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ICORT FOLLOW-UP ACTIVITIES

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## EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The APHA consulting assignment with the Agency for International Development was carried out between November 1, 1983 and March 9, 1984. The purpose of the consultancy was to provide technical assistance for the follow-on activities to the International Conference on Oral Rehydration Therapy (ICORT). The consultant was based in Washington, D.C. and worked under the supervision of Dr. Clifford Pease, ORT Task Force Coordinator, Directorate of Health and Population, Bureau of Science and Technology, A.I.D.

Encouraged by the international success of ICORT and the following increased worldwide interest in ORT, A.I.D. launched a series of ICORT follow-up activities to provide educational material and programmatic support for expanded ORT activities. The consultant assisted the S&T/H and S&T/HP staff in planning and implementing this new ORT initiative.

There were four general types of activities undertaken during the consultancy.

1. Programmatic Initiatives : Developing a new project, ORT-HELP, and the Peace Corps PASA.
2. Meetings and Conferences : Planning for a possible ORT Summit Conference and the meeting of the Consultative Group to Protect the World's Children - Bellagio, Italy.
3. Information Collection: Compiling and summarizing mission cables on ORT, building up an ORT data base, establishing current ORT funding, and projecting 1984-1985 spending levels.
4. Information Dissemination: Mailing ORT information to field staff, coordinating the publication of the Proceeding from ICORT, arranging for the AID - ORT video tape, and overseeing the proposal to expand the publication DIARRHOEA DIALOGUE.

These follow-up activities represent the beginning of the expanded initiative in ORT. They have helped to stimulate further ORT interest among AID missions, host governments and the private sectors. Several constraints to these activities were observed including the inadequate level of professional and support staff, lack of clear delegated authority between offices, and sizable bureaucratic impediments. Actions have been initiated by the S&T/H office to reduce some of the constraints for future ORT activities.

## REPORT

### INTRODUCTION

A.I.D. hosted, in cooperation with UNICEF, WHO, and ICDDR/B, the International Conference on Oral Rehydration Therapy (ICORT) from June 7-10, 1983. This conference brought together experts from around the world to examine issues in Oral Rehydration Therapy. AID was very pleased with the enthusiasm generated by ICORT and decided to follow-up this success with support activities to further promote interest in ORT. In fact, a new expanded initiative was launched by the Agency with the full support of the Administrator.

### PURPOSE OF THE ASSIGNMENT

To assist and coordinate these activities, the Office of Health requested the services of a short-term consultant to help in coordinating and arranging the follow-up to ICORT. The consultant began work on November 1, 1983 and was given the following scope of work:

- Assisting in the planning and implementation for a proposed Oral Rehydration Therapy Donor "Summit Conference".
- Coordinating AID's contract with the Harvard Institute for International Development (HIID) for publishing the proceedings of the ICORT Conference.
- Assisting the follow-up activities involving modifications of the publication, DIARRHOEA DIALOGUE.
- Assisting in follow-up actions involving the Technology for Primary Health Care Project (PRITECH), the Peace Corps PASA proposal to supply trained volunteers for overseas programs, and plans to support diarrheal disease research through the International Center for Diarrheal Disease Research Bangladesh (ICDDR/B) and through the World Health Organization.

### WORKING RELATIONSHIPS

The Consultant was assigned to the Office of Health/Bureau of Science and Technology, Washington, DC for the duration of the assignment and was under the supervision of Dr. Clifford Pease, S&T/HP.

### REPORTS

This is the final report for the APHA consulting assignment with the Agency for International Development. Two previous interim reports have been submitted on December 9, 1983 and February 10, 1984. This report summarizes activities carried out from November 1, 1983 to March 9, 1984.

## ACTIVITIES

The following are major activities carried out during the consultancy:

1. ORT-HELP - A new three-year \$4.8 million project was developed to assist in the promotion of ORT on a worldwide basis. The project, Oral Rehydration Therapy - Health Education and Long-Term Planning (ORT-HELP) includes many of the long-term ICORT follow-up activities such as the Peace Corps ORT PASA, expansion of DIARRHOEA DIALOGUE, and follow-up meetings and conferences.
2. PEACE CORPS ORT PASA - A new two-year \$460,000 PASA was signed on February 9, 1984 between AID and Peace Corps. This agreement calls for training and technical assistance in the prevention of diarrhea-caused dehydration among children and the promotion of ORT at the community level. Since the signing, two working meetings have been held between AID and Peace Corps to discuss the implementation plans, the RFP on training materials and target country selection.
3. CONSULTATIVE GROUP TO PROTECT THE WORLD'S CHILDREN - A briefing book (pp 393) was prepared for the Administrator on relevant topics for the Consultative Group to Protect the World's Children. (See Attachment - Table of Contents) For this considerable time was required as the consultant was in charge of preparation in a very limited time period.
4. ICORT PROCEEDINGS - A camera-ready copy of the Proceedings for ICORT was received from Harvard Institute for International Development (HIID). Working with the Graphic Department at AID, estimates were made for typesetting and printing. An application was presented to the Communication Review Board (CRB) for approval of funds for the typesetting and printing. CRB approved the application and the Proceedings are currently being produced by an outside contractor.
5. ORT VIDEO TAPES - A consultant was hired to produce a 25 minute and a 5 minute video tape on ICORT and ORT. The production will take 10 weeks. (Copies of the draft version of the script for both the 5 minute and 25 minute tapes were received by S&T/H March 26, 1984 and is currently being reviewed.)
6. DIARRHOEA DIALOGUE - The Communication Review Board (CRB) approved the expansion of DIARRHOEA DIALOGUE on February 22, 1984. Paperwork is currently being completed for the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) as required for a recurrent publication. (On March 26, 1984, meetings were held between S&T/H and AHRTAG staff in London to discuss various issues of the submitted proposal.)

