

SARA II QUARTERLY PROGRESS REPORT
January 1 – March 31, 2004

This report covers the second quarter of FY 2004, namely, the period January 1 – March 31, 2004. It follows the SARA FY 04 work plan for the period October 1, 2003 – September 30, 2004.

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, so additional activities may gain priority from time to time as discussed in the Work Plan.

As expected, there was a strong upsurge in activity during this period.

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

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

Technical Area: Child Survival

Support to AFR/SD

1. Assist AFR/SD with issues identification, portfolio management & evaluation.

Expected Outputs:

- Issues related to child health identified
- Child Survival Core Group meetings organized

Progress toward outputs, problems encountered, proposed solutions:

SARA staff took the lead in the WHO/AFRO review this quarter, which included several CS issues. More detail on this can be found later in this report.

2. Taking stock of child survival.

Expected Outputs:

- Information presented from Mission & key informant interviews
- Best practices documented from selected missions – e-notes, briefs, etc.)

Progress toward outputs, problems encountered, proposed solutions:

By the end of the quarter, all interviews of 13 mission health officers had been completed. South Africa was dropped due to lack of response from the mission. All interviews of the 23 key informants were also completed. Interviews were transcribed and key points developed for each of the interviews. The “Lancet” intervention data were received from 17 missions and entered into a database. The quality of the latter was deemed to be poor with the exception of the listing of broad-based interventions. SARA made two presentations of the preliminary data to AFR/SD and to AFR/SD and the Global Bureau representatives. Work on a first draft of the report was initiated. During the next quarter, the report should be completed and briefings held as needed.

3. Link with CORE, HCP, BASICS & WHO to promote the Africa Bureau’s priorities for child health.

Expected Outputs:

- AFR’s priorities in child health promoted

Progress toward outputs, problems encountered, proposed solutions:

SARA continued to coordinate its efforts with HCP this quarter in the development of the private providers toolkit. Dr. Suzanne Prysor-Jones, SARA Project Director, provided input to BASICS/WARO on a study of community health worker motivation in Benin and Senegal.

Moving the Private Sector Agenda

1. Organize advocacy forum on involving private providers.

Expected Outputs:

- Intl. steering committee established
- Forum organized in Africa
- WHO/AFRO takes on capacity development role

Progress toward outputs, problems encountered, proposed solutions:

Dr. Suzanne Prysor-Jones worked closely with Sylvia Meek of the Malaria Consortium to develop the agenda for the steering committee meeting, which will place next quarter. The invitations for the meeting were sent out signed by WHO/HQ, the World Bank and USAID/Global.

2. Influence programs / partners to use health care-seeking behavior data to design programs.

Expected Outputs:

- Specific health care-seeking information gathered & used.

Progress toward outputs, problems encountered, proposed solutions:

Data on care-seeking behavior for diarrhea and ARI were analyzed and sent to the World Bank (includes analysis by quintiles and urban/rural settings). The data showed recourse to various types of private sector facilities/providers. A similar analysis is underway for care-seeking for fever (malaria, etc.).

3. Collaborate with WHO/Geneva, et al, to develop & disseminate toolkit for including private practitioners in child survival & malaria programs.

Expected Outputs:

- Toolkit (paper & CD) developed & disseminated

Progress toward outputs, problems encountered, proposed solutions:

The toolkit is still being shaped and materials gathered. Input has been requested from WHO/HQ and at least one working session was held this quarter with Dr. Youssef Tawfik, former SARA Senior Child Survival Advisor. Materials are being gathered to include on the CD-ROM as well, and will continue into the next quarter.

Moving the Community Child Health Agenda

1. Participate in Inter-Agency Working Group(IAWG) meetings on C-IMCI & follow up on required action .

Expected Outputs:

- SARA participation in IAWG

Progress toward outputs, problems encountered, proposed solutions:

Dr. Suzanne Prysor-Jones participated in the IAWG held in New York this quarter. The group agreed to continue working together with a focus on evidence-based advocacy and documenting lessons learned from country implementation experience. UNICEF expects to hire one senior and one junior full-time staff to manage the IAWG secretariat.

2. Participate in WHO/AFRO, UNICEF and/or BASICS meetings to facilitate scaling up of C-IMCI.

Expected Outputs:

Strategies to expand C-IMCI developed

Progress toward outputs, problems encountered, proposed solutions:

Dr. Suzanne Prysor-Jones participated in a small working group in Geneva to advise the Child and Adolescent Health Department of WHO on priorities for their work in community child health, research and implementation support for scale-up. Community care for newborns was discussed as one area that needs considerable further attention.

3. Collaborate with partners to explore the role of NGO networks in the scale-up of child health programs.

Expected Outputs:

NGO networks strengthened in selected countries

Progress toward outputs, problems encountered, proposed solutions:

No activity this quarter.

4. Follow up with AFRO on use of facilitators briefing package for household & community IMCI (C-IMCI).

Expected Outputs:

Suitable facilitators oriented for C-IMCI

Planning approach used

Progress toward outputs, problems encountered, proposed solutions:

AFR input to this activity has been completed. AFRO continues to use the briefing package to: (a) train facilitators; and (b) guide country planning processes.

5. Identify & disseminate “best practices” sustainable approaches for BCC programs.

Expected Outputs:

Best practices identified & disseminated

Prior work on issue identified

Issues related to sustainable BCC identified

Feasible approaches / possible interfaces identified

Progress toward outputs, problems encountered, proposed solutions:

No activity this quarter.

6. Support the inclusion of AIDS-related issues in community IMCI.

Expected Outputs:

Best practices identified & disseminated

Progress toward outputs, problems encountered, proposed solutions:

No activity this quarter.

Advocacy on Other Key AFR/SD Priority Issues

1. Look for opportunities to advocate for access to ARI & other CS drugs/commodities at community level.

Expected Outputs:

BASICS results disseminated & taken forward post-BASICS

Progress toward outputs, problems encountered, proposed solutions:

No activity this quarter.

2. Disseminate findings on funding issues for child health.

Expected Outputs:

TBD

Progress toward outputs, problems encountered, proposed solutions:

No activity this quarter.

3. Disseminate & promote the use of the COPE tool for child health (with WARHP & AFRO).

Expected Outputs:

COPE tool adopted & used

Progress toward outputs, problems encountered, proposed solutions:

No activity this quarter.

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

Technical Area: **Malaria RP**

1. Production & dissemination of a document on USAID Malaria programs in Africa.

Expected Outputs:

TA provided to prepare the document

Document produced and disseminated

Progress toward outputs, problems encountered, proposed solutions:

The report was finalized and disseminated this quarter. Antonia Wolff, SARA Dissemination Specialist, collaborated with AFR/SD, PHNIP, WHO/AFRO and WHO/HQ to disseminate the report strategically.

2. Co-sponsorship of the Regional Integrated Vector Management (IVM) Partnership meeting.

Expected Outputs:

TA provided by SARA staff & consultants

Selected African participants supported to attend

Report prepared

Progress toward outputs, problems encountered, proposed solutions:

The Second IVM Partnership Meeting will be held April 22-23, 2004, in Douala, Cameroon. Dr. Sambe Duale, SARA Senior Research Advisor and Infectious Diseases Specialist, has been in contact with Dr. Lucien Manga of WHO/AFRO to provide inputs into the planning of the meeting. SARA initiated the necessary arrangements for the participation at the meeting of Dr. Duale and up to 5 representatives from African regional partner institutions and network (MRTC in Bamako, IRSS and WAHO in Bobo Dioulasso and RAOPAG in Cotonou).

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

Expected Outputs:

Working group meetings held

Review of MIP policies & guidelines in ECSA conducted

Advocacy briefs developed & disseminated

Malaria & pregnancy brochure & press kit updated, produced & disseminated

Progress toward outputs, problems encountered, proposed solutions:

During a visit in Accra, Ghana, in February, Dr. Sambe Duale met with colleagues from the AWARE-RH Project to discuss how the project can support the activities of RAOPAG. It was agreed that AWARE-RH will initiate discussions with representatives of RAOPAG and the Reproductive Health Division of WHO/AFRO on planning joint advocacy activities on MIP in West Africa.

4. Procurement and dissemination of the AJTMH supplement on the Burden of Malaria in Africa.

Expected Outputs:

Up to 300 documents procured & disseminated

Progress toward outputs, problems encountered, proposed solutions:

An exchange of e-mails between SARA and the NIH Foundation occurred this quarter on preparing a purchase order for the supplement. It is expected that the supplement will be ready for publication next quarter or the following one, at which time, SARA will finalize the purchase order for their purchase.

