



**INTRAH**

**TRIP REPORT # 0-2**

TRAVELERS: Dr. James Lea, INTRAH Director

COUNTRY VISITED: Sierra Leone

DATE OF TRIP: November 5 - 7, 1984

PURPOSE: To attend an AVS conference and meet with MOH officials.

**TABLE OF CONTENTS**

**EXECUTIVE SUMMARY ..... i**

**SCHEDULE OF ACTIVITIES ..... ii**

**PURPOSE OF TRIP.....1**

**ACCOMPLISHMENTS.....1**

**BACKGROUND .....1**

**DESCRIPTION OF ACTIVITIES.....2**

**FINDINGS.....2**

**CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS .....3**

**APPENDIX**

**Appendix A   Persons Contacted**

**EXECUTIVE SUMMARY**

On November 5-7, 1984, Dr. James Lea, INTRAH Director, visited Freetown, Sierra Leone, in order to attend the IPAUS-sponsored conference on "Reproductive Health Management in Sub-Sahara Africa" and to visit USAID/Sierra Leone. Dr. Lea arrived in Freetown on the evening of the 5th and departed the morning of the 7th. He held discussions with representatives of several African host agencies with whom INTRAH is now, or soon will be, programmatically involved; with Ms. Keys MacManus, AAO/Nigeria; with Ms. Sarah Clark, REDSO/WCA; with Mr. William Lefes, USAID/Sierra Leone; with Mr. David French, director of SHDS; and with Mr. James Crawford and Mr. Ayo Ajayi of Pathfinder, Ms. Nancy Harris of FPIA, and Ms. Cynthia Green of PCS. Outcomes included useful information-sharing on various agencies' plans for training and related assistance in Africa.

**SCHEDULE OF ACTIVITIES**

- November 5**      **Arrival Freetown GH 540**  
**Accommodations at Mammy-Yoko Hotel**  
**Discussions with FPIA, Pathfinder, SHDS**
- November 6**      **Attend conference sessions at Bintumani Hotel**  
**Discussions with Sarah Clark, Keys MacManus, AVS**  
**Meeting with USAID**
- November 7**      **Departure Freetown AQ 110**

**I. PURPOSE OF TRIP**

To attend an AVS conference and meet with Ministry of Health officials.

**II. ACCOMPLISHMENTS**

1. Attended two conference sessions.
2. Discussed the status of the FHI project training component with Mr. William Lefes, USAID/Sierra Leone.
3. Discussed with Ms. Keys MacManus, AAO/Nigeria; the prospects of the INTRAH project development team's imminent visit to Nigeria and parameters of long-term INTRAH work in Nigeria.
4. Discussed with Ms. Sarah Clark, REDSO/WCA; and Mr. David French, SHDS, Abidjan as a potential INTRAH West and Central Africa regional office site and arranged for an exploratory visit there.
5. Held information-sharing discussions with representatives of AVS, Pathfinder, FPIA and PCS.

**III. BACKGROUND**

Dr. Lea's visit to Sierra Leone was based upon two principal rationales. The first was the IPAVS-sponsored international conference held in Freetown November 5-8, attended by most international family planning agencies and many key people from countries in which INTRAH is or will be involved. The conference presented an opportunity for INTRAH visibility and for discussions with key African family planning professionals. Dr. Lea had also previously arranged to meet Ms. Keys MacManus and Ms. Sarah Clark at the conference for specific discussions.

The second rationale was INTRAH's technical support to the FHI MCH/FP project being administered by the USAID mission and the Ministry of Health. INTRAH has provided training and technical assistance to the project since 1983, and it is expected such assistance will continue for the life of the project. The purpose of Dr. Lea's visit to USAID was to solicit Mr. Lefes' views of the project's progress and to confirm INTRAH'S continued interest in it.

#### **IV. DESCRIPTION OF ACTIVITIES**

After a late arrival at the hotel on November 5, Dr. Lea had dinner with Ms. Nancy Harris, Mr. James Crawford, Ms. Sarah Clark, Ms. Keys MacManus and others, during which various African family planning assistance programs were discussed. Dr. Lea discussed his findings and impressions from Lomé, Togo with Ms. Harris, including the status of the bilateral family health project in Togo and possibilities for coordinated assistance from INTRAH and FPIA.

