

PD-AAC-223-F1

TRIP REPORT

AFRICA SEPTEMBER - OCTOBER 1975

MCH/FP CENTER

MEHARRY MEDICAL COLLEGE
NASHVILLE, TENNESSEE

PARTICIPANTS: Mr. Leo Sam - Deputy Director MCH/FP Center
Dr. Claudio Schuftan - Head of Division Nutrition Planning

Purpose:

- To acquaint African governments and Voluntary Agencies with our nutrition planning training and technical assistance program.
- To recruit potential participants for our November, 1975 nutrition workshop in Nashville.
- To follow-up on the Center's MCH/FP training program.

Itinerary:

Senegal (Mr. Sam only):	Sept. 12 - Sept. 15
Liberia	Sept. 16 - Sept. 19
Ghana	Sept. 20 - Sept. 23
Kenya	Sept. 24 - Sept. 28
Tanzania	Sept. 29 - Oct. 1
Zambia ✓	Oct. 2 - Oct. 3
Swaziland ✓	Oct. 4 - Oct. 8
Ethiopia	Oct. 9 - Oct. 12
Egypt (Mr. Sam only):	Oct. 23 - Oct. 19
Senegal (Dr. Schuftan only)	Oct. 16 - Oct. 17

List of people seen and/or contacted:
(See Attachment)

1. Liberia:

Our activities were arranged and organized by the Ministry of Health. They prepared a schedule for our visit.

People contacted:

USAID

Ministry of Health

JFK Hospital

National Food Unit

Ministry of Agriculture

Ministry of Finance

Ministry of Planning

After discussing our programs with AID officials, it became clear to us that for Liberia:

- a. The priority was for the training of higher-level ministry personnel due to the characteristics of the decision-making process in this country.
- b. They showed an interest in continuing training of their nurses in MCH/FP. Several pre-candidates for our workshop were nominated.
- c. They expressed an interest in technical assistance for FP (insertion of IUD) and for nutrition in general.

2. Ghana:

Our activities were coordinated by the AID mission.

People contacted:

USAID

Ministry of Health (Nutrition Division)

University of Ghana (Dept. of Community Health)

Ministry of Labor, Social Welfare and Cooperatives

Ministry of Planning

Institute of Adult Education (University of Ghana)

In Ghana, the emphasis placed on training by the authorities was more on the training of their regional officers in nutrition planning and several names were considered. It was felt that adequate training was being done in countries for their personnel in MCH/FP.

3. Kenya:

We coordinated our activities ourselves.

People contacted:

USAID

Ministry of Health (Nutrition Office)

Ministry of Agriculture (Planning Division)

Ministry of Finance and Planning

Kenya Freedom-for-Hunger Council

Ministry of Housing and Social Services

City Council of Nairobi

Institute for Development Studies (University of Nairobi)

Medical Research Center (School of Medicine, University of Nairobi)

Catholic Relief Services

Almost all Kenyan Government and Voluntary Agencies officials showed interest in our program; however, the USAID Mission officials felt that nutrition planning was not a priority for them and therefore would not support participant training at this time or until the Kenyan Government indicated a more "definite commitment" to nutrition activities. They had no objections to sponsoring Volag's personnel. Also, AID does not feel a need for supporting the training of nurses in MCH/FP at Meharry, because the government has not committed itself to a family planning policy. Several possible candidates for the nutrition planning workshop were considered.

4. Tanzania:

Our activities were coordinated by USAID.

People contacted:

USAID

Tanzanian Food and Nutrition Commission

Ministry of Economic Affairs

Ministry of Agriculture (Office of Nutrition)

Institute of Adult Education

Department of Community Medicine, (University of Dar-es-Salaam)

Bureau of Resource Assessment and Land Use Planning (University of Dar-es-Salaam)

There was a very favorable reception to nutrition planning in all the governmental circles in Tanzania:

- a. They expressed a need to train people first at the central levels.
- b. They expressed great interest in possible technical assistance activities. For example, developing in-country training in nutrition planning. The mission wants to become more involved with the Nutrition Commission by providing them with T/A as a first priority.
- c. In the area of MCH/FP, it was felt that the training personnel is being done adequately by the FP association and the government through an AID grant.