5. Organize advocacy activities on involving private providers in health outcomes related to child survival & malaria.

Expected Outputs:

Intl. steering committee established

Forum organized in Africa

WHO/AFRO takes on capacity development role

Progress toward outputs, problems encountered, proposed solutions:

See item #1, "Moving the Private Sector Forward", in the previous section.

6. Technical support for the implementation of the CORE Group malaria & IMCI work plan for FY 04.

Expected Outputs:

TA provided by SARA staff and consultant

Staff of SARA & partner institutions participated in key meetings

Electronic exchanges organized

Progress toward outputs, problems encountered, proposed solutions:

During his February 2004 visit in Accra, Ghana, Dr. Sambe Duale met with Iyeme Efem, Country Director of Project Concern International, to plan the CORE national malaria conference to be held in March 2004. Dr. Duale advised Mr. Efem on the conference agenda and the potential speakers for selected key sessions. Later, CORE confirmed that the conference was successfully held in mid-March 2004. Dr. Duale also participated in two conference calls of the CORE Malaria Working Group this quarter.

7. Technical support for malaria activities of selected African institutions and networks (e.g., CRHCS, WAHO, MRTC, WHO/AFRO, RCQHC, ICIPE, ECSACON, RAOPAG).

Expected Outputs:

TA provided by SARA staff & consultant

Staff of partner institutions participated in key meetings Electronic exchanges organized

Progress toward outputs, problems encountered, proposed solutions:

In addition to the outputs mentioned under #3, Dr. Suzanne Prysor-Jones, Badara Seye and Fara Mbodj (Advocacy and Institutional Development Specialists at AWARE – RH), met with Dr. Antoinette Ba of WHO/AFRO in November 2004 in Dakar at the first annual meeting of the new Francophone MIP network (RAOPAG) to explore ways to get RAOPAG support for the agenda of the new USAID Regional Project in West Africa. SARA is also working with the coordinator of RAOPAG's secretariat on its scope of work and planned activities for FY 04 in coordination with AWARE-RH.

8. Support a WAHO consultative meeting to identify strategic approaches to the promotion of ITNs for malaria prevention & control in West Africa.

Expected Outputs:

TA provided by SARA & consultants

Workshop organized

Report & advocacy materials prepared & disseminated

Progress toward outputs, problems encountered, proposed solutions:

During his visit to Accra, Ghana, Dr. Sambe Duale took the opportunity to introduce Dr. Chimumba of the Netmark Project to Prof. Moussa Maiga of WAHO. The meeting was preceded by an exchange of e-mails between Netmark, SARA and WAHO on how to work together on advocacy activities on ITNs in West Africa. The dialogue is ongoing.

9. Provide support to the design of advocacy materials on taxes & tariffs on ITNs.

Expected Outputs:

SARA support provided

Progress toward outputs, problems encountered, proposed solutions:

Dr. Sambe Duale attended a preliminary presentation by Dr. Elisabeth Sommerfelt, AED Senior Data Analyst, on the advocacy package being developed for the Netmark Project on taxes and tariffs on ITNs.

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

Technical Area: Tuberculosis

1. Dissemination findings of the Women and TB study in Tanzania.

Expected Outputs:

Development, production & dissemination of briefs & advocacy materials

Progress toward outputs, problems encountered, proposed solutions:

The editing and layout of the report took longer than expected because of delays in getting answers from the investigators in Tanzania on questions from the editors. The report will be produced and disseminated next quarter.

2. Support for information sharing on the implementation of TB control programs in African settings.

Expected Outputs:

Information-sharing activities planned and organized.

Progress toward outputs, problems encountered, proposed solutions:

No activity this quarter.

3. Support for the documentation and dissemination of findings on innovative TB-HIV linked programs.

Expected Outputs:

Literature review, key informant interviews & site visits conducted

Advocacy briefs produced & disseminated

Progress toward outputs, problems encountered, proposed solutions:

Dr. Sambe Duale participated in an electronic conference organized by CRHCS with technical partners (KNVC, WHO/HQ, WHO/AFRO, REDSO/ESA) on planning the documentation of innovative TB-HIV-linked programs. CRHCS hired two consultants this quarter (one each for TB and HIV/AIDS) to lead this activity. Dr. Duale will continue to provide technical support for this activity.

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

Technical Area: Infectious Diseases

<p>1. Dissemination of findings from the documentation of IDSR implementation in Africa .</p> <p><i>Expected Outputs:</i> TA provided by SARA staff & consultants Report & advocacy briefs produced & disseminated</p> <p><i>Progress toward outputs, problems encountered, proposed solutions:</i> The briefs were part of the background materials disseminated at a technical meeting on IDSR indicators held March 15-17, 2004, in Atlanta.</p>
<p>2. Global Consultation on Disease Surveillance & Response.</p> <p><i>Expected Outputs:</i> SARA represented at meeting Report prepared & disseminated</p> <p><i>Progress toward outputs, problems encountered, proposed solutions:</i> This activity is completed.</p>
<p>3. Technical support to WHO/AFRO DDC for the development & implementation of an advocacy & dissemination strategy.</p> <p><i>Expected Outputs:</i> TA provided by SARA staff & consultants Advocacy materials produced & disseminated</p> <p><i>Progress toward outputs, problems encountered, proposed solutions:</i> Antonia Wolff and Renuka Bery, SARA Dissemination and Advocacy Manager, continue to provide technical assistance on an as-needed basis. The WHO/AFRO dissemination officer is now disseminating a quarterly e-newsletter that highlights EPI stories in the news. This e-newsletter is reaching hundreds of WHO personnel throughout the Africa region and headquarters.</p>
<p>4. Technical support to WHO/AFRO for strategy development & advocacy for mobilizing resources for IDSR implementation (e.g., training, contingency stocks, etc.).</p> <p><i>Expected Outputs:</i> TA provided by SARA staff & consultants SARA represented at partners' joint planning meeting strategy Advocacy materials produced & disseminated</p> <p><i>Progress toward outputs, problems encountered, proposed solutions:</i> Dr. Sambe Duale attended a technical meeting sponsored by the IDSR Indicator Working Group and hosted by CDC in Atlanta, March 15-17, 2004, to review progress in the use of core IDSR indicators in 8 African countries.</p>

5. WHO/AFRO Annual Meeting of the Task Force on Integrated Disease Surveillance and Response.

Expected Outputs:

SARA & partners represented at meeting Report prepared & disseminated

Progress toward outputs, problems encountered, proposed solutions:

No activity this quarter.

6. Technical support to AFR/SD on Epidemic Preparedness & Response, & Transition Initiatives.

Expected Outputs:

Review meetings held

TA provided for the development & production of activities in this technical area

Progress toward outputs, problems encountered, proposed solutions:

The final cable on Cholera Prevention and Control was sent out by the State Department to all missions in Africa. AFR/SD has already received good feedback on the cable from missions in Togo, Angola, Mozambique and Zimbabwe.

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 (including MTCT/nutrition, HIV/AIDS issues).

Expected Outputs:

- Core team meetings held
- SO 19 portfolio reviews conducted
- Expert advice provided

Progress toward outputs, problems encountered, proposed solutions:

SARA participated in several meetings at USAID to discuss nutrition, food security and HIV/AIDS this quarter with representatives of the Offices of HIV/AIDS, Health, Population and Nutrition, and Food for Peace. The purpose of the meetings was to discuss the role of nutrition and food aid in HIV/AIDS programming for upcoming Congressional Hearings and under the new Presidential Initiative. In addition to participating in this, SARA also drafted advocacy materials about HIV and nutrition for wide dissemination and use in USG and African programs.

2. Provide technical support to AFR Core Groups, G-PHN & CA partners on nutrition issues in Africa.

Expected Outputs:

- Meetings attended.
- Expert advice/input provided.

Progress toward outputs, problems encountered, proposed solutions:

Dr. Ellen Piwoz, SARA Nutrition Advisor, provided technical assistance to the LINKAGES Project in Ethiopia this quarter. This assistance included designing a formative research study on maternal nutrition, breastfeeding and HIV issues, and participating as a keynote speaker in a one-day symposium, held on March 19th, on HIV and nutrition in Ethiopia. Dr. Piwoz spoke on new findings related to HIV and nutrition, and infant feeding and HIV, and suggested ways forward for Ethiopia's HIV/AIDS and nutrition programs.

3. Evaluate the impact of AFR/SD nutrition investments & disseminate results:

Short brief of results of the PROFILES evaluation

Disseminate results of the West Africa Nutrition Focal Point Network evaluation .

