

## QUARTERLY REPORT

Cooperative Agreement No. HRN-5122-A-00-3046-00

Second Quarter, FY94

1 January - 31 March 1994

### I. ACCOMPLISHMENTS OF CURRENT REPORTING PERIOD

#### Reports

1. Quarterly Report - The Q1FY94 report and Financial Statement were submitted to the AID project officer on 31 January 1994.

2. Subagreement - The International Center for Research on Women (ICRW) signed a subagreement with ILSI Research Foundation (of which the Human Nutrition Institute (HNI) is a division) on 21 March 1994, following approval of the subagreement by the AID Contracts Office. This agreement covers activities described in the DIP and FY94 workplan for OMNI Research, including the identification of developing country research groups capable of and interested in carrying out research with women related to micronutrients; helping these groups develop sound research proposals; funding these proposals; and monitoring their progress.

3. PRP Minutes - Draft minutes of the first Peer Review Panel meeting were submitted to the AID project officer on 3 March 1994.

#### Administration

Following a public search for the best qualified candidate, Dr. Paula Trumbo was hired as the Associate Director of the Human Nutrition Institute. In this capacity she will devote up to 45 percent of her time to managing the day-to-day activities of the OMNI Research Cooperative Agreement. Her curriculum vitae is attached. She will report for work in early June 1994.

One of her initial duties will be to hire an administrative assistant. Once this position is filled the staff for the project will be complete.

#### Program Activities

1. Peer Review Panel (PRP) - The initial meeting of the PRP was held on 3-4 February 1994. Eighteen of the 20 member panel attended as well as several invited guests -- Dr. David Pyle and Dr. Penny Nestel, OMNI; Dr. Judith McGuire, World Bank; Ms. Charlotte Johnson-Welch, ICRW; and Ms. Jenny Cervinkas, Micronutrient Initiative. Representatives of the Office of Nutrition also attended.

After discussions about what other groups were doing in the area of micronutrient malnutrition and knowledge gaps that exist in our understanding of ways to eliminate micronutrient malnutrition, the group identified the following initial research priorities:

- Development and/or validation of methods for micronutrient assessment.
- Development of strategies to increase and test the bioavailability of vitamin A and iron in diets.
- Development of ways to create demand for micronutrient-rich foods as an entry point to a healthy diet.
- Demonstrate the efficacy and cost effectiveness of fortification. Development of sustainable finance mechanisms to cover the added cost of fortification.
- Enhancement of effectiveness of micronutrient interventions by decreasing constraints on women's participation in and compliance with program activities. Enhancement of micronutrient status through on-going programs to improve women's status. (This is the ICRW component.)

Following approval by the AID project officer, HNI circulated minutes of the deliberations to the group including the two absent members. Each PRP member has chosen a specific one of the initial priority areas and will help draft a request for proposals (RFP) on that topic.

2. ICRW Activities - A quarterly report from the ICRW is attached. Their financial report for Q2FY94 is included but is not reflected in the HNI financial report submitted with this progress report. We will reimburse ICRW for their expenses as itemized in their report during Q3FY94 and this payment will be reflected in the Q3FY94 financial report from HNI.

3. Coordination of OMNI Research with Other Micronutrient Activities - Dr. Suzanne Harris, OMNI Research Project Director, attended the 10-11 February 1994 Management Committee meeting for the OMNI Project. At this meeting she described the process which the PRP will undertake and how the OMNI Project can impact that process.

A fact sheet describing OMNI Research was printed, with approval from the AID Project Officer, and distributed to the OMNI Project partners as well as a mailing list maintained by the ILSI Research Foundation for IVACG and INACG. A cover letter describing the five areas of research interest agreed to by the PRP accompanied the fact sheet. Both are attached. Individuals who had called or written to express interest in OMNI Research were also sent a copy of the fact sheet. ICRW receive copies for distribution to their mailing list.

## II. DELAYS IN IMPLEMENTATION

In the attached ICRW quarterly report, the delay in signing the subagreement between ICRW and the ILSI Research Foundation is described. This has caused a month delay in the implementation of their activities.

