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Table of contents

List of abbreviations	i
I. INTRODUCTION	1
II. ACTIVITY HIGHLIGHTS – YEAR 1	2
III. FANTA's INTERMEDIATE RESULTS.....	6
1. PROJECT YEAR 1 ACTIVITIES IN SUPPORT OF IR 1	6
1.1. Support to improve development programming	6
1.1.1. Technical support to BHR/FFP/DP	6
1.1.1.a. Improve guidelines on nutrition and food security	6
1.1.1.b. Review Title II development proposals, results reports and concept papers	7
1.1.1.c. Produce results report for Strategic Objective 2 (FFP/DP).....	8
1.1.1.d. Develop and revise database system for FFP/DP	8
1.1.1.e. Develop ISA M&E guidance	8
1.1.2. Technical Support to Cooperating Sponsors and USAID Missions	8
1.1.2.a. Provide technical assistance to CSs and Missions	8
1.1.2.b. Improve existing program design	9
1.1.2.c. Participate in mid-term/final year evaluations of Title II development activities	9
1.2. Support to improve emergency programming	9
1.2.1. Technical support to BHR/FFP/ER	9
1.2.1.a. Improve guidelines on nutrition and food security	9
1.2.1.b. Review Title II proposals, results reports and concept papers.....	10
1.2.1.c. Produce results report for Strategic Objective 1 (FFP/ER).....	10
1.2.1.d. Develop and revise database system for FFP/ER	10
1.2.2. Technical Support to Cooperating Sponsors and USAID Missions	11
1.2.2.a. Provide technical assistance to CSs/Missions.....	11
1.2.2.b. Improve existing emergency and transition program design	11
1.3. Country-specific activities	11
1.3.1. Madagascar	11
1.3.2. Bolivia	12
1.3.3. Haiti	12
1.3.4. Honduras	13
1.3.5. Nicaragua	13
2. PROJECT YEAR 1 ACTIVITIES IN SUPPORT OF IR 2	14
2.1. In Washington.....	14
2.1.1. Define strategies for focus areas	14
2.1.2. Provide technical support to G/PHN and USAID initiatives.....	14
2.1.3. Improve the food security framework.....	15
2.1.4. Network with key groups.....	15
2.1.5. Review health and nutrition in emergencies	15
2.1.6. Incorporate Vitamin A into food security programming	15
2.2. With Missions	16
2.2.1. Support food security strategy development.....	16
2.2.2. Improve design of new programs.....	16
2.2.3. Conduct policy dialogue	16

2.2.4. Support the Greater Horn of Africa Initiative	17
2.3. With Cooperating Sponsors	17
2.3.1. Support credit with education programs	17
3. PROJECT YEAR 1 ACTIVITIES IN SUPPORT OF IR 3	17
3.1. Revised generic indicators	18
3.2. Develop Title II Indicator and Best Practice Guides	18
3.2.1. Develop a roadmap of information/data requirements	18
3.2.2. Assess the use of the positive deviance approach in the design and implementation of infant and child feeding interventions	18
3.2.3. Assess use of food rations in maternal, child health and nutrition programs	19
3.3. Improve agriculture - consumption linkages	19
3.4. Assess cost-effectiveness of Title II interventions.....	19
3.5. Conduct field research on approaches for improving adolescent nutrition.....	20
3.6. The role for food aid in strengthening household and community coping mechanisms to HIV AIDS	20
3.7. Estimating changes in child mortality from changes in child malnutrition.....	20
3.8. Training.....	21
3.9. Information/Communication strategy	22
IV. FANTA RESULTS REPORTING	22

d

List of abbreviations

ACC/SCN	Administrative Committee on Coordination/Subcommittee on Nutrition
ADRA	Adventist Development and Relief Agency
BHR	USAID's Bureau for Humanitarian Response
BHR/FFP	BHR's Office of Food for Peace
CARE	Cooperative for Assistance and Relief Everywhere
CRS	Catholic Relief Services
CS	Cooperating Sponsor (includes Private Voluntary Organizations)
DAP	Title II Development Activity Proposal
EOC	Ethiopian Orthodox Church
ESFII	USAID/Haiti's Enhancing Food Security II Project
FACG	Food Aid Consultative Group
FAM	Food Aid Management
FANTA	Food and Nutrition Technical Assistance Project
FFH	Freedom from Hunger
FFP	BHR's Office of Food for Peace
FFP/DP	Office of Food for Peace, Development Programs Division
FFP/ER	Office of Food for Peace, Emergency Relief Division
FHI	Food for the Hungry International
GHAI	Greater Horn of Africa Initiative
G/PHN	USAID's Bureau for Global Programs, Field Support and Research, Center for Population, Health and Nutrition
ICDS	India Integrated Child Development Support program.
ICRW	International Center for Research on Women
IMPACT	Food and Nutrition Monitoring Project
IR	Intermediate Result
LINKAGES	Breastfeeding and Related Complementary Feeding and Maternal Nutrition Project
M&E	Monitoring and Evaluation
MCHN	Maternal and Child Health and Nutrition Programs
NGO	Non-Governmental Organization
OFDA	USAID's Office for Foreign Disaster Assistance
PAA	Title II Previously Approved Activity
PCI	Project Concern International
PVO	Private Voluntary Organization (also used for Cooperating Sponsor)
R4	Results Review and Resource Request.
REDSO	Regional Economic Development Services Office
REST	Relief Society of Tigre
RFA	Request for Application
SCF	Save the Children Foundation
UNICEF	United Nations' Children Fund
USAID	United States Agency for International Development
WVI	World Vision Incorporated
WHO	World Health Organization

I. INTRODUCTION

The Food and Nutrition Technical Assistance Project (FANTA) supports integrated food security and nutrition programming to improve the health and well being of women and children. The five-year cooperative agreement, funded by the US Agency for International Development, was awarded in September 1998 and is managed by the Academy for Educational Development. This report discusses activities during the first year of the project (October 1, 1998 – September 30, 1999).

