

JOICFP NEWS

Nutrition – a Key Issue for Africa

PANFRICO IV notes importance of strengthening nutrition activities to assist FP promotion



Participants of PANFRICO IV in Banjul, The Gambia.

Nutrition, particularly malnutrition among children and mothers, is a major concern in almost all African countries. How nutrition education and measures can be effectively incorporated into maternal and child health (MCH) services is a crucial issue and has an important bearing on child survival, women's well-being and the promotion of family planning (FP). In light of this situation, the 4th Regional Workshop on the Integrated Project (PANFRICO IV), held in Banjul, The Gambia, from September 27 - October 1, focused on the importance of nutrition to promotion of the Integrated Project on FP, Nutrition and Parasite Control (IP) and on developing strategies for tackling nutrition within a community context.

Held biannually since 1987, PANFRICO serves as a forum to promote the IP in Africa and for participants to share experiences. Attended by 50 participants from 15 countries including local observers, the meeting was organized as a regional activity with support from UNFPA. Financial assistance was also provided by IPPF, which covered the costs of representatives of FP associations from the Africa region. The organization, which

appointed an officer-in-charge of the IP for Africa, has continued to show strong support of the project and has indicated a desire to assist the FPAs of Sierra Leone and Guinea to initiate the project.

Participants were drawn from the five IP-implementing countries of Ethiopia, The Gambia, Ghana, Tanzania and Zambia and the non-IP countries of Cameroon, Central African Republic, Guinea, Kenya, Namibia, Nigeria, Madagascar, Senegal, Sierra Leone and Uganda.

JICA Represented

Officials of UNFPA, IPPF and JOICFP also attended the meeting along with two representatives of the Population Education Promotion Project of the Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA). The first JICA members to join a PANFRICO meeting, the representatives expressed a desire to expand collaboration in the future. Dr. Shigemi Kono, professor of demography, International School of Economics and Business Administration, Reitaku University, and JOICFP counselor, contributed as a resource person.

The meeting was opened with a speech by Gambian Minister of Health and Social Welfare Alhaji Landing Jallow Sonko, who

stressed the importance of population issues. He added, "We will continue to utilize the IP approach in our health strategy as a means to strengthen our MCH and FP services through the network of our health services."

A strong message of support for the IP approach also came from the UNFPA representative at the meeting. "It appears that MCH services, nutrition and FP programs are ideal partners in promoting and protecting health and well-being of the whole family," said Wilma Goppel, UNFPA country director for The Gambia. "It is important to consider gender inequalities that women experience not only in healthcare and education, but also in nutrition and food intake," she said.

IPPF Support

The concept of the IP is very close to the thinking of the IPPF, said Gladys Azu, senior program officer, IPPF Sub-regional Office. Noting the commitment of the IP to community participation, she said that IPPF had embraced the project since its start in 1974. "The IP translates some of our macro-problems to the level where all development problems and programs should be," she said.

The meeting provided a forum for participants to review different situations in IP countries and discuss how nutrition can be incorporated into the IP to further increase FP acceptance. In recommendations made at the end of the meeting, participants called for strengthening of the nutrition component of the IP without losing focus of the principal objective, FP promotion. To improve the nutrition component, participants stressed the importance of government commitment and policy guidance; analysis of the nutrition situation in the planning of action; community sensitization and participation particularly of men in project implementation; effective intersectoral coordination of nutrition and FP strategies; and nutrition education. 7

Sharing Keys to Success

The decision to hold PANFRICO IV in The Gambia brought benefits to both participants and the people promoting the Integrated Project (IP) as the field trip to IP areas not only stirred active discussions at the meeting, but stimulated project personnel to refine implementation. The workshop, held September 27 - October 1, included field observations of IP areas in Mandinari, a semi-urban village with a population of 8,400, and Munyagen, a rural area with a population of 4,000. Initiated in 1988, the IP is implemented by the Gambia Family Planning Association (GFPA) under the National IP Steering Committee.

Among the positive aspects of the project pointed out by participants were the efforts made by GFPA to enter communities and gain the participation of the people in the project. Noting that GFPA is giving education high priority in the project, the participants commented that awareness creation is a key issue to enhancing community participation.

