

**Memorandum**

Date October 29, 1987

From Richard S. Monteith, M.P.H., Program Analyst, Program Evaluation Branch (PEB),  
Division of Reproductive Health (DRH), Center for Health Promotion and  
Education (CHPE)

Subject Foreign Trip Report (AID/RSSA): El Salvador, September 20-25, 1987; 1988  
Maternal/Child Health and Family Planning Survey

To James O. Mason, M.D., Dr.P.H.  
Director, CDC  
Through: Acting Assistant Director for Science, CHPE *[Signature]*

**SUMMARY**

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**SUMMARY**

I consulted with USAID/El Salvador and the Asociacion Demografica Salvadorena (ADS), the International Planned Parenthood Federation (IPPF) affiliate in El Salvador, to begin the initial planning for a maternal-child health/family planning survey scheduled for 1988.

Three surveys have been conducted in El Salvador--1975, 1978, and 1985. In these surveys, 22, 34, and 47 percent of married women, respectively, reported using a contraceptive method. However, in the most recent survey, only 55 percent of the land area of the country, which was estimated to include 75-80 percent of the population, was included in the sampling frame. Because some rural areas were excluded, the results of the 1985 survey may overestimate contraceptive use prevalence for that year.

The purpose of the 1988 survey is to identify program advances and weaknesses since the last survey in order to develop new program strategies to increase the prevalence of use of contraception in El Salvador.

During this consultation, the availability of a sampling frame and cartography was investigated. A followup visit will be required to develop a sampling plan. In addition, questionnaire content, budget, and a preliminary timetable for the survey were discussed during this visit. Fieldwork is tentatively scheduled to begin early May, 1988.

## I. PLACES, DATES, AND PURPOSE OF TRAVEL

San Salvador, El Salvador, September 20-25, 1987, at the request of USAID/El Salvador, to begin the initial planning of a maternal-child health/family planning survey scheduled for 1988. This travel was in accordance with the Resource Support Services Agreement (RSSA) between the Office of Population, AID, and DRH/DHPE/CDC.

## II. PERSONAL CONTACTS

### A. USAID/El Salvador

1. Mr. Kevin Armstrong, Population Officer
2. Dr. Guillermo Toledo, Assistant Population Officer

### B. Asociacion Demografica Salvadorena (ADS)

1. Dr. Enrico Henriques, Executive Director
2. Sr. Jose David Araya, Chief, Department of Planning, Evaluation and Investigations (DPEI)
3. Sr. Luis Sidney Castro, DPEI
4. Sr. Jose Mario Caceres, Department of Information, Education and Communication

### C. Other

1. Lic. Marcio Thome, Health Information Designs, Inc.
2. Lic. Ricardo Castaneda Rugamas, Ministry of Health (MOH)
3. Lic. Luz del Carmen Irigoyen, MOH
4. Lic. Ricardo Alfredo Hernandez, Ministry of Planning
5. Dra. Guadalupe de Razeghi, UTAE
6. Sr. Jose Galileo Garcia, Chief, Depto. de Levantamientos Catastrales, Instituto Geografico Nacional
7. Dr. Rolando Godoy, Epidemiology Consultant to the MOH

## III. 1988 MATERNAL-CHILD HEALTH/FAMILY PLANNING SURVEY

### A. Background

The first contraceptive prevalence survey to be conducted in Latin America was in El Salvador in 1975. Since then, two additional surveys have been conducted in El Salvador--the second in 1978 and the third in 1985. In these three surveys, 22, 34, and 47 percent, respectively, of married women reported using a contraceptive method.

The 1985 survey was different from the first two surveys in that, due to the civil conflict in El Salvador, only 55 percent of the country was included in the sampling frame. Areas that were excluded were primarily rural. Thus, the 1985 results may overestimate contraceptive use prevalence for that year, since all rural areas were not included in the sampling frame.

In the view of USAID/El Salvador, the purpose of the 1988 survey is to identify program advances and weaknesses since the last survey in order to have a basis with which to develop new program strategies to increase prevalence of use in El Salvador.

