

SARA II QUARTERLY PROGRESS REPORT

October 1 – December 31, 2000

This report covers the first quarter of FY 2001, namely, the period October 1 – December 31, 2000. It follows the SARA FY 01 work plan for the period October 1, 2000 – September 30, 2001.

SARA II is a service project. As such, it is responsive to the Africa region's needs, and USAID and REDSO requests channeled through AFR/SD/HRD, so additional activities may gain priority from time to time as discussed in the Work Plan.

Also, activities under SO 21, HIV/AIDS, are in draft until after January 18, 2001. So there may be changes in these activities in future quarterly reports.

Activities as found in the work plan are listed in bold.

SO 18: Adopt policies and strategies for increased sustainability, efficiency and equity of basic education services

1. Assist the AFR/SD SO 18 team:

- **Participate in SO 18 core team meetings;**
- **Assist in the implementation of the analytic agenda**
- **Assist team in R4 reviews and R4 wrap up;**
- **Assist team with dissemination and advocacy strategies**

Expected Outputs:

- Weekly team meetings attended
- 2 analytic agenda items vetted and implementation begun
- Countries R4 reviews reviewed
- R4 wrap up developed, formatted
- Dissemination and advocacy strategies plan for each activity

Progress toward outputs, problems encountered, proposed solutions:

Dr. Yolande Miller-Grandvaux, the SARA Basic Education Advisor attended weekly education teams meetings. As part of the Analytic Agenda, a Lessons learned project on the role of NGOs in basic education was designed and implementation prepared: co-funding was obtained from the American Institute for Research, a consultant hired and a first advisory board meeting planned for January 2001.

The SARA Basic Education Advisor attended the SD/ED retreat, during which the strategic framework was revised and a revision process started.

The impact assessment folder entitled “Investments in Education: USAID Africa Bureau’s Office of Sustainable Development: 1992-99” containing 12 assessment briefs was produced and disseminated.

The SARA Basic Education Advisor assisted in the implementation of SD/Ed school feeding workshop in October 2000.

2. Support ERNWACA in the areas of:

Research:

- **Finalize translations of transnational research and produce synthesis of findings**
- **Publish transnational research: Ghana, Cote d'Ivoire, Mali, Togo, Cameroon, Benin, The Gambia;**
- **Support participation of 2 ERNWACA researchers at the HIV/AIDS and education conference in Ghana**

Advocacy and dissemination:

- **Disseminate transnational reports;**
- **Present and disseminate transnational research findings**

Leadership:

- **Recruit and support regional ERNWACA coordinator;**
- **Develop fundraising capacity for leadership, advocacy and research**

- **Assist in establishing scientific committee;**
- **Assist in establishing board of directors.**

Expected Outputs:

- Syntheses and reports edited and translated
- Research studies produced and disseminated
- Findings presented at conference and made available to policy-makers and researchers
- Information disseminated to ed. networks and universities
- Coordinator recruited
- Funds raised by chapters
- Additional donors mobilized
- Scientific committee in place
- Bd. Of Directors in place

Progress toward outputs, problems encountered, proposed solutions:

The national research studies were all translated and edited and a synthesis of reports, produced jointly by ERNWACA and a SARA consultant, is in its final stage.

The recruitment process for the new regional coordinator was started in December 2000 and will close in mid-January 2001. Co-funding of the position was discussed with IDRC and obtained. The vacancy was posted in national newspapers in West Africa. Over one hundred applications were reviewed and a short list developed. Until the regional coordinator position is filled, institutional development activities such as fund raising and board of directors and scientific committee formation cannot be conducted.

Following the advocacy training for anglophone chapters, specifically, the ERNWACA Ghana chapter, the University of Cape Coast designed and taught a graduate studies module on Research Methodology Advocacy for education for 74 graduate students.

3. Support ADEA working group:

- **Participate in ADEA teacher working group meetings.**

Expected Outputs:

- Report on proceedings

Progress toward outputs, problems encountered, proposed solutions:

No activity this period.

4. Promote knowledge and guidance of priority issues in research and analysis and professional settings:

- **Participate in CIES, NGO conferences, etc.**
- **Support presentation of papers by African researchers, esp. findings of transnational studies at CIES and other venues**

Expected Outputs:

- Contacts established

Progress toward outputs, problems encountered, proposed solutions:

Proposal for a panel at the 2001 Comparative International Education Society conference on community schools was drafted and accepted by the CIES board.

Contacts were made and technical support given to several ERNWACA researchers to participate in the HIV/AIDS conference in Ghana. The conference was postponed to March 2001

5. Provide knowledge and guidance on role and responsibilities of NGOs in education as part of the SD/Ed Analytic Agenda

- **Conduct research in selected countries on the new NGO role in basic education**
- **Disseminate to missions, policy-makers, NGOs**
- **Prepare for consultative meeting and participation in other discussion fora.**

Expected Outputs:

- Research/issue identification papers and customized packages produced
- Findings disseminated

Progress toward outputs, problems encountered, proposed solutions:

The proposal was finalized and vetted by the SD/Ed team. Approval was then obtained from USAID missions in Mali, Ethiopia and Guinea to conduct the research. An advisory board was formed and a first meeting held. A RTI consultant was recruited to work in Mali and Guinea. Co-funding was obtained from the American Institute for Research.

6. Strengthen networks' organizational capacity in advocacy, fund raising and proposal development

Expected Outputs:

- FAWE, ERNESA and ERNWACA trained
- 2 or 3 countries model advocacy and fundraising activities
- 2 or 3 countries apply for grants

Progress toward outputs, problems encountered, proposed solutions:

This activity depends on the recruitment of a regional coordinator under a SARA subcontract. This is in progress and will move forward during the next quarter.

7. Provide knowledge and guidance on mitigation of teacher management issues (absenteeism, attrition, etc.) due to HIV/AIDS, as part of the analytic agenda

Expected Outputs:

- Synthesis of information, data and practices
- Dissemination plan produced
- Findings disseminated

Progress toward outputs, problems encountered, proposed solutions:

A first meeting held on the proposed issue. The decision was made to await the arrival of the new AFR/SD/ED HIV/AIDS team member.

8. Gather resources and knowledge on youth and workforce development

- **Contact and visit workforce development agencies**
- **Collect information**

Expected Outputs:

- Meetings convened
- Briefs/memos on workforce development findings related to basic education and SD objectives as appropriate

Progress toward outputs, problems encountered, proposed solutions:

This component will probably be assigned to a new AFR/SD/ED team member, as per the team retreat of December 2000 –January 2001.

9. Assist AFR/SD in providing backstopping to Mali USAID mission:

- **Follow-up education policy agenda;**
- **Provide TA when needed;**
- **Monitor activities and assist in developing strategies on a regular basis.**

Expected Outputs:

- Education policy strategy updated and monitored
- TA provided.

Progress toward outputs, problems encountered, proposed solutions:

The SARA Basic Education Advisor participated in the finalization of the Education Sector Investment Program at the World Bank with other donors and representatives of the Ministry of Education in Mali in October 2000. She also identified specific education policy issues for consideration and acted as liaison with the USAID mission in Bamako. Additionally, she supported the World Bank-USAID partnership for universal primary education in Mali, and provided on-going support to mission programs.

10. Assist AFR/SD in providing backstopping to Benin USAID mission:

- **Assist in development of education portfolio;**
- **Provide TA when needed;**
- **Monitor activities on a regular basis.**

Expected Outputs:

- Education portfolio updated and monitored

Progress toward outputs, problems encountered, proposed solutions:

During a TDY to Benin with 2 other SD/ED team members, the SARA Basic Education Advisor collected information on the progress of the education program in Benin. She developed 2 scopes of work on the review of textbooks and communication strategies, as well as the evaluation of the pedagogical component of the reform. Regular contact is maintained with the mission and meetings are held on specific issues as they arise.

11. Explore development of relationships with other African networks for the promotion of SD priority issues

Expected Outputs:

- Visits to, contacts with ERNESA, FAWE, BOLESWA, OSSREA, completed or established

Progress toward outputs, problems encountered, proposed solutions:

Contact was established with UEPA to facilitate their participation in an EMIS workshop in Mali in 2001. No other contacts have been established yet. Discussions will be held on this issue with the new AFR/SD/ED team leader and when the new strategic framework is finalized.

12. Disseminate knowledge and guidance on policies and practices:

- **Develop and present papers at international education conferences: CIES, etc.**
- **Attend professional conferences and workshops**

Expected Outputs:

- Papers accepted and presented
- Information packets shared

Progress toward outputs, problems encountered, proposed solutions:

A proposal for a panel at the 2001 Comparative International Education Society conference on community schools was drafted and accepted by the CIES board.

The SARA Basic Education Advisor attended a conference on alternative routes to education in Ethiopia in November 2000. A Paper on community schools in Mali was presented. The conference was crucial to the development of the NGO and education study, as well as for the reframing of the strategic framework.

SO 19: Adoption of policies and strategies for increased sustainability, quality, efficiency and equity of health services

Technical Area: Household and Community Approaches to Child Health

1. Dissemination and use of JHU description of qualitative research manuals (French version)

Expected Outputs:

- Manual used by research institutions / projects / individuals in Franco-phone Africa

Progress toward outputs, problems encountered, proposed solutions:

Work is still in progress. Printing is planned for the 3rd quarter.

2. Assistance to CERPOD and LSHTM for development of qualitative research capacity building in W. Africa, and sustainability

Expected Outputs:

- Technical assistance provided

Progress toward outputs, problems encountered, proposed solutions:

The CERPOD subcontract, which includes support for qualitative research in conjunction with LSHTM, is being finalized. Suzanne Prysor-Jones, SARA Project Director, has talked to Sylvia Meek of the Malaria Consortium about their possible interest in this initiative, but possibilities for co-funding have not yet been clearly identified.

3. Facilitate the design and implementation of consultant training for household/community IMCI

Expected Outputs:

- TA for module development / revision
- Support for facilitation and / or participation in orientation meeting

Progress toward outputs, problems encountered, proposed solutions:

Dr. Prysor-Jones participated in furthering the development of the consultant training package with WHO AFRO and BASICS. This included a trip to Harare (December-January), where an advisory group (BASICS regional office, WHO Geneva, WHO/AFRO and SARA) and BASICS/AFRO consultant Dr. Onanga Bongwele worked for a week to redesign the package and developed the course outline based on country processes for defining community child health strategies. WHO/AFRO will hire Dr. Bongwele to work at AFRO in Harare for about 2 weeks in April 2001, hopefully with UNICEF consultant Dan Kasege to finalize the briefing package. AFRO is planning to organize test trainings in Anglophone Africa in May and Francophone Africa in June 2001.

4. Promote coordination between IMCI and Malaria (see malaria work plan)

Expected Outputs:

- Participation in key meetings
- Linkages established

Progress toward outputs, problems encountered, proposed solutions:

Just prior to joining SARA, Dr. Youssef Tawfik, SARA Senior Child Survival Advisor, participated in a joint IMCI/RBM meeting in Harare (September 2000), and a regional meeting for community IMCI, including malaria, in Uganda. He is planning to attend a community IMCI-malaria meeting organized by WHO in Uganda in January 2001.

5. Follow up with CHANGE on behavior change for household and community programs

Expected Outputs:

- SARA input into CHANGE research and dissemination

Progress toward outputs, problems encountered, proposed solutions:

No activity this period.

