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Collaborative Research Support Program (CRSP)
NUTRITION INTAKE AND FUNCTION
931-1309

TRIP REPORT

CAIRO, EGYPT

April 20 - May 14, 1986

Gail G. Harrison, Ph.D.
Principal Investigator - University of Arizona
Egypt Nutrition CRSP

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THE UNIVERSITY OF ARIZONA
HEALTH SCIENCES CENTER
TUCSON, ARIZONA 85724

COLLEGE OF MEDICINE
DEPARTMENT OF FAMILY AND COMMUNITY MEDICINE

RECEIVED MAY 30 1986

May 22, 1986

D. Woods Thomas
International Programs
Agriculture Administration
Purdue University
West Lafayette, Indiana 47907

Dear Woods:

Enclosed is a trip report relative to my recent time in Egypt on Nutrition CRSP business.

Best regards,

Gail G. Harrison, Ph.D.
Associate Professor

GGH:gwc

enc.

xc: Dr. Calloway
Dr. Galal
Dr. Horan
Dr. Jerome
Dr. Kirksey
Dr. Mare'
Dr. Vuturo
Dr. Kahn

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TRIP REPORT

Cairo, Egypt
April 20 through May 14, 1986

Egypt Project, Nutrition CRSP

Gail G. Harrison
Principal Investigator, University of Arizona

I traveled to Egypt during the above-referenced period, primarily for the purposes of another project. I spent roughly 10 days on CRSP business, working toward the following objectives:

- facilitation of the flow of data from Egypt to the US
- working with Dr. Shaheen to document methodology and data "loose ends" on anthropometry and morbidity
- working with Nutrition Institute investigators on plans for followup activities
- general project management assistance.

At the meeting in St. Louis, MO of Egypt Project, US-based investigators on April 17th (Drs. Jerome, Kirksey, McCabe, Beaton, Ritenbaugh, Murphy, Ms. L. McCabe, and myself), we developed a list of specific business which needed to be done over the next few weeks in Egypt, primarily relating to documenting the status of data management and flow and projecting the schedule for completion of the process. I had intended to go to Cairo directly from St. Louis, but returned to Tucson for two days due to the unstable political situation in the Middle East that week, departed instead on Sunday the 20th. Arrival in Cairo was the evening of April 21st.

April 22 and 23rd, Tuesday and Wednesday, were spent in informal meetings with Dr. Osman Galal (Principal Investigator) Dr. Farouk Shaheen, Dr. Magda Shaheen, Ms. Nancy Meyer (Field Coordinator), Dr. Wafaa Moussa, Dr. Saneya Wahba, and other NI staff. I reviewed my CRSP agenda items with Ms. Meyer, and she began work right away on documentation of data status. As soon as documentation was available for the status of all data, we telexed this information to Dr. Jerome (attachment A). We also discussed at some length the need for Ms. Meyer to stay in the field beyond her planned date of departure; Dr. Galal has recently telexed a request for her to stay until July 1st. After reviewing the data situation I concurred with them that it was a good idea for Ms. Meyer to stay through the end of June. It is unlikely that all data will have been transferred before that time, and Dr. Galal will be away for part of June as well. This opinion was conveyed to Dr. Jerome by phone within a few days, and we later received by telex concurrence from her and Dr. Kirksey. Ms. Meyer had to vacate her apartment April 30, but has made arrangements for staying with a friend until the end of June.

On April 22nd I also attended a seminar at the Nutrition Institute on home gardens and their role in Nutrition, given by Dr. David Cleveland, an anthropologist currently in Egypt as a Fulbright scholar.

April 24th, Thursday was a holiday (Return-of-the-Sinai day) and April 25th a weekend day.

The week of April 26 through 30 was devoted primarily to other business. May first was a holiday (Labor Day). The morning of May 1, however, Dr. Galal and I met with Dr. Frederick Shorter, Regional Director for the Population Council and Director for the Middle East Awards program (funded jointly by Population Council, the Canadian IDRC, and the Ford Foundation) with regard to a proposal which has been submitted by the NI and was reviewed the preceding week by the MEAwards committee. The decision was to fund the proposal, which involves a strengthening of the NI's data analysis unit (including the addition of an epidemiologist/biostatistician) and specific data analysis activities directed toward Egypt's child survival policy needs. The project will make use of CRSP data for local analysis as well as data available to the NI from other projects.

Saturday, May 3, and Sunday, May 4th I worked with Drs. Farouk Shaheen and M. Aiman Naguib to review the status of the illness subroutine data. This aspect of the morbidity protocol was begun late (May 1985), and lasted only several months (through August 1985) due to staffing constraints and resistance of families to frequent visits to ill members. The data have not been entered into the main data set. Our task was to review the data available and decide if it was going to be worthwhile to use in any way. It is clear that the data are too incomplete on any targets but infants to use. For target infants, subroutines were much more complete and may be of use in interpretation of the morbidity/growth data. A summary of that information is in preparation and will be forwarded to other Project PI's and statistician within a few days.