7. ORT FUNDS - Funding levels of A.I.D. - assisted ORT projects were determined for 1983 and 1984 in cooperation with PPC. An informational memorandum on these levels was sent to the Administrator on January 25, 1984.

8. RELEVANT MEETINGS - The consultant participated in various internal and external meetings that were relevant to the work assignment.

#### OBSERVATIONS AND SUMMARY

The activities undertaken by AID has clearly established that the Agency is intent on making Oral Rehydration Therapy a priority in its programs. They represent a sizeable investment of AID's staff and resources and have laid the groundwork for substantial programmatic initiatives. The Agency has received substantial recognition for it's key role in ICORT and the follow-up activities have helped maintain the Agency's commitment and international visibility in this important health intervention. These new activities will require effective management and support.

A view of some of the constraints found in the follow-up activities should be helpful for future planning. The inadequate professional and support staff was one such constraint. Many of the above activities simply "grew" as the initiative took shape so it was difficult to plan accurately from the onset. The office was aware of this problem, however it was limited by agency requirements and limitations on hiring. (This may change in the future as S&T/H has been successful in hiring two new staff members who will work in this area.)

Another factor which has affected the ORT initiative has been the lack of clear delegation of authority. As is inevitable in a program which receives such high visibility, numerous agency offices felt they had a part of the responsibility and therefore undertook activities accordingly. Trying to coordinate these various offices and staff members was not only difficult and time consuming but frustrating. Attempts were made to have an organized task force structure but these were not realized.

Another impediment to the ORT activities is inherent in any large organization, the bureautic paperwork or "red tape". Having strong support from the Administrator was helpful but still much of the consultancy was spent in completing forms, applications, reports, etc. This is a problem which is faced by most AID projects.

The offices are aware of these constraints and have initiated action to help reduce them, but these are limited due to the agency restrictions imposed on them. With additional projects being developed and numerous related activities constantly going on, the Agency would be more effective if these impediments were reduced in the future.

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ICORT FOLLOW-UP ACTIVITIES

The following is an update of the ICORT follow-up activities which have been completed since Revision #5 - October 7, 1983.

I. MEETINGS AND CONFERENCES

Donor Cooperation

Purpose: To discuss various ORT issues with leading policy makers to develop a cooperative plan for future ORT initiatives.

Action Taken:

Consultative Group to Protect the World's Children -

Memoranda have been prepared recommending that the Administrator participate in the Consultative Group to Protect the World's Children and the proposed first meeting of this group in Bellagio, Italy, March 12-16, 1984. S&T believes that this initiative is extremely promising, because of the emphasis on immunization and also because of the potential opportunity it provides to raise the importance of ORT programming with major international health donors. S&T has proposed that A.I.D. attend the first meeting, and make a major effort to promote the inclusion of oral rehydration therapy as coequal with immunization in this important health initiative.

Future Action: Respond quickly to the Administrator's decision on this important matter.

II. PROGRAMMATIC INITIATIVES

1. A.I.D. Bureau Reports on Expanding Bilateral ORT Activities

Purpose: To assess the current status of A.I.D.'s ORT activities and to project future ORT programs.

Action Taken:

1. October 5, 1983 - Action Memorandum sent from the Administrator to the Assistant Administrators requesting a report on the status of existing oral rehydration programs in their areas and prospects for new or expanded ORT programs in the next several years.

2. November 8, 1983 - An Information Memorandum was sent to

the Administrator summarizing the results of the meetings held between S&T, PPC, and the Regional Bureau exploring ways to include new ORT and related health activities in the FY 84 OYB.

3. December 1, 1983 - Replies received from all four Regional Bureaus and FVA in response to the Administrator's Action Memorandum of October 5, 1983 on the current and future ORT activities.

Future Action:

1. Complete the Summary of Bureau Reports on ORT activities for the Administrator.
2. Follow-up with programmatic activity.