There was a delay in hiring the additional personnel required by the HNI. This will not have any long term impact on the implementation of the FY94 work plan.

The work plan calls for the PRP to have completed its work on the first RFP by the end of Q2FY94. This has not happened. The PRP did not get as far along in the development of specific research topics as HNI would have liked. They also were not able to agree on only two topics, rather they selected four in addition to the area being covered by ICRW. Time was added to the implementation schedule to allow the PRP subgroups to develop more specific research questions.

HNI expects to advertise the first of four RFPs in late May 1994. The remaining three RFPs will be advertized shortly thereafter. HNI still expects to make initial awards prior to the end of FY94.

## III. STATUS OF CURRENT WORK AND UP-COMING ACTIVITIES FOR Q3FY94

1. HNI Activities - The PRP members were requested to submit their suggestions for specific research questions for the RFPs by 15 April 1994. Some are have complied, while others have asked for additional time. HNI will complete the RFPs as quickly as the necessary information is received from the PRP members.

Each RFP will then be forwarded to the AID project officer for review and approval, prior to being widely advertized to all who have expressed interest in OMNI Research as well as those on master mailing lists and through the *Commerce Business Daily*.

During the PRP meeting Dr. Luis Mejia, Kellogg Latin America, offered to describe OMNI Research in an upcoming issue of their newsletter which is sent to the Latin American nutrition community. HNI will work with him on the content of this article during Q3FY94.

2. ICRW Activities - See attached report for this information.

Attachments: ICRW Quarterly Report  
Curriculum vitae for Dr. Paula Trumbo  
OMNI Research fact sheet and cover letter

**OPPORTUNITIES FOR MICRONUTRIENT INTERVENTIONS**

**ICRW Subagreement to**

**Cooperative Agreement No. HRN-5122-A-00-3046-00**

**QUARTER REPORT #1**

**January - March 1994**

**Submitted by:**

**International Center for Research on Women**

**To:**

**Dr. Suzanne S. Harris, OMNI/Research Project Director  
Human Nutrition Institute/ILSI  
1126 16th St., NW, Suite 100  
Washington, DC 20036**

The International Center for Research on Women (ICRW) received a subagreement to the Human Nutrition Institute under the Opportunities for Micronutrient Interventions (OMNI) research project, Cooperative Agreement, HRN-5122-A-00-3046-00, United States Agency for International Development, Office of Nutrition. This project will support applied research in developing countries which will contribute to reducing the prevalence of micronutrient deficiencies. During the current reporting period, ICRW staff participated in the first meeting of the OMNI Peer Review Panel (PRP), developed a draft announcement to solicit applications to conduct research supported by ICRW's subagreement, began compiling a mailing list of potential applicants, and provided projected financial expenditures through March 1995 for inclusion in the HNI pipeline analysis for USAID. In late 1993, ICRW also provided HNI with an annual work plan including a quarter budget for Year One activities.

## I. ACCOMPLISHMENTS OF CURRENT REPORTING PERIOD

### A. Technical

During the current reporting period, ICRW began work on developing a research agenda, preparing an application announcement and a mailing list for dissemination of the announcement. ICRW staff (C. Johnson-Welch, as project manager, and K. Kurz and R. Mehra, as technical resources) contacted key informants, conducted a literature review, and met with the OMNI Research Project Director in preparing these documents.

ICRW also participated in the OMNI Research Peer Review Panel (PRP) meeting February 3-4, 1994. ICRW's role in the OMNI Research Project was described and discussed with the PRP, and two major research questions were developed by ICRW (C. Johnson-Welch and K. Kurz), one member of the PRP (B. Popkin) and a representative of US AID Office of Nutrition (L. Keiss). These were:

- i. Enhance the effectiveness of micronutrient interventions by decreasing constraints on women's participation in and compliance with program
- ii. Enhance micronutrient status through on-going programs to improve women's status.

ICRW also assisted HNI with the development of a 1-page summary of the OMNI Research Project for distribution to USAID country missions and other relevant institutions and individuals. ICRW gave feedback to the OMNI Project Director on her summary of the content and outcomes of the PRP meeting.

