

THE SAHEL
EPIDEMIOLOGICAL AND ENVIRONMENTAL
ASSESSMENTS PROJECT
(SEEA)
SECOND QUARTERLY REPORT
March 15, 1977

AMERICAN PUBLIC HEALTH ASSOCIATION

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I. Project Description:

Under Contract AID/afr-c-1253, APHA is providing technical services to AID for conducting health assessments in support of its assistance to the governments of Liberia, Swaziland, and to countries in the Lake Chad and Niger River Basins.

The Assessment Project is a supportive activity. APHA, in agreement with AID and the host countries, is undertaking studies in environmental health and health sector in order to determine current needs for future operational projects addressed to epidemiological and environmental problems. The purpose of the assessments is to support AID plans, which are being developed for FY-78 applied research projects designed to determine the methodology for alleviating the major endemic diseases in the Sahel areas and other African countries. The assessments are in-depth reviews and analysis of the problems, needs, resources and options available in health.

II. General Discussion:

This report covers the period from November 15, 1976 through February 15, 1977. It constitutes the second project report prepared under the contract.

Although there was a short delay in implementation of assessment activities, considerable progress has been made and efforts to achieve project objectives are encouraging.

Utilizing its Consultant Registry and professional contacts, APHA assembled teams consisting of APHA staff and selected consultants to participate in environmental and health sector assessments. To date the consultant teams have consisted of health professional categories such as, epidemiologist, malacologist, environmental health specialist, sanitary engineer, health services management specialist, health administrator/planner, rural health delivery specialist, health manpower specialist, schistosomiasis expert and malariologist.

During this reporting period, four assessment assignments were received from the Africa Bureau, AID and four were scheduled under the project plan. Four of the assessments have been completed, three are on-going and one cancelled.

The assigned tasks in the field involved the utilization of twenty one short-term consultants and two APHA staff.

The field activities undertaken during this reporting period have included assessments in Senegal, Niger, Upper Volta, Liberia and Zaire. Also the formation of a team to conduct assessments in the Northern Zone of the Lake Chad Basin. Assessments planned for Swaziland were cancelled. Reorganization of plans for the assessments to be carried out in Swaziland are underway.

The accompanying Chart #1 is a record of each work assignment issued to APHA or conducted in accordance to the plan under this contract. It provides data showing the date of request, the dates that the work was initiated and anticipated to start in the field and the dates on which the consultation findings became available to USAID Mission and the Africa Bureau, AID. Also identified are the consultants, and/or APHA staff involved and the foreign country involved.

Field Assignment Record
(Day-Month-Year)

Type of Assignment

M/M

Consultant(s)

Foreign
Country
Involved

	Requested by AID or Initialed Per Plan	Field Work Initiated or Scheduled	Field Work Completed	Reports Submitted		Environ- mental Assessment	Health Sector Assessment			
				USAID Mission Draft	APHA Draft					
1)	9/8/76	10/6/76	11/21/76	11/27/76	3/17/77		X	3½	Fairweather Boostrom Neal	Niger
2)	10/10/76	10/21/76	11/4/76	11/4/76	11/10/76	X		½	Nebiker	Senegal
3)	1/4/77	2/9/77	in field				X	6½	Juni Bailey Blumhagen Camacho Dupuis	Upper Volta
4)	1/10/77	2/10/77	in field	3/1/77		X		5	Gibson Van der Schalie Ruiz-Tiben Grigsby	Liberia
5)	1/20/77	scheduled 3/5/77	cancelled 2/25/77	--		X		--	Lennox Poindexter Grigsby Malek Henderson	Swaziland
6)	1/25/77	1/31/77	2/17/77	3/1/77		X		½	Johnson	Senegal
7)	2/7/77	3/19/77	in field			X		5	Malan Spielman Haritani Schneider	Northern Zone, Lake Chad
8)	2/15/77	2/25/77	in field			X		*	Connor Duncan Meyers Neafie	Zaire

*Detailed

III. Procurement of Equipment and Supplies:

During this reporting period, a total sum of four thousand and six hundred dollars, (\$4,600.) was spent for the purchase of scientific equipment and supplies for field studies. Equipment items purchased will have repeated usage by the various assessment teams. An itemization of purchases will be submitted in the final report.

IV. Administration:

During this reporting period, APHA staff time has been divided almost equally between administrative and programmatic matters, such as the preparation of documents, development of scopes of work, securing adequately qualified consultants and the accumulation of equipment and supplies to meet activity requirements. A great amount of time was spent in recruiting consultant replacements for those who withdrew from nomination lists because APHA could not promptly assure them of an assignment within the period of time necessitated by their own commitments. Also considerable time went into cancellations and rearranging travel plans.

The third full-time APHA staff, project epidemiologist, was employed on December 3, 1976. The division of project time given by APHA staff during this reporting quarter is shown on the following Chart #II.

