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BARTON R. BURKHALTER

INTERNATIONAL VITAMIN A
CONSULTATIVE GROUP MEETING

ARUSHA, TANZANIA

MARCH 7-14, 1993

NUTRITION COMMUNICATION PROJECT

**Academy for Educational Development
1255 23rd Street, N.W.
Washington, DC 20037**

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TRIP REPORT

Barton R. Burkhalter

IVACG Conference
Arusha, Tanzania
March 7-14, 1993

I attended this conference on behalf of the NCP. The purpose was to learn about the most recent results of research and application with respect to vitamin A deficiency, to present the Profiles model to the conference, and to seek information that would be applicable to the design and application of Profiles.

Key results reported. The excellent program, including the poster sessions, contained many important results. A complete list of the program presentations is attached. Some of the results and comments that I found especially interesting are noted below.

1. Beaton meta-analysis. A distinguished team headed by George Beaton of the University of Toronto reviewed all field studies of the effect of vitamin A supplementation on child mortality. They concluded that in populations where vitamin A deficiency is a public health problem, vitamin A supplementation decreases mortality among 6-59 month old children by 23% on average. They believe this is a very reliable finding.

2. Prevalence of vitamin A deficiency. Various field studies, many supported by the AID/RD/N VITAL project, reported vitamin A deficiency in countries throughout the world as part of the poster sessions. A summary of these reports is given below.

3. Future focus on application. Two speeches focused on the importance of addressing program implementation and effectiveness in the future. Jim Greene of the World Bank analyzed the factors that are important if the field is to achieve real success in terms of reducing vitamin A deficiency and its negative consequences. He identified training, supervision and information as key components that require far more attention in the future. Franz Simmersbach of FAO criticized the group for paying too much attention to detailed research issues and not enough to implementation issues. He called for future meetings to emphasize program design and implementation and country wide success in reducing vitamin A deficiency.

IVACG Conference Trip Report, Burkhalter, March 1993

Country	Sponsor or Author	Age	Prevalence of VAD by Severity			
			PA ₁	PA ₂	PA ₃	PA ₄
Bolivia	VITAL/USAID	12-59 m	11.2%	0.1%		
Cameroon	VITAL/USAID		21%			0.5%
Dom.Rep.	VITAL/USAID	1-5 yr	15.4%	4.2%		
Panama	VITAL/USAID	12-72 m	5.9%	0.2%		
Solomon Is.	VITAL/USAID				0.5%	1.42%
India	Coimbatore				0.5%	2.0%
Indonesia	Muhilal	Lact.	30.1%			
		Nonlact	9.6%			
S. Africa			44%	5%		

Presentation of Profiles. I presented the Profiles model at a special workshop on Tuesday evening in the hotel. It was attended by about 30 participants, roughly half from developing countries. The focus of the presentation was Bangladesh application, both process and product. The presentation apparently was well received based on the reaction of the attendees. It is worth noting that the transformer was not up to the Arusha electrical system and caused problems. I recommend all equipment be borrowed or rented in the future be equipped internally to handle 240 volt systems.

Input to Profiles. Various important items of information were obtained that will be useful in the design of the Profiles model. They include:

1. Beaton' results noted above.
2. Vitamin A deficiency prevalence results noted above.
3. A paper by Drake et al on vitamin A deficiency in Indonesian villages showing that both traditional villages and modern villages had significantly lower prevalences than villages in the process of transition from traditional to modern.
4. A simulation by Tilden and Grosse predicting mortality and morbidity by cause based on attack rates and

IVACG Conference Trip Report, Burkhalter, March 1993

case fatality rates. The focus on acute problems provides an interesting counterpoint to the chronic problems of malnutrition modeled in Profiles. Their treatment of costs provided some interesting ideas.