Expected Outputs:

- Brief on PROFILES evaluation completed & disseminated
- Report disseminated in WA sub-region

Progress toward outputs, problems encountered, proposed solutions:

The brief describing the results of the PROFILES evaluation was completed and disseminated. It will be placed on the website.

4. Nutrition Policy Analysis and Advocacy:

PROFILES support to countries to enhance understanding of ENA & linkages with HIV/AIDS, RH programs (emphasis on PEPFAR & WA countries).

Expected Outputs:

Up to 3 countries in the region assisted as needed

- Benin (Jan. 2004)

Progress toward outputs, problems encountered, proposed solutions:

Kinday Samba, SARA West Africa Regional Nutrition Advisor, co-facilitated with Helen Stiefel, AED PROFILES Coordinator, the PROFILES workshop in Benin in January 2004. The information provided was well received. However, it was noted that the information was too much to pack into the 2 weeks and it was decided that in the future the workshop should be presented in two parts; one week working on the spreadsheets and then follow this at a later date with a week on the advocacy part of the PROFILES application process.

Ms. Stiefel, with support from Dr. Ellen Piwoz and Dorcas Lwanga, SARA Nutritionist, has been working with CRHCS to plan and implement PROFILES in Zambia. The in-country PROFILES application will be supported by AFR/SD. However, there have been some delays in setting a date for this activity. In addition, further guidance is needed from AFR/SD on other priority countries for PROFILES this year.

5. Strengthen African partners' capacity for:

Use of AFR-supported tools & approaches in NGO & pre-service settings in the West Africa region

Nutrition advocacy in West Africa

Dissemination of promising practices in Africa through regional networks:

- WAHO focal points
- CRHCS nutrition network
- Other nutrition networks.

Expected Outputs:

Meetings organized in 3 countries for NGOs from 6 countries in West Africa

Follow-up on implementation of approaches & tools into curriculum of 7 countries in West Africa

Workshop conducted to revise training manual integrating elements of approaches & tools

Workshop conducted to update ANCDI West & Central Africa 10-year action plan & presented to potential donors

Support for one regional meeting each for WAHO & CRHCS nutrition focal points

Dissemination of Regional Training Manual on Essential Nutrition Actions to Schools & NGOs through focal points network

Progress toward outputs, problems encountered, proposed solutions:

In collaboration with the BASICS WARO, UNICEF West/Central Africa Regional Office and HKI, Kinday Samba implemented two capacity development workshops in nutrition for NGOs from Senegal (March 1-5) and Mali (March 22-26). The main objectives of the workshop were to introduce NGOs to approaches and tools based on the Essential Nutrition Actions and develop action plans to strengthen the nutrition programs of NGOs. The workshops were attended by 35 participants (Senegal) and 47 participants (Mali) representing national and international NGOs (20 in Senegal and 27 in Mali), NGO consortiums, and other public sector institutions, such as the Ministry of Health and training institutions. The third workshop is planned for NGOs in Burkina Faso (April 13-17) during the next quarter.

This year, SARA will coordinate the technical update session on Nutrition and HIV at the 9th Annual Nutrition Forum of the ECOWAS Nutrition Focal Points Network. This meeting will take place in Cotonou September 20-24, 2004. Kinday Samba, with support from Dr. Ellen Piwoz and Dorcas Lwanga, has identified themes and speakers for the technical update day and is planning other technical and logistical aspects related to the meeting.

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

Technical Area: Maternal and Newborn Health

<p>1. Join with other partners to develop & disseminate a program brief that refocuses the role of traditional birth attendants as part of a facility/community team to improve maternal health .</p> <p><i>Expected Outputs:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">Program briefReview & discussion by WHO RH focal points <p><i>Progress toward outputs, problems encountered, proposed solutions:</i></p> <p>No activity this quarter.</p>
<p>2. Provide support on malaria in pregnancy.</p> <p><i>Expected Outputs:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">Translation of malaria in pregnancy briefing packet, development of additional fact sheets, etc., in French for dissemination in francophone countriesWork with RAOPAG (West African Network for the Fight against Malaria during Pregnancy) <p><i>Progress toward outputs, problems encountered, proposed solutions:</i></p> <p>See SO 19, Malaria, item # 3.</p>
<p>3. Work with WHO/AFRO & African institutions to expand REDUCE/ALIVE initiative in Africa through capacity development of regional consultants.</p> <p><i>Expected Outputs:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">Increased monitoring of advocacy impactCapacity development demonstrated <p><i>Progress toward outputs, problems encountered, proposed solutions:</i></p> <p>WHO/AFRO and CRHCS are finalizing the maternal health advocacy activity monitoring tool, which was piloted with SARA support in Uganda and Nigeria.</p>
<p>4. Promote attention / interventions to improve newborn care through use of ALIVE, dissemination of best practices, etc.</p> <p><i>Expected Outputs:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">BASICS/Senegal experience disseminated / discussed in AFRO & other forumsFunding leveraged for ALIVE <p><i>Progress toward outputs, problems encountered, proposed solutions:</i></p> <p>Elements of ALIVE were included in the Ethiopia REDUCE application funded by WHO/AFRO and the World Bank this quarter. Also, a REDUCE/ALIVE application was done in Mali with funding from WHO/AFRO, the World Bank and Saving Newborn Lives, as well as the AWARE-RH Project.</p>

5. Work with AFRO to build capacity in Africa for formative research on newborns.

Expected Outputs:

Capacity developed & research planned & conducted

Progress toward outputs, problems encountered, proposed solutions:

See previous item.

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

Technical Area: Health Reform

1. Support advocacy on human resources as part of Africa Working Group.

Expected Outputs:

Advocacy tool developed

Progress toward outputs, problems encountered, proposed solutions:

No activity this quarter.

2. Identify & disseminate “best practices” for long-term approaches to continuing education in coordination with relevant partners.

Expected Outputs:

Inter-Agency Working Group established with SARA participation

Relevant partners & countries that have worked with professional associations identified

Best practices identified & collected

Ways of using continuing education as performance incentive, for license renewal, identified

Progress toward outputs, problems encountered, proposed solutions:

No activity this quarter.

3. Identify & disseminate “best practices” for developing a critical mass for public health leadership.

Expected Outputs:

Partners with interest & activities in public health leadership identified

Best practices of foundations, graduate schools, USAID experience & countries identified

University networks strengthened in selected countries

Progress toward outputs, problems encountered, proposed solutions:

SARA is working with COHRED to plan a consultative meeting next quarter in Pretoria, South Africa, on Partnerships for Strengthening Public Health Education in Africa. Public health leadership training will be discussed.

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

Technical Area: Expanded Program of Immunization (EPI)

1. Assist AFR/SD SO 19 EPI team in managing the EPI agenda, especially human resources/capacity development.

Expected Outputs:

Assistance provided as needed.

Progress toward outputs, problems encountered, proposed solutions:

See a description elsewhere in this report on the AFRO grant review conducted by a team led by SARA.

2. Dissemination and advocacy activities for EPI using African institutions.

Expected Outputs:

Publications produced & disseminated.

Progress toward outputs, problems encountered, proposed solutions:

The WHO/AFRO dissemination officer is now disseminating a quarterly e-newsletter that highlights EPI stories in the news. This e-newsletter is reaching hundreds of WHO personnel throughout the Africa region and headquarters.

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

General – Related to overall SO

1. Assist AFR/SD/HRD SO 20 team with managing the RH results packages.

Expected Outputs:

- Core team meetings held
- Results packages completed & periodically updated
- Annual report completed
- Strategic support & guidance provided to AFR/SD & WHO/AFRO regional RH task force
- Agenda set with AFR/SD priorities included
- Task force recommendations
- Follow-up
- PMP updated

Progress toward outputs, problems encountered, proposed solutions:

One core group meeting was held on Jan 7, 2004. SARA also organized a meeting on January 28th with AFR/SD and CAs involved in youth programs to discuss next steps in improving youth reproductive health in Africa. Holley Stewart, SARA Reproductive Health Advisor, and Antonia Wolff also organized meetings with AFR/SD, Global and CAs on Repositioning Family Planning. SARA also helped AFR/SD to collect pipelines and proposals for SOWs from SO 20 CAs, linked AFR/SD and Advocates for Youth in discussions on possible SOWs, and worked with AFR/SD and the Minority Health Foundation to develop its scope of work.

Ms. Stewart participated in a regional workshop that WHO/AFRO organized to develop a road map with regional partners to accelerate attainment of millennium development goals for maternal and newborn health. Ms. Stewart drafted the meeting minutes and helped draft the road map, which will be distributed to partners for signature and endorsement. Plans for in-country adaptation of the road map are under way.

