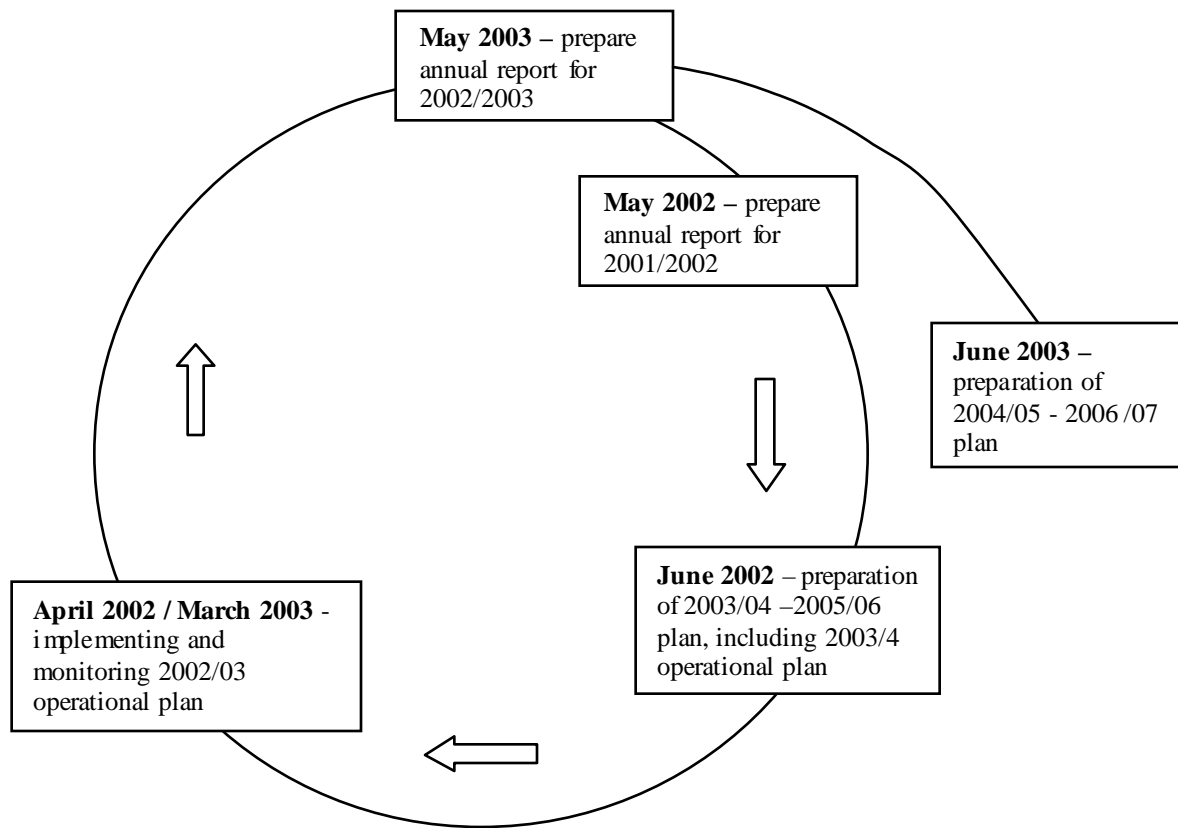


Planning Spiral

Planning, implementation and reporting form a spiral process (similar to that described by Green, 1999). A three-year plan is developed and the first year becomes the operational plan. That operational plan is implemented and monitored during the year. An annual report is prepared of the health situation and performance for the year and this is used as a basis for the next three-year plan.

The planning spiral can be illustrated with the following example: (*See Figure 4.*)

- In May 2002, the annual report for 2001/02 is prepared.
- In June 2002, the district health medium-term plan for 2003/04 to 2005/06 is prepared, including the 2003/04 operational plan. This is based on the 2001/02 annual report.
- From April 2002 to March 2003, the operational plan for 2002/03 is implemented and monitored.
- In May 2003, the annual report for 2002/03 is prepared.
- In June 2003, the district health plan for 2004/05 to 2006/07 is prepared (based on the 2002/03 annual report).



(Adapted from Green, 1999)

Figure 4. An example of the planning spiral