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**FIRST ANNUAL REPORT**  
**October 1, 1989 - September 30, 1990**

**VOLUME I**  
**TECHNICAL COMPONENT**

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## 1. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The Vitamin A Field Support Project (VITAL) was established by the Office of Nutrition (S&T/N), Bureau for Science and Technology, U.S. Agency for International Development (A.I.D.) in September, 1989. The purpose of the project is to provide technical support to A.I.D. field missions, bureaus, offices and host country institutions to address two overriding objectives of S&T/N's Vitamin A for Health Project (9365116): 1) locate and document the prevalence of vitamin A deficiency among young children of the developing world and 2) develop and implement sustainable, appropriate cost-effective programs to overcome the problem of vitamin A deficiency.

The VITAL Project is managed by the International Science and Technology Institute (ISTI), Inc. Adding to ISTI's resources are subcontractors, The University of Arizona (UA), the Community Systems Foundation (CSF) and Program for Appropriate Technology in Health (PATH). In addition, a Technical Advisory Group (TAG) of six nutrition experts provides guidance and reviews work in progress.

The VITAL project is organized in four components for operational purposes. These components are technical assistance, collaborative inquiries, information gathering and dissemination and management/administration. This report follows this four component structure in reporting the activities and achievements of the project's first year.

The first part of the year was devoted to getting established: staff recruitment, office set-up, planning, and networking with regional bureaus, missions, and institutions and individuals working in the field of vitamin A. Other notable accomplishments include:

### Management/Administration

A Project Start-Up Workshop and two TAG meetings

Initiation of two major assessments: one of social marketing efforts for vitamin A, the other of home and community garden interventions

Contributions to the A.I.D. strategy on vitamin A

Submission of the first and second Annual Work Plans

### Technical assistance

A Regional Workshop on Strategies to Improve Vitamin A Status in Latin America and the Caribbean in Guatemala

Development of a model management information system for International Eye Foundation's vitamin A project in Malawi

Evaluation of Eye Care's Nutrition Oral Rehydration and Vitamin A (NOVA) project in Haiti

Prevalence assessments planned in Bolivia, Panama and the Dominican Republic and a planning workshop

conducted in El Salvador

In addition, as a result of two buy-ins from, Bureau for Asia/Near East and Bureau for Latin America and the Caribbean, further technical assistance in vitamin A prevalence assessments and program implementation activities have been initiated

#### **Collaborative Inquiries**

Development of a draft proposal for integrating vitamin A supplementation into an existing immunization program in Nepal

Plans for extending mango drying technology developed in Senegal to Save the Children Federation's vitamin A project in Haiti

In addition, two strategy papers have been developed, addressing priority operational research issues related to: 1) dietary intake and 2) health services

#### **Information Gathering and Dissemination**

Creation of the Vitamin A Projects Database (VDB) tracking A.I.D.-funded vitamin A projects

Publication of project brochures in English, French and Spanish

Publication of the first issue of VITAL NEWS, the project newsletter  
Establishment of a computerized Consultant Roster

Organization of the VITAL library with a computerized acquisitions list

Establishment of a computerized Request Tracking System tracking requests for assistance and information

Preliminary arrangements with two regional institutions, Latin America Nutrition Society (SLAN) and the Organisme du Recherches de l'Alimentation et Nutrition Africaine (ORANA) to disseminate information on vitamin A to policy-makers and health professionals in the Latin America and Francophone African regions.

On the whole, the first year of the project has been very productive. Administratively, the project is well set-up. Technically, several major activities in technical assistance and information gathering and dissemination have been undertaken and several others planned. Some of these activities will continue in the second year as discussed in the Second Annual Work Plan.

## 2. MANAGEMENT AND ADMINISTRATION

### 2.1 Recruitment of Project Staff

The project staff consists of a core team of six professionals and two support positions. They are:

Position Title	Staff Name
Project Director and Asia/Near East Coordinator	Robert Pratt
Deputy Director and Africa Coordinator	Vacant
Latin America Coordinator	José Mora (1/2 time)
Technical Information Specialist	Subhi Mehdi (2/3 time)
Technical Support Coordinator	Mary Linehan
Business Analyst	Jacquelyn Roberson (1/2 time)
Administrative Assistant	Christine Powell
Secretary	Joyce Jackson

Recruitment for all the positions was completed within three months of the project start-up. The Deputy Director left the project in May 1990 and recruitment for that position has been underway since.

