

PD-AAP-568

11/13/84

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July 16, 1984

Documentation Coordinator
Office of Development Information
and Utilization
Bureau for Science and Technology
U.S. AID
Washington, D.C. 20523

Re: DAN-1309-G-SS-1070-00 (Article VII)
Nutrition Intake and Function

Dear Coordinator:

Enclosed is a copy of Mexico trip report submitted by Ms. Nitza Beatriz Vega-Lahr covering period June 13 - June 22, 1984.

Submittal of this report is in accordance with Article VII, Reporting Requirements of the subject grant.

Sincerely,

Filomena Brown
Administrative Assistant

Enclosure

TRIP REPORT: SOLIS, MEXICO
NITZA BEATRIZ VEGA-LAHR,

DATES: June 13 through June 22

PURPOSE: Supervise and provide training as needed on all aspects of Infant and Child social and cognitive assessments; review quality of data and reliability of instrument administration; provide instruction on all scoring procedures. In addition, review translation of all relevant material and provide translation if necessary (English to Spanish); instruct on-site personnel in all phases of data collection, as required by Mexican Malnutrition project.

PERSONS

CONTACTED: In Mexico City, Dr. Lindsay Allen, Dr. Gretel Pelto, and Dr. Adolfo Chavez, all principal investigators. In Solis, Dr. Alfonso Mata (Director of Research at the field) and Miss Eulalia Martinez (Head of the Psychology Area).

DESCRIPTION
OF ACTIVITIES:

- June 13: Arrived at Instituto Nacional de la Nutricion at 11 AM. Departed for Solis at 3 PM and arrived at 6 PM. Delivered 18-page document of translated material, including revision of procedures by Dr. T. Field. Assessed general status of affairs and devised a work plan for remainder of stay.
- June 14: Visited the communities of San Antonio and San Miguel; observed administration of Bayley Scales at the 24 mos. level. Reviewed Bayley Manual in what concerns presentation of items and pointed out errors and incorrect procedures. Discussed psychological measures with Ms. Martinez and Dr. Mata.
- June 15: Set up an improvised "Testing Center" at the Hacienda with the purpose of facilitating training and supervision of future testers. Several children were recruited and tested by me while potential testers observed, in order to demonstrate adequate presentation of items. Observed Ms. Martinez test several infants at the 18-30 mos. level. Provided instructions on the scoring of the results and the interpretation of these scores (MDI and PDI)

- June 16: Advised that two infants had been born at the Unidad Medica de Solis, priority was given to training on the BRAZELTON NEONATAL ASSESSMENT SCALES.
 Demonstrated appropriate presentation of stimuli, adequate handling of the newborn.
 Observed Ms. Martinez's administration of the procedure and corrected errors.
 Explained purpose of the assessment and information yielded by the test.
 Reviewed data on the 7-9 year olds sample: playground observations, drawing of self, etc.
- June 17: Observed and supervised administration of several 6 mos. level Bayley assessments, giving appropriate feedback.
 Explained and reviewed the Infant Behavior Record of the Bayley.
- June 18: Reviewed Brazelton Scoring procedures: (a priori and Lester scores); provided fictitious scores for Ms. Martinez to practice the procedure with.
 Observed and supervised 6 mos. level Bayleys.
 Explained Time Sampling Unit coding system: how to observe, record, and code the behaviors.
 Discussed progress and activities of previous days with Dr. T. Field, upon her arrival.
- June 19: Reviewed materials and modifications with Dr. T. Field.
 Communicated modifications and procedural changes to Ms. Martinez.
 Observed and supervised 2 24 mos. level Bayleys.
 Implemented and piloted several Mother-Infant interaction procedures at the Hacienda: instructions to subjects, observation and coding techniques.
- June 20: Visited 4 families at the Cerritos community with the purpose of supervising the mother-infant interaction procedure (18, 24, and 30 mos. level).
 Provided instructions and feedback on procedure.
 Being my last day at Solis, I met with Ms. Martinez and extensively discussed all aspects of protocol with the purpose of clarifying all problems and doubts.
- June 21: Travelled to Mexico City.
 Devised and compiled manuscript containing elaborate descriptions and explanations of all procedures in the Spanish language (as these did not exist).
 Met with Dr. Chavez, Dr. Pelto, Dr. Mata, and Dr. Allen, and discussed activities of previous days and final form of protocol.
- June 22: Completed one part of manuscript and handed 29 pages of original documentation to Dr. Lindsay Allen.
 Returned to Miami in the afternoon.

GOALS ACHIEVED

- (1) All procedures relating to psychological protocol were extensively explained to and comprehended by Ms. Eulalia Martinez, Head of the Psychology Area at Solis.
- (2) It was agreed that I would furnish a manual-type document in Spanish containing detailed descriptions and instructions of all procedures, as this did not exist.
- (3) Training on the Bayley Infant Assessment Scales and on the Brazelton Neonatal Scales was successfully completed for Ms. Martinez. She can now proceed to train three others in the Bayley Assessment, as agreed.
- (4) Training was undertaken in the Mother-Infant interaction procedures for observations at the 6, 18, 24, and 30 months levels. This procedure was actually piloted in the communities and adjustments were made to accomodate on-site problems.
- (5) A Variable List was composed and given to Dr. Lindsay Allen.
- (6) Revision were made as problems came up in order to facilitate future work (data collection and analysis).

RECOMMENDATIONS

- (1) Due to the intense amount of work and responsibility in this area, it is thought that one more person of university level should be hired to share Ms. Martinez' many responsibilities.
- (2) Ms. Martinez should devoted a moderate amount of time to practice the administration of the Brazelton Scales. Because very few infants are born at the Unidad Medica de Solis, and due to the fact that the first infants in the sample will be born quite soon, it is advised that she undertake extensive training at the TOLUCA GENERAL HOSPITAL.
- (3) One more Bayley kit should be purchased immediately to facilitate administration of this assessment.(There is only one kit at present).
- (4) Items of the Bayley Motor Scale involving the stairs and walking board should be deleted and not taken into account as it is judged totally unfeasible to carry this equipment into the field.
- (5) In order to maintain a close system of communication between the field work and the advisors or consultants, it is suggested that samples of all type of work (observation sheets, Bayley protocols, etc.) be sent on a regular basis to Dr. T. Field and myself in Miami. In this manner, we hope to maintain a higher level of supervision of data quality, avoiding the occurrence of errors that are costly and difficult to correct.