

ANDERSON PRODUCTIONS LTD  
THE A FACTOR  
WITH CREDITS AND FUNDING  
STEREO MIX  
RUNNING TIME 43:09  
10/15/01

VIDEO

Science shots (slo-mo and F/X btwn) more overlapping of shots  
here - MORE  
SCIENCE!  
TC- 1:00:00:08  
Tape- UNVA 195

TC- 1:00:15:02- Remove notebook shot

Montage of women and children in the developing world. . .

SLO-MO HERE?

- Al listens with stethoscope
- Al in vehicle (get out of this shot quicker)
- Night time shot
- Nepali festival
- Nepali child

Al: l-cut

-children get Vitamin A (Bangladesh, Ghana)

establish Vitamin A "rain" here?      AUDIO

Music: Up and establish

NARRATOR:

IN THE DAWN OF A NEW MILLENIUM DESTINED TO PROVIDE US WITH  
INCREDIBLE MEDICAL  
ADVANCES, WE ARE NOW DISCOVERING NEW THINGS ABOUT OLD MEDICINE.

THE FIRST VITAMIN EVER TO BE CATALOGUED ALMOST A CENTURY AGO,  
VITAMIN A, IS A  
CASE IN POINT.

LONG KNOWN AS IMPORTANT FOR GOOD EYESIGHT, VITAMIN A HAS  
RECENTLY BEEN  
DISCOVERED TO BE A "MAGIC BULLET" FOR THE IMMUNE SYSTEM, CAPABLE  
OF  
PREVENTING THE DEATHS OF MILLIONS OF CHILDREN AND MOTHERS AROUND  
THE WORLD.

THIS FILM TELLS THE STORY OF A DOCTOR'S DETERMINED RESEARCH, AND  
HIS JOURNEY  
TO THE OTHER SIDE OF THE GLOBE TO SEE FIRST HAND THE WORLDWIDE  
VITAMIN A  
CAMPAIGN HIS WORK HAS INSPIRED.

SOT: AL SOMMER 5.03.24+ UNVA 192  
Two cents worth of Vitamin A can make all the difference in the  
world.

IT IS THE LARGEST MEDICAL MOBILIZATION SINCE THE POLIO VACCINE.  
. . AND JUST  
AS IMPORTANT.

PLEASE WATCH. . . AS MODERN MEDICINE MAKES HISTORY.

TITLE SEQUENCE:

Effect to:

F/X:

-Vitamin A "rain"

mixes with:

-sick child in hospital  
-women dancing  
-sugar pouring  
-child crying

Effect to:

THE "A" FACTOR

Dissolve out of TITLE SEQ to:  
music: up and establish

Music: peaks at TITLE

Music: ebbs and drifts out here

-Ext. of Johns Hopkins School of Public Health (evening - these  
shots have  
been re-done!) Tape- DRC 4

- Al's feet

-Al walks down a long hall at the school

-cutaway to b/w pix of young Al in Indonesia

OC: Al

-Al keeps walking down hall

-Sommer passes by a picture of E.V. McCullum, the man who discovered Vitamin A

-cutaway to montage of EV McCollum stuff on desk (old microscope, ledger pad,etc) REMOVE floating rat here. Check for other shots on UNVA 194  
mix with:  
-CU shot of EV portrait

- old photos of orphanages (JCCA) Replace JCCA stills & Civil War stills  
w/ same stills but shot on beta. (Shooting not done yet for this)

-shots of Civil war soldiers (replace)

-CUs of eyes, etc.

Take out CU of canon (01:03:26:02), woods (01:03:29:12), & statue  
(01:03:34:05)

-candle passed back and forth in black NARRATORid here (To be shot)

Old black and white footage of the period eg: milkman delivers,

-Sommer arrives at his office at night and begins poring over papers

-shot of papers, and Xmas prop

-shot of papers reflected in Al's glasses

-pages are flipped

-ECU of Al's eyes

-Al's hand underlines notes emphatically

-to WS of Al

OC: Sommer

Sommer and West walk into lab

-lab shots

-lab b-roll cont.

-1-cut to Keith OC

-articles about the ebola virus (To be reshot and recreated in Photoshop)

Still: Al in Indonesia

Still: Lancet article

-Lasker award (mix with article about same - Award looks bad right now. Put in CU of award (UNVA 194) or create graphic in After Effects w/ Award on 1 side and newspaper clipping flipping on other)

-Al and Keith in the lab

Replace shaky "thru the bookcase" shot at TC- 01:06:21:10 UNVA 194

-articles around the world

OC: Sommer

-footage of major players in the field (this sequence drags. We have lots of field shots lets use them here.

Take out people sitting at table at TC-01:06:41:06. Also fix Al NARRATOR)

Al at desk

- "power of A" magazine cover (needs to be reshot and replaced w/ better quality shot)

OC: Al

EV portrait, zoom out to board room

Kiss to black  
New music?

THE GLOBAL VITAMIN A PHENOMENON BEGAN AT THE JOHNS HOPKINS SCHOOL OF PUBLIC HEALTH IN BALTIMORE.

Sound up: Al walks (recorded separately)

THE YEAR WAS 1981 AND THE MAN WHO TOOK THE FIRST STEP IS DR. ALFRED SOMMER, WHO HAD RECENTLY RETURNED FROM RESEARCH IN INDONESIA.

SOT: AL 03.14.15 UNVA 190

When I first went to Indonesia in 1976, it was to set up a series of studies, basically to understand what were these eye conditions that resulted from vitamin A deficiency because we had a hint that this may be a very major problem in those children // And that was // our focus, certainly since vitamin A was first discovered around the turn of the last century. . .