### 2.2 Offices

The project offices were occupied January 2, 1990 and fully furnished and equipped by January 31, 1990. Offices are located in Suite 1016, Rosslyn Plaza C Building in Rosslyn. The address is 1601 North Kent Street, Arlington, VA 22209.

### 2.3 Start-Up Workshop

The project Start-Up Workshop was held December 13 - 15 at the ISTI Headquarters in Washington, D.C. Participants included the core staff, representatives from each subcontractor and the Office of Nutrition (S&T/N) Project Officer, the S&T/N Office Director, representatives from each A.I.D. regional bureau and the Bureaus for Policy and Program Coordination (PPC) and Food and Voluntary Agencies (FVA) and the A.I.D. Contracts Officer. Discussions included: expectations of A.I.D. representatives for the project; expectations of ISTI and each of the subcontractors for the project; collaborative inquiries and country priorities; contract responsibilities; financial management and reporting; and the first annual work plan.

## **2.4 First TAG Meeting**

The first meeting of the TAG was held January 24 -25, 1990 in Rosslyn. Participants included TAG members Dr. Guillermo Arroyave, Dr. Barbara Underwood, Dr. James Olson, Dr. Alberto Pradilla, Dr. Johnnie Prothro and Dr. Frances Davidson. In addition, subcontractor representatives Dr. Larry Clark (UA), Dr. Bill Drake (CSF), Ms. Casey Margard (PATH) and the VITAL staff also participated. The TAG provided guidance on project priorities and field strategies. The first priorities for implementation identified were reviews of A.I.D. funded vitamin A activities on social marketing/ nutrition education and gardening.

## **2.5 Second TAG Meeting**

The second meeting of the TAG was held June 28 - 29, 1990. Participants included TAG members, representatives from the subcontractors, VITAL consultant Dr. David Nelson, Dr. Judi Aubel and Dr. Tina Sanghvi and VITAL staff. Progress on project activities to date was reviewed and directions on upcoming activities were discussed.

## **2.6 Assessments**

- 2.6.a Assessment of Alternative Communication Strategies for Vitamin A; VITAL, through its subcontractor, PATH, began a stock-taking of social marketing efforts for vitamin A to draw together lessons learned and highlight accomplishments, in order to give directions to future social marketing initiatives. The assessment is being conducted in three phases. Phase 1 involved reviewing project documents and other literature on social marketing efforts. Phase 2 was carried out in the field visiting project sites in the Philippines, Thailand and Malawi. Phase 3 (currently underway) is being spent in preparing a written report, analyzing the findings and recommending guidelines for future initiatives for social marketing efforts for vitamin A. The final report is due November, 1990.
- 2.6.b Home and Community Garden Interventions; To fully understand the relationship between gardens and nutrition and in order to effectively plan future research and intervention initiatives, VITAL began an assessment of home and community garden efforts. This assessment is being implemented with three activities: 1) a review of published literature and program implementation experiences; 2) a synthesis of findings from literature and program implementation reviews; and 3) an expert panel workshop to discuss issues outlined in the first three documents and make recommendations to VITAL on its future home gardening efforts.

First, a bibliography of the published literature on gardens and nutrition has been prepared by VITAL subcontractor, the University of Arizona, identifying key studies that can help guide future activities. Updating the annotated bibliography on gardens and nutrition carried out by Leslie Brownrigg, 1985, this literature review is focused on materials written since 1984. Program implementation experiences of international organizations, private voluntary organizations (PVO), etc. were reviewed by VITAL consultant, Carolyn Peduzzi, to derive lessons learned from home and community garden efforts. Ms. Peduzzi's findings have been published in a report called, The Tip of the Iceberg.

Second, from the literature review and The Tip of the Iceberg report, a synthesis document has been developed identifying the key issues that need to be addressed in future home garden efforts. This document provides an operational definition of household gardens and discusses various development approaches to gardening. It also discusses issues related to extension of garden interventions, monitoring and evaluating gardens in urban and rural settings, indigenous sources of vitamin A, food processing and nutritional value, food intake and nutrition status, etc. The Annotated Bibliography and Synthesis Documents will be available in November 1990.

