

SARA II QUARTERLY PROGRESS REPORT
April 1 – June 30, 2005

This report covers the 3^d quarter of FY 2005, namely, the period April 1 – June 30, 2005. It follows the SARA FY 04 work plan for the period October 1, 2004 – September 30, 2005.

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. In addition, in this final year of the SARA II Project, various activities in the work plan may be deleted or modified in form to adapt to changing circumstances and opportunities.

The project has now been extended through December 31, 2005. As a result, some of the activities on the FY 05 work plan are more likely to be completed in October-November 2005. This extension also allows the implementation of selected new activities as requested by AFR/SD and other USAID implementation units through AFR/SD, making even more SARA deliverables possible.

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 Health

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:

Please see SO 19, EPI, and other SO 19 sections for specific activities.

2. Taking stock of child survival – dissemination strategy development & follow-up.

Expected Outputs:

- Final report submitted to USAID – dissemination strategy developed

Progress toward outputs, problems encountered, proposed solutions:

This activity is completed.

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 sponsored Eric Swedbourg to attend the Community Care Management (CCM) meeting in Dakar at the end of April 2005. In addition, Dr. Suzanne Prysor-Jones, SARA Project Director, participated in two conference calls to plan the core group CCM essentials manual.

4. Provide technical input to USAID & WHO on child health issues.

Expected Outputs:

- Sara participation in key meetings
- Advice given on priority issues

Progress toward outputs, problems encountered, proposed solutions:

Dr. Suzanne Prysor-Jones provided extensive input into a CCM advocacy brochure that is being developed by WHO/AFRO. SARA will complete the layout next quarter. Finally, Dr. Prysor-Jones met with Dr. Tigest Ketsela during the CCM meeting in Dakar to discuss the WHO/AFRO role in CCM.

Moving the Private Sector Agenda

1. Organize advocacy forum on involving private providers in child health & malaria & follow-up activities.

Expected Outputs:

- Forum organized in Africa
- WHO/AFRO takes on capacity development role

Progress toward outputs, problems encountered, proposed solutions:

Dr. Sylvia Meek of the Malaria Consortium, Dr. Larry Barat of AED and Dr. Suzanne Prysor-Jones worked on the updated agenda for the forum and planned for it to begin October 18, 2005, in Kampala. Dr. Prysor-Jones submitted a letter of inquiry and proposal to Gates Foundation to secure additional funding for participants and presenters.

2. 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 main toolkit paper and CD-ROM were submitted to John Paul Clark of AFR/SD, Dennis Carroll of the Global Bureau and Dr. Vicam Chandramouli (WHO) and Jane Briggs (MSH) for final review and USAID approval.

Moving the Community Child Health Agenda

1. Participate in inter-agency meetings on community health & follow up on actions needed to support scale -up.

Expected Outputs:

- SARA participation in meetings
- Follow-up on key activities identified

Progress toward outputs, problems encountered, proposed solutions:

No activity this quarter.

2. 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:

Dr. Suzanne Prysor-Jones held discussions with Dr. Ismail Thiam and Dr. Serigne Dienne in Dakar to discuss suitable approaches to follow-up on the work started with NGO networks in four countries to disseminate nutrition tools and approaches.

3. Support the inclusion of AIDS-related issues in child health programs (see HIV/AIDS section).

Expected Outputs:

- Best practices identified & disseminated

Progress toward outputs, problems encountered, proposed solutions:

Please see Pediatric HIV/AIDS below, item #1, for a report on the work of Dr. John Palen with respect to palliative care management.

4. Support for regional initiative for community-based case management (ARI, malaria, etc.).

Expected Outputs:

- Support provided as needed

Progress toward outputs, problems encountered, proposed solutions:

Dr. Suzanne Prysor-Jones helped prepare and facilitate the CCM consultative meeting in West Africa held in Dakar April 28-29. She also participated prior to that in the Senegal country discussions on scaling up community care and treatment of ARI in 20 districts. The regional meeting was attended by representatives from USAID/G, WHO/HQ, WHO/AFRO, UNICEF/HQ, BASICS, AWARE, CORE and participants from Senegal. Dr. Prysor-Jones also assisted AWARE and WARP in developing recommendations for a follow-up strategy.

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

Technical Area: Malaria RP

1. Follow-up TA for the implementation of the Regional Integrated Vector Management (IVM) Partnership meeting recommendations.

Expected Outputs:

- TA provided by SARA staff

Progress toward outputs, problems encountered, proposed solutions:

No activity this quarter.

2. 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:

Dr. Sambe Duale, SARA Infectious Disease Advisor, reviewed and provided comments to WHO/AFRO on the revised draft framework prepared to guide the collaboration between national malaria control programs and the reproductive health program to support malaria prevention and management among pregnant women.

