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MONTHLY REPORT FOR OCTOBER, 1984
JOHN SNOW PUBLIC HEALTH GROUP
NATIONAL CONTROL OF DIARRHEAL DISEASES PROJECT

I. Activities of the Chief of Party:

A. Central Administration:

- . Attended Steering Committee meeting.
- . Attended staff meetings.

B. Coordination and Implementation:

- . Led discussion at mass meeting of health workers at Beheira (Damanhour) General Hospital.
- . Helped coordinate NCCDP preparations for visit of USAID Director, McPherson, to Ain Shams University Hospital.
- . Participated in NCCDP planning conference with sister agencies (health, population, PVO, foundation, etc.)
- . Visited Sohag Teaching Hospital and other units in Sohag Governrate.
- . Visited Tanta University Hospital rehydration center.
- . Began negotiations for laboratory turnkey service to monitor serum sodium in children from four Cairo hospitals.
- . Visited Mansoura University Rehydration Center.
- . Organized visit of Dr. Majid Molla of ICDDR, Bangladesh.
- . Visited El Galaa Teaching Hospital Rehydration Center.
- . Prepared talk for Mideast Pediatric Conference.
- . Attended Nutrition Institute Conference on child nutrition.
- . Discussed general matters with visitors, David Pyle(JSI), David Morley (Institute of Child Health, London), Dr. A.G. Litvinov, Ass't D.G. WHO.
- . Took part in discussions with USAID on possible expansion of NCCDP scope of work.
- . Visited headquarters of Cairo curative organization to hospitals to discuss opening of rehydration units.

C. Training:

- . Lecture and discussion with pharmacy inspectors.
- . Lecture to housestaff at Al Salam Hospital.
- . Took part in clinical training film activities (technical review).

D. Mass Media:

- . Reviewed technical booklets for professionals.
- . Worked on newsletter.

E. Production-Distribution:

- . Worked with UNICEF and NCDDP staff on conversion of their 27.5 gram ORS product to 5.5 gram packs.

F. Research/Evaluation:

- . Reviewed evaluation status.
- . Drafted (and presented) results of taxonomy study.
- . Reviewed death statistics from Alexandria.
- . Reviewed results of serum sodium monitoring at Bab El Shaariya Hospital (no unusual incidence of hypernatremia).

G. Issues and Constraints:

Excellent progress in coordination with other agencies; very favorable acceptance of media campaign; good distribution of ORS packets but not yet cups; final stages of print and film media materials; self-startup of several rehydration centers (Sohag, for example). Two university centers center have, however, backslid for various and complex reasons. Strong effort being made to recapture them.

H. Short-Term Plans:

I will return to USA for APHA Conference and leave between November 10-27. Then will attempt to wind up activities prior to formal departure as Chief of Party on January 10, 1985.

II. MANAGEMENT ADVISERAdministration:

1. This month I spent considerable time on financial matters for the Project, including the following:
 - a) Preparation of letter to Price Waterhouse requesting revision of their audit proposal and schedule-
 - b) Work with Project Administrator on taxation and customs issues for Project vehicles and employees-
 - c) Assisted Accounting Dept. in preparation of November and December Advance Request from AID;
 - d) Worked with Project Coordinators in preparing budgets for their sections for 1985;
 - e) Helped Accounting Dept. revise October Advance Request, which AID Controller's Dept. kept for 3 weeks before returning it with request for revision.
 - f) Discussed with AID Health Office issue of how Project should account for payments received from Mid-East Chemical Company for ORS which it purchases from the Project. The Project Controller thinks this money must be sent to the GOE Treasury. This must be resolved quickly.
2. Completed the Personnel Plan and submitted to Dr. Sharawi for his final comments and approval. The Plan includes a revised Project organogram, personnel position list (with filled and vacant slots), a salary grade scale and Personnel Regulations. When this approved by AID, the Project will be able to fill those vacancies which are required immediately. The revised job descriptions must still be completed.
3. Finalized the 1985 Work Plan for submission to AID.
4. Attended weekly technical and administrative staff meetings of Project. Actually, these have not occurred as regularly as they should. They should occur even when the Executive Director is not present.
5. Worked with Accounting Department in interpreting contract with SPAAC with regard to taxation. The contract had been prepared based on the contractor's budget for "tax-free" projects, yet the Accounting Dept. was withholding taxes. Hopefully, the issue has now been resolved.

Production:

1. Analyzed 1985 production requirements and developed a packaging strategy with and without local production of the laminated foil. The analysis shows that, because of the peaking of ORS requirements in the summer months, production of equal monthly quantities, starting in January, will provide sufficient stock to meet the requirements.
2. Visited the Arab Medical Pack Company, the new manufacturer of medical packaging materials and found they can produce our requirements within 20 days after receiving the design and order (15 days to make the printing cylinder and 3 days to make the laminated foil). They agreed to make samples for testing on the CID Rovema machines.
3. Twice this month the Arab Med. Pack Co. brought samples of their foil to CID for testing. The first sample was slightly too thick, so the second sample was produced with thinner layers of polyethylene. The CID supervisor of production said the second sample seemed superior to that produced by their German contractor, VAW. However, Arab Med. Pack is still to produce a third sample, using exactly the specifications used by VAW. This will be completed in early November. If one of the locally produced samples is acceptable, it will save from 3 to 6 months in the production schedule.