Third, the Expert Panel Workshop, is pending finalization of the last two reports.

## 2.7 Vitamin A Strategy

VITAL staff and Dr. Tina Sanghvi, a consultant, collaborated with S&T/N in preparing a major part of A.I.D.'s vitamin A strategy. The purpose of this strategy is to provide program support and guidance to A.I.D.'s initiatives to assist cooperating countries eliminate vitamin A deficiency as a contributing cause of morbidity and mortality in vulnerable groups.

### **3. TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE**

#### **3.1 Africa**

The Vital project strategy in Africa is five-fold:

To assist countries determine the severity, location and causes of vitamin A deficiency among their populations.

To strengthen African institutional and individual capabilities to address vitamin A deficiency in the region.

To maximize the use of indigenous vitamin A-rich foods to reduce vitamin A deficiency.

To develop and work through a network of African institutions and experts.

To encourage USAID Missions to incorporate vitamin A interventions in their health, nutrition and agriculture programs.

#### **3.1a Progress to Date**

**Malawi:** VITAL developed a model management information, monitoring and evaluation system for International Eye Foundation's (IEF) vitamin A project in the Lower Shire Valley. The system is intended to improve program efficiency and facilitate monitoring, evaluation and reporting. It draws on small amounts of collected data, and with a rapid feedback mechanism, reports on how operations and staff are performing. The system uses FOXPRO computer language. The prototype which is currently being field-tested will be modified for IEF's projects in Honduras and Guatemala and serve as a model for other similar vitamin A projects.

**Niger:** VITAL is collaborating with the Food and Agriculture Organization in preparing a project document to improve the production and consumption of vitamin A-rich foods in target populations in Niger.

**Nigeria:** VITAL received 11 requests for assistance from Nigeria in response to an announcement about the VITAL project in Dialogue on Diarrhoea. We are following up with the USAID mission regarding possible assistance VITAL may provide.

**Regional:** VITAL has initiated discussions with Organisme de Recherches de l'Alimentation et Nutrition Africaine (ORANA) in Senegal to support the continuation

of the Vitamin A Documentation Center which disseminates technical information to over 500 public health and nutrition professionals in Francophone West Africa. The Center was initiated by Helen Keller International, funded by UNICEF and supervised by PRITECH/Sahel Office.

VITAL is making arrangements for the Tropical Disease Research Center in Zambia to serve as a sub-regional technical resource center for VITAL. In addition, several key African technical experts will serve as VITAL representatives in these sub-regions.

### **3.2 Asia and Near East**

#### **3.2a Progress to Date**

**Regional Bureau Buy-in:** VITAL has received a buy-in from the Regional Bureau for Asia and Near East to provide technical assistance in the region for the following:

**Indonesia:** A survey of the vitamin A status of populations in the Eastern Islands.

**Nepal:** See COLLABORATIVE INQUIRIES (3.4)

**South Pacific:** Assist Kiribati and the Foundation for the Peoples of the South Pacific to plan and implement a program to eliminate vitamin A deficiency as a public health problem. This is in response to a survey in Kiribati which found an extremely high rate of xerophthalmia. VITAL will also assist RDO/Suva determine the nature of the problem, if any, in other South Pacific island nations.

**Other:** Conduct two regional education/information and training workshops to increase the understanding of technicians in the region of the role of vitamin A in child health and survival.

### **3.3 Latin America and Caribbean Region**

#### **3.3a Progress to Date**

**Haiti:** VITAL consultants, Dr. John McKigney and Dr. Sally Stansfield, conducted the final evaluation of USAID/Haiti and FVA supported Nutrition, Oral Rehydration and Vitamin A (NOVA) project implemented by Eye Care. The evaluation documented considerable strides made in improving the nutrition and health of targeted populations, despite extremely difficult field logistics and extended political turmoil.

The project sought to integrate multiple intervention strategies including nutrition education and the distribution of vitamin A capsules in the same at-risk population.