About the project

The project helps integrate nutrition into the strategic planning process; provides analyses for food security and nutrition policy development; and shares information and knowledge with partners. Technical assistance is provided to USAID missions, host governments, private voluntary organizations (PVOs) and non-governmental organizations (NGOs) to improve program design, monitoring and evaluation.

FANTA works collaboratively with donors, development organizations and other partners to:

- increase investment in food security and nutrition;
- promote the integration of food security and nutrition with other interventions such as child survival and maternal nutrition;
- improve program quality and impact of USAID resources including Title II food aid, development and humanitarian assistance;
- assist private voluntary organizations (PVOs) in planning the transition from emergency to development programs;
- validate approaches through special studies and analyses;
- review and analyze research findings for improving programming;
- guide monitoring and evaluation efforts to improve reporting on performance and effectiveness; and
- foster the exchange of knowledge and experience about food security and nutrition among partners and across sectors.

The FANTA team supports programs with a food and nutrition component, with a particular emphasis on projects which address mild and moderate malnutrition in children, and projects aimed at achieving optimal nutrition for girls and women. The project also assists with specific interventions to:

- improve infant and child feeding, including breastfeeding;
- enhance micronutrient status, especially for Vitamin A in Title II programs;
- increase household income, including micro-enterprise and increased agricultural productivity; and
- link women's income to improved health, nutrition and education

The project works closely with Food Aid Management (FAM)-- a consortium of private voluntary organizations working to improve food security by making Title II food aid more

efficient and effective. The Food and Nutrition Technical Assistance Project provides technical assistance on key food security and nutrition issues identified by FAM members.

Two universities are primary subcontractors with the project. Cornell University's Division of Nutritional Sciences and Tufts University's School of Nutrition Science and Policy are distinguished centers for research in food security and nutrition. As subcontractors to FANTA, their focus is on specific policy and technical issues and operations research.

II. ACTIVITY HIGHLIGHTS - Year 1

Identifying Priority Action Areas

A consultative process for prioritizing technical support to PVO's has been implemented. Working with the Title II PVO Technical Advisory Group, six priority action areas were identified. They are:

1. Strengthening maternal child health/nutrition programs (including asset-based, positive deviance approaches and growth promotion and monitoring)
2. Women's nutrition
3. Credit with education approaches to improved nutrition programming
4. Food security indicator for evaluation of programs
5. Transitioning emergency programs into development programs
6. Strengthening monitoring and evaluation of programs through the development of tools and training

In addition to addressing these priority areas, FANTA provided Title II PVOs with technical assistance and provided technical and strategic planning support to USAID field missions and bureaus.

Country-Specific Activities

During the first year, FANTA provided on-going technical assistance to five countries:

1. Madagascar

FANTA assisted USAID/Antananarivo in integrating the food security/disaster response portfolio with the Mission strategic plan and identified indicators for reporting on food security/disaster mitigation activities of Title II PVOs.

2. India

Provided technical assistance to CRS/India and USAID/Delhi on development of the scope of work for the mid-term review of the CRS/India Title II development program.

3. Haiti

Participated in a mid-term evaluation and provided support to Title II PVOs to strengthen monitoring, targeting, information and evaluation (MTIE) units.

4. Nicaragua

Produced report on the supply and availability of food staples post-Hurricane Mitch. Assisted the USAID Mission and Title II PVOs to develop a strategy for integrating supplemental and Title II resources in support of the post-Mitch transition to Title II development programming.

5. Honduras
Reviewed the mid-term evaluation reported produced for CARE and made recommendations for the design of the final evaluation of CARE's current DAP.

Workshops

FANTA collaborated on the development of three technical workshops:

Conference on Emergency Relief Diets

FANTA co-sponsored a three-day conference on "*Enhancing the Nutritional Quality of Relief Diets*". This conference focused on what can be done to address the inadequate provision of micronutrients in large relief programs. Recent outbreaks of scurvy due to Vitamin C deficiency in refugee camps highlight the need for better technical and logistical support. Recommendations were made for establishing protocols for ensuring nutrient needs are met. This workshop was supported by a number of agencies, including the American Red Cross, Congressional Hunger Center, Ferris-Morris Associates, Inc., Food Aid Management, International Life Sciences Institute, the Micronutrient Initiative of Canada and USAID.

Food Rations In Maternal Child Health/Nutrition Title II Programs

In July, fifty representatives from USAID and Title II PVO's in Bolivia and Peru met in Cochabamba, Bolivia about the role of food rations in maternal child health and nutrition programs. The purpose of the workshop was to: review global experience using food rations in MCHN activities in Title II food security programs; define purposes of food used in these programs; and develop strategies that optimize the use of food and achieve sustainable impact of MCHN activities. The workshop participants identified several approaches to improving maternal child health and nutrition status and outlined options for achieving the objectives. The participants also identified some areas for operations research to strengthen their MCHN programs. A draft guide on food rations has been developed based on the outcomes of this workshop and the PVO's have incorporated the workshop recommendations in their annual plans.

Sampling Workshop for PVO's

As part of the commitment to technical strengthening of USAID partners and in response to requests for practical guidance in sampling and design of evaluation surveys, FANTA developed a three-day workshop with Food Aid Management (FAM) for PVO field and headquarters staff. The goal of the workshop was to provide participants with a basic knowledge of the sampling process so they can provide direction and supervision to technical consultants. The workshop, held in May, was attended by representatives from nine PVO's and built on the

FANTA technical guide on sampling that can be found on the project website: www.fantaproject.org. The workshop agenda and copies of presentations and exercises are available on the FAM website: www.foodaid.org.

Information and Communication

A communications strategy was drafted for the FANTA Project.. The strategy has a number of goals: expand the knowledge base; foster policy dialogue; build linkages; and increase awareness of food security and nutrition issues. The strategy layers and links project information so that it is tiered and appropriate for varied audiences. Project information will be available in multiple formats both print and electronic.

A project identity kit was developed including a new logo and designs for various print and electronic products. These products have been rolled out during this first year including: brochure, folder and publications. The project website was also launched. A number of project databases were set up including key references and project publications. In addition, the mailing list template was modified to allow for more targeting and a system for tracking information requests was developed.

