AGENCY FOR INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT

PROJECT DATA SHEET

1. TRANSACTION CODE: A = Add, C = Change, D = Delete — Amendment Number: 6

DOCUMENT CODE: 3

2. COUNTRY/ENTITY: Worldwide

3. PROJECT NUMBER: 931-0045 PD-AAX-784

4. BUREAU/OFFICE: S&T/Nutrition

5. PROJECT TITLE (maximum 40 characters): Nutrition: Vitamin A Deficiency

ISA 56140 42

6. PROJECT ASSISTANCE COMPLETION DATE (PACD): MM 09 DD 30 YY 89

7. ESTIMATED DATE OF OBLIGATION (Under 'B.' below, enter 1, 2, 3, or 4): Program Support

A. Initial FY 74 B. Quarter C. Final FY 87

8. COSTS ($000 OR EQUIVALENT $1 =)

A. FUNDING SOURCE	FIRST FY B. FX	C. L/C	D. Total	LIFE OF PROJECT E. FX	F. L/C	G. Total
AID Appropriated Total						
(Grant)	( )	( )	( )	( )	( )	(18,691
(Loan)	( )	( )	( )	( )	( )	(
Other U.S. 1.						
Other U.S. 2.						
Host Country						
Other Donor(s)						
TOTALS						18,691

9. SCHEDULE OF AID FUNDING ($000)

A. APPROPRIATION	B. PRIMARY PURPOSE CODE	C. PRIMARY TECH. CODE 1. Grant	2. Loan	D. OBLIGATIONS TO DATE 1. Grant	2. Loan	E. AMOUNT APPROVED THIS ACTION 1. Grant	2. Loan	F. LIFE OF PROJECT 1. Grant	2. Loan
(1) FN				13,266		4,700		17,966	
(2) ~~HE~~				725				725	
(3)									
(4)									
TOTALS				13,991		4,700		18,691	

10. SECONDARY TECHNICAL CODES (maximum 6 codes of 3 positions each)

11. SECONDARY PURPOSE COD

12. SPECIAL CONCERNS CODES (maximum 7 codes of 4 positions each).

A. Code

B. Amount

13. PROJECT PURPOSE (maximum 480 characters)

To develop, implement and evaluate programs for the prevention and control of vitamin A deficiency in developing countries.

14. SCHEDULED EVALUATIONS

Interim MM YY MM YY Final SDI 03 YY 88

15. SOURCE/ORIGIN OF GOODS AND SERVICES

☐ 000 ☒ 941 ☐ Local ☐ Other (Specify)

16. AMENDMENTS/NATURE OF CHANGE PROPOSED (This is page 1 of a ____ page PP Amendment)

To increase the life of project authorization by $4,700,000 (FN) to $18,691,000.

17. APPROVED BY

Signature: Martin J. Forman by N.L.

Title: Martin J. Forman
Director, Office of Nutrition

Date Signed: MM DD YY

18. DATE DOCUMENT RECEIVED IN AID/W, OR FOR AID/W DOCUMENTS, DATE OF DISTRIBUTION

SDI DO YY 05 29 87

AID 1330-4 (8-79)

PROJECT AUTHORIZATION

ENTITY: Office of Nutrition

PROJECT: Nutrition: Vitamin A Deficiency Program Support

PROJECT NUMBER: 931-0045

1. Pursuant to Section 103 of the Foreign Assistance Act of 1961, as amended, the Nutrition: Vitamin A Deficiency Program Support project which is centrally funded was last amended on July 1, 1985. That revision is hereby amended as follows:

a. Life of project funding is increased to $18,691,000.

2. The authorization cited above remains in force except as hereby amended.

APPROVED William R. Fuertes

DISAPPROVED

DATE 6/5/87

Clearances:

S&T/N, N.Luykx N.L. SMfor Date 5/29/87

GC, S.Tisa SMT Date 6/5/87

S&T/PO, G.Gower Date 6/3/87

AGENCY FOR INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT
WASHINGTON, D.C 20523

MAY 29 1987

ACTION MEMORANDUM FOR THE AGENCY DIRECTOR FOR FOOD AND AGRICULTURE
BUREAU FOR SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY

FROM: S&T/N, Martin J. Forman Martin J. Forman by U.R.

SUBJECT: Increase in Life of Project Funding for Nutrition: Vitamin A Deficiency Program Support Project (931-0045)

Problem: To increase the Life of Project funding level to $18,691,000.