Results of the evaluation show: 1) a greatly increased proportion of children in the target area receiving vitamin A supplementation and 2) new outreach programs as a part of the public health services available to vulnerable populations. As a result, young children and mothers in northwest Haiti have substantially increased their use of these services.

In association with NOVA project, a vitamin A supplementation mortality and morbidity study was successfully carried out. The results of this study, the first of its kind in the western hemisphere, are now being fully analyzed. Tentative findings point in the direction of other studies carried out elsewhere, validating the role of vitamin A in child nutrition and health.

**Regional:** A regional workshop on "Strategies to Improve Vitamin A Status in Latin America and the Caribbean" was conducted by VITAL in Guatemala, June 4-7, 1990, at the Institute of Nutrition in Central America and Panama in Guatemala. It was attended by 65 representatives from 15 countries of the region, as well as by staff from USAID missions and A.I.D./Washington, other international organizations and some PVOs. As a result of this workshop, host country governments are planning follow-up actions, with VITAL assistance, as first steps towards improving the vitamin A status of their children.

These follow-up actions include:

**Bolivia:** A National Committee for the Control of Vitamin A Deficiency was created and a national survey is being planned. The survey will include a clinical assessment, serum retinol and history of nightblindness.

**Dominican Republic:** A rapid assessment of the vitamin A status in the high-risk south-western region bordering Haiti, to be conducted by the Ministry of Health and CENISMI (a private research group). The assessment will include a clinical component, a simplified dietary survey and, probably, conjunctival impression cytology (CIC) or serum retinol levels. Contingent upon the results of the assessment, a national vitamin A workshop will be conducted in 1991.

**Ecuador:** Technical assistance to the National Planning Office and the Ministry of Health, to develop a short-term plan of action for a vitamin A program. A national workshop is planned for December 1990, to discuss the action plan, which will include a rapid assessment to identify "geographic pockets" and population groups at high-risk of deficiency in the rural highlands (sierra). The assessment will probably include a simplified dietary assessment and serum retinol. Fortification of leche-avena (a milk-oats supplement widely used in the MOH/MCH supplementary feeding programs) is being contemplated and feasibility studies will be carried out shortly.

**El Salvador:** VITAL assistance to CALMA, a local PVO, in the planning and implementation of a National Vitamin A Workshop, for information exchange and awareness-raising. The workshop, which took place September 1990, was attended by about 50 professionals from different national organizations, including the Ministries of Health and Agriculture, the medical schools and a number of PVOs.

**Panama:** A rapid assessment of vitamin A status in the two western provinces (Bocas del Toro and Chiriqui). The assessment will include a clinical evaluation, a simplified dietary survey and, probably, serum retinol or CIC.

**Other:** Arrangements with the Latin American Nutrition Society (SLAN) to include a vitamin A section in the quarterly issues of the official SLAN Journal (Archivos Latinoamericanos de Nutrición) to keep nutritionists and other health professionals informed of the latest progress in vitamin A research and programs.

**Regional Bureau Buy-in:** A buy-in from the Bureau for Latin America and Caribbean Region will fund prevalence assessments and intervention programs in several countries, including some of the above-described follow-up activities recommended in the regional workshop.

## **4. COLLABORATIVE INQUIRIES**

The primary objective of the collaborative inquiries component of the project is to test innovative ways to increase effectiveness, coverage and sustainability of vitamin A activities in enhancing child survival and preventing childhood blindness. Preliminary work has been done on the following collaborative inquiries activities:

### **4.1 Nepal EPI Implementation Trial**

Test the feasibility of delivering low dose vitamin A supplementation to infants in conjunction with regularly scheduled immunizations at the community level. The delivery mechanism will be considered feasible if the immunization program workers are able to administer the supplements to each child immunized at a reasonable incremental cost, and without detracting from the coverage and schedule of the immunization program.

### **4.2 Mango Drying Technology**

VITAL is collaborating with Save the Children Federation (SCF) in adapting a mango drying technology developed in Senegal by Dr. Jenice Rankins, et al. to SCF's project in Haiti.

