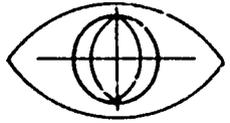


PD-ARBH-230

95922



12 November 1993

Linda Bernstein
Project Officer
ENE-EUR-DR-DPI
USAID
320 21st Street, NW
Room 4725 NS
Washington, DC 20523-0069

FAX: 202-647-6791

Re: Cooperative Agreement No.
EUR-0032-A-00-1032-00
Project Number: 180-0032

Dear Linda,

As per our contract, please find two copies and one original of our Quarterly Report for the period of 1 July through 30 September 1993.

Cheers,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Victoria M. Sheffield', with a long, sweeping underline.

Victoria M. Sheffield
Executive Director

cc: Gerald Zarr, AID/Sofia
Prof. Petja I. Vassileva, IEF/Sofia

the
International
Eye Foundation

QUARTERLY TECHNICAL REPORT

Organization: International Eye Foundation

Country: Bulgaria

Project Name: Program for Prevention of Blindness and Public Eye Health in Bulgaria

Project Number: 180-0032

Project Officer: Victoria M. Sheffield, Executive Director

Cognizant Technical Officer: Prof. Petja I. Vassileva

Report dates: from 1 July through 30 September 1993

PROJECT STATUS: Ongoing

PROGRESS:

ACCOMPLISHMENTS:

1. Meetings/IEF Sofia

A.I.D.

Prof. Petja Vassileva continues to attend the monthly meetings held at the USAID/Sofia for the directors of AID-funded projects and regularly provides monthly highlights of the project's teaching courses and survey progress for the participants and visitors, as well as to inform the A.I.D. officers about current progress and problems of the project.

U.S. Ambassador and A.I.D. on IEF Matching Grant to USAID/Washington (SightReach Program)

The IEF has been informed that it has been awarded a three-year Matching Grant for six countries, including Bulgaria. Activities are related to the identification of blind and visually impaired children who might be helped by surgery. Surveys will be conducted in the blind schools using a WHO survey form to identify the causes of blindness and children who need referral. Workshops for health workers will be conducted on the subjects of primary eye care and referral. An ophthalmologist who will receive the referrals will be identified and his/her skills will be strengthened in the area of pediatric ophthalmic surgery.

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Prof. Vassileva visited with the U.S. Ambassador to discuss IEF's Matching Grant titled SightReach. Bulgaria is one of six countries which will have activities to address curable blindness and visual impairment through surgical operations and training of health workers. Once again, Prof. Gugutchkova of the Institute of Ophthalmology is expressing opposition to this activity and Prof. Vassileva explained how the program would work and her plans to avoid any confrontation with Prof. Gugutchkova. The Ambassador expressed his support for the project. Prof. Vassileva had a similar conversation with about the Matching Grant with the USAID representative, Mr. Gerry Zarr, at special appointment.

Minister of Health

Prior to the visit of SEE Int'l., (see Section 2), Prof. Vassileva met with the Minister of Health to discuss the participation of Bulgarian ophthalmologists in the SEE seminar. As a result, a special order of the Minister was distributed to the eye clinics and offices all around the country, and it made the participation in the seminar possible.

At the end of July, 1993, Prof. Vassileva had another appointment with the Minister of Health. They discussed again the proposal of Mr. Frederick Griffith, Executive Director of the International Federation of Eye Banks, for establishing an Eye bank in Bulgaria, as well as the creation of an expert ophthalmic committee to the Ministry of Health. The Minister has agreed to write a letter of support for Mr. Griffith to resume plans for establishing the eye bank in Sofia. These plans, organized during his visit to Sofia in the early part of the year, were on hold since Prof. Gugutchkova's failed confrontation with the staff at the St. Ana Hospital and Center for Sight. Now that Prof. Vassileva is Chairman of the Eye Department/Center for Sight at St. Ana Hospital and Prof. Gugutchkova was forced to leave and return to her own institute, the Minister feels there are no significant obstacles and Mr. Griffith can proceed with the eye bank plans.