2. Guidance to AFR/SD & CA partners on dissemination & advocacy as related to documentation of FP & RH.

Expected Outputs:

- Guidance provided as needed.

Progress toward outputs, problems encountered, proposed solutions:

SARA met with the Policy Project on packaging and dissemination of FGD findings in Kenya and Zambia. SARA also linked with Policy and YouthNet projects to determine follow-up partners for their regional youth advocacy workshop to be held in Tanzania in early May 2004. SARA also linked workshop organizers with CRCHS as a facilitator and for monitoring action plans developed during the workshop.

Antonia Wolff participated in the Health Information and Publications Network (HIPNET) meeting on Family Planning (FP) and HIV/AIDS Integration. This is a group of communication experts who articulated a need to bring together all the CAs to identify resource needs related to FP/HIV integration, create a shared vision to best support these needs, identify existing information resources, develop a plan for future collaboration, and identify subgroups to lead the prioritized initiatives. The group identified collaboration, evidence-based research, advocacy and communication, product development and dissemination as priority needs.

3. Issue identification & promotion of AFR/SD priorities.

Expected Outputs:

Issue identification & promotion of AFR/SD priorities

Progress toward outputs, problems encountered, proposed solutions:

As reported elsewhere in this section, SARA organized a repositioning family planning implementation meeting with the involved CAs, AFR/SD and GBH. Next steps are to hold a meeting to develop an advocacy toolkit for repositioning FP in the next quarter.

20.1.1 Addressing the reproductive health (RH) needs of underserved populations (adolescents & men)

1. TA on dissemination of findings of formative research on male involvement.

Expected Outputs:

Brief to be included in RH briefing packet (French & English)

Dissemination to RH e-mailing list

Translate summary brief in French

Progress toward outputs, problems encountered, proposed solutions:

No activity this quarter.

2. Support CERPOD to update information on adolescent RH in the region by conducting an in-depth 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 & other data is involved

Wall chart or brochure presenting this new information in an accessible way

Development of dissemination strategy

Data turned into a PowerPoint presentation to be used at meetings

Progress toward outputs, problems encountered, proposed solutions:

This is an ongoing activity. This quarter, CERPOD worked on putting the new data into a report. SARA will review this report next quarter and providing technical and production guidance.

3. Support CERPOD communication specialist.

Expected Outputs:

Cover Amadou Sankare's salary for first quarter of FY04, possibly 2nd quarter, until WARP contract with CERPOD takes over

Progress toward outputs, problems encountered, proposed solutions:

SARA was prepared to support the salary of Amadou Sankare at CERPOD to bridge the period when PRB funding ended and WARP funding would start. A recent visit to CERPOD found that SARA funds were not used to support Mr. Sankare in January and February for reasons beyond AED's control. WARP is covering Mr. Sankare's salary as of March 2004 through June 2004.

4. Provide technical assistance to CRHCS in the rollout of its RH strategy.

Expected Outputs:

- Strategy that outlines the key priority RH areas of focus by CRHCS
- Development of materials for repositioning FP
- Electronic & print FP repositioning advocacy presentation materials specific to ECSA (link with other partners)
- Documentation
- Regional & national advocacy action plans
- Enhanced commitment to mobilize resources to integrate FP in RH programs
- Regional approach for monitoring, evaluating advocacy action plan implementation

Progress toward outputs, problems encountered, proposed solutions:

CRHCS is revising the strategy with its consultant. RH activities with CRHCS under its sub-contract with SARA have been concluded. Therefore, this activity is completed.

20.1.3 New strategies for incorporating STI/HIV/AIDS into other existing services adopted

Provide support for addressing the integration of FP & HIV/AIDS programs.

Expected Outputs:

- Review final reports, finalize briefs & dissemination strategy with POLICY
- Publish & disseminate brief on findings from focus group discussions with clients and providers
- Present findings at fora where appropriate

Progress toward outputs, problems encountered, proposed solutions:

POLICY has sent the two final reports on the FGDs to SARA. SARA will produce a brief for Kenya and Zambia on the FGDs and on the expert interviews as well. AFR/SD will send the reports to the missions.

20.1.4 New strategies for empowering women developed

1. Support to FGC initiatives.

Expected Outputs:

- Will depend on activities defined

Progress toward outputs, problems encountered, proposed solutions:

Ms. Holley Stewart attended the FGC congressional briefing on February 5th and the symposium at the National Press Club on February 6th, both organized by USAID and PRB.

2. Support to West African Post-Abortion Care Initiative.

Expected Outputs:

- Compilation & publication of post-Dakar 2002 conference report
- DC-based dissemination meeting on report to develop dissemination strategy
- West African launch of report
- Transfer of Francophone PAC Initiative Committee Secretariat from IntraHealth to CEFOREP

Progress toward outputs, problems encountered, proposed solutions:

SARA has been discussing with CEFOREP the possibility of its organizing a workshop for the PAC focal points of Francophone Africa as a follow-on to the PAC conference held in March 2002. USAID/Senegal, Intrahealth and SARA are discussing the workshop and various funding issues. SARA and USAID/Senegal have both talked to AWARE-RH about possibly providing technical and financial support to the PAC secretariat and for this workshop. Holley Stewart and Renuka Bery have agreed to co-lead the communications task force of the PAC working group with Jinna Halperin from Pathfinder.

20.2.1 Reproductive health policies / strategies promotion: Strategies to strengthen African regional capacity to plan, manage & implement reproductive health programs developed & promoted

1. Assist Mwangaza to augment its regional profile & increase its involvement in social mobilization for RH & MNH issues.

Expected Outputs:

- Mwangaza activity briefs
- Mwangaza development of regional White Ribbon Alliance
- Linkages between Mwangaza and other partners

Progress toward outputs, problems encountered, proposed solutions:

SARA is working with Mwangaza on its scope of work to be submitted to SARA for FY 04. It has linked Mwangaza with AWARE-RH and WAHO.

2. Support to African regional institutions (AFRO, CEFOREP, CERPOD).

Expected Outputs:

- Continue to participate as a member of AFRO's regional RH task force
- Assist with the development & follow up of task force recommendations
- Coordinate & collaborate with WHO/AFRO on FP, RH, MNH issues/activities
- TA to CEFOREP as sub-regional coordinator of PAC Initiative monitoring
- Guidance to CERPOD as requested to develop or implement RH communication/dissemination strategies

Progress toward outputs, problems encountered, proposed solutions:

This quarter, SARA staff worked with the following African organizations on the following activities:

WHO/AFRO: supported development of the Maternal and Newborn Health Regional Road Map. Participated in regional meeting with UNFPA, WHO and CAs to develop road map and create a dissemination plan.

CEFOREP: worked on SOW and budget for proposed PAC focal point workshop as a 2-year follow-up to Dakar conference.

CERPOD: reviewed draft reports for quantitative and qualitative analyses of youth reproductive health in the Sahel.

Mwangaza: ongoing discussions on SOW with SARA regarding best practices on social mobilization. Linked Mwangaza with CEDPA and JHPIEGO.

20.2.2 Innovative advocacy strategies to increase support of expanded reproductive health programs developed & promoted

1. Assessment of outcomes & results of West African media activities.

Expected Outputs:

- Summary briefing booklet on the story of Pop'mediafrique (process, lessons learned & results) distilled from final analysis report

Progress toward outputs, problems encountered, proposed solutions:

No activity this quarter.

2. Explore activities to promote & advocate for the repositioning of FP in RH programs.

Expected Outputs:

- Participate in developing a framework for USAID interagency working group to reposition FP
- Develop & distribute info packets & advocacy tools

Progress toward outputs, problems encountered, proposed solutions:

SARA coordinated a meeting with the CA task force on March 16th to update AFR/SD on the implementation and coordination of its activities.

20.2.3 Strategies for improved coordination among stakeholders and/or partners for RH programs developed & promoted

Support to Advance Africa to produce & disseminate a strategic mapping manual for RH services.

Expected Outputs:

Manual developed

Dissemination strategy developed with Advance Africa & PARTAGE

Progress toward outputs, problems encountered, proposed solutions:

Advance Africa is still in the process of finalizing the document. We now anticipate that the document will be ready for SARA's contribution (assistance with layout, print and dissemination) in the next quarter.