Publications

Water and Sanitation Guide

The latest guide in the Title II Indicator Guide series was published in August 1999. This series is part of USAID's support to develop monitoring and evaluation systems for use in Title II programs. The guides provide the technical basis for the indicators and the recommended method for collecting, analyzing and reporting on the indicators. It was prepared jointly by FANTA and the USAID-supported Environmental Health Project

All the of Title II indicator guides are available on the project website at www.fantaproject.org/pubs.htm.

- Agricultural Productivity Indicators Measurement Guide
- Food Security Indicators and Framework for Use in the Monitoring and Evaluation of Food Aid Programs
- Infant and Child Feeding Indicators Guide
- Sampling Guide
- Water and Sanitation Guide

Improving Information Sharing In Emergency Situations

Though a subcontract with WHO, the ACC-Subcommittee on Nutrition will develop data dissemination strategies and increase NGO/PVO input and participation in the reporting of data and information included in the Reports on the Nutrition Situation of Refugees and Displaced Populations published by the Refugee Nutrition Information System Project (RNIS).

Staffing

Five new staff joined the project. Gayle Gibbons is the project information specialist and is responsible for developing and implementing the project information strategy and managing the production of print and electronic products. Angela Johnson is the financial and administrative manager. Ms. Johnson has more than ten years of financial and administrative experience managing federal grants and contracts. Barbara Reed is a nutritionist who has joined the project as an emergency/maternal child health specialist. Dr. Reed will support the technical strengthening of the maternal/child health and nutrition activities with an emphasis on emergency programming including technical assistance for emergency and transition programs especially for the Greater Horn of Africa Initiative (GHAI). Serena Rajabiun is the maternal/child health specialist. Her work has focused on the design, implementation and evaluation of program activities in maternal health, child survival and micronutrients. Alice Willard has joined the project as the monitoring and evaluation specialist. Dr. Willard will be responsible for developing a performance monitoring plan for the project and also assist USAID Missions and Cooperating Sponsors in strategic planning and performance monitoring for nutrition and food security programs.

III. FANTA's INTERMEDIATE RESULTS

IR 1: USAID's and Cooperating Sponsors (CS) nutrition and food security-related program development, analysis, monitoring, and evaluation improved

1. PROJECT YEAR 1 ACTIVITIES IN SUPPORT OF IR 1

During Project Year 1, the project undertook a series of interrelated activities in order to improve food security and nutrition program development, analysis, monitoring and evaluation in both development and emergency contexts. Provided support to BHR/FFP, Cooperating Sponsors, and G/PHN in Washington and to USAID Missions and CSs in the field.

1.1. Support to improve development programming

1.1.1. Technical support to BHR/FFP/DP

1.1.1.a. Improve guidelines on nutrition and food security

- Participated in the revision and updating of nutrition and food security related-guidance for Title II development programming and for the Agency's internal reporting reflected in the R4.
- Specific text was provided for the FY01 Results Report and Resource Request Guidance to ensure that the Agency's ability to report to Congress on progress towards food security in countries receiving food aid was maintained. Missions were given greater flexibility in choosing which indicators to reporting on in their R4s. As a result of project input, the R4 Guidelines require that, in cases where Title II activities are integrated in the Mission's strategic plan, the strategic objective performance narrative must include a brief description of the contribution and effectiveness of PL-480 resources to enhanced food security in the country using appropriate quantifiable indicator data from the performance monitoring plan. Where the Title II resources are not integrated on the strategic plan, the Mission is asked to include a special information annex to the R4, which addresses: (1) the contribution of Title II resources to food security in the country; and (2) the effectiveness of the Title II programs in achieving results agreed upon in the relevant Development Activity Proposal (DAP).
- Participated in the FACG working group and prepared a report on a four country survey (Bolivia, Peru, Mozambique, Ethiopia) of PVO perceptions of Mission's requirements for reporting on Title II development activities. The project helped clarify reporting requirements and encouraged collaboration between Missions and PVOs in determining the most effective and efficient ways of meeting the information requirements of the diverse groups.
- Technical input was provided to the SUSTAIN project for the updating of the Commodity Reference Guide, with emphasis on Section V - Title II Program Considerations and Food Aid Ration Selection. FANTA will continue this support during Project year 2.

- Staff provided comments and suggestions to:
 - BHR/PPE and FFP/ER on the draft report on "Vitamin A Fortification of PL 480 Vegetable Oil".
 - FFP/DP on the FY2001 DAP/PAA Guidelines.
 - G/PHN and BHR/PPE on the Annual Performance Review chapter on population and nutrition.
 - BHR/PPE on 1998 U.S. International Food Assistance Report.

- Staff made presentations to USAID and CSs staff at various venues on a range of topics related to Title II non-emergency programming including:

Sessions on 1) BHR/FFP Strategic Objective 1 (Emergency Programs) Strategic Plan and Result Framework; 2) BHR/FFP Strategic Objective 2 (Development Programs) Strategic Plan and Results Framework and Monitoring and Evaluation Requirements for Title II Development Programs; and 3) Needs Assessment Methods for Food Security Program Design for 30 USAID and CS participants at the annual Food Aid Manager Training Course.

Session on the requirements for mid-term and final evaluations at the FY2000 DAP/PAA Guidelines workshop, organized by FFP/DP and hosted by ADRA.

- Prepared a summary for FFP/DP of Title II funded Food for Education programs: levels of support provided, types of activities supported, and results achieved (with an emphasis on the Quality of Education.)

1.1.1.b. Review Title II development proposals, results reports and concept papers

- Provided written technical reviews and participated in Washington-based review meetings for all proposed new FY 2000 Title II development programs (approximately 26 new Development Activity Proposals (DAPs) or DAP amendments) and for the majority of the on-going Previously Approved Activities with their associated Results Reports. FANTA also provided comments on two concept papers. The reviews focused on the food security problem analysis, and relevance of the design and monitoring and evaluation plan to address issues identified in the problem analysis. The programs reviewed are or will be implemented in a wide range of countries: Angola, Bangladesh, Benin, Bolivia, Burkina Faso, Cape Verde, Chad, Eritrea, Ethiopia, Gambia, Ghana, Guatemala, Guinea, Haiti, Honduras, India, Kenya, Liberia, Malawi, Mali, Nicaragua, Niger, Peru, Rwanda, Uganda, West Africa (regional), and Zambia.
- Participated in field DAP/PAA reviews in Benin, Burkina Faso and Haiti.