Participation in the AER Annual Meeting in Grenada, Spain

On September 15-18, 1993 Prof. Vassileva was invited to participate in the Annual Meeting of the Association for Eye Research (AER) in Grenada, Spain where she presented a paper on the Sofia Eye Study in Bulgaria. The paper was illustrated with slides and pictures from the survey and was well received.

Visit of Assoc. Prof. Tanya Tcholakova, M.D.

From July 18, 1993 till August 6, 1993, Dr. Tanya Tcholakova visited the USA. Dr. Tcholakova visited the Dana Center for Preventive Ophthalmology at the Johns Hopkins University where she worked together with Assoc. Prof. Sheila West, Dr. Stephen Gieser and Prof. Harry Quigley on the final analyses of the Sofia Eye Study, and began preparing scientific papers for publication in medical journals. Dr. Tcholakova also visited the IEF headquarters in Bethesda, MD to meet with Ms. Victoria Sheffield and the IEF staff. USAID will receive copies of all publications related to the Sofia Eye Study once they are published.

Participation in the Workshop on the Third Sector in Bulgaria

On September 27-30, 1993 Dr. Krassimir Kushev, the project manager of the Center for Sight and Ms. Yordanka Koleva, the project secretary, participated in a Third Sector Workshop that took place in Bansko, Bulgaria. The workshop was dedicated to the practical aspects of management and operation of the newly created non-profit sector in Bulgaria, and was a part of the Third Sector Project of the Institute for Policy Studies, the Johns Hopkins University. It was organized by the Johns Hopkins University with the collaboration of the Union of Bulgarian Foundations and Soros Open Society Fund. The workshop was attended by 70 representatives of Bulgarian non-profit organizations and government officials.

Soros Open Society Fund

In June, 1993, the Center for Sight applied for a partial sponsorship of the Sofia Eye Study to the Soros Open Society Fund in Sofia. Unfortunately the application was rejected. Communication remains open as the IEF/Center for Sight hopes to seek funding for new activities in the future.

Plans for Organizing a Conference at the End of the Current Project

Prof. Vassileva proposed to organize a conference on public health eye care and prevention of blindness in Bulgaria in May, 1993, as such is planned in the project, as a satellite meeting of the V-th General Assembly of the IAPB (International Agency for the Prevention of Blindness) in Berlin, May, 1994. She informed Dr. Bjorn Thylefors, Programme Manager, Prevention of Blindness, WHO/Geneva, about the matter and has received his approval.

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As the eastern European regional IAPB meeting planned for September, 1993 in Prague was canceled, Prof. Vassileva's idea of organizing a conference on public health ophthalmology, mostly for east Europeans, including new states from former USSR and ex-Yugoslavia (new democracies), would be more appropriate. Prof. Vassileva speeded negotiations, and she already has a formal offer for organization of this event in the mountain resort of Borovetz - 60 km from Sofia. It states that the full board accommodation and 3 meals in 3-star hotel will cost \$ 25 for participant, and for a conference hall totally \$ 30 for two days. Since the IAPB 5th General Assembly will take place 8-13 May, 1993, the proposal for this conference is the following time schedule (14-17 May): arrival and registration on 14, conference on 15-16, trip to Sofia, Center for Sight, some sightseeing on 17, and eventually departure on 17-18. Probably, it will be possible to negotiate for a special air fare, if there is enough time. In this way it will be possible to assemble people from the region whose participation in Berlin can not be funded nor could they afford to travel on their own budget. If some funds could be raised, this event would be of great benefit to the region, and the costs would be acceptable. An amount of USD 400 for each participant (travel and hotel) was provided by the IAPB for every participant in the meeting in Prague. The price for Sofia-Borovetz looks like less than USD 100 for in-country costs. Regarding the travel, depending on the distances it can vary from \$ 100 to \$ 270. Travelling by train would be also possible.