4. Went with Dr. Hosni to the General Manager of TWA for assistance in clearing the remaining shipment of foil from the U.S. TWA had removed the boxes of foil from the wooden pallets before shipment and then shipped the foil in two consignments, but using only one Air Way Bill. Customs was saying that each consignment had the full commercial value stated on the Air Way Bill, thus demanding double payment of customs. This was finally resolved and the foil released so that CID could continue its 1984 production of ORS.
5. With Dr. Bert, Dr. Hosni and Dr. Sharawi, met with UNICEF staff to discuss the size of UNICEF packets to be produced. Reached agreement for UNICEF to shift to 5.5 gram packets as quickly as possible, even though it may mean not using remaining stocks of foil for the 27.5 gram packets. UNICEF will negotiate with CID for this change.
6. With Dr. Hosni, visited Ringo Company, manufacturer of "Ice Lolly", a flavored and sweetened water packaged in plastic strips and to be frozen. The packaging process could be used for pre-mixed ORS. The owner of Ringo is interested, but Dr. Hosni and I felt there was poor quality control, no water sterilizer and the plastic strips or tubes might be awkward for mother and child use.
7. Met with Dr. Kirdani, Production Manager of Nasr Pharmaceutical Co. to discuss their manufacture of pre-mixed ORS. They will do some trials, and will conduct stability studies, as well as examine methods for sterilizing the water and for packaging forms. They do not currently have glass bottle packing capacity, only using extruded plastic and polypropylene bags (both used for IV preparations). They would like to add liquid ORS to their product line, as they are already making the IV rehydration fluid.

Issues and Constraints:

1. CID will complete its 1984 production by mid-November. It will take 3 to 6 months for them to obtain the citrate for 1985 production. In the meantime, they could be producing ORS with bicarbonate, if a contract amendment can be approved quickly. I have drafted an amendment, but it has not yet been approved by AID. It is essential that this be signed soon so as not to have any shortage during 1985.
2. CID has requested the Steering Committee to allow them to have the complete 1985 production, rather than allowing a second company to start production. Although the Steering Committee has deferred their decision until November, it looks as if they may agree. In any case, this may cause some delay in the 1985 production and may raise legal questions with El Khahira because they were the only company to have submitted a proposal for 1985 ORS production.
3. Recently the Project has been making procurement, hiring and contract decisions without always following the terms of its agreement with AID. These situations have been discussed with the Director and, it is hoped, will not occur in the future.

Short Term Plans:

1. Complete the Personnel Plan, particularly the job descriptions.
2. Finalize the 1985 budget proposal for submission to AID.
3. Complete negotiations with CID for 1985 production.
4. Work with Coordinators, particularly of Production and Mass Media, to determine what contracts or contract amendments are required for the 1985 program. Start work on those needing immediate attention.

III. Activities of the Training Advisor

A. Central Administration

- . Attended meeting of the Project's technical staff
- . Designed a project flag and arranged to have it made by a local tentmaker

B. Implementation and Coordination

- . Took prime responsibility for organizing a major meeting on interagency coordination. Tasks included developing the agenda, identifying agencies to be invited, drafting an invitation letter, selecting materials to be distributed, attending the meeting, and writing up the minutes of the discussion groups
- . Developed a catalog of education and training materials produced by the Project
- . Visited Bab El Sharaya hospital twice to see the progress of renovations to the rehydration center
- . Visited Ain Shams hospital twice to see the progress of renovations to the rehydration center
- . Prepared an application to the International Research Development Center (IDRC) in Ottawa to have the project become the Egyptian depository for their microfiche SALUS collection, a library of 10,000 documents on low-cost rural delivery systems, manpower development and training, and appropriate technology.
- . Added the first draft of a section on supervision to Guidelines for Establishing and Operating a Rehydration Center.
- . Visited El Galaa Hospital to see the potential for photographs to illustrate the Guidelines
- . Coordinated a day-long photography session at Ain Shams Hospital, the products of which will be used to illustrate the Guidelines and to provide stock photos for other purposes in the future

C. Training

- . Began full scale production of the ORS promotional film for physicians including researching the morphology of diarrhea-causing microorganisms for illustrative purposes, working with the artists and animator in designing illustrations to be used in the film, making final revisions to the script, preparing of cue cards for all speakers, coordinating film sessions for Drs. Fayad, Gabr, El Mougi, Kassem, Elaraby and Hirschhorn, attended sessions at which graphics were filmed, and viewed the rushes of the first filming sessions
Helped to plan a debriefing meeting for the national trainers and attended the meeting
Began correction of the pre and post tests of training done by Dr. Hesham Saffuah in Shobra in July
Met with Dr. Dia Hussein to assess his interest and

suitability of working with the training department

D. Mass Media

- . Reviewed Dr. Farag's planned presentation for the social marketing workshop in the US

E. Issues and Constraints

- . This month was a particularly productive one: the first interagency coordination meeting was highly successful and the ORS promotional film for physicians is finally rolling

F. Short Term Plans

- . It is hoped that by the end of November the ORS promotional film will be almost ready to be printed
- . I expect to begin drafting the competency-based training for physicians with Dr. Nahed Kamal before she leaves the country in December for two months of consulting
- . I look forward to the arrival of consultant Audrey Kipp who will be assisting us in the design of the Self-Instructional Manual for Nurses and for the Guidelines