

PD-ABG 520

**VITAMIN A FOR CHILD SURVIVAL
Chikwawa District
Lower Shire Valley, Malawi**

***QUARTERLY PROGRESS REPORT #3
JULY - SEPTEMBER, 1992***

Cooperative Agreement # PDC-0284-A-00-1123-00

Contacts:

Jack Blanks
Director of Programs
International Eye Foundation
7801 Norfolk Avenue
Bethesda, MD
20814

John Barrows
Child Survival/Vitamin A Coordinator
International Eye Foundation
7801 Norfolk Avenue
Bethesda, MD
20814

JANUARY 1993

○ TABLE OF CONTENTS ○

I.	PROJECT SUMMARY	2
	A. Project Objectives	2
II.	THIRD PROGRESS REPORT, JULY - SEPTEMBER, 1992	3
	A. Administrative	3
	B. Monitoring and Evaluation	3
	C. Project Activities	3
	D. Other Meetings/Collaboration	6
	E. Ophthalmologic Situation	7
	F. Other	7
III.	APPENDIX	7

I. PROJECT SUMMARY

The following is the third quarterly report for the IEF project "Vitamin A For Child Survival" in Chikwawa District, Lower Shire Valley, Malawi, Cooperative Agreement # PDC-0284-A-00-1123-00. The reporting period covers July 1st through September 30th, 1992.

A. Project Objectives

The major project objectives are:

- 1) 95% of children 0-23 months of age will be completely immunized;
- 2) 50% of women 15-45 years of age will receive three or more doses of TTV;
- 3) 75% of children 0-35 months of age will receive ORT during episodes of diarrhea;
- 4) 60% of lactating women will exclusively breast feed their children up to 4 months of age;
- 5) 80% of children 6 months to 6 years of age will receive vitamin A supplementation every six months;
- 6) 80% of women will receive vitamin A supplementation within two months of delivery;
- 7) 85% of women and their husbands can correctly identify the protective nature of condoms in AIDS prevention;
- 8) 80% of village health volunteers can correctly identify five signs of a healthy eye, and identify and refer children for treatment.

The schedule of events is attached as Schedule of Activities.

II. THIRD PROGRESS REPORT, JULY - SEPTEMBER, 1992

A. Administrative:

- A contract was written to lease new office space in Nchalo and renovations were started on August 1st. Renovation of a house in Chikwawa started and will be used to house Peace Corps Volunteers and other staff during visits to the LSV.
- Project vehicles are all in good running order. A new vehicle is recommended for the increasing number of drought relief tasks including nutritional assessment. Seven new motorbikes were purchased for use by HSAs.
- A motorcycle policy was prepared so IEF HSA's will be given their motorcycles at the end of the project in December 1995. The rationale is that future ownership provides an incentive to maintain the vehicle. The policy was discussed in Bethesda and will be presented to the Program Advisory Committee for approval.

B. Monitoring and Evaluation

- Baseline survey was conducted in March and April. Data analysis was conducted throughout July and a draft was sent to IEF Bethesda and the District Health Officer for comments. The report was completed and submitted in August.
- Several abstracts and short articles were drafted on selected results of the survey, i.e., the relationship between exclusive breast feeding and diarrhea, attitudes towards child spacing, and vitamin A supplementation and missed opportunities. These abstracts were submitted as possible presentations at meetings in Malawi and at regional conferences.

C. Project Activities

1. Training

- Six new IEF Health Surveillance Assistants (HSA's) were posted in early July.
- The final health center orientation was held in southern Makhwira in early July. The orientations have proved very useful in the development of strong relations between MOH and IEF.
- HSA trainees trained 68 village health committees and 92 volunteers in August.
- A backyard gardening training session was conducted with 9 HSA trainees in August 17-19.

- The training of village health committees and village health volunteers (phase 2) has occupied HSA trainees throughout September. Problems were experienced with the lack of ORS solution for training sessions.
- ADRA's new Health Inspectors and Health Surveillance Assistant in the neighboring district of Nsanje were trained by IEF in vitamin A, roster preparation and nutrition education.
- Project Peace Corps Volunteer, Mr. Mazyski, worked with Montford Hospital to standardize the training of village health volunteers throughout their target area.

2. Vitamin A

- IEF received 100,000 vitamin A capsules from Hoffmann-LaRoche Task Force "Sight & Life". As UNICEF supplies of 1 million are not yet available to NGOs or MOH, IEF has distributed emergency supplies to Montford Hospital, Trinity Hospital, Queen Elizabeth Central Hospital Malnutrition Ward and the MOH Chikwawa District.
- IEF provided 3,000 vitamin A capsules to the Pediatric department of Queen Elizabeth Central Hospital for measles and malnutrition unit.
- Vitamin A distribution by ADRA in northern Nsanje was completed with approximately 20,000 capsules distributed (IEF provided training and supplies).
- In August, Mr. Chikhosi met with Ms. Susan Eastman, HKI consultant to review IEF activities in vitamin A distribution. Ms. Eastman's visit to Malawi, sponsored by HKI VITAP project, was coordinated by IEF and the Drought Relief Coordinating Unit (DRCU) to assist in defining emergency vitamin A strategies.