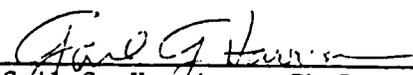
May 5th was a holiday (Sham I'Neseem), and May 6th devoted to other business. May 7th, Wednesday, I met with Dr. William Oldham, head of the Health Office for USAID/Cairo. We reviewed the status of the CRSP and other NI activities. Dr. Oldham maintains a keen interest in the CRSP project and is anxious to see concrete results. He was pleased that the timetable for core CRSP data analysis will allow results to be available in time to be of use in the major Child Survival project which is planned to begin in late 1986 or early 1987. Later in the day I met again with Dr. Shorter to review the needs of the NI for social science resources and ways in which the population council could help to meet these needs. We also discussed tentative plans for a regional network of researchers investigating bio-social issues related to child survival, building on previous efforts which have been made by the Population Council group in facilitating communication within the region.

Thursday, May 8th I worked again on the illness subroutine data. Also met with Dr. Madga Shaheen, Dr. Galal and Ms. Meyer about the process of data flow. The urgency of completing the process was stressed. It was decided that the existing priorities and system would not be interrupted, but that the system should be pushed as rapidly as possible. The fact that the diskettes prepared in the NI have proved readable in Kansas adds some flexibility to the system, since Al-Ahram data entry personnel working in the NI can continue to enter some data in this fashion while other sets continue to be entered in the mainframe at Al-Ahram.

Saturday, May 10th was spent primarily in meeting of the Data Analysis Group in the Nutrition Institute. The new MEAwards project was discussed, and the relationship of CRSP and other data to locally-relevant policy questions. Following that meeting, I presented a seminar on a study of feeding practices during diarrhea, done by a University of Arizona graduate student in Mexico and designed to be comparable to a study done at the same time in Egypt by the NI. A discussion of comparative studies, their strengths and difficulties, ensued. In the afternoon I met with Dr. Galal and Dr. Lee Traverse, local director for the Ford Foundation. The topic was a proposal which the NI had submitted in January to the Ford Foundation, to fund the maintenance of Kalama as a community laboratory for the Nutrition Institute, and to provide service to the community in the form of a community-based health education program. The Foundation will fund the proposal, and we worked out several critical details of implementation. Actual funding will wait for several weeks, pending an anticipated change in regulations about currency conversion.

On Sunday May 11th and Monday 12th, I spent my time wrapping up loose ends including:

- Meeting with Dr. Ihab Hegazy regarding the revision of a manuscript based on his work on nutrient composition of Egyptian home remedies for diarrhea
- Working out details of logistics for carrying of data and frozen milk samples to the US
- Reviewing with Dr. Aiman Naguib the situation with regard to documentation of deaths and causes of death in CRSP targets.
- Reviewing with Dr. Nargis Bassily and Ms. Meyer the situation with regard to the Ktron electronic scales (one has been transported to Arizona for repair by another traveler, but has no documentation to allow reimportation; a second lacks a cord for recharging the battery, which I will attempt to obtain from the company in the US; and the third is not functioning. Rather than transport it back with me I will call the company service representative and attempt to get enough information for local repair).


Gail G. Harrison, Ph.D.
May 21, 1986

E2:gght0522.crs

Attachment

TO : DR. N.W. JEROME
DATE: 24 APRIL 1986

SUMMARY OF DATA TO BE TRANSMITTED TO KB-DMU FROM NI- DMU:

- PHYS. EXAM/MED.HIST (9/84-12/85) FINAL CORRECTING AT AL-AHRAH BEFORE PUTTING ON TAPE.
- REPRO/LACT (9/84-12/85) AT AL-A FOR RANGE CHECKS.
- MORB. RECALL (9/84-12/85) FINAL CORRECTING AT AL- A BEFORE PUTTING ON TAPE.
- ANTHROPOM (6/85, 9-12/85) RNG-CHKD DATA BEING REVIEWED AT NI.
- RMR (11-12/85) AT AL-A. FOR ENTRY
- HEMATOL/URINE (6/85 - 12/85) MANUAL CHECKING COMPLETED, READY FOR TAPE.
- IMMUNOLOGY (9/84-12/85) READY FOR ENTRY AT NI
- PSYCH OBSERV. (9 (8-12/84) AT AL.A FOR RNG-CHECK (1-12/85) AT AL-A FOR ENTRY
- COGNITIVE (11/83-12/85) EA READY FOR ENTRY.
- SANITATION (9/84-12/85) AT AL-A FOR RNG-CHK.
- WATER-MICRO (8/84 - 7/85) AT AL-A FOR RNG-CHK (8/85-12/85) AT AL.A FOR ENTRY
- FD INTAKE (7/85, 9-12/85) AT AL-A FOR ENTRY
- CC/ACTIVITY (12/84 - 12/85) XEROX COPIES BEING SENT TO KB-DMU
- SOCIO-DEMOG (10/83-2/84) BEING ENTERED AT NI (SOC-DEM-UPDATE) BEING PREPARED FOR ENTRY
- COMMUNITY SOC.ECONOMIC (11/83-12/85) TO BE ENTERED AT NI.

REGARDS

O. GALAL, G. HARRISON, N. MEYER.

TAPE OUT

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