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Jarawa Pilot Project
Contact Expedition during 3 - 5 October 1996

**Preliminary Observations regarding
health and nutritional status**

During the expedition a group of 68 persons of Jarawa community at Lakada Lungta in Middle Andaman were contacted on 4 and 5 October 1996. The contact lasted for about three hours on each day. Following are the preliminary findings based on superficial general examination and anthropometric measurements on contacted persons.

The group of the 68 Jarawas consisted of 16 men, 16 women, 23 boys and 13 girls. Children included 4 male and 2 female infants. Five women were pregnant and six were lactating.

Most of them were active and apparently healthy. Teeth and tongue of the majority were clean. Personal cleanliness was good except for long and sometimes dirty nails. One man aged about 35 years had the lower third of his left forearm amputated. From information obtained from the community members through a linguist, this happened because of injury he sustained due to a fall from a tree. The wound could not be examined as it was bandaged with cloths and he did not allow exposing the wound. The distal phalanx of his right index finger was also found to be amputated. He also had extensive fibrous scars on his chest, abdomen, left cheek and right ear. The extensive nature of the scar suggests deep burns, he sustained. One male infant had pyoderma of the scalp with multiple abscesses. It was cleaned with antiseptic lotion and antibiotic ointment was applied. The mother of the infant refused to take the child to Port Blair or Kadamtala for treatment. One boy aged about three years had slight abdominal distention and prominent ribs suggestive of Protein Energy Malnutrition. He also had pallor and conjunctival xerosis. Five children and eight adults had healing abrasions on different parts of their body. Two women had unilateral pthysis bulbi which could be due to injury/infection in the past. One boy aged about eight years had obvious xerosis of the conjunctiva and another four