5. Zambia:

Our activities were coordinated by the Ministry of Health.

People contacted:

U.S. Embassy

Ministry of Health

National Food and Nutrition Commission

Natural Resources Development College

Ministry of Rural Development (Office of Planning)

From our discussions, it is felt that we should develop tight linkages with the Nutrition Commission, especially in the area of technical assistance. The Commission had no possible candidates for November, however, the government continues to see a need to support the training of their nurses in MCH/FP at Meharrey. It also expressed a desire to provide for us additional T/A for the implementation of programs in this area. The Ministry of Health expressed an interest in having Meharrey assist them in other areas of health care and suggested that future talks be arranged to discuss the matter.

6. Swaziland:

Our activities were coordinated by the Ministry of Health.

People contacted:

USAID

Ministry of Health

Nutrition Council

Ministry of Agriculture

Ministry of Finance and Economic Planning

World Food Program (UN)

✓ University of Botswana, Lesotho and Swaziland

Ministry of Education

The government's response was very favorable to our new program. The Nutrition Council had difficulties finding a good candidate for November, however, they were very interested in nutrition planning activities and in the possibilities of technical assistance (in-country training in cooperation with the Council). They also expressed a need to sensitize decision-makers at all levels (Politicians, top-level government officials). In the area of MCH/FP, they expressed a continuing interest in our program and the training of their nurses as practitioners.

7. Ethiopia:

Our activities were coordinated by USAID.

People contacted:

USAID

Ethiopian Nutrition Institute

Ethio-Swedish Pediatric Clinic

Ministry of Health

Planning Commission

Ministry of Agriculture

Economic Commission for Africa (UN)

Ministry of Community Development

Relief and Rehabilitation Commission

The general reception of our program in Ethiopia was very good and some potential candidates were considered. The USAID Mission stated that nutrition continued to be one of their priorities; it was also the feeling of the Ethiopian officials with whom we met. In the area of MCH/FP, the Mission felt that Meharry was not providing the type of training presently needed by the country (training of trainers) and that they presently had in-country training for their community nurses. Finally, the officials of the Ministry of Health expressed an interest in T/A for the development of their nurse-practitioner curriculum.

8. Senegal:

We coordinated our own activities.

People contacted:

USAID

Ministry of Education (Promotion Humaine)

IDEP (United Nations)

Our main discussions in Senegal were not only for the recruitment of participants, but for the preparation of our spring nutrition workshop to be held, most probably, in Senegal. Several possibilities and various budgets for that event were discussed.

9. Egypt:

The visit was coordinated by the Ministry of Higher Education.

People contacted:

USAID

Ministry of Higher Education

Minister of Education

Ministry of Health

University of Cairo

Faculty of Medicine

Dean, School of Medicine

Supreme Council of Family Planning

The Ministry is overall responsible for the training of nurses and continuing nursing education programs. All officials met were very enthusiastic about the training of their nurses and the opportunity of renewing contacts with an American institution which could provide

training and technical assistance. Their general reactions were:

- a. The ministry should continue to send nurses for training at Meharry and possibly consider training some of their junior doctors in MCH/FP at Meharry.
- b. Meharry could be invaluable to them in assisting the government in an evaluation of their on-going programs in MCH/FP.
- c. The training of practitioners would be a way of up-dating their nurses and would eventually provide them with a new role in health care delivery; however, at the present the nurses have some restrictions in clinical functions.

Nutrition Planning is an exciting concept to them and they would like to send participants to the Spring workshop. The intergrated approach to nutrition planning could be used as a model in applying it a program they would like to develop. It was felt by all government officials that the visit provided them with a good overview of Meharry and its programs in relation to the training of their nurses in MCH/FP, as well as the exchange of ideas for other possible ways for program development.

General Comments:

We felt it was a worthwhile trip because:

- a. It provided us with an insight into present conditions in nutrition and MCH/FP in the countries visited.
- b. We were able to explain to different officials the goals of our new program which helped us to recruit our first participants. We were also able to discuss different ways of cooperation.
- c. It permitted us to widen our network of linkages with African institutions.
- d. It afforded us an opportunity to reach people in ministries where nutrition traditionally is not a number one priority, but where important decisions affecting nutrition are made.