Prof. Vassileva informed Mr. Alan Johns, President of IAPB, and Dr. Marcel Chovet, IAPB's Chairman for the European region as well, and she is expecting their opinion on the matter. Prof. Vassileva is planning to invite Dr. Bjorn Thylefors (WHO/Geneva), Dr. Carl Kupfer (NEI/Bethesda), Prof. Alfred Sommer, Prof. Harry Quigley and Assoc. Prof. Sheila West (Johns Hopkins/Baltimore), Dr. Tim ffytche (Ophthalmic Aid to Eastern Europe/London), Dr. Murray McGavin (International Centre for Eye Health/London), Dr. Larry Schwab (IEF/Bethesda), Dr. Jim Martone (Orbis), and other distinguished ophthalmologists as honorable guests and invited speakers.

2. Training

Visiting Professor Program

From July 3 to July 12, 1993 a team of SEE International (Surgical Eye Expeditions), Inc., USA visited the Center for Sight and the St. Anna Hospital. SEE International is an NGO based in California which collaborates with the IEF. Participants in the team were three ophthalmic surgeons, specialized in anterior eye segment: Dr. Harry Brown, Dr. Emil Royo and Dr. Emil Wright; three operating nurses: Ms. Baillie Brown, Ms. Lisa Stolz, and Ms. Margaret Wright, and a technical assistant - Mr. Todd Thorner. They met with the staff of the Eye Clinic, and together with Bulgarian doctors performed 33 cataract surgeries on Bulgarian patients, and a number of examinations. A seminar consisting of 12 lectures on cataract surgery was organized for Bulgarian eye physicians from all around the country on July 5-9, 1993. The lectures were delivered by the American guests and Bulgarian professors in the conference hall of the Sofia District Hospital. Prof. Vassileva presented the results of the Sofia Eye Study and outlined the priorities for primary eye care in the country. Special applications were distributed to all participants in the seminar who expressed a desire to join the international teams of SEE Int. The seminar ended with round table discussions and future plans.

A symposium was held for the ophthalmic nurses from Sofia City and the other eye surgical centers in Bulgaria. Each of the participants received a certificate of attendance at the end of the symposium.

On July 10, 1993, the surgical team visited the Eye Department at Higher Medical Institute in Plovdiv to meet Prof. Blaga Chilova, and to plan a visit next year to her clinic.

Johnson & Johnson organized a booth during the seminar. They are the main sponsor of SEE providing IOL's and other supplies for their surgical activities.

The team of SEE Int. together with Prof. Vassileva were invited for a visit to the American ambassador, Mr. Hugh Kenneth Hill. The group expressed their appreciation of the quality of the work at the clinic, especially the surgical skills of Bulgarian doctors. They had a lengthy conversation about the IEF project, Bulgaria, health care, etc.

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During the visit, a meeting with the press was also organized, as the mass media expressed a great interest towards the visit of SEE. A lot of journalists came, several interviews were given, and materials were published in six newspapers. Three interviews were broadcast on local radio stations. As a result, it was good publicity for the IEF project.

Attachment A - Report of SEE, International visit.

3. Procurement

A donation consisting of IOL's and surgical supplies was given to the Center for Sight by the SEE International, Inc. team during their visit to Bulgaria.

4. Service Delivery

CLINIC OUTPATIENTS:

	Bulgarians	1340	11097
-	<u>Foreigners</u>	<u>69</u>	<u>748</u>
	TOTAL	1409 (this quarter)	11845 (to date)
	Breakdown: Bulgarians		Foreigners
	July	332	24
	August	400	17
	<u>September</u>	<u>608</u>	<u>28</u>
	TOTAL	1340 (this quarter)	69 (this quarter)

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SURGICAL OPERATIONS:

(From July 1 to July 19, 1993 only. On July 19, the operating theater was closed for repair for two and half months. No operations were performed after this date at the Eye Clinic, St. Anna Hospital. Some urgent operations were performed at the Eye Clinic, Sofia District Hospital which is very close.)

