

Rational Pharmaceutical Management Plus

Planning Workshop of the AWARE/HIV/AIDS Project under the West Africa Regional Health Program in Accra, Ghana September 2004: Trip Report

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About RPM Plus

RPM Plus works in more than 20 developing and transitional countries to provide technical assistance to strengthen drug and health commodity management systems. The program offers technical guidance and assists in strategy development and program implementation both in improving the availability of health commodities—pharmaceuticals, vaccines, supplies, and basic medical equipment—of assured quality for maternal and child health, HIV/AIDS, infectious diseases, and family planning and in promoting the appropriate use of health commodities in the public and private sectors.

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Acronyms

AIDS	acquired immunodeficiency syndrome
AWARE	Action for West Africa Region
CA	Cooperating Agency
CILSS	Permanent Interstate Committee for Drought Control in the Sahel
CRHCS	Commonwealth Regional Health Community Secretariat
CS	child survival
CPM	Center for Pharmaceutical Management
ECOWAS	Economic Community of West African States
FHI	Family Health International
HIV	human immunodeficiency virus
MAC	Malaria Action Coalition
MIP	malaria in pregnancy
MSH	Management Sciences for Health
RBM	roll back malaria
RH	reproductive health
RPM Plus	Rational Pharmaceutical Management Plus Program
RTLI	Regional Technical Leadership Institution
STI	sexually transmitted infections
TA	technical assistance
WAEMU	West African Economic and Monetary Union
WAHO	West African Health Organization
WARP	West Africa Regional Health Program
WHO	World Health Organization

Background

The West Africa Regional Program (WARP) addresses West African development challenges at the regional level. The WARP program works in partnership with USAID bilateral missions, U.S. Embassies, and leading regional intergovernmental organizations such as the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS), the West African Economic and Monetary Union (WAEMU), and the Permanent Interstate Committee for Drought Control in the Sahel (CILSS). The program serves the 18 nations of Benin, Burkina Faso, Cameroon, Cape Verde, Chad, Cote d'Ivoire, The Gambia, Ghana, Guinea, Guinea Bissau, Liberia, Mali, Mauritania, Niger, Nigeria, Senegal, Sierra Leone, and Togo.

The main objectives of WARP are to:

- 1) Foster regional economic integration;
- 2) Increase the adoption of sustainable policies for and approaches to reproductive health, sexually transmitted disease, HIV/AIDS, and child survival;
- 3) Strengthen food security and environmental policies and programs; and
- 4) Support the establishment of regional conflict prevention mechanisms.

USAID's program in the areas of reproductive health (RH), child survival (CS), sexually transmitted infections and HIV/AIDS (STI/HIV/AIDS) aims to expand regional coverage from four to 18 countries. At the same time, a strategic shift will reorient the approach from increasing West Africans' use of health products and services to one that promotes wider adoption of state-of-the-art practices by national governments, regional organizations and non-governmental organizations. This shift will also increase regional stakeholder advocacy for policy change, increase the capacity of regional institutions and networks and promote health sector reform. The program will support activities in 12 non-presence countries as well as undertake joint activities with the USAID bilateral health programs in the region.

HIV/AIDS funds are focused on launching an innovative and region-wide program to contain the epidemic with a focus on advocacy and transfer of proven best practices. Child Survival and Health funds will support reproductive health and child survival activities that address the seemingly intractable issues of high fertility, maternal and child mortality in the region.

WARP interventions in health are implemented through two complementary partnerships forming the Action for West Africa (AWARE) Project: the AWARE/Reproductive Health (RH) and the AWARE/HIV/AIDS cooperative agreements. The managing partners are Engender Health and Family Health International (FHI) respectively.

In support of the goals of USAID/WARP, Management Sciences for Health (MSH) is funded to provide technical assistance in pharmaceutical management to WARP through three mechanisms:

- Implementing partner of the Engender Health manages the Action for West Africa Region/Reproductive Health (AWARE/RH) partnership. This partnership is designed to

strengthen regional capacity in delivering RH and selected associated services through support to key regional institutions.