Chart II

<u>Activity</u>	<u>Staff</u>	<u>Man Months for Quarter</u>
Liaison matters, Preparation of Documents and Preparation of Staff for Field Assignments	Project Director	3/8 m/m
	Co-Project Director	3/5 m/m
	P.H. Administrator	3/4 m/m
	Secretaries	6 m/m
	Messenger Clerk	1 m/m
Development of Scopes of Work	Epidemiologist	3/4 m/m
	Environmental Specialist	3/4 m/m
Consulting and Recruiting Consultants	P.H. Administrator	1 1/2 m/m
	Co-Project Director	3/5 m/m
	Epidemiologist	3/4 m/m
Selection and Procurement of Equipment and Supplies	Epidemiologist	3/4 m/m
Reviewing Literature	P.H. Administrator	3/5 m/m
	Epidemiologist	3/4 m/m
	Environmental Specialist	3/5 m/m
Briefings and Debriefings	Project Director	3/8 m/m
	Co-Project Director	3/5 m/m
	P.H. Administrator	3/4 m/m
	Environmental Specialist	3/4 m/m
Field Work Activities	Environmental Specialist	1/2 m/m

V. Teams Scheduled During the Next Reporting Period:

1. Southern Zone, Lake Chad Basin Environmental Assessment Team, which will conduct assessments in the Bongor-Moundou-Lagone Valley areas of Chad and the Marova in Lagone-Chari department areas of Cameroon.
2. The Middle Zone, Niger River Basin Environmental Assessment Team, which will carry out assessments in the Niamey-Gaga areas of Niger.
3. The Upper Zone, Niger River Basin Environmental Assessment Team, which will carry out assessments in the Bamako-Segou and Mopti and Gao areas of Mali.
4. The Upper Volta Environmental Assessment Team, which will carry out assessments in Bagande-Kantchari-Diapaga of Eastern Ord in Upper Volta, and Malanville (Borgou Department) in Benin.

VI. Project Constraints:

1. The major problems seem to stem from delays in communications which affect operations in AID/W, APHA, USAID Missions and in the host countries, and as a result;
 - a. Host countries and USAID Missions do not always fully understand and appreciate the purpose nor value of the SIFA Project activities.
 - b. AID Mission personnel, therefore, give inappropriate priority to the project activities.
 - c. Certain requirements of the project, the time and manner in which some activities are to be conducted to fulfill conditions called for under the contract are delayed.

Example: - A Literature Review, documented by references, on the magnitude of the endemic parasitic diseases, country by country, could have been prepared by APHA prior to or scheduled with the development of the SIFA Project Plan. However, APHA staff understood that such documentation was to be presented along with the final

project report. The understanding for the need for such material has been cleared and APHA is reorganizing the information accumulated at the time of the planning in order to meet this requirement. The material will be presented in a modular format.

2. Due to the delay in getting concurrence on consultants, the time frame for host country visits and specific scopes of work, recruiting consultants has been a major problem.
3. Locating consultants with the combined prerequisites, Africa work experience, the desired expertise and French Language fluency, further intensifies the problem of recruiting.

VII. Recommendations:

1. That improvements in communications and coordination between APHA, AID/W, USAID Missions and host countries be facilitated by establishing regular meetings between APHA and AID staffs.
2. Information relevant to the project transmitted to the host countries be supplemented by preparatory visits to AID Missions by APHA and AID/W personnel in order that host countries and AID Missions may be better prepared for the planned assessments.
3. Adequate time be given to formulate the teams after there is concurrence from all necessary sources as to team composition, scope of work and host country visit time frame.

Appendix ASummary of Technical Assistance Services under the SEEA Project, AID/Afr-C-1253
(November 15, 1976 - February 15, 1977)

<u>Purpose of Assignment</u>	<u>Country</u>	<u>Period of Assignment</u>	<u>Consultants Involved</u>
Environmental Assessment for Bakel Crop production project to assist in determining impact of project on health of population.	Senegal	10/21/76 - 11/5/76	John H. Nebiker, P.E., Sc.D.
Health Sector Assessment for preparation of PRP on plan for delivery of Health Services.	Niger	10/10/76 - 11/20/76	Eugene R. Boostrom, M.D. Gladstone Fairweather, M.S. James Neal, M.S.
Environmental Assessments relevant to projects in Lofa and Bong counties.	Liberia	2/10/77 - 3/3/77	Ulric P. Gibson, Ph.D. Ernesto Ruiz-Tiben, M.S. Margaret E. Grigsby, M.D. Henry Van der Schalie, Ph.D.
Health Sector Assessment	Upper Volta	2/9/77 - ongoing	Robert P. Juni, D.V.M. Jeanne B. Blumhagen, M.D. Ruth W. Camacho, M.D. Vernon Bailey, M.P.H. Theresa A. Dupuis, M.P.H.
Environmental Assessment in the Lampsar-Diaganbal Irrigated Perimeters of the Delta areas of Senegal in support of irrigation project of IBRD.	Senegal	1/31/77 - 2/17/77	Charles C. Johnson, Ph.D.
Environmental Assessments in the Middle and Lower Velds, directed primarily towards plans for development of national Schistosomiasis control project.	Swaziland (cancelled)	3/6/77 -	Robert W. Lennox, Sc.D. Hildrus A. Poindexter, M.D. John W. Greenley, M.P.H. Emile A. Malek, Sc.D.
Environmental Assessment in the N'Djanena-Bol-Moussora sites of Lake Chad Basin relevant to on-going projects and those proposed.	Chad	3/19/77 - 4/20/77	Roy M. Malan, M.D. Andrew Spielman, Sc.D. Curt Schneider, Sc.D. Joseph Haritani, M.S.