In Senegal, three grafted mangoes were dried to a moisture content of 9-11 % utilizing a greenhouse model solar dryer. The results showed that after six months of storage, retinol equivalents of beta carotene and vitamin C contents of 100 grams of dried mangoes averaged recommended daily allowances respectively for children and the taste of these mangoes was acceptable to consumers. These results have significant relevance to nutritionally at-risk populations in tropical countries where mangoes are seasonally plentiful and popular but go to waste because of the lack of appropriate preservation technologies.

If this technology transfer is successful, the drying technique will be adapted to other countries as part of VITAL's support for developing new food technologies to increase consumption of vitamin A-rich foods.

### **4.3 Strategy Papers**

Two strategy papers have been developed addressing priority operational research issues related to: 1) dietary intake and 2) health services.

The strategy paper on dietary intake was prepared by Dr. John Mckigney in conjunction with the University of Arizona. The paper includes discussions related to: increased and more frequent consumption of vitamin A-rich foods; dietary attitudes and practices;

increased production of appropriate carotene-rich foods; animal foods as sources for preformed vitamin A; food preservation and fortification.

The strategy paper on health services was prepared by Dr. Tina Sanghvi. Dr. Sanghvi uses vitamin A supplementation as a model health service delivery intervention and follows the operations research approach developed by the Primary Health Care Operations Research (PRICOR) project as a first step in developing a framework for collaborative inquiries related to health services issues.

## **5. INFORMATION GATHERING AND DISSEMINATION**

### **5.1 Information Gathering and Dissemination Implementation Plan**

As part of the contractual requirements, a comprehensive implementation plan was prepared for the Information Gathering and Dissemination component of VITAL and submitted to S&T/N in March 1990. Plans for each subcomponent, namely, database development, materials acquisitions, bibliographies, newsletter, consultant roster, etc. are discussed in detail.

### **5.2 Database, Bibliography and Computer Search**

**Database:** A database on A.I.D. funded vitamin A projects has been developed by selecting and downloading essential fields of information from the USAID Health Information System. This database, the Vitamin A Projects Database (VDB) was then expanded to identify the specific vitamin A interventions implemented by each of the projects in VDB. The database is maintained in Dbase III Plus. Other software used to present VDB data are Harvard Graphics and Lotus 123.

**Bibliography and Computer Search:** The VITAL library holdings were computerized using a bibliographic software called PROCITE. Currently, there are over five hundred documents listed in the bibliography. The documents are organized in the order of country, subject and organization. Since the set-up of the library this summer, approximately 15 bibliographic requests were fulfilled for USAID Missions and individuals from developing countries. It is projected that as VITAL advertises this resource through its newsletter and other means, the use of the library in disseminating information on vitamin A will increase significantly.

**Reference Manual:** A Reference Manual with a User's Guide has been prepared for those users who wish to visit the library in person. The manual also sets guidelines on how to maintain and update the library.

**Key Words:** A set of key words related to vitamin A has been developed by Dr. Tina Sanghvi for VITAL. These key words are comparable to those being used by other vitamin A libraries housed in HKI, Johns Hopkins University and America Public Health Association. The next step in fine-tuning the library will involve key-wording all the documents.

### **5.3 Project Brochure**

The project brochure has been prepared using a simple and brief presentation style. Printed in English, French and Spanish, the brochures have been widely distributed to all the USAID Missions, A.I.D./Washington and other institutions and individuals working

in the field of vitamin A.

#### 5.4 Consultant Roster

A computerized consultant roster has been developed using DBase III Plus. The roster identifies consultants by particular skills, languages and geographic area of expertise. Currently there are a total of 249 individuals registered in this roster.

#### 5.5 Newsletter

The first issue of the project newsletter, VITAL NEWS, was published in June 1990. The primary purpose of the newsletter is to keep policy-makers and implementors within A.I.D. informed about up-to-date programmatic and research information related to vitamin A.

This issue featured: a letter to colleagues in A.I.D. from the Assistant Administrator of the Bureau for Science and Technology, Mr. Richard Bissell; an article on the vitamin A deficiency problem; a chronology of A.I.D.'s efforts to eradicate vitamin A deficiency; a description of the VITAL project and ongoing activities; an article by Dr. Barbara Underwood on the importance of vitamin A nutrition to child survival; the recently published statement on the relationship of vitamin A status and child survival from the International Vitamin A Consultative Group; and a message from VITAL's project officer, Dr. Frances Davidson, introducing the newsletter to the audience. The newsletter has been disseminated to an initial list of 216 recipients.