The visitors suggested that effective management by the local steering committee is an important factor for GFPA to consider in its efforts to make the project self-supporting. The

assistance of the community itself was also noted as crucial to IP sustainability. Giving the example of how a broken water pump in Munyagen could be repaired through a community campaign, participants emphasized that the people have to be willing to make efforts themselves to maintain project momentum.

Community Motivation

In comments to GFPA, the Zambian representative reiterated the importance of the local steering committee as a driving force in motivating the community to take part in such community activities as repair of the pump. He also suggested that funds earned from different types of local income-generating activities such as soap-making, handicrafts and dying could be used to support project activities. The representative from Ethiopia added that the people could also be encouraged to join hands in renovating the dispensary.

For participants from non-IP countries, the firsthand observation of IP activities was an enlightening experience and a chance to share keys to successful program promotion. To sustain activities, the representative from Cameroon suggested



The Ethiopian participant speaks with a mother at a dispensary in an IP area.

the establishment of a people's bank to which people could donate funds for the development of the project. Another suggestion to promote sustainability was offered by the Kenyan representative, who urged that a fee-charging system be initiated to generate funds.

Commenting that project components were very clear, the representative from the Central African Republic said that the political commitment was a very important factor to success.

Providing participants with an open forum for comments and discussions, the field observation was welcomed by both GFPA and participants as a valuable learning experience. J

The Power of Community Spirit

A monitoring team from Japan had positive comments to make about the strong commitment shown by the staff members and community workers of the Integrated Project (IP) in Ghana. In the country from October 3 - 8, the mission visited established IP villages and one new IP village where the members held discussions with representatives of local steering committees, project managers, field workers and community people.

While in Ghana, the team also visited the maternal and child health (MCH)/family planning (FP) clinic in Awutu where members observed MCH/FP clinic-day activities including health education, child growth monitoring, immunization and FP counseling.

Headed by Dr. Shigemi Kono, professor of demography, International School of Economics and Business Administration,



Children of Bontrase village.

Reitaku University, the mission had valuable comments to make on how to improve project implementation. In particular, Kono suggested ways to improve data collection and evaluation of such information as infant mortality, maternal mortality and birthrate to demonstrate progress in IP areas.

Citing poverty as a barrier to FP promotion and improvement of the situation of women, Kono noted the efforts made by project personnel and community-based distributors (CBDs) to promote women's development. Income-generating activities such as *gari* processing, he added, had helped women in villages such as Bontrase to establish funds for use in such activities as immunization.

The existence of misconceptions about FP

among community people was noted during discussions with field workers and project staff. As a result, stress was also placed on strengthening education and counseling activities to familiarize people with FP, which is an alien concept in many rural communities. The community acknowledged that the IP activities have done much to improve FP acceptance and bring down infant mortality.

In response to requests, the project coverage was expanded this year to take in another six adjacent areas. Educational activities such as film shows to raise awareness of the IP and FP have already been launched and CBDs are being identified in respective villages for training. In his comments about the new IP village, Kono said he was impressed that the local steering committee had already been established and was composed of influential people. The results of a baseline survey of the new areas, conducted earlier this year, will be released in the near future.

Commenting on the smooth planning and organization of the project, Kono suggested that the IP be further expanded in the future. The test of the IP will be in a more remote area, he said, where significant efforts and funds will be required for implementation.

Bridging Distances

A boat donated through theVDIA scheme helps bring services to people

The absence of effective transportation is one of the major barriers to improving the way of life in the 11 municipalities of Sololá State in Guatemala where the Integrated Project (IP) is being promoted. In many of the villages surrounding Lake Atitlán, a rough mountain track is the only land link to neighboring communities, and commodities must be carried on foot.



An IP worker prepares to cross Lake Atitlán.

When disasters strike such as a recent earthquake, even the tracks become impassable and villages can only be reached by boat.

It is in such conditions that the boat donated to the IP through the Voluntary Deposit for International Aid (VDIA) scheme contributes to improve the way of

life in the communities. Donated last year through the fund, which is administered by the Japanese Ministry of Posts and Telecommunications, the boat is being used by the IP staff based in San Lucas Tolimán to promote the family planning (FP), maternal and child health and primary healthcare activities of the project.