5. Work by Stoltzfus on the protective effect of breastfeeding with respect to vitamin A deficiency.

6. The use of a computer based simulation by FAO in nutrition training courses in the 1980s. The simulation included tradeoffs between food and cash cropping, consumer and producer price supports, and urban and rural populations and migrations. Participants played various roles. Dr. Simmersbach may be able to help us learn more about the experience FAO had with this effort.

In addition the following contacts were explored related to future application of the Profiles model:

ECSA. Claudia Fishman and I met with representatives of ECSCA, the Commonwealth Health Secretariat for East, Central and South Africa, and discussed among other items the possible application of Profiles in their own work with their 12 member countries. (This was followed up with a meeting in Uganda to discuss a workshop at Makerere University to begin implementing such an application.)



8-12 MARCH 1993 • ARUSHA, TANZANIA



TOWARD COMPREHENSIVE PROGRAMS TO REDUCE VITAMIN A DEFICIENCY

Sunday, 7 March 1993

1800-2130

Early Registration at Novotel Mt. Meru Hotel

Monday, 8 March 1993

0800

Registration continues at Arusha International Conference Centre
Set up for poster session on Activities for the Control of Vitamin A
Deficiency in Tanzania

0900-1730

Activities for the Control of Vitamin A Deficiency in Tanzania posters
on display, presenters available 1515-1600

0900

Inauguration

Dr. Festo P. Kavishe

Master of Ceremonies: ~~Dr. J. Temba*~~

Mr. E.G. Moyo, Chair, National Vitamin A Consultative Group*

Dr. F.P. Kavishe, Managing Director, Tanzania Food and Nutrition
Centre

Dr. E.A. Duale, WHO Representative, Tanzania*

Mr Dan Todd
~~Ms. A. Aidoo~~, UNICEF Representative, Tanzania*

~~Dr. Wally Dow~~, UNDP Resident Representative, Tanzania*

Mr. Richard Fuller, FAO Representative, Tanzania*

US Agency for International Development Representative,
Mission to Tanzania* ~~Dr. Frances R. Davidson~~

Dr. Frances Davidson

~~Mr. Richard Scifman~~, Director, Office of Nutrition, Bureau for
Research and Development, US Agency for International Development

Dr. Gottlieb L. Monekosso, Regional Director, African Regional Office,
World Health Organization*

Dr. Aaron Lechtig

~~Mr. Cole Dodge~~, UNICEF Representative, Regional Office*

Mrs. Zakia Maghji

~~Mr. Amrani Mayagila~~, Minister of Health, Tanzania*

Dr. Abraham Horwitz, Chair, International Vitamin A Consultative
Group

1030

Break

*Views expressed by the presenters do not necessarily reflect the views of IVACC or The Nutrition Foundation, Inc.
An asterisk (*) following an individual's name indicates that the individual had not confirmed participation in
the program at the time of printing.*

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The Nutrition Foundation, Inc. is a division of The Human Nutrition Institute of the International Life Sciences Institute

Monday, 8 March 1993 (continued)

- 1050 National Symposium Session
Chair: Dr. F.P. Kavisho B.B.O. Mmbaga
- 1050 An Overview of the National Vitamin A Deficiency Control Program
Mr. C.R. Temalilwa
- 1115 Disease Targeted Vitamin A Capsule Distribution in the Primary
Health Care Context
Mr. M. Kweba
- 1140 ~~Initiation of Control of Vitamin A Deficiency Through Community-
Based Diet Modification~~ Monitoring Impact Through the Sentinel Xerophthalmia Surveillance System
Mr. L. Mselle Dr. Godwin Ndossi
- 1205 Discussion and announcements
-
- 1230 Lunch
-
- 1400 National Symposium Session
Chair: Dr. T.N. Maloulembe Dr. Godwin Ndossi
- 1400 ~~Monitoring Progress Through the Sentinel Xerophthalmia~~ Initiation of Control of
Surveillance System Vitamin A Deficiency Through Community
Based Diet Modification
Dr. Godwin Ndossi
Mr. L. Mselle
- 1425 Experience on IEC and Training
Mrs. P. Kisanga
- 1450 Initiation of Control of Vitamin A Deficiency Through
Primary Health Care
Dr. B.B.O. Mmbaga
-
- 1515 Break and Poster session on Activities for the Control of
Vitamin A Deficiency in Tanzania with presenters available
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- 1600 National Symposium Session
Chair: Dr. D. Masesa
- 1600 Public Health Measures in the Control of Vitamin A Deficiency:
A Proposal to Control Intestinal Parasites
Prof. C. Kihamia
- 1625 Tea Fortification with Vitamin A, Proposed Research
Mr. C.R. Temalilwa
- 1650 Discussion and announcements
- 1730 End of day's formal sessions
- 1900 Reception at Novotel Mt. Meru Hotel
Local Organizing Committee

