

QUARTERLY REPORT

January – March 2004

Health Reform and Decentralization Project

REDSALUD

For:

Sarah Majerowicz, Cognizant Technical Officer
United States Agency for International Development (USAID)
Mission to the Dominican Republic
USAID contract #517-C-00-00-00140-00
SO 10: Sustained Health Improvement in Vulnerable Populations
in the Dominican Republic

Presented by:

Abt Associates Inc.
Santo Domingo, Dominican Republic

Contact:

Patricio Murgueytio, Project Director

Date:

April 7, 2004



TABLE OF CONTENTS

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY	3
I. BACKGROUND	4
II. PROJECT OBJECTIVES	4
III. TECHNICAL EXECUTION	4
1.0 General Progress and Current Situation	4
Local Health Services Management Support Component	5
SESPAS Support Component	10
HIV/AIDS Sub-Component	12
Support Component for Favorable Policy Environment	14
Financial/Administrative Aspects	17
Finance Management	17
Administrative Management	17
Annex A	19

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

This report includes activities carried out by REDSALUD during the period between January-March 2004, which corresponds to the second quarter of the current fiscal year. In regard to general technical activities, the project continued to provide technical support for the organization and consolidation of new institutions within the Dominican health and social security system, particularly SENASA and DIDA. The project achieved the objective of signing a services purchase contract between SENASA and Health Region V in order to advance the implementation of the new health and social security system, particularly in the subsidized regime.

Other general activities carried out by REDSALUD during this period were the adjustments to the work plan in relation to the Favorable Policy Support Component, in order to aim their activities toward the election process that culminates with the presidential election on May 16, 2004. In addition, data collection continued in regard to Region V management performance, user satisfaction and other aspects related to implementing the demonstration projects. The second cohort of the health and social security graduate-training program at INTEC was initiated and a contract was signed with the Central University of the East (Universidad Central del Este) to commence a mid-level management-training program. Project activities related to information and routine dissemination continued as programmed. Finally, the external evaluation of USAID's support strategy for the Dominican health reform process, of which the REDSALUD project is a part, took place during this quarter and will continue into the next quarter.

With regard to the Support for Local Management Component, it is important to note the achievements made by the demonstration projects. The first generation demonstration projects, EPI and ADD control support, benefited from the work done in conjunction with coordination by CONECTA in terms of improving the quality of health services and in mobilizing for the demand for improved care. The social mobilization activity culminated in El Seibo, and design of IEC material for the ADD control program was initiated. The Patient-Centered Services Office (OAU) and Hospital Management projects continued to consolidate their activities under the leadership, supervision and coordination of the Regional Coordinator Committee with technical accompaniment by REDSALUD. The service menu and costing tools were reviewed in order to begin to develop the prospective budgeting tool. National consultants were selected to work with the hospital personnel in the application of this tool.

The Support to SESPAS Central Component continued its work providing support and technical assistance in the transition, with special attention to the Expanded Program of Immunizations (EPI). REDSALUD collaborated in organizing the national vaccination campaign scheduled for April 2004. With regard to the HIV/AIDS Support Sub-component, the project moved forward in the organization and management of implementing the Provincial Operating Plans in Region V, in addition to developing the program for follow-up on cases where HIV+ mothers have been identified within the management of the Mother-Child Program.

During this period, the Favorable Policy Support Component continued its activities related to information dissemination, social mobilization and policy dialogue in various fronts. The support provided by INSALUD must be emphasized, as well as their participation in working for the development of a National Agenda for Health and Social Security, which will be presented to the political parties that are participating in the electoral process.

During this quarter, an information management systems specialist was contracted to provide technical support for the informational network installed in Region V SESPAS entities. Additionally, the decentralization consultant's contract was extended until July 2005 because of the key role this consultant plays in relation to the project.

During this quarter, REDSALUD continued to work on consolidating their activities, strengthening documentation and systematization and organizing the materials that will represent the project's legacy. The results of the external evaluation will determine the future of the program for the short-term, during this time of political transition, where its relevance and sustainability are still to be determined.

I. BACKGROUND

The United States Agency for International Development's (USAID) mission in the Dominican Republic signed a contract with Abt Associates Inc. to implement the Health Reform and Decentralization Project (REDSALUD) during the period 2000 - 2005. The project was officially launched in September 2000, when field activities started. The following report presents the accomplishments of the REDSALUD technical team for the reporting period January - March 2004.

II. PROJECT OBJECTIVES

The primary objective of the Project is to contribute to the achievement of USAID's Strategic Objective 10, "To increase the use and sustainability of basic health services and practices" (previously known as SO2). In addition, REDSALUD intends to contribute directly to the achievement of Intermediate Results 10.4, "To promote efficiency and equity of basic health services at the local level" and 10.1, "To increase use of HIV/AIDS services and prevention." The project will also contribute indirectly to accomplishing Intermediate Results 10.2 and 10.3, "To promote sustainable and effective reproductive health and family planning services by the public and private sectors" and "To increase use and effectiveness of selected child survival services," respectively.

Since the Dominican government has defined health as one of its five priority areas, REDSALUD plans to contribute to the overall objectives of the Government of the Dominican Republic (GODR) as well. The Dominican Government, under the direction and efforts of the Secretariat of Public Health and Social Assistance (SESPAS), has clearly identified the need to strengthen the provision of health services, especially primary health care services, with an emphasis on the most vulnerable populations. This focus is highly consistent with the goals and objectives planned for the REDSALUD project. The approval of the General Health Law (42-01) and the Social Security Law (87-01) in the first half of 2001 led REDSALUD to develop technical cooperation activities towards the organization and operation of various new institutions created by the Social Security Law 87-01. This has helped the project maintain its relevance in the health sector reform process currently underway in the Dominican Republic.

