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**Save the Children/US
Mali Field Office**

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**CHILD SURVIVAL 8
QUARTERLY REPORT**

Period: April - June, 1993

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1. INTRODUCTION

Highlights of this quarter trainings of Village Health Committees (VHCs) and of village nutrition agents; recruitment of 3 new Family Trainers (FTs); final analysis of the data from the family enrollment in the new subdistrict of Zantiebougou. The nurse and FTs of the new zone have taken up their positions.

2. PROJECT ACTIVITIES

A. Health Information System: The family enrollment of the new subdistrict have yielded the following data: 22,207 inhabitants, of whom 10,719 are male (48.3%) and 11,488 female (51.7%). The male:female ratio is thus 93:100. There are 4,488 women of childbearing age (15-49 years), making up 20.2% of the district's total population. Girls aged 12-19 number 1,894 (8.5%).

There are 2,691 children under 36 months (12.1%), while the 12-23 month age group numbers 789 (3.5%). There are 1,066 children under one year (4.8%).

Children's and women's registers have been established for all villages of Zantiebougou. Entry of Zantiebougou data into the computerized HIS started in June. All of the data of half of the subdistrict's villages have already been entered.

In the district of Kolondiéba, 792 live births were recorded (390 males, 402 females), for an average of 9 births per day during the quarter. 8 cases of stillbirth were recorded, 14 deaths between 0-28 days, 17 deaths between 1 and 11 months, and 28 deaths between 1 and 5 years: there were thus a total of 59 deaths of children under 5 during the quarter.

B. Maternal and Child Health: 582 pregnant women were reported by the nurses of Kolondiéba District. 169 (29.0%) of these women had received two or more prenatal consultations. One maternal death was reported out of 245 deliveries (=408/100,000). 101 villages out of 202 (excluding the seats of the subdistricts), or 50%, now have a trained traditional birth attendant. Our objective for the end of CS8 (9/95) is 75%.

In Zantiebougou this quarter, 93 pregnant women received a prenatal consultation. The nurse-midwife noted one maternal death in 84 deliveries (=1,190/100,000). The nurse-midwife works with the health center staff once a week for MCH consultations.

C. Family Planning: The family planning nurse gave a refresher training to 5 FTs and 22 village Family Planning Agents (FPAs) over a period of 6 days. During the quarter, the FPAs made 116 home visits, and held 116 talks on the advantages of family planning and the risk of sexually transmitted diseases.

The contraceptive use rate this quarter was:

	Number of acceptors (% of target population)	
	Kebila	Kadiana
Men	87 acceptors (11.3%)	50 acceptors (6.2%)
Women	75 acceptors (6.7%)	64 acceptors (5.5%)
Couple/Years of Protection		
Condoms	3.73	2.48
Foam	116.8	74.2

The project objective is to reach a contraceptive use rate of more than 9% (up from < 1%). If the acceptance rates hold steady, this will be achieved. Though the number of acceptors of both sexes is similar, the protection offered by the foam (women purchasers) is much greater than that offered by condoms (male purchasers). The acceptance rates are higher in Kebila than in Kadiana.

D. Nutrition: The FTs weighed 65.2% of all children under 3 years this quarter, or 9,542 of 14,640 (objective for this year 70%). The malnourished children weighed monthly accounted for 11.7% of all children under three (n=1,712).

24.2% of all women of childbearing age (7,078/29,299) participated in at least one nutritional demonstration. The nutrition nurse trained the village nutrition agents (VNAs) in nutritious cooking practices using local foods. She has trained VNAs in 55% of the villages of Kolondiéba district (114 of 206). These VNAs then train the women of their villages. The nutrition nurse trained 484 VNAs of 522 planned (92.7%) in the three subdistricts of Fakola, Tousseguela, and Central. In these trainings, she uses specially conceived visual aids and group communication techniques promoted by USAID's Nutrition Communication Project.

E. Immunization: The rate of complete vaccination for 12-23 month olds is 50.3% (our goal for this year is 55%). The measles coverage rate for this age group is 62.2%.

It should be noted that vaccination rates will soon be slipping because the EPI nurses, who are in the pay of the Local Development Committee, have not been paid in fourteen months. This non-payment is linked to the virtual collapse of the local tax collection structure in the wake of Mali's 1991 coup d'etat (the previous dictatorship had been especially extortionate in local tax collection, so most villagers associate democracy with freedom from taxes). SC is working to promote practical and politically acceptable ways of locally funding health services, but in the medium term this situation poses a serious public health threat to young children.

The local EPI office also experienced a temporary shortage of polio vaccine and of vaccine cards, both of which have been resolved.

F. Literacy training for health committees: 69 VHCs of the district of Kolondiéba were trained this quarter, of 75 planned. The training covered how to maintain the birth, death, and migration registers, and how to track ORT usage. The objective by September 1995 is that all 250 VHCs will have literacy skills, and at least 200 will have literate members.

The 147 training participants included 27 women (18.4%). 92.4% of the trainees received a passing mark on the after-training test, and are considered well able to maintain the above rosters. This figure compares with 56.5% passing on the pre-test.

The training was conducted by 11 of SC's 32 FT (34.4%) with the assistance of the literacy sector staff. FT competence in literacy training is expected to grow steadily, and FTs will play the major role in the passing of literacy competencies to the VHCs.

G. Malaria: 16,280 (55.6%) of women of childbearing age were trained in malaria prevention during health education sessions.

H. Supervision: Supervision visits were undertaken in three subdistricts of Kolondiéba district (Fakola, Kebila, and Kadiana). In Zantiebougou, the CS coordinator met with administrative and health officials to organize the settling in of the new FTs in their villages. He also met with the District Medical Officer in Bougouni to explain SC's child survival strategies in detail.

I. Workshops, Trainings, and Exchanges: The assistant CS coordinator participated in a child survival workshop at Banamba organized by the NGO health consortium from June 12 to 25. Save the Children's Mali program received an exchange visit from its SC's Burkina Faso CS program.

3. OBJECTIVES FOR THE NEXT QUARTER:

A.. Health Information System:

- Finish data entry for the remaining 22 villages of Zantiebougou
- Gather birth and death information for Kolondiéba and Zantiebougou.

B. Mother and Child Health

- Ensure 2+ prenatal consultations for at least one-third of all pregnant women in the project zone.

C. Family Planning

- Maintain an overall contraceptive usage rate of at least 9%; verify that acceptance of contraception develops into continued use.

D. Nutrition

- Train SC's 4 new CS agents (three FTs and one nurse).
- Participation of nutrition nurse in a Vitamin A conference in Ghana.
- 60% of women of children aged less than 2 years will be competent in the preparation of weaning foods.

E. Immunization

- 55% of children aged 12-23 months will be completely vaccinated.
- 80% of women of childbearing age will have received 2+ doses of TT.

F. VHC Literacy Training

- Organize a retraining of FTs in basic Bambara literacy.
- Design a pedagogical training for FTs in collaboration with SC's literacy sector, so that they will be able to give effective literacy trainings to VHCs.

G. Malaria, Clean Water, and Hygiene

- 65% of women of childbearing age will know preventive measures against malaria.

H. Annual Planning

- Design a detailed project plan for FY94 (Oct 93-Sept 94)

I. Workshops, Training and Exchanges

- Ensure the training of new CS personnel in nutrition
- Ensure the training of the CS coordinator and the assistant coordinator in Lotus to facilitate calculation and reporting of coverage rates from the manual system.
- Assistant coordinator's participation in SC HO workshop on the computerized HIS.