Discussion: In June 1986 the PACD for the project was extended to 9/30/89 with no request for additional funding. Since that time, Congress has earmarked $6 million in FY 1987 funding for Vitamin A activities, $3.9 million of which has been allocated to S&T/N's OYB and another $.8 million is under consideration for the PVO grants program.

The present authorized funding level for this project is not sufficient to accommodate the funding level proposed by A.I.D. to expand the scope of ongoing activities and initiate new activities under the project.

The increase in funding ($4,700,000) will be used to finance several PVO grants ($2,685,000), reduce mortgages for AVRDC and the Bangladesh and Sudan replication studies ($1,232,000), and support ongoing vitamin A activities of the NAS/CINP and IVACG and the USDA food technology branch ($783,000).

The plan of action for this program is based on the premise that, with the concurrence of A.I.D. field missions and regional bureaus, implementing organizations will consult with the selected host governments to identify, design and carry out a series of interrelated operating intervention programs aimed at bringing about a rapid reduction in nutritional blindness in preschool aged children. Concurrently, necessary research projects will be continued. These projects seek to replicate and expand the knowledge gained through work carried out in Indonesia by the ICEPO group at Johns Hopkins University. Tentative results suggest that vitamin A interventions bring about a significant reduction in respiratory disease, diarrhea and death among infants and young children. Country overlap in both operating intervention and research programs allows for evaluations of all activities.

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Private Voluntary Organizations

This year, for the first time, S&T/N has solicited proposals directly from private voluntary organizations for vitamin A implementation projects. Innovative intervention strategies which build upon already established expertise in dealing with the multisectoral problems of child health and nutrition have been especially encouraged. Mission concurrence for the proposed projects is an essential part of the application and review process. In response to this widely circulated solicitation, twenty-two proposals have been received. Technical and program reviews are underway. Internal and external reviewers met together in Washington at the end of May to complete the review process. It is expected that several funding awards will be made as a result of this process. These new activities are in addition to the ongoing PVO activities already being funded through S&T/N and FVA.

Garden Outreach

Building upon the successful garden outreach program carried out in Asia by the Asian Vegetable Research and Development Center (AVRDC), a new project was developed to initiate home and village gardens in Africa as a means of adding vitamin A to diets. Under this project, AVRDC will train up to 60 African extension agents in gardening technology and how to carry out extension programs. While attending classes each participant will develop a model garden which he/she will take back to his/her country of origin. They will then instruct their colleagues in the production of these foods using techniques of cultivation and plantings from the model garden. Trainees will eventually be placed in African institutions where they will initiate programs of training and technical assistance in gardening programs emphasizing home production of vitamin A foods.

Research

In order to further test and evaluate the findings regarding morbidity and mortality in preschool age children in Indonesia under the original Indonesian (ICEPO, Johns Hopkins University) study of the role of vitamin A in reducing blindness, replication research has been undertaken in three countries. In response to the RFA issued in 1986, research projects in Bangladesh (Cornell University), the Sudan (Harvard University) and the Philippines (Johns Hopkins University) were funded.

Bangladesh: A three year replication study of the effects of vitamin A supplementation on the mortality rates in children was proposed to be carried out among a population of children 6 months to six years of age in Bangladesh. Bangladesh offers a good environment for studying this issue because preschool mortality and xerophthalmia (nutritional blindness) rates are among the

highest in the world. Vitamin A deficiency is the most important cause of childhood blindness in Bangladesh. In order to completely assess the situation, the key variables to be collected include data on baseline mortality, diarrheal incidence and indicators of village economy. In order to increase the power of the study design, the village intervention (administration of vitamin A supplements) would occur over four study periods, each of four months duration, the first and last of which would occur at the seasonal peak prevalence of xerophthalmia and mortality. Situational factors have emerged at the research sites which may require restructuring of this project.

Sudan: The double blind prospective trial of vitamin A supplementation in a rural area north of Khartoum is designed to assess the effect on childhood mortality of vitamin A supplementation. Baseline socioeconomic, demographic and anthropometric data will be obtained for the original baseline and each year thereafter. Treatment will be administered twice with intervals of six months between each treatment. One year after the initiation of treatment the effect of vitamin A on child mortality, morbidity and nutritional status will be assessed. A closely followed subsample will permit more detailed study of the treatment effects on episodes of diarrhea and the incidence of respiratory infections. In addition, possible interaction between vitamin A supplements, immunization and oral rehydration therapy will be studied in this subsample.