The VDIA funds have also been used to produce and distribute 8,000 MCH handbooks, which are being used to promote MCH in the IP areas. To further enhance health promotion, 35 health kits were purchased with VDIA funds and have been distributed to traditional birth attendants, FP promoters and volunteers working in the IP communities. **[J]**

Words of Thanks



Nakamura and members of the Charity Club of Morimura Gakuen Junior High School with one of the sewing machines to be donated to Brazil.

A visit to Japan gave Dr. Milton Nakamura, president, Center for Maternal and Child Health/Family Planning (CMI/PF), an opportunity to express his gratitude to the Charity Club of Morimura Gakuen Junior High School which has been providing support to the people living in Brazil's São Paulo. The club, composed of student representatives and mothers, has been sending used clothing to Brazil through the Catholic Church in São Paulo. During his visit to the school on September 22, Nakamura explained about the activities of the Integrated Project (IP) which is being promoted in *favelas* (slums) in São Paulo. In response to Nakamura's visit,

the club agreed to send 15 sewing machines, clothing and stationery to IP areas.

Prior to visiting the school, Nakamura paid a courtesy call on September 21 to Mayor Keiji Ohba of Setagaya City. A member city of the Municipal Coordinating Committee for Overseas Bicycle Assistance (MCCOBA), Setagaya will send 50 reconditioned bicycles to the IP areas in Brazil in January 1994. Another 25 bicycles will be sent by Arakawa City at the same time.

On the same day, Nakamura also visited the Office of the Voluntary Deposit for International Aid (VDIA), Ministry of Posts and Telecommunications where he met with Office Director Terutoshi Sano. **[J]**



The MEXFAM mission with VDIA Director Terutoshi Sano (center).

A four-member mission from the Mexican Foundation for Family Planning (MEXFAM) expressed gratitude for assistance from the Japanese people during visits to a local government office in Tokyo and the Office of Voluntary Deposit for International Aid (VDIA), Ministry of Posts and Telecommunications, on September 27. Led by Ramona Pando de Cosío, president, MEXFAM Board, the team visited the Bunkyo City Office where it met with Mayor Masanori Endo. During the meeting, the MEXFAM group conveyed thanks for the city's role in the donation of reconditioned bicycles to Mexico through the Municipal Coordinating Committee for Overseas Bicycle Assistance (MCCOBA). Since 1990, the Integrated Project (IP) areas in Mexico have received 375 bicycles through the donation activities, with another 150 scheduled to arrive by the end of 1993.

At the Ministry of Posts and Telecommunications, meanwhile, the Mexican group expressed appreciation to Terutoshi Sano, director, VDIA Office, for the three years of assistance that MEXFAM has received through the VDIA scheme. Explaining MEXFAM's efforts to promote self-reliance, the visitors commented that the assistance had helped the community doctor scheme.

The Community as a Driving Force

Jakarta workshop highlights community participation as strategy for FP/MCH program sustainability

The effectiveness of mobilizing the community to actively participate in family planning (FP)/maternal and child health (MCH) activities was one of the valuable lessons learned by participants of the Workshop on Effective Strategies for Sustainable Community-based FP/MCH Project with Special Focus on Women, held in Jakarta, Indonesia, from October 14-23. The participants, who used Indonesian experiences as a case study, also noted the importance of political commitment to FP/MCH programs and the effectiveness of coordinating the efforts of the government and non-governmental organizations (NGOs) in the field.

The workshop was conducted as part of the Asian regional project entitled Sustainable Community-based FP/MCH Project with Special Focus on Women (RAS/92/P11) implemented by JOICFP with the support of UNFPA and IPPF. It was attended by 17 representatives promoting FP/MCH from the countries of Bangladesh, China, Laos, Nepal, the Philippines and Vietnam. The workshop was hosted by the Coordinating Forum

of the Integrated Program of Family Health and Family Planning Services of

Indonesia and was organized in collaboration with JOICFP. The meeting not only served to introduce the FP/MCH program of Indonesia to participants, but also provided an opportunity for the representatives to share their country's experiences in community-based FP/MCH promotion among themselves.