SOT: Al 03.21.25+ UNVA 190

. . . EV McCollum, who was the first professor of biochemistry interestingly here at this school, just when it was first founded // (03.29.00 approx) he was very central to the whole concept that there were these small and previously unrecognized food components, and // 03.21.25+ that's when they actually termed these things "vitamins," // (03.29.00 approx) the first one

being Vitamin A, // (03.25.18+) . And that's when the understanding of Vitamin. A and it's relationship to the eye signs really came together. .

Music: haunting melody

SOT: A1 03.19.05 UNVA 190

The most dramatic and classical description of the eye signs that really got things going was done in Denmark. A pediatrician in this case studied an outbreak of nightblindness in an orphanage. And well it turned out that all the kids that had nightblindness all came from one dormitory where they were all fed kind of mash that was classical at that time. And the children that did not have the eye signs and grew better were from a different dormitory in which they were fed whole milk for breakfast. And he made the connection that it was the whole milk versus the non-whole milk. And this is very much what EV McCollum had described in rats, as had also been reported during severe famines in Russia when mothers and therefore children got very little in the way of food beyond some grain like potatoes and so forth. And had been described even in the United States and in the UK.

03.19.05 (cont)

During the American Civil War there // particularly in the army of Northern Virginia, which near the end of the war was very very malnourished. And there's a classic article that appeared in the ah, medical journal of Virginia in which a Confederate Army physician describes how soldiers weren't willing to go out on point at night because they said they simply couldn't see. // And he noted that when he passed the candles in front of the soldiers who complained they couldn't see at night, indeed their pupils did not move,

when compared to those who said they could see at night. So these Confederates were indeed vitamin A deficient and night blind.

Music: we need something here

Music shifts or sound up

SOT: AL 04.03.11 UNVA 191

When we left Indonesia, we had just finished data collection, which meant that there was at least a year that it was going to take to clean up and analyze the data. . . // 4.06.07+ I remember it was just before Christmas, things were really slow... . // 4.05.02+ And as I used these spread sheets // there was something really odd going on with the numbers. // 4.06.07+ the children with // Vitamin A deficiency // from a previous round were not falling into the cells in the subsequent round. So when I turned the page and look at and try and trace the children who had been here before, they weren't there at the next round three months later. I don't know what's going on over here but it's something very peculiar. Maybe, what's happening, is that they're dying.

4.08.15 approx

This was, in essence, and I said it at the moment, holy cow, this was a holy cow experience..

Sound up: West: "These are women from NNIPS in Nepal. . ."

DESPITE THIS GROUNDBREAKING DISCOVERY, GENERATING EARLY INTEREST IN VITAMIN A AS A LIFESAVER WAS DIFFICULT.

SOT: Al 03.05.45 UNVA 190

. . . there's a real problem of course, in presenting to the public, whether it's the American Public or any other public, an issue that is not sexy.

DR. KEITH WEST HAS WORKED ON VITAMIN A WITH AL SOMMER FOR ALMOST TWENTY YEARS.

SOT: Keith 01.12.12 UNVA 188

. . . you can make movies out of what happens to the ebola virus // it's transmission potential. . . // The magnitude of the problem of vitamin A deficiency compared to a problem such as the Ebola virus, not to, not to downplay that importance, but the extent of the difference is enormous.

Music: Up and estab.

SOMMER AND HIS TEAM CONDUCTED MORE RESEARCH IN INDONESIA AND NEPAL, WHICH LED TO AN ARTICLE IN THE BRITISH MEDICAL JOURNAL "THE LANCET," AND IN 1997, THE PRESTIGIOUS LASKER AWARD, AMERICA'S NOBEL PRIZE FOR MEDICINE. SUDDENLY VITAMIN A WAS ERUPTING.

SOT: Keith 01.28.39+ UNVA 188

When we finished this trial in Indonesia // the reaction was like a volcano. It splashed around the world, this information that vitamin. A could reduce child mortality. The reactions were positive and very negative. And through that tumultuous phase // a movement of research around the world // in fact, supported the findings // policy makers began to take notice. .

SOT: Al 04.23.22+ UNVA 191

it then became a snowball phenomenon from then on. // 06.07.45 UNVA 193 And the major players are // USAID, our agency for International Development which was there from the beginning // the Canadian government that has come

in and formed coalitions and funded the micro nutrient initiative, and there are the UN agencies. UNICEF, being out in the field, delivering vitamin A and helping to set up programs. The World Health Organization, // and the Food and Agriculture organization, // looking at ways to change diets so to improve vitamin A intake through natural sources. So here is real momentum, a global initiative.

TODAY, AL SOMMER IS KNOWN AS THE FATHER OF THE VITAMIN A MOVEMENT. HE IS ALSO NOW THE DEAN OF THE PUBLIC HEALTH SCHOOL AT JOHNS HOPKINS, ONCE AGAIN FOLLOWING IN THE FOOTSTEPS OF HIS FAMOUS PREDECESSOR. . .

SOT: Al 5.21.43+ UNVA 192  
When I became dean of the school I found EV McCollum's portrait in a hidden away place and decided this is not where this man should be placed. // We were not going to let his legacy down.

Buddha festival montage  
-SLO MO shot of statue and flying birds, don't  
Slo Mo bell shot  
-sweeping pans from above, mixed with shots of alms giving  
  
-people dispense rice  
  
-gold Buddha statues

L-cut: McNabb

Lower third

-little girl throws rice

-can we get a Stuart 20-years-ago still? We have them - TBShot

OC: McNabb

- to: shots of kids
- Vitamin A shots
- NARRATORlunteer gives capsule to mother
- Trainer shows green leafy vegetables

(pick up pace of shots here, get out of baby  
shot quicker-1:9:1:23,  
don't have next shot  
unscrew cap, etc.)  
F/X - Vitamin A Rain?