1.1.1.c. Produce Results Report for Strategic Objective 2 (FFP/DP)

- Produced the FY 1998 Results Report for FFP/DP, which formed the basis for the FY 2001 Results Report and Resource Request (R4) submission. The results report recommends a review and revision of the Strategic Framework.

1.1.1.d. Develop and revise database system for FFP/DP

- The project planned to help develop a database for Title II development program results during Project Year 1. A tracking system was developed to support the collection and reporting of data that fed into R4 reporting for strategic objective 2. Discussions were held with the SO2 team on the design of a database of PVO results, grouped by sector and allowing aggregation of results across programs. However, the team did not arrive at a clear consensus on the use of and audience for the data, so further development was not undertaken.

1.1.1.e. Develop Institutional Strengthening Agreement (ISA) M&E guidance

- Developed guidance on monitoring and evaluation plans for Cooperating Sponsor Institutional Strengthening Agreements (ISA) for FFP/DP.
- Provided comments and participated in review meeting on the Detailed Implementation Plans for the ISAs.

1.1.2. Technical Support to Cooperating Sponsors and USAID Missions

1.1.2.a. Provide technical assistance to CSs and Missions

- In addition to in-country technical assistance provided to PVOs and Missions, project staff provided technical assistance to PVOs and Missions through desk reviews of documents and by providing detailed comments and technical input on monitoring and evaluation plans and indicator definition, and scopes of work (SOWs) and identifying consultants for baseline and mid-term evaluations. PVOs and Missions that benefitted from FANTA technical comments and suggestions included:
 - Monitoring and Evaluation Plans and definition of indicators: ADRA Madagascar, Africare Mali, Africare Chad, Africare Burkina Faso, World Vision/Winrock African Smallholder Farmers Initiative
 - Design of baseline survey, instrument and sampling: World Vision Uganda, CRS Liberia
 - Scope of Work and design for mid-term evaluations, and/or identification of evaluation team members: CRS/Gambia; ADRA/Peru; CARE Ethiopia; USAID/Bolivia, ADRA Bolivia, FHI Bolivia, PCI Bolivia (joint mid-term evaluation)

- Provided technical review and comments for CRS's draft paper on safety nets. Assistance was provided to CRS Burkina Faso in revising their M&E system in response to a recommendation made by in 1996 concerning the reporting of results. As a result of FANTA support, CRS was able to successfully complete all audit recommendations.

1.1.2.b. Improve existing program design

- Provided in-country technical assistance to selected Title II DAPs in countries and/or programs where the lessons learned from the targeted technical assistance will help strengthen the activities of other DAPs in the same country; will strengthen food security strategy design in that country; or will inform and enrich guidelines on best practices by the wider Title II and food security/nutrition community. Details of country-specific activities in countries where FANTA implemented programs of multiple technical assistance visits may be found under section 1.3.

1.1.2.c. Participate in mid-term/final year evaluations of Title II development activities

- Provided technical input to the SOWs and design for mid-term evaluations in a number of countries (see details under 1.1.2.a above.) Provided in-country support and participated as part of the mid-term evaluation team for the joint Title II mid-term evaluation in Haiti (see section 1.3.1. for details.) Provide in-country support in India for the design of the CRS mid-term evaluation.

1.2. Support to improve emergency programming

1.2.1. Technical support to BHR/FFP/ER

1.2.1.a. Improve guidelines on nutrition and food security

- Coordinated a meeting with Food Aid Management (FAM) to review Title II emergency reporting needs with PVOs and FFP/ER. The meeting concluded that the substance of the R4 reporting and tool (questionnaire) were acceptable and that the latter was user friendly. The group selected six indicators for highlighting in the R4. One major concern raised at the meeting was on transition programs for which there was no clear guidance. To address this gap in FFP programming guidance, project staff led the development of a Transitional Activity Proposal guideline in coordination with both FFP/DP and FFP/ER.
- Provided financial and technical support to the "Enhancing the Nutritional Quality of Relief Diets Workshop," April 28-30, 1999, coordinated by FAM. The purpose of the workshop was to exchange information on how the nutritional quality of relief diets can be enhanced at the regional and local levels. The workshop was attended by PVOs/NGOs, universities, representatives of food aid industries, USAID, and UN agencies.

- Conducted training sessions on FFP strategic objective 1 and results reporting, and monitoring and evaluation at various venues: monitoring and evaluation workshop at State Department/Bureau of Population, Refugees, and Migration (PRM), World Vision workshop, and the Food Aid Manager's Course.

1.2.1.b. Review Title II proposals, results reports, and concept papers

- Provided written technical review of selected FY 1999 Title II emergency and transition proposals, e.g. Angola, Sierra Leone, and reviewed results reports for all FY 1998 programs.

1.2.1.c. Produce Results Report for Strategic Objective 1 (FFP/ER)

- Produced the FY 1998 Results Report for FFP/ER. The results report indicated that Strategic Objective was on track.
- Coordinated a meeting with Food Aid Management (FAM) and FFP/ER to review the results reporting indicators and targets for strategic objective. PVO implementing partners provided feedback on the appropriateness of the indicators and ease in data collection. No changes were recommended.
- Undertook the review of Title II emergency food aid in Sudan as part of the stocktaking exercise of the Sudan Integrated Strategic Plan (ISP). FANTA staff also reviewed non-food emergency programs funded by OFDA to draft the section reporting on strategic objective 3 of the ISP focusing on reintegration of targeted groups.
- Assisted the Refugee Nutrition Information System (RNIS) of the United Nations Administrative Coordinating Committee/Subcommittee on Nutrition (ACC/SCN) in contacting PVO implementing partners undertaking Title II emergency food aid programs. As part of the effort to compile and analyze nutritional status of children under five in complex emergencies, PVOs will share their data with RNIS. FANTA also provided management and technical coordination for the World Health Organization's Health Information Network for Advanced Planning (HINAP) that compiles and analyzes mortality data for USAID's humanitarian assistance goal monitoring. This is undertaken in coordination with RNIS.