"This workshop provides a good example of South-to-South cooperation, which I know is very much supported by the Indonesian government," said Ali Ugur Tuncer, UNFPA country director, Indonesia. Speaking at the opening of the workshop, Tuncer said, "I am sure you will gain from the rich Indonesian experience in this field and adapt, at least some of it, in your own project areas." Calling on participants to discuss and exchange experiences on strategies utilized in their respective countries, the UNFPA official expressed UNFPA's support of the regional activity.



Participants observe *Posyandu* activities.

Posyandu

To provide a basis for discussion of the Indonesian experience, the workshop included an introduction to the country's system of integrated service posts, or *Posyandu*, that offer FP/MCH services at the community level. First organized in the 1980s as a means to stimulate the community to take action for health, the *Posyandu* have been developed over the years with the support of the government into one of the key forces in promotion of FP/MCH in the country. The *Posyandu* activities are held on a regular basis and conducted by women volunteers drawn from the local community with the support of health officials.

Targeting MCH

Primarily aimed at reducing the infant mortality rate (IMR) and maternal mortality rate (MMR), the *Posyandu* services fall into five categories: growth monitoring of under-5-year-olds; FP services; nutrition for pregnant mothers; immunization; and monitoring of high-risk pregnancies. The *Posyandu* are implemented at the village level nationwide and are carried out on a monthly basis. On the service day, trained volunteers and community people assist the paramedical staff from either the local government or NGO to conduct services.

To meet the changing needs of Indonesia's FP program, the aim and scope of FP services including those provided through *Posyandu* have been adapted over the years. From a national FP program "for the people," the activities developed into a program "with the



Participants visit a day care center established by IPPA.

Indonesia

people" and finally into one that is now conducted "by the people." Under the present orientation, the government is aiming towards FP program sustainability. Accordingly, fee-charging for contraceptives is now being introduced nationwide. To promote acceptance of FP, ensure quality of care and access to services for all community members, the government assists with the training of doctors and midwives in FP provision and provides contraceptives at a price below retail level.

Role of NGOs

The integrated FP/MCH and primary healthcare services being conducted by Yayasan Kusuma Buana (YKB) in Jakarta offered participants insights into how an NGO can effectively achieve sustainability by offering a mix of good-quality services and by actively working to create awareness. Operating six FP/MCH clinics in Jakarta, YKB serves lower socioeconomic urban populations by offering an integrated package of parasite control, FP and MCH services. With the support of doctors, the clinics are run by midwives who provide high-quality services on a fee basis.

Outreach Services

Outreach services are also provided from the clinics through such activities as mothers' classes, urban *Posyandu* services and through training traditional birth attendants to provide quality care and health education in FP/MCH to the women in the community. During the workshop, participants were introduced to some of the methods used by YKB to stimulate participation in the project and acceptance of FP. These activities include awareness creation through the school health program conducted by YKB and the placing of posters in local shops.

The activities conducted by the Indonesian Planned Parenthood Association (IPPA), meanwhile, offered participants another angle on FP/MCH program self-reliance. Among the innovative approaches used by IPPA is the utilization of day care centers as an entry point to promoting FP/MCH activities to mothers. The participants also got acquainted with the NGO's activities at youth counseling centers. Both these initiatives are promoted under the concept of self-reliance. Participants were introduced to IPPA's system of



Participants of the Jakarta Workshop.

charging for nutrition education activities for children at day care centers and for providing community education talks.

Strategies

The introduction to a range of approaches gave participants a sound basis to identify strategies for sustainable FP/MCH programs. Noting the accomplishments of the *Posyandu*, YKB and IPPA, participants agreed that the participation of the community was the key to program sustainability. They also highlighted the role of the NGO to initiate and strengthen community participation and the importance of cooperation with relevant government organizations, other NGOs and community groups.

