

July 31, 1967

TO: Dr. G. L. Weldon, USAID/PHD

THRU: George A. Widenour, CDAA/Sby.
Dr. Ramon F. Pablo, ID/OJ Sby.
Dwane E. Hammer, AAC/LP *DA*

FROM: Constancio T. Ariola, R.N. OB/PHN Supervisor
Thao Thong Phanh Srivathana, P.N. LCH/Khong Phiong

SUBJECT: Public Health Monthly Consolidated Report
(Period covered: 29 June to 28 July 1967)

I. PERSONNEL

1. Mr. Constancio T. Ariola, R.N. OB PHN Supervisor
2. Thao Thong Phanh Srivathana, P.N. Lao Chief Nurse, OB
(on vacation leave
6/26-7/10/67)
3. Thao Siang Panyaming PHN Worker Khong Phiong/OB
4. Thao Pong Sala PHN Worker Khong Phiong/OB
5. Thao Lygee RLG Medic, Ban Nam Hia
6. Thao Phoumy RLG Medic, Ban Matane
7. Thao Lydroua RLG Medic, Ban Jakhene

Thao Siang took over the responsibility of Thao Thong Phanh during the latter's vacation leave.

II. ACTIVITIES

A. 1. Village Clinic

All four dispensaries continued giving symptomatic and first aid treatment to sick patients.

There was a slight decrease in the number of patients treated symptomatically as compared to last month because of the advent of the rainy season, such that those from outlying villages found it hard to go to the clinic. Because of a slight delay in the arrival of medicines requested from PHD, some of the medicines were requested from Sayaboury Hospital for emergency use.

Every medic was being supervised by the LCH/PHN in emphasizing the prevention of high incident diseases like malaria, diarrhea and gastro-intestinal tract symptoms and upper respiratory tract infections. This instruction was carried out by the medics. Medics were also instructed to make a regular visit to their areas to check the health conditions of the community. PHN workers in Khong Phiong made a periodic check of their assigned zones.

2. Referrals

The occurrence of emergencies like bone fractures and gastro-intestinal tract manifestations were given first-aid in the main clinic before being referred to the Sayaboury Hospital for further treatment and management.

Discharged cases from the hospital were followed-up and medicines prescribed were dispensed out.

3. Maternal and Child Health Service

- a. Prenatal check up - held regularly every Thursday. Pregnant mothers registered in Mothers' Classes were examined after the class depending upon the age of pregnancy.

Other pregnant mothers who submitted for prenatal examinations were given health talks with regards to personal hygiene, preparing for delivery like securing baby's clothes, and care of the newborn. The role of the PH team in the area was also explained to them. They were advised to return to the clinic for periodic check-ups and multiple vitamins were also distributed to them for their dietary supplement to maintain their health conditions.

- b. Home Deliveries (D.O.S.) There were 12 mothers attending the Mothers' Class who delivered, in addition to 4 others who delivered and were handled by the PH team. It was noted that newborn babies whose mothers are receiving multiple vitamins and submitting themselves for prenatal check-up weigh more than those whose mothers did not come to the clinic during their periods of pregnancy.

- c. Postpartum and Neonatal care - Every delivery that was handled and other cases that called for follow-ups were visited regularly by the PH team. Care of the mother and the newborn were initiated and demonstrated by the PH team like bathing the baby, applying diapers and proper feeding time of the baby. It was noted that most of these mothers had desisted from following the old practice of placing live charcoal under their beds and bathing with hot water after delivery which are hazardous to their health. This improvement in their health practices may be attributed to the efforts of the PH team in discouraging these practices with emphasis on the disadvantages and inconveniences they will suffer if they resort to it.

4. NCH Training (Mothers' Classes)

a. In Jan datan -

The training that was started last February 28 with an attendance of 39 pregnant and non-pregnant mothers was completed last June 30. The program of instructions was composed of 32 hours of lectures, graphic illustrations, actual demonstrations and return demonstrations by the mothers for every procedure taught in maternal and child care handled by the PH team, and 6 weeks instructions on sewing maternity blouses and baby's layette through the cooperation of the RLC Home Extension agents and IVS Home Economist. In this class there are only 7 trainees who attended the instructions.