- Rational Pharmaceutical Management Plus (RPM Plus) cooperative agreement with MSH is designed to strengthen global, regional and national capacities in pharmaceutical management, improving drug management practices so as to measurably improve health measures in key public health intervention areas. Field support funding in the amount of \$250,000 for FY 2003 has been obligated; \$100,000 for HIV/AIDS and \$150,000 for Malaria. Funding through this mechanism gives priority to the region as opposed to global and/or national capacities. For FY 2004 USD 340,000 has been obligated for HIV/AIDS activities.
- As one of four partners and the secretariat for the Malaria Action Coalition (MAC), RPM Plus has also received FY 2003 funding for case management and malaria in pregnancy (MIP) activities in the region. Total funding received from WARP for the MAC partners is \$400,000 for FY 2003.

The above three sources of funding are intended to be used for the reinforcement of activities led by AWARE HIV/AIDS and AWARE RH, and those activities led by the MAC. Duplicative efforts can be avoided, and system-wide strengthening activities will be encouraged, thus avoiding a vertical approach.

Purpose of Trip

Bannet Ndyabangi traveled to Accra, Ghana to participate in a planning workshop organized by AWARE HIV/AIDS. The primary outcome was to work with other participating partners including the West African Health Organization (WAHO) to develop activities at the regional level in areas of pharmaceutical management strengthening.

Scope of Work

Hold Meetings with USAID/WARP, AWARE HIV/AIDS and Participate in the AWARE HIV/AIDS annual planning workshop to develop activities for implementation in FY 2005.

Activities

Collaborators and Partners

During the visit, Bannet Ndyanabangi met with the USAID/WARP/HIV/AIDS team, the AWARE/HIV/AIDS project and WAHO representatives. Mr. Ndyanabangi participated in the planning workshop where other organization and Cooperating Agencies (CA's) were represented.

A detailed schedule and list of contacts is found in Annex 1.

Next Steps

Immediate Follow-up Activities

- Debrief USAID and RPM Plus on Mission
- Develop concept papers and scopes of work for agreed upon activities

Agreement or Understandings with Counterparts

The following areas of assistance were identified with USAID/WARP, AWAREHIV/AIDS and WAHO:

1. Identify regional issues and approaches to management of pharmaceuticals and other commodities for HIV/AIDS treatment and care in the West African region. This will be done through a rapid survey in the 18 countries under the AWARE project.
2. Provide technical assistance in developing and implementing a regional workshop where the findings of the rapid survey will be presented for discussion and strategies to address the gaps and constraints developed. This will include the development of draft country action plans to address identified gaps and constraints in pharmaceutical management for HIV/AIDS based on the AWARE HIV project's elements of a commodity security plan.
3. Provide technical assistance in facilitating a regional pooled procurement expert consultation meeting.
4. Provide technical assistance in developing and implementing regional training courses in HIV/AIDS commodity management. Two courses are planned, one in French and another in English. The courses will be jointly organized with two training institutions, GEMPA in Accra, Ghana and CESAG in Dakar, Senegal. Regional trainers will be trained to enable them facilitate similar courses at these institutions in future.

Important Upcoming Activities or Benchmarks in Program

The pooled procurement expert consultation meeting of the West African Health Organization is tentatively scheduled to be held in December in Bobo Dioulasso.

Annex 1: Schedule of Visits and Persons Met

Thursday September 23

- Arrival in Accra. Brief with Prof. Maiga Moussa, (WAHO), Fatimata Sy, AWARE/HIV/AIDS – FHI, Claudes Kamenga, AWARE/HIV/AIDS – FHI,

Friday September 24

- Participate in the planning workshop

Saturday September 25

- Participate in the planning workshop

Monday September 27

- Continue discussion of details of activities with AWARE/HIV/AIDS – FHI and WAHO

Tuesday September 28

- Discussion of details of activities and Budgets with AWARE/HIV/AIDS – FHI and WAHO

Wednesday September 29

- Meet and debrief USAID/WARP staff: Jamie Browder, (USAID/WARP/HIV/AIDS); Sosthene Bucyana (USAID/WARP/HIV/AIDS);

Thursday September 30

- Review questionnaire with AWARE/HIV/AIDS – FHI technical support deputy director
- Discussion of questionnaire with MSH office in Accra
- Departure from Ghana for Arlington