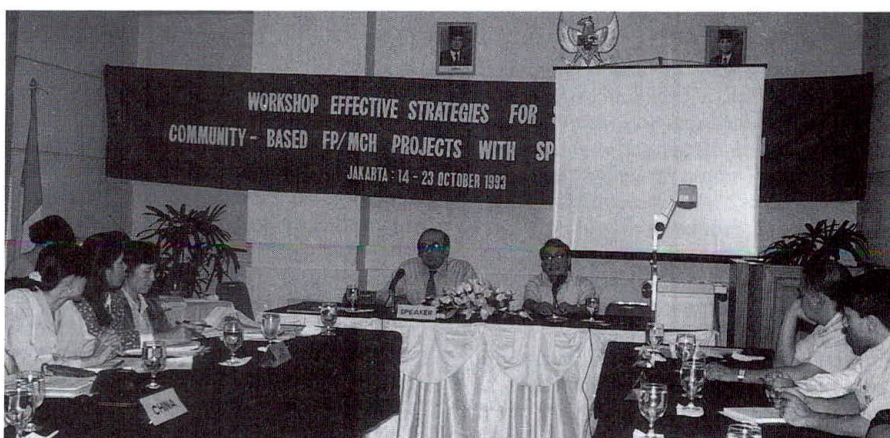
In summing up lessons learned through the workshop, participants also underscored the importance of government commitment to making FP a priority program and to expanding it to include MCH and family welfare programs. It was

also emphasized that political commitment needs to be transmitted to all political, religious and other informal leaders, government personnel and NGOs, and that people must be convinced that the success of FP is necessary for improving the quality of life.

Among the other strategies outlined were quality of care, empowerment of women, effective management and human resource development. The importance of adolescent education and counseling was also stressed by participants, who called for consideration of the balance between social and economic development.

Regional IP Activities

The workshop was well-timed to coincide with the start of regional IP activities in four out of the six countries represented at the event. Enlightened by what they had learned in Indonesia, the participants returned home ready to apply their newly acquired strategies to strengthen their respective programs. 7



Ali Ugur Tuncer, UNFPA country director, Indonesia, (center) addresses workshop participants.

A People's Project in China

Dr. Richard Cash, lecturer, International Health, Harvard School of Public Health, and fellow, Harvard Institute for International Development, conducted an independent evaluation of the Integrated Project (IP) in China from October 4 - 17. He spoke to JOICFP NEWS on October 18 about his impressions. Below are the highlights.

I was very impressed with what I saw. It is a tribute to JOICFP, the State Family Planning Commission, China Family Planning Association and the province, and most importantly, it is a tribute to the people at the prefectural and county level, because there is clearly a lot of enthusiasm. People are very proud of what they have done and they have been doing very good work.

I did not assess numbers so much. The statistics are all there and show an improving trend. It will be interesting to see how much of the project spreads out beyond the IP area, because the IP's real success will be in whether it is able to



Dr. Cash interviews a couple in Yunnan Province about FP practice.

influence other counties and beyond that.

I was impressed by how the IP has been able to get different groups to work together, to integrate much more than what is usually done at the central level. By integrate, I mean getting various institutional groups at the county and community level to work together. There seemed to be good communication between the groups and they seemed to be aiming at a common goal, which is improving the lot of the people in "our" county or in "our" towns. At the local level, the setting up of steering committees was clearly important in helping to develop integration.

I noticed that each community had selected its own set of priorities under the project. In one, it was construction of toilets. In another it was paving a road, and

in another it was procuring safe water. In this situation, the role of the IP is to educate people as to what the possibilities are, what they can do, and to provide examples.

For anything to work, it has to appeal in some way to people's self-interests. That can also be defined as the interest of the community: "If the community prospers, I prosper."

China has had a very strong FP program for many years, but the IP is clearly building on this. However, for IP to bring about a statistical increase in FP acceptance would be very difficult. But what it can do is contribute to the further development of these communities. It can assure the people that the services can be high quality and reliable. In doing so, it can ensure that whatever has been done will continue in the future, that whatever ground has been laid is strengthened. So that in five years from now, people will continue to desire small families.