Cut to:

-Al and Pooja @ airport  
2 shot sequence getting into truck

-truck driving down road,various shots

- Al in truck looking out window

L-cut: Al

Ext of big shot with terracing and truck

Diss. to static shots of rice terracing.

Any rice workers in field?

Women carrying rice grass headloads?

OC: Al

Ext shots of car and road

Long dissolve to. . .

The Terai shots

(better health conditions shots?)

Music: nat music from Buddha festival

IT IS MARCH IN KATHMANDU, THE CAPITOL OF NEPAL, AND THE SAMYAK  
FESTIVAL IS IN  
FULL SWING.

Sound up of nat music and crowd din

DEVOUT BUDDHISTS DISPENSE RICE AND COINS AS OFFERINGS TO THE  
POOR. THE ALMS  
GIVING IS A DRAMATIC REMINDER THAT POVERTY IN NEPAL IS A FACT OF  
LIFE.

SOT: MCNABB (UNVA179) 7.15.00

When you consider the situation in Nepal, you have to remember  
that it is one  
of the poorest countries in the world, with over half the  
population below  
the poverty line, earning less than a dollar a day. This  
obviously has a  
significant effect on children -- particularly nutrition. . .

STUART MCNABB FIRST CAME TO NEPAL 20 YEARS AGO AS A UNICEF  
NUTRITION OFFICER.

HE IS NOW THE UNICEF REPRESENTATIVE IN NEPAL.

(7.17.12) Twenty years ago, in Nepal, about a quarter of the  
children born  
died before they were five years of age, mostly from preventable  
causes: the

diarrheas, measles, infections, with an overlay of malnutrition.

(7.22.12+) I think vitamin A has had a remarkable impact on the situation.//

(7.20.24+) the Vitamin A Supplementation Program in Nepal is probably one of the best in the world.

Music: driving theme starts

Sound up of airport

IT IS THIS PROGRAM THAT AL SOMMER HAS TRAVELED TEN THOUSAND MILES FROM HIS LAB IN BALTIMORE TO SEE. HE IS MET AT THE AIRPORT BY POOJA PANDI, A STATISTICIAN FOR NEPAL'S VITAMIN A PROGRAM WHO WILL ACT AS TRANSLATOR FOR THE TRIP.

SOT: AL (10.03.05 APPROX) UNVA 159

. . .for me personally, when I come back to Nepal, it's getting off an airplane that I have been on for thirty hours, highest technology we have, back to a place where one sees mountains and scenery and people living close to the land in this beautiful countryside. //

(10.17.15+) It is just amazing. Look at the steepness of these hills around us. And then you have these terracing so they can actually grow rice up and down the sides of quite steep mountains. // Rice is a terrific starch it has a few nutrients in it. It certainly doesn't have vitamin A. // And they are subsisting on this rice and children love this rice. In fact we've done some attempts in the past to get the children to eat dark, green, leafy vegetables. I thought it was a brilliant idea. We just take the spinach and rip it up in tiny little pieces and mix it in with the rice and it is just amazing kids will sit their and look at this bowl of rice and find every

little piece of spinach and pick it right out of the bowl. It is actually kind of frightening how universal it is that children don't like green, leafy vegetables.

Sound up of truck

AL SOMMER'S NEPAL EXPEDITION WILL TAKE HIM SOUTH, OUT OF THE KATHMANDU VALLEY AND INTO THE TERAJ, A LONG EXPANSE OF FLATLANDS THAT BORDERS NORTHERN INDIA. IT IS HERE THAT MORE THAN 75% OF NEPAL'S PEOPLE LIVE - AND HEALTH CONDITIONS ARE AT THEIR WORST.

F/X - Vitamin A Rain

- shot of sunrise
- shot of mtn peak sticking up thru clouds
- Al Sommer walks into shot and looks through binocs at mnts.

Pooja walks into frame to fetch Al - they walk away

Al & Pooja walk to the Lama's gomba

Al & Pooja walk thru prayer flags

Al & Pooja ring bells and bless themselves

Smoking urn

Al & Pooja meet the Lama

Lama's wife cooks in the kitchen

Al, Pooja, Lama outside Kitchen

The wife looks thru the doorway

Al reacts

OC: Lama

Al, Pooja, Lama drink yak butter tea

F/X Vitamin A Rain

Music: for montage bumper

Music: sunrise theme

Sound Up: Al: the Gods do have to live up there.

IT IS A COLD MORNING ON THE RIM OF THE KATHMANDU VALLEY - THE  
PASSAGE TO THE  
FLATLANDS. 10,000 FEET ABOVE SEA LEVEL. IN THE DISTANCE MOUNT  
EVEREST AND  
THE HIMALAYAS SOAR THROUGH THE CLOUDS.

Al: "good morning, Pooja.

BEFORE DESCENDING INTO THE FLATLANDS, AL WILL VISIT AN OLD  
FRIEND. . .

Al: We're off to the Lama?

SOT: AL 04.25.34 UNVA 191  
2 and 1/2 years ago when I came back to Nepal to see how things  
were going,  
they were going extremely well. The children were really  
benefiting from the  
research we had done and the national program and I was feeling  
very good  
about it. One of my colleagues had told me about this local  
lama who had  
restored this small temple and sanctuary and I was very much  
looking forward  
to seeing him and sharing some of my high spirits with his  
equanimity that  
you find in a good Buddhist lama. . .