1.2.1.d. Develop and revise database system for FFP/ER

- Assisted FFP's institutional support contractor in developing a simple database for Title II emergency program results. A database was established and pilot-tested with FY1998 results analyzed and compiled using this new system.

1.2.2. Technical Support to Cooperating Sponsors and USAID Missions

1.2.2.a. Provide technical assistance to CSs/Missions

- Provided ongoing input to inquiries on nutrition, health and performance issues related to Title II emergency food aid from cooperating sponsors, BHR units, bureau, and other agencies (e.g., UNICEF, WHO, ACC/SCN).

1.2.2.b. Improve existing emergency and transition program design

- Provided technical assistance to develop a common a monitoring and evaluation plan for Title emergency food aid for Sierra Leone. This work was interrupted by the security situation and the proposed TDY did not take place. However, draft indicators were developed incorporating both FFP/DP and FFP/ER results reporting needs that could be used in countries such as Sierra Leone and Liberia that are in transition. The feedback from Liberia (where some of these indicators have been pilot-tested) is that they are feasible to collect and seem to be appropriate for this type of transition situation.

1.3. Country-specific activities

A program of on-going technical support is critical to maximizing measurable improvements in child nutritional status in priority countries. Ongoing technical support by FANTA staff and consultants will ensure continuity and follow-up on technical recommendations. CSs and USAID Missions in priority countries will be encouraged to request 'virtual' feedback on issues of program design and performance monitoring as they arise during the course of activity implementation, as a complement to direct field visits.

FANTA staff implemented programs of sustained support in five countries during Project Year 1: Bolivia, Haiti, Honduras, Nicaragua, Madagascar. Mission funding has been obtained to continue activities in Haiti, Honduras, Madagascar and Nicaragua during Project Year 2, and to initiate activities Ethiopia and Guatemala. The program of support in Bolivia reached its objective of improving the use of food in the Title II-funded Maternal and Child Health and Nutrition Programs.

1.3.1. Madagascar

The Title II program in Madagascar (approximately \$6 million in FY 1998) is implemented by ADRA, CARE, and CRS. The Madagascar DAPs cover activities in agriculture, water and sanitation, maternal and child health and nutrition, food for education, and other child feeding/humanitarian assistance. The Title II program also includes a disaster mitigation component.

Project Year 1 In-Country Technical Support Activities

- Assisted USAID/Antananarivo integrate its food security/disaster response portfolio with the Mission Strategic Plan
- Identified indicators for the Mission to report on food security/disaster response activities of Title II Cooperating Sponsors

1.3.2. Bolivia

The three Bolivia Title II Cooperating Sponsors implemented programs worth approximately \$15 million in FY 1998. ADRA, Food for the Hungry International (FHI), and Project Concern International (PCI) implement agriculture, water and sanitation, maternal and child health and nutrition, and food for education programs in the most food insecure areas of Bolivia.

Project Year 1 In-Country Technical Support Activities

- Provided input to scope of work for the joint Title II mid-term evaluation;
- Carried out a review of Use of Food in Maternal and Child Health and Nutrition Programs (see section 3.2.3 for details); and
- Collaborated with FAM, USAID/La Paz, and Cooperating Sponsors in developing and implementing a workshop in the use of food rations in maternal and child health and nutrition programs (see section 3.2.3.)

1.3.3. Haiti

The Haiti Title II program is implemented by ADRA, CARE, and CRS. During FY 1998, the three CSs implemented activities in agriculture, natural resource management, water and sanitation, maternal and child health and nutrition, food for education, and other child feeding/humanitarian assistance. These Title II activities, valued at approximately \$23 million in FY 1998, are integrated under USAID/Haiti's Enhancing Food Security II (ESF-II) project.

Project Year 1 In-Country Technical Support Activities

- Participated in the joint mid-term evaluation in support of the CS and the Mission's ESF-II;
- Provided support to strengthen CSs monitoring, targeting, information and evaluation (MTIE) units;
- Participated in the FY 2000 PAA field review
- Implemented an ESF-III planning meeting to define ESF-III scope and main areas of intervention; identify areas of convergence between Mission SOs and Title II CSs, and identify technical issues that require further attention.

1.3.4. Honduras

CARE Honduras' Title II program, valued at \$4.7 million during FY 1998, is an integrated program supporting agricultural productivity, health and nutrition, rural infrastructure development and local government strengthening. Hurricane Mitch caused great devastation in Honduras, but largely avoided the geographic areas where CARE's DAP is being implemented.

Project Year 1 In-Country Technical Support Activities

- With the support of USAID/Tegucigalpa, provided technical assistance to CARE Honduras during two TDYs. FANTA staff reviewed the midterm evaluation (MTE) report produced under contract for CARE by a local firm, ADAI, to evaluate the quality of the results and make recommendations for the final evaluation; provided recommendations on design for CARE's FY 2001-2005 DAP; and participated in a workshop on the FY 2001-2005 DAP.

1.3.5. Nicaragua

Prior to Hurricane Mitch, the Title II programs implemented by three CSs in Nicaragua focused exclusively on Food Assisted Child Survival (FACS) activities. After Mitch, all FACS programs were put on hold while the CSs implemented emergency feeding programs in the most affected areas. Emergency feeding will continue through April 30, 1999. A post-emergency transition period, from May 1, 1999 through September 31, 2001, will be funded with non-emergency funds through FFP/DP. The Mission is in the process of reviewing the status of USAID Title II programs and sources of available data on food needs in post Hurricane Mitch Nicaragua in order to design a strategy for food programming over the next 2-3 years.

Project Year 1 In-Country Technical Support Activities

- Produced report on the supply and availability of food staples post-Mitch;
- Assisted the Mission and the Cooperating Sponsors to develop a strategy for integrating supplemental and Title II resources in support of the post-Mitch transition to Title II development programming.