I think JOICFP is right. If people are not desirers of FP — if they don't see the importance of doing this for themselves and the community — the high acceptance rate won't hold. People will slip back into having larger families. But I think both the government and the IP have made the people aware of the advantage of having smaller families. **[7]**

Gearing Towards Self-reliance

The Foundation for Integrated Services on Health and Development (FISHDEV) celebrated four years since its foundation in 1989 with renewed determination to achieve self-reliance by providing high-quality integrated healthcare. Among the new initiatives undertaken by the foundation is the operation of the Philippine-Japan Friendship Family Health Clinic in Las Pinas, Metro Manila, which is providing a range of high-quality medical services on a fee-charged basis. The clinic, which was recently upgraded to a mini-hospital, was established with the support of funds from the Voluntary Deposit for International Aid (VDIA) scheme of the Japanese Ministry of Posts and Telecommunications. The allocation of funds and purchase of equipment for the mini-hospital were executed by the Japan Family Planning Association (JFPA).

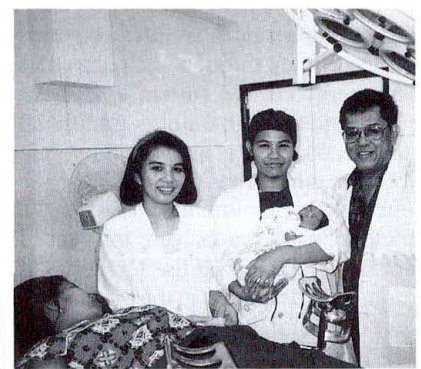
Staffed by one resident doctor and 10 paramedical personnel including nurses, midwives and medical technicians, the mini-hospital is also a contract base for a broad spectrum of medical professionals including gynecologists, pediatricians, dentists,

surgeons and specialists in internal medicine. With the VDIA support, FISHDEV has procured a range of equipment such as an X-ray machine and an ECG machine, and has improved the laboratory facilities at the mini-hospital to be able to provide mass health checkups to employees of businesses and factories in the nearby commercial and industrial areas. The mini-hospital also has a maternity ward with six beds.

Official Ceremony

Under the leadership of FISHDEV president, Dr. Carmen Garcia, former director of the Commission on Population, and FISHDEV executive director, Rolando Maulion, the mini-hospital has already achieved self-reliance. Since opening as a clinic in 1991, the mini-hospital's income has exceeded expenditures. To mark the renovations, an official ceremony was held on October 27 which was attended by the mayor of Las Pinas.

In its efforts to achieve self-reliance, FISHDEV has continued to emphasize the importance of good quality and reasonable prices. By doing so, it has been able to cater to



Dr. Vicente M. Katapang, resident doctor (right), in the delivery room with staff and a mother and newborn.

the health needs of people in the mid- to low-income bracket who are willing to pay reasonable fees for services.

While maintaining self-reliance remains a major driving force for the mini-hospital, it is continuing to support welfare activities such as nutrition advice and maternal and child health (MCH) checkups for the people in Las Pinas on a non-profit basis. By the end of this year, FISHDEV will also have established a laboratory geared to preventive healthcare in Molave Municipality, Province of Zamboanga Del Sur.

Innovative AIDS Education

Japan Family Planning Association (JFPA) is helping to destroy some of the myths about AIDS and to stir preventive action in Japan by producing and marketing unique educational materials.

Designed to be visually appealing and easy to understand, the materials include a set of seven panels and a set of 11 overhead projector (OHP) transparencies with 11 cards. The organization created the materials to meet the short-fall in visually oriented AIDS educational products that offer ready access to information.

Although AIDS information is available in a variety of forms, such as pamphlets and videos, few formats offer the appeal and simplicity of JFPA's materials.

To aid understanding of the information, the seven panels each have a different theme: "What is AIDS"; "How do people get infected with HIV"; "What happens when a person is infected with HIV"; "How to prevent HIV infection"; "AIDS — this is how you can prevent it";

"How to get an AIDS test"; and "Life in the era of AIDS." The production of the panels was supervised by a leading authority on AIDS and sex education, Dr. Satoshi Takeda, professor, Department of Education, Chiba University.