6. Facilitate improvements in IEC/community approach training in West Africa

Expected Outputs:

- African institutions curriculum (IRSP, Public Health Schools, etc.) improved

Progress toward outputs, problems encountered, proposed solutions:

No activity this period.

7. Promote appropriate costing of household and community programs

Expected Outputs:

- Existing tools tested and used in Africa

Progress toward outputs, problems encountered, proposed solutions:

No activity this period.

8. Identify and promote effective strategies to improve access of community to essential drugs.

Expected Outputs:

- Strategy developed with RPM, BASICS and WHO/Afro.

Progress toward outputs, problems encountered, proposed solutions:

Initial discussions held with BASICS and RPM, which resulted in a draft brief proposed strategy to improve access and use of essential drugs at community level. This will be discussed with Hope Sukin of AFR/SD/HRD next quarter.

9. Conduct literature review and analysis on health care seeking for sick children in Africa.

Expected Outputs:

- Paper on health care seeking behavior for childhood diarrhea, ARI & malaria developed

Progress toward outputs, problems encountered, proposed solutions:

Rebecca Phenix, SARA Publications Associate, culled PHS data on information on care seeking behavior in Africa. The results of this review were prepared for Hope Sukin. It was background for her participation in the WHO/AFRO Harare meeting on scaling up of IMCI in Africa. Findings were also included in the draft paper, "Utilizing the Potential of Informal and Formal Private Practitioners in Child Survival" being prepared by Dr. Youssef Tawfik.

10. Participate in IAWG on household and community IMCI

Expected Outputs:

- AFR/SD priorities promoted
- AFR/SD feedback provided on issues

Progress toward outputs, problems encountered, proposed solutions:

Dr. Suzanne Pryor-Jones is playing an active role in the IAWG, and will participate in the next meeting in NY (February, 2001). She also participated in the IAWG meeting that took place in Durban on the Saturday following the community child health meeting organized by UNICEF in November.

11. Support advocacy strategies on community programs, e.g., Community Child Health Secretariat Development.

Expected Outputs:

- Technical assistance as required.

Progress toward outputs, problems encountered, proposed solutions:

Dr. Suzanne Prysor-Jones attended the UNICEF meeting on community child health in Durban. SARA documents were on display and several were widely requested.

12. Participate in WHO/AFRO, UNICEF, and/or BASICS meetings in Africa on household and community IMCI

Expected Outputs:

- Trip reports submitted
- AFR/SD priorities promoted
- AFR/SD feedback provided on issues

Progress toward outputs, problems encountered, proposed solutions:

Dr. Youssef Tawfik participated in the regional meeting on community IMCI, held in Uganda, December 2000. The meeting included 10 African countries. The meeting helped participating countries define community IMCI and define strategies for its implementation.

13. Assist AFR/SD with issues identification, portfolio management, and evaluation

Expected Outputs:

- Core Group meetings organized
- M & E system functioning
- Technical Areas updated

Progress toward outputs, problems encountered, proposed solutions:

SARA started drafting a paper describing AFR/SD intended goals for 1997 – 2000, achievements and issues for future consideration. This will facilitate discussion leading to developing AFR/SD vision and strategies for child health for 2001 – 2005.

SO 19: Adoption of policies and strategies for increased sustainability, quality, efficiency and equity of health services

Technical Area: Provider Performance

1. Facilitate the dissemination and use of QI tools and methods for child health in Africa:

- COPE for child health and other
- QA for IMCI

Expected Outputs:

- Evaluation results reviewed and strategies for scaling up developed in coordination with AFRO UNICEF, BASICS, REDSO
- Strategies developed in coordination with URC, BASICS, AFRO, REDSO

Progress toward outputs, problems encountered, proposed solutions:

SARA convened a meeting this quarter to discuss progress to date and next steps with COPE, QA, AFR/SD and BASICS on scaling up these initiatives in Africa.

2. Document and disseminate synergy between QA & IMCI

Expected Outputs:

- Revision of existing paper summarizing synergy developed in a selected country (Niger) with URC & BASICS.

Progress toward outputs, problems encountered, proposed solutions:

During this period, SARA strengthened its collaboration with QAP. Dr. Youssef Tawfik visited QAP and identified interventions and tools of regional interest in Africa, e.g., a CD ROM training tool for TB, interventions to improve drug sellers treatment of Malaria in Kenya. In addition, SARA, QAP and BASICS jointly submitted an article to the WHO bulletin on Niger's experience in utilizing quality assurance measures to facilitate the implementation of IMCI.

3. Participate in WHO meetings on IMCI components 1 and 2

Expected Outputs:

- Trip reports submitted
- AFR/SD priorities promoted
- AFR/SD feedback provided on AFRO issues

Progress toward outputs, problems encountered, proposed solutions:

Dr. Prysor-Jones participated in the consultative meeting convened in Harare by WHO/AFRO to discuss the scaling up of IMCI in the Africa region.

4. Facilitate the development of a strategy to scale up IMCI, e.g., through the private sector

Expected Outputs:

- Strategies developed in coordination with BASICS, AFRO, CORE to track bilateral activities, test alternative training methodologies and promote resource mobilization
- Experience on IMCI expansion in Latin America and Africa summarized and synthesized. In collaboration with BASICS.

Progress toward outputs, problems encountered, proposed solutions:

SARA has identified promising innovative interventions, particularly in Uganda and Madagascar, to accelerate the scaling up of IMCI. SARA is considering helping in documenting and disseminating these interventions.

5. Maximize the potential of private practitioners in child survival:

5.a. Conduct analysis of strategies to improve private practitioners practices in child survival

5.b. Review & document current programs attempting to improve private practitioners practices in child survival

Expected Outputs:

- Paper developed summarizing effective strategies to improve private practitioners practices in child survival
- Current programs to improve PP practices for management of child sickness reviewed, documented & disseminated in selected countries (e.g., Ghana, Uganda, Nigeria)

Progress toward outputs, problems encountered, proposed solutions:

Draft paper developed on, “Utilizing the Potential of Formal and Informal Private Practitioners in Child Survival – Situation Analysis and Summary of Promising Interventions”. The paper has been sent to external reviewers. It should contribute to providing evidence to promote the inclusion of private practitioners in child survival programs and give evidence in favor of effective strategies to increase private practitioners’ effectiveness in case management of childhood illness.

6. Facilitate the focusing of BASICS W. Africa attention on AFR/SD priorities, including:

- pre-service training
- improved in-service training
- supply systems
- problem-solving / supervision

Expected Outputs:

- Participation in BASICS meetings
- Strategies developed and feedback to AFR/SD on issues received

Progress toward outputs, problems encountered, proposed solutions:

Collaboration with the BASICS West Africa Regional Office continued. A list of common agenda items has been developed, including pre-service training, improved in-service training, drug supply system and problem solving. Discussions have taken place with Dr. Colette Geslin on strategies for including quality improvement methods in the IMCI follow-up visits after the 11-day training.

7. Assist AFR/SD with issues identification, portfolio management, and evaluation, including a review of USAID strategies and investments for child survival

Expected Outputs:

- Core Group meetings organized
- M & E system functioning
- Technical Areas updated
- Review document produced

Progress toward outputs, problems encountered, proposed solutions:

SARA started drafting a paper describing AFR/SD intended goals for 1997 – 2000, achievements and issues for future consideration. This will facilitate discussion leading to developing AFR/SD vision and strategies for child health for 2001 – 2005.

SO 19 : Adoption of policies and strategies for increased sustainability, quality, efficiency and equity of health services.

Technical Area: Malaria RP

1. M&E of the Joint WHO/AFRO and USAID support for malaria control programs in Africa

Expected Outputs:

- TA provided by SARA staff and consultant

Progress toward outputs, problems encountered, proposed solutions:

No activity this period.

2. Production and dissemination of AFR/SD strategic framework for research, analysis and dissemination on malaria

Expected Outputs:

- Strategic framework produced and disseminated

Progress toward outputs, problems encountered, proposed solutions:

No activity this period.

3. Support for initiatives on the prevention of malaria in pregnancy in Africa

Expected Outputs:

- Working group meetings held
- Advocacy briefs developed

Progress toward outputs, problems encountered, proposed solutions:

Renuka Bery, SARA Dissemination & Advocacy Manager, attended a malaria and pregnancy network meeting to finalize the malaria and pregnancy advocacy brochure and discuss its dissemination. The brochure has undergone many iterations, but most of the people at network meetings feel that this will be an important document to share with reproductive and maternal health program managers to get the issue of malaria and pregnancy on the agenda and addressed. Caroline Blair, SARA Reproductive Health Advisor, and Dr. Duale Sambe, SARA Senior Research Manager, attended some of the meetings.

4. Joint planning and coordination of activities on priority areas such as IMCI, Malaria, IDS with other USAID projects and partners (e.g., BASICS, NetMark, CORE, UNICEF, CDC, WHO/AFRO, etc.)

Expected Outputs:

- SARA staff & consultant involved in meetings, including IMCI/Malaria Task forces, and electronic exchanges with partners

Progress toward outputs, problems encountered, proposed solutions:

Dr. Youssef Tawfik participated in two joint meetings with partners, one in Harare, September 2000 (prior to his arrival at SARA), to achieve better collaboration between IMCI and Roll Back Malaria, and one in Uganda (December 2000), to review progress in IMCI implementation and plan for accelerating IMCI expansion, especially community IMCI.

5. Support for the RBM Global partners' meeting jointly sponsored by USAID and World Bank

Expected Outputs:

- Technical and logistic support provided

Progress toward outputs, problems encountered, proposed solutions:

The preliminary agenda of the meeting was discussed during one of the ID Core Team meeting. AFR/SD is waiting for the new head of the RBM to provide additional information before deciding on support needed from SARA.

6. Consultative meeting on building capacity for vector control interventions for disease ,especially malaria, prevention in Africa

Expected Outputs:

- Working group meeting organized
- Action plan developed and implemented, including plan for resource mobilization

Progress toward outputs, problems encountered, proposed solutions:

Dr. Duale Sambe has had preliminary discussions on the proposed consultative meeting with Dr. Gene Brantley of Environmental Health Project, Dr. John Bieir of the Tulane University School of Public Health and Tropical Medicine, and Mr. John Githure of ICIPE in Nairobi. SARA and EHP are trying to coordinate this proposed activity with the WHO/AFRO initiative on strengthening vector control interventions in Africa.

SO 19 : Adoption of policies and strategies for increased sustainability, quality, efficiency and equity of health services.

Technical Area: Infectious Diseases

1. Technical support for the management of the AFR/SD Technical Area for infectious diseases

Expected Outputs:

- Core team meetings held
- Portfolio reviews organized
- Peer reviews organized and expert advice provided

Progress toward outputs, problems encountered, proposed solutions:

Dr. Duale Sambe, Dr. Youssef Tawfik, Renuka Bery &/or Antonia Wolff, SARA Dissemination Specialist, attended AFR/SD ID Core Team meetings at least once a month.

2. M&E of the joint WHO/AFRO and USAID support for integrated disease surveillance systems in Africa

Expected Outputs:

- Technical assistance from SARA staff and consultant, including participation in USAID meetings with CDC and WHO on IDS

Progress toward outputs, problems encountered, proposed solutions:

Dr. Duale Sambe participated in conference calls and electronic exchanges to discuss the implementation of the IDS program with the joint support of USAID and CDC to WHO/AFRO.