Also, on April 25, 2005, Dr. Duale moderated a Congressional Briefing on Africa Malaria Day organized by the Global Health Council at the Longworth House Office Building. The Briefing discussed the elements of successful interventions to reduce malaria's burden, especially among children and pregnant women.

3. Technical support for the implementation of the CORE Group malaria & IMCI work plan for FY 05.

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:

Dr. Sambe Duale participated in the Malaria Working Group (MWG) teleconference on May 11th. The group discussed upcoming events and proposed activities for FY06. A task force of MWG and HIV/AIDS WG members agreed to plan an update in the Fall to address Malaria and HIV/AIDS programming.

4. 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:

Dr. Sambe Duale traveled to Harare, Zimbabwe, June 20-25, to participate in, and provide technical services to the Joint Review Meeting of DFID and USAID Support to WHO/AFRO for Prevention and Control of Communicable Diseases. The meeting was timed with the DFID mid-term output-to-purpose review of its regional support to WHO/AFRO for Roll Back Malaria and Integrated Management of Childhood Illness for the period June 2001 to June 2007. The meeting participants identified a number of priority issues and made recommendations to inform decisions by DFID, USAID, WHO and other partners on collaborative RBM and IMCI activities in the African region.

5. 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:

With funding from WARP, WAHO is currently working with Netmark to organize this consultative meeting in August or September 2005. SARA support is now limited to providing comments on the meeting agenda and reviewing the report.

6. 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:

See item #5 above. This consultative meeting will also be an advocacy meeting 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 Women and TB report was produced and disseminated in the last quarter. A dissemination report shows that over 500 copies of this report went to the MOH/TZ (Dr. Egwaga) as follows:

- Two copies each were provided for the 121 in-country districts
- Several copies were distributed to each of the 30 health training institutions
- Several copies for key stakeholders, including donor agencies supporting the health sector
- Over 200 were disseminated during meetings, conferences, workshops etc.

ECSA Health Community Secretariat (CRHCS) also distributed over 150 copies during two dissemination workshops in the last quarter. 815 out of the 1,000 total produced have been distributed, 810 copies of which were distributed in Africa to African audiences. All were requested.

In addition, Dr. Sambe Duale had telephone discussions with colleagues at HealthScope and the NTLP in Dar es Salaam on their plan to organize a national workshop later this Summer to disseminate findings and develop an action plan for follow-up activities. ECSA-HC will use the remaining TB and Gender earmarked fund from REDSO and SARA to support the proposed dissemination workshop. Meanwhile, the principal investigators are still working on a manuscript based on the study findings for submission to a peer-review journal.

2. Support documentation & information sharing on the implementation of CTBC & HIV-TB interventions within TB control programs in African settings.

Expected Outputs:

- Documentation report produced & disseminated.

Progress toward outputs, problems encountered, proposed solutions:

No activity this quarter.

3. Support for the documentation & 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:

ECSA-HC (CRHCS) study teams conducted an assessment on the status of TB and HIV/AIDS collaborative activities in 7 selected ECSA countries. The teams are currently analyzing the data and preparing country reports. Dr. Sambe Duale exchanged e-mails with Dr. Cornelia Davis, REDSO Infectious Disease Advisor, and Dr. Kenneth Chebet, ECSA-HC HIV/AIDS Advisor, to discuss the status of the study. They also met during the REDSO Partners Meeting held in Mombassa, Kenya, June 14-15, to discuss the requested technical and financial support from SARA for the packaging of the study findings into country and regional policy briefs. ECSA-HC will provide the needed materials to SARA in a timely manner to ensure that we are able to provide the support within the remaining few months of the project.

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

Technical Area: Infectious Diseases

1. Technical support to AFR/SD for the implementation of the ID portfolio activities.

Expected Outputs:

- TA provided by SARA staff & consultants
- Core team & joint partners' meetings supported

Progress toward outputs, problems encountered, proposed solutions:

Dr. Sambe Duale joined Ms. Mary Harvey of AFR/SD for a trip to Harare, Zimbabwe, June 20-25, to participate in, and provide technical services to the Joint Review Meeting of DFID and USAID Support to WHO/AFRO for the Prevention and Control of Communicable Diseases. Ms. Harvey and Dr. Duale used the opportunity to meet with Dr. Kabore and Dr. Oluwole of WHO/AFRO to discuss the overall grant strategic directions, communication mechanisms, and program submission and reporting requirements for the USAID grant to WHO/AFRO for the period 2005-2009. Ms. Harvey and Dr. Duale also met individually with each one of the regional advisors and selected staff of some of the concerned units (e.g., VPD, IDSR, Malaria, Tuberculosis, HIV/AIDS, IMCI) to review and discuss the draft program submission for FY 05. The units will revise their proposals based on the discussions and consolidate all the individual proposals into one WHO/AFRO program submission to AFR/SD by mid-August 2005.