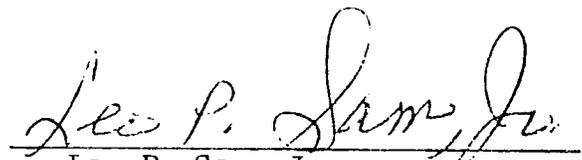
Observations:

- a. We observed that in some countries the potential group from which we could draw participants was very small and that frequently they were over-committed.
- b. The nutritional problem did not seem to be a matter of concern at the same level in the different countries.

- c. Some of the countries visited were moving toward the establishment of some kind of nutrition commission or council (not necessarily those countries where nutrition was a government priority).
- d. Many of the countries visited were defining and moving towards national FP programs.
- e. Nearly all of the countries visited were interested in upgrading the training of their nurses to nurse-practitioners, which they feel would better contribute to solving their health problems.

Conclusions:

- a. We feel the need to continue to develop our nutrition planning workshops; however, we should be flexible in tailoring them to meet the needs of individual countries or regions.
- b. It is important for us to develop some linkages with similar governmental or Volags programs in the area of nutrition.
- c. We think that our Center should look into alternative training of African nurses towards a practitioner diploma in MCH/FP.
- d. Follow-up with T/A for our already-trained nurses.


Leo P. Sam, Jr.


Dr. Claudio Schuftan

EGYPT

CAIRO UNIVERSITY

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Professor of Surgery
Cancer Institute

Dr. Ibrahim Fouad Khalil
Professor of Surgery
Faculty of Medicine

Dr. Ferdous M. Labilb
Professor & Head of the Department
of Public Health, Faculty of Medicine

MINISTRY OF HEALTH

Dr. Laluli Hassan
Director of General Training Department

Supreme Council for Population/Family Planning
Mr. Ahmed Abdel Fatheh
Training Director

Dr. H. Aly
Director International Health Department

MINISTRY OF HIGHER EDUCATION

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Egypt

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Mr. Siegfried Schonherr (Sociologist)
Mr. Joseph Mbindyo (Sociologist)

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Mrs. Alice Ngesa (Nutritionist, Rift. Valley)

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Mr. R. L. Odupoy (Planning Division)

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MINISTRY OF HOUSING & SOCIAL SERVICES:

Mr. S. Siboe (Deputy Commissioner)
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Dr. Julia Odjiambo (Asst. Minister for Social Services)

CITY COUNCIL NAIROBI:

Dr. Mugo & Dr. Ndabari
Dutch Institute: (Kenyatta Hospital) Dr. Leonard Vogel
Dr. Anton Dissefeld
Mr. Elias Muchunga

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Mr. Ibrahim Thiam (Management)
Mr. Pierre Nbodye (Chef Service de la Formation des Projects)

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John Herzog (Economist Demographer)

Bureau of Applied Nutrition (Bananas): Bureau d'alimentation et Nutrition

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Nutrition Council)
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Mrs. Sharon Bleeker (UN Home Economics Expert)
Miss Inga Tomasson (Home Economics & Nutritionist)

UN OFFICE (EMBASSY HOUSE)

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GHANA

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Dr. G. A. Ashitey (Senior Lecturer)
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Mr. E. K. Andon (Statistician-Demographer)
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Ato Haile Michael Liku (Health Economist)

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George Corinaldi
Dr. John Withers (Director)

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Sister Emawayish Gerima
Ato Abebe (Medical Coordinator)
Ato Zewdu (Nutritionist from ENI)

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Dr. Swami
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Mr. Frank Campbell
Dr. Herbert (Lofa County Project)

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MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE

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Mr. Louis Russ (Deputy Minister)
Mr. Joshua Cooper (Director of Planning)
Mr. Nah Doe P. Bropleh (Assistant Minister, Technical Services)

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Mr. Emmanuel Gardner
Mr. Paul Jeffy (Assistant Minister)

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Dr. Niemayer Cooper-Director JFK Hospital

National Food Unit:

Mrs. Eudora Asi
Mrs. Nancy Nimene Nah

IVORY COAST

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" Des Affaires Economiques Et Financieres

" De la Sante Et De la Population

" De L'Agriculture

Director Institute National Sante Publique