

- 1.-SOCIO-NUTRITIONAL STATE IN SLUMS IN GREATER BUENOS AIRES. Marcilla de Parada N.\* y Río M.E.\*\*,  
Convenio Facultad de C.E. Quím y Nat. Universidad de Morón\*, Argentina. \*\*Facultad de Farmacia y Bioquímica, Universidad  
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- 3.-STUDY OF IRON DEFICIENCY IN CHILDREN ATTENDING A HEALTH CENTRE. Lemos Oliveira F.M., Tone L.G. y  
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- 4.-PROFILE OF CONSUMPTION AND NUTRITION OF FAMILIES OF STUDENTS IN PUBLIC SCHOOLS IN FIRST  
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- 23.-RESULTS OF FOOD EDUCATION IN THE ELDERLY. González T. G. Caritas-Chile, Santiago, Chile.
- 24.-PREVALENCE OF ABNORMAL CONJUNCTIVAL CELL IMPRINTS IN PERIURBAN POPULATION OF TEGUCIGALPA, HONDURAS. Arita M., Bulux J., Mendoza I., Alvarado V. Centro de Estudios de Sensoriopatías, Senectud e Impedimentos y Alteraciones Metabólicas, Ciudad de Guatemala, Guatemala y Fundación Internacional del Ojo, Tegucigalpa, Honduras.
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- 33.-INTERACTION BETWEEN LACTATION, MORBIDITY FROM DIARRHOEA AND GROWTH IN A COHORT OF CHILDREN LESS THAN SIX MONTHS. Villalpando H.S., López A.M., Fajardo G.A. Unidad de Investigación Clínica en Nutrición de Servicios de Investigación Médica "Luis Castelazo Ayala", IMSS, México.
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- 35.-FOOD CONSUMPTION IN MEXICO CITY ASSESSED BY FOOD WASTE IN THE EIGHTIES. Franco S., Gutierrez A. Centro de Ecodesarrollo, D.F., México.
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**TABLE 1**  
**VARIABLE-INDICATOR-MATRIZ(VIM)**

No.	Variable	Reference	Indicator	Method	Reference
0	Central variable				
1					
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Effective objectives can only be decided upon if underlying causes of problems to be addressed have been analysed with problem analysis procedure. Problems do not constitute abstract hypotheses but are always stated in the problems experienced by people, social groups or institutions. Before analysing the problem therefore, all affected groups and their interests must be discussed using participation analysis procedures

Next, analysis of objectives indicates potential solutions. The project's are derived from this analysis and, using a planning matrix, are arranged into a coherent, convincing and realistic system of objectives for the project. The project planning matrix produced in this way indicates at 4 different levels (expressed in rows) the purpose of the project, to which overall goal the project is to contribute and what activities and results/outputs are to make this project purpose materialise (1st column of matrix). The different levels on the matrix interlink as a hypothesis, which is to be translated into an actual situation by the project at the activities and results/output levels and which forecasts the anticipated impacts at the objectives levels (project purpose, overall goal).

External influences that increase the risk of problems during implementation are described "important assumptions" (4th column). These demonstrate how dependent a project is on its environment and enable planners to evaluate and reduce the risks which may threaten the success of a project.

Indicators are formed for the objectives and the results/outputs (column 2). These indicators serve to verify, by recourse to the given sources of means/verification (column 3), how far the objectives have been achieved.

The project can be quantitatively analysed and monitored through the indicators and the specification of inputs and costs. The quantitative analysis indicates the extent to which objectives which are to be achieved with the scheduled funding and other inputs. The indicators define the project phases and the sub-objectives to be achieved within given deadlines, and thus allow on going evaluation and monitoring.

ZOPP teamwork produces a recommendation ready for decision-making. The authorities involved can determine the objectives of technical cooperation, estimate the costs and risks entailed and plan in more detail the contributions required by each party. The jointly designed and agreed ZOPP plan must be periodically adjusted and updated in line with experiences made. When applied in this fashion ZOPP is an aid towards a systematic dialogue between the project partners concerning the aim and objective of their cooperation and is the basis for a learning process which develops from analysing joint experiences made.

ZOPP planning analysis are carried out at all stages of

project preparation and project implementation; the duration, intensity and participants in the ZOPP can vary.

At the beginning of a project, which is the stage of formal preliminary commentary and project ZOPP analysis carried out in GTZ by interdisciplinary planning teams. However using the results of the project appraisal stage either operations planning, replanning, or updating the project, ZOPP must be carried out on location together with the project team and other involved, local authorities. It is essential that the planning team be interdisciplinary and also incorporate the main interest groups and the management decision makers. Their participation is not only significant for the planning process but also an indication of commitment to the joint project and thus a precondition for project success.