III. TECHNICAL EXECUTION

1.0 General Progress and Current Situation

During this reporting period, the following activities took place, as part of the corresponding work plan for this period:

Adjustment of the 2003-04 Operating Plan

During this quarter, various adjustments were made to the 2004 Operating Plan, specifically in regard to the favorable policy support component. These adjustments were made due to the need to identify and define strategies and activities aimed at putting health and social security issues on the agendas of the political parties and the entire society, given the upcoming elections scheduled for May 16th. These activities are described in greater detail in the corresponding section of this report.

Support for the organization and consolidation of the new Dominican Health and Social Security System

During this period, technical assistance continued for the development and organization of the Dominican health and social security system. Technical assistance and coordination activities continued with various key institutional players within the system, such as SENASA, DIDA and SESPAS, particularly at the regional level. Greater details on these activities can be found in the section that describes the progress of the regional demonstration project in support of the social security program in Region V.

Follow-up to REDSALUD monitoring and evaluation plan

During this period we reviewed the results obtained through the data collection for the follow-up to the REDSALUD monitoring and evaluation plan. The data corresponded to The Management and Autonomy Index, the User Satisfaction Survey, and other data from each one of the demonstration projects that are currently being executed. In addition, during this quarter a team that was contracted directly by USAID initiated REDSALUD's external evaluation.

Elaboration and application of REDSALUD information/dissemination mechanisms

The project continues working on activities related to the dissemination of information, such as the webpage and the bulletin. During this period, the eighth bulletin was edited and distributed.

Follow-up meeting with USAID partners

During the quarter, coordination activities took place with CONECTA, specifically regarding strengthening the Expanded Program for Immunization (EPI).

Follow-up to REDSALUD Advisory Board Meetings

No such meetings were held during this period.

Support to Local and International Training

During this quarter the process was initiated for preparing terms of reference, and selecting and evaluating the service training programs given by local universities, which are aimed at middle-level management and Region V public hospitals.

Support to the development of the Graduate Program in Health Services Management and Social Security

REDSALUD provided continued support to the organization and development of the graduate program at INTEC for SESPAS technical and executive personnel in Region V. The second cohort of approximately sixty students began the program in February 2004.

Local Health Services Management Support Component

The objectives for this component during this period were:

1. Consolidate the regional team of EPI representatives from Region V.

2. Support the provincial teams in developing their operating plans for 2004.
3. Provide technical assistance to the first generation demonstration project teams (EPI, Acute Diarrhea Disease Control - ADD) in order to accomplish activities set out in their operating plans.
4. Work with Project CONECTA to coordinate a joint intervention in the Region V EPI program.
5. Work together with CONECTA to complete the regional vaccination site diagnostic.
6. Evaluate the local management support component and the demonstration project achievements in order to make necessary changes to their strategies.
7. Consolidate the management tools and systematize the accumulated experience in relation to the First Generation demonstration projects.
8. Implement the regional informal training strategy and short course directed toward Region V human resources.
9. Design and reach consensus with national key players (DIDA, CNSS), as well as regional key players, to implement the Region V community participation strategy.
10. Support the design and implementation of a training course on finances for non-specialists, which will be directed toward the winning teams from the Regional Competition on Hospital Finances with the objective of improving performance on the residency program that is being planned.
11. Design and implement a "critical actions route" for development within the first, second and third generation demonstration projects.
12. Readjust the methodology, contents and logistics of the following tools: service menu management, finance, and prospective budgeting for the third generation demonstration projects, in order to apply the changes in all regional hospitals.
13. Set up the Regional REDSALUD Office and establish the presence of the Regional Representative.
14. Select a technological specialist to be based in the regional office and to provide support within the region.
15. Complete a situational diagnostic on the use and condition of equipment and computer programs developed by REDSALUD.
16. Identify and select national and international consultants to support the work related to Clinic Services Management, Supply Management, and Billing and Accounts Management.
17. Support the updating and corrections to the quarterly reports and project administration (counterpart reports, provisions...)
18. Monitor the situation regarding the Patient-Centered Services Office and Hospital Management projects.

Activities carried out: First Generation Demonstration Projects

EPI Project

Efforts during this quarter were aimed at reformulating the project activities for the year 2004, as well as establishing coordination between the CONECTA Project through a joint intervention plan for the region, whose objectives include strengthening the services provided (equipping the vaccination sites), and the increasing of consumer demand (social mobilization). Both projects got together to write a proposal that established as a priority the completion of a situational diagnostic for regional vaccination sites. This diagnostic was scheduled for February and March. The results of the diagnostic will be used to establish goals, plan activities, identify responsibilities and define a working timeline. The diagnostic showed structural, management, and community needs. The results of the diagnostic will be presented to the provincial health

teams for their approval, and to make any necessary adjustments in preparation for a workshop on writing the 2004/2005 Operating Plan.

The following management tools were selected to be systematized and delivered mid-year: How to Manage a Health Program, How to Monitor and Evaluate a Health Program, How to Manage Information Systems for a Health Program, How to Manage Social and Community Participation in a Health Service, How to Manage a Vaccination Campaign (this is also valid for the EDA project).

ADD Project

This project concluded the first phase of implementation of the community participation component developed by IDAC/ENDESA. At the component's closing event the support groups were publicly presented and recognized in front of the El Seibo community. The following phase of this component is to solidify the groups in their support to the UROs.

The DPS held a bidding for contracting a consultant to develop the program's educational materials. The International Center of Investigation and Educational Technology (Centro Internacional de Investigación y Tecnología Educativa - CIITESA) was selected. They will complete the diagnostic of the program's needs in the province and design the strategy for identifying the types of educational materials needed.

Thirty technicians were trained in the "Effective Management of Diarrheal Disease." Those trained included doctors and nurses from Hospital Miches and twenty-three technicians from Hospital Dr. Teófilo Hernández in El Seibo. The first draft of the program's supervision guide was also written. The DPS and the national supervisor from the National ADD Control Program participated in developing this guide. Technical assistance was also provided by REDSALUD in this process. The format will be approved in the different UROs throughout the municipality. A supervision campaign was completed in which they were able to see the organizational levels of the UROs, appropriate use of the registry, the scarce and in some cases non-existent educational materials, the damage (rust) to various utensils in the Miches URO (which is located close to the sea) and the lack of clocks and scales, among others.

