

9/31/83

January 10, 1984

TRIP REPORT OF LINDSAY H. ALLEN

DATES: December 4-7, 1983

LOCATION: Storrs, CT to Mexico City and Solis.

PURPOSE: To be at the field site (Solis) and at INN during the site visit by Drs. Calloway and Balderston. My presence in Mexico was requested by the Management Entity.

DECEMBER 4 :

The entire day was spent in travel to Mexico City, due to snow storms, plane changes in both Chicago and Dallas, and delayed flights.

DECEMBER 5:

Left Mexico City for Solis, travelling by bus. Arrived Solis mid-afternoon. I met primarily with Dr. Alfonso Mata, our field manager, and reviewed the progress of the grant during the last few weeks. He reported that progress in Phase II is as follows:

1. In 5 communities, households meeting the selection criteria have been identified.

To date, these number 215 households. They were selected on the basis of having a male and female head of household, and a child who will be 18-30 months, or 7 - 9 years old, during the next 2 years. Some additional households have been selected because the female head of household is in her early months of pregnancy. Further households will be identified (by urine tests for pregnancy every 2 months and reports from social workers) and when an additional community (calderas) is added during the next few weeks.

2. Households have been re-censused, maps of each community drawn with household locations, and houses identified by the painting of numbers on them.

3. The sociocultural, socioeconomic status, migration/productivity, and morbidity history interviews have been completed for all of these households. No serious problems

arose during this process.

4. In 42 households, we are in the final stages of collecting the first set of data on: anthropometry, morbidity, clinical examination, food intake (individual, household and weekly) and cognitive tests on children and adults. A pilot study validating recall of activity patterns by observations is almost completed on the same households. The morbidity sub-routine will start next week.

5. The above measurements on the 42 households represent an attempt to test, on the same households, the administration of almost all of the questionnaires to be used in Phase II. The missing questionnaires are for: RMR, household sanitation and sanitary practices and child care practices. The latter 2 interviews will be developed during December. RMR measurements will start when our equipment arrives (by mid-January).

6. Household responses to this set of interviews is being monitored on a routine basis, by having the social worker in each community visit the family and ask about their reactions.

Drs. Calloway, Chavez and Balderstone arrived late on the afternoon of 12/5. A short meeting was held to bring them up to date on our progress. On Tuesday, 12/6, I accompanied Drs. Calloway and Balderston to San Antonio to act as an interpreter for a food intake interview. The interview went well, but when I return to Solis in January I will attempt to cut its length by about 15 minutes- at the moment it takes one hour to complete the family plus individual interview.

After this, I acted as interpreter for Dr. Balderston during a social/cultural/ productivity interview, while Dr. Calloway observed a mother-infant interaction interview. After lunch, Dr. Balderston met with Homero Martinez about the Morbidity protocol, then we had a meeting with the Jefes de Areas. Each chief of area outlined briefly what they were doing now, any major problems they were having, and how they proposed to solve them. I assume that these will be described in the Trip Reports of Drs. Calloway and Balderston, but they included such problems as: how to do mother-child interaction and toy play studies when the children were shy of the observers;

the fact that during any interview lasting more than 30 minutes subjects would get bored; the men commuting to the city during the week; the difficulty of scheduling work when the household heads were frequently away from the house.

In the afternoon I left for Mexico City with Drs. Chavez, Calloway and Balderston. At dinner with Drs. Calloway and Balderston we had discussions about the field research administrative issues.

Wednesday morning (12/7) we all met again with Dr. Chavez, and Drs. Mata and Martinez from Solís, for a general discussion. This included the urgent need for more vehicles in the field, and the virtual impossibility of achieving this since Mexico will not give us permission to buy US made cars or motorbicycles and AID will not give us permission to buy Mexican ones. We will investigate a means by which INN can rent vehicles to the project. Dr. Calloway urged us to start RMR measurements by borrowing equipment temporarily.

The feasibility of having data analyzed by early April was discussed. We feel that we will be ready to present data in May, but by April it would be unlikely that we would have sufficient data analyzed for enough households.

I returned to Connecticut on the afternoon of December 7.

Lindsay Allen