2. Dissemination of findings from the documentation of IDSR implementation in Africa.

Expected Outputs:

- TA provided by SARA staff & consultants
- Report & advocacy briefs produced & disseminated

Progress toward outputs, problems encountered, proposed solutions:

Dr. Sambe Duale and Ms. Antonia Wolff, SARA Dissemination and Advocacy Manager, provided technical inputs to WHO/HQ for the finalization of the evaluation report of the UNF-funded disease surveillance project in Africa. WHO/HQ will produce and disseminate the report.

3. Technical support to WHO/AFRO DDC for the development & implementation of an advocacy & dissemination strategy.

Expected Outputs:

- TA provided by SARA staff & consultants
- Advocacy materials produced & disseminated

Progress toward outputs, problems encountered, proposed solutions:

No activity this quarter.

4. Technical support to WHO/AFRO for strategy development & advocacy for mobilizing resources for IDSR implementation (e.g., training, contingency stocks, etc.).

Expected Outputs:

- TA provided by SARA staff & consultants
- SARA represented at partners' joint planning meeting strategy
- Advocacy materials produced & disseminated

Progress toward outputs, problems encountered, proposed solutions:

The difficulty in communicating with responsible colleagues at WHO/AFRO has slowed progress on contract arrangements for hiring Dr. Jennifer Wanyama to lead this activity. Dr. Wanyama indicated in late June that she was no longer available to take on this activity. It is unlikely that WHO/AFRO will identify another consultant who can do this job in the timeframe left for the SARA II Project.

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:

The meeting originally planned for June 14-17 was postponed to later in the Fall.

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:

Dr. Sambe Duale traveled to Monrovia, Liberia, to co-facilitate the successful health transition workshop co-hosted by the USAID's mission to Liberia, the Africa Bureau, the Bureau for Global Health, the Office of U.S. Foreign Disaster Assistance (OFDA), and the West Africa Regional Program on April 5–7. The purpose of the workshop was to harmonize U.S. government (USG) health programs in Liberia in order to promote the best possible transition from emergency to development assistance. Dr. Duale worked with USAID colleagues to prepare the report of the workshop and to organize briefings for the US Ambassador and USAID Mission Director in Monrovia and for USAID/W, then worked with the SARA Dissemination Team to finalize and produce the report.

SARA supported two consultants, Katherine Jacquart and Ellen Lynch, to join a team for three weeks in May to evaluate USAID PHN programs in the Democratic Republic of the Congo. Ms. Jacquart led the team and coordinated the final report preparation.

Dr. Duale had discussions with colleagues at WHO, USAID and Tulane on a proposal to convene the 2nd meeting of the Mano River Union (Guinea, Liberia and Sierra Leone) Lassa Fever Laboratory Network. Pending AFR/SD's approval, SARA will provide technical and financial support for the organization of this meeting.

7. Support the evaluation & dissemination of findings on the implementation of IDSR in selected USAID presence countries (e.g., Tanzania, DRC, Ethiopia).

Expected Outputs:

- TA provided by SARA staff & consultants
- Report & advocacy briefs produced & disseminated

Progress toward outputs, problems encountered, proposed solutions:

No activity this quarter.

8. Provide technical support for the implementation of the IDSR Operational Research Agenda set by the 5th WHO IDSR Task Force.

Expected Outputs:

- TA provided by SARA staff & consultants
- SARA represented at partners' joint planning meeting strategy

Progress toward outputs, problems encountered, proposed solutions:

Dr. Sambe Duale joined the IDSR research sub-group members to review and provide comments on the first draft of a generic protocol for cost and cost-effectiveness analysis of an Integrated Disease Surveillance and Response System. The generic protocol was prepared by Dr. Zana Somda, an economist with the CDC IDSR team in Atlanta. Dr. Somda will revise the protocol taking into account all the comments and circulate it for another review in July. WHO/AFRO and its partners hope to initiate the study in at least two countries later this year.

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:

Dr. Ellen Piwoz, SARA Nutrition Advisor, participated in weekly meetings of the SO 21 team. However, there have been no regular meetings for the SO19/Nutrition core team for some time.

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 has worked closely with OHA on preparation and review of guidelines for nutrition/food interventions in the Presidential Emergency Plan, and inclusion of nutrition in the preventive care packages for adults and children. Collaboration with OHA is very good; however, progress is hampered because SARA is not able to directly participate in OGAC working groups which are responsible for developing and reviewing these guidelines/materials.

3. Nutrition Policy Analysis and Advocacy:

- **PROFILES support to countries to enhance understanding of ENA & linkages with HIV/AIDS, RH programs (emphasis on President's Emergency Program for AIDS Relief focus countries).**

Expected Outputs:

- Up to 3 countries in the region assisted as needed
 - Mozambique
 - Zambia
 - Rwanda

Progress toward outputs, problems encountered, proposed solutions:

No activity this quarter.

