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SECTOR FILE
PANAMA - HEALTH - General

The World Bank/IFC/MIGA
O F F I C E M E M O R A N D U M

DATE: March 26, 1993 11:37am

TO: Edmond De Gaiffier (EDMOND DE GAIFFIER)

FROM: Judith McGuire, PHN (JUDITH MCGUIRE)

EXT.: 33452

SUBJECT: Initiative Memorandum: Panama Nutrition and Environmental
Health Study

Unfortunately, I will not be able to make the review meeting today but I will herewith pass along my comments on the IM.

The IM is very well written and highlights the key issues in nutrition in Panama. I think it should emphasize more the disparities within Panama (e.g. in the first paragraph second sentence add a phrase that says that while overall the indicators are good there are great regionally disparities which hide severe poverty).

Jumping to the Study part on nutrition. You have identified the correct issues. Since the sector study has already be written, in large part, and I have given you extensive comments earlier this week, I won't go over the those comments. Nonetheless, many of the questions posed on pages 6 and 7 are not answered in the current draft and should be answered. For instance, the key questions asked in the IM but currently unanswered include:

what is the relative ranking of nutrition problems encountered?

what are appropriate targeting mechanisms.

virtually all the questions asked under "sector policies and development strategies" and most of the questions under "sector programs and financing".

As I stated in my comments on the current sector review, the information in the current report may just need to be repackaged and presented slightly differently. You also need to make it clear what is ok and what is inadequate in Panama now and what is needed to improve it.

CC: Alan Berg (ALAN BERG)
CC: Kye Woo Lee (KYE WOO LEE)
CC: Janet de Merode (JANET DE MERODE)
CC: Institutional ISC Files (INSTITUTIONAL ISC FILES)