Second Generation Demonstration Projects: Patient-Centered Services Offices (Oficinas de Atención al Usuario - OAU)

During this quarter the OAU Project's Operating Plan was developed. The plan includes the objectives, activities and strategies for the next fifteen months. In order to advance the implementation of the project, commissions corresponding to each of the project components have been organized, which will work interdependently with each other.

Commission Work Results:

- The Referral and Counter-referral Commission worked with SENASA and SESPAS in defining logistical aspects that will allow the system to be implemented in the region.
- The Training Commission participated in defining the strategy for selecting the short course participants. Due to the political situation, it was proposed that there be two courses offered for each province (one on Information Management Systems and the other on Quality Management). These courses were scheduled for April and May. The doctors and nurses have priority for course selection, due to the fact that they are the personnel that have a greater chance of remaining in their posts after a change in government.

- The social participation commission coordinated with key players from Directorate of Affiliate Information and Protection (DIDA), National Health Insurance and the Community Integration Office at SESPAS to define the social and community participation strategy for the region. As a result, four lines of action were established that will be coordinated by DIDA. This commission will focus on the following:
 1. Prevention and Health Promotion
 2. Social surveillance and citizen awareness-raising on health and social security rights
 3. System integration in the different regimens
 4. Institutional governing of the hospitals (Administration Council)
- The commission for performance recognition presented a form for office follow-up and evaluation, which is being pre-tested. In addition, the launch of the first OAU contest was organized for mid-April 2004.
- The IEC commission defined their strategy that included: the target population, the key contents and the necessary formats for making behavioral changes. As a result, the following will be of primary focus:
 - Internal and external user rights and responsibilities
 - Quality care for internal users
 - The Social Security Law (duplication of material from DIDA)
 - Certification committees (DIDA material)
 - Strategies to promote social and community participation in Region V (material for social and community organizations)
 - Management guide for Patient-Centered Services Office (OAU team)

Third Generation Demonstration Projects: Hospital Management

The following activities were carried out:

1. Redesign of tools for costing, service menu and prospective budgeting.
2. Consultant identification and selection for developing the costing, service menu and budgeting tools.
3. Definition and methodological adjustment to the proposal for the training process on the finance tool for non-specialists from the winning teams of the first regional contest for hospital finances.
4. Follow-up on data collection for Region V health service provider service costs.
5. Design and presentation of the critical route for the Region V provincial team's Hospital Management Project for the year 2004.
6. Strategy and logistics design for the new management tools that will be implemented, such as clinic services management, hospital supplies management and accounting and billing management.
7. REDSALUD Regional Office set up.

Other Activities

- Participation in working groups for the implementation of SS in Region V.
- Meetings with different actors in the system.
- Support meetings for the regional committee that operates the OAU project.
- Meetings with provincial offices and their teams.
- Work meetings with different commissions of the regional committee for the development of the OAU components.

- Coordination meetings with DIDA, SENASA and REDSALUD to consolidate the regional social participation strategy.
- REDSALUD representation (before the CNSS) in the swearing in of the committees for the selection and certification of the subsidized social security regime beneficiaries in the provinces of El Seibo, Hato Mayor and La Romana.
- REDSALUD representation (before DIDA) in the agreement-signing event between DIDA and sixty-three community based organizations in La Romana, to build a communication network on user rights and responsibilities in the Social Security framework.
- REDSALUD representation (before the community-based organizations of San Pedro de Macoris and the Dr. Antonio Musa Regional Hospital office) at the Provisional Administration Council of the Dr. Antonio Musa Regional Hospital.
- REDSALUD representation (before the Hospital Administration Council of the DAMRH) in the meeting on accountability of the Dr. Antonio Musa Regional Hospital Office, to the administrative council.
- Coordination meetings with the CONECTA project to establish common guidelines in working to provide support in Region V.
- Meetings and work sessions with the Central Level Mother-Child office in support to the ADD program.
- Participation in public events for projects executed by other cooperating agencies (PROSISA).
- Participation in the "Health Policy Agenda" activity.
- Coordination meetings with INTEC to discuss matters related to the graduate course and short courses.
- Participation in interviews with consultants for the ADD, Hospital Management and Information Systems projects.
- Participation in defining the methodology for offering short courses in health service quality and information systems. Contract national consultants for the changes in the service menu and costing of services.
- Contract consultants and develop the prospective budgeting tool in all of the Region V hospitals.
- Identify national and international consultants for developing the clinic services management strategy, critical supplies management, and billing and accounting.
- Monitor the OAU information system, apply work methods and conduct follow-up to continue to apply the costing tool.

Regional Demonstration Project (Fourth Generation)

The activities that fall under this project are focused on applying at the local, regional, and national levels the strategies, standards, and procedures that will be used in the implementation of the social security system, especially of the subsidized regime in Region V. The following activities were completed:

- Evaluation and follow-up meetings regarding the activities defined for implementing social security in health Region V, especially in reference to the origin and flow of resources for the subsidized regime affiliation process.
- Support to SENASA in the process of negotiating, defining and arranging contracts with the public and private PSS's that will be utilized once the family health insurance operation is initiated.
- Support to SENASA and to the Regional Health Office in defining and adjusting the strategies, standards and procedures that will be utilized for social security implementation.

- Support to the Regional Health Office in defining what will be its organic and functional structure in order to lead the process for service provision in the future Eastern Regional Health Service.

