

**Memorandum**

Date May 12, 1982

From Michael E. Dalmat, Dr.P.H., Public Health Advisor, Program Evaluation Branch,  
Family Planning Evaluation Division, Center for Health Promotion and Education  
(CHPE)

Subject Foreign Trip Report (PL-480 Project Funds), Cairo, Egypt, March 7-12, 1982:  
Review of Egyptian Proposals (Population and Family Planning Board) for  
Evaluation of Family Planning Activities in Collaboration with FPED, CDC.

To

William H. Foege, M.D.  
Director  
Centers for Disease Control  
Through: Horace G. Ogden  
Director, CHPE *HG*

**SUMMARY**

- I. PLACES, DATES, AND PURPOSE OF TRAVEL
- II. PRINCIPAL CONTACTS
- III. ACCOMPLISHMENTS
- IV. FOLLOWUP ACTIVITIES

**SUMMARY**

At the request of Mr. Billy G. Griggs, Director of the International Health Program Office, CDC, I met with USAID/Cairo and Egyptian officials to review research needs and proposals in the area of family planning for the purpose of identifying a collaborative study that could be undertaken by the Population and Family Planning Board (PFPB) of Egypt with assistance from the FPED/CDC. The area of research identified by the Egyptians prior to my arrival was as follows: "The study of acceptability, utilization, and problems related to modern contraceptives (oral and IUDs) in rural areas and the test of alternative systems for their promotion." After a review of official documents and discussing research gaps in family planning that have a policy and program orientation with USAID/Cairo and Egyptian officials, we drafted an outline to be used in developing a study protocol. They (PFPB) agreed to expand on the outline and to develop a protocol which they would submit for approval in Egypt and send to us for our review. We also agreed that a team of FPED advisors would come to Egypt to work with counterparts in planning out the study, including implementation plan and budget, in detail. We tentatively agreed that a planning trip might take place in late October or early November.

**I. PLACES, DATES, AND PURPOSE OF TRAVEL**

A. Places and Dates  
Cairo: March 7-12, 1982

B. Purpose  
To review the scope of work, feasibility, and management aspects of a family planning program protocol developed by Egyptian counterparts

and to offer suggestions based on the international experience of the Family Planning Evaluation Division (FPED) to strengthen the protocol.

To identify technical assistance requirements that can be met by the FPED in support of the proposed or modified protocol and/or related activities.

This assistance was provided in conjunction with a previously scheduled consultation to Kenya and paid for by PL-480 funds.

## II. PRINCIPAL CONTACTS

### A. USAID

1. Thomas H. Reese, III, Director, Office of Population
2. Dr. William Oldham, Director, Office of Health
3. Ms. Laura Slobey, Population Advisor
4. Mr. Marshall Roth, Population Advisor
5. Ms. Connie Collins, Nursing Advisor

### B. American Embassy

1. Dr. Thomas Vribalovitch, Science Attache
2. Ms. Stefanie Sagebiel, Coordinator, Science Projects

### C. Ministry of Health

Dr. A. Gomaa, Assistant Secretary

### D. The Population and Family Planning Board (PFPB)

1. Dr. Aziz El-Bendary, Chairman
2. Dr. Moustapha H. El-Sammaa, Deputy Chairman
3. Dr. Atef M. Khalifa, Statistical Consultant, Professor of Biostatistics  
Cairo University

## III. ACCOMPLISHMENTS

Mr. Billy G. Griggs, Director of the International Health Program Office, CDC, requested that FPED travel to Egypt to review a protocol entitled, "The study of acceptability, utilization, and problems related to modern contraceptives (orals and IUDs) in rural areas and the test of alternative systems for their promotion." Based on cable traffic, the principal investigator involved in this study would be Dr. Aziz El-Bendary, Chairman of the Population and Family Planning Board (PFPB). After meeting with USAID, U.S. Embassy, Ministry of Health, and PFPB officials, I ascertained that a request had been submitted for assistance in conducting this study but that no protocol for the study had been drafted. At the invitation of the PFPB, I assisted in preparing a draft proposal entitled, "Effective usage of contraceptives in Egypt." As stated in the first draft of the protocol, there are two overall purposes for conducting this study:

1. To identify improvements to be made in providers' training, supervision, and support in order to increase correct usage of specific methods and user continuation.

2. Develop a flexible methodology that can be used periodically to assess changes in effective usage of contraceptives following the introduction of program improvements in a variety of provider settings: rural health units, rural pioneers, dayas, pharmacies, private physicians, other MOH clinics, and other clinics.

The draft protocol also outlines four questions that will be studied in order to respond to these objectives:

1. To what extent are clients effectively using pills, IUDs, and barrier methods?

Definition: Effective use means the consistent and correct use of the method of choice resulting in the prevention of pregnancy in the absence of major complications for the desired length of time.

2. What are the causes of inconsistent and incorrect use of specific methods?
3. To what extent does inconsistent and incorrect usage lead to discontinuation and/or an unwanted pregnancy?
4. What can be done to improve effective usage of specific methods?

My PFPB counterparts and I agreed that the details of the study design, including the research methodology, would be worked out during a planning phase. However, they identified that the Egyptian team would consist of the following members:

1. Dr. El-Samma or Dr. Azia El-Bendardy, Principal Investigator
2. Dr. A. Khalifa, Study Director, Biostatistician and Survey Expert, American University of Cairo.
3. Female physician with rural experience (to be named).
4. Data Collection Coordinator with extensive field experience, especially in rural Egypt (to be named).
5. Data processing expert.

#### IV. FOLLOWUP ACTIVITIES

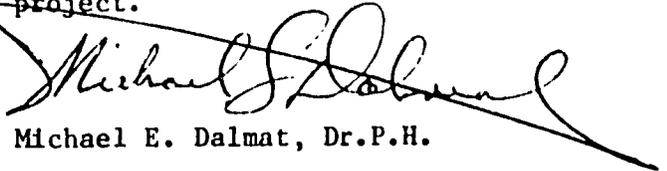
The PFPB has invited a team of CDC advisors to come to Egypt in late October or early November to work with its study team to (1) further define the study objectives, (2) complete the study protocol, including an implementation plan and budget, (3) develop the research methodology and data collection instruments to be used, and (4) undertake a pretest of the instruments.

At this point in time, we anticipate that the study will take 24 months divided into a 1-month planning phase, a preparatory phase of 3 months, and an implementation and analysis phase of 21 months. The first two tasks above would be completed during the planning phase, and the latter two tasks would be completed during the preparatory phase.

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After a multi-disciplinary group of FPED staff members in Atlanta reviews the proposal, I will prepare a response to submit to Dr. El-Bendardy with copies to Mr. Anthony Boni (AID/RSSA Monitor) and Mr. Reese (Director, Office of Population, USAID/Cairo).

There are two ways of funding the research. One is to continue using PL-480 funds. Mr. Reese suggested the alternative, which he favors, that would involve funding the research out of USAID financing of the PFPB. If this second approach is used, according to Mr. Reese, funds already allocated to the PFPB by USAID/Cairo would be transferred to the CDC/AID RSSA to support continuing CDC assistance to the study project.



Michael E. Dalmat, Dr.P.H.