3. Pilot study of women access to TB control services in Africa

Expected Outputs:

- Study protocol and tools developed,
- Expert review meeting organized;
- Pilot study conducted in Tanzania;
- Dissemination workshop organized

Progress toward outputs, problems encountered, proposed solutions:

In consultation with Dr. Cornelia Davis of AFR/SD/HRD, Dr. Nyarko of WHO/AFRO and Dr. Egwaga of the Tanzanian National Tuberculosis Programme, SARA has initiated the process of enlisting the services of Dr. Justin Nguma of HealthScope to lead this pilot study. Discussions are also underway with CEDHA of Tanzania to host a group of experts to discuss the protocol and tools for a pilot study of factors affecting women access to TB diagnosis and treatment services.

4. Production and dissemination of TB advocacy briefs and other documents requested by AFR/SD

Expected Outputs:

- Review Materials developed, produced & disseminated

Progress toward outputs, problems encountered, proposed solutions:

Dr. Duale Sambe has collected from WHO/TDR and other sources a number of publications addressing gender and TB. The materials will be provided to the expert working group as background documents to guide the development of the pilot study.

5. Organize information sharing, including study tours, on the implementation of Community TB Care and Integrated Disease Surveillance (IDS) in African settings

Expected Outputs:

- Site visits, meetings and other information sharing activities planned and organized

Progress toward outputs, problems encountered, proposed solutions:

No activity this period.

SO 19: Adoption of policies and strategies for increased sustainability, quality, efficiency and equity of health services

Technical Area: Nutrition

1. Assist AFR/SD SO 19 team in managing the Nutrition Technical Area.

Expected Outputs:

- Core team meetings held
- SO 19 portfolio reviews conducted
- Performance monitoring plan drafted
- Peer reviews organized
- Expert advice provided

Progress toward outputs, problems encountered, proposed solutions:

No core group meetings or portfolio reviews were held during this quarter.

During this quarter, SARA produced the final draft of the Framework for the Prevention of MTCT of HIV in Africa. This finalization followed external review by USAID missions, the Global Bureau and Africa Bureau staff.

The only constraint experienced at this time was lack of feedback from USAID missions on the MTCT framework (only two missions responded).

SARA/SANA nutritionist Dorcas Lwanga joined the Nutrition Team in December 2000.

2. Provide technical support to AFR Core Groups, G-PHN, and CA partners (e.g., MACRO, BASICS, LINKAGES, MOST) on nutrition issues in Africa

Expected Outputs:

- Meetings attended
- Expert advice/input provided

Progress toward outputs, problems encountered, proposed solutions:

SARA provided technical assistance to G-PHN to prepare a Report to Congress on MTCT. This report is still under review and will be finalized in February 2001.

SARA met with FANTA and LINKAGES to discuss cooperation on activities related to PROFILES and HIV/AIDS and nutrition in Africa. SARA also provided technical input to a document prepared by FANTA (SARA and other NGOs) on guidelines for nutritional care and support for people living with HIV and AIDS.

SARA met with BASICS to discuss priority activities in West Africa and the common agenda for nutrition. A constraint to implementing this agenda exists within BASICS, which is currently scrutinizing its activities and may fail to support some of the planned activities. We have no proposed solutions to date.

3. Provide technical support to African partner institutions for strategy development and planning related to nutrition policy/programming.

Expected Outputs:

- Meetings attended
- Expert advice/input provided

Progress toward outputs, problems encountered, proposed solutions:

The SOW for collaboration with CRHCS on nutrition and other activities was finalized this quarter. The SOW was presented to USAID/REDSO by Dr. Stephen Kinoti, SARA HIV/AIDS Advisor, and approved. A CTO letter was presented to USAID for signature.

SARA staff also met with Andre Ouedraogo, Nutrition Advisor for WHO/AFRO. As a result of the meeting, WHO/AFRO has prepared a memorandum outlining areas for future collaboration in nutrition. It is not clear how this memo will be put into operation. The solution is to hold further discussions with WHO/AFRO to better define roles and responsibilities.

SANA regional advisor Kinday Samba Ndure met with Dr. Kabba Joyner, director of WAHO, to discuss the nutrition focal points network and mechanisms for regional support for nutrition in the future. Dr. Joyner reiterated WAHO support for nutrition and the focal point network.

4. Strengthen African partners' capacity for:

- **nutrition policy analysis and advocacy**
- **information dissemination and sharing of better practices and lessons learned in nutrition**

Expected Outputs:

- Technical support provided
- Regional training organized
- Country advocacy strategies implemented
- Support provided for documentation of better practices
- Information shared during regional meetings (e.g., nutrition focal points)

Progress toward outputs, problems encountered, proposed solutions:

No activities this period.

5. Review advocacy experience and future directions in Africa.

- **Develop materials to facilitate and support nutrition advocacy activities (including West Africa Nutrition Briefs)**

Expected Outputs:

- English nutrition briefs updated and French/West Africa version developed
- Lesson learned paper written to tell story of PROFILES/Advocacy in Africa.
 - Special bulletin or packet produced
 - Small document prepared.

Progress toward outputs, problems encountered, proposed solutions:

SARA Nutrition Advisor Dr. Ellen Piwoz and Kinday Samba Ndure met with LINKAGES PROFILES coordinator Victor Aguayo to discuss plans for a joint assessment of the impact of PROFILES and nutrition advocacy in Africa. A protocol for this assessment was developed in December 2000 and discussed and revised in January 2001. Ms. Ndure initiated the pretesting of the question guide with key informants from Ghana.

6. Actively disseminate and ensure the use of existing nutrition tools, training packages, and related materials in pre-service and in-service training opportunities and NGO networks in Africa.

Expected Outputs:

- Materials disseminated at relevant meetings, workshops and conferences
- Meetings organized / attended to discuss the content / use of available tools

Progress toward outputs, problems encountered, proposed solutions:

No activities this period.

7. Technical assistance on MTCT, infant feeding options, and nutrition provided to African partners and HIV/AIDS programs

- **West Africa workshop on MTCT and HIV and infant feeding**

Expected Outputs:

- Technical support, expert advice provided
- Papers produced/published on findings.
- Regional training workshop with technical update and dissemination of tools

Progress toward outputs, problems encountered, proposed solutions:

Dr. Ellen Piwoz provided technical assistance to ZVITAMBO to analyze findings from the survey of the impact of education and counseling on mothers' knowledge of MTCT and infant feeding issues. Data from a survey of 1995 mothers were analyzed and a draft paper summarizing the results was prepared. This paper will be finalized and submitted for publication in early 2001.

Dr. Piwoz and UWC partner Mickey Chopra submitted a paper on the findings of the formative research study of HIV and infant feeding in Khayelithsa, SA, to the South African Medical Journal.

Dr. Piwoz participated in two technical consultations this quarter on HIV and infant feeding. The first was a meeting organized by UNICEF/ESA Region to discuss experience counseling women about HIV and infant feeding, and constraints to scaling up programs in the region. Dr. Piwoz made a presentation on the challenges of early breastfeeding cessation and its potential impacts on infants and HIV+ mothers. The second meeting was an inter-agency working group meeting on MTCT organized by WHO/Geneva. Dr. Piwoz participated in the sessions related to infant feeding knowledge and research, and she assisted with the editing of final recommendations. The final report from that meeting was released in January 2001.

Dr. Piwoz gave a presentation on HIV and nutrition at the sub-regional workshop on fortification at the hammer-mill level, organized by CARE, the Ministry of Health and Social Welfare, and the Micronutrient Initiative, in Harare (November). Participants at the workshop came from throughout the region.

8. Field-test, finalize tools for:

- **Monitoring and evaluating infant feeding practices in the context of MTCT research and programs**
- **Designing programs on nutrition and HIV/AIDS**

Expected Outputs:

- Feedback from field test sites obtained
- Tool revised and finalized

Progress toward outputs, problems encountered, proposed solutions:

The tool for M&E infant feeding practices is currently being field tested in an activity coordinated by WHO with funding from the Dutch government. No problems encountered to date. Progress was initially slow because it took time to secure the necessary approvals from WHO and local institutional review boards for this research. A meeting will be held in March 2001 to discuss results of the field testing.

9. Develop tool and summary paper(s) on MTCT formative research methodology and findings

- **Conduct advocacy related to this approach to MTCT strategy selection and program design.**

Expected Outputs:

- Lessons learned extracted
- Existing research instruments and experiences reviewed
- Tool and advocacy papers drafted, reviewed, finalized, disseminated
- Presentations on methodology/impact given.

Progress toward outputs, problems encountered, proposed solutions:

No activity this period.

10. Finalize, translate and disseminate issues papers on:

- a) **HIV and nutrition**
- b) **HIV and early weaning**
- c) **MTCT strategy**
- d) **Report to Congress on MTCT**

Expected Outputs:

- Issues papers finalized, translated, and disseminated

Progress toward outputs, problems encountered, proposed solutions:

- a) The HIV and nutrition paper was finalized, printed and distributed this quarter. It is currently being translated into French.
- b) The HIV and early weaning paper was reviewed and revised this quarter. A final version will be available in early 2001.
- c) The MTCT strategy was revised this quarter and is available for distribution as a draft USAID document. SARA has also ‘repackaged’ the paper for general audiences. The repackaged version was shared with the World Bank and UNICEF for their feedback and possible endorsement/production/distribution.
- d) The report to Congress was drafted this quarter.

11. Improve MTCT & nutrition training in Africa

- **Review Curricula on Pre-Service Settings**
- **Review, finalize, disseminate training modules on MTCT for African institutions**

Expected Outputs:

- Chairpersons’ workshop
- MTCT training guide

Progress toward outputs, problems encountered, proposed solutions:

No activity this period.

12. Continuous issues identification, information dissemination, and advocacy on issues of importance for nutrition in Africa (e.g., HIV/AIDS and nutrition; MTCT, women's nutrition, anemia and infectious diseases/malaria).

Expected Outputs:

- Papers or tools disseminated
- Posters or oral presentations developed
- Consultative meetings organized
- Workshops / conferences with dissemination component attended.

Progress toward outputs, problems encountered, proposed solutions:

No new nutrition issues were identified this quarter. Two presentations were given in Africa – one on HIV/AIDS and nutrition and the other on early breastfeeding cessation. No consultative meetings were held.

13. Document impact of AFR/SD nutrition investments (e.g., capacity development through SARA/SANA; regional collaboration, etc.)

Expected Outputs:

- Case studies and impact reviews completed
- Better practices disseminated
- SANA evaluation done.

Progress toward outputs, problems encountered, proposed solutions:

SANA consultant Bill Rau submitted draft Impact Reviews for 6 different SANA activities this quarter. SARA staff (nutrition, child survival, M&E) critically reviewed the Reviews, and they are currently being revised for distribution.

The SOW for the SANA evaluation was developed in collaboration with AFR/SD and the evaluation team leader, Dr. Milla McLachlan, of the World Bank. The WB was subcontracted to perform the evaluation. Interviewing and document review will begin in early January 2001.

SO 19: Adoption of Policies and Strategies for Increased sustainability, Quality, Efficiency, and Equity of Health Services

Technical Area: Maternal Health/Essential Obstetrical Care (EOC)

1. Discuss and update strategy for EOC work in Francophone Africa

Expected Outputs:

- Strategy developed and agreed on

Progress toward outputs, problems encountered, proposed solutions:

A number of proposed activities are included in the work plan, but the strategy will be finalized upon return of counterpart from maternity leave in late February 2001.