Activities planned for the next quarter

Proposed activities for the next quarter are as follows:

- Initiate short course development for the different universities involved in the regional training strategy.
- Complete a costing study trip in Colombia for the representatives from the regional award winning teams.
- Contract national and international consultants for the implementation phase of the new service menu, costing and budgeting tools in Region V hospitals.
- Support demonstration project operating plan development.
- Prepare for dissemination of management tools for the ADD and EPI projects.
- Contract consultants to design the ADD IEC strategy.
- Approve and implement the ADD supervisory guide.
- Develop the community participation strategy in the region.
- Continue to provide support for the regional committee commissions in developing OAU project components.
- Monitor and evaluate Patient-Centered Services Office performance.
- Continue with the consolidation and experience replication process for the vaccination and diarrhea control demonstration projects in all of the provinces in the region and in various other provinces in the country.
- Develop the proposal together with EPI support by CONECTA/REDSALUD in the region.
- Monitor and follow-up ADD trainings.
- Review, consolidate and make adjustments to the Social Security Affiliation Program and user rights verification.
- Review and make adjustments to the ADD project information system.
- EDA project support group follow-up in El Seibo.
- Continue the experience systematization process that was initiated by REDSALUD.
- Implement the regional IEC strategy within the OAU project.
- Initiate work on the clinic services management design in Health Region V.
- Organize a contest for graphic artists to compete for the opportunity to design and duplicate the communication materials to effect a behavioral change to promote the Patient-Centered Services Office.
- Develop the execution agreement of the social and community participation strategy between DIDA and the providers.
- Design the operating strategies to promote sustainability of the work done by local teams, in the framework of potential changes in the political climate (in terms of continuity, as well as change).

SESPAS Support Component

Objectives

The main objectives under this component for this reporting period were:

1. Cooperate with technical areas of SESPAS in order to improve their capacity to manage and coordinate between central and local level, linked to REDSALUD demonstration projects, in order to promote and organize their stewardship and health authority role.

2. Coordinate and provide technical assistance via management strategies and tools for the following programs: Maternal and Child Health, Expanded Program of Immunization, HIV/AIDS and Blood Banks. The main objective is to improve the management capacity in order to better support and develop the corresponding roles at the local level.
3. Cooperate in defining the roles and activities for technical programs at the central level in the transition process of the Dominican Health System and Social Security.
4. Cooperate and actively participate in the planned activities to apply and develop the Work Plan approved for selected territories by REDSALUD.

Activities Carried out

Support and strengthening of communication, information, and coordination between SESPAS (central level) and REDSALUD

The information exchange process was maintained between REDSALUD and SESPAS Sub-Secretariats, specifically with the Primary Care and Specialized Care Sub-Secretaries and Technical Programs. Communication and coordination with programs such as EPI, PNCT, Human Resources, HIV/AIDS, Maternal and Child Health and Blood Banks continued to be strengthened to a point that on-going, active participation and assistance is expected from these programs in activities organized by REDSALUD and vice versa. During this period, the project continued with the development of activities to strengthen institutional capacity of EPI, Blood Banks and Maternal and Child Health under the framework of the transition process for the start-up of the new health and social security system in the country.

In addition, there was cooperation with the SESPAS Technical Sub-Secretariat, through the UMDI (Modernization and Institutional Development Unit) in the process of elaborating the 2004-2014 Ten-Year National Health Plan in relation to their stewardship role and separation of functions. Two workshops and three meetings took place with the corresponding teams to carry out these activities.

The component also continued collaboration with different SESPAS offices as well as with other institutions to create a set of tools that will assist in management and regulation by SESPAS and the health and social security system in the Eastern Region. Meetings took place with Quality Management Teams from EPI, OPS and PROSISA, among others.

Continued support was provided to the EPI program with the participation of other projects, social security offices and international cooperating agencies (PAHO, USAID, CHANGE, CONECTA). Cooperation was specifically provided to the coordination process for EPI support at the local level for the Pan-American Vaccination Campaign scheduled for April 23-25.

Technical Support for SESPAS' Normative Programs (EPI, Maternal-Child Health, Tuberculosis Control, Human Resources, Blood Banks, Primary Care) and others, in development of strategies and tools for the facilitation and support of management in the regional and local service providers network.

1. Creation and Development of a Regional Blood Bank

Continued support was given to the initiative of creating a regional blood bank with inter-institutional participation, to be included in the regional service network in Health Region V. A coordination meeting was held between the support sponsor, The Dominican Red Cross, and SESPAS in which an agreement was signed between the two organizations that officially instituted the Blood Bank. REDSALUD organized a visit to Hemocentro in Bogotá, Colombia from April 24-29, 2004 in order to help facilitate the development of this initiative. Representatives

from regional and central SESPAS, The Red Cross, IDSS, Dr. Antonio Musa Regional Hospital and REDSALUD participated.

2. Support to the institutional development of the Maternal-Child Health Program during the transition process

Three meetings were held with the Maternal-Child Health technical team in order to identify the priorities in their annual action plan, which require careful management to guarantee that the program adapts and is maintained through the transition process. Subjects include human resources training, surveillance and information systems, standards and protocols, and internal development based on the current legal framework.

Other Activities

- Follow up on activities related to the graduate program in its third quarter at INTEC and the initiation of the first trimester for the second cohort.
- Follow up to the process of developing contracts with the UCE and UASD universities that were selected to provide the short courses on information systems, quality and human resources management.
- Hold work meetings and information exchanges with SESPAS, CERSS, PROSISA and PAHO on the strategies to be executed in reference to the service network and activities already in process.
- Active participation in and completion of the necessary tasks related to all the activities required by the project.

Planned Activities for next quarter

- Continue with support and communication strengthening, information and coordination between SESPAS (central level) and REDSALUD. Maintain communication with the Sub-Secretariats of Primary, Specialized, and Technical Care.
- Continue to develop meetings to strengthen the transition process with EPI, Blood Banks, and Maternal-Child Health.
- Continue participating in the elaboration of the Ten-Year National Health Plan.
- Support for the distribution of norms and protocols related to surveillance components and the use of information for the management of integrated health services at the local level. Workshops and meetings to follow up on this process.
- Continue technical support for SESPAS Program Norms (EPI, Maternal and Child Health, Human Resources, and Blood Banks, among others) to develop tools and strategies that facilitate and support regional and local services provider networks. Support to the Maternal-Child Health and Blood Bank programs in the creation of action plans in the face of the transition process and their new roles as public health programs.
- Maintain follow-up to the two promotions for the INTEC graduate training course.
- Follow up in the process for contracting and implementing the short course in management with the UCE and UASD universities.