There is no plan for a commencement ceremony to officially terminate the training because of the long gap of period after they have finished the classes, while the others (the trainees) have not attended the sewing classes. The opinion of the Tassong in the area was asked regarding this matter and he opined that since the trainees are not willing to hold a commencement program for the training, the plan may not be pushed through. However, certificates of completion will be distributed individually to the successful trainees.

b. In Muong Phiang -

Mothers' Classes are being held every Monday and Thursday mornings at the Cluster Training Center. There are at present 39 pregnant mothers from Muong Phiang, Jan Kang, and Ban Phone Hin attending the classes. The mothers from Ban Kang and Ban Phone Hin are being fetched by the cluster jeep and being sent back after each class. During the first 6 sessions, there were a total of 85 to 90 attendance in spite of the rains, making the roads unpassable. Other pregnant mothers who came to the clinic for prenatal examinations were also encouraged to attend the classes if they so desire, as a part of health teachings.

These mothers were required to make an improvised baby's tray made of woven bamboos. There were 12 trainees who submitted their finished projects. Empty bottles and cotton balls prepared by the medica were distributed with the purpose of affording the mothers to acquire enough materials for their use during delivery and puerperium. With these materials on hand, they can apply to actual use what they have learned in the mothers' class.

There was also noted a decline in attendance in the mothers' class when sewing instructions were introduced to the trainees. It has been noticed that the mothers lose their interest in attending the classes once they know that they will spend some amount for the clothing materials required, for the reason that they do not have enough to spend for these materials. Furthermore, the hours that they will devote in attending the classes are needed at the fields in time for the rainy season. This is especially true to those from Ban Kang. A plan will be formulated to solve this problem so the mothers will be able to complete the training.

Mothers who were found suffering from certain diseases which were shown by laboratory examinations performed last month were given the prescribed medicines by the physician from Sayaboury Hospital.

III. PROBLEMS

1. Attendance in Mothers' Classes has been reduced because of the weather, and partly to the lack of proper motivation to gain the villagers' initiative and interest to attend the meeting instructions.
2. Difficulty in securing vehicles - this difficulty has been frequently encountered when patients come to the clinic and needed prompt referral to Sayaboury because of their conditions. It so happens that when a vehicle was already dispatched to Sayaboury at an earlier time and another vehicle is being requested to bring the patient, it is being reasoned out that dispatching another jeep will require additional consumption of gasoline.

The PH section had been assigned a vehicle on a permanent basis with a driver for its use on home calls or visits, ferrying the serious cases to Sayaboury Hospital, and other needs. However, in most cases, when the need arises for the vehicle, it is found out that the vehicle assigned was dispatched or being utilised by other sections which hinders or causes unnecessary delay and inconvenience to the patients, if not to the PH team activities as a whole.

3. Lack of space for other cases at the clinic - we are receiving some referrals from our dispensaries in the villages outside Luong Phing proper tho, because of certain circumstances (i.e., lack of vehicles to ferry them to Sayaboury Hospital) and necessitating treatment and longer stay at the clinic or any suitable place for sleep or rest, need space to accommodate them and their watchers/companions. We need a rest area to accommodate these patients for the duration until such time that they can be transported to Sayaboury.

IV. PLANS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

1. To amend the previous activity plan on MCH Training to include contracts (agreements), requirements, qualifications of trainees, age of pregnancy and granting of per diems to trainees as incentives and to cover incidental expenses that may be incurred during the training. (Proposed Activity Plan will follow.)
2. Recommend that constructions be made soon on the proposed rural self-help project which will temporarily house or accommodate the patients referred to the PH team in Muong Phiang pending their evacuation to Sayaboury Hospital.
3. Inasmuch as Thao Biang has been recommended to undergo in-service training at the Sayaboury Hospital for a period of 3 months, it is recommended that a temporary replacement be made available to assist the Lao Chief Nurse.

V. OTHERS

1. Staff Visits

The Team Director of OB/Sayaboury accompanied two medical students on an on-the-job summer training, together with the Medecin-Chef Dr. Phan to Muong Phiang Cluster area. The 2 students from the College of Medicine were oriented on current PH activities in the area.

CONSTANCIO T. ARIOLA, R.N.

Attachments:

1. Statistical Summary

VI. STATISTICAL SUMMARY

	<u>Muong Phueng</u>	<u>Nam Hia</u>	<u>Natane</u>	<u>Nakhene</u>	<u>TOTAL</u>
1. Clinic Patients	407	362	312	313	1394
2. Home Nursing and Follow-up	36	26		2	65
3. TB Nursing	3	2	1		6
4. Referrals	26	34*	2*		62
5. Prenatal	44	3	6	3	56
6. Deliveries	16	3	0	2	21
7. Postpartum and Neonatal	18	3	3	2	26
8. Home Visit (Family)	30	24	5	10	69
					1699
					TOTAL.....