Philippines: The Philippine study of the impact of vitamin A supplementation on the reduction of childhood mortality had been designed to replicate and assess the results of the Johns Hopkins study in Indonesia and to extend these findings to infants. A randomized community trial to test the efficacy of improving vitamin A status through direct supplementation of preschool aged children was part of the design. The focus of the investigation was to be on the comparison of mortality experience among high and low dose groups. The key criterion for this type of intervention trial is comparability of baseline characteristics between the two groups. This would be ensured by a stratified random assignment of communities to study groups. Situational problems at the research site have required that this study be re-located to another country. Negotiations are underway with USAID/Kathmandu and the GON.

Oversight of Scientific Research (NAS)

To ensure that the A.I.D. vitamin A program receives the best objective scientific guidance, A.I.D. requested the National Academy of Sciences, Food and Nutrition Board, Committee on International Nutrition Programs (NAS/CINP) to establish a special sub-committee on vitamin A. This group meets periodically to consider matters related to the Vitamin A replacation studies. The group has reviewed methodologic and technical aspects of research proposals on Vitamin A. Morbidity and mortality

effects are also being reviewed. The vitamin A subcommittee of the NAS/CINP has also produced reports and suggestions for the furtherance of research into the role of vitamin A in health.

Coordination and Information Dissemination (IVACG)

The International Vitamin A Consultative Group (IVACG) works to coordinate global research and development on vitamin A. Annual meetings are held and task forces work on producing guidance manuscripts for wide dissemination in the nutrition community. Recent publications have included:

-- Safe use of vitamin A by women during reproductive years (in English and French; Spanish version due shortly);

-- Simplified dietary assessment procedures;

-- Methodology for evaluation and monitoring of Vitamin A intervention programs.

In December, 1987, the government of Ethiopia will host the IVACG annual meeting whose theme is the use of vitamin A in emergency and relief situations. This is the third IVACG annual meeting to take place in Africa.

USDA Food Technology

Fortification of food with vitamin A is potentially a very effective means to alleviate vitamin A deficiency in large population groups. In the past, basic food commodities such as wheat flour, fats and oils, and milk powder have been routinely fortified with nutrients both in this country and abroad using well established technologies. Fortification of food has only been applied on a limited basis in developing countries because (1) the foods commonly consumed by people in these countries are frequently not those for which technologies have been developed and (2) the feasibility of fortification in specific countries or regions has not been well established. Consequently there is a need to develop and demonstrate new technologies to fortify the foods most commonly used by targeted population groups.

The USDA Food Technology Branch RSSA provides R&D and technical assistance in vitamin A fortification of various commodities. Work is being carried out in Indonesia and the Philippines on the fortification of monosodium glutamate (MSG) with vitamin A. Engineering and logistics studies are being carried out on the fortification of wheat with vitamin Ain Bangladesh. Laboratory work continues on the fortification of salt and rice with vitamin A.

The project also conducts feasibility studies to review and select food carriers, develop plans for national programs, estimate costs, conduct field trials, and implementnational interventions in collaboration with host governments.

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Social Marketing

The role of social marketing and nutrition education in the reduction of vitamin A deficiency is pivotal to many S&T/N programs. Manoff International continues to provide essential technical assistance to countries and PVOs in the development of social marketing strategies for vitamin A. These include the development and delivery of effective communications messages, and baseline and evaluation research and monitoring programs. A major project in Thailand, investigating the use of social marketing as an independent intervention to change food habits and reduce vitamin A deficiency in the population, is in the planning stages.

Evaluation Schedule

In FY 1984, the National Science Foundation conducted an external evaluation of this project. Their recommendations were strongly in favor of a major funding commitment to expand the delivery of vitamin A to all at risk groups. Since that time Congress has earmarked $14,000,000 during FYs 86 and 87 for vitamin A delivery as well as for research to further test the results of the childhood morbidity and mortality study in Indonesia.

Although it is far too early to determine impact on the activities initiated in October 1986, a scope of work is under development to undertake an indepth Handbook 3 type evaluation of the project components.

This evaluation will look at and expand on the annual meetings in AID/W that bring together all the vitamin A contractors to discuss technical and management issues with project management staff.

Recommendation: That you approve an increase in life of project funding of $4,700,000 to $18,691,000 by signing the attached project authorization.

Attachment