HIV/AIDS Sub-Component

During January to March 2004, the HIV/AIDS sub-component focused on establishing mechanisms that permit activities contained in the operating plans to be implemented in the short-term, as well as implementation of the projects designed by the follow-up committees. The following activities are of importance:

1. Meetings were held on February 5th, 10th and 11th with the five provincial follow-up committees, to analyze the achievements made in designing the STI/HIV/AIDS prevention and care projects, and to review the activities prioritized within the short-term operating plans.

The principle outcomes of these meetings are the following:

- (a) Two of the five committees have been functioning in an adequate manner (La Romana and La Altagracia); two have made some work advancements with meetings at the level of the committee chairs (San Pedro and El Seibo); and one was unsuccessful because of problems related to formation and leadership (Hato Mayor).
 - (b) The activities that were prioritized in the short-term plans by the committees are defined for all of the provinces. However it is necessary to work within the budgets.
2. In relation to the level of the projects, it is evident that the La Romana budget has been completed and only awaits final revision. The budgets for San Pedro and La Altagracia are being written; however, they require some adjustment since some of the activities are already included in the short-term plans. El Seibo will have to re-do their project proposal, and Hato Mayor should be advancing in their project design since it is the only province that does not have any type of proposal to date.
3. Development of the 2004 Work Plan, which has two objectives:
 - (a) To strengthen the follow-up committees so that they can coordinate the implementation of activities contained in the short-term action plans and the designed projects during the year 2004.
 - (b) To strengthen the regional information system in the Maternal-Child Health area in order to collect data on mothers and newborns with HIV and to be able to refer them to the national program for the prevention of vertical transmission, which will assure follow-up and control of the situation.

Once the work plan was defined and the budget was reviewed, a time extension until December 2004 was requested for execution of "task assignment" #4.

4. Participation in the working group of Region V health project financing entities' and its launch on February 23rd in San Pedro de Macoris.
5. Participation in the workshop on "Forming Alliance Mentors," which was held on February 24th and 25th in the Lina Hotel in Santo Domingo.
6. Advancements have been made in defining the consultancy for the information system, concluding that another module corresponding to Maternal-Child Health will be developed by REDSALUD in addition to the existing system. This will include the information related to the Program for the Prevention of Vertical Transmission.
7. Participation in the HIV/AIDS Caribbean Conference, held March 5th-7th in Santo Domingo.

8. Definition of a technical and administrative mechanism that will assure the implementation of activities contained in the short-term operating plans, as well as the projects designed by the follow-up committees. This mechanism consists of:
- (a) A bidding, via direct invitation, by three institutions to provide technical and financial assistance to the follow-up committees.
 - (b) Formation of a committee evaluator.
 - (c) Proposal review and selection.
 - (d) Contract signing with the selected institution.

HIV/AIDS Activities planned for next quarter

- Technical assistance for POP follow-up committees to help them achieve consolidation through an Administrative and Technical Support contract with the institution that wins the bid.
- Approval and implementation of the HIV/AIDS prevention and care projects that are coordinated by the follow-up committees and the consulting institution that wins the bid.
- Completion of activities contained in the short-term operating plans, under coordination by the follow-up committees and with Administrative and Technical Support from the institution that wins the bid.
- Support the strengthening of the regional information system in the Maternal-Child Health area, including the Program for the Prevention of Vertical Transmission.
- Support to DIGECITSS within the framework of applying management tools.

Support Component for Favorable Policy Environment

Objectives

The main objectives of this component for this period were:

1. Contribute to improved understanding and coordination between technical, political and social players of the health sector (public, private, and NGO) for effective reform planning and implementation.
2. Support actions for Social Security start-up in Region V.
3. Contribute to the social participation component and to the political viability of Second and Third Generation demonstration projects.
4. Support the dissemination of REDSALUD project activities and lessons learned by initiating the systematization process to ensure RESALUD legacy.
5. Support activities for a National Political Agenda in favor of the Reform and Social Security.
6. Support the implementation of a Social and Community Participation Strategy.

Activities Implemented

Support for formulation and approval of regulations of the new legal framework.

During this quarter, work was done in relation to health promotion regulation and it was decided that the process will be highly participatory, including non-governmental organizations that were previously excluded from these discussions. This aspect was emphasized in meetings with the National Health Council.

Training Activities and Information Related to Reform and Social Security

Training activities continued to take place to inform the promoters and supervisors within the health sector on the reform process and social security. These trainings are aimed at demystifying erroneous beliefs and incorrect perceptions of some of the actors on the implementation of the new system and on educating those who want to promote health in their communities, as those are the people who have direct contact with the general population. A total of seven training events were held.

Analysis of the position different key players in the health sector hold on themes related to reform, social security, and the health sector

In order to complete this analysis a weekly summary was written on news related to the health sector, social security, health services financing, health problems, etc. This report was prepared based on the news reports that appeared in the primary newspapers and revisions to the webpage were also conducted in this quarter. This information will allow us to analyze a number of aspects related to the reform and its achievements. This report will be shared with other groups and non-governmental organizations.

National Political Agenda for Reform and Social Security

During this quarter continued support was given to the activities related to a National Political Agenda for Reform and Social Security. Coordination meetings with political party leaders were held. A summary of the agenda document was written for the Citizen's Forum. A dossier of the principal proposals was written for presentation to the presidential candidates. In addition, visits were made to union leaders who have links with the health sector and to political party representatives.