2. In collaboration with partners, assist CEFOREP with advocacy in maternal health in the region

Expected Outputs:

- Field test REDUCE in Senegal, introduce the model in the region on limited basis

Progress toward outputs, problems encountered, proposed solutions:

Planning is ongoing, potential team members in Senegal have been identified and contacted by CEFOREP. The Senegal application is now planned for April.

3. Produce advocacy materials to maximize research results of EOC study in West Africa

Expected Outputs:

- “Meres en Danger” booklet as an advocacy tool for EOC developed and disseminated; tool integrated into country-plans.

Progress toward outputs, problems encountered, proposed solutions:

CEFOREP and ACI are now meeting weekly to review the progress being made on the development of this advocacy brochure.

4. Assist SAGO to monitor its EOC resolutions from 1998 and to input these into ongoing work

Expected Outputs:

- Workshop on policy monitoring; report on progress made in implementing policy resolutions in member states

Progress toward outputs, problems encountered, proposed solutions:

CEFOREP, an institution closely linked with SAGO, has expressed interest in working in the policy monitoring area. Although this has been discussed, more concrete plans will be made in the next quarter.

5. Participate in expansion of REDUCE model

Expected Outputs:

- Depends on decisions made by USAID regarding future funding for REDUCE.

Progress toward outputs, problems encountered, proposed solutions:

A "roll out" proposal has been developed and shared with AFR/SD, and discussions are continuing. Numerous meetings have also taken place with partners, including Save the Children, BASICS II, MNH and Policy, in order to define possible mechanisms for moving REDUCE forward. All of these partners have expressed a willingness to provide resources to fund in-country applications, and SARA has developed budgets detailing what these applications would cost.

6. Develop a comprehensive dissemination strategy for results of 3-country EOC cost studies.

Expected Outputs:

- Dissemination plan developed; appropriate materials completed and disseminated.

Progress toward outputs, problems encountered, proposed solutions:

This activity is no longer considered a priority but may be revived on return of USAID maternal health officer.

7. Assist ACNM to reformat and disseminate its database on TBAs and to disseminate the findings of its meta analysis; organize consultative meeting in DC on role of TBAs in safe motherhood

Expected Outputs:

- Database made available on CD- ROM, meta-analysis repackaged and disseminated; symposium held

Progress toward outputs, problems encountered, proposed solutions:

ACNM has developed a draft proposal that will be reviewed presently. The activity is expected to take place in the second half of the year.

8. Provide support to International Council of Midwives Africa Regional Conference to include session on malaria in pregnancy

Expected Outputs:

- Fund attendance of 5-8 African midwives at conference, support travel of speaker on malaria and pregnancy; share advocacy materials at meeting

Progress toward outputs, problems encountered, proposed solutions:

This activity has been conducted in collaboration with MNH/JHPIEGO. MNH identified and supported the speaker, and the SARA project is developing a press kit on Malaria and Pregnancy and supporting a limited number of participants (5-8). The SARA project is currently developing the agreement with ICM to allow the transfer of resources for the March meeting.

9. Follow-up to MNH workshop by supporting dissemination and regional training on a curriculum and standards and guidelines for EOC clinical practice in West Africa.

Expected Outputs:

- Workshop held to establish norms and protocols based on those already available in draft

Progress toward outputs, problems encountered, proposed solutions:

Plans for this meeting are underway in collaboration with JHPIEGO and CEFOREP. The meeting is planned for the second half of 2001 as the curriculum will be finalized at a regional workshop being held in Cameroon next month.

SO 20: Policies and strategies for increased sustainability and quality of reproductive health services adopted

Technical Area: None in particular – Related to overall SO

1. Assist AFR/SD SO 20 team with managing the RH Technical Areas.

Expected Outputs:

- Core team meetings; Technical Areas completed and periodically updated; PMPs revised and updated annually; R4 completed annually; technical advice provided (T&O)

Progress toward outputs, problems encountered, proposed solutions:

The core team has met at least five times this quarter and has included the updating and revision of its PMP on its agenda. The team has also begun preparing for the R4 process by reviewing progress of all activities and by requesting short reports from partner CAs. Caroline Blair also participated in the preparation of the Congressional Notification for SO 20.

2. Conduct a SO 20 portfolio review of all or selected focus areas to reexamine strategic directions, mix of focus areas; best practices, and overall portfolio balance.

Expected Outputs:

- Review completed, findings discussed within and outside Core Group and posted on web, Technical Areas and work plans updated. (T&O, ID, RA)

Progress toward outputs, problems encountered, proposed solutions:

The portfolio review is ongoing; at the most recent core group meeting, the consultant presented her preliminary findings. A draft report is expected by February 20 and the team has scheduled a full day working meeting to discuss and analyze the report and its findings on March 7.

3. Assist AFR/SD with evaluating, tracking, and monitoring performance and results.

Expected Outputs:

- Based on portfolio review and updated Technical Areas, revise indicators; simple data collection tables developed and applied.

Progress toward outputs, problems encountered, proposed solutions:

Assistance to SO 20 on Monitoring and Evaluation issues is being coordinated with efforts to develop a functioning M&E system for the entire SD/HRD portfolio. See progress reported under Cross-cutting SO, item #1.

Work on the SO 20 portfolio review by the consultant continued.

4. Create stronger linkages with FHA and SFPS

Expected Outputs:

- At least two activities jointly organized or co-funded with SFPS; could include translation, repackaging of topical information, organization of meetings, etc.

Progress toward outputs, problems encountered, proposed solutions:

This process has begun. In December, Caroline Blair and Antonia Wolff accompanied Khadijat Mojidi of AFR/SD/HRD to Baltimore and spent a full day working with JHPIEGO to define future collaboration efforts. Several activities were proposed and discussed. SFPS will be providing a proposed agenda and budget for a meeting on integrating HIV/AIDS and this will be a first activity. Another meeting has been scheduled for February.

SO 20: Policies and strategies for increased sustainability and quality of reproductive health services adopted

Technical Area: Addressing the reproductive health (RH) needs of underserved populations

1. Assess the outcomes/results of the Male Involvement workshop in Francophone Africa with JHU/PCS, IPPF, AVSC, INTRAH, and SFPS.

Expected Outputs:

- Questionnaires collected, analyzed and summary report completed

Progress toward outputs, problems encountered, proposed solutions:

JHU has been asked several times to finalize its report on this activity. Perhaps due to staff turnover, we have never received a report.

2. Provide technical assistance and support to RESAR in the finalization and publication of a multi-country study on male involvement in RH.

Expected Outputs:

- Final study report prepared and repackaged; dissemination plan developed and implemented

Progress toward outputs, problems encountered, proposed solutions:

The data collection and analysis has taken longer than anticipated. However, data collection is either completed or underway in Benin, Cameroon, Niger and Togo. Once the study is completed, work on repackaging will start.

3. Assess current program activities for males – participate on USAID IWG on male involvement, work with AVSC on finalizing and field testing male curriculum and define additional needs for dissemination and translation

Expected Outputs:

- Male involvement curriculum translated, field-tested in both Anglophone and Francophone countries, and revised Plans made for its use in different countries.

Progress toward outputs, problems encountered, proposed solutions:

This work is ongoing and AVSC is expected to report on progress of the field testing this month.

4. Support AVSC to evaluate the Guinea male involvement program

Expected Outputs:

- Report on pre-post test KAP study with control.
- Repackaging and dissemination of lessons learned

Progress toward outputs, problems encountered, proposed solutions:

The evaluation is expected to begin next quarter.

SO 20: Policies and strategies for increased sustainability and quality of reproductive health services adopted

Technical Area: Women's empowerment

1. Support the establishment of a East and South African women's media network hosted by S. African media org. in collaboration with the Freedom Forum and the S. Africa Department of Welfare.

Expected Outputs:

- One seminar completed; print articles and broadcast programs produced; changes in media strategies documented.

Progress toward outputs, problems encountered, proposed solutions:

SARA and PRB are presently planning this activity. No definite plans have emerged yet because of changes in Southern Africa regarding potential partner institutions. It is expected that plans will be developed during the next quarter.

2. Assist with documentation and dissemination of 3 case studies (Lessons learned) from Mali, Kenya and Nigeria

Expected Outputs:

- Briefing sheets on these three studies produced and disseminated through RH briefing packet

Progress toward outputs, problems encountered, proposed solutions:

Renuka Bery and Antonia Wolff met with Khadijat Mojidi and Rita Feinberg to assist NGO Networks in finalizing and synthesizing the Mali and Nigeria reports. Discussions were held to ensure that a one-page synthesis would be produced as well. Meanwhile, work continues in the Mali and Nigeria case studies. The Kenya study has been postponed for the time being.

3. Support development of issues paper on emergency contraception

Expected Outputs:

- Paper prepared in French and English, dissemination plan prepared and implemented

Progress toward outputs, problems encountered, proposed solutions:

Preliminary discussions have taken place with the Consortium for Emergency Contraception. As the Consortium has developed a paper on this subject, an issues paper will not be necessary. However, we may translate and repackage the document and work on disseminating the findings.

4. Explore possible support to documentation of lessons learned in FGC

Expected Outputs:

- Lessons learned, advocacy and dissemination plans developed

Progress toward outputs, problems encountered, proposed solutions:

This activity is being planned in conjunction with both AFR/SD and Global Bureau- a more immediate need is the need to disseminate the new FGC policy. A strategy is expected to be developed in the next quarter.

5. Provide support for FGC donors meeting and activities as requested

Expected Outputs:

- Support provided

Progress toward outputs, problems encountered, proposed solutions:

See previous item.

SO 20: Policies and strategies for increased sustainability and quality of reproductive health services adopted

Technical Area: None in particular – Reproductive health policies / strategies promotion

1. Support CERPOD to update information on adolescent RH in the region by conducting an in-dept analysis of new DHS data from the region

Expected Outputs:

- Up to date information on ARH in at least four CERPOD member countries where new DHS data is involved. Wallchart or brochure presenting this new information in an accessible way

Progress toward outputs, problems encountered, proposed solutions:

During this quarter, three CERPOD staff members visited AED, USAID and PRB (funded through Measure Communication). The draft work plan and corresponding CTO Letter were reviewed and their contents agreed upon. SARA is currently putting a sub-contract in place and a first disbursement should be made before the end of this quarter so that activities can begin.

2. Support CERPOD to design and conduct a course on qualitative research techniques targeted to RH professionals in Francophone Africa.

Expected Outputs:

- Curriculum, marketing plan for recruiting participants, training reports, including training evaluation.

Progress toward outputs, problems encountered, proposed solutions:

The draft work plan and corresponding CTO Letter for CERPOD were reviewed and their contents agreed upon. SARA is currently putting a sub-contract in place and a first disbursement should be made before the end of this quarter so that activities can begin.

3. Finalize and support a program of assistance for the Commonwealth Regional Health Community Secretariat (CRHCS)

Expected Outputs:

- Program of assistance finalized and started. This will include compiling, analyzing and disseminating information on critical issues in RH including safe motherhood and malaria in pregnancy , and the involvement of CRHCS in the expansion of the REDUCE model

Progress toward outputs, problems encountered, proposed solutions:

During this quarter, the proposed program of activities for CRHCS was discussed with AFR/SD and REDSO and was approved. The subcontracting process is now underway and activities should start within the second quarter of FY01.

4. Continue to support selected African Institutions such as RESAR and link them with SFPS and other projects and organizations

Expected Outputs:

- Support provided.