IR 2: USAID and its counterparts establish improved, integrated nutrition and food security-related strategies and policies

FANTA's strategy recognizes that nutrition and food security is a cross-sectoral issue, and that many countries do not *integrate* their policies and programs in health/nutrition, agriculture and other sectors to ensure the maximum impact on food security. Under IR2, the project seeks to strengthen the synergy and relationship between the Agency's health and nutrition, agriculture, and food security-related activities in order to maximize the nutritional impact of nutrition and food security-related programs on the beneficiary populations, especially young children and women of reproductive age.

While previous research suggested that only severely malnourished children were at increased risk of dying, new analysis demonstrates that the large majority of all malnutrition-related deaths occur in children who are mildly to moderately underweight. During Project Year 1, FANTA staff began efforts to shift the focus of policy and programming in developing countries from an emphasis on the treatment of severe malnutrition toward an *emphasis on the prevention of mild to moderate malnutrition*.

Activities were started to refine a strategy and identify focus areas to support increased emphasis on *adolescent girls' and women's nutrition*, in recognition of the importance of life-cycle approaches and the inter-generational effects of malnutrition.

2. PROJECT YEAR 1 ACTIVITIES IN SUPPORT OF IR 2

Efforts directed toward strengthening USAID's food security programs should be based on sound scientific evidence in support of useful and clear conceptual frameworks. The activities implemented during Project Year 1 began by improving the integration of food security and nutrition in high potential country programs.

2.1. In Washington

2.1.1. Define strategies for focus areas - adolescent and women's nutrition

- Conducted a review of the current state of knowledge in adolescent and women's nutrition. Based on the results of the review, specific strategies for policy and advocacy will be defined. One priority follow-on activity will be the identification of key intervention areas to strengthen PVO programming building on the large Title II platform in maternal and child health and nutrition activities.

2.1.2. Provide technical support to G/PHN and USAID initiatives

- Provided technical support to G/PHN in working on nutrition policy and programs with other Bureaus, especially the Regional Bureaus, to improve the integration of nutrition into USAID programming. The review of agriculture and consumption linkages for USAID programming for the Africa Bureau was an opportunity of documenting the links between agriculture, natural resources, microenterprise activities and consumption.
- Provided comments and suggestions for increasing the visibility of U.S. government actions in health and nutrition in the U.S. Plan of Action on Food Security, produced as part of the follow-up to the 1996 World Food Summit.

2.1.3. Improve the food security framework

- Significant improvements in program efficiency and impact can be achieved by targeting on the basis of indicators of benefit rather than indicators of risk. Studies are needed to define the best indicators of response to interventions and the most efficient cutoff points. Cornell was asked to develop a concept paper and to conduct studies to identify the most promising indicators of benefit and associated cutoff points (to be conducted under IR3.)

2.1.4. Network with key groups

- During Project year 1, discussions were held with stakeholders on the role of FANTA and possible collaboration. Key among these groups were UNICEF (New York Nutrition Section), the World Bank, PVO Networks for Health project (to discuss applications of Lot Quality Assurance Sampling (LQAS) in improving maternal and child health programming) and Helen Keller International (see 2.1.6. below.)

2.1.5. Review health and nutrition in emergencies

Refugees and displaced people are considered to be at very high risk of measles outbreaks as all the main risk factors (overcrowding, undernutrition, and particularly vitamin A deficiency) are evident.

- A review will be conducted of health and nutrition issues in emergencies and linkages established with other Global Bureau and US government programs (including OFDA). Improving contact with WHO's immunization program, which also has a mandate to include humanitarian assistance countries will help to improve immunization coverage during emergencies, will be a priority during project year 1.

2.1.6 Incorporate Vitamin A into food security programming

- Provided financial support and technical input for an Enhancing the Nutritional Quality of Relief Diets Workshop, organized by Food Aid Management (FAM). The goals of the workshop were to 1) exchange information on current practices, and compare operational approaches in enhancing nutritional quality of relief foods, especially micronutrients; and 2) explore opportunities to implement small-scale/medium-scale fortification at local and regional levels, as well as look at issues of administration, quality control, costs and longer-term sustainability. The proceedings of the workshop were finalized and distributed in October, 1999. More information on the workshop is available on FAM's webpage: www.foodaid.org. The workshop proceedings are on the project website, www.fantaproject.org.
- Contributed technical input to BHR/FFP discussions with USDA on setting standards for fortification of Title II processed commodities with minerals and vitamins. All Title II vegetable oil is not fortified with Vitamin A.

- Helped insure that the FY2001 DAP/PAA Guidelines incorporated text to officially encourage Title II CSs to incorporate Vitamin A activities in their Title II programming. Text discussed development of proposals to address Vitamin A deficiencies with food based strategies including direct distribution of Title II fortified commodities.
- Participated in meetings on wheat soy and corn soy blends' micronutrient analysis with USDA/USAID, to review levels of micronutrients, establish minimum standards for vitamins/minerals and means of enforcing minimum standards with industry, and to establish a schedule for enforcing minimum standards for ensuring fortification levels at point of use.
- As part of the Project's micronutrient focus, FANTA staff participated at the IVACG meeting in Durban, South Africa in March, 1999. Approaches to enhancing program impact with vitamin A interventions were obtained.
- Discussions were held with Helen Keller International (HKI) in New York on options for HKI technical input in support of the incorporation of Vitamin A activities in the design of Title II food security and nutrition programming. Collaboration possibilities include the production of an advocacy piece, provision on in-country technical assistance, and refinements to the use of food frequency scores for the monitoring and evaluation of Vitamin A activities.

2.2. With Missions

2.2.1. Support food security strategy development

- Provided technical assistance to Missions in the development and improvement of Mission strategies integrating Title II development programming in Haiti, Madagascar and Nicaragua (see section 1.3. above.)

2.2.2. Improve design of new programs

- Supported joint planning with other USAID projects for new Mission food security and nutrition programs. Facilitated contacts between USAID/Addis Ababa and the PVOs to discuss ways of improving the nutrition component of the Food Security Strategy the Mission is implementing with the Regional Government of Amhara (see details under 2.2.3 below.)