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

Enhanced coordination of partners to support HIV/AIDS programs in Africa

1. Assist AFR/SD/HRD Team, as needed, in managing the HIV/AIDS results package.

Expected Outputs:

- Core team meetings held.
- SO 21 portfolio reviews organized.
- Performance monitoring plan drafted.
- Peer reviews organized & expert advice provided.

Progress toward outputs, problems encountered, proposed solutions:

SARA HIV/AIDS Advisor Agnieszka Sykes continued to serve as the focal point person for HIV/AIDS activities, work plans and coordination of meetings, preparation of results packages in consultation with technical advisors on the project and the technical officer at AFR/SD. She assisted in the preparations for the Regional Economic Strengthening for OVC consultation meeting organized under the SARA Project and reported in detail below. She also helped review the AFR/SD priority HIV/AIDS activities and coordinated actions by the task managers at SARA related to HIV/AIDS.

2. Participate in the Global and Africa Bureau's Implementation Working Group (IWG) consultations and the HIV/AIDS New Indicators Group (HANIG) activities.

Expected Outputs:

- Reports of meetings.
- Follow-up actions developed based on the recommendations.

Progress toward outputs, problems encountered, proposed solutions:

No HANIG meetings were held this quarter.

3. Work closely with REDSO/ESA to coordinate activities with African institutions and transfer ongoing activities to REDSO/ESA as needed.

Expected Outputs:

- Joint REDSO/SARA/CRHCS activity plans developed and implemented, reports shared.
- Partners meetings attended, reports developed.
- Plans for the transfer of field activities to REDSO/ESA developed and implemented.

Progress toward outputs, problems encountered, proposed solutions:

Stephen Kinoti, former SARA HIV/AIDS Advisor, and Agnieszka Sykes met with Janet Haymen in January to discuss CRHCS activities. It has been challenging to meet with REDSO due to serious travel restrictions to Nairobi. Agnieszka Sykes has initiated electronic communication with REDSO in order to explore possibilities of meeting.

4. Coordination with partner agencies on HIV/AIDS initiatives in Africa.

Expected Outputs:

- SARA staff involved in meetings & electronic exchanges with partners.

Progress toward outputs, problems encountered, proposed solutions:

Agnieszka Sykes has been in telephone and electronic communication with CRHCS to discuss several key activities; review of pre-service training curricula, impact of AIDS on Health Workforce assessments, and recruitment of a HIV/AIDS coordinator. Arrangements will be made to visit CRHCS in June to work on the pre-service training follow-up and attend and disseminate the results of the health workforce studies at the DJCC meeting in July.

Ms. Sykes has initiated contact with NAP+ to review 2004 work plan activities and budget.

African Institutions/Capacity Building

1. Technical support for increased African capacity to provide quality care, treatment and support for HIV/AIDS with CRHCS pre-service training in HIV/AIDS.

Expected Outputs:

African institutions review and update pre-service curricula on issues related to HIV/AIDS (ECSA follow-up).
Training carried out for HIV/AIDS/PMTCT in collaboration with RATN.
Regional training given to HIV/AIDS program managers (RATN).
Ambassadors of Hope trained and carrying out their mission; Ambassadors' toolkit produced.

Progress toward outputs, problems encountered, proposed solutions:

Once again, SARA requested and received reports on progress in the management training of national AIDS control managers by ESAMI, MANANGA and MIM. RATN will continue to monitor the results of the training with TA from SARA in developing the monitoring tool.

2. Support to the HIV/AIDS Coordinator at the CRHCS.

Expected Outputs:

Salary of the Coordinator provided with REDSO co-funding.
Work plan carried out.

Progress toward outputs, problems encountered, proposed solutions:

CRHCS is expected to have the new HIV/AIDS coordinator on board by early July. Consequently, SARA will not be covering salary for this fiscal year. This activity is therefore completed.

3. Support to HIV/AIDS Policy Advisory Committee in ECSA.

Expected Outputs:

HAPAC identifies new issues for policy development.
Policy briefs on HRH issues prepared and disseminated.
Results of policy monitoring documented and disseminated.
Road map for ARVs finalized & disseminated among ECSA member states.
Regional Procurement and Drug Forum guidelines finalized and disseminated.

Progress toward outputs, problems encountered, proposed solutions:

No HAPAC meeting or consultation was supported this quarter.

4. Strengthen Collaboration between CRHCS/ECSA, REDSO/ESA, WHO/AFRO and HEARD in health systems strengthening.

Expected Outputs:

The 4 organizations undertake collaborative activities in health systems strengthening.

Progress toward outputs, problems encountered, proposed solutions:

No activity this quarter. The consultations on human resources for health that were to have been held in January have not yet been rescheduled.

5. Strengthen RATN in HIV/AIDS training programs.

Expected Outputs:

Support for monitoring of management training for HIV/AIDS national program managers.
Report of training carried out for HIV/AIDS/PMTCT in collaboration with RATN.

Progress toward outputs, problems encountered, proposed solutions:

SARA is still awaiting the proposal from RATN for the support of monitoring of management training for national AIDS control program managers.

6. Support NAP+ to follow-up on key activities.

Expected Outputs:

Institutional evaluation and strategic plan follow-up completed.

Progress toward outputs, problems encountered, proposed solutions:

NAP+ presented a revised proposal to SARA to support institutional strengthening, strategic evaluation and support for a dissemination strategy. However, it was more than twice the programmed amount. SARA and the AFR/SD HIV/AIDS team are discussing an appropriate response. Meanwhile, NAP+ submitted to SARA its mid-term project review report.

7. Strengthen capacity for M&E of HIV/AIDS programs in West Africa.

Expected Outputs:

HIV/AIDS consultant hired by CERPOD.
Situation analysis of M&E needs and gaps conducted.
Guidelines and tools disseminated.
Workshop on M&E conducted.

Progress toward outputs, problems encountered, proposed solutions:

No activity this quarter.

8. Support collaborative activities with WAHO on HIV/AIDS and ECOWAS armed forces.

Expected Outputs:

TA provided by SARA staff and consultants.
Advocacy materials prepared and disseminated.

Progress toward outputs, problems encountered, proposed solutions:

Dr. Sambe Duale served as one of the resource persons at a WAHO-sponsored workshop for Joint Chiefs of Staff and Directors of Medical Services of ECOWAS member country armed forces on updating and validating a sub-regional proposal for strengthening HIV/AIDS prevention and control in the military, especially during peace missions. The updated and validated proposal will be submitted to the ECOWAS Security Council, the U.S. Department of Defense, GFATM, and other potential donors for funding.

9. Review of pre-service training curricula in the era of HIV/AIDS in West Africa (WAHO).

Expected Outputs:

Medical, nursing and allied health training curricula reviewed and updated.

Progress toward outputs, problems encountered, proposed solutions:

No activity this quarter.

10. Strengthen capacity of SWAA to implement key actions identified in work plan development workshop supported in FY 03 by SARA.

Expected Outputs:

TA provided in operationalizing the activities developed in the work plan and their implementation supported.
Reports of the actions implemented.

Progress toward outputs, problems encountered, proposed solutions:

No activity with SWAA during this period.

Improved Strategies and Models

1. Contribute to the development of toolkits for scaling up ARV treatment and VCT by WHO/Geneva.

Expected Outputs:

SARA TA provided to final review of toolkit.

Progress toward outputs, problems encountered, proposed solutions:

No activity this quarter.

2. Documentation of Learning Sites/Models of Care and Treatment in Africa in collaboration with partners.

Expected Outputs:

Resources and documentation of models of care/learning sites, best practices developed.

Progress toward outputs, problems encountered, proposed solutions:

No activity this quarter. Continuation of this activity is contingent upon the outcome of current consultations between AFR/SD and the Global Bureau.

Orphans and Vulnerable Children

1. Understanding the needs of Orphans and Vulnerable Children (OVC): Technical Consultation.

Expected Outputs:

A background paper prepared by a consultant.
Consultation held.
Report of consultation produced and disseminated.

Progress toward outputs, problems encountered, proposed solutions:

The OVC SOTA paper that evolved out of the November 2003 consultative meeting is being finalized following comments received by many people. The meeting report was finalized and will be disseminated next quarter. SARA is preparing to send a number of salient OVC reports to missions on behalf of AFR/SD (hard copies and CD-ROMS).

2. OVC meeting(s) in Africa.

Expected Outputs:

TA provided to conference planners in Africa.
Other activities TBD.

Progress toward outputs, problems encountered, proposed solutions:

SARA is working with Enterprising Solutions to provide technical and logistics support for the Economic Strengthening for OVC meeting. SARA worked with John Williamson to identify and contact potential participants, resource people and logistics organizers. The meeting is planned for June 14-16 in Tanzania.