Progress toward outputs, problems encountered, proposed solutions:

Communication with RESAR regarding its ongoing male involvement study continues (see section on male involvement above). RESAR may play a role in the planned joint SFPS/SARA/MAQ meeting on integration of STI/AIDS with FP conducting research to follow up on meeting participants several months after the meeting to assess how the knowledge gained at the meeting was used.

5. Document lessons learned during phase I of FHA/SFPS

Expected Outputs:

- Lessons learned documented in user-friendly manner

Progress toward outputs, problems encountered, proposed solutions:

Discussions on resources needed to start this activity are underway. The activity will also include a "catalogue of tools" developed and its dissemination.

6. PAC regional workshop to take stock of ongoing work and to assist West African countries to plan for PAC activities including behavioral and community mobilization issues.

Expected Outputs:

- Workshop held in conjunction with SFPS and partners including CEFORP, SAGO, RESAR, CERPOD

Progress toward outputs, problems encountered, proposed solutions:

A steering committee meeting for this activity is planned for July and numerous partners, including INTRAH, JHPIEGO, CEFORP and others are already on board. The meeting is scheduled for November.

SO 20: Policies and strategies for increased sustainability and quality of reproductive health services adopted

Technical Area: Effective Strategies for Integrating HIV/AIDS and FP

1. Support technical meetings of West African experts, program managers and policy-makers on topical and emerging issues in RH including HIV/AIDS

Expected Outputs:

- At least one policy brief and related meeting organized, with state of the art on integration of HIV/AIDS and FP as theme. Other themes could be Senegal HIV/AIDS experience, advances in social marketing of contraceptives and condoms, barriers to condoms use, etc.

Progress toward outputs, problems encountered, proposed solutions:

SFPS is expected to inform AFR/SD and SARA of proposed dates, participants and illustrative budget for this activity very soon. This requires follow up.

2. Provide support to WARP/FHA on RH activities

Expected Outputs:

- TBD

Progress toward outputs, problems encountered, proposed solutions:

A first planned activity is a catalogue of materials and tools developed thus far. This may also include putting this on the web.

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3. Francophone Quality of Care TA as needed from MAQ meeting

Expected Outputs:

- TBD

Progress toward outputs, problems encountered, proposed solutions:

The idea of a meeting of African policy-makers on STI/HIV integration with FP was an outcome from the MAQ process and SARA expects to support this initiative. SARA will also support a Francophone MAQ bulletin this year.

4. Support for PPT studies

Expected Outputs:

- One-page briefers from the PSI documents produced

Progress toward outputs, problems encountered, proposed solutions:

Two meetings were held with PSI at which the documents on their experience with PPT in Uganda and their draft feasibility study of PPT in Nigeria were discussed and reviewed. Once the documents are finalized (expected before the end of February), SARA will assist in their repackaging.

SO 20: Policies and strategies for increased sustainability and quality of reproductive health services adopted

Technical Area: Family Planning Financing

Define health care financing follow-up activities to September 1999 conference on RH health care reform

Expected Outputs:

- To be determined in consultation with AFR/SD and CAs

Progress toward outputs, problems encountered, proposed solutions:

No activity this period.

SO 21: Adoption of Cost-effective Strategies to Prevent and Mitigate the Impact of HIV/AIDS

Technical Area: HIV/AIDS

1. Paper on best practices and experiences on linking prevention, care and Support

Expected Outputs:

- Literature review completed

Progress toward outputs, problems encountered, proposed solutions:

Actively participated in the development of a matrix on care and support issues by the Care and Support Group. This will include analysis and compilation of “good practices that link prevention and care and Support interventions at the local level”.

2. Disseminate tool for monitoring and evaluating infant feeding practices in the context of research and programs on mother-to-child transmission of HIV.

Expected Outputs:

- Tool disseminated

Progress toward outputs, problems encountered, proposed solutions:

WHO has taken responsibility for piloting the tool, which was developed last year, and have now done so in 10 countries. A meeting will be held in March in Botswana to discuss the results of the piloting and how the tool should be modified. WHO will then take responsibility for finalizing and disseminating the tool.

3. Repackaging and dissemination of MTCT strategy

Expected Outputs:

- Materials repackaged

Progress toward outputs, problems encountered, proposed solutions:

The MTCT USAID Guidance paper has been repackaged into “Prevention of Mother to Child Transmission of HIV in Africa: A Synthesis of the Issues and framework for Action”. After production, it will be disseminated widely.

4. Disseminate guidelines on HIV and nutrition

Expected Outputs:

- Guidelines repackaged and disseminated

Progress toward outputs, problems encountered, proposed solutions:

No activity this period.

5. Continuous issues identification, information dissemination and advocacy for comprehensive approaches to reducing mother-to-child transmission of HIV.

Expected Outputs:

- Consultations, etc., attended
- Information briefs developed and disseminated as needed

Progress toward outputs, problems encountered, proposed solutions:

- ◆ Dr. Stephen Kinoti held discussions with SWAA in preparation for the April 2-6 meeting that led to the inclusion into the program of a panel discussion to develop recommendations and action plans for the prevention of MTCT.
- ◆ Coordinated discussions on the “Assessing the Impacts of HIV/AIDS on Human Resources in the health Sector”, by the Health Sector HIV/AIDS Group. This led to the decision that a consultant be commissioned to prepare a background paper on the issue. The paper will be available in the first quarter of the FY 01.
- ◆ In October 2000, Dr. Kinoti participated in the conference, “Managing Quality through Regulation: Priorities and Possibilities” in DC, coordinated by the Quality Assurance Project. The Regional Secretary of CRHCS/ECSA, Dr. Steven Shongwe, also attended the conference. The Quality Assurance Project initiated discussions towards future collaboration in strengthening quality of health care activities in the ECSA region. Next steps will be possible involvement of QAP in the next DJCC, which is scheduled for June 2001.
- ◆ Used face-to-face meetings and electronic communication with the CRHCS in October 2000 to develop the CRHCS/SARA Subcontract covering HIV/AIDS issues.

6. Dissemination of Youth livelihood best practices for the prevention of HIV/AIDS

Expected Outputs:

- Paper finalized and disseminated

Progress toward outputs, problems encountered, proposed solutions:

Dr. Stephen Kinoti , Mr. Joseph Coblenz, SARA Operations Manager, Ishrat Husain of AFR/SD/HRD and Renuka Berry maintained communication with IDRC to ensure progress in the preparation of consultant report on Youth livelihood best practices for the prevention of HIV/AIDS. An updated report was received from IDRC and is under review.

7. Technical support for AFR/SD initiatives to address the impact of HIV/AIDS on educational systems (on Sectors : education, health)

Expected Outputs:

- Workshop organized
- Materials disseminated
- (Included in the sub-contract with CRHCS)
- Pre-service training curricula review and follow up activities

Progress toward outputs, problems encountered, proposed solutions:

No activity this quarter.

8. Support Assessment of the Impact of HIV/AIDS on the Health System.

Expected Outputs:

- Background materials prepared
- Assessment tools completed
- Assessments conducted
- Dissemination of reports

Progress toward outputs, problems encountered, proposed solutions:

- ◆ Decision to undertake the preparation of a background paper was made.
- ◆ Contracting procedures for the preparation of the paper through MSH were initiated during the period.
- ◆ Review and publication of the paper is expected in the 2nd Quarter of 2000/01. This will determine whether further assessments will be needed.
- ◆ Dr. Kinoti facilitated the “Regional Meeting of Health Systems Research Focal Points and Policy Analysts”, September 19-22, 2000, that developed plans for implementation of priority research for an expanded HIV/AIDS response.

9. Assist AFR/SD SO 21 Team in managing HIV/AIDS results

Expected Outputs:

- Core team meetings held
- SO 21 portfolio reviews organized
- Performance monitoring plan updated
- Peer reviews organized and expert advice provided

Progress toward outputs, problems encountered, proposed solutions:

- ◆ Although the SARA HIV/AIDS Advisor tried hard to have this happen, no SO 21 Core Team meeting was held during this quarter. Person-to-person consultation between SARA and the AFR/SD/HRD staff were nevertheless used to move HIV/AIDS activities. During the coming quarter, efforts will be made to ensure that the Core Team meets and deliberates on priority issues more frequently and effectively.
- ◆ Dr. Stephen Kinoti undertook a debriefing to Peter J. Halpert, the Team Leader Health; Carl Henn, Health Specialist; and Patrick Osewe, Program Director, HIV/AIDS/STDS of the USAID Mission in Harare, Zimbabwe, in September 2000. Issues discussed included behavioral change resulting from increased use of quality services with proven effectiveness to prevent HIV transmission and mitigate impact at the household level; enhanced capacity to conduct advocacy and implement policy to prevent HIV transmission and mitigate impact at national level; and enhanced capacity at the regional and local levels to support community responses to children affected by AIDS. Ways to strengthen application of good practices in these areas at regional and national will be followed up.

10. Support advocacy for multi-sectoral approaches to HIV/AIDS

Expected Outputs:

- AIDS Briefs and AIDS packets collated

Progress toward outputs, problems encountered, proposed solutions:

Dr. Stephen Kinoti and Dr. Duale Sambe participated in the Care and Support working Group, the Implementation Working Group and Multisectoral Group meeting on HIV/AIDS.

In addition, 44 HIV packets were distributed this quarter.

11. Strengthen CERPOD capacity and involvement with M&E of HIV/AIDS programs in West Africa

Expected Outputs:

- HIV/AIDS point person hired by CERPOD
- Action plan developed and implemented

Progress toward outputs, problems encountered, proposed solutions:

HIV/AIDS was among the topics that a CERPOD delegation, visiting Washington, DC this period, discussed with SARA and AFR/SD. The proposed SARA-CERPOD subcontract was modified to include the co-funding of an HIV/AIDS point person at CERPOD. SARA has been in contact with the FHI Regional Coordinator in West Africa and other interested stakeholders on assisting CERPOD to hire the person to lead the development and implementation of HIV/AIDS activities.

In addition, the HIV/AIDS Advisor followed up plans by the CRHCS to facilitate adaptation and application of UNAIDS/WHO/USAID Harmonized National HIV/AIDS Programs Indicators. Training in M&E targeting individuals selected from the member states was included in the CRHCS/SARA subcontract.

12. Strengthen CRHCS/ECSA capacity to support HIV/AIDS policy changes in eastern and southern Africa

Expected Outputs:

- Action plan developed and implemented by multi-disciplinary Task Force
- Partial support for HIV/AIDS Coordinator position
- Support technical working meeting of HIV/AIDS Task Force to design training and monitoring strategy

Progress toward outputs, problems encountered, proposed solutions:

The SARA HIV/AIDS Advisor facilitated the development of a joint CRHCS/SARA Sub-Contract based on priority activities identified by the CRHCS.. This included the position of an HIV/AIDS Coordinator/Policy Advisor. Early discussions regarding collaboration and coordination of the subcontract and the REDSO/CRHCS Limited Scope Grant Agreement were held.

The specific activities will be implemented once the subcontract is signed.

13. Development and production of a discussion paper on HIV/AIDS prevention, care and support in West and Central Africa

Expected Outputs:

- Paper developed, produced and disseminated

Progress toward outputs, problems encountered, proposed solutions:

SARA hired Ms. Dounia Loudiyi as a consultant to prepare a discussion paper for consideration at a regional workshop organized by the USAID West Africa Regional Program (WARP) SO2 Team, November 6-8, 2000, in Bamako, Mali, to develop a strategy and guidelines to strengthen regional efforts and complement bilateral efforts in the fight against HIV/AIDS in West Africa. The draft paper did not meet SARA and AFR/SD expectations. Dr. Duale attended the meeting and made a presentation on trends and determinants of the HIV/AIDS epidemic spread in West and Central Africa.