2.2.3. Conduct policy dialogue

- Facilitated a meeting between USAID/Addis Ababa representatives and the GHAI Coordinator of the Linkages Project and the development of a proposal for Ethiopian participation in a Profiles supported trainer of trainers workshop, and possible additional actions to implement Profiles in the regions of Ethiopia.

2.2.4. Support the Greater Horn of Africa Initiative

- Worked with BASIS and Linkages, to examine the feasibility of using a Profiles-like approach for advocacy in food security programming. The review of agriculture-nutrition linkages (see 3.3. below), undertaken with support from the Africa Bureau, provides one avenue for advocacy and the basis for further identification of better practices for addressing key food security issues relevant to the region. The project will continue to promote approaches and develop advocacy materials linking agricultural interventions and improved consumption.
- One of the three priority areas under the GHAI Improving Food Security Objective is to “Improve maternal and child nutritional status in emergency and refugee situations.” With the GHAI, a scope of work has been developed for Project Year 2 that will contribute to this priority area by identifying practical means for using food aid to combat food insecurity in the specific context of complex emergencies (manmade emergencies stemming from civil conflict), and by building capacities for improved targeting of food aid. REDSO is providing the funds to undertake this activity.

2.3. With Cooperating Sponsors

2.3.1. Support credit with education (CWE) programs

- Signed a subcontract with Freedom from Hunger (FFH) to implement a series of activities starting in Project Year 2. The focus of the FFH work will be: 1) assist PVOs to incorporate credit with education components in their nutrition and food security activities; 2) develop and refine techniques to monitor and evaluate the impact of credit with education on household food security and nutrition, and (3) disseminate lessons learned to other PVOs. The first stage will be to prepare a paper synthesizing FFH's experience with CWE; and to highlight critical gaps in understanding.

IR 3: Best practices and acceptable standards in nutrition and food security-related policy and programming adopted by USAID, Cooperating Sponsors, and other key stakeholders.

3. PROJECT YEAR 1 ACTIVITIES IN SUPPORT OF IR 3

During Project Year 1, a series of interrelated activities were undertaken in order to develop and disseminate best practices and acceptable standards to improve food security and nutrition policy and program development, analysis, monitoring and evaluation.

3.1. Revise generic indicators

- As a member of the FAM Working Group on monitoring and evaluation and the group on Local Capacity Building Indicators (LCBI), FANTA staff provided technical input to two consultants hired by FAM to produce reports on the measurement of socioeconomic and of biophysical agricultural indicators. Participation in these working groups is an integral part of efforts to strengthen PVO partners in the design, implementation, and results reporting of child survival and food security programs.
- USAID support to education activities is increasing and Food for Education programs are an important component of the Title II food security efforts. Education, especially female education, is a major contributor to household food security. To improve reporting of education programs, a scope of work was developed for the development of a Food for Education Indicator Measurement Guide. Development of the guide will be a consultative process with Title II PVOs and the guide will be completed during project year 2.

3.2. Develop Title II Indicator and Best Practice Guides

- A program for revising the existing Indicator Guides was developed. Based on materials developed for the Sampling for Managers Workshop and feedback from users, the Sampling Guide will be revised and expanded during Project year 2. A format was developed for the redesign of existing guides and for future guides.
- During project year 1, two new best practices guides were developed. The Household Food Consumption Guide is currently in draft form, and will be published early in project year 2. The Water and Sanitation Guide was published.

3.2.1. Develop a roadmap of information/data requirements

A major challenge facing program managers is lack of a link between information collected, the relevance of the information for decision-making, and the economic efficiency of the process.

- FANTA staff have begun documenting experiences and lessons learned from participation in mid-term evaluations and reviews of evaluation scopes of work, that will form the basis of a Best Practices Guide to information requirements at each phase of program implementation and recommendations for choosing any given information tool or methodology.

3.2.2. Assess the use of the positive deviance approach in the design and implementation of infant and child feeding interventions

- Carried out an assessment of the technical needs for adapting positive deviance approaches to Title II development programs. Given the wide range of groups dealing with technical areas of the approach, a discussion will be organized for USAID on what is known about the approach and its adaptation to different program settings. The brown

bag, which will be based on a summary of ongoing and proposed studies, will guide the project in determining future directions in supporting the wider application of the positive deviance approach by the Title II community.

3.2.3. Assess the use of food rations in Maternal and Child Health and Nutrition (MCHN) Programs

- During Project year 1, a series of activities were undertaken in order to develop a common set of best practices to guide the use of food rations in MCHN programs. With Tufts University, the process included a workshop held with 50 participants from USAID/La Paz, USAID/Lima, FAM and the Title II Cooperating Sponsors in Bolivia and Peru. Workshop participants discussed a review of global experiences as well as current practices in Bolivia and Peru. A draft guide was produced in Spanish and English, which provides a logical framework for selection of communities, families and individuals, ration size and composition, and graduation criteria, based on the primary purpose of the food in support of MCHN program objectives. The final recommendations of the workshop were incorporated into the PAAs for Bolivia.
- A draft of the guide on improving the use of food rations in Title II Maternal/Child Health and Nutrition Programs has been prepared. A final version will be completed in project year 2 and disseminated for comments and suggestions to a wider audience of USAID, PVOs, Universities, and other related organizations (e.g. PAHO) and projects (e.g. BASICS, LINKAGES.)

3.3. Improve agriculture - consumption linkages

- A review was prepared that examined existing knowledge on agriculture - consumption linkages. It was based on documentation of agriculture programs and reports from on-going activities. The review identified the design and program characteristics of activities in agricultural research, agricultural policy, productivity improvement, and food marketing systems that maximize positive nutrition or consumption impact and/or minimize negative impact. This document will improve the Africa Bureau's Office of Sustainable Development's (AFR/SD) options for programs and policies to improve the impact of agriculture on nutrition. The information is a critical input to AFR/SD's capacity to meet its targets under their Strategic Objective of "Improving Agricultural Policies, Programs and Strategies", particularly as it relates to its sub-intermediate result 3.3.1., "*improving our understanding of agricultural policies and programs that have the potential to impact on nutrition*". In addition, the report will be shared with USAID program officers in the Africa Missions and special initiatives such as GHAI, Africa Food Security Initiative, to improve complementary programming.