3. Economic strengthening workshop.

Expected Outputs:

Workshop and related activities (TBD) completed.

Progress toward outputs, problems encountered, proposed solutions:

See previous item.

HIV/AIDS and Nutrition, Prevention of PMTCT

1. Prevention of mother-to-child transmission of HIV/AIDS.

Areas:

Development and implementation of improved PMTCT policies and guidelines in Africa.

Review/analyze status of safe infant feeding policies and practices in PEPFAR/PMTCT countries.

ZVITAMBO research and analysis with dissemination of findings on nutrition, HIV and PMTCT.

Formative research for PMTCT programs.

Formulate and disseminate improved WHO policies and guidelines and new research findings related to infant feeding and HIV/AIDS.

Develop, produce, disseminate new tools and approaches and disseminate new research findings for HIV and infant feeding counseling.

Early breastfeeding cessation paper.

Progress toward outputs, problems encountered, proposed solutions:

Dr. Ellen Piwoz participated in an informal technical consultation at WHO on feeding of the non-breastfed infant 6-24 months of age in March 2004. Dr. Piwoz has been asked to draft a consensus statement on issues related to feeding HIV-exposed infants after 6 months that captures the meeting recommendations.

AED consultant Liz Thomas and Raymond Lambert, SARA Publications Manager, continued to work on the finalization of the WHO counseling tools on HIV and infant feeding this quarter. Additional changes to the illustrations were requested, as well as small editorial changes. These will be in final layout and production next quarter.

The formative research manual on HIV and infant feeding was finalized this quarter by WHO. WHO will be putting the manual on their website next quarter.

Dr. Piwoz continued to work on the analysis of the results of the ZVITAMBO infant feeding and HIV transmission study. A paper was prepared for submission to the Lancet on the results of the analysis of HIV transmission by early feeding pattern. The paper is being finalized after review by the various co-authors. An abstract was submitted and accepted for oral presentation at the Bangkok International AIDS meeting in July.

A meeting was held with LINKAGES and a consultant was identified this quarter to carry out the review of safe infant feeding policies and practices in PEPFAR/PMTCT countries. This will be started next quarter.

Last quarter, Dr. Piwoz assisted AFR/OHA/HIDN by drafting guidance on the use of breast milk substitutes in USAID PMTCT programs. This guidance was reviewed and revised internally at USAID. The status of the guidance and its dissemination to missions in the field is uncertain. Information from AFR on the status of the guidance and any additional SARA inputs needed is requested.

2. Nutrition care and support for PLWHA.

Areas:

Participation in WHO Technical Advisory Group on Nutrition and HIV/AIDS.

Development of guidelines for NCS for HIV-positive women and children.

Review of ARV treatment issues in malnourished populations.

Inclusion of nutrition and HIV/AIDS in pre-service curricula.

Community-based approaches to nutrition care of children and families affected by HIV/AIDS: CTC study.

Development and local adaptation of counseling tools on nutrition care and support of PLWHA in the ECSA sub-region.

TA to African institutions and networks to enhance or increase involvement in food, nutrition and HIV/AIDS issues.

Progress toward outputs, problems encountered, proposed solutions:

Dr. Ellen Piwoz finalized her paper on nutrition counseling, care and support for HIV-positive women for WHO. This paper was reviewed and accepted by the WHO TAG, and will be published (hopefully) next quarter.

Valid International initiated work on the CTC/HIV study this quarter. FANTA advisor Caroline Tanner traveled to Malawi in February to assist the team with the development of research instruments. An interim report of the preliminary findings was submitted at the end of March. The concern at this time is starting to plan for funding for Phase 2 of the study.

Dr. also participated in the 31st session of the Sub-Committee on Nutrition (SCN) meeting in March in New York City. Dr. Piwoz was the rapporteur for the HIV and nutrition working group, and also participated in a session organized by WFP and Columbia University on the use of food aid in MTCT-plus programs.

In this quarter, the guidelines for policymakers and program managers providing nutrition care and support for people living with HIV/AIDS were finalized and disseminated by CRHCS. Dr. Ellen Piwoz, Ms. Dorcas Lwanga, and Ms. Kinday Samba provided technical assistance to review the guidelines.

No activity this quarter on review of ARV treatment issues.

3. Food security, rural livelihoods and nutrition vulnerability in HIV/AIDS affected populations.

Areas:

Review of empirical evidence and program experience on food aid, food security/rural livelihoods and nutrition in HIV/AIDS-affected and vulnerable populations.

Development of operational guidance for USAID missions on food, HIV/AIDS and nutrition and preparation of necessary advocacy and informational materials.

Participation in analysis of food and nutrition situation in East and Southern Africa.

Progress toward outputs, problems encountered, proposed solutions:

Working in collaboration with FANTA, Dr. Ellen Piwoz drafted a short brochure on nutrition and HIV/AIDS issues, with an accompanying PowerPoint presentation that included some information on food security and HIV. She has also been giving input to FANTA, which is developing a similar summary of the role of food aid in HIV/AIDS programs. This will be a challenge next quarter. The main problem is lack of evidence for making policy and program recommendations and it is not clear who the target audience is for this analysis.

<p>Multisectoral Initiatives</p> <p>1. USAID/AFR strategy for public/private partnerships in HIV/AIDS activities in Africa.</p> <p><i>Expected Outputs:</i></p> <p>Work in Nigeria finalized and transferred to USAID/Nigeria. Decision produced and disseminated at AGOA meeting.</p> <p><i>Progress toward outputs, problems encountered, proposed solutions:</i></p> <p>This activity is completed.</p>
<p>2. Support and TA to technical meetings of African experts, program managers and policy-makers on topical and emerging issues in RH, including HIV/AIDS.</p> <p><i>Expected Outputs:</i></p> <p>Trip reports. Next steps identified.</p> <p><i>Progress toward outputs, problems encountered, proposed solutions:</i></p> <p>No activity this quarter.</p>
<p>3. Provide TA for PMTC+ formative research of drug uptake during antenatal and immediate post-partum period in Zambia.</p> <p><i>Expected Outputs:</i></p> <p>PMTC+ programs improve drug uptake of seropositive pregnant and post-partum women.</p> <p><i>Progress toward outputs, problems encountered, proposed solutions:</i></p> <p>No activity this quarter.</p>
<p>4. Impact of morbidity and mortality on cocoa industry in Ghana.</p> <p><i>Expected Outputs:</i></p> <p>Assessment in Ghana and development of follow-up mitigation supported.</p> <p><i>Progress toward outputs, problems encountered, proposed solutions:</i></p> <p>Boston University made an initial trip to Ghana to start preparation for the study. Meanwhile, AED and BU have been finalizing business arrangements for a subcontract.</p>
<p>Africa Bureau Data and Analysis Support</p> <p>1. Develop country profile reports focused on data and program information.</p> <p><i>Expected Outputs:</i></p> <p>Country profiles reports useful for data comparison and programming provided to Africa Bureau and partners.</p> <p><i>Progress toward outputs, problems encountered, proposed solutions:</i></p> <p>No activity this quarter.</p>
<p>2. Dissemination to relevant partner missions; use of profiles data.</p> <p><i>Expected Outputs:</i></p> <p>Data and information to improve programming shared.</p> <p><i>Progress toward outputs, problems encountered, proposed solutions:</i></p> <p>No activity this quarter.</p>

Health Financing, Systems and Health Manpower

1. Strengthen national capacities to allocate and deliver financial resources to programs in the field efficiently.

Expected Outputs:

South African Partners supported in improving the accounting and accountability of HIV programs' ability to absorb resources through training and TA.

Progress toward outputs, problems encountered, proposed solutions:

No activity this quarter.

2. Strengthen health systems and health manpower.

Expected Outputs:

Consultation organized between USAID, WHO and other partners.

Progress toward outputs, problems encountered, proposed solutions:

The consultation has yet to be rescheduled by AFR/SD.

3. Analysis on human resources and HIV/AIDS finalized and disseminated and used for strategy development in the ECSA region.

Expected Outputs:

Production and dissemination of 2 reports on impact of HIV/AIDS on health work force (Kenya, Malawi).

Reports repackaged and disseminated.

Strategy dialogue stimulated in at least 2 countries.

Country consensus-building workshops planned and carried out in Kenya and Malawi.

International partners engaged in process.

Progress toward outputs, problems encountered, proposed solutions:

The final draft health workforce reports were received from Malawi and Kenya. Consultants were hired to repackage the final assessment reports on the impact of HIV/AIDS on the health workforce. These should be finalized, produced and disseminated next quarter.