14. HIV/AIDS advocacy and information dissemination through African institutions and networks

Expected Outputs:

Network meetings co-sponsored

- Information briefs produced and disseminated

Progress toward outputs, problems encountered, proposed solutions:

- ◆ Dr. Stephen Kinoti held discussions with Dr. Rose Kambarami, Senior Lecturer, Department of Pediatrics and Child Health/Head, Clinical Epidemiology Unit, University of Zimbabwe, on the Neonatal component of the REDUCE Model. It is hoped that she will in the near future undertake analysis of neonatal care costs in Zimbabwe that will provide data for the REDUCE Neonatal Advocacy Tool.
- ◆ The CRHCS/SARA Policy Manual, the HEARD University of Natal HIV/AIDS Toolkits and the AIDS Briefs were disseminated to the HSR and Policy Analysts meeting participants in September 2000. The document was found to be very useful by the participants in their discussions on ways to translate research results into policy and programs.
- ◆ At a meeting organized by the Regional Director WHO/AFR involving Dr. Isabel Aleta, HSR Director, Dr. Miguel Gonzalez-Block of the Alliance for Health Policy and Systems Research, WHO, Geneva; Dr. Andrei Issakov Coordinator health Facilities and Services Provision, WHO, Geneva; and Dr. Stephen Kinoti, Dr. Samba emphasized the importance of working together in the region to strengthen health information dissemination for HIV/AIDS programs through improved connectivity and networking. He hoped that the agencies represented would each contribute towards realizing this goal. Dr. Kinoti informed the meeting of the proposed effort to improve connectivity for the ECSA region through the CRHCS, the Information Dissemination Centers in each country and the Program Focal Points with support from USAID/AFR through the SARA Project with hardware support from Leland Initiative.

15. Participation in joint planning and coordination activities on international HIV/AIDS initiatives in Africa (World Bank, UNAIDS, WHO, LIFE,SADC etc.)

Expected Outputs:

- SARA staff & consultant involved in meetings and electronic exchanges with partners
- Participation at the ICASA 2001 in Ouagadougou

Progress toward outputs, problems encountered, proposed solutions:

1. Dr. Duale Sambe has been working to mobilize the U. S. Department of Defense LIFE Project, the Civil-Military Alliance, USAID, UNAIDS, and other stakeholders to support a proposal from the West African Health Organization (WAHO) for addressing HIV/AIDS in ECOWAS militaries. SARA will be providing technical and logistical support to WAHO to organize a small meeting of interested stakeholders to develop a framework of collaboration on HIV/AIDS activities in ECOWAS countries.
2. The White House, the U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID), and the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) brought several American and world religious leaders to Washington for back-to-back conferences on the role of faith communities in combating AIDS. A White House World AIDS Day summit on the theme, "A Consensus from Conscience: Revealing the Role of Faith in Response to AIDS," was held November 30 through December 1. It was followed by a USAID-sponsored conference on "Animating Theology: Turning Faith into Action in Response to AIDS. SARA provided logistical and technical support for the successful organization of the USAID-sponsored conference. The conferences drew about 70 Christian, Jewish, Muslim and Buddhist leaders and resource persons from the White House National AIDS Policy Office, USAID and selected cooperating agencies. Mr. Warren Buckingham of the AFR/SD HIV/AIDS Core Team was the principal facilitator of the conference. Dr. Duale joined other members of the AFR/SD HIV/AIDS Core Team as technical resource persons for the conference.
3. During this period Dr. Kinoti has worked closely with Dr. Winnie Mpanju-Shumbusho of WHO Geneva, Dr. Okullo of WHO/AFRO, Dr. Josephine Moyo of Partners in Health Development, and the Rockefeller Foundation to support funding for the CRHCS/ECSA HIV/AIDS activities at regional and national levels. The CRHCS identified specific activities that it wished to have support for from these agencies.

SO 22: Improved Policies, Strategies and Programs for Preventing, Mitigating and Transition out of Crises

Technical Area: Epidemic preparedness

1. Technical support to AFR/SD on Epidemic Preparedness and Response, and Transition Initiatives.

Expected Outputs:

- Review meetings held
- TA provided for the development and production of the RP

Progress toward outputs, problems encountered, proposed solutions:

Dr. Duale Sambe joined AFR/SD colleagues for meetings and participated in conference calls and electronic exchanges to discuss a number of transition issues in countries such as Liberia and D.R. Congo. Dr. Duale also joined AFR/SD and OFDA colleagues to draft a cable for Africa-wide distribution about preparedness and response to meningitis epidemic outbreaks.

2. Production and dissemination of the report of the Review of the joint AFR/SD, WHO/AFRO & CDC initiative on epidemic preparedness and response and support selected follow-up activities

Expected Outputs:

- Lessons learned from the WCA block reviewed, documented in a report and disseminated
- TA provided by SARA staff and consultant for follow-up activities

Progress toward outputs, problems encountered, proposed solutions:

Dr. Duale Sambe worked on finalizing the report of the documentation of the WHO/AFRO Epidemiological Block Approach to Epidemic Preparedness and Response in Africa. A summary report will be packaged for a wider dissemination to sensitize various audiences to the work of WHO/AFRO in this area.

SO 24: **Polio**

Technical Area: **Polio**

See Dissemination and Advocacy section below, Cross-cutting section.

Expected Outputs:

See below

Progress toward outputs, problems encountered, proposed solutions:

See below

SO: Cross-cutting

Technical Area: Various areas – Monitoring and Evaluation Activities

1. Organize and hold Core Monitoring & Evaluation Group meetings to discuss issues related to performance monitoring, reporting, evaluation and assessment

Expected Outputs:

- Core M&E Group meetings held regularly to discuss specific action items.

Progress toward outputs, problems encountered, proposed solutions:

Core M&E Group meetings were held in December and January to discuss progress in the development of the planned activity tracking database. Significant progress was made in determining critical elements of the design for the system. Future M&E group meetings will be called to present and get feedback on the completed activity tracking database design, and to discuss the planning arrow tool.

It has proven to be more difficult than anticipated to gather a “critical mass” at the Core M&E group meetings, with representation from each of the core SO teams. In response to this issue, the SARA M&E advisor has made plans to visit individually with all of the core SO teams to update them on M&E activities and tools and get feedback.

2. a) Design and test activity database

Expected Outputs:

- Preliminary design finished.
- Feedback from AFR/SD/HRD staff incorporated.

Progress toward outputs, problems encountered, proposed solutions:

Consultants have completed the initial design for the database structure, and two lengthy meetings have been held with SD staff to get their input into key elements of the design. One constraint in finalizing the design has involved the complexity and diversity of SD-funded activities. A common understanding among SD, SARA, and the consultant staff has finally been reached on the basic structure, functions, and content of the activity tracking database system. Preliminary discussions regarding how the system will be maintained have taken place between SARA and SD staff. The completed system design will be shared with SD staff in February for additional feedback before being finalized.

2. b) Input FY 2000 data into activity database

Expected Outputs:

- Activity data for FY 2000 entered into database.

Progress toward outputs, problems encountered, proposed solutions:

Data entry will begin after the system design is finalized.

2. c) Train AFR/SD/HRD staff in operation and maintenance of activity database

Expected Outputs:

- AFR/SD/HRD staff trained.
- Guide for operating database produced.

Progress toward outputs, problems encountered, proposed solutions:

Discussions on the optimal way to maintain and house the database system have begun between SD staff, SARA staff, and the consultant system designers. According to the latest developments, it appears that SARA staff will have the biggest role in maintaining and operating the database. Training of relevant staff will begin as soon as the design is completed.

3. a) Finalize Impact Reviews for selected activities under SARA/SANA

Expected Outputs:

- Final drafts of Impact Reviews produced for the following:
 - Male Involvement (SO 20)
 - Integrated Nutrition Program (SO 19)
 - Early childhood care, survival, growth and development initiative (SO 20)
- 2-page summaries of existing SO 20 Impact Reviews developed for distribution

Progress toward outputs, problems encountered, proposed solutions:

A final draft of the Male Involvement in Reproductive Health/CUP Initiative (SO 20) impact review has been written and will be distributed very soon. The initial draft for the Integrated Nutrition Program has been prepared and is being edited. Initial drafts for five additional impact reviews of activities sponsored under SARA/SANA have also been prepared (see below). Two-page summaries of existing SO 20 impact reviews on Reproductive Health activities have been prepared and are being finalized for clearance by SD.

Updated notebooks containing all of the impact reviews completed under SARA I have been distributed to SARA and SD/HRD staff at core team meetings and at the SD retreat in December. Newly completed impact reviews will be distributed to core teams as they are finished, and will be designed to fit into the notebooks.

3. b) Prepare 4-5 new Impact Reviews for selected activities under SARA/SANA (see work plan for potential topics)

Expected Outputs:

- Draft and final versions of Impact Reviews produced.
- One page briefs of SANA Impact Reviews produced.

Progress toward outputs, problems encountered, proposed solutions:

See above under 3a. Initial drafts of five more impact reviews on SARA/SANA activities have been completed and are currently being revised (Nutrition Program Monitoring and Evaluation, Collaboration with UNICEF in Support of the CARE Initiative, Nutrition Advocacy, Consultative Research on Young Child Feeding, and West Africa Nutrition Networking). Drafts of one-page briefs for these impact reviews have also been prepared, and are being edited.

4. Finalize strategic planning tool for activities and work with SO teams to apply tool to new activities (Planning Arrow Tool)

Expected Outputs:

- Draft tool vetted with M&E Core Group and experimented with by SO teams.
- Tool applied to 3-4 new activities planned during FY 2001 (ask core SO teams to identify new activities so that the tool can be applied to them)

Progress toward outputs, problems encountered, proposed solutions:

The draft planning arrow tool has been applied to develop the preliminary design and expectations for three planned, new activities (Supporting ERNWACA Country Activities through Strengthened ERNWACA Regional Leadership, Adaptation of the COPE Methodology to Child Health, and Research and Dissemination on Women and TB). Copies of these examples were made available to AFR/SD/HRD staff at their retreat in December 2000. SD and SARA staff are being invited to identify upcoming new activities so that the planning arrow tool can be applied to assist in the preliminary design for these activities. The goal is for all SD and SARA staff to become familiar with the tool through actually applying it to the design of a new activity. The SARA M&E advisor will distribute the examples of the arrow tool in her individual meetings to discuss M&E issues with each team in January-February. Brown bag lunch formats may be utilized to further disseminate the tool to both SD/HRD and SARA staff. After more groups have some experience with the tool, it is suggested that the core Monitoring and Evaluation group have a meeting to discuss and analyze the tool in more depth.

5. Develop optional worksheet formats to record detailed notes for data totals and/or data sources for performance indicators. Test with SO 20 core team members.

Expected Outputs:

- Draft worksheet format revised based on feedback from SO 20 core team.
- Worksheet shared with other core teams as optional tool.

Progress toward outputs, problems encountered, proposed solutions:

The SO 20 core team has not had time to test the draft table format yet.