The number of persons in the planning team and the duration of the ZOPP planning analysis depend on the specific terms of reference for the project and can range from 5 to 30 participants. A ZOPP-workshop can last from 1 day to 2 weeks. Workshops with more participants must be supported by additional moderators. Senior management, i.e. decision makers who motivate staff and are expected to use the results of the potential projects, play a decisive role. Though their appointment schedule may not allow them to participate in the whole ZOPP analysis, they should participate and exercise their management functions at least when interim results are formulated or important strategies or directives are set. The ZOPP results do not limit the decision making competence of authorities in any way, but rather embed their decision in a richer knowledge base so that they can better steer the course of the project, and more precisely assess success or failure.

## 2. Logical Framework Research Planning.

Logical Framework Research Planning based on the experience of ZOPP. The method is particularly valid for interdisciplinary research since it helps to collect the expertise of a heterogenic group and assemble it into a joint project.

In the first step a causal model is developed with the central variable which describes the core situation mentioned in the hypothesis. The **objective of a causal model**, or frame of thinking model helps to:

- Identify all important variables which contribute to the hypothesis;
- Define the cause-effect relationship of the variables;
- The cause effect relationship can be proven as an
- **If... then...**

The development of the causal model starts with the definition of the core situation which results from the central hypothesis.

The model is then constructed as follows:

- Each team member writes down direct and indirect causes which are related to the central variable and writes it down on a card.
- Each direct cause (Variable) which could lead the core situation is identified and written down in a card by each team member. Each card is pinned below the card containing the core situation if the team agrees. Redundant cards will be eliminated.
- Each card should be consecutively numbered for later identification. The variable is always number 0.
- In the next step the cards should be reordered on the board according to their cause effect-relationship. Relationship should be manifested by connecting the cards with lines

At the end of the exercise a hierarchical model has been developed which contains all coreproblem-related variables. An example of a causal model is included on the next page.

In a second step a Variable-Indicator-Matrix is established with the team. The objective of the development of a Variable-Indicator-Matrix (VIM) is to:

- Identify whether a cause-effect relationship is hypothetical or has been proven;
- relate every variable of the causal model to at least one indicator;
- describe the methodology by which the indicator will be surveyed.

In the first column the number of each variable is noted the number reflects the effect relationship of the variable mentioned on the card with the cause on the card above it.

In the second column for the VIM each variable of the causal model is listed and identified by box number. (Due to the hierarchical nature of the box numbering, the numbers will not be consecutive.)

In the third column the literature source which confirms that variable is a cause of the core situation is cited. If no literature source can be found an H for a hypothetical cause-effect relationship is entered. In the case of the central variable the first row of the third column cannot be filled in. A causal model with many hypothetical cause effect relationship indicates a very uncertain frame of thinking which makes the outcome of the research work very unpredictable and planning more complex.

In the fourth column, indicators of variables are specified. Each variable should be related to at least one indicator which defines precisely the variable (e.g. variable nutri-

tional status indicator. Z-score of weight/height index according to the NCHS reference population) the indicators should be selected according to the following criteria:

- relevance
- reliability
- appropriateness.

In the fifth column the method of measuring each indicator is listed. The methods should be selected according to the following criteria:

- reliability
- sensitivity
- specificity
- feasibility

In the sixth column a literature reference for the validation of each method should be cited, if the method has not been validated, this must be done before a major portion of the research project can be undertaken..

The number of the card and the variable can be filled in according to the causal model. Each additional suggestion should be written on the cards, discussed by the group and the consensus reached and integrated into the matrix.

Once the variables have been identified and the indicators have been defined, the third step is the definition of the study design. The most common types of designs of the studies are:

- Experimental studies
  - Clinical Assays
  - Community Assays
- Observational studies
  - Retrospective studies (case studies)
  - Prospective studies (cohort prospective studies)
  - Transverse studies

The criteria for selecting the most appropriate design should be noted, including its advantages or disadvantages. Special attention should be paid to the possible confounding factors related to the selected study design.

Once the design has reached the fourth stage, the population or the individuals involved in the study should be described.

In the fifth stage the procedure for defining the size of the sample and the method of sampling should be established.

And finally, for the sixth stage the statistical analysis should be selected.

In the next section the results of the work carried out during the workshop using the Zopp methods both in intervention and research projects will be shown.

# CAUSAL TREE