Tuesday, 9 March 1993

0800	Set up for poster sessions on Program Issues and New Human Research on the Functions of Vitamin A
0900-1800	Program Issues and New Human Research on the Functions of Vitamin A poster sessions on display, presenters available 1515-1600
0900	Projects to Programs: What does it take? Chair: Dr. Abraham Horwitz
0910	International Perspective Mr. James Greene*
0940	National Perspective Dr. Festo Kavishe
1000	National Perspectives Panel
1000	India: Dr. Vinodini Reddy
1010	Brazil: Dr. Leonor Santos
1020	Philippines: Dr. Florentino Solon
1030	Break
1100	Programs: How do we know they are working? Chair: Dr. Aree Valyasevi
1100	International Perspective Dr. John B. Mason
1130	National Perspective Dr. Ignatius Tarwotjo
1200	Discussion and announcements
1230	Lunch
1400	Operational Issues Defined by Field Experience Chair: Dr. Franz Simmersbach
1400	Cost, Coverage and Change of Health Status Associated with Alternative Approaches to the Control of Vitamin A Deficiency in Nepal Dr. Robert L. Tilden
1420	Changing Dietary Behaviors in Bangladesh: Worldview International Foundation: Nutritional Blindness Prevention Program Dr. Nazrul Islam
1440	Social Marketing in the Prevention and Control of Vitamin A Deficiency: An Unfinished Agenda Dr. Joseph Scalfani
1500	Discussion
1515	Break and Vitamin A Program Issues Poster Session with presenters available

Tuesday, 9 March 1993 (continued)

- 1600 **Vitamin A Program Issues**
Chair: Dr. Moses Chirambo
- 1600 **Evaluation of A Policy of Routine High Dose Vitamin A Therapy for Children Hospitalized with Measles**
Dr. Greg Hussey
- 1615 **Vitamin A Supplementation in Bolgatanga-Frafra District Ghana: Costs and the Window of Opportunity for Integration with EPI**
Dr. Dyna C. Arhin
- 1630 **Vitamin A Supplementation in Chikwawa District, Malawi: Mother's Knowledge, Delivery Strategies, Missed Opportunities**
Mr. John M. Barrows
- 1645 **Vitamin A Status and Lactation in Indonesian Women: A Randomized Trial of High-Dose Supplementation in the Post-Partum Period**
Dr. Rebecca J. Stoltzfus
- 1700 **Factors Affecting the Utilization of Community Based Micronutrient Interventions in Eastern Indonesia**
Dr. Peter Fajans
- 1715 **Factors Associated with Coverage of Vitamin A Capsule Distribution in a District in Central Java, Indonesia, 1991**
Dr. Hamam Hadi
- 1730 **Summary of Vitamin A Program Issues Poster Session**
Dr. T.N. Malemlema
- 1745 Discussion and announcements
- 1815 End of day's formal sessions
- 1915 IVACG Steering Committee dinner and meeting
- 1915 Demonstration of PROFILES: Computer graphics for promoting the importance of nutrition in national development
(At Novotel Mt. Meru Hotel)
Dr. Bart Burkhalter *Manyara Room*