4. Strengthen African partners' capacity for Nutrition:

- **Use of AFR-supported tools & approaches in NGO & pre-service settings in the West Africa region**
- **Technical support to WHO with implementation of West Africa for Capacity Development in Nutrition**
- **Dissemination of promising practices in Africa through regional networks:**
 - **WAHO focal points**
 - **CRHCS nutrition network**
 - **Other nutrition networks (Central Africa).**

Expected Outputs:

- Follow-up on integration of approaches & tools into nutrition program of NGOs in 3 countries & curriculum of 7 countries in West Africa
- TA provided for action plan revision workshop & implementation of action plan
- Support for one regional meeting of WAHO annual nutrition forum, Regional Network for Central Africa & Madagascar
- Dissemination of SARA tools & materials at regional conferences & through focal points networks.

Progress toward outputs, problems encountered, proposed solutions:

WAHO focal points

The WAHO requested technical assistance from SARA to help facilitate a meeting of the West Africa nutrition focal points as follow-on to the annual West Africa nutrition forum. Dorcas Lwanga, SARA Nutritionist, and Ms. Kinday Samba, SARA West Africa Nutrition Field Advisor, will work with WAHO to facilitate the meeting. The West Africa Nutrition Forum is now bi-annual and the focal points will be meeting in between forums to review and assess progress on recommendations made at each forum on improving nutrition in countries in the ECOWAS region. The first of these meetings is scheduled for Aug 23-25 in Bobo-Dioulasso, Burkina Faso.

Additionally, WAHO also requested the SARA project to help organize, and conduct a workshop on developing National Nutrition Care and Support guidelines for PLWHA. Ms. Lwanga provided technical support to WAHO in developing a concept paper for the workshop to help WAHO leverage funds. The workshop will involve four countries: Burkina Faso, Senegal, Nigeria and Ghana, and is scheduled for Aug 26-27 in Bobo-Dioulasso, Burkina Faso. Ms. Lwanga and Ms. Samba continue to work with WAHO in preparation for the meeting of the nutrition focal points and the workshop on developing national guidelines for nutrition care and support of PLWHA. Ms. Lwanga and Ms. Samba will travel to Bobo-Dioulasso and facilitate the workshop on developing the guidelines on nutrition care and support of PLWHA.

Other Networks- Central Africa

UNICEF/WACRO requested the help of the SARA project to organize and facilitate a technical update session on nutrition and HIV/AIDS at the second annual meeting of the Central Africa Nutrition Focal Points in Brazzaville, Congo, July 20-23, 2005. Ms. Lwanga worked to identify resource persons to present at the technical update session from within the Central Africa region, prepare the agenda, and a group work session for the technical update session. The SARA Project provided support for three of the technical resource persons. Ms. Lwanga will attend the meeting and give a technical presentation, as well as facilitate the technical update session. Several of the SARA Project tools and materials, especially the French ones on nutrition, including nutrition and HIV/AIDS will be disseminated at this meeting.

CRHCS

Ms. Lwanga provided technical support to the CRHCS nutrition co-coordinator to review final drafts of six Nutrition briefs that CRHCS has revised and developed. The final briefs will be available next quarter.

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

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

1. Assist AFR/SD Maternal & Newborn Health (MNH) Advisor with managing the MNH results package for SO 19.

Expected Outputs:

- Core team meetings held
- AFR/SD MNH Strategic Framework developed
- Annual report completed
- Agenda set with AFR/SD priorities included.

Progress toward outputs, problems encountered, proposed solutions:

Holley Stewart, SARA Reproductive Health Advisor, organized several meetings/telcons among AFR/SD, ACCESS and the MNH core group to update AFR/SD on its various funded activities, including ACCESS' activities with AFRO. SARA also provided TA to the survey review meeting of the global AMTSL assessment. AFR/SD provided funding for field support and technical assistance through SARA and its subcontract with ECSA. Dr. Sambe Duale and Ms. Stewart provided technical input during telcons with ECSA, REDSO and POPPHI on the AMTSL assessment concept paper and the ECSA scope of work and budget. They also provided AFR/SD with comments on AFRO's proposal to USAID for funding.

Dr. Suzanne Prysor-Jones and Ms. Stewart have been participating in the newly formed informal African newborn advocacy working group to respond to individual countries that have requested support for newborn health and to facilitate the process of situation analysis and policy review for integration of newborn care in countries. The group is an informal network of key agencies and organizations, with a small group of WHO, UNICEF, SNL and USAID point persons. Carmen Coles, AED staff consultant, has been participating in the "Beyond the Beltway" advocacy working group meetings to promote African maternal and newborn health and raise awareness of MNH needs in Africa. JHU/HCP plans to propose a budget and discuss it with AFRO (Dr. Antoine Serufulira and Dr. Sam Ajibola) to ensure efforts are coordinated on the development of success stories (video and briefs).