Sound Up: ringing bells

. . .And now I'm looking forward to seeing him again where he knows more about the program, I know more about him...and he was just somebody who enthusiastically raised one's spirits or one's soul and made you feel good about what you're doing

Al: It's good to see you again. It's good to see you again. // He remembers. Oh, terrific. Terrific.

The lama speaks.

Pooja: Even though he is from Bhutan and you are from New York, he thinks you are brothers.

Al: Well, it's a great honor for me. It's a great honor.

Sound up: "Namaste!"

Pooja: She is making tea.

The Lama speaks

Pooja: Bhutanese tea.

The wife speaks.

Pooja: She says you've come here before.

Al: Yes, yes, you've remembered. // It's very good to see you again.

(laughter)

Lama speaks

NARRATOR Translation: What he's coming here to do is very good. He's helping to bring light in the darkness to his own country, to other countries of the world and here as well. And it's very good work.

SOT: AL (NARRATOR) 04.28.42 UNVA 191

Since the last time that I visited // a lot of new programs  
have, at least on  
paper, been put into place. Now I'm really looking forward to  
being out in  
the field and seeing what a difference it really has made on the  
health of  
the people.

Pooja: He just said some prayers and offered this tea as a drink  
to Buddha.

Music: Rain bump

-Al's truck descending on winding road

-POV passing a village

-Al's truck drives  
2.05.40 UNVA 174

OC: Al in the car

- Al and Pooja arrive at clinic and are greeted by health worker  
02.07.10 UNVA 174

-WS of room, Zoom in to steth on child

-mother reaction shot

-writes prescription

-Al listens with steth

(the cutaway to the prescription writing in the middle of Al's examination

must go in this sequence, replace

w/ another shot from

UNVA 174)

-various shots of child examination with Al and Pooja watching

02.27.07

-Al, Pooja, HO check out pregnant woman

-cutaway of kid

F/X Vitamin A Rain Music: To Aalaapot

THE EXPEDITION IS PASSING THROUGH SOME OF THE MOST REMOTE  
VILLAGES IN THE  
WORLD ON ITS WAY TO SOUTHERN NEPAL. IT IS A CHANCE TO SEE  
HEALTH CARE AT ITS  
MOST BASIC.

SOT: Al 02.02.51 UNVA174 (there are also other takes of this)

One really has to get out to the remote rural areas to get a sense of the size of the problem. That's where kid's diets are so monotonous and they have so little vitamin A. It's also the place you can tell whether or not your program's having an impact because they're the most difficult to reach with your capsules and your educational activities. They're also a lot of fun to visit. People live very different lives out here.

Sound up of greeting and walking inside clinic

HEALTHCARE IN RURAL NEPAL IS PROVIDED BY PEOPLE LIKE KRISHNA PRASAD BASNET, A HEALTH ASSISTANT IN THE VILLAGE OF AALAAPOT.

Sound up: coughing and crying child

THE CHALLENGES ARE OBVIOUS. THERE ARE ONLY TWO STETHOSCOPES HERE, AND ONE IS BROKEN.

EXPENSIVE PRESCRIPTIONS MUST BE PURCHASED IN ANOTHER TOWN MILES AWAY. AND TRAINING FOR HEALTHCARE STAFF IS MINIMAL.

Sound Up Al 2.16.43 UNVA 174

"Sounds very good, actually. Can she turn around so I can listen to the front?"

SOT: Al 06.21.32 UNVA 178

They have a very effective program here for training health assistants and senior health assistants but it means you start with people who are just illiterate. And then you have an on-going process, if you're doing it well, every year adding a little bit additional to their knowledge base.

Sound Up: Al: Ah, that sounds terrific.

// It's pretty minimal bare foot doctor delivery type of health care. But in a place like this, it can make an enormous difference.

Sound Up: Nepali

06.22.37 And, of course, making sure that children get their immunizations, get their periodic Vitamin A doses. Those are not very sophisticated things, but those are the things that make the biggest impact.

Music: Rain music

Long shot of winding road, follow car-

-int. Al looks out window

-rolling shots of Terai

-hustle and bustle of people

- montage: village life

-kids

-pigs

-people in fields

-nice pan following a woman through a field

(pick up pace of shots here)

Al & Pooja walk to see family

Al & Pooja pick-up shot in narrow alleyway

Al & Pooja meet family

There are also two different cam angles

Cutaways of family continue

OC: Al

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F/X Vitamin A Rain

Al & Ram walk down street

Continue walk and talk with Ram & Al

-stop to talk to father and child

-Ran walks up steps and into the training building

L-cut to Ram On Camera

Ram walks up steps at NARRATORlunteer training

Ram walks in door

Music: Traveling to the Terai

AFTER TWO DAYS OF ROUGH, WINDING ROADS, THE EXPEDITION REACHES THE TERAII.

THE MOST DRAMATIC DIFFERENCE BETWEEN THE HIGHLANDS AND THE FLATLANDS OF NEPAL IS NOT THE ARRID CLIMATE AND TERRAIN, IT IS THE LARGE NUMBER OF PEOPLE - ALL FACING A DAILY STRUGGLE TO SURVIVE. . .

SOT: AL (10.04.15 approx)

No sanitary systems, no running water except what you have in the river, no way to get rid of waste, so you have all the things that we had in Europe and the United States a couple hundred years ago. The vast majority of births take place out in the field, or at home, unattended, without the assistance of anyone with any medical training whatsoever. Infant mortality is very high, under-five mortality is very high, 20 percent, 25 percent of their

children die before they are five.