Wednesday, 10 March 1993

- 0800-0830 Set up for poster sessions:
Consequences for Human Health and Development of Vitamin A Deficiency
- 0830-1800 **Newer Methodologies for Assessing Subclinical Vitamin A Deficiency**
Wednesday poster sessions on display, presenters available 1400-1445
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- 0830 **Vitamin A and Childhood Mortality: Reports from Clinical Trials**
Chair: Dr. George Beaton
- 0830 **The Effects of Vitamin A Supplementation on Childhood Mortality in Northern Ghana**
Ms. Nicola Dollimore
- 0900 Discussion
- 0915 **Impact of Periodic Vitamin A Supplementation on Early Infant Mortality in Nepal**
Dr. Keith P. West, Jr.

Wednesday, 10 March 1993 (continued)

0930	Effectiveness of Vitamin A Supplementation in Control of Young Child Morbidity and Mortality in Developing Countries Prof. George Beaton
0945	Discussion
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1000	Break
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1030	Vitamin A and Childhood Morbidity: Reports from Clinical Trials Chair: Dr. Alfred Sommer
1030	Vitamin A Supplementation Reduces Severity of Childhood Illnesses in Ghana Dr. Paul Arthur
1045	No Effect of Vitamin A Supplementation on Childhood Morbidity in Northeast Brazil Dr. Mauricio L. Barreto
1100	Effect of Massive Dose Vitamin A Administered During Acute Diarrhea on Subsequent Diarrheal and Respiratory Morbidity Dr. M.K. Bhan*
1115	Impact of High Dose Vitamin A Supplementation on Incidence and Duration of Episodes of Diarrhea and Acute Respiratory Infections in Preschool Indonesian Children Dr. Michael J. Dibley
1130	Discussion and announcements
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1230	Lunch
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1400	Poster sessions with presenters available: Consequences for Human Health and Development of Vitamin A Deficiency Newer Methodologies for Assessing Subclinical Vitamin A Deficiency
1445	Special Presentations on Vitamin A Distribution Chair: Dr. Aaron Lechtig*
1445	Vitamin A Deficiency in Infancy Dr. Barbara A. Underwood
1455	Delivering Vitamin A Supplements at Immunization Contacts Dr. Nicholas Cohen
1505	Safety of Vitamin A Supplementation Through EPI in Bangladesh Dr. Andres de Francisco
1515	Prerequisites for the Initiation of "Universal" VAC Distribution: A Policy Think Piece Dr. Ted Greiner
1530	Discussion
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1550	Break
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Wednesday, 10 March 1993 (continued)

- 1620 **Newer Methodologies for Assessing Subclinical Vitamin A Deficiency**
Chair: Dr. James A. Olson
- 1620 **Indicators of Vitamin A Status: An Overview**
Dr. James A. Olson
- 1635 **Issues of Using Dietary Methods of Assessment for Vitamin A Deficiency**
Dr. S. Ismail
- 1650 **Issues Related to Clinical and Histological Methods of Assessment for Vitamin A Deficiency**
Dr. Alfred Sommer
- 1705 **Issues Related to Biochemical Methods of Assessment for Vitamin A Deficiency**
Dr. David Ross*
- 1720 **Summary of Consequences for Human Health and Development of Vitamin A Deficiency Poster Session**
Dr. Michael Latham
- 1735 **Discussion and announcements**
- 1800 **End of day's formal sessions**
- 1900 **IVACG Steering Committee dinner and meeting with IVACG Regional Representatives for Africa**