Other Activities

- Participation in events with political candidates
- Bulletin #8 published
- Participation in the launching of the government program of one of the political parties that will participate in the elections, in order to learn about their health proposal.
- Participation in REDSALUD project activities (meetings, OAU workshops, etc.)
- Participation in a workshop on the Dominican Medical College's Basic Health Plan
- Support for the Dr. Antonio Musa Regional Hospital general medicine workshop
- Participation in political dialogue events convened by PAHO and the Catholic University of Santo Domingo
- Completion of a meeting with the members for the Health Promotion Regulation
- Representation in the Advisory Council for Health Promotion

Planned activities for next quarter

- Continue supporting regulations formulation, approval and dissemination
- Draft, edit, print and distribute Bulletin No. 9
- Support policy dialogue activities
- Support the promotion of Social Security start-up in Region V through political dialogue and in support of requirements of the Local Management Strengthening Component and demonstration projects
- Collect, analyze and share information related to Social Security
- Create a coalition of actors to promote Social Security in Region V

Financial/Administrative Aspects

Finance Management

During this quarter, the contract of the Decentralization Advisor was extended, and both an Information Systems Advisor and a Grants Analyst were contracted. The concurrence of these events is likely to impact the budget, therefore a new re-programming of the budget funds was solicited.

Receipts for a total of US\$7,168,153.09 were presented to USAID, which corresponded to the period up to March 2004. Payment was received for the demonstration projects that were reported under the GRANTS category, for a sum of RD\$13,760,104.50 (US\$539,374.51). The project's non-executed funds ("pipeline"), including the execution of the demonstration projects, is US\$3,045,997.30 and for REDSALUD (excluding the demonstration projects) it is US\$942,510.91.

The following table represents the overview of the budget assigned to REDSALUD and its execution to the aforementioned date.

TITLE	GLOBAL BUDGET IN US\$	EXECUTED	% OF EXECUTION
SALARIES	1,458,005.00	998,535.11	68.5%
BENEFITS	612,442.00	419,384.80	68.5%
OVERHEAD	481,378.00	343,002.22	71.3%
CONSULTANT FEES	258,938.00	157,694.47	60.9%
TRIPS & TRANSPORTATION	142,556.00	212,767.88	149.3%
INTERNATIONAL ASSIGNMENTS	644,349.00	235,583.29	36.6%
OTHER DIRECT COSTS	632,862.00	676,510.17	106.9%
SUB-CONTRACTORS	3,786,125.00	3,030,516.95	80.0%
OPERATIONS CHARGES	142,384.00	120,490.87	84.6%
GENERAL ADMIN.	771,961.00	549,772.65	71.2%
FIXED FEE	589,781.00	437,363.11	74.2%
SUB-TOTAL (REDSALUD)	9,520,781.00	7,168,153.09	75.3%
GRANTS	3,800,000.00	753,849.61	19.8%
GENERAL TOTAL	13,320,781.00	7,922,002.70	59.5%

The previous table shows a general spending of 59.5% in relation to the 75% that has taken place since the beginning of the project. This leaves a difference of at least 15.50% to achieve the execution of the budget according to the LOP.

Administrative Management

In addition to the routine responsibilities in the administrative area, it is suitable to mention the following events due to their relevance to the project activities. Bernardo Kleiner (Development Associates/Headquarters) visited at the beginning of February in order to review and discuss

administrative aspects related to the sub-contract with REDSALUD and to meet with the local DA personnel to discuss the project activities and progress.

Database – During this quarter, the first phase of this process was completed, which involved data collection. A user training will take place at the beginning of April in order to initiate the process of consolidating the information obtained in a CD library. In March, set-up of REDSALUD's regional office in San Pedro de Macorís was completed in regard to equipment and furniture, the electrical service contract, telephone, internet, etc.

In addition, REDSALUD's office extension space was set up, equipped and furnished. The additional services necessary for smooth office functioning were also implemented. At the end of the quarter a project inventory was completed and results were sent to USAID and the main office of Abt Associates.

Annex A

Presentations, Activities and Training Events during January - March 2004

Technical Area	Subject	Objective	Institution/ Participants	Location	Beneficiaries	Date
Training	Workshop for managing the ADD case registry in Miches	To train the personnel responsible for the UROs in regard to the patient registry and ministry of health forms	SESPAS REDSALUD	Municipal Hospital in Miches	16 participants	Jan. 7, 2004
Planning	Activities programming	2004 Work Plan development for the Dr. Antonio Musa Regional Hospital	SESPAS REDSALUD	Howard Johnson Hotel	23 people	Jan. 8, 2004
Technical Assistance for Demonstration Projects	Follow-up meeting on the FODA workshop in El Seibo	To consolidate information regarding the FODA analysis developed by URO health personnel and the DPS technical team in El Seibo	SESPAS REDSALUD	El Seibo DPS	22 people	Jan. 8, 2004
Training	Workshop for managing the ADD case registry in Miches	To train the personnel responsible for the UROs in regard to the patient registry and ministry of health forms	SESPAS REDSALUD	Dr. Teófilo Hernández Provincial Hospital, El Seibo	22 participants	Jan. 13, 2004
Institutional representation	Integration of the community organizations in the selection and certification process for the Social Security Subsidized Regimen beneficiaries.	To develop the conditions for initiating the Social Security Subsidized Regimen	COMMUNITY BASED ORGANIZATIONS IN EL SEIBO, HATO MAYOR AND LA ROMANA	Detallistas Club in La Romana	200 people	Feb. 13, 2004

Technical Area	Subject	Objective	Institution/ Participants	Location	Beneficiaries	Date
Social and community participation	Institutional government	Accountability meeting for the Dr. Antonio Musa Regional Hospital Office before the Administrative Council	SESPAS COMMUNITY ORGANIZATIONS / SENASA/ DIDA/ CERSS/ REDSALUD	El Piano Bar	25 people	Jan. 13, 2004
Internal evaluation	Internal evaluation workshop and REDSALUD Project programming	To complete an internal evaluation for the REDSALUD Project and to define priorities for 2004-2005 programming.	REDSALUD	Casa San Pablo Santo Domingo	25 people	Jan. 19-20, 2004
Policy component (Political dialogue)	Developing the National Agenda proposal	To discuss the National Agenda proposal with non-governmental organizations	INSALUD NGO	Lina Hotel	26 people	Jan. 20, 2004
Training	Course on quality care for the nursing staff in Miches	To sensitize the nursing staff on providing quality health care	SESPAS REDSALUD	Municipal Hospital in Miches	86 nurses	Jan. 22, 2004
Training	Course on quality care for the nursing staff in Miches	To sensitize the nursing staff on providing quality health care	SESPAS REDSALUD	Dr. Teófilo Hernández Provincial Hospital in El Seibo	96 nurses	Jan. 23, 2004
Policy component (Political dialogue)	Developing the National Agenda proposal	To discuss the National Agenda proposal with the Board of Directors from INSALUD	INSALUD Specialized Societies	Lina Hotel	21 people	Jan. 23, 2004