The Project Manager was in communication with Dr. B. Popkin, PRP member, in developing the draft grants application and announcement, and in defining his role and input in the ICRW/OMNI grants program. This included: review of the announcement and application; suggestions for the mailing list; review of the completed applications and participation in the proposal workshop. Support for Dr. Popkin's involvement in the ICRW/OMNI grants program will include honorarium, travel and expenses for his participation in the workshop.

To strengthen the involvement of the PRP in the ICRW grants program, Ms. Julia Tagwireyi was contacted to determine her interest in working with ICRW in the same manner as Dr. Popkin. Early in the next quarter, ICRW hopes to confirm her participation. If she is unable to participate, ICRW will contact other PRP members, including Dr. E. Kennedy and Dr. C. Achterberg.

### B. Administration

1. Subagreement Signature On March 21, ICRW signed its subagreement with HNI for work under the OMNI Research Project.

2. ICRW Staff Charlotte Johnson-Welch is the Project Manager for the ICRW subagreement. She will have access to the expertise of other ICRW staff in implementing the ICRW subagreement activities. It is expected that Kathleen Kurz, nutritionist; Rekha Mehra, agricultural economist; and Michael Paolisso, anthropologist, will provide important input into the project.

## II. DELAYS IN IMPLEMENTATION

There was a delay in AID/Contracts approval of the ICRW Subagreement; therefore, it was not signed by HNI and ICRW until late March. As a result, ICRW did not proceed as quickly as originally planned in developing the application announcement. Some of the other activities described in the Annual Work Plan also will be pushed back by a month; however, ICRW still hopes to maintain its proposed plan to hold the research proposal workshop in early December of this year. (See attached FY 94 calendar as submitted to HNI November 23, 1993)

An additional consequence of the delay in signing the subagreement was that ICRW did not submit a quarter report for the period of October-December 1993 as no technical work was performed during that reporting period. ICRW, however, did review and provide feedback to HNI on the development of the subagreement during the first quarter FY 94.

## III. STATUS OF CURRENT WORK AND UP-COMING ACTIVITIES FOR NEXT QUARTER (April-June 1994)

### A. Technical

1. Application Announcement The draft application announcement will be reviewed internally before it is sent to the OMNI Research Project Director and the US AID Cognizant Technical Officer (CTO) and members of the PRP for review and comment during the next quarter. (See attached draft announcement) After ICRW receives final approval of the announcement, the announcement will be translated into French and Spanish, and prepared for dissemination in those languages as well as English. Dissemination is expected to occur by late May 1994 with a closing date for applications in late July 1994. This would be a 1-month delay in this activity as presented in the work plan submitted in November and is a result of the delay in signing ICRW's subagreement.

2. Mailing List for Applications Using existing mailing lists with additions from key informants and the literature, the draft mailing list for the application announcement will be reviewed by HNI's OMNI Research Project Director and the US AID CTO in the next quarter. The list includes both developing and developed country institutions and individuals who might choose to apply for a grant under the terms of ICRW's subagreement. It also includes resource persons who will be asked to pass on the announcement to those whom they feel might be appropriate applicants. Officers in the Health/Population/Nutrition, Agriculture, Small Enterprise Development and other relevant offices in USAID missions also will receive copies of the announcement for dissemination to groups and/or individuals in their countries.

3. Review of Applications Given the current activity timeline, the deadline for applications will fall in the third quarter (July 1994). Thus, any work in reviewing the applications, notification of provisional award of funding, and work with the teams in developing detailed research protocols will occur the end of the third quarter and during the fourth quarter. Again, a one-month delay (from that proposed in the Annual Work Plan) is expected in these activities as a result in the delay in signing the ICRW subagreement.

### B. Administration

1. PRP Members ICRW will confirm the involvement of a second member of the PRP on the ICRW OMNI grants program.

2. Invoicing ICRW will begin to submit to HNI monthly invoices for work performed under its subagreement, and quarterly financial reports will be submitted as per item 12, ICRW subagreement.