Designed for ease of use, the seven panels each weigh only 750g, yet measure 84.1 x 59.4 x 1.0cm. The panels are framed with aluminum and can be either be displayed on the surface of a table or hung on a wall. A set costs ¥12,000 (US\$90 at the official 1993 exchange rate of ¥122 for US\$1). The panels are designed to be displayed in health centers, municipal government offices, hospitals, schools and businesses.

The OHP transparencies and cards, meanwhile, were created as guides to aid teachers and instructors. The cards are designed for use with small groups, while the transparencies were created to assist instruction of groups larger than 10. Both sets contain the same information and feature color visuals.

To give instructors flexibility, the OHP transparencies can be written on with an erasable marker pen. Both cards and transparencies come in a hard-cover folder measuring 27 x 29 x 3.6cm and offer simple explanations and illustrations on one side and teaching tips on the reverse side. Teachers are free to write their own script with the cards. A set of transparencies and cards costs ¥30,900 (US\$2,533). 



One of JFPA's panels.

Promoting WID in Jordan

Founded in 1977, the Queen Alia Fund (QAF) has been promoting social development in Jordan for 15 years by providing social services, and educational and vocational training at the grassroots. The fund, which is the country's principal non-governmental organization (NGO), operates a network of over 40 community development centers. Under its women's programs, the fund targets such areas as literacy, health, skill training, family planning (FP) and the environment.

Princess Basma Bint Talal, chairperson, QAF, introduced the activities of the fund and expressed concern for population issues in Jordan during a meeting with JOICFP Deputy Executive Director Yasuo Kon on October 13 in Tokyo. "Jordan has a very

high birthrate and rapid population expansion," she said. "This places very big burdens on services; so we are now very concerned with trying to relieve this situation."

Noting that FP is a very sensitive issue in

Jordan, Princess Basma said that a program for birth spacing had recently been adopted nationally. She added that both JOICFP and QAF shared many mutual priorities in their approaches including a shared emphasis on health education activities.

"We'd very much like to see a fostering and promoting of relations between Japanese and Jordanian NGOs, particularly in this field, and we would be delighted if we could explore the possibility of further cooperation through some of the services we offer in Jordan in this regard," she said.



Princess Basma

Learning from Experience

In 1951 Iwate Prefecture had one of the highest infant mortality rates (IMRs) in Japan at 90.4‰. The national average at the time was 57.5‰. By 1991, however, the prefecture's IMR was one of the lowest in the country at 3.9‰ against the national average of 4.4‰. The key to this dramatic turnaround was the prefecture's massive 30-year maternal and child health (MCH) campaign. For a 10-member team from China, a study trip to Iwate yielded many insights into the potential of family planning (FP)/MCH activities and the power of using public health staff to penetrate the community.

Led by Xie Mingdao, director, Family Planning Commission (FPC) of Sichuan Province, the team was in Japan from October 28 - November 10. After receiving an intensive introduction to Japan's FP/MCH activities, the team moved from Tokyo to Iwate where members observed a variety of facilities and activities of both government and non-governmental organization (NGOs). The team included representatives of provincial FPCs and FP associations and the State Family Planning Commission and China Family Planning Association.

During their visit to Iwate Prefecture, the study team members visited the prefectural government, a primary school and the prefectural public health center.

The team's visit to Isawa Town in Iwate coincided with the town's annual health promotion festival geared to motivating the community on health issues. While in the area, the team called into houses of farming families and a local agricultural cooperative, and observed government health checkups for 3-year-olds. For insights into an NGO's activities, the team visited Iwate Health Service Association, which began with parasite control promotion and expanded into broad preventive healthcare. It also visited the Iwate Rehabilitation Center and the Child Health Promotion and Medical Treatment Center.



Participants observe a primary school class in Mizusawa City.

Voice of Voices

By Chojiro Kunii

South-to-South Cooperation

Six years ago in Jakarta, Indonesia, an organization called Yayasan Kusuma Buana (YKB), or the Family Health Foundation, was formed. Under the leadership of executive director, Dr. Firman Lubis, the organization began parasite control (PC) activities. With the support of people sympathetic to the cause, YKB was able to find the best approach to these activities. This movement was joined by Haruo Nagaki of the Hoken Kaikan and his involvement encouraged the Hoken Kaikan Group to extend cooperation. After several visits to the Hoken Kaikan by people from Jakarta, the exact terms of cooperation were decided.