2. ORT Funds

Purpose: To identify areas where additional ORT financial support could be used.

Action Taken: S&T/H has requested \$1 Million for ICORT follow-up activities from the FY 84 Health Account. These funds are necessary to support the Peace Corps proposal (\$460,000), the DIARRHOEA DIALOGUE proposal (\$200,000), and other ICORT activities including future meetings, conferences, proceedings, etc. (\$340,000).

Future Action: Allocate and monitor additional funds for the ICORT follow-up activities.

3. Technology for Primary Health Care (PRITECH)

Purpose: To provide A.I.D. with the technological skills and resources necessary to support current and future ORT activities.

Action Taken:

1. November 3, 1983 - Joint meeting held between S&T/H, PRITECH, and the Regional Bureaus to discuss available PRITECH resources and possible ways to coordinate project activities with various bureaus concerns.
2. November 1983 - PRITECH staff met with all four regional bureaus individually to assess the prospects of PRITECH activities in the regions.
3. November 29, 1983 - Meeting held between S&T/H and PRITECH to discuss upcoming ORT activities and how PRITECH and A.I.D. could coordinate these efforts.

Future Actions:

1. December 14 - 16. 1983 - PRITECH Task force meeting

involving approximately 30 internationally reknowned experts on ORT and immunization. Methodologies for country assessments and strategy development are anticipated from these meetings. Experts will focus on issues such as the following as they pertain to ORT and immunization: financial analysis, revenue generation, management, training systems, commodity procurement, mass media, and the private sector.

2. January - April, 1984 - Site visits are being scheduled to A.I.D. priority countries to conduct assessments and develop detailed implementation plans for ORT and immunization activities in up to 15 countries during the next four years.

3. January 30 - February 2, 1984 - Mission Director's Conference in Rwanda - S&T has proposed to the Africa Bureau that PRITECH ORT Specialist Dr. Jon Rhode participate in sessions on ORT.

#### 4. Peace Corps Proposal

Purpose: To develop a collaborative program with Peace Corps to further promote the use of oral rehydration therapy at the community level.

##### Action Taken

1. November 22, 1983 - PIO/T draft sent to the health sector council members for their information.

2. December 8, 1983 - Discussions held at the Health Sector Council Meeting on the proposed Peace Corps proposal and the PIO/T will be revised accordingly.

Future Action: On receipt of additional funds from PPC, revised Peace Corps PIO/T will be submitted to Contract Management for PASA negotiation.

### III. INFORMATION DISSEMINATION

#### 1. Mailing to A.I.D. Field Staff

Purpose: To disseminate ICORT information to A.I.D. field staff to stimulate interest in ORT and provide technical material for ongoing and/or future ORT activities.

##### Action Taken:

1. October 7 - December 7, 1983 - Materials have been sent to numerous Missions requesting additional technical ORT information.

2. Discussions have been held with PRITECH on assuming responsibility for answering future general ORT information request from the field.

Future Action:

1. Continue to respond quickly to specific requests from Missions for additional material and help.
2. Help coordinate the PRITECH Information Center to handle general ORT information request.

2. Publication of ICORT Proceedings

Purpose: To make available on a worldwide basis a one volume report containing ICORT speeches.

Action Taken:

1. Portions of the first draft of the ICORT Proceedings have been received from Harvard Institute of International Development (HIID).
2. S&T/H has made initial reviews of the draft and is currently compiling their comments.
3. The draft of the Proceedings has been sent to Kate Semerad, Chairman of the Communication Review Board (CRB), for comments. (CRB has approved publication of Proceeding with the requirement that a draft copy be reviewed.)

Future Action:

1. Comments from S&T/H and OPA will be sent to HIID for incorporation into the final camera-ready copy.
2. Work with Publication Management Division for successful completion of the printing and distribution of the proceedings.

3. A.I.D. - ORT Video Tape

Purpose: To educate professionals and the general public on the merits and usage of ORT in developing countries.

Action Taken:

1. November 15, 1983 - Meeting held between S&T/H and OPA staff to discuss the current status, future plans, and coordination of A.I.D.'s Video Tape.
2. Paperwork is nearing completion to bring an outside consultant in to review existing ORT video tapes and to make recommendations for completion of two ORT video tapes.

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Future Action:

1. Finish documentation necessary to hire an outside consultant for the above stated work.
2. Study recommendations in the report and take appropriate action.

4. Diarrhoea Dialogue

Purpose: To improve the effectiveness of DIARRHOEA DIALOGUE in its role of educating the public about diarrheal diseases.

