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**TRIP REPORT B -** # 31-1  
#and 2

**Travelers:** Mr. Pape Gaye, INTRAH Regional  
Director for Francophone Africa

Dr. Aliou Boly, INTRAH Regional  
Training and Training Materials Officer

**Country Visited:** Benin

**Date of Trip:** May 26, 1992

**Purpose:** To meet with UNFPA and Ministry of  
Health representatives to discuss  
a possible role for INTRAH in the  
UNFPA-funded project BEN/92/P01.

**Program for International Training in Health**

**PAC IIb**

**University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill  
Chapel Hill, North Carolina 27514 USA**

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A. Persons Contacted/Met

**EXECUTIVE SUMMARY**

On May 26, 1992, INTRAH Regional Director for Francophone Africa Mr. Pape Gaye and INTRAH Regional Training and Training Materials Officer Dr. Aliou Boly traveled to Cotonou, Bénin to meet with UNFPA and Ministry of Health (MOH) representatives to discuss a possible role for INTRAH in the UNFPA-funded project BEN/92/P01.

Major accomplishments included:

- The INTRAH team participated in a meeting at UNFPA attended by Director Mr. Alain Mouchirou, Program Officer Mrs. Rebecca Dossou-Gbete, Deputy Project Director Dr. Jonathan Balley, and Dr. Suzanne Zomahoun.
- Samples of INTRAH materials and materials developed with INTRAH assistance were shared with the Beninese, including the Togo National FP Service Policy and Standards document, semi-annual reports, INTRAH training information packets (TIPS), and INTRAH brochures.

Recommendations included:

- The MOH should approve the UNFPA project document by sending a letter to UNFPA requesting that implementation begin. Approval of the project document should constitute a de-facto agreement that INTRAH would be subcontracted to provide technical assistance to the MOH.
- With UNFPA support, a team of three MOH officials including Dr. Balley, Dr. Zomahoun and either the Director or the Chief of MCH/FP Training should come to Lomé to develop a project proposal with RO/L staff and meet with other Lomé-based CAs.

**SCHEDULE OF ACTIVITIES**

- 6:00 am** Departed Lomé for Cotonou.
- 10:00 am** Met at UNFPA with Mr. Alain Mouchirou, Director, Mrs. Rebecca Dossou-Gbete, Program Officer, Dr. Jonathan Balley, Deputy Project Director, and Dr. Suzanne Zomahoun.
- 3:00-4:00 pm** Courtesy visit to Mr. Thomas Cornell, USAID Representative.
- 4:00-5:00 pm** Courtesy visit to the Peace Corps office where the team met with the Director, the Associate Directors for Administration and Rural Development and the Director for International Operations.
- 5:30 pm** Visited UNFPA offices.
- 5:45 pm** Departed for Lomé.

LIST OF ABBREVIATIONS

- ABPF** Association Béninoise pour la Promotion de la  
Famille (Beninese Family Planning Association)
- HLM** Health Learning Materials

**I. PURPOSE OF THE TRIP**

The purpose of the trip was to meet with UNFPA and MOH officials to discuss a possible role for INTRAH in the UNFPA-funded project BEN/92/PO1.

**II. ACCOMPLISHMENTS**

- A. The INTRAH team participated in a meeting attended by UNFPA Director Mr. Alain Mouchirou, UNFPA Program Officer Mrs. Rebecca Dossou-Gbete, Deputy Project Director Dr. Jonathan Balley, and Dr. Suzanne Zomahoun.
- B. The INTRAH team gave a short presentation on INTRAH's mandate and activities in the francophone region.
- C. Samples of INTRAH materials and materials developed with INTRAH assistance were shared with the Beninese, including the Togo National FP Service Policy and Standards document, semi-annual reports, INTRAH TIPS, and INTRAH brochures.
- D. Attempts were made to contact Dr. Darboux, Director of the Bénin Health Learning Materials (HLM) Project, without success.
- E. A courtesy visit was paid to Mr. Thomas Cornell, AID Representative, and to the Peace Corps.

**III. BACKGROUND**

In April 1991, UNFPA Director for Togo and Bénin Mr. Mouchirou contacted RO/L to inquire about INTRAH's interest and availability in providing assistance to the MOH in Bénin to implement the training portion of the UNFPA-funded project with the MOH. On May 20, 1992 Mr. Mouchirou contacted Mr. Gaye to invite INTRAH to a meeting with the MOH in Cotonou.