St. Anna Hospital:

Bulgarians	84	2184
<u>Foreigners</u>	<u>5</u>	<u>89</u>
TOTAL	89 (this quarter)	2273 (to date)

Breakdown:	Bulgarians	Foreigners
cataract extraction	6	-
cataract extraction w/IOL	44	-
glaucoma procedures	5	-
retinal detachment	9	-
vitrectomy	6	-
cryo application	2	-
keratoplasty	-	1
strabismus surgery (squint)	3	1
lid procedures (plastic surgery)	-	-
<u>others</u>	<u>14</u>	<u>3</u>
TOTAL	89	5

Sofia District Hospital:

cataract extraction	1	-
cataract extraction w/IOL	6	3
PPV -	1	-
cryo application -	2	-
<u>others</u>	<u>1</u>	<u>-</u>
TOTAL	11	3

Total to date including District Hospital figures: 2287

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Treatment with Argon Laser - Out of order.

Friedman Analyzer: 3

Humphrey Field Analyzer: 22

KOWA Camera: 46

Patients Fitted with donated (IEF) Toric Soft Contact Lenses:

Bulgarians	98
Foreigners	0
TOTAL	98

5. Collaboration

- Division of Statistics at the MOH
- LDS Church, Salt Lake City
- International Federation of Eye Banks
- SEE International, Inc.
- Union of Bulgarian Foundations

6. Principle Issues and Problems

Reduction in IEF Overhead Rate

The IEF overhead rate has reduced from 18.7% to 16.2%. Two Financial Status Reports are attached. **Attachment B** is the revised report for the quarter ending 30 June 1993. **Attachment C** is the report for this ending quarter.

Problems with St. Anna Faculty Hospital

At the end of July, 1993 due to some new adjustments in the affiliation of former faculty hospitals after the disbanding of Medical Academy, and severe problems with the status of St. Anna Hospital, caused by the rivalry and tendency for monopoly from the other university eye clinics, Prof. Vassileva organized a professional meeting for the Heads of all clinics at St. Anna Hospital. A proposal to sustain the St. Anna Hospital as a part of the Medical Faculty was signed, and forwarded to the Minister of Health. A week later after some discussions with the authorities, an alternative proposal was made - to give to the hospital the statute of a national referral surgical center with teaching.

Some other problems with the insufficient staff of the Eye Clinic occurred, as both vacant places for assistant professors are still frozen. Additionally, Assoc. Prof. Misheva left her position, and went to the District Hospital, and her place is also vacant so far.

Argon Endolaser ORION 3001

The Argon Endolaser was out commission for nine and half months. A contract for long-term technical maintenance was concluded between the service engineer of Rodenstock Co. but no progress with the repair so far.

Humphrey Field Test Analyzer

The Humphrey Field Analyzer was out of commission for three and half months. The local engineer was able to partially diagnose the malfunction, and to remove it. The service manual procured by the IEF has not arrived yet to Sofia.

Ford Escort Car

The project vehicle was involved in an accident on a rainy highway on July 4, 1993. There were no injuries and the IEF driver was not at fault. The vehicle has been non-operational for three months. The insurance company is expected to pay the full insured amount, or to provide another car at the price of the insurance. In the meantime, staff are using either personal vehicles or public transportation. When visiting professors are in-country, a vehicle has been hired for their transportation.

Sharp Copy Machine

The copy machine has been out of commission for three and half months. There are difficulties with the repair, as there is only one Sharp service engineer in Bulgaria, and the spare parts must be delivered from the US. The lack of a copier in the office of the Center caused great difficulties and additional costs. The necessary part has been ordered by the IEF headquarters office and it will be hand carried to Sofia.

7. Planned Actions Next Quarter

Fellowship in Ophthalmology

On November 1, 1993, Dr. George Parvanov, a young promising ophthalmologist from the Eye clinic is supposed to start a three-month training at the Eye Department, Moran Eye Institute, University of Utah, USA with the kind support of Prof. Randall Olson and the USAID.