2. Work with WHO/AFRO & African institutions to expand REDUCE/ALIVE initiative in Africa through capacity development of regional consultants.

Expected Outputs:

- Increased monitoring of advocacy impact
- Capacity development demonstrated.

Progress toward outputs, problems encountered, proposed solutions:

The SARA project, specifically Dr. Suzanne Prysor-Jones and Ms. Holley Stewart, continues to play a facilitating role with WHO/AFRO and AWARE-RH. This quarter, Dr. Prysor-Jones attempted to re-galvanize WHO/Burkina Faso with the result that REDUCE/ALIVE Burkina is now planning for an adaptation exercise next quarter. Again, with support from SARA, the AWARE-RH Project provided technical assistance to the REDUCE teams in Ghana, Mali and Mauritania for the development of six-month advocacy plans (July - December 2005) and planned for a REDUCE/ALIVE application in Burkina Faso in August 2005.

3. Promote attention / interventions to improve newborn care through use of ALIVE, dissemination of best practices, etc.

Expected Outputs:

- BASICS/Senegal experience disseminated / discussed in AFRO & other forums
- Funding leveraged for ALIVE.

Progress toward outputs, problems encountered, proposed solutions:

Reports from the BASICS/ Senegal newborn activity, including the final report of the qualitative research, were distributed to the SARA Project and will be disseminated at various IMCI workshops and meetings. Results from the study were initially disseminated in September 2004 at a national forum in Senegal.

ALIVE will be incorporated in the REDUCE/ALIVE model applied in Burkina Faso in August.

4. Work with AFRO to build capacity in Africa for formative research on maternal & newborns at community level.

Expected Outputs:

- Capacity developed & research planned & conducted.

Progress toward outputs, problems encountered, proposed solutions:

WHO/AFRO expects a contract to be signed and monies disbursed in July 2005. Once the contract is signed, AFRO will commence this activity.

5. Documentation of Best Practices in MNH by developing a core group of experts in documentation of best practices. [AFRO-led activity].

Expected Outputs:

- Core group of experts trained in documenting best practices
- Best practices in 10 countries documented
- Compilation & dissemination of documented best practices
- Documented best practices used to inform program development & implementation at country level.

Progress toward outputs, problems encountered, proposed solutions:

WHO/AFRO has postponed this activity until further notice.

6. Training of facilitators for the implementation of the Road Map at country level [AFRO-led activity].

Expected Outputs:

- Core group of experts / facilitators available to support countries for the development & implementation of country-specific National Road Map
- National Road Map that includes situation analysis, plan of action, time frame, budget & indicators for M&E in 12 countries.

Progress toward outputs, problems encountered, proposed solutions:

Dr. Suzanne Prysor-Jones continued to assist ACCESS in collaborating with WHO/AFRO to plan facilitator training and roadmap adaptation in two countries. Ms. Holley Stewart worked with ACCESS and AFRO to assure that the countries invited to participate in the workshop include the AFR/SD priority countries. There were difficulties in organizing funding of the airplane tickets and funding of the facilitators because of AFRO's delay in getting the names of the participants, facilitators and location of the venue for the workshops; communication with AFRO has been difficult due to its staff being away on mission or annual leave during the most critical part of the logistical arrangements.

7. Publication & dissemination of the African Road Map & its implementation guide for improving MNH in Africa [AFRO-led activity].

Expected Outputs:

- Road Map & its implementation guide available in 3 languages
- Dissemination & use of road map by countries

Progress toward outputs, problems encountered, proposed solutions:

It is unclear as to whether WHO/AFRO requires funding for the printing of the Road Map. Ms. Holley Stewart is consulting with AFR/SD on how to proceed.

8. Capacity building in advocacy for MNH in Africa [AFRO-led activity].

Expected Outputs:

- Modeling of Optimal Birth Spacing Interval integrated into the REDUCE/ALIVE model.

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: Health Reform

1. 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:

SARA staff had some discussions with colleagues of the Capacity Project and WHO/AFRO on potential collaborative activities on addressing the health workforce crisis in Africa. The dialogue is ongoing. (See also SO 21, Multisectoral Initiatives, item #1).

2. 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
- Presentation & dissemination of the Pretoria consultative meeting report at various forums.

Progress toward outputs, problems encountered, proposed solutions:

A paper entitled *Partnerships for Strengthening Public Health Education in Africa* was submitted to the British Medical Journal to consider for the upcoming Fall special issue on Africa.

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:

SARA hired consultant Sandra Callier to facilitate the process of developing a strategic framework for USAID investment in immunization in the Africa Region. Dr. Suzanne Prysor-Jones attended the first half-day meeting in late March.

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

Expected Outputs:

- Publications produced & disseminated.

Progress toward outputs, problems encountered, proposed solutions:

No activity this quarter.

