



INTRAH

TRIP REPORT # 0-3

TRAVELERS: Dr. James Lea, INTRAH Director

COUNTRY VISITED: Togo

DATE OF TRIP: November 7 - 11, 1984

PURPOSE: Meet with USAID staff and review potential for WCA regional office site.

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

On November 7-11, 1984, Dr. James Lea, INTRAH Director, visited Lomé, Togo, to review prospects of establishing the INTRAH Office for West and Central Africa in Lomé. Dr. Lea had discussions with USAID mission officers, local business persons, representatives of other international organizations and the Togo Family Planning Association. Meetings with USAID personnel also included discussions of the bilateral family health project and possible areas of INTRAH technical support for it. Outcomes included the collection of very useful information on costs and procedures for the establishment and operation of an INTRAH office, as well as a sound review of the bilateral project and the Togo family planning context.

I. PURPOSE OF TRIP

Meet with the USAID staff and review the potential for a West and Central Africa regional office site.

II. ACCOMPLISHMENTS

1. Met with USAID, local persons, representatives of other organizations to discuss Lomé as INTRAH regional office site.
2. Met with USAID to discuss bilateral family health project and possible INTRAH assistance.

III. BACKGROUND

Dr. Lea's visit to Togo was for the specific purpose of reviewing the potential of establishing a regional office. However, INTRAH had had previous contacts in Togo for other reasons. On June 1-September 9, 1983 IHP staff member Dr. George Walter had gone to Togo to provide technical assistance in curriculum development to the Ministry of Public Health Family Health Training Centre, with costs paid by USAID. Mr. Jean de Malvinsky and Dr. Susan Woolf, IHP consultants, had visited Togo (August 14-September 9, 1984) to provide follow-up assistance in curriculum revision and the development of evaluation techniques, supervision guidelines and a family health training program for social agents. Also, February 3, 1984, INTRAH had queried the mission about conducting a Francophone Regional Visual Materials Workshop in Lomé, but had received a negative response. Two sets of Resource Materials Libraries, one set of AHTIP materials, and other family planning training materials had been sent to the mission for use in the Family Health Training Centre.

IV. DESCRIPTION OF ACTIVITIES

Dr. Lea arrived in Lomé the late afternoon of November 7 and was met at the airport by a USAID driver. (The mission extended many courtesies to Dr. Lea

during his visit, and INTRAH's appreciation should be noted.) Accommodations had been reserved at the Hotel Deux Fevrier in central Lomé.

On November 8, Dr. Lea met at the USAID mission with Mr. Rudy Thomas and, later, with Mr. Myron Golden. The principal discussion topics were INTRAH's regional office and the implementation status of the mission's bilateral project. In the course of discussions, Dr. Lea described likely regional office operations and the criteria for site selection. He made clear the office's operational independence and the fact that the office would require virtually no local mission support. The discussions also reviewed the potential value of an INTRAH office in Lomé to implementation of the bilateral project, a point in which USAID was quite interested.

On November 9, Dr. Lea returned for more discussions with USAID officers, with particular focus upon the bilateral project, its accomplishments and current status, problems in implementation, and needs for specifically targeted technical support. Dr. Lea agreed that it is possible for INTRAH to provide training development assistance to the bilateral project, within the limits of INTRAH resources and jointly established INTRAH-AID/W priorities. Several forms which such assistance might take were discussed, as were the current and prospective roles in the project of other family planning organizations.

Dr. Lea was a luncheon guest on November 9 at the home of Mr. Rudy Thomas along with Dr. Ravao of USAID and Mr. Jean Karambezi of FPFA. In the afternoon, Dr. Ravao escorted Dr. Lea to visit Mr. Mensah, Executive Director of the Association Togolaise pour le Bien-Etre Familial (ATBEF), the family planning association. Discussions centered on the association's current IE & C and clinical services program and its accomplishments. It appeared that, though limited in size, the ATBEF program is well organized and effective, a possible operational model for the expansion of the Ministry of Public Health's stated desire to expand family planning services nationally. The role of ATBEF in the Togo family health project never became quite clear, however, and neither did the extent of what Mr. Mensah described as a sound working relationship between the association and the government.

Following that meeting, Dr. Lea went with Dr. Ravao to the Family Health Training Centre. It was not possible to meet the Centre director, but Dr. Lea toured the facilities and met the librarian and a WHO advisor.

On November 10, Dr. Lea had a very useful discussion with Ms. Sarah Duke of the Peace Corps Regional Training and Resource Center. (Other RTRC staff were tied up with the regional Peace Corps directors' conference being held in Lomé that weekend.) Dr. Lea also met Ms. Duke's husband, a businessman in Lomé, and the discussions added valuable information about potentials for regional operations in Lomé. Dinner discussions were held that evening with Mrs. Didi Leguede.

On November 11, Dr. Lea went again with Mr. Rudy Thomas about possible longer-term INTRAH assistance to the bilateral project. Dr. Lea agreed that such assistance was possible and that he would send a description of assistance parameters and personnel to USAID/Togo by December 15. (Dr. Lea subsequently wrote to Mr. Myron Golden describing several alternatives in addition to those discussed in Lomé.) Dr. Lea departed Lomé later that afternoon.

V. FINDINGS

1. Findings and conclusions about the comparative advantages of Lomé and Abidjan as regional office sites are summarized in a separate memorandum. For this report, it is sufficient to state that Lomé's size, location, operating costs and amenability are favorable to the establishment of an office site there.
2. The USAID bilateral family health project seems to have made notable progress in extending family health services within Togo, especially in Lomé. In addition, USAID support has made possible the growth of the Family Health Training Centre as a viable national and regional training resource. According to several sources, the value of the FHTC and the continued success of the bilateral project could be enhanced by either long-term expert advisory assistance or a well-defined but low-profile program of coordinated assistance by a select few planning organizations, including INTRAH. The USAID mission has the capability of further fine-tuning the project if additional outside assistance is to be provided.

IV. CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

1. Recommendations concerning INTRAH's Office for West and Central Africa are summarized in a separate memorandum.
2. INTRAH should be prepared to offer very clearly targeted assistance to the Togo bilateral project. However, the project plan should be carefully reviewed first to determine exactly what assistance is required and how it might be applied most productively. The bilateral project and the Togo national program which it supports have great potential which has not yet been fully realized, despite the mission's efforts.
3. INTRAH should continue to try to develop a mutually beneficial relationship with the FHTC, a relationship which could strengthen the Centre's capability for national services and enlarge its regional capacity as well.

APPENDIX A

Persons Contacted

Mr. Myron Golden

AID Director, USAID/Togo

Mr. Rudy Thomas

Project Officer, USAID/Togo

Mrs. Didi Bamazon-Leguede

Assistant Program Officer, USAID/Togo

Dr. Ravao

Assistant Program Officer, USAID/Togo

Ms. Sarah Duke

Peace Corps Regional Training and Resource Center/Togo

Mr. Mensah

Administrator, Association Togolaise pour le Bien-Etre Familial

Mr. Jean Karambezi

Family Planning International Assistance Regional Staff