3. Drought Activities

- Numerous meetings were organized and attended including:
 - July 9, Mr. Chikhosi, Mr. M'manga, and Dr. Courtright attended the 2nd Drought Relief meeting at Chikwawa District Commissioner's office.
 - July 15, Mr. Chikhosi attended the CONGOMA Drought Relief Committee meeting.
 - July 29, Mr. Chikhosi, Mr. M'manga, and Dr. Courtright attended the Chikwawa District Drought Health Sub-committee.
 - August 4 & 17, Dr. Courtright attended the CONGOMA Standing Committee on Disasters.

- September 4, Mr. Chikhosi and Mr. M'mnaga attend the District Drought Health Committee meeting.
- September 4, Dr. Courtright attended the CONGOMA Standing Committee on Disasters Meeting. No one shows up.
- September 15, Mr. Chikhosi and Mr. M'mnaga attend District Drought Meeting.
- In July, IEF submitted proposal to OFDA for drought relief in Chikwawa District. The proposal objectives were to strengthen existing project activities, conduct nutritional assessment, extend services to new populations, and assist the Red Cross in food distribution. The proposal was rejected in August. The proposal was rewritten and submitted to the DRCU for consideration.
- IEF, MSF, ADRA, Save the Children-UK, and Project Hope worked to establish a nutritional assessment program in Malawi. IEF and MSF-Holland have developed a collaborative program for nutritional assessment in the Chikwawa District. The first nutritional assessment survey was conducted August 3-7 found 3.8% of children moderately or severely malnourished. The second nutritional assessment was conducted in September in six areas of Chikwawa district (450 children each were surveyed). MOH assisted IEF in notification of villages for second round of nutritional assessment. The results found a small increase in the number of malnourished children.

4. Breastfeeding Activities

- Peace Corps Volunteer, Ms. Jessica Duke, initiated work on breastfeeding and early weaning practices in July. A questionnaire was developed and field tested to illicit additional information on women's attitudes and practices regarding breastfeeding. In September the questionnaire was administered to 50 women identified in the baseline survey. Data gathered is currently being analyzed for use in designing communication strategies.
- Plans were made for the visit of Dr. Sarah Castle, a consultant from WELLSTART, to assist IEF in conducting an ethnographic investigation on breastfeeding behavior using qualitative methodologies. The information will provide the foundation for the creation of an exclusive breastfeeding program in Chikwawa District.

5. AIDS Education

- Project Peace Corps Volunteer, Ms. Laura Porter will start work for IEF in October. Preliminary discussions regarding job description includes the development of a sound AIDS prevention program.

D. Other Meetings/Collaboration

1. Meetings

- July 3, the 3rd IEF Program Advisory Committee meeting was held at Montfort Hospital in Nchalo. Topics included care on Nsua Island, per diem for volunteers, nutritional assessment and improving collaboration between IEF, MOH, and Montfort Hospital.
- July 22, Dr. Courtright gave a lecture on eye disease epidemiology to post-doctoral Masters in Tropical Pediatric students (Liverpool School of Tropical Medicine).
- July 24, Mr. Chikhosi attended the Chikwawa PHC Technical Sub-committee meeting.
- July 28, Dr. Lewallen gave a lecture on eye diseases in the tropics to post-doctoral Masters in Tropical Pediatric students (Liverpool School of Tropical Medicine).
- August 14, Mr. Chikhosi and Mr. M'mnaga attended Chikwawa PHC Technical Subcommittee meeting.
- September 1, Mr. Chikhosi and Mr. M'mnaga attend Chikwawa PHC Technical Sub-Committee meeting.
- September 18, 4th Program Advisory Committee met discussing topics including: which areas will IEF expand into; recruitment of Nsua islander; cholera cases; and the most appropriate way to conduct vitamin A campaigns.

2. Collaboration

- In late July the Chikwawa District Health Officer, Dr. Hendrik Chapel completed his contract and departed Malawi.
- IEF and ADRA are working on the problem of duplicate IEF/ADRA volunteers in some villages in Nsange.
- IEF and MOH jointly held meetings in 3 project areas to reactivate village health committees
- IEF has worked closely with ADRA and SCF-UK to prepare interview form for Village Health Volunteer operational research.
- IEF reviewed volunteer incentive policy with Program Advisory Committee: It was decided that VHP's would be provided a lunch per diem according to MOH guidelines.

- With support from the Regional Health Office a proposal is being prepared for maize to be provided to qualifying village health volunteers for the short term drought period.

E. Ophthalmologic Situation

- Dr. Moses Chisale, Chief Pharmacist of Queen Elizabeth Central Hospital conducted training of 6 pharmacists in order to implement low cost production of eye drops unit in July.

- July 14, National Prevention of Blindness Committee meeting was held.

- Interest has been expressed in reopening the Queen Elizabeth Central Hospital spectacle bank. IEF recommends that Vision Aid International, a British NGO, assess the magnitude of refractive error before the establishment of a bank.

- Drs. Lewallen and Courtright submitted a manuscript entitled, "The problem of Blinding Cataract in the Southern Region of Malawi" to the Malawi Medical Journal in August.

F. Other

- An article by Paul Courtright and B. Biggs-Jarrell of ADRA entitled, "Village Health Volunteers: Key Issues Facing Agencies in Malawi" was published in July 1992 in the Malawi Medical Journal.

III. APPENDIX