Action Taken:

1. October 14, 1983 - DIARRHOEA DIALOGUE submitted proposal to A.I.D. on ways to expand their services.
2. November 8, 1983 - Review completed by S&T/H and comments were sent to DIARRHOEA DIALOGUE staff.
3. November 25 and December 2, 1983 - Dr. Clifford Pease held discussions with the staff of DIARRHOEA DIALOGUE in London on the above proposal.
4. December 5, 1983 - Revised DIARRHOEA DIALOGUE proposal has been received from London and S&T/H and S&T/HP are reviewing the proposal.

Future Action:

1. Compile comments on the revised proposal.
2. Begin work on CRB approval and securing additional funds for project.

IV. ADDITIONAL ACTIVITIES

1. Diarrheal Disease Research

Purpose: To continue A.I.D.'s long standing support for diarrheal disease research.

Action Taken:

1. FY 84 funds of \$1.423 million have been obligated to the International Center for Diarrhoea Disease Research in Bangladesh (ICDDR/B).
2. December 1, 1983 - Dr. Clifford Pease represented A.I.D. at the ICDDR/B board meeting in Bangladesh.

Future Action: George Curlin, Research Project Manager will plan and develop the Diarrheal Disease Project which will include three components: 1) ICDDR/B, 2) WHO/CDD, and 3) the Children's Hospital in Buffalo, New York.

2. Follow-up to the American Academy of Pediatrics' Report to the FDA, "Oral Hydrating Solutions For Pediatric Use In The United States"

Purpose: To present A.I.D.'s strong reservations to the Academy's Report and to discuss ways to resolve differences with the FDA.

Action Taken:

1. October 27, 1983 - A.I.D. staff met with FDA, WHO, and UNICEF officials on October 27, 1983 to discuss the American Academy of Pediatrics Report on ORT. A summary report was prepared by Dr. Rosslyn King.

The group specifically discussed the following problems raised by the report and agreed to the following compromises:

1. the recommended label requiring use under medical supervision especially for young infants (Some compromises will have to be reached on the exact terminology to be used );
2. the recommendation on the use of two solutions with different sodium levels (Will stay in report but should not be an issue in manufacturing ORS);
3. the reference that ORT should be used only in a fixed health facility (Will stay in report but FDA plans no action to implement it).

Future Action: S&T will continue to monitor progress on this issue and FDA has agreed to consult us before taking final action.

February 10, 1984

## INTERIM PROGRESS REPORT #2

This is the second interim progress report for the APHA consulting assignment with the Agency for International Development. The major events which have occurred during this period are:

### 1. ORT-HELP

A new three-year \$4.8 million project was developed to assist in the promotion of ORT on a worldwide basis. The project, Oral Rehydration Therapy - Health Education and Long-Term Planning (ORT-HELP) includes many of the long-term ICORT follow-up activities such as the Peace Corps ORT PASA, expansion of DIARRHOEA DIALOGUE, and follow-up meetings and conferences.

### 2. PEACE CORPS ORT PASA

A new two-year \$460,000 PASA agreement was signed on February 9, 1984 between A.I.D. and Peace Corps. This agreement calls for training and technical assistance in the prevention of diarrhea-caused dehydration among children and the promotion of ORT at the community level.

### 3. ICORT PROCEEDINGS

A camera-ready copy of the Proceedings for ICORT was received from Harvard. Arrangements have been made for typesetting, printing, and distribution. This work is being coordinated through the graphic department at A.I.D.

### 4. ORT VIDEO TAPES

Recommendations were received from an outside consultant on future steps to be taken on the A.I.D. ORT video tape. Efforts are currently underway to implement these recommendations which include the production of a 25 minute and a 5 minute video tape on ICORT and ORT.

### 5. DIARRHOEA DIALOGUE

The application of DIARRHOEA DIALOGUE was presented to the Communications Review Board (CRB). Future negotiations with the publishers, ARHTAG, are currently underway.

### 6. ORT FUNDS

Funding levels of A.I.D.-assisted ORT projects were determined for 1983 and 1984 in cooperation with PPC. An informational memorandum on these levels was sent to the Administrator on January 25, 1984.

## 7. THE CONSULTATIVE GROUP TO SAVE THE WORLD'S CHILDREN

Initial discussions were held between A.I.D. staff to determine necessary background material and A.I.D.'s strategy for the meeting of the Consultative Group to Save the World's Children. The first discussion paper was written and distributed to staff for comments. A cable on immunization was sent to the field to obtain necessary background material. Current status of A.I.D.'s activities in ORT and immunizations are being prepared.

## 8. ORT DATA BANK

Country-specific data sheets were completed on all A.I.D.-assisted countries. The data are divided into the following categories:

- a. ORT Health Statistics
- b. Host Country ORT Programs
- c. A.I.D. Supported Activities
- d. Private Sector ORT Activities
- e. Sachets/Home Mix
- f. Local ORT Supply
- g. Possible ORT Expansion

## 9. Information Distribution

All ICORT speeches were moved to the PRITECH offices so that they could handle any future distribution.