17.13.23 (UNVA 166)

[Al and Pooja walk towards camera]

Al: Now this family, was in the first of our two studies, now enrolled in this one and we're going to see how they view life.

THE FIRST STOP IS THE HOME OF SAIRA KHATUN, HER HUSBAND MOHAMMAD RAPHIK LAHANI AND THEIR SIX CHILDREN.

Sound Up: Al & Pooja: Namaste!

17.14.25

[Al and trans. walk down alley and meet family, then sit down]

Al: Is this the whole family?

Pooja: The whole family. He's got six children.

18:00:41 (UNVA 167)

Al: Ask how many of her children that she's given birth to died.

Pooja speaks in Nepali.

Pooja: She is saying two children died.

Al: Two died, she has six alive. So she's lost one quarter of her children.

17.18.22 (UNVA 166)

Pooja: She had a boy who died of pneumonia when he was 2 years old.

Pooja: She had a baby girl but after four days of birth she had tetanus-

Al: She had tetanus. Oh. Did, when was the last time the mother was pregnant?

Al: This one here. Ok.

//

18.02.45

Al: Has she ever heard about Vitamin A?

Pooja speaks in Nepali.

Al: Never heard about it.

Pooja: No.

//

18.03.20 approx (UNVA 167)

Al: There's a red capsule that in some places the government gives out to all the children. . .

Pooja speaks in Nepali

Pooja: She is saying yes.

Al: So yes. Yes. Have all the children received it?

Pooja: All 6 of them.

Al: All of them. So it's just that they've never heard of Vitamin A, but they know the capsule, and the capsule's reaching them. . .

Dip the conversation for. . .

SOT: AL 7.02.02 UNVA 179

This is a wonderful family. // They did live through the loss of two children but you notice it hasn't changed their relationship with one another and how they get on but part of that reflects not only that they are two wonderful parents but they expect to lose a quarter of their children. // Which is the way that it was in the United States at the turn of the century. . . // the vitamin A program, // is changing that dynamic.

Al cont from latest interview:

A lot of people are confused thinking what we are really doing is

increasing the number of poor children in the world and there's gonna be more mouths that have to be fed. In fact, study after study has demonstrated that the only way we're going to reduce population growth is in fact by saving children like this. Which then allows a mother to say "I don't need to have 10 children in the future in order to ensure that I have 5 that will survive us and support us in our old age."

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Music: Rain Bump

Al: How many people are involved in this effort?

Ram Shrestha: 33,000

Al: all in one day. All in one day. 33,000 volunteers.

Ram: Yeah. And they will mobilize almost 2.7 million . . .

Conversation dips for track. . .

THE ARCHITECT OF NEPAL'S VITAMIN A PROGRAM IS RAM SHRESTHA, DIRECTOR OF THE NEPAL TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE GROUP, OR "NTAG."

Al: Coverage rates?

Ram: About 90%

Al: 90% of the children you hope to get you get.

Ram: Exactly.

Al: Terrific.

Sound Up: talking to locals

SOT: Al 06.06.08

It's a pleasure to work with someone like Ram. He brings his own set of

skills, and his own enthusiasm, and his own commitment that marries it to the kinds of things that we bring from the research area so that he's enormously effective at translating research into programs.

Sound up from their chat

SOT: Ram 4.17.00+ UNVA 176

. . .I would say that mobilizing communities is one of the key factors for that if we really want to continue and let every child have vitamin a capsule and be healthy and, you know, save a child's life.

WHILE SEARCHING FOR A WAY TO GET COMMUNITIES INVOLVED IN THE VITAMIN A PROGRAM, SHRESTHA DISCOVERED A NETWORK OF FEMALE HEALTH VOLUNTEERS ALREADY IN PLACE IN RURAL NEPAL.

Ram walks up to front of full classroom

Cutaway of Ram talking

Women listening

Women talking at the training

Ram and teacher listening

More class b-roll

Women, led by Ram, walk out the door

Women dance (single out our primary woman)

OC: NARRATORlunteer

NARRATORlunteer sits in circle outside (punch up this "VA" scene. Get another shot from UNVA 150)  
-Al, Pooja and 2 NARRATORlunteers arrive at circle of women

montage of circle shots and NARRATORlunteers instructing with capsules

(see vit. A capsule sooner here, loose book)

-Woman holds up capsule

-cutaway of hand CU

-cutaways of gathering

-Al & Pooja look on

Al, Pooja and 2 FCHVs  
Sit and talk

4 shot

2 shot (A & P) zoom out to 3 shot with FCHV

Diff angle: 2-shot: Al & FCHV - zoom out to 4 shot

CU of FCHV's bag, zoom out to WS

FCHV cuts capsule and drips VA into Al's hand

CU of hands, zoom out - Al cuts capsule with instruction from FCHVs

F/X Vitamin A Rain  
BUT WITHOUT MUCH GOVERNMENT SUPPORT OR A CLEARLY DEFINED MISSION, THESE VOLUNTEERS HAD NOTHING TO DO. . . AND MORALE WAS LOW.

Sound Up: Ram speaks Nepali to NARRATORs

SOT: Ram 5.19.22 UNVA 154  
. . .when we started the program, the FCHVs, the female community health volunteers' active duties were not that appreciated. // But then I went to some of the districts, interviewed them // and found the potential there. So that is how we said okay, let's start with this volunteer.

Sound Up: Trainer speaks in Nepali

Ram Cont. . .  
. . . in the beginning of the training we used to spend almost two hours listening to what they had to tell us. For ten years, nobody had listened to

them. And they were really frustrated. Some of them had success stories, some had problems, some of them had to complain, they have a lot of things but nobody was listening to them.