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Thursday, 11 March 1993

- 0800-0830 **Set up for poster sessions: Dietary Behavior and Surveys**
- 0830-1715 **Thursday poster sessions on display, presenters available 1530-1615**
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- 0830 **Linking Vitamin A to Other Micronutrient Issues, e.g., Iron and Iodine**
Chair: Dr. Anna Verster
- 0830 **Iron Deficiency: The Global Perspective**
Dr. James Cook
- 0850 **Overview and Update of Iodine Deficiency**
Dr. Rainer Gutekunst
- 0910 **Panel discussion on Linking Vitamin A to Other Micronutrient Issues, e.g., Iron and Iodine**
Dr. James Cook
Dr. Rainer Gutekunst
Mr. Richard Seifman
Ms. Jenny Cervinskas
Dr. Frederick Trowbridge*
- 0950 **Effects of an Oral Iodine Preparation on the Stability of Retinyl Palmitate**
Dr. James A. Olson

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Thursday, 11 March 1993 (continued)

1005	Role of Vitamin A in Nutritional Anemia: Recent Studies in Pregnant Women in Indonesia, Children in Ethiopia, and in Laboratory Animals Dr. Clive E. West
1020	Discussion
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1040	Break
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1100	Agency Commitments for the Virtual Eradication of Vitamin A Deficiency by the Year 2000 Chair: Dr. Suzanne Harris
1100	Food and Agricultural Organization of the United Nations Dr. Franz Simmersbach
1115	UNICEF Mr. David Alnwick
1130	World Health Organization Dr. Barbara A. Underwood
1145	World Bank Mr. James Greene*
1200	Administrative Committee on Coordination-Subcommittee on Nutrition (ACC/SCN) Dr. John B. Mason
1215	Discussion and announcements
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1230	Lunch
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1400	Agency Commitments for the Virtual Eradication of Vitamin A Deficiency by the Year 2000 (continued) Chair: Mr. Richard Seifman
1400	United States Agency for International Development (USAID) Dr. Frances R. Davidson
1415	Swedish International Development Authority (SIDA) Mr. Nils Ostrom*
1430	This session may include additional presentations. Presenters will be announced.
1500	Discussion
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1530	Break and Poster Sessions Concerning Dietary Behavior and Surveys with presenters available
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1615	Summaries of Thursday Poster Sessions Chair: Dr. Pawlos Quana'a
1615	Summary of Dietary Behavior Poster Session Ms. Sutilak Smitasiri
1630	Summary of Survey Poster Session Dr. Rodolfo Florentino

Thursday, 11 March 1993 (continued)

- 1645 Discussion and announcements
- 1715 End of day's sessions at AICC
- 1900-2030 Video presentations at Novotel Mt. Meru Hotel
Chair: Ms. Ann Burgess*

Friday, 12 March 1993

- 0830 Nongovernmental Organization Commitments for the Virtual
Eradication of Vitamin A Deficiency by the Year 2000
Chairs: Prof. Joseph Diallo* and Dr. Martin Bloem
 - 0830 International Eye Foundation
Mr. John Barrows
 - 0840 Sight Savers
Mr. Peter Dixon*
 - 0850 Eye Care - PROVAX
Dr. Alix Fleury
 - 0900 Helen Keller International
Mr. John Palmer
 - 0910 Wellstart International
Prof. Vicky Newman
 - 0920 Task Force SIGHT AND LIFE
Dr. John Gmünder
 - 0930 Asian Vegetable Research and Development Center
Dr. Romeo Opeña*
 - 0940 World Vision International (Tanzania)
Mr. Bruce McConchie*
 - 0950 Christian Medical Board of Tanzania
Dr. E.M. Mahimbo*
 - 1000 This session may include additional presentations. Presenters
will be announced.
 - 1020 The Nutrition Foundation, Inc.
Ms. Laurie Lindsay Aomari
-
- 1030 Announcements and break

 - 1100 Discussion of NGO presentations
 - 1130 Future Perspectives on Vitamin A
Chair: Dr. Vinodini Reddy
 - 1130 New Horizons in Vitamin A Research
Dr. Frank Chytil
 - 1200 Closing remarks
Dr. Abraham Horwitz
 - 1230 End of formal sessions