Visiting Professor

Prof. George Hilton, the Director of the Vitreoretinal Department, University of California in San Francisco will visit the Center for Sight from October 9 to October 22, 1993. Prof. Hilton will perform operations, consult patients, and deliver lectures at the seminar, dedicated to the posterior segment of the eye.

Donation of Ophthalmic Equipment, Supplies, and Pharmaceuticals

A significant donation, organized by Prof. George Hilton, is expected to arrive to the Center for Sight in the beginning of October. It will consist of a Coherent argon laser with video equipment, binocular indirect ophthalmoscope, a cryo instrument, sterilizing solutions, IOL's, pharmaceuticals, and other items.

Attachments:

- A. Report of the Surgical Eye Expeditions (SEE), International
- B. Revised Financial Status Report for previous quarter
- C. Financial Status Report for this quarter

Attachment A

SEE
SEE
SEESEE INTERNATIONAL, INC.
HEADQUARTERS
27 E. DE LA GUERRA STREET C-2 • SANTA BARBARA, CA 93101-2202
(805) 963-3303 • FAX (805) 965-3564

August 9, 1993

Medical Director
St. Anna Hospital
Sofia, Bulgaria

Dear Doctor:

A S.E.E. International team of volunteer ophthalmologists worked in collaboration with The Center for Sight and ophthalmologists from various locations in Bulgaria from 5-9 July, 1993, at St. Anna Hospital. Activities included educational seminars, clinical consultations, patient evaluations, cataract surgery, follow-up evaluation of the program, and plans for the future.

I made the following observations during the project:

The organization of the project by Professor Petja Vassileva and her staff was outstanding. Frustrations with timely communications in setting up the project were overcome with persistence and ample lead time.

Bulgarian ophthalmologist's clinical expertise and surgical skill levels varied depending on the clinical setting from which they came. Ophthalmologists from major centers were extremely knowledgeable about the current state of clinical ophthalmology and ophthalmic surgery. Doctors from other areas were interested in contact with their local and foreign colleagues to compare notes and techniques. There is a need to introduce newer techniques to doctors in smaller communities.

Dr. Majorov is an especially well-trained general and retinal/vitreous surgeon. He is a major asset to the Eye Department because of his advanced skills and training. The operating room staff, under the direction of Operating Room Supervisor Joana Todorova, was most cooperative and hard-working during long hours under difficult circumstances. As you know, a competent and motivated operating room staff is essential to achieve high-volume, high-quality ophthalmic surgery.

The Eye Department wards and clinical exam area were scrupulously clean and well maintained, an example for all hospitals. Excellent ophthalmic equipment and instruments were available for patient exams and evaluation. Ophthalmic operating microscopes of highest quality were available in the operating rooms. Backup equipment for complex posterior segment surgery procedures would be important to obtain when possible. The availability of a working Argon laser in the Center for Sight is critical for the treatment of diabetic retinopathy, a potentially blinding condition. Access to good quality intra ocular lenses (IOLs) will enhance the standard of cataract surgery. The result will be an overall improvement in the long-term visual rehabilitation of cataract patients.

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Robert P. Jensen, Chairman
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BRINGING SIGHT TO LIFE

Medical Director

August 9, 1993

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Professor Vassileva's important survey revealing cataracts as the major cause of blindness in Bulgaria should direct the attention of ophthalmologists and leaders to develop strategies attacking this solvable condition. A large number of patients would benefit from cataract surgery. Given the excellent facilities, equipment, and number of ophthalmic surgeons in the two eye centers visited in Sofia and Plovdiv, there is potential to significantly increase the number of cataract surgeries performed.

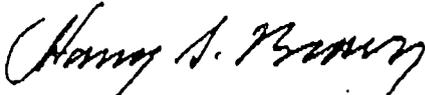
Strategies to attack curable blindness, especially cataracts, should include programs to increase public and official awareness about the importance of prevention of blindness programs. Surgical skill-enhancing programs for ophthalmologists through "hands on" cataract surgery clinics at the medical centers or in local hospitals, with small, traveling teams of more experienced surgeons, can rapidly expose surgeons to appropriate methods in a short period of time. These are especially effective if held on a recurrent basis, each clinic lasting only one to three days. Working with foreign colleagues is a stimulating experience for all participants. Inexperienced surgeons working with senior colleagues on a number of cases over a short period of time will compress the learning curve.