Sound up: vociferous vol

SOT: Ram 05.06.15 UNVA 155  
we try to make them feel they own the program. This is their child's program. This is their family's program. This is their community program. Not one of the government's programs.

TO DATE MORE THAN 80 THOUSAND VOLUNTEERS HAVE LEARNED ABOUT THE HEALTH BENEFITS OF VITAMIN A - THROUGH A VARIETY OF TEACHING TECHNIQUES.

Sound up: women dancing and singing

SOT: volunteer 03.09.40 UNVA 152  
(simultaneous trans required here)  
Whatever I learn here I am going to take back to the community and teach them what they need to do to make children healthy.

Sound Up: "V!" "A!" clap, clap

Nat sound up here and dip

SOT: AL. 06.23.15+ - UNVA 178  
They are the front line workers who are ensuring maximum health in the villages here in Nepal. They don't get paid for doing it, they have all their other things that they have to do in their own families, and yet as we're seeing, as we talk to them, as we visit their villages with them, they get an enormous amount of pleasure in working in this way.

THE FEMALE COMMUNITY HEALTH VOLUNTEERS BRING MORE THAN THEIR NEWLY ACQUIRED

KNOWLEDGE BACK TO THEIR COMMUNITY WARDS. . . THEY ALSO BRING  
VITAMIN A  
CAPSULES.

//

Al: 19:22:35- So all the children are brought together in one  
place. How many  
children might you bring to one place?

//

FCHV speaks in Nepali

Pooja: 19.23.58 - She's from Ward 9 and the total amount of  
children in the  
ward is 1200.

Al: 1200! And how many volunteers for 1200?

Translation. . .

Pooja: 9 volunteers.

Al- 9 volunteers they do that all in one day or they do it  
different days?

Translation. . .

Pooja: 1200 children in one day.

Al: Fantastic.

//

Most of the world's Vitamin A deficiency control programs rely  
on using these  
capsules, and giving them to children two or three times a year.

Al: 19:25:24- The capsule is designed with this little nipple on  
it so in  
fact it can cut off and then be squeezed into the child's mouth.  
Can she show  
us how she does that?

Banter, translation. . .

Pooja: This is how she cuts it. If the child is under one year  
age she gives

3 drops.

Al: Because that's half the dose. 100,000 units and if the child is over one, the whole capsule, just 6 drops. Terrific, that's wonderful, very exciting.

//

Al: 19.27.28 - You're going to tell me whether I do this right or not!"

Dip sound for bite:

SOT: Al - 06.25.00 UNVA 178

. . .we see volunteers making a big difference throughout the developing world for several reasons. In part it's the culture, in part people are organized at village levels, they expect to do things at the local level.

They don't expect the National Ministry of Health to come in and do things.

// And finally, these countries don't invest in the health sector.

Music: Rain Bump music

-CU of magician putting on make-up

-Magician puts on hat

-OTS follow magician out the door

-Magician pulls leafy vegetables out of hat

OC: Ram

-audience reactions

-Ram watching the magician (where is this? UNVA 152 or 153)

-magician performs various tricks (milk out of the butt, etc.)

-kids watch from rooftops

F/X Vitamin A Rain

Nat. sound of magician up

THE VITAMIN A PROGRAM IN NEPAL IS A MODERN PUBLIC HEALTH EFFORT  
- COMPLETE  
WITH A PROMOTIONAL CAMPAIGN, HEADLINED BY M.C. SEKAH, A NEPALI  
MAGICIAN.

Nat sound of magic show, screaming kids, and magician and music

SOT: Ram 5.01.41 UNVA155

In the beginning he was kind of reluctant, but I said look, this  
is what  
we're doing, the Vitamin A program right, and if you're  
interested // I will  
give you the knowledge and you can use your techniques so we can  
work  
together. So he said he would try. So he tried it in a couple  
of places and  
it went very well. It went very well. // and people were really  
admiring him,  
so that's how, now he's full time. // (5.03.00 approx) if you  
can spread the  
word to 10,000 people, // vitamin A is good for your child,  
that's powerful  
information.

Sound up of more magic to punctuate end of this segment

Music: Rain bump

pregnant woman is examined in Aalapott

women husking grain, etc.

-evening shots in the Terai (people, village, sunset, etc)

-CU of moon

-CU shot of oil candle burning

-Shanti prepares roti flour

-Cu of Shanti

-little girl

-husband

-Al and Pooja walk with flashlight to hut

-Al & Pooja walk inside hut and greet and sit down

Al, Pooja and NB woman sit around fire (there are also cutaways)

Shanti nods "ok"

-NB woman tends fire and shapes the roti with her hands

Al, Pooja and woman keep talking, cutaways of fire, oil lamps,  
etc.

Al & Pooja continue to talk to Shanti

OC: Al - in front of hut

-Shanti continues to make roti

-cutaway of husband with child

-more roti

-snot nosed child waits for dinner

-more roti

Al gives the woman a VA capsule (WS)

cutaways

l-cut to Al On-Camera

-last shot of Shanti lit by firelight (Let's not string this out. Too long right now and maybe it should be mixed with a CU of candle flame)

F/X Vitamin A Rain

CHILDREN ARE NOT THE ONLY VICTIMS OF VITAMIN A DEFICIENCY.  
PREGNANT  
WOMEN ARE ALSO AT RISK.

SOT: Al 14.19.27 UNVA163

Women throughout the developing world, because of their diet, moderately at best have enough vitamin A on board. And during pregnancy, the pregnancy itself, the fetus needs enough vitamin A and so they become vitamin A deficient.