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

General – Related to overall SO

1. Assist AFR/SD 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:

Ms. Holley Stewart organized several meetings between AFR/SD and the Global Bureau. Their purposes were to review the FY 05 and 06 budgetary priorities, and discuss follow up activities from the February meeting in Accra on Repositioning, promotion of contraceptive security, and the integration of youth reproductive health in the Repositioning Family Planning initiative.

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:

Ms. Holley Stewart participated in a two-day meeting with the FP and HIV/AIDS Integration Working Group in April. The working group will look to document more country experiences with integration and include HIV/PLWHA advocates as participants in the group.

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

Expected Outputs:

- International meetings attended.

Progress toward outputs, problems encountered, proposed solutions:

No activity this quarter.

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

1. 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
- Brochure presenting this new information in an accessible way
- Data turned into a PowerPoint presentation to be used at meetings
- Regional meeting on ARH in the Sahel & implementation plans for advocacy (April 2005)

Progress toward outputs, problems encountered, proposed solutions:

The outputs were all achieved this quarter. The brochure presenting current information on Adolescent Reproductive Health in the Sahel was approved by AFR/SD and the Global Health Bureau, and published by CERPOD. Holley Stewart, Dr. Sambe Duale, Dr. Suzanne Prysor-Jones and the SARA publications team provided substantial editing and revision of the text and graphics. Ms. Stewart assisted CERPOD in the development of its presentation of the data at the regional ARH forum held in June 27-30. SARA, YouthNet/FHI and Trade in Burkina Faso provided technical facilitation in the preparation and during the actual regional forum.

2. Provide technical assistance to ECSA Health Community (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 produced
- 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:

No activity this quarter.

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
- Present findings at fora where appropriate
- Work with Global & AFR/SD on dissemination strategy of USAID FP/HIV integration guidelines.

Progress toward outputs, problems encountered, proposed solutions:

This activity has been deleted from the SARA work plan by common agreement of AFR/SD and SARA counterparts.

20.1.4 New strategies for empowering women developed

1. Support to FGC initiatives.

Expected Outputs:

- Facilitate FGC communication & advocacy workshop in Burkina Faso
- FGC eradication advocates trained.

Progress toward outputs, problems encountered, proposed solutions:

Ms. Holley Stewart facilitated the FGC policy communications and advocacy workshop held in Burkina Faso, June 13-24, organized by the Bridge Project and Mwangaza Action. 16 advocates from nine countries were trained in FGC policy communication and Mwangaza Action can now facilitate other meetings of this kind.

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

Expected Outputs:

- Compilation & publication of post-Dakar 2002 conference report
 - Publication & distribution of post-Dakar 2002 PAC reference document in French
 - Launch of report in West Africa with CEFOREP & Population Council/Senegal
 - Meeting of PAC focal points during SAGO conference, organized by CEFOREP.

Progress toward outputs, problems encountered, proposed solutions:

This activity as described by the outputs above is completed. Follow-on activities include Ms. Holley Stewart's meeting with CEFOREP in June to discuss CEFOREP's continued work in MNH and PAC. Ms. Stewart has been working with CEFOREP to find support for the continuation of the initiative's secretariat. SARA's support of CEFOREP as the secretariat has led to CEFOREP's collaboration with AWARE-RH in the replication of PAC best practices in Chad, Guinea Bissau and Cape Verde.

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 produced & website launched
- Staff trained in data management
- Linkages between Mwangaza and other partners
- Regional consultative meeting on integration of social mobilization into RH programs.

Progress toward outputs, problems encountered, proposed solutions:

Ms. Holley Stewart met with Mwangaza in June to discuss the implementation of its scope of work under the subcontract with SARA. She also reviewed the agenda for Mwangaza's consultative meeting on integration of social mobilization and the proposed facilitator, Trade (Ali Boly) in June. Linkages between Mwangaza and AWARE-RH were established; Mwangaza has received marketing and other capacity building training from AWARE-RH.

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:

Please see 20.1.1 item #1 and 20.1.4 items #1 and 2. In preparation for CERPOD's Adolescent Reproductive Health forum, (organized under the SARA subcontract) Ms. Holley Stewart met with representatives from UNFPA and YouthNet/FHI to review and revise the agenda and to solicit UNFPA's participation as a resource for the forum participants. It was agreed that UNFPA/Ghana would present the African Youth Alliance model as a successful regional experience. The CERPOD brochure *Lueurs d'Espoir* was also launched during this regional forum, 3000 copies were printed and will be distributed to the participants of the forum (parliamentarians, RH program managers, youth councils) and those on the INSAH mailing list.