Technical Area	Subject	Objective	Institution/ Participants	Location	Beneficiaries	Date
Regional support	Region V Vaccination Site diagnostic	To identify the vaccination site needs in health Region V so that CONECTA and REDSALUD can work together to plan activities in 2004	SESPAS (EPI regional coordinators) CONECTA REDSALUD	All of the vaccination sites in the region	4 people per trip	Feb.- March 2004
Local management support	OAU Regional Team Work Plan and Hospital Management Plan Development	To establish OAU project priorities and to present the critical route for the Hospital Management Project activities for 2004	SESPAS REDSALUD Consultants	Coral Costa Caribe Hotel, Juan Dolio	40 participants	Feb. 3-4, 2004
Technical Assistance for Demonstration Projects	Region V EPI directors meeting	To evaluate the activities developed in 2003 and to present those planned for 2004	SESPAS REDSALUD	Dr. Antonio Musa Regional Hospital, SPM	7 people	Feb. 5, 2004
Social and Community Participation	Institutional government	Building of the Dr. Antonio Musa Regional Hospital administration advisory council	SESPAS COMMUNITY ORGANIZATIONS / SENASA/ DIDA/ CERSS/ REDSALUD	Dr. Antonio Musa Regional Hospital	23 people	Feb. 6, 2004
Training	Workshop for the OAU project work plan for the Dr. Antonio Musa Regional Hospital	To evaluate activities developed in 2003 and to plan the related activities for 2004	SESPAS REDSALUD	Howard Johnson Hotel, SPM	25 participants	Feb. 6, 2004
Follow-up Committee Strengthening	Monitoring meeting with the San Pedro POP follow- up committee	To analyze the achievements made by the internal organization of the POP follow-up committees.	Follow-up committees DIGECITS REDSALUD	DPS offices, San Pedro	7 participants	Feb. 6, 2004

Technical Area	Subject	Objective	Institution/ Participants	Location	Beneficiaries	Date
Follow-up committee strengthening	Monitoring meeting with the La Romana POP follow-up committee	To analyze the achievements made by the internal organization of the POP follow up committees.	Follow-up committees DIGECITS REDSALUD	DPS offices, La Romana	9 participants	Feb. 6, 2004
Training process support	INTEC graduate students visit the R. V	To experience and analyze the field conditions in terms of management and infrastructure regarding health services in the graduate student's work area.	SESPAS REDSALUD INTEC	Hato Mayor, SPM	18 people	Feb. 6-7, 2004
Strengthening the follow-up committees	Monitoring meeting with the POP follow-up committee in Hato Mayor	To analyze the achievements made by the internal organization of the POP follow-up committees.	Follow-up committees DIGECITS REDSALUD	DPS offices, Hato Mayor	9 participants	Feb. 10, 2004
Strengthening the follow-up committees	Monitoring meeting with the POP follow-up committee in El Seibo	To analyze the achievements made by the internal organization of the POP follow-up committees.	Follow-up committees DIGECITS REDSALUD	El Seibo Provincial Hospital	10 participants	Feb. 10, 2004
Strengthening the follow-up committees	Monitoring meeting with the POP follow-up committee in La Altagracia, Higüey	To analyze the achievements made by the internal organization of the POP follow-up committees.	Follow-up committees DIGECITS REDSALUD	El Naranjo Hotel, Higüey	9 participants	Feb. 11, 2004
Referral and counter-referral system	Inter-hospital coordination	Set up the referral and counter-referral system	SESPAS SENASA REDSALUD	Provincial and regional hospitals in SPM, El Seibo and La Romana.	16 people	Feb. 12, 19 and 26, 2004

Technical Area	Subject	Objective	Institution/ Participants	Location	Beneficiaries	Date
SESPAS Central support	Visit the R.V blood banks	Check the blood bank and transfusion service conditions in the region that were previously initiated and implemented by the Regional Blood Bank.	SESPAS REDSALUD	SPM, La Romana, Hato Mayor, El Seibo and La Altagracia	8 people	Feb. 18-19, 2004
Policy Component (Workshop)	Workshop on the basic contents of the legal framework for health	To educate health promoters on the contents of laws and the role of the promoters in the reform framework	INSALUD REDSALUD SESPAS CERSS	Howard Johnson Hotel	45 people	Feb. 20, 2004
Institutional representation	Review the coordination matrix for the Donor's table / Board elections	To improve the coordination of project operations	SESPAS/ COPRESIDA/ IDSS/ EPOS/ GTZ/ CONECTA/ UNICEF/ UNFPA/ REDSALUD	Howard Johnson Hotel	50 people	Feb. 23, 2004
Institutional representation	Inter-institutional agreement between DIDA and a network of social community institutions in La Romana	To create a communications network on the Social Security System and user rights and responsibilities	COMMUNITY BASED ORGANIZATIONS/ CNSS/ DIDA/ SESPAS/ SENASA/ SISALRIL/ CONECTA/ REDSALUD/ PROVINCIAL AUTHORITIES/ SPECIAL GUESTS	Club de detallistas in La Romana	250 people	Feb. 23, 2004
Inter-institutional coordination	Health Region V donor's table	To define the work mechanisms for the donor's table in health Region V. Launching of the donor's table for authorities and relevant actors in health Region V.	Cooperating institutions. SESPAS, DIGECITS, COPRESIDA Institutions present in Region V.	Howard Johnson Hotel, San Pedro de Macoris.	15 people in the morning. 80 people in the afternoon	Feb. 23, 2004