6. Support evaluation and assessment efforts across AFR/SD/HRD portfolio as requested (e.g., SANA final evaluation, work with African institutions under SARA I, Reproductive Health portfolio review)

Expected Outputs:

- SOWs as required and evaluation reports, etc., e.g., final SANA evaluation report produced.
- Report produced for assessment of SARA I work with African institutions.

Progress toward outputs, problems encountered, proposed solutions:

The final report for the SARA Dissemination and Advocacy External Assessment was completed in August 2000. The scope of work for the final evaluation of the SANA project has been developed, and the evaluation got underway in December 2000. A consultant has begun work on the portfolio review for the Reproductive Health SO (SO 20). Terms of reference have been drafted for an assessment of work with African institutions under SARA I. The analysis of the use of the Advocacy Guide (SARA publication) was revised and refined, and preliminary work on analysis of the use of "A Time to Act" publication has begun. WHO/AFRO and USAID/AFR/SD organized a joint review and documentation of the cooperative epidemic preparedness and response (EPR) program in Africa in July 2000 (report followed).

7. Explore potential development of standardized activity monitoring report format.

Expected Outputs:

- Feasibility and utility of standardized activity monitoring report formats studied by M&E core group

Progress toward outputs, problems encountered, proposed solutions:

The M&E Core group has not concentrated on this issue during the past quarter because there has not been demand from the core SO teams for assistance in this area.

SO: Cross-cutting

Technical Area: Various areas

1. Technical support for AFR/SD work in transition countries, including the development of a paper on USAID health sector experience

Expected Outputs:

- TA provided
- Paper developed, produced and disseminated

Progress toward outputs, problems encountered, proposed solutions:

SARA is still waiting for clear guidance from Mary Harvey and AFR/SD senior management on what the paper should address.

2. Technical support for the CRHCS/ECSA approach to monitoring and evaluation of PHN policy changes in eastern and southern Africa

Expected Outputs:

- Policy M&E manual finalized and disseminated
- Selected CRHCS countries use manual for HIV/AIDS policy monitoring

Progress toward outputs, problems encountered, proposed solutions:

Millie Morton was hired by SARA to repackage the Policy manual into a user-friendly Guide. Initial meetings were held and a final document is anticipated next quarter.

3. Finalization and dissemination of CERPOD self-evaluation guide

Expected Outputs:

- TA provided
- Manual produced and disseminated

Progress toward outputs, problems encountered, proposed solutions:

The French version is undergoing its final edits. We expect the French and English will be ready late second or early third quarter.

4. Support CESAG linkages with other institutions for dissemination and training in health management

Expected Outputs:

TBD

Progress toward outputs, problems encountered, proposed solutions:

No activity this period.

5. Follow-up with CORE on education and health linkages

Expected Outputs:

TBD

Progress toward outputs, problems encountered, proposed solutions:

No activity this period.

6. Development of capacity for health systems research in Francophone Africa

Expected Outputs:

- Networking meetings held
- Materials translated and disseminated

Progress toward outputs, problems encountered, proposed solutions:

Health systems research (HSR) focal points from selected West African countries were among the participants that SARA co-sponsored to attend the a WHO/AFRO meeting on HSR in Harare.

7. Production and dissemination of a CD-ROM with relevant literature on management of disasters and complex humanitarian emergencies (CHE)

Expected Outputs:

- Relevant materials collected, reviewed and scanned
- CD-ROM produced and disseminated

Progress toward outputs, problems encountered, proposed solutions:

Fifty copies of the CD-ROM were received at SARA and were considered to be of high quality.

8. Production of a training manual for NGOs working on management of disasters, complex humanitarian emergencies, and transition programs

Expected Outputs:

- Manual developed, tested, produced, and disseminated

Progress toward outputs, problems encountered, proposed solutions:

A hard copy of the manual has been circulated by Johns Hopkins for final review and editing. The final production will probably come next quarter on a CD-ROM.

9. Strengthen selected Network of African Public Training Institutions (NAPHI) member institutions in the area of training curricula, research and information sharing on management of disasters and CHE

Expected Outputs:

- Working group meeting organized
- Action plan developed and implemented, including plan for resource mobilization

Progress toward outputs, problems encountered, proposed solutions:

Another attempt was made this reporting period to get Dr. Orach Garimoi of the Makerere Institute of Public Health to take the lead in organizing this activity. He has promised to draft a scope of work for this activity.

10. Technical support for the management and maintenance of the CERTI Website

Expected Outputs:

- Moderation and quality assurance of materials posted on website
- Site maintained

Progress toward outputs, problems encountered, proposed solutions:

More materials from various CERTI partners have been posted on the Web this period. The materials include a draft training modules on addressing HIV/AIDS in conflict settings and tools for assessing psycho-social effects of conflicts on populations in African settings.

11. Support the development of an issues paper on public health workforce crisis in Africa

Expected Outputs:

- Moderation and quality assurance of materials posted on website
- Site maintained

Progress toward outputs, problems encountered, proposed solutions:

SARA has initiated the process of contracting the services of Ms. Jenny Huddard of Initiatives, Inc., to prepare the paper.

SO: Cross-cutting

Technical Area: Dissemination and advocacy

Result ia: Capacity to Advocate

1. Train other regional African institutions in advocacy (CRHCS—health professionals and senior staff)

Expected Outputs:

- Selected African institutions trained

Progress toward outputs, problems encountered, proposed solutions:

Advocacy training is included in the CRHCS subcontract

2. Provide the Advocacy Guide to groups to use it (African institutions, CAs etc.) on request

Expected Outputs:

- Advocacy Guide provided to selected groups

Progress toward outputs, problems encountered, proposed solutions:

The Advocacy Guide received requests for 111 copies that were sent this quarter, 86 copies of the English version and 25 of the French version.

3. U.S.-based consultative meeting with organizations involved in advocacy in Africa +materials fair

Expected Outputs:

- Consultative meeting and fair held

Progress toward outputs, problems encountered, proposed solutions:

The Consultative Meeting on Advocacy was held this quarter, with representation from numerous CAs, UNICEF and an Africa-based NGO. Renuka Bery presented on SARA's advocacy efforts to date. A report was prepared and disseminated to all of the participants. Recommendations were made to bring the advocacy group together more frequently than once in five years.

4. Follow-up on and systematically assess the advocacy training to see whether and how the participants have used their skills

Expected Outputs:

- Follow-up completed;
- Recommendations made for future

Progress toward outputs, problems encountered, proposed solutions:

Discussions have taken place with CAFS, a proposal for the follow up of advocacy training participants is expected SARA staff held discussions with Larry Gelman, from RATN, regarding following up with RATN-sponsored participants who attended the CAFS advocacy trainings.

5. Identify and explore partnerships with existing advocacy groups (US-based and Africa-based)

Expected Outputs:

- Connections made with such groups

Progress toward outputs, problems encountered, proposed solutions:

Initiated discussions on having an editorial supplement on SARA research on HIV and Nutrition in AfricaHealth magazine. This publication has a 7,000 person subscriber list, but is read by hundreds of African health professionals.

We met with the CEO of SatelLife to discuss opportunities to collaborate on electronic networking and advocacy.

Guidance given to NIH on dissemination and advocacy related to new pneumococcal vaccine being developed.

6. Develop materials to improve the use of advocacy guide, e.g. one-day training guide

Expected Outputs:

- Materials developed

Progress toward outputs, problems encountered, proposed solutions:

No activity this period.

Result ib: Capacity to Disseminate Information

7. Assist CRHCS strengthen its info communication activities and staff, including providing monitoring and support to the IDCs.

Expected Outputs:

- Program strengthened as needed

Progress toward outputs, problems encountered, proposed solutions:

Numerous discussions on improving communication activities and electronic connectivity were held with CRHCS while finalizing the subcontract.

8. Work with African institutions to build capacity in repackaging information. Possible activities include workshop, training, etc. through, e.g., CRHCS

Expected Outputs:

- Increased capacity of African institutions to repackage information

Progress toward outputs, problems encountered, proposed solutions:

Discussions continued with Andrew Chetley, Project Director of the Exchange Project, housed in London with Healthlink. We hope to work with them to conduct repackaging training for select professionals in the CRHCS member countries.

9. Assist African institutions in repackaging information on an as needed basis.

- **CRHCS**
- **CERPOD**
- **Others**

Expected Outputs:

- Information repackaged

Progress toward outputs, problems encountered, proposed solutions:

No activity this period.

10. Collaborate with other USAID Projects (e.g., BASICS, Horizons, Synergy, Measure, NGO networks, MSH) to improve their dissemination on priority AFR/SD issues on request

Expected Outputs:

- Dissemination of priority issues improved for selected projects

Progress toward outputs, problems encountered, proposed solutions:

Included PopCouncil's Frontiers Project Operations Research summaries in our Reproductive Health Briefing Packet.

Two meetings to review and discussion took place with PSI on their experience with PPT in Uganda and their draft feasibility study of PPT in Nigeria. Once the documents are finalized (expected before the end of February) SARA will assist in their repackaging.

Met with NGO Networks to assist them in finalizing and synthesizing the Mali and Nigeria reports. Discussions were held to ensure that a one-page synthesis will be produced as well.

Renuka Bery and Antonia Wolff met with two representatives from the Environmental Health Project to share SARA's Dissemination strategies and experiences.

Ms. Bery and Ms. Wolff met with Cecilia Snyder from Pop Council to share SARA/Horizons dissemination strategies.

They also met with Niloufer DeSilva from the Mitchell Group to offer technical assistance on SARA's dissemination strategies and how she could develop a dissemination strategy for SO10.

Guidance given to BASICS information team on dissemination and advocacy experiences and activities.

Discussions with LINKAGES on Ghana Information Hub proposal and possible next steps.

Provided guidance and assistance to Alan Whiteside (University of Natal/HEARD) on dissemination and tracking use. This will be followed up with more discussions with other staff people at HEARD.

Presentation to the Advance Africa project on SARA's work with SO 20 and its emphasis on dissemination. Showed relevant AFR/SD-SARA products.

11. Support a supplement to the Africa Health journal on a specific topic (most likely related to MTCT or HIV and Nutrition)

Expected Outputs:

- Publication of AFR/SD funded materials circulated throughout Africa.

Progress toward outputs, problems encountered, proposed solutions:

Documentation on HIV and Nutrition was identified by Ellen Piwoz, and sent to the Africa Health Journal's Project Director.

12. Collaborate with other African Institutions (e.g., RATN, RESAR, CESAG, WHO/AFRO, Makerere, AMREF, HST, FAWE, NARESA, ERNESA) to improve their dissemination on priority AFR/SD issues

Expected Outputs:

- Dissemination of priority issues improved for selected institutions

Progress toward outputs, problems encountered, proposed solutions:

Collaborating with WHO/AFRO to revive the Lab manual.

Discussions were held with Vicki Quinn, Linkages, about the Ghana information center and possibly collaborating with them on dissemination strategies when they are better equipped to serve as regional information hub.

13. Develop series of Dissemination Briefs to assist projects and African institutions in developing and carrying out a dissemination strategy

Expected Outputs:

- Dissemination briefs developed
- Dissemination strategy developed and implemented

Progress toward outputs, problems encountered, proposed solutions:

No activity this period.

14. Organize a consultative meeting on dissemination for USAID and CAs based on SARA's experiences and those of other CAs

Expected Outputs:

- Meeting held and experiences shared

Progress toward outputs, problems encountered, proposed solutions:

No activity this period.