4. Examine strengths and weaknesses of existing systems.

Expected Outputs:

Assessments undertaken in selected countries (countries TBD).

Progress toward outputs, problems encountered, proposed solutions:

No activity this quarter.

5. Document and disseminate experiences and best practices.

Expected Outputs:

Dissemination strategy developed.

Lessons learned and best practices disseminated.

Progress toward outputs, problems encountered, proposed solutions:

No activity this quarter.

<p>Pediatric AIDS</p> <p>1. Strengthen information base for pediatric AIDS in Africa.</p> <p><i>Expected Outputs:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Concept note developed on USAID options for action. Guide for programs developed. Support given for development and use of a rapid communications strategy using innovative methods. <p><i>Progress toward outputs, problems encountered, proposed solutions:</i></p> <p>The issue of pediatric AIDS in Africa was included in the SARA work plan following consultation with AFR/SD, who identified it as a priority issue.</p>
<p>2. Strengthen linkages with African institutions and networks working on pediatric AIDS.</p> <p><i>Expected Outputs:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Consultation held with the African Network for the Care of Children Affected by HIV/AIDS (ANECCA) and others. <p><i>Progress toward outputs, problems encountered, proposed solutions:</i></p> <p>No activity this quarter.</p>
<p>3. Support strengthening of pediatric AIDS services.</p> <p><i>Expected Outputs:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Support provided to documentation of guidelines. Support provided to development of tools for pediatric AIDS services. <p><i>Progress toward outputs, problems encountered, proposed solutions:</i></p> <p>No activity this quarter.</p>
<p>African Experience with ARV Rollout</p> <p>1. Document models of care and treatment in SSA.</p> <p><i>Expected Outputs:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> A resource paper documenting models of care and treatment in SSA drafted. <p><i>Progress toward outputs, problems encountered, proposed solutions:</i></p> <p>No activity this quarter.</p>
<p>2. Develop program guidelines for lessons on ARV rollout.</p> <p><i>Expected Outputs:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> E-notes and summary papers prepared on models of care and disseminated to missions and partners. <p><i>Progress toward outputs, problems encountered, proposed solutions:</i></p> <p>No activity this quarter.</p>
<p>Monitoring of HIV/AIDS Programs</p> <p>1. Document results of HIV/AIDS policy monitoring in at least 4 countries.</p> <p><i>Expected Outputs:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Documentation completed, produced and disseminated at country level. <p><i>Progress toward outputs, problems encountered, proposed solutions:</i></p> <p>No activity this quarter.</p>

2. Provide technical support to RATN to monitor and follow-up on training of ACP managers in management.

Expected Outputs:

TA provided.

Report of ongoing performance of ACP managers following their training.

Progress toward outputs, problems encountered, proposed solutions:

No activity this quarter.

3. Support implementation of the National AIDS Councils and AIDS control program rollout of their roles and functions developed by their joint consultations in 2003.

Expected Outputs:

Country-level activities and implementation plans developed.

Stakeholder consensus developed.

M&E framework developed.

Progress toward outputs, problems encountered, proposed solutions:

CRCHS is continuing to follow up to get individual country reports.

Dissemination and Advocacy Support to SO 21

1. Produce and disseminate key documents.

Expected Outputs:

Documents produced and disseminated (as listed in work plan).

Progress toward outputs, problems encountered, proposed solutions:

Renuka Bery, at the request of AFR/SD, wrote an article for the Africa Bureau newsletter on PEPFAR. Ms. Bery also updated the Africa Bureau briefing notes that were further updated by AFR/SD. Ms. Bery and the dissemination team also gathered all USAID strategy documents and produced a CD for AFR/SD to use in-house. This is the first collection of all USAID HIV/AIDS strategy documents.

SO 24: **Polio**

Technical Area: **Polio**

1. Assist AFR/SD in the implementation of their SO 24 portfolio.

Expected Outputs:

Assistance provided as needed.

Progress toward outputs, problems encountered, proposed solutions:

No activity this quarter.

2. Continue assisting WHO/AFRO on dissemination and advocacy.

Expected Outputs:

Assistance provided as needed.

Progress toward outputs, problems encountered, proposed solutions:

See SO 19, Infectious Disease, item #3.

SO: Cross-cutting

Technical Area: Various areas – Monitoring and Evaluation Activities

1. Assist AFR/SD/HRD SO 19, 20 and 21 with issues identification, portfolio management and evaluation.

Expected Outputs:

- Core group meetings organized.
- Joint meetings with partners conducted.
- Expert advice provided.
- Monitoring & evaluation activities carried out.
- Technical briefs produced as requested.

Progress toward outputs, problems encountered, proposed solutions:

Dr. Sambe Duale, Dr. Martita Marx, SARA Senior Child Survival Advisor, Joseph Coblenz, SARA Operations Manager, and Dr. Suzanne Prysor-Jones contributed to the planning and the organization of the review of USAID and DFID grants to WHO/AFRO for the period 1999-2003. The review process included a trip by Dr. Duale and Dr. Marx to Harare for meetings with WHO/AFRO staff and representatives of USAID and DFID. Dr. Saha Amarasingham, a POPTECH consultant, conducted the desk review and participated in the meetings in Harare. SARA will prepare the final report of the review.

2. Consultative meeting on issues and lessons learned in building public health capacity in Africa.

Expected Outputs:

- Meeting organized.
- Issues and lessons learned paper produced and disseminated.
- Presentation done at the AfriHealth Regional Conference.

Progress toward outputs, problems encountered, proposed solutions:

A CTO letter was approved this quarter for SARA to fund the consultative meeting. Joseph Coblenz worked with COHRED/Afrihealth on contractual arrangements for the organization of the meeting. Dr. Sambe Duale has worked with Prof. Carel Ijsselmuiden of COHRED and Dr. Thomas Nchinda of Afrihealth to plan meeting to be held next quarter in Pretoria, South Africa, on Partnerships for Strengthening Public Health Education in Africa.

3. Support for the implementation of strategic planning and institutional development plans for WAHO and CERPOD.

Expected Outputs:

- TA provided to WAHO and CERPOD.

Progress toward outputs, problems encountered, proposed solutions:

Dr. Sambe Duale contributed to WAHO-sponsored workshops in Ghana to review two priority programs of the WAHO strategic plan: (1) HIV/AIDS and the Armed Forces, and (2) capacity building program for young professionals.

Holley Stewart provided TA to CERPOD staff on preparing the reports of the qualitative and quantitative analyses on adolescent reproductive health.

4. Technical analysis and expert support for USAID West Africa Regional Program (WARP) and REDSO/ESA.

Expected Outputs:

TA provided to WARP and REDSO/ESA.

Progress toward outputs, problems encountered, proposed solutions:

During his visit to Accra, Ghana, in February, 2004, Dr. Sambe Duale was asked by Felix Awantang, WARP Health Team Leader, to join a three-day consultative meeting on capacity building and human resource development for health in West Africa. The meeting was chaired and facilitated by WAHO and the WARP-funded AWARE-RH Project. The meeting came up with a set of guiding principles and a preliminary action plan for moving forward. One of the main activities discussed was the development of a health fellowship program for young professionals to be managed by WAHO. Dr. Duale will follow-up with WAHO on this initiative.

SO: Cross-cutting

Technical Area: Dissemination and advocacy

Result ia: Capacity to Advocate

1. 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:

57 English advocacy guides were distributed this quarter in response to 13 requests. SARA exhausted its copies of both English and French and will be producing more copies in the coming quarter.

SARA provided PATH's regional office in Nairobi with 25 copies for an advocacy training PATH conducted for the East and Southern African Malaria and Pregnancy Working Group. Renuka Bery also gave permission to Habitat for Humanity to adapt material from the Advocacy guide for its next newsletter "Panorama" focused on Advocacy.

2. Identify key issues for which to advocate.

Expected Outputs:

Follow-up completed.

Recommendations made for future.

Progress toward outputs, problems encountered, proposed solutions:

Renuka Bery met internally with Martita Marx to discuss the "Child Survival: Taking Stock" exercise. This will be elaborated on further in the coming quarter.

Result ib: Capacity to Disseminate Information

3. Assist CRHCS in strengthening its info communication activities by developing strategy and hiring an appropriate staff person.

Expected Outputs:

Communication strategy developed.

Staff person recruited and hired.