FOR PREGNANT WOMEN, THIS DEFICIENCY IS ESPECIALLY DANGEROUS AT NIGHT. . .

Music: Night theme up

WHEN THE SUN SETS IN THE TERAJ, IT IS ANOTHER WORLD,

LIT ONLY BY OIL LAMPS AND MOONLIGHT.

IN THIS ATMOSPHERE, MANY WOMEN WITHOUT ENOUGH VITAMIN A BECOME NIGHTBLIND FOR THE DURATION OF THEIR PREGNANCIES.

SHANTI DEVI MAHATO MUST COOK DINNER EACH NIGHT FOR HER FAMILY, ALTHOUGH SHE IS NIGHTBLIND.

SOT Pooja 13.04.12: This is the house.

Pooja: Namaste, bibi!

Al: Namaste! Namaste, bibi!

. . .I'd like to talk with you a little bit about your pregnancy and about the fact that you are nightblind. Is it ok if I can chat with you just a little while? And talk about the problem that you're having with this pregnancy.

translation

//

13.24.00 (approx) UNVA 162

Al: When did this start to happen? When did you start having difficulty seeing after dark?

Translation

Pooja: Since one month she can't see anything.

Al: Since one month. And how long has she been pregnant?

Translation

Pooja: She's 5 months pregnant.

//

13.28.30 (approx)

Al: How does the Night Blindness affect you? What is it you cannot do because of the Night Blindness?

Translation

Shanti talks

Pooja: Whatever ingredients she needs for the cooking, her daughter gets it; like the flour, curry, vegetables, everything. And then she just prepares it and then she eats and then goes back to bed.

Al: So she cannot see the ingredients the way she ordinarily could see them.

I see. Can she walk around the village at night?

Translation

Shanti talks

Pooja: She cannot walk around in the village at night. She cannot see anything.

Sound down for bite. . .

SOT: Al 06.12.20 (approx) UNVA 178

The night blindness is, what they recognize as a practical problem. They can't cook the food at night for their family, they can't walk around their village, but in fact, all that really is, is indicative of their having a serious underlying problem which dramatically increases their risk of dying.

14.21.00 Approx) UNVA 163

. . .and because she is at best border line vitamin A, there will be less vitamin A in her breast milk and the child soon after birth has an urgent need for vitamin A and that main source is that breast milk. And so that child will be vitamin A deficient as well.

Pooja: . . . And she's got two daughters now. . .

Sound under for bite. . .

SOT: Al 06.16.26 UNVA 178

. . .in Nepal like the rest of the developing world, there is no social service to replace a mother// in these societies often the woman is the one who brings the wood in, makes the fires, works in the patty fields, they play multiple roles from early morning until late at night. //

6.18.47 Being Night blind puts a mother at a disadvantage and somewhat stigmatized. She's not responding to her husband's needs, she's not responding to her child's needs, she can be seen as not being a very good mother, not being a very good wife, in addition to the fact that when she suffers the ultimate consequence of dying that the whole family suffers and those children go downhill very quickly.

Sound Up: Pooja and Shanti speak Nepali

14:16:10 UNVA 163

Al: In order to help with the night blindness to make it go away. I want you to take some vitamin A pills and I am going to give you one now and one of our field workers will come and give you another vitamin A pill in a week.

Translation

Al: If you can take that. She's a pro at this. . .

Sound down for bite. . .

SOT: Al 14:21:41 UNVA 163

This woman can be helped very easily. All she needs to do is take vitamin A supplements during the course of her pregnancy and then during the time of lactation and probably given the relative monotonous diet that they eat here that's poor in vitamin A, take vitamin A all through her child bearing years  
// it's a life and death situation for her.

Music: Rain Bump music

-Al rides in car -int

-shot of NNIPS sign pulls out to Al's truck as it arrives at NNIPS

-car pulls under car port and Al gets out, greets and goes inside

-meeting at NNIPS, chatting and laughing

OC: Al, Lisa, Steve, Sharada and Ram II (there are cutaways of Al listening and others reacting that will need to be used here)

Cutaways of:

-Lisa

-Steve

-others

settling down to talk research

Al talks to Lisa

L-cut to Steve

Sound up of car arriving

VITAMIN A RESEARCH CONTINUES AT THE JOHNS HOPKINS FIELD OFFICE  
IN SOUTHERN  
NEPAL.

Sound Up of Al greeting

AL SOMMER HAS NOT SEEN HIS COLLEAGUES IN MORE THAN A YEAR, AND  
THERE IS A LOT  
TO TALK ABOUT - NOT ALL OF IT RESEARCH. . .

15:02:36 UNVA164

S. LeClerq. . .down in Harkatwa, in the far south, we had a ward  
distributor  
who has perceived to be a witch by the women in her village and  
as a result  
they don't want her to come near them in the pregnant state  
which is a  
vulnerable state, they don't want her to come close to their  
house or their  
kids.

Al: Was this one of the screening criteria? You couldn't be a  
witch in order  
to work on the project?

dip audio for track:

THE RESEARCH TEAM IS LED BY NEPAL VETERANS LISA PRADHAN AND  
STEVE LECLERQ.  
THEIR CURRENT STUDY CONCERNS VITAMIN A'S EFFECTS ON PREGNANT  
WOMEN.

Al: Now that all of the women in this study are getting Vitamin  
A, do we have  
any sense about what's happened to the overall maternal  
mortality rate?

Lisa Pradhan: It is a bit too early to say, the numbers are small still, but women are dying much less. . .women are dying at half the rate.