#### 5.6 Networking Activities

VITAL staff has been very active in networking with individuals and organizations involved in vitamin A activities. To coordinate with existing information systems and determine the kind of information being collected by others, visits were made to meet with officials of the Helen Keller International/Vitamin A Technical Assistance Project (HKI/VITAP), APHA, JHU/International Center for Epidemiologic and Preventive Ophthalmology, United Nations Children's Fund, the A.I.D. regional and central (PPC, FVA) bureaus, and the Food and Agriculture Organization. Other networking activities include:

Sponsoring a regional LAC workshop in Guatemala in June (see 3.3a, Regional);

Participation in an East, Central and Southern African regional workshop sponsored by HKI/VITAP in Zambia in June;

Participation in the Nutrition Month seminars sponsored by S&T/N in February;

Participation in a colloquium sponsored jointly by the Smithsonian Institution and the Nutrition Foundation in October;

Participation in the first International Nutrition Exchange convocation sponsored by S&T/N in October.

## 5.7 Other

**Technical Mailings:** As part of its information dissemination strategy, VITAL periodically distributes technical literature related to vitamin A to the USAID Missions. The first such distribution was made of the proceedings of the National Symposium and XIII IVACG Meeting held in Nepal in November 1989.

**Request Tracking System (RTS):** A computerized database has been set up in DBase III Plus to track systematically the requests for information and other assistance. The RTS is designed to track and report by category of assistance/information and country, the kinds of queries received by VITAL. As reported from this database, since summer, a total of 35 requests were responded to.

**Press Releases:** As part of its information dissemination and awareness-raising strategy, VITAL is planning a series of press releases in local newspapers of the developing countries on vitamin A. The first press release has been prepared in draft and will be published in Ecuador, setting the stage for a national conference in December on vitamin A and the XIV IVACG conference in June 1991.

**Regional Dissemination Strategy:** See 3.3a (Other) and 3.1a (Regional)

## 6. SECOND YEAR PLANS

A Second Year Workplan has been submitted to S&T/N. The following strategy, begun in the first year, will continue:

Increase awareness of USAID mission staffs of the proven link between vitamin A deficiency and child survival;

Expand communications directly with host country officials and experts;

Develop a network of regional and national technical resource centers and experts to provide VITAL services to others;

Emphasize the long-term food consumption based solutions to vitamin A deficiency;

Strengthen the information base and understanding among officials of A.I.D. and other donor agencies of the nature, extent and achievements of vitamin A nutrition initiatives underway in third world countries.

Following are highlights of the Second Year Work Plan:

### Management and Administration

Annual Project Review and Planning Meeting,  
December 1990

TAG meeting, March 1991

TAG meeting, November 1991

### Technical Assistance (TA)

Completion of the assessment of social marketing  
for vitamin A interventions

A review of food preservation technologies to  
identify appropriate preservation techniques of  
vitamin A-rich foods for promotion by VITAL

#### Africa

Initiation of vitamin A information dissemination  
program to Francophone Africa through ORANA  
and to south and central Africa through Zambia  
the Tropical Disease Research Center (TDRC)

Completion of arrangements with African experts  
to serve as sub-regional representatives for  
VITAL, and with TDRC and the Tanzania Food  
and Nutrition Center to serve as technical  
resource centers

TA to Uganda to conduct a prevalence  
assessment of vitamin A deficiency

Collaboration with FAO on a social marketing of  
vitamin A initiative for West Africa

#### Asia/Near East

TA to conduct a prevalence assessment of vitamin  
A deficiency in the Eastern Islands of Indonesia

In the South Pacific region, TA to the Foundation  
for the Peoples of the South Pacific on  
designing and implementing a vitamin A project  
in Kiribati; conduct a regional training workshop  
for nutrition and a regional vitamin A prevalence  
survey

In Nepal, conduct a collaborative inquiry on the integration of vitamin A supplementation with the expanded program on immunization