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

1. 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
- Participate in working group assembly organized by Advance Africa (October 2004) & regional conference (February 2005)
- Sponsor two facilitators for Youth and Repositioning FP pre-conference event (one for overall facilitation & one for working groups)
- Develop & distribute info packets & advocacy tools

Progress toward outputs, problems encountered, proposed solutions:

The second and third bullets have been achieved. Ms. Antonia Wolff and Ms. Holley Stewart participated in the Repositioning Family Planning Advocacy Working Group meeting this quarter, and helped to develop the matrix of policy communications and advocacy activities.

2. Support advocacy & dissemination activities to promote & advocate for the repositioning of FP in RH programs with African institutions.

Expected Outputs:

- Planning of a pre-conference event on youth & repositioning family planning & setting the agenda
- Facilitator(s) of pre-conference event trained
- Participation in pre-conference event & following regional conference.

Progress toward outputs, problems encountered, proposed solutions:

This activity is completed.

3. Support African institutions to train providers, program managers on the Standard Days Method.

Expected Outputs:

- A cadre of trainers of trainers in SDM in Africa
- Increased advocacy for integration of SDM in FP programs as a method choice.

Progress toward outputs, problems encountered, proposed solutions:

This quarter, SARA and the Institute of Reproductive Health of Georgetown University finalized the SOW, the schedule of payments and the budget for the subcontract. SARA supported the curricula development, piloting and dissemination of the SDM, which took place in May. IRH and its partners started working on developing the French SDM pre-service curriculum. Three people from the *Réseau Population et Santé de la Reproduction en Afrique Francophone* (PSR/AF), two people from the Ministry of Health in Benin, one consultant, and the IRH country representative met in Cotonou, Benin June 20-25. The pre-testing of the curriculum is planned for July 4-5 at two educational institutions in Benin.

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:

This activity has been removed from the work plan by joint agreement.

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

African Institutions/Capacity Building

1. Technical support to CRHCS on key regional HIV/AIDS issues (i.e., health manpower).

Expected Outputs:

- Reports & briefs on HR prepared & disseminated.
- 2 health WF stakeholders meetings held in Kenya & Malawi.

Progress toward outputs, problems encountered, proposed solutions:

During the quarter, a scope of work was developed and approved to provide support to a multi-country study of innovative approaches to managing health workforce issues related to HIV/AIDS. In addition, the Liverpool Associates for Tropical Health (LATH) was contracted to undertake a study in Namibia and desk review of promising practices in other countries on human resource recruitment and retention. It is expected that collaboration with USAID Capacity Project will support the study in additional countries. The final report by LATH consultant Dr. Willie McCourt is expected next quarter.

2. Support to ANECCA.

Expected Outputs:

- Lessons learned in pediatric treatment & care collected.

Progress toward outputs, problems encountered, proposed solutions:

Using the opportunity of the REDSO Partners Meeting, June 14-17, in Mombasa, Dr. Sambe Duale met with Dr. Victor Masbayi of the REDSO PHN team, Dr. Joel Okullo, RCQHC Director, and Dr. N. Tumwesigye, ANECCA focal person at RCQHC, to discuss the proposed cohort study on pediatric AIDS and ART. They discussed the activities to be considered by RCQHC in drafting the SOW for SARA support taking into account the level of funding available and time constraint related to the approaching end of the SARA II Project. Following that meeting, the scope of work was redrafted to narrow the focus of the part of the study to be funded under SARA to data collection and the initial cohort analysis of children on ART, given the limited time before the end of the SARA Project. This will be the first phase of the study; the second phase will be carried out using another mechanism.

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

Expected Outputs:

- Institutional evaluation & strategic plan follow-up completed.

Progress toward outputs, problems encountered, proposed solutions:

No activity this quarter. SARA staff will follow up with NAP+ early next quarter to check on progress. Meanwhile, the subcontract ending date is approaching.

4. 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 & gaps conducted
- Guidelines & tools disseminated
- Workshop on M&E conducted.

Progress toward outputs, problems encountered, proposed solutions:

No activity this quarter.

5. Support collaborative activities with WAHO on regional HIV/AIDS activities (military, ARV pooled procurement).

Expected Outputs:

- TA provided for Global Fund applications
- TA provided by SARA staff & consultants
- Advocacy materials prepared & disseminated.

Progress toward outputs, problems encountered, proposed solutions:

No activity this quarter.

Pediatric HIV/AIDS

1. Support & strengthen pediatric AIDS activities.

Expected Outputs:

- Please see activity #2 in African Institutions / Capacity Building, above
- Palliative care for children.

Progress toward outputs, problems encountered, proposed solutions:

The consulting agreement with Dr. John Palen for the scheduled study on the availability of, and access to pain and symptom management interventions for HIV-infected pediatric clients in Sub-Saharan African countries was negotiated, and work began this quarter. The final report is due next quarter.