Progress toward outputs, problems encountered, proposed solutions:

Renuka Bery and Antonia Wolff reviewed the CVs and cover letters for the 20 applicants. Ms. Bery also suggested a second step: to have the top 5 candidates write responses to 4 questions. This step was adopted by CRHCS and SARA and PRB helped formulate the questions. The written responses will be returned to CRHCS in early April and CRHCS expects to interview the top candidates in early May.

4. Work with Namibian web competition team to document experience and explore how to replicate it in other ECSA countries.

Expected Outputs:

Namibia experience documented.

Collaboration with other regional organizations and donors to replicate experience in one other country.

Progress toward outputs, problems encountered, proposed solutions:

No activity this quarter.

5. Work with African institutions to build capacity in dissemination and repackaging information.

Expected Outputs:

Workshops with CRHCS IDCs, WHO/AFRO, AHILA members.

Information disseminated.

Progress toward outputs, problems encountered, proposed solutions:

SARA worked with HealthScope Tanzania to help them devise a dissemination strategy for their report on TB and Gender.

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

Expected Outputs:

Information repackaged and appropriately disseminated.

Progress toward outputs, problems encountered, proposed solutions:

SARA was prepared to support the salary of Amadou Sankare at CERPOD to bridge the period when PRB funding ended and WARP funding would start. A recent visit to CERPOD found that the Institute of the Sahel did not permit CERPOD to use these SARA funds to support Mr. Sankare for reasons beyond SARA's control.

Antonia Wolff and Renuka Bery continue to provide technical assistance on an as-needed basis. The WHO/AFRO dissemination officer is now disseminating a quarterly e-newsletter that highlights EPI stories in the news. This e-newsletter is reaching hundreds of WHO personnel throughout the Africa region and headquarters.

As stated in the last item, the SARA Production team also helped HealthScope, Tanzania, to finalize their report on TB and Gender. Antonia Wolff facilitated a dissemination plan with USAID and HealthScope and will print and disseminate it in the next quarter.

7. Collaborate with other USAID Projects.

Expected Outputs:

Dissemination of priority issues improved for selected projects.

Progress toward outputs, problems encountered, proposed solutions:

SARA replicated the SFPS CD compilation of best practices produced by JHPIEGO. Owing to a printer problem, the CD will be disseminated next quarter.

As discussed above, Renuka Bery and Holley Stewart have agreed to co-chair the Communication task force of the PAC Working Group in the coming year. This will also be co-chaired by Jinna Halperin from Pathfinder.

Ms. Bery also participated in a number of working groups—HIPNet and AIDS Communication working group. Antonia Wolff participated in the HIPNet meeting on Family Planning (FP) and HIV/AIDS Integration. This is a group of communication experts who articulated a need to bring together all the CAs to identify resource needs related to FP/HIV integration, create a shared vision to best support these needs, identify existing information resources, develop a plan for future collaboration, and identify subgroups to lead the prioritized initiatives. The group identified collaboration, evidence-based research, advocacy and communication, product development and dissemination as priority needs.

Renuka Bery participated in the follow-on meeting that discussed how HIPNet could be more strategic in helping groups foster collaboration and avoid duplicating efforts.

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

Expected Outputs:

Dissemination briefs developed.

Dissemination strategy developed & implemented.

Progress toward outputs, problems encountered, proposed solutions:

No activity this quarter.

9. Work with missions to strengthen their capacity to produce and disseminate materials.

Expected Outputs:

Workshop reports submitted.

TA provided.

Progress toward outputs, problems encountered, proposed solutions:

No activity this quarter.

Result ic: Capacity to Communicate Electronically

10. Link selected African institution personnel to e-communication opportunities through CRHCS.

Expected Outputs:

Selected personnel linked to opportunities.

Links made between PRB and CRHCS for electronic networking activity.

Progress toward outputs, problems encountered, proposed solutions:

No specific activities have taken place in this quarter.

Result iia: Materials Development and Production

11. Design and package information in appropriate formats (books, syntheses, executive summaries, e-notes, policy briefs/brochures, tools).

Expected Outputs:

Selected information designed and packaged.

Progress toward outputs, problems encountered, proposed solutions:

Orphans and Vulnerable Children: State of the Science paper was updated based on comments received following the OVC Technical Consultation. It will be produced as a working draft next quarter.

OVC Technical Consultation Report was finalized this quarter and will be printed next quarter.

The reports from the CRHCS-supported Malawi and Kenya Human Resources and HIV/AIDS studies are being repackaged and will be ready for production next quarter.

Involving Private Practitioners in Child Health Toolkit is being developed.

E-note on the profiles evaluation was developed this quarter and will be submitted to USAID.

12. Dissemination of key AFR/SD-SARA cross-cutting products as requested.

Expected Outputs:

Products disseminated.

Progress toward outputs, problems encountered, proposed solutions:

SARA products are disseminated regularly as requested both by mail and electronically. Several publications are being downloaded on a regular basis. The most popular seems to be the *Multisectoral Responses to HIV/AIDS* Compendium.

13. Assessments of use of AFR/SD/HRD-SARA products (3-6 documents/year).

Expected Outputs:

Use of documents specified in work plan assessed & presentation given.

Progress toward outputs, problems encountered, proposed solutions:

No activity this quarter.

Result iib: Dissemination Channels

14. Mail documents to targeted mailing list.

Expected Outputs:

Documents mailed.

Progress toward outputs, problems encountered, proposed solutions:

This quarter, over 3251 documents were mailed, all but one of which were requested.

15. 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:

This quarter, SARA publications continue to be actively sought out on the SARA website. *Qualitative Research for Improved Health Programs* was downloaded as a PDF file 521 times this quarter, while *Multisectoral Responses to HIV/AIDS* and *Prevention of Mother- to- Child- Transmission* were downloaded 479 and 244 times, respectively.

16. SARA, AFR and USAID Website maintenance + publications updates.

Expected Outputs:

Website reviewed and updated on periodic basis.

Publications list moved to USAID site.

Progress toward outputs, problems encountered, proposed solutions:

Last quarter, SARA created a sub-website specific to the Orphans and Vulnerable Children Technical Consultation. This site served as registration for the conference and hosts all the background papers, as well as the presentations given at the conference. This website is reviewed and updated on an as-needed basis.

17. Promote information through various listservs (AFRONETS, ReproHlth, WB, AHILANet).

Expected Outputs:

Information promoted as needed.

Progress toward outputs, problems encountered, proposed solutions:

SARA sent a notice to AFROnets on the Annual Program Statement on Orphans and Vulnerable Children located on the Federal Grants web site.

18. 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:

The quarterly announcement currently is going out to over 300 recipients, mostly within USAID and the USAID missions. The publications list went out this quarter on time.

<p>19. Explore interactive CD-ROM development. Assess whether SARA should design an interactive CD-ROM and develop it, if appropriate.</p> <p><i>Expected Outputs:</i> New activities of this nature identified, including whether SARA should do CD-ROM.</p> <p><i>Progress toward outputs, problems encountered, proposed solutions:</i> At the request of AFR/SD, the SARA dissemination team developed a CD with all USAID HIV/ AIDS information for key officials within USAID.</p>
<p>20. Assess use of CD-ROMS in Africa.</p> <p><i>Expected Outputs:</i> Reports from surveys conducted at various forums.</p> <p><i>Progress toward outputs, problems encountered, proposed solutions:</i> No activity this quarter.</p>
<p>21. Analyze tracking information on major SARA publications.</p> <p><i>Expected Outputs:</i> Information analyzed.</p> <p><i>Progress toward outputs, problems encountered, proposed solutions:</i> SARA tracks the distribution of all major publications and analysis is done for particular products on request.</p>
<p>22. USAID Knowledge Management Fair and Inventory.</p> <p><i>Expected Outputs:</i> Contribute SARA/AFR experiences to inventory. Advocacy Guide shared at Fair.</p> <p><i>Progress toward outputs, problems encountered, proposed solutions:</i> This activity is completed.</p>
<p>23. OVC meeting.</p> <p><i>Expected Outputs:</i> Preliminary report on OVC drafted. Meeting report drafted.</p> <p><i>Progress toward outputs, problems encountered, proposed solutions:</i> The OVC State of the Science document was updated based on comments. It will be produced as a working draft next quarter. The meeting report was finalized and will also be produced next quarter.</p>
<p>24. Global Consultation on IDSR.</p> <p><i>Expected Outputs:</i> Presentation done. Trip report drafted.</p> <p><i>Progress toward outputs, problems encountered, proposed solutions:</i> This activity is completed.</p>

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

25. 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:

Renuka Bery and Antonia Wolff have continued to serve as integral members of the various technical core teams to ensure that dissemination and advocacy activities are considered and implemented.