Technical Area	Subject	Objective	Institution/ Participants	Location	Beneficiaries	Date
Training	Course on quality care for the nursing personnel at Musa (1st group)	To sensitize the nursing personnel toward quality care	SESPAS REDSALUD	Dr. Antonio Musa Regional Hospital, SPM	96 people	Feb. 24, 2004
Policy Component (Workshop)	Supervision Fundamentals Workshop: Part I	To educate the participants in the basic tools for supervision in the health sector to ensure quality and efficiency health care, in the framework of the reform	REDSALUD INSALUD SESPAS CERSS INFOTEP	Howard Johnson Hotel	26 participants	Feb. 24, 2004
Monitoring tools	"Developing Mentor Alliances" Workshop	Develop "mentors" to strengthen the alliances made via the projects	NGOs CONECTA REDSALUD	Lina Hotel, Santo Domingo	20 people	Feb. 24-25, 2004
Training	Workshop on ADD management in Miches	To train the Oral Rehydration Unit (ORU) personnel in Miches on the program contents and standards.	SESPAS (Miches ORU personnel)	Municipal Hospital in Miches	23 people	Feb. 25-26, 2004
Training	Course in quality care for the nursing personnel at Musa (2nd group)	To sensitize the nursing personnel toward quality care	SESPAS REDSALUD	Dr. Antonio Musa Regional Hospital, SPM	102 people	March 2, 2004
Social and community participation	Closing ceremony for the community participation component in El Seibo	To present the actions developed by the DPS and IDAC/ENDESA within the community participation component of the EDA project, as well as signing the agreement between the DPS and the other support groups for activity follow-up	SESPAS REDSALUD Community leaders	El Seibo municipal government	50 people	March 4, 2004

Technical Area	Subject	Objective	Institution/ Participants	Location	Beneficiaries	Date
Training in quality care	Course in quality care for the nursing personnel at Musa (2nd group)	To sensitize the nursing personnel toward quality care	SESPAS REDSALUD	La Romana DPS	40 nurses	March 5, 2004
Participation in HIV/AIDS events	Caribbean Conference on HIV/AIDS	Participate in Caribbean Conference on HIV/AIDS	Representatives from all of the Caribbean countries	V Centenario, Jaragua and Meliá Hotels, Santo Domingo	3,000 people	March 5 and 7, 2004
Meetings regarding the POPs.	Monitoring meetings with the POP follow-up committees	Follow-up on the POPs.	POP committees	San Pedro, La Romana, El Seibo, Hato Mayor, La Altagracia.	POP committees	March 5, 10 and 11, 2004
SESPAS Central support	Maternal-Infant Program workshop	To analyze the program situation and its components in regard to the SESPAS transition process	SESPAS REDSALUD	Santo Domingo	28 participants	March 10, 2004
Policy Component (Workshop)	Workshop on the basic contents of the legal framework for health	To educate health promoters on the contents of laws and the role of the promoters in the reform framework	REDSALUD INSALUD SESPAS	Mormon Salon, El Seibo	50 participants	March 10, 2004

Technical Area	Subject	Objective	Institution/ Participants	Location	Beneficiaries	Date
SESPAS Central support	National Ten Year Health Plan	To develop a proposal for the National Ten Year Health Plan goals and objectives by thematic area. (Rector and separation of functions.)	SESPAS REDSALUD OPS Sec. Education CONECTA UNICEF CERSS CONARE ONAP ONAPLAN	Juan Dolio	48 people	March 10-12, 2004
Training	Workshop on ADD management in El Seibo	To train Oral Rehydration Unit (ORU) personnel in El Seibo on the norms and standards of the program.	SESPAS (ORU personnel from El Seibo)	Dr. Teófilo Hernandez Hospital in El Seibo	30 people	March 13-14, 2004
SESPAS Central support	EPI support	To present the EPI program challenges and goals to the various political parties in the country to demonstrate their sustainability	SESPAS OPS CONECTA USAID Rotary PROSISA CERSS PRD PLD PRSC PRI	PAHO	18 people	March 18, 2004
Policy Component (Workshop)	Workshop on the basic contents of the legal framework for health	To educate health promoters on the contents of laws and the role of the promoters in the reform framework	REDSALUD INSALUD SESPAS	Provincial Health Office	31 participants	March 23, 2004
Policy Component (Workshop)	Workshop on the basic contents of the legal framework for health	To educate health promoters on the contents of laws and the role of the promoters in the reform framework	REDSALUD INSALUD SESPAS	Provincial Health Office	59 participants	March 25, 2004

Technical Area	Subject	Objective	Institution/ Participants	Location	Beneficiaries	Date
SESPAS Central support	National Ten Year Health Plan	To develop the proposal for the National Ten Year Health Plan objectives and goals by thematic area. (Human resources management)	SESPAS REDSALUD OPS Sec. Education CONECTA UNICEF CERSS CONARE ONAP ONAPLAN	Sto.Dgo.	30 people	March 25-26, 2004
Policy Component (Workshop)	Health promotion Regulation	To introduce the members to the contents of the health promotion regulation proposal and to hear their recommendations and suggestions	INSALUD Sector NGOs	Hotel V Centenario	18 organizations	March 29, 2004
Social participation	Participation in the swearing in of five selection and certification committees in the La Romana province	To represent REDSALUD in the swearing in event for the selection and certification committees in La Romana	CNSS DIDA CERSS SESPAS social organizations, communities, church and military representatives from La Romana	Government offices in La Romana	100 people	March 30, 2004
Policy Component (Workshop)	Supervision Fundamentals Workshop: Part II	To educate the participants in the basic tools for supervision in the health sector to ensure quality and efficiency health care, in the framework of the reform	REDSALUD INSALUD SESPAS INFOTEP	Howard Johnson Hotel	32 participant s	March 31, 2004
Regional support	Refrigerator delivery by CONECTA to strengthen the cold chain	To strengthen the cold chain in health Region V	SESPAS CONECTA REDSALUD NGOs	Quisqueya Salon in the Howard Johnson Hotel in San Pedro de Macoris	45 people	March 31, 2004