The following morning, Dr. Lea registered at the AVS conference and met with Ms. Keys MacManus concerning the imminent INTRAH project development team visit to Nigeria and INTRAH's intention to be as active as possible in supporting family planning training in Nigeria. Dr. Lea then talked with Mrs. Grace Delano, of UCHI-Ibadan, Nigeria, about progress of clinical family planning training at her center, and attended two conference sessions.

In the afternoon, Dr. Lea and Ms. Sarah Clark met with Mr. William Lefes at USAID/Sierra Leone. The discussion focused upon Mr. Lefes' perceptions of the value of INTRAH training support of the FHI project and upon prospects and problems affecting continued success of the project. Dr. Lea inquired about possibly extending the FHI project so that all planned training could be carried out but was told that the project budget would probably be exhausted during the currently scheduled life of the project. Dr. Lea informed Mr. Lefes of Ms. Lynn Knauff's planned visit to Freetown in mid-December.

Discussions later that day and that evening centered on the schedule for Dr. Lea's visit to Abidjan (Ms. Sarah Clark drafted an ETA cable to REDSO/WCA requesting arrival assistance and appointments) and general family health development activities in Africa. Dr. Lea departed Freetown on the morning of November 8.

#### **V. FINDINGS**

1. The USAID-managed Family Health Initiatives (FHI) project in Sierra Leone is restricted to some degree by internal problems within the Ministry of Health. However, USAID views INTRAH's training assistance contributions as timely and constructive. There is a question about whether or not the project training plan can be completed in the amount of time left in the project. In-country costs of training conducted by the Ministry of Health seem high.

2. The views of Ms. Keys MacManus, AAO/Nigeria, are positive toward INTRAH's past performance and projected level of activity in Nigeria.
3. The need for inter-agency coordination of country-specific family planning assistance inputs in Africa is more critical than ever. There is a general willingness to proceed with such coordination, as expressed informally by organizational representatives contacted in Freetown, but there is still no good sense of an appropriate coordinating mechanism. This seems largely due to the continuing atmosphere of inter-agency competition for funds and prerogatives among those supported by AID/W.
4. Many of the major population assistance organizations are recognizing the desirability of having established operational bases in West Africa.

## **VI. CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS**

1. INTRAH technical assistance to the Sierra Leone FHI project should continue on a measured basis. Following the Santa Cruz training of a core group of Ministry of Health nurses, the basic capability to carry out clinical family planning training now exists. It must be determined whether INTRAH technical back-up is required for the training and whether Ministry of Health policies and priorities will support a major training and service delivery effort by non-physicians in the country.
2. Since Abidjan versus Lomé as the INTRAH regional office site was the subject of considerable discussion, the site selection must be made as quickly and objectively as possible. All interested parties must be reminded that the work of the regional office will be regional in scope and not directed disproportionately to the assistance needs of the host country or USAID mission.

## **APPENDIX A**

### **Persons Contacted**

**Mr. William Lefes**  
AID Affairs Officer  
USAID/Sierra Leone

**Ms. Sarah Clark**  
Regional Population Advisor  
REDSO/WCA

**Ms. Keys MacManus**  
AID Affairs Officer  
American Embassy/Nigeria

**Dr. Steven Sinding**  
Director, Office of Population  
AID/Washington

**Dr. David French**  
Director, Strengthening Health Delivery Systems in Africa (SHDS)  
Abidjan, Ivory Coast

**Ms. Nancy Harris**  
Family Planning International Assistance (FPIA)  
Regional Director for Africa

**Mr. James Crawford**  
Africa Regional Coordinator  
Pathfinder Fund

**Mr. Ayo Ajayi**  
Pathfinder Fund/Nairobi

5

**APPENDIX A (continued)**

**Dr. Don Lauro**  
**Columbia University**

**Mr. Hugo Hoogenboom**  
**Executive Director**  
**Association for Voluntary Sterilization (AVS)**

**Dr. Hamid Rushwan**  
**University of Khartoum, Sudan**

**Professor DeGraft-Johnson**  
**Director**  
**Centre for African Family Studies (CAFS)**

**Dr. Ninrod Mindara**  
**International Planned Parenthood Federation (IPPF)**  
**Nairobi**

**Dr. Moira Brown**  
**Deputy Chief Medical Officer**  
**Ministry of Health, Sierra Leone**