3. Technical Quarter Report ICRW will submit its second technical Quarter Report to HNI by July 20, 1994.

International Center for Research on Women  
 1717 Massachusetts Avenue, NW Suite 302  
 Washington, DC 20036

QUARTERLY REPORT

MARCH 31, 1994

Report to: Suzanne Hattis  
 Human Nutrition Institute  
 ILSI Research Foundation  
 1126 Sixth Street, NW, Suite 100  
 Washington, DC 20036

Cooperative Agreement No. HRN-5122-A-00-3046-00

CATEGORY	BUDGET	ACTUAL EXPENSES		TOTAL EXPENSES	CONTRACT FUNDS REMAINING
		PREVIOUSLY REPORTED THROUGH 12/31/93	ACTUAL EXPENSES 03/01/94-03/31/94		
Salaries	104,532	0.00	1,790.96	1,790.96	102,741.04
Fringe Benefits	41,740	0.00	815.81	815.81	40,924.19
Duplicating	1,550	0.00	0.00	0.00	1,550.00
Fiscal Administration	6,303	0.00	0.00	0.00	6,303.00
DEA Insurance	329	0.00	0.00	0.00	329.00
Office Lease	900	0.00	0.00	0.00	900.00
OMB Audit Fee	1,300	0.00	0.00	0.00	1,300.00
Pet Diem	16,700	0.00	0.00	0.00	16,700.00
Postage	4,000	0.00	0.29	0.29	3,999.71
Research Awards < \$25K	250,000	0.00	0.00	0.00	250,000.00
Supplies	3,250	0.00	0.00	0.00	3,250.00
Telephone	8,560	0.00	0.00	0.00	8,560.00
Travel	56,958	0.00	0.00	0.00	56,958.00
Indirect	184,706	0.00	1,245.88	1,245.88	183,460.12
Research Awards > \$25K	125,000	0.00	0.00	0.00	125,000.00
Total Costs	805,828	0.00	3,852.94	3,852.94	801,975.06

March 23, 1994

Dear Colleague:

On behalf of the United States Agency for International Development's Office of Nutrition, we are pleased to announce the initiation of a new micronutrient grant program, OMNI Research. The enclosed flyer describes the goal of OMNI Research and the process by which grants will be awarded.

This process involves the development of requests for proposals (RFP) directed at specific research questions related to micronutrient malnutrition. These questions will be identified by a 20 member Peer Review Panel.

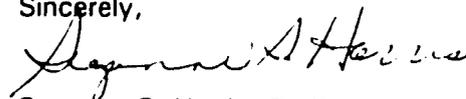
The Panel held its first meeting in early February 1994 and identified the following initial research priorities.

- Development and/or validation of methods for micronutrient assessment.
- Development of strategies to increase and test the bioavailability of vitamin A and iron in diets.
- Development of ways to create demand for micronutrient-rich foods as an entry point to a healthy diet.
- Demonstrate the efficacy and cost effectiveness of fortification. Development of sustainable finance mechanisms to cover the added cost of fortification.
- Enhancement of effectiveness of micronutrient interventions by decreasing constraints on women's participation in and compliance with program activities. Enhancement of micronutrient status through on-going programs to improve women's status.

An RFP with more specific research questions is being developed for each of the first four topics. The final topic will be addressed through a special program managed by the International Center for Research on Women (ICRW). Please refer to the attached OMNI Research description for more information on the ICRW activities.

We will strive to make significant contributions to our understanding of strategies to control micronutrient malnutrition through OMNI Research. We welcome your grant proposal in response to any of the OMNI Research RFPs.

Sincerely,



Suzanne S. Harris, Ph.D.  
OMNI Research Project Director

Enclosure

# OMNI RESEARCH

OPPORTUNITIES FOR MICRONUTRIENT INTERVENTIONS (OMNI)

## ***The OMNI Mission: Reduction of the Prevalence of Vitamin A and Other Micronutrient Deficiencies***

The OMNI mission will be accomplished through the development of comprehensive and integrated strategies and programs to reduce and eliminate the major micronutrient deficiencies. The research component of the OMNI program, called OMNI Research, will support the OMNI field programs by funding technology development and operations research to identify intervention strategies that can guide the development of country micronutrient programs.