Achieving "Cataract Free Zones" is a distinct possibility in a geographically small country with the ophthalmic manpower and facilities available. Bulgaria has tremendous opportunity and potential to advance rapidly and serve as a model to many other countries in reducing surgically correctable blindness.

I know you are fully aware of the many obstacles and constraints along the way, but you have many positive factors, too. I hope S.E.E. International can play a small part in this important work in the future. I look forward to continued programs of international cooperation in Bulgaria with interchange of professional colleagues working together for the sight impaired.

Bulgarian hospitality was a signal experience for each member of the S.E.E. International team and will remain a fond memory for many years. I would appreciate your evaluation of the project and recommendations for improvement as well as the prospects for future collaborative clinics.

Cordially,



Harry S. Brown, M.D., F.A.C.S.
President and Medical Director

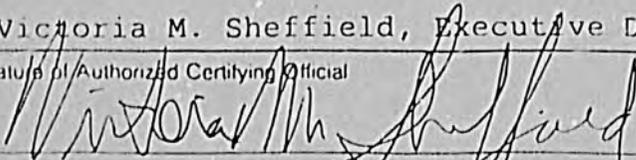
HSB:sr

cc: Minister of Health
Professor Petja Vassileva
Ms. Victoria Sheffield, Executive Director,
International Eye Foundation

FINANCIAL STATUS REPORT

(Short Form)

(Follow instructions on the back)

1. Federal Agency and Organizational Element to Which Report is Submitted Agency For International Development		2. Federal Grant or Other Identifying Number Assigned By Federal Agency EUR-0032-A-00-1032-00		OMB Approval No 0348-0039	Page 1	of 1 pages
3. Recipient Organization (Name and complete address, including ZIP code) International Eye Foundation 7801 Norfolk Avenue, Suite 200 Bethesda, Maryland 20814						
4. Employer Identification Number 52-0742301		5. Recipient Account Number or Identifying Number 553021783		6. Final Report <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No		7. Basis <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Cash <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Accrual
8. Funding/Grant Period (See Instructions) From: (Month, Day, Year) 04/16/91		To: (Month, Day, Year) 04/15/94		9. Period Covered by this Report From: (Month, Day, Year) 04/01/93		To: (Month, Day, Year) 06/30/93
10. Transactions:				I Previously Reported	II This Period	III Cumulative
a. Total outlays				632,761	132,588	765,349
b. Recipient share of outlays				274,622	98,608	373,230
c. Federal share of outlays				358,139	33,980	392,119
d. Total unliquidated obligations						-----
e. Recipient share of unliquidated obligations						-----
f. Federal share of unliquidated obligations						-----
g. Total Federal share (Sum of lines c and f)						392,119
h. Total Federal funds authorized for this funding period						525,000
i. Unobligated balance of Federal funds (Line h minus line g)						132,881
11. Indirect Expense						
a. Type of Rate (Place "X" in appropriate box) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Provisional <input type="checkbox"/> Predetermined <input type="checkbox"/> Final <input type="checkbox"/> Fixed						
b. Rate 16.2 %		c. Base		d. Total Amount		e. Federal Share
12. Remarks: Attach any explanations deemed necessary or information required by Federal sponsoring agency in compliance with governing legislation.						
13. Certification: I certify to the best of my knowledge and belief that this report is correct and complete and that all outlays and unliquidated obligations are for the purposes set forth in the award documents.						
Typed or Printed Name and Title Victoria M. Sheffield, Executive Director					Telephone (Area code, number and extension) 301-986-1830	
Signature of Authorized Certifying Official 					Date Report Submitted 11/10/93	