B. Sampling Frame

The ADS has a listing of households that was current as of 1983 for metropolitan San Salvador and 1979 for the remainder of the country. More recent data does not exist, since most of the El Salvador Census Bureau's records were destroyed in a fire that occurred about 2 years ago and in last year's earthquake. The ADS household listing could serve as the sampling frame for the 1988 survey, but the number of households in primary sampling units would need to be updated before the second-stage selection. This was how the sample was selected in 1985, and the cost to update the primary sampling units for this survey is estimated at approximately U.S. \$10,000. One month of fieldwork would be required for the updating.

A second potential sampling frame exists at the Geographic Institute where a listing of all property in the country, including maps, is maintained. The listing is computerized. The major drawback of this listing is that the number of households per parcel of land is unknown.

Whichever listing is selected to serve as the sampling frame for the 1988 survey, updating of primary sampling units, particularly in the metropolitan San Salvador area, will be essential for two reasons: (1) displacement of population due to the civil conflict; and (2) displacement of the population due to last year's earthquake.

A visit to El Salvador by a DRH/CDC sampling expert will be necessary to develop a sampling plan for the 1988 survey. I recommend that this visit take place in November 1987.

In order to maintain comparability with the three previous surveys, I recommend that three domains be sampled independently--Metropolitan San Salvador, other urban areas, and rural areas. USAID/El Salvador would like to include the entire country in the sampling frame in order to have a representative sample. Sample points selected in contested areas of the country would be interviewed only if safe passage could be guaranteed.

C. Budget

A preliminary budget was developed taking into account the following factors:

1. Three domains consisting of approximately 1,500 households each will be included in the sample. However, a self-weighting sample could be designed if 5,500 households were to be selected.
2. Four interview teams consisting of four interviewers, one supervisor, and one driver each will require, depending on the sampling design, 2.5 to 3.5 months to complete the fieldwork.
3. Data entry, editing, and analysis, utilizing microcomputers, will be done in El Salvador with technical assistance provided by DRH/CDC.

This budget is approximately U.S. \$124,000, which does not include the cost of updating the sampling frame--approximately U.S. \$10,000. ADS and USAID/El Salvador were to review the preliminary budget and make changes, as appropriate. A revised budget is to be sent to CDC in November.

D. Questionnaire Content

USAID/El Salvador and ADS were in agreement that the core questionnaire should consist of the following modules:

1. Household and Respondent Identification
2. Household Characteristics
3. Respondent Characteristics
4. Fertility and Planning Status of Last Pregnancy
5. Pregnancy Wastage
6. Use and Source of Contraception
7. Sterilization Demand
8. Young Adults
9. Utilization of Maternal/Child Health Services

However, the content of the questionnaire will be determined, in part, by a committee that was established at the urging of the Mission and ADS in order to increase commitment in El Salvador to the findings of the survey. The committee, consisting of representatives from the Ministry of Health, Ministry of Planning, ADS, and UTAE, met for the first time on September 23, 1987. The committee is to review the questionnaires used in Guatemala in 1983 (which contains modules on the use of maternal and child health services, immunization, and diarrhea) and in Paraguay in 1987 (which contains a module on young adults). Before mid-November, the committee will submit their recommendations to ADS, the Mission, and DRH/CDC on the contents of the 1988 questionnaire.

E. Proposed Timetable

Based on discussions with ADS and the Mission, the following timetable has been proposed. The asterisks indicate technical assistance trips from CDC.

1987

November (First week)	First draft of questionnaire
November* (Second week)	Develop sampling plan
December* (First week)	Final draft of questionnaire

1988

January* (First half)	Develop data entry/editing program/ questionnaire/code book on computer
January	Update sampling frame (if necessary)
February* (Second half)	Pretest Final questionnaire Final code book Discuss fieldwork plans Discuss analysis plan

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March-April 15	Print Questionnaire Complete interviewer's manual Interviewer/Supervisor recruitment
April 20-29*	Training
May 2-July 15*	Fieldwork
May 2 - July 22	Data entry/editing
September	Preliminary results
October-December	Analysis

1989

February	Final report
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Richard S. Monteith, M.P.H.