPUA NEW GUINEA			
Postgraduate training in psychiatry	Nov 1978 - 4 months	Lagos University Teaching Hospital Nigeria	1,700
ST. LUCIA			
Certificate course in advanced nursing education	Oct 1978 - 1 year	University of the West Indies, Jamaica	1,300
Course for dental auxiliaries (2)	Sept 1979 - 2 years	Dental Nurses Training School, Trinidad	8,600
Diploma course in community health	Jan 1979 - 1 year	University of the West Indies, Jamaica	1,500
ST. VINCENT			
Senior medical officer (OP cont EC \$13,200)	June 1978 - 2 years	Uganda	35,200
Course in dietetic technology	Sept 1979 - 2 years	Barbados Community College, Bridgetown	4,800
SEYCHELLES			
Course in food and meat inspection	Aug 1977 - 4 months	Medical Training Centre, Nairobi, Kenya	1,400
Training attachment in filaria and malaria control	June 1978 - 3 months	Sri Lanka	1,300
Dermatologist	July 1978 - 2 weeks	India	1,700
Nursing consultant	July 1979 - 3 months	Britain	5,500

Description of Project	Commencement Date and Duration	Nationality of Expert/Consultancy Firm or Location of Training Institution	Estimated Total Cost (£)
SOLOMON ISLANDS			
Course in public health nursing	Jan 1978 - 3 months	Fiji School of Nursing, Suva	1,200
Course in paediatric nursing	Oct 1978 - 1 year	Papua New Guinea	1,100
SRI LANKA			
International conference on water pollution control in developing countries	Feb 1978 - 1 week	Bangkok, Thailand	500
Study visit to housing programmes (2)	April 1979 - 5 weeks	Bangkok and Singapore	1,600
Course for senior hospital and health service administrators	July 1979 - 10 weeks	International Hospital Federation, London, UK	2,200
SWAZILAND			
Public health inspectors diploma course	July 1977 - 2 years	Medical Training Centre, Nairobi, Kenya	3,800
Bachelor's degree course in medicine	Sept 1977 - 3 years	University of Nairobi Kenya	5,800
Bachelor's degree course in pharmacy	Oct 1977 - 4 years	University of Science and Technology, Kumasi, Ghana	7,800
Pathologist EXT (24)	July 1978 - 1 year	India	15,000
Diploma course in physiotherapy	July 1978 - 2 years	Medical Training Centre, Nairobi, Kenya	4,100
Course in laboratory technology	July 1978 - 2 years	Maluma Hospital Malawi	4,100
Pathologist EXT (36) (OP cont E4,800)	July 1979 - 1 year	India	15,000
Bachelor's degree course in pharmacy	Oct 1978 - 2 years	University of Ife, Nigeria	4,500

Description of Project	Commencement Date and Duration	Nationality of Expert/Consultancy Firm or Location of Training Institution	Estimated Total Cost (£)
TANZANIA.			
Chemical analyst, East African Pesticides Control Organisation	Oct 1978 - 2 years	Ghana	23,000
Training attachment at faculty of medicine	May 1979 - 2 months	University of Zambia, Lusaka	800
TONGA			
Course in dentistry	Feb 1978 - 1 year	Fiji School of Medicine, Suva	1,500
Diploma course in medicine and surgery (2)	Feb 1978 - 5 years	Fiji School of Medicine, Suva	18,800
Diploma course in dentistry	Jan 1980 - 3 years	Fiji School of Medicine, Suva	5,000
Diploma course in medicine	Jan 1980 - 5 years	Fiji School of Medicine, Suva	8,500
Course in dentistry	Feb 1980 - 4 years	Fiji School of Medicine, Suva	6,800
ZAMBIA			
Degree course in dentistry	Sept 1978 - 3 years	University of Nairobi, Kenya	8,400
AFRICA REGION			
Study on bulk purchase of drugs in East, Central and Southern Africa	June 1978 - 4 months	Britain	17,100
Training awards in health and medicine administered by the West African Health Secretariat	July 1977 - June 1978 - various	West Africa	88,000
Training activities in health and medicine arranged by the Regional Health Secretariat	July 1977 - June 1978 - various	East, Central and Southern Africa	20,300
M.Sc degree in applied parasitology and medical entomology	Oct 1978 - 11 months	Liverpool School of Tropical Medicine, UK	4,300

Description of Project	Commencement Date and Duration	Nationality of Expert/Consultancy Firm or Location of Training Institution	Estimated Total Cost (£)
AFRICA REGION (Contd)			
Administrative Secretary	Jan 1979 - 6 months	Kenya	8,400
Training activities in health and medicine arranged by the Regional Health Secretariat	July 1978 - June 1979 - various	East, Central and Southern Africa	50,000
Training awards in health and medicine administered by the West African Health Secretariat	July 1978 - June 1979 - various	West Africa	100,000
Training activities in health and medicine arranged by the Regional Health Secretariat	July 1979 - various	East, Central and Southern Africa	45,000
Training awards in health and medicine administered by the West African Health Community Secretariat	July 1979 - various	West Africa	60,000
Regional Secretary EXT (34)	July 1979 - 1 year	Tanzania	14,300
Administrative Secretary EXT (6)	July 1979 - 1 year	Kenya	11,400
ASIA AND SOUTH PACIFIC REGION			
Training projects arranged by the South Pacific Commission	July 1977 - 1 year	South Pacific	28,000
South Asia seminar on nursing education	June 1978 - 1 year	Dacca, Bangladesh	1,700
Training activities arranged by the South Pacific Commission	July 1978 - June 1979 - various	South Pacific	15,000
Consultant in venereal diseases	Feb 1979 - 1 month	Australia	1,600

Description of Project	Commencement Date and Duration	Nationality of Expert/Consultancy Firm or Location of Training Institution	Estimated Total Cost (£)
CARIBBEAN REGION			
Regional meeting of public health inspector educators	Oct 1977 - 4 days	Barbados	2,800
Hearing aid technician	Feb 1979	Britain	8,300
Regional seminar on community health nursing	March 1979 - 4 days	British Virgin Islands	4,700
Medical-legal workshop on health legislation and practice	June 1979 - 1 week	Barbados	15,800
Project manager, environmental health project EXT (16)	July 1978 - 18 months	Grenada	20,000
Chief of health section EXT (30)	July 1979 - 6 months	Dominica	4,500
Project manager, environmental health project EXT (34)	Jan 1980 - 1 year	Grenada	21,300
Attendance at primary health care seminar and related pre-seminar programme	Sept 1979 - 2 weeks	Liverpool School Tropical Medicine and Middlesex Hospital, UK	800
COMMONWEALTH GENERAL			
Consultant in health manpower and health management training	Feb 1978 - 8 months	Britain (CF)	16,000
Attendance by Regional Secretaries at Commonwealth Medical Conference (3)	Nov 1977 - 2 weeks	Wellington, New Zealand	5,300
Preparation of a directory of training facilities in health in the developing countries of the Commonwealth	Feb 1978 - 10 months	Britain	8,000
Second medical-legal workshop	Oct 1979 - 5 days	Malawi	14,300

Description of Project	Commencement Date and Duration	Nationality of Expert/Consultancy Firm or Location of Training Institutions	Estimated Total Cost (£)
COMMONWEALTH GENERAL (Contd)			
Meeting of experts on special health problems of small states	Jan 1980 - 5 days	London, UK	10,000