Result ic: Capacity to Communicate Electronically

15. Provide connection fees and training to African institutions on request

Expected Outputs:

- Selected African institutions online with e-mail and Internet access

Progress toward outputs, problems encountered, proposed solutions:

No activity this period.

**16. Link African institution personnel to e-communication opportunities
MOH ministers in ECSA region through CRHCS**

Expected Outputs:

- Selected personnel linked to opportunities

Progress toward outputs, problems encountered, proposed solutions:

SARA is currently working with CRHCS to seek funding for an Information and Communication Specialist to spearhead electronic connectivity with the MOHs in the member countries.

17. Explore innovative use of distance education for dissemination and use of information. If appropriate, develop a strategy for becoming involved in collaboration with an African institution (e.g. AMREF, African Virtual University, etc)

Expected Outputs:

- Innovative uses of distance education explored and a strategy developed, if warranted

Progress toward outputs, problems encountered, proposed solutions:

Initiated a comprehensive research review of existing distance learning centers. Ideas were discussed with Joel Okullo of RCQHC on how we could mobilize efforts in distance learning activities in East and southern Africa.

Result iia: Materials Development and Production

18. Design and package information in appropriate formats (books, syntheses, executive summaries, e-notes, policy briefs/brochures, tools). Current documents in production include:

- **Policy manual for CRHCS**
- **Self-evaluation Manual (English and French)**
- **AFR/SD Country Briefs (printing)**
- **Manual on Qualitative Manuals (French version)**
- **Reproductive Health Briefing packet and related fact sheets**

Expected Outputs:

- Products disseminated

Progress toward outputs, problems encountered, proposed solutions:

Millie Morton was hired by SARA in order to repackage the Policy manual into a user-friendly Guide. Initial meetings were held and a final document is anticipated next quarter.

The Self-Evaluation Guide, French and English version, is in the final editing stages.

The English version of the qualitative research manual has been quite popular. It has been translated into French and is being finalized for production. It should be available in the 3rd quarter.

19. Dissemination of key cross-cutting products as requested, e.g.:

- **Introduction to Advocacy**
- **Influencing Policies & Programs + trainer's guide**
- **Making the Connection Count**
- **Knowledge Utilization...**
- **Qualitative Manual**

Expected Outputs:

- Products disseminated

Progress toward outputs, problems encountered, proposed solutions:

Advocacy Guide: In response to 33 requests, 111 copies of the Advocacy Guide were sent out this quarter; 86 copies of the English version and 25 of the French version.

Influencing Policies and Programs: In response to 2 requests, 40 copies of the English version were sent out this quarter. Influencing Policies and Programs Training Guide: In response to 14 requests, 159 copies of the Training Guide for Influencing Polices and Programs were sent out this quarter; 139 copies of the English version and 25 of the French version.

Making the Internet Connection Count: None requested.

Knowledge Utilization: In response to 3 requests, 3 copies were sent out this quarter.

Manual of Qualitative Manuals: In response to 40 requests, 178 copies were sent out this quarter.

Education Assessment folder has been produced and disseminated to a select target audience.

ERNWACA Transnational Study Document - The Transnational Studies are now being produced as the content has been finalized and translated. Both French and English are underway and they should be published in the 3rd quarter of the year.

20. Assessments of use of AFR/SD-SARA products (2 documents per year)

- **Research Guide and AIDS Briefs**
- **Malaria document**
- **Introduction to Advocacy**
- **A Time To Act**

Expected Outputs:

- Use of documents assessed & presentation given

Progress toward outputs, problems encountered, proposed solutions:

The analysis of *An Introduction to Advocacy* was completed and presented to AFR/SD/HRD this quarter. Questionnaires have been sent out to the major requestors of *A Time to Act* and follow up and preliminary analysis is being conducted. A questionnaire for the Research Guide is being developed.

Result iib: Dissemination Channels

21. Mail documents to targeted mailing list

Expected Outputs:

- Documents mailed

Progress toward outputs, problems encountered, proposed solutions:

October, 1642 documents (including requests) were mailed: 82 requests fulfilled for 1536 documents.
November, 1305 documents sent out (including requests): 313 requests filled for 1303 documents.
December, 1662 documents (including requests) were mailed: 414 requests fulfilled for 1660 documents.
Total Documents sent out for quarter: 4609

22. Explore new opportunities to disseminate more information electronically, through e-mail, Internet, etc., especially through e-mail groups

Expected Outputs:

- E-mail lists
- Fewer documents mailed
- Increased number of documents on Internet
- Increased number of hits

Progress toward outputs, problems encountered, proposed solutions:

Conducted research on other CAs electronic dissemination strategies.

Initiated an electronic quarterly publications list

Initiated an electronic e-mail database.

23. Web site maintenance + publications updates

Expected Outputs:

- Website redesigned

Progress toward outputs, problems encountered, proposed solutions:

Completed redesign of AFR-SD website. Redesigned version was submitted to The Mitchell Group to be posted on the internet server.

24. Design and launch a SARA web site***Expected Outputs:***

- SARA web page online

Progress toward outputs, problems encountered, proposed solutions:

The SARA web site is under construction. Designing layout and coding HTML is completed. Content input from several staff members is required. A meeting will be planned, in March and/or early April, with the participation of SARA's Information Specialist, to discuss completion of website.

25. Promote information through various listservs (AFRONETS, ReproHlth, WB, AHILANet)***Expected Outputs:***

- Information promoted

Progress toward outputs, problems encountered, proposed solutions:

Afro-Nets continues to be used for sharing information. Other e-mail lists forums (including DrumBeat, Communication Initiative, Health and Materials WG) are occasionally used for various information dissemination purposes.

Job listing were posted on numerous listservs and websites including: AHEN Net, UNESCO, DEOS-1 listserv, The Association for the Development of Education website, ED-NET)

26. Develop an electronic conference (with some SO Team)***Expected Outputs:***

- Electronic conference developed with selected team

Progress toward outputs, problems encountered, proposed solutions:

No activity this period.

27. Develop and send via e-mail quarterly announcement of AFR-SD publications/products***Expected Outputs:***

- Broadcast e-mail sent quarterly

Progress toward outputs, problems encountered, proposed solutions:

SARA staff prepared a list of AFR/SD-wide publications. This list went out to all core team members for review and will be electronically disseminated the second week of the second quarter.

28. Explore new activities such as CD-ROMS and listservs. Assess whether SARA should put something together for a CD-ROM. Explore whether a listserv like AFRO-NETS for health exists for education.

Expected Outputs:

- New activities of this nature identified, including whether SARA should do CD-ROM
- AFRO-NETS-like listserv for education identified if one exists

Progress toward outputs, problems encountered, proposed solutions:

Explored various methods of CD-ROM production. Discussions on use and content will take place in the next quarter.

Result iic: User Needs

29. Identify information for decision makers

Expected Outputs:

- Information identified

Progress toward outputs, problems encountered, proposed solutions:

No activity this period.

30. Analyze tracking information on major SARA publications

Expected Outputs:

- Information analyzed

Progress toward outputs, problems encountered, proposed solutions:

SARA information related activities and publication tracking is analyzed, recorded and distributed monthly. Information on specific documents are available on request. Detailed information for publication tracking is analyzed quarterly, using FileMaker Pro database. WebTrends is used to analyze HHRAA website information.

31. Develop improved ways to communicate with missions: e.g. semi-annual summary report of AFR/SD, activities every 6 months, elicit mission input into how AFR/SD can help them with dissemination, communication, etc.

Expected Outputs:

- Information compiled, written, and shared with missions

Progress toward outputs, problems encountered, proposed solutions:

SARA staff prepared a list of AFR/SD-wide publications. This list went out to all core team members for review and will be electronically disseminated the second week of the second quarter.

Result 3: Dissemination and Advocacy Activities Incorporated into AFR/SD SOs

32. Provide TA to all AFR/SD teams to ensure that RPs have dissemination & advocacy built into activities

Expected Outputs:

- TA given & dissemination & advocacy activities reviewed

Progress toward outputs, problems encountered, proposed solutions:

SARA staff continue to participate in core group meetings and provide guidance on publication production and dissemination activities.

33. SO Team Core Group Dissemination Activities (cross-referenced)

SO 18- Education

- **Education Assessment folder**
- **ERNWACA Transnational Study Document**

Expected Outputs:

- Folder disseminated
- Document produced and disseminated

Progress toward outputs, problems encountered, proposed solutions:

Education Assessment folder has been produced and disseminated to a select target audience.

ERNWACA Transnational Study Document - The Transnational Studies are now being produced as the content has been finalized and translated. Both French and English are underway and they should be published in the 3rd quarter of the year.

SO 19- Malaria/Infectious Diseases

- **Production, translation, and printing of Malaria docs.**

Expected Outputs:

- See Table

Progress toward outputs, problems encountered, proposed solutions:

See Malaria section above.

SO 19- Immunization

- **EPI reports (in collaboration with AFRO)**
- **Lessons Learned paper on grant to UNICEF and WHO for 4 countries.**
- **Advocacy activities for EPI using African institutions (e.g. CRHCS or others)**

Expected Outputs:

- TBD

Progress toward outputs, problems encountered, proposed solutions:

No activity this period.

SO 19- Nutrition/child survival

- **Production and printing of HIV and nutrition paper**
- **MTCT Strategy paper**
- **HIV Risks and Realities**
- **Modified Breastfeeding for HIV+ women**
- **HIV and Breastfeeding Promotion review**
- **Paper on Sources and effectiveness of care for Childhood illness in Africa**
- **Maximizing the potential of private practitioners in child survival**

Expected Outputs:

- HIV and nutrition paper produced and printed
- Papers printed and disseminated. Likely co-funded with SANA and other projects.

Progress toward outputs, problems encountered, proposed solutions:

HIV and Nutrition paper was produced and disseminated.

SO 20-Population and Reproductive Health

- **RH Briefing Packet**
- **Guidance given to CA partners on dissemination and advocacy as related to documentation of projects, etc**

Expected Outputs:

- TBD

Progress toward outputs, problems encountered, proposed solutions:

RH Briefing packet is in production.

SO 21-HIV/AIDS

- **Reproduction & collation of Briefing packets**
- **Other Sectoral workshops**
- **Targeted dissemination of AIDS Briefs**
- **Discussions on production of AIDS Toolkits for French-system of govt.**
- **BP paper on prevention, care, and support**
- **Development of advocacy documents for MTCT (cf. nutrition)**
- **Assistance in producing HIV/AIDS success stories from field**

- **Dissemination from Religious Leaders conference**
- **Contribution to HIV/AIDS electronic filing system as appropriate**

Expected Outputs:

- Briefing packets collated
- Sectoral workshops organized

Progress toward outputs, problems encountered, proposed solutions:

Discussions were held with Alan Whiteside, at the University of Natal, on collaborating with the dissemination of the AIDS briefs.

He also recommended that the AIDS Toolkits for the French system of Government be revised rather than simply translated.

44 HIV/AIDS packets were distributed this quarter.

SARA staff attended the presentation on the HIV electronic filing system and will offer materials as relevant.

SO 24 - Polio Eradication

- **Continue assisting WHO/AFRO on dissemination and advocacy**
- **Finalize, print, and disseminate Laboratory manual in French**
- **Paper on Health interventions in transition countries (cross-cutting area)**

Expected Outputs:

- Assistance provided
- Document produced and disseminated

Progress toward outputs, problems encountered, proposed solutions:

The Laboratory Manual on Cholera and Dysentery (French version) was provided to the WHO/AFRO office for scientific review.