Expand the ICDS progress monitoring system to include monitoring of vitamin A activities through a buy-in from USAID/India

Latin America/Caribbean

TA to conduct a national vitamin A status survey in Bolivia

In Ecuador, assist the Ministry of Health to plan and conduct a vitamin A awareness building workshop and provide TA in planning national vitamin A deficiency control activities

In Guatemala, TA to develop a management information system for the IEF NutriAtoI project and conduct the final evaluation of the project

In Panama and the Dominican Republic, TA to conduct assessments of vitamin A status in the western regions of the countries

In El Salvador, investigate possible food vehicles for vitamin A fortification

**Collaborative Inquiries**

See Asia/Near East, Nepal

Collaboration with Save the Children on transfer of mango drying technology developed in Senegal to Haiti

Test the expanded use of the Modified Relative Dose Response assessment methodology developed by Dr. Jim Olson, et al.

**Information Gathering and Dissemination**

Maintain and update the Vitamin A Projects Database and the Bibliography database

Develop Orientation Schedules on vitamin A for use in workshops

Publish two issues of VITAL NEWS

Key word the library holdings

## APPENDICES

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VITAL/First Annual Report

## List of Publications

*Final Evaluation for the NOVA Project, EYE CARE/Haiti, VITAL report No. TA-1, April 1990*

*Home and Community Gardens Assessment: Program Implementation Experience. The Tip of the Iceberg, Peduzzi, Carolyn, VITAL report No. TA-2, June 1990*

*Proceedings of the Regional Workshop on Strategies to Improve Vitamin A Status in Latin America and the Caribbean, Guatemala, June 5-7, 1990 (Proceedings in Spanish with English abstract)*

*Panama Trip Report, José O. Mora, M.D., VITAL report no. TR-1, September 1990*

*El Salvador Trip Report, José O. Mora, M.D., VITAL report no. TR-2, September 1990*

*Dominican Republic Trip Report, José O. Mora, M.D. VITAL report no. TR-3, September 1990*

# VITAL

VITAMIN A FIELD SUPPORT PROJECT

## REQUEST TRACKING SYSTEM (RTS)

- \_\_\_\_\_  
name of person making request
- \_\_\_\_\_  
country
- \_\_\_\_\_  
date request is received at VITAL
- \_\_\_\_\_  
source of requestor's knowledge of VITAL
- Category of type of information/assistance provided. CIRCLE ANY OF THE FOLLOWING:  
DB database  
GN general information on vitamin A  
VT information on VITAL services  
TA technical assistance  
RF research funding  
OT other  
(SPECIFY) \_\_\_\_\_  
BB bibliography  
NW newsletter  
RP VITAL reports  
IV list of IVACG publications  
BR brochure
- \_\_\_\_\_ if over one hour is spent on this request, indicate number of hours
- Is this person on our mailing list? \_\_\_\_\_ If not, should he/she be on our mailing list? \_\_\_\_ If yes, provide address:  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

## Key Words

The following keywords are recommended for computer coding of documents in the VITAL library. These will be used for searching the data base to identify all documents on a specific topic.

absorption  
A.I.D.  
anemia  
assessment

beta-carotene  
bioassay  
bitot spots  
blindness  
breastfeeding

capsule  
capsule distribution  
carotene . . . . . use beta carotene carotenoid  
child survival  
collaborative inquiries  
colostrum  
conjunctival impression cytology  
conjunctival xerosis . . . . . use xerosis  
costs  
cultural behavior . . . . . use food habits

diarrhea  
dietary assessment . . . . . also use assessment  
dietary intake . . . . . use consumption

emergencies  
evaluation

FAO  
food aid  
food consumption  
food habits  
fortification  
gardening

grants  
 growth monitoring  
 green leaves  
  
 health workers  
 health services  
 HKI  
 horticulture ..... use gardening  
 ICEPO  
 immunizations  
 infants  
 injection  
 intramuscular administration ..... use injection  
 iron deficiency ..... use anemia  
  
 keratomalacia  
 kwashiorkor  
  
 lactation ..... use breastfeeding  
 low birth weight  
  
 malnutrition  
 management information system  
 marasmus ..... use malnutrition  
 MCH  
 measles  
 media  
 monitoring and evaluation  
 morbidity  
 mortality  
 MRDR  
  