.

Al: Half?

Lisa: . . .of the previous study.

Steve: The women who got Vitamin A, betacarotene, had. . .

Al: 50% of the mortality rate. .

Steve: yeah, about half the mortality rate of the placebo group.

Al: That's very encouraging.

Audio crossfades to newborn scene

Al, Steve and other NNIPS folks walk down alley to newborns house

16.00.35 UNVA165

cutaway to sit down 16.01.20

16.15.55 baby is brought out and put on scale

-examiner checks baby CU

L-cut to Al and Steve chat

-temp taking

-Al & Steve look on

-head measuring

-length measuring

Al & Steve

-shots of kids gathered  
on UNVA 166

-baby is stretched out on board

-more baby fussing and reactions

OC: Al

F/X Vitamin A Rain A FEW MILES FROM THE FIELD OFFICE, ONE OF  
THE FEMALE  
SUBJECTS IN THE VITAMIN A STUDY HAS JUST GIVEN BIRTH.

A FIELD COORDINATOR HAS ALREADY ARRIVED TO EXAMINE THE NEWBORN.

Steve: Why don't you have a seat and we can watch what is going  
on here?

Al: When was this baby born?

Steve: Born around noon yesterday

Sound Up 16.31.05

Steve - Right now, he's checking the baby's general appearance  
for any  
abnormalities

Al: Birth defects.

Steve: and he didn't find any.

Dip audio for bite

SOT: AL 5.01.38 UNVA 192

a little child like this born in a rural area of Nepal or one like it, born in a rural area of India or certain area of Africa really have the odds stacked against them. They are going to come up against every infectious disease that we never seen in the United States at least not in the last one hundred years. //5.02.38 and Vitamin A for a child like this dramatically improves their odds of surviving and doing well.

Sound Up 17.00.57 UNVA 166

SL: Al, this baby is 2.258 kilos, and that's under the generally accepted. .

. .

Al: That's low

SL: Yeah, it's under 2 and a half kilos and we see that babies under 2 and a half kilos have significantly higher mortality rates than babies born above that. They're going to have to take good care of this baby.

SOT: Al 7.10.39 UNVA179

. . . it is wonderful to go into a village and be surrounded by these enthusiastic children, and you feel good knowing that you are going to make a difference in some of their lives, but you also know that there are a fair number that you are not going to make a difference in, that they are not going to be there to get the vitamin A capsule, that the mother will have died and will not be able to give them the milk that they need.

Steve: The babies usually find this. . .because you have to get their. . .

Al: Legs all the way out

Steve: legs straight

It is a difficult life out there, and when you do work like this, you enjoy

the joys of seeing joyful children, and you build a bit of a brick wall between some of your more sensitive emotions and a very poor environment where you know that a number of these playful children are not going to make it.

SOT: Al 06.03.43 UNVA178

. . .But I think for those of us who have worked in the area of health and development, we recognize the value of small contributions, each of which makes an additive difference. If we didn't, we wouldn't be in this business. You'd do it for a year or two and you'd be gone. // The issues are enormous, the problems immense, but when you come up with a practical tool that can at least chip away at difficult lives of poor people where resources are constrained, that's what keeps us going.

Music: Rain bump

-Al & Pooja cross bridge

-Al and Pooja walk

-They sit at temple

-Al and Pooja ring bells in Bhaktapur

-mix in shot of Everest

-Cutaways of cool statues

-shots of people's faces

-To Bouddha

-prayer wheels

-candles

-monks

Reprise shots

-with lama

-family

-vols with capsules

-Ram

-mother and child

-Al squeezes capsules

-Shanti

-village vol

-reac of Al & Pooja

-Al in car

-newborn

-kid smiles

-Al looks into the sunset at Bouddha (Over the shoulder and profile shots)

sunset hangs and fades

FB

Pause, then. . .

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AS AL SOMMER'S NEPAL EXPEDITION NEARS ITS END, HE KEEPS ONE LAST APPOINTMENT:

SIGHTSEEING IN KATHMANDU.

Sound Up: bells ring

SOT: Al 6.11.53+ UNVA 179

Nepal is uniquely blessed, whether it's because // it was an area of the old silk route, where there's a confluence of cultures, where there is Buddhism coming from one direction and Hinduism from another direction and Islam from a third direction // And you see this every day, when you go from the poorest villages to the wealthiest homes. And you pass the huge stupas like Bouddnah, // which is where Tibetan Buddhism began // It is a place rich in religion, rich in spirituality, rich in charitableness, rich in all forms of artistic expression. . .

Music: ending music starts

SOT: Al 06.01.45 UNVA 178

Personal feelings are ones of enormous pleasure, collective accomplishment, enthusiasm, because what I've seen, is a country that took research that we did here with them, turned it into policy and turned policy into very effective programs. And so seeing women recognizing that they need to get,

if not vitamin A, those red capsules for their children when they're given out. Women recognizing that if they can't see at night they're night blind during pregnancy they ought to be eating foods that are richer in vitamin A, or at least going to the local village volunteer who then will go off to the health station where to get vitamin A in order to improve their lives.

I mean it's an enormous sense of accomplishment, having gone from making a discovery, to seeing a situation in which we estimate about 25,000 children a year, in Nepal, don't die because of this program.

SOT: we have seen enormous progress in terms of poor countries putting programs into place that really reach these poor, remote families, and really do have impact on their lives. // Our best estimate now is that maybe we are saving the lives of a million children a year // throughout the developing world // who would have otherwise have died. // That is a huge difference.

Music crescendos and begins a fade

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