The lessons learned from OMNI Research will provide creative solutions to micronutrient malnutrition at all levels—community, regional, and national. Food production and processing, involvement of women as decision-makers and active participants, economic constraints to adoption of appropriate micronutrient interventions, as well as public health issues will be addressed. The results will then be used in field intervention strategies.

## ***The OMNI Research Team***

OMNI Research is funded through a five-year cooperative agreement between the Office of Nutrition of the United States Agency for International Development (USAID) and the International Life Sciences Institute's (ILSI) Research Foundation. The International Center for Research on Women (ICRW) will collaborate with ILSI to bring ICRW's expertise on women's issues to micronutrient technology development. Both ILSI and ICRW are nonprofit, nongovernmental organizations headquartered in Washington, D.C., with extensive experience in grants administration and micronutrient issues.

## ***Grant Process***

OMNI Research provides funds for grants awarded through competitive and noncompetitive processes. A Peer Review Panel will identify specific research priorities and develop requests for proposals. These requests will be circulated worldwide to scientists and program managers with interests in micronutrient problems.

Proposals submitted in response to these requests will be critically reviewed by members of the Peer Review Panel. Grants will be awarded based on the outcome of this review. Noncompetitive awards will also be considered when appropriate in the judgment of the Peer Review Panel.

In addition, ICRW will coordinate selection of institutions and organizations that are capable of conducting interdisciplinary operations research and of applying the lessons learned from the research to the field and that have demonstrated a commitment to addressing women in development issues to complete a grants application, including a research prospectus and an institutional capabilities statement. Award of the grants will include participation in a workshop to refine the objectives and methodologies specified in the research proposals.

OMNI Research is a five-year program, and new requests for proposals will be issued on a regular basis. Awards are expected to range up to US\$300,000 and may extend over periods of one to three years.

### ***For Further Information***

To make inquiries regarding OMNI Research or to add your name to the mailing list, contact:

Suzanne S. Harris, Ph.D.  
Executive Director  
ILSI Human Nutrition Institute  
International Life Sciences Institute  
1126 Sixteenth Street, N.W.  
Washington, D.C. 20036  
U.S.A.

Telephone: 202-659-0789

Facsimile: 202-659-8654

Charlotte Johnson-Welch  
International Center for Research on Women  
1717 Massachusetts Avenue, N.W., Suite 302  
Washington, D.C. 20036  
U.S.A.

Telephone: 202-797-0007

Facsimile: 202-797-0020

To make inquiries regarding the field support component of OMNI, contact:

David F. Pyle, Ph.D., Project Director  
John Snow, Inc.  
1616 North Fort Myer Drive (11th Floor)  
Arlington, VA 22209  
U.S.A.

Telephone: 703-528-7474

Facsimile: 703-528-7480

USAID Project Manager for OMNI:

Frances R. Davidson, Ph.D., Acting Director  
Office of Nutrition  
Bureau for Global Programs, Field Support &  
Research  
U.S. Agency for International Development  
Washington, D.C. 20523

Telephone: 703-875-4003

Facsimile: 703-875-7483

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April 27, 1994

Ms. Brenda J. Colwell  
Project Officer  
Office of Nutrition  
Bureau for Research and Development  
Agency for International Development  
SA-18, Room 411  
Washington, DC 20523-1808

Dear Ms. Colwell:

Enclosed are four (4) copies of the report on the activities of ILSI Research Foundation related to Cooperative Agreement No. HRN-5122-A-00-3046-00 during the second quarter of fiscal year 1994.

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me at (202) 659-0789.

Sincerely,



Suzanne S. Harris, Ph.D.  
Project Director

Enclosures

cc: Mr. Michael B. Gushue  
Dr. Alex Malapina  
Ms. Sharon Coleman  
AID, POL/CDIE/DI

APR 29 1994

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RECEIVED