3.4. Assess cost-effectiveness of Title II interventions

In the workplan, a review of current knowledge and experience in assessing the costs and benefits of alternative Title II program approaches was proposed. Several stakeholders expressed concerns about using resources for this research. Stakeholders believed a great deal of

information was available on cost-effectiveness methods; and that a continued focus on strengthening PVO capacity to manage by results should be the priority. Based on this view, the project did not pursue activities in cost-effectiveness assessment methods in the first year.

3.5. Conduct field research on approaches for improving adolescent nutrition

- The Tufts University School of Nutrition Science and Policy, is currently involved in adolescent nutrition research activities in Bangladesh. Tufts prepared a concept paper proposing to expand current work to address specific programmatic issues relating to the provision of nutrition advice and services to adolescent girls and newly married women. Their proposal will try to reach young women not part of the formal education or health delivery system prior to their first pregnancy as well as using behavior change approaches on a major influence on their young lives, the mother-in-law. The concept paper is being reviewed by USAID/Dhaka.

3.6. The role for food aid in strengthening household and community coping mechanisms to HIV AIDS

The AIDS epidemic in sub-Saharan Africa poses numerous challenges for governments, PVOs, communities and households. Appropriately, given the nature of the disease, most attention is directed toward prevention and identifying effective treatments. However, although the development of supportive and complementary interventions remains a theoretical possibility, there does not appear to be a body of experience or analysis to guide policy and program decisions on the appropriate role, if any, for food aid in strengthening household and community coping mechanisms. In light of the fact that well-intentioned efforts to administer food aid (e.g., under general relief might actually do more harm than good in some circumstances, the development of such guidance is of some importance.

Cornell University undertook a series of activities designed to assist in developing such guidance. These activities included: consultations with the U.S. government, PVO and development agencies to ascertain their views regarding the potential roles of food aid in mitigating the social, economic and nutritional impacts of HIV-related morbidity and mortality in sub-Saharan Africa; and a review of experiences with field-based programs or projects bearing on these issues to document experiences, pitfalls and program design options. The Cornell University report identifies critical issues for operations research and program evaluation; and outlines policy options for consideration by policy-makers. Information from the report will be used by BHR/FFP in developing guidance on the use of Title II resources in support of HIV/AIDS programming.

3.7. Estimating changes in child mortality from changes in child malnutrition

Enhancing child survival has long been a major health and development goal in developing countries and this focus appears to have intensified in recent years, in part due to the current emphasis on performance-based management and evaluation strategies. Indicators of the

nutritional status of populations are of interest in this regard for two reasons: (1) there is now broad recognition of the powerful impact that malnutrition can have on child mortality as a result of its potentiating effects on infectious disease, with roughly half of all child deaths being attributable to this effect; and (2) information on changes in population nutritional status may be more readily available and available at more frequent intervals than demographic indicators. The availability of nutritional indicators makes it possible to evaluate the extent of nutritional improvement in the population and the link to improvements in mortality. This has stimulated interest in using nutritional status data to estimate the corresponding changes in child mortality in specific populations indirectly.

As part of its subcontract, Cornell University is undertaking a study to develop and validate alternative methods for estimating changes in child mortality from changes in child malnutrition. Cornell will produce a report estimating changes based on longitudinal country-level data from DHS Africa countries.

3.8. Training

- Materials were developed for a Sampling for Mangers workshop, organized by FAM. Support for training staff at the workshop was also provided by the project. Participants from 10 Title II PVOs spent three days acquiring sampling basics in order to improve their monitoring and evaluation efforts. Feedback from participants included the following: *"I just wanted to let you know that the FAM workshop on sampling was excellent. The information provided will assist me greatly in developing support materials for Save the Children."* The workshop materials have been posted on the FAM website. At least one PVO (Technoserve) has already used the workshop materials to include a sample module in one of their field-based workshops.
- FANTA staff were invited by Cooperating Sponsors to present sessions at a number of venues. The topics and venues of FANTA training sessions included:
 - Anthropometry uses in Title II program evaluations for PVOs – workshop on nutritional assessment of children - Save the Children
 - Overview of FANTA Project and the technical assistance available for the Title II country programs and Framework of M&E in Title II Development Program Planning and Implementation - 2nd Annual Food Directors meeting - ADRA
 - FFP technical standards for review of Emergency Proposals, DAPs, Results Reports, PAAs and Performance Reporting - Workshop for headquarters and field staff - World Vision
- Other training venues where FANTA staff provided input included:
 - A seminar on use of anthropometry in evaluation of World Bank Health, Nutrition, and Population Programs - World Bank
 - A guest lecture on dietary data collection methods - Tufts University School of Nutrition Science and Policy.
 - A guest lecture on nutritional aspects of food aid - Johns Hopkins University International Nutrition Program.

3.9. Information/Communications strategy

A communications strategy was developed for the project that recognizes the role of the project as a focal point for information on food security and nutrition for USAID, partners and stakeholders.

The strategy has a number of goals: to expand the knowledge base; foster policy dialogue; build linkages and increase awareness of food security and nutrition issues. The strategy layers and links project information so that it is tiered and appropriate for the varied audiences the project is targeting.

A set of standardized projects has been developed. These will help strengthen project identity and build an audience for FANTA information. A new logo and designs for print and electronic products were developed and are being rolled out. All FANTA products are available electronically and summaries of key reports and policy documents will also be available in Spanish and French. The project website is the main portal for project information on food security and USAID nutrition activities. It has been redesigned so information is more accessible and to expand the information on related food security and nutrition topics.

IV. FANTA RESULTS REPORTING

During Project year 1, baselines were established for some proposed performance indicators. However, FANTA staff realized that a collaborative revisiting of the indicators was necessary due to proposed changes in the BHR/FFP performance reporting (on which many of the indicators are based.) A performance reporting M&E specialist was hired who is currently reviewing the performance reporting plan, and will be consulting with FFP and our PVO stakeholders to revise and finalize the performance monitoring plan during Project Year 2.