

Transition in Africa

A Message from the MI President

The past year has been a time of both review and significant forward planning for MI. As we have finalized the new MI Strategic Plan 2008 to 2013 we have also carefully reviewed and assessed key elements of our operations. Within this context, we have decided to refocus our Africa regional operations to a country where we will be devoting significant program emphasis in our forward strategy.

Following consultation with MI Africa regional staff, a careful analysis of costs and benefits and a review of upcoming programming priorities, the MI Executive Management Committee has determined that **the Africa Regional Operations will transition from Johannesburg, South Africa to Dakar, Senegal beginning in March 2008**. The current Africa regional office in Johannesburg will remain open until the end of April 2008 as part of a phased transition of program, finance and administrative functions.

The new Dakar office will be located at Cité Alima Sipres 2 No. 6, Face VDN, Dakar, Senegal. The new telephone information is not yet available but we will provide updates on the MI website with additional contact information as it becomes available.

MI staff members in the Johannesburg office have been vital in building the successful programs MI has in place throughout Africa. Their outstanding contribution is recognized and will remain the foundation as MI programs continue to expand throughout the continent, reaching Africa's most vulnerable. Most importantly, MI staff in the Johannesburg office will continue to play a vital role throughout the transition.

I thank our staff in Johannesburg for their continued dedication and commitment to the work of preventing hidden hunger. Notably, I thank Dr. France Bégin for her strong work as Acting Regional Director, Africa.

New Regional Director for Africa, John McCullough, will join MI in the Dakar office on March 4. He comes to the Micronutrient Initiative with a strong background in international development programs in health and education, strategic planning, partnerships, institution building and performance management. He is a British/Irish citizen and has academic qualifications in Economics and Quality Management. His last position was Managing Director of Liverpool Associates in Tropical Health Ltd (LATH) based in Liverpool, UK. This is an international health consultancy company attached to the Liverpool School of Tropical Medicine. John previously lived and worked in Francophone West Africa for 5 years and North Africa for 3 years. He has recently been involved in projects in Kenya, Malawi, Mozambique and Nigeria.

I welcome John to the fold and I am sure that under his leadership, MI's programs in Africa will continue to expand and show impact.

From the new Africa regional office in Dakar, MI will continue to work with its many highly valued partners in South Africa and throughout the continent.



M.G. Venkatesh Mannar, President