 night blindness  
 nutrification ..... use fortification  
 nutrition  
 nutrition education  
 nutritional status  
 nutritional blindness ..... use xerophthalmia  
 nutritional surveillance  
  
 operational research ..... use collaborative inquiries  
 oral administration  
 ORT

policies  
pregnancy  
prematurity ..... use low birth weight  
prevalence studies  
prevention  
programs  
PVOs

retinol  
refugees ..... use emergencies  
research  
respiratory diseases  
RDR

screening ..... use assessment  
serum levels  
social marketing ..... use nutrition education  
supplementation ..... use capsule distribution  
survey methodology  
syrup ..... use supplementation

toxicity  
training

## UNICEF

village health workers  
vitamin A  
vitamin A deficiency  
vitamin A education  
vitamin A rich foods  
vitamin A status

weaning  
WHO

xerophthalmia  
xerosis

## Summary of Project Travel

<u>STAFF</u>	<u>COUNTRY</u>	<u>DATE</u>	<u>PURPOSE</u>
Robert Pratt Abeba Gobezie	Nepal	11/5-10/89	To attend the National Symposium and XIII IVACG Meeting.
Jose Mora	Guatemala	4/17-22/90	To discuss details of the LAC Vitamin A Workshop with the Bolivian participants.
Jose Mora Robert Pratt	Guatemala	6/6-9/90	To attend the LAC Vitamin A Workshop.
Robert Pratt	Senegal	6/17-18/90	To discuss West Africa region vitamin A activities with ORANA and IVACG regional representative.
Subhi Mehdi	Italy	6/18-19/90	To meet with FAO officials to discuss their vitamin A programs and learn about their information gathering and dissemination system for vitamin A materials.
Robert Pratt Subhi Mehdi	Zambia	6/19-22/90	To attend HKI/VITAP regional Vitamin A Workshop.
Jose Mora	Panama	8/19-22/90	To discuss with the MOH, areas of VITAL collaboration and participate in a meeting of the National Food and Nutrition Commission.
Jose Mora	Dominican Republic	8/27-30/90	To assist CENISMI and the MOH in preparing a draft protocol for the assessment of vitamin A status of the population, discuss potential collaborative arrangements and explore funding possibilities with UNDP.
Jose Mora	El Salvador	9/4-8/90	To participate and make presentations at the national Vitamin A Workshop sponsored by CALMA and the MOH.

<u>OTHERS</u>	<u>COUNTRY</u>	<u>DATE</u>	<u>PURPOSE</u>
John McKigney Sally Stansfield	Haiti	1/29-2/10/90	To conduct an evaluation of the EYECARE/NOVA project.
Frank Zinn Sally Stansfield	Malawi	2/1-10/90	To develop an MIS for IEF's vitamin A project in Malawi.
David Nelson	Bolivia	5/21-24/90	To discuss details of the LAC Vitamin A Workshop with the Bolivian participants.
David Nelson	Peru	5/24-26/90	To discuss details of the LAC Vitamin A Workshop with the Peruvian participants.
David Nelson Jaime Ariza Barbara Underwood	Guatemala	6/4-8/90	To attend the LAC Vitamin A Workshop.
Judi Aibel	Philippines Thailand	7/23-8/29/90	To conduct field site visits for the Vitamin A Social Marketing Assessment.
Sally Stansfield	Malawi	8/1-9/90	To develop an MIS for IEF's vitamin A project in Malawi.
David Nelson	Bolivia	8/18-24/90	To assist in the planning of follow-up activities discussed at the Vitamin A Workshop in Guatemala, and to discuss potential VITAL assistance.
Jesus Bulux	El Salvador	9/4-7/90	To participate as resource person for the National Vitamin A Workshop.

## MAILING LIST FOR VITAL NEWS

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Brown	Dr. Kenneth	International Eye Foundation
Sommer	Dr. Alfred	Iowa State Univ. of Science & Tech.
Hedgecock	Ms. Diane	JHU - Dept. of Human Nutrition
		JHU - Dept. of Int'l Health
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