#### IV. DESCRIPTION OF ACTIVITIES

##### A. The Meeting

The INTRAH team left Lomé at 6:00 am and arrived at the UNFPA office in Cotonou for the meeting scheduled to begin at 10:30 am. The meeting was attended by Mr. Mouchirou, Mrs. Dossou-Gbete, Dr. Balley, and Dr. Zomahoun. The following points were covered:

- Mr. Mouchirou began the meeting by clarifying the meeting purpose which was for the INTRAH team to present INTRAH so that the MOH could decide whether to accept UNFPA's recommendation that INTRAH provide technical assistance for in-service training. Mr. Mouchirou stressed the fact that the final decision would come from the Ministry.
- Mr. Gaye and Dr. Boly presented an overview of INTRAH describing the organization and the areas of expertise and priorities. Samples of INTRAH materials and materials developed with INTRAH assistance including FP service policy and standards documents, semi-annual reports, INTRAH TIPS, and INTRAH brochures were shared with the Beninese. INTRAH's approach to project development was described and the importance of having explicit FP service policy, standards and protocols early in the project was emphasized. An illustrative sequence of activities was presented using INTRAH-assisted projects in Burkina Faso and Togo. Following the presentation, discussions were held on what was presented and the UNFPA/MOH project document.
- In responding to the questions, the INTRAH team stressed INTRAH's commitment to collaboration with and participation of host institutions in each step of the project development and implementation processes.
- Dr. Balley was particularly interested in the development of FP service policy and standards and stated that he agreed with and liked the approach described.

##### B. Visits

A courtesy visit was paid to Mr. Thomas Cornell, USAID Representative to Bénin. The INTRAH team described the purpose of the trip and discussed USAID's interest in

family planning. Mr. Cornell informed the INTRAH team that he had recently participated in a donors' meeting called by the Minister of Health during which the Minister reprimanded the donors for not providing sufficient support for family planning. For that reason, Mr. Cornell was very happy of the prospect that another CA will be involved in Bénin. He reiterated the fact that this was a small mission with only one sector (Education). He informed the INTRAH team he was aware that SEATS was working with the Association Béninoise pour la Promotion de la Famille (ABPF), the IPPF affiliate. Once the mission gets larger and he is authorized more sectors, he hopes USAID will become more involved in family planning.

Unsuccessful attempts were made to contact Dr. Darboux, Director of the Bénin HLM Project.

A courtesy visit was paid to the Peace Corps where the team met with the Director, the Associate Directors for Administration and Rural Development and the Director for International Operations who was visiting Bénin.

## V. FINDINGS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

### A. Findings

Questions and issues raised by Dr. Balley and Dr. Zomahoun included:

1. There was concern that INTRAH will have standards that are so high that the Beninese will not be able to meet them. This concern was raised because of past experience with other A.I.D. cooperating agencies and donors.
2. The MOH requested more information about the level and depth of INTRAH technical assistance. There were also concerns that the costs of INTRAH technical assistance might be very high and that the MOH would not be able to afford it.

3. The MOH was concerned that the development of FP service policy, standards and protocols would be too time consuming.
4. The time frame for the development of a project proposal and beginning project implementation was an issue for the MOH since there was pressure for the project to start.
5. Because INTRAH is 100% supported by A.I.D., it would be necessary for UNFPA to support all INTRAH costs associated with the project.

B. **Recommendations**

1. The MOH should approve the project document by sending a letter to UNFPA requesting that implementation begin. Approval of the project document should constitute a de-facto agreement that INTRAH would be subcontracted to provide technical assistance to the MOH.
2. With UNFPA financial support, a team of three MOH officials including Dr. Balley, Dr. Zomahoun and either the Director or the Chief of Service of MCH/FP Training should come to Lomé to develop a proposal with RO/L staff.
3. The MOH should collect all documentation pertaining to FP training in preparation for the proposal development activity.
4. INTRAH should consider sending one or two people to Cotonou for two days immediately prior to proposal development to collect data on Cotonou and Porto Novo FP clinics. Confirmation for the INTRAH visit will be given to UNFPA/Lomé and the Bénin MOH after discussions with INTRAH/Chapel Hill.
5. Because of UNFPA's budget policy, the \$25,000 set aside for INTRAH for 1992 will have to be committed and spent before the end of December 1992.

**APPENDIX A**

**Persons Contacted/Met**

**APPENDIX A**

**Persons Contacted/Met**

**USAID/Benin**

Mr. Thomas CORNELL, Representative

**Peace Corps**

Mr. Brad FAVOR, Director

Mr. Jack HOGAN, International Operations Director

Mr. Patrick ROBINSON, Associate Director for Administration

Mr. Douglas ROBERTSON, Associate Director for Rural  
Development

**UNFPA**

Mr. Alain MOUCHIROU, Director

Mrs. Rebecca DOSSOU-GBETE, Program Officer

Dr. Jonathan BALLEY, Deputy Project Director

Dr. Suzanne ZOMAHOUN