Community Participation

Our mission at the Hoken Kaikan was to provide the Jakarta team with direct insights into Japanese experiences. Activities in Jakarta started with a mass PC campaign for primary school children, which was conducted with the full participation of the community and was incorporated in school health activities through the board of education. These activities are all aimed at community development. The key points of this movement were to rid children of parasites, and motivate parents to pay for the services.

This small experiment eventually spread to other primary schools. The Japan Association of Parasite Control sent several technical support teams to Jakarta to teach staff and volunteers the various techniques needed to the conduct PC activities.

Government Cooperation

This movement was expanded with the cooperation of the city government of Jakarta. The PC activities were further strengthened by the fees paid by parents who were happy to pay for services. As a result, the number of cases examined rose from 10,000 within the first year to 50,000. As more schools joined in, the number examined increased further to 200,000 cases.

This voluntary movement for school health has served as a stimulus to the midwives who work at YKB's six clinics. The self-reliance achieved by the PC activities have also bolstered YKB's family planning (FP) and MCH and its activities have smoothly been accepted by the community.

The BKKBN (National Family Planning Coordinating Board) of Indonesia and Population Minister Haryono Suyono are now working towards the goal of South-to-South cooperation in FP. We hope that the activities of YKB will serve as a model for the programs of non-governmental organizations. [7]

ANNOUNCEMENT

2nd Regional Technical Committee Meeting on Sustainable Community-based FP/MCH Project with Special Focus on Women

JOICFP is organizing the above meeting under the joint auspices of UNFPA and IPPF in cooperation with the Japan Family Planning Association.

Date: January 18 - 22, 1994

Venue: Tokyo, Japan

Participants: Representatives from Bangladesh, China, Laos, Nepal, the Philippines, Vietnam, UNFPA, IPPF and other related agencies

Objectives: To review the project implementation of 1993 and discuss workplan for 1994

DIARY

Dr. **Adem Ibrahim Mohammed**, director, Bureau of Health, Oromia Region, and Dr. **Mathewos Wakbulcho**, coordinator, IP, Ethiopia, paid courtesy calls to the mayor of Musashino City on Sept. 6 and to the mayor of Arakawa City and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs on Sept. 10.

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Dr. **Gottlieb Mpangile**, director of programs, Family Planning Association of Tanzania (UMATI), paid courtesy calls to the mayors of

Itabashi, Arakawa and Shizuoka cities; the director of the VDIA Office, Ministry of Posts and Telecommunications; and Ministry of Foreign Affairs, while in Japan to attend the Seminar on FP Administration for Senior Officers, held Aug. 23 - Sept. 10.

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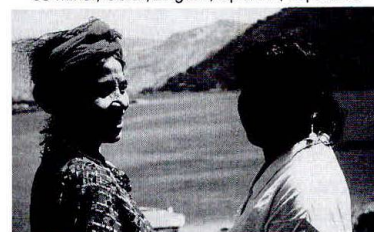
Twelve participants from 12 countries taking part in the Women Leaders of Farm Household Development attended a one-day FP seminar at JOICFP on Sept. 27.

JOICFP Documentary Series

A New Documentary Film

Maria

33 mins., Color; English, Spanish, Japanese



Our latest documentary film features two Marias from Guatemala — a country over 50 percent of whose population is comprised of indigenous people.

Nana Maria, a traditional birth attendant and faith healer who still follows the Mayan tradition closely, strives to protect the health and decrease the burden of the women in her village. City-dweller Maria Teresa wishes to get closer to indigenous women like Nana Maria.

This touching film outlines the awakened women trying to protect themselves through action.

Distributed by

Sakura Motion Picture Co., Ltd.

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16mm • VTR (Beta, VHS/NTSC, PAL, SECAM)

JOICFP NEWS is a monthly newsletter published by the Japanese Organization for International Cooperation in Family Planning, Inc. (JOICFP).

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