2. Technical assistance to AFR/SD in pediatric HIV/AIDS issues (Sara Bowsky consultancy).

Expected Outputs:

- Trip reports
- Field guidance on scaling up pediatric care & treatment & PMTCT+ in partnership with OHA & OGAC
- Field guidance on home-based care in partnership with OHA & OGAC
- Guidance document on family-centered HIV/AIDS care & support.

Progress toward outputs, problems encountered, proposed solutions:

All originally planned outputs have now been completed. There was a need for a no-cost time extension for reasons beyond the consultant's control, which was granted with the concurrence of all parties.

Meanwhile, a need for additional work and deliverables was identified during the quarter. Therefore, a new work order is under negotiation and expected to begin in July.

3. Research & analysis on pediatric HIV & child mortality in Africa: policy projections & analysis.

Expected Outputs:

- Country simulations on estimated pediatric HIV infections & non-HIV-related deaths carried out
- 5-10-page policy brief summarizing findings prepared.

Progress toward outputs, problems encountered, proposed solutions:

In consultation with Peter Salama, AFR/SD HIV/AIDS core team leader, a decision was taken to drop this activity. UNICEF and WHO are presently undertaking this work.

Orphans & Vulnerable Children

1. Support for OVC program.

Expected Outputs:

- Support to economic strengthening (ES) for OVC network:
 - Action-based research on ES for OVC network
 - Guidance on ES for OVC implementation

Progress toward outputs, problems encountered, proposed solutions:

The SOW was developed and consultant contracted to carry out research with the Children and Youth Economic Strengthening (CYES) Network. The questionnaire has been developed with input from, and approval by USAID. Results are expected next quarter. Meanwhile, the SOW for the evaluation of the CRS/Zimbabwe STRIVE economic strengthening program for HIV/AIDS was drafted and bids to carry out the evaluation were solicited and reviewed by CRS. The documentation of the procurement process and recommendation were sent to AED for follow-up and subcontracting. The resulting subcontract with Provident Finance (Pvt.), Ltd., and consulting agreement with consultant Tawanda Sibanda was in process in AED and should be ready for signing early in the next.

2. Technical assistance to AFR/SD in OVC issues (Sara Bowsky consultancy).

Expected Outputs:

- Field guidance for OVC in partnership with OVC advisor, OHA & OGAC.

Progress toward outputs, problems encountered, proposed solutions:

The consultant drafted the guidance required per her SOW and submitted all deliverables. Meanwhile, the need for increased technical support for OVC activities was identified, including the training of USAID staff. The SOW for this additional work was developed and the resulting consulting agreement should be signed by early next quarter.

Nutrition, Infant Feeding & HIV/AIDS

1. HIV care & treatment of children: nutrition & infant feeding activities.

Areas:

- General technical support to AFR/SD & relevant OGAC working groups (PMTCT, Pediatric HIV, OVC, nutrition/food task force if constituted).
- ZVITAMBO research, analysis & dissemination of findings on HIV & infant feeding, growth of children & morbidity/mortality of HIV+ children.
- Valid International research on CTC: Community-based approaches to nutrition care of children & families affected by HIV/AIDS.
- Infant feeding technical assistance in support of President's Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief countries, e.g., Development of guidelines & program tools for HIV & infant feeding; completion of generic counseling tools; finalization of guidance on feeding non-breastfed child after 6 months; adaptation of WHO guidance on feeding non-breastfed child after 6 months.

Expected Outputs:

- Detailed feedback provided to OGAC working groups on food, infant feeding & nutrition-related guidelines/guidance & preparation of technical materials, as needed
- Participation in country assessment, planning & other technical missions, as needed
- 2- papers on ZVITAMBO infant feeding & intervention data published in peer-reviewed journals
- Paper on growth of children drafted, submitted for publication
- Paper on morbidity/mortality of HIV+ children drafted & submitted for publication
- Findings presented at national, regional & international meetings, including the IUNS Nutrition Congress & elsewhere.

Progress toward outputs, problems encountered, proposed solutions:

General support

SARA continued to provide feedback to OHA and OGAC on the food, infant feeding and nutrition-related guidelines and supporting technical material this quarter. As noted previously, it is difficult to be as responsive as possible since we are unable to participate directly in working group meetings. If possible, this should be changed in the future.

ZVITAMBO

ZVITAMBO submitted a first draft of the paper on mortality of HIV infected and exposed children this quarter. The paper is currently being revised. Work has not yet begun on the growth paper. The subcontract was extended until the end of November. A working meeting is planned for next quarter to make substantial progress on this activity. The analysis is slower than expected due to complex analytical issues that require expert (JHU) assistance.

Valid/CTC study

Field work was completed this quarter. Preliminary results were presented at the WHO Nutrition and HIV/AIDS Conference in April. A draft report of Phase B was submitted and comments provided. An outline for the final report was also discussed. This report will be prepared as a journal manuscript. A first draft is due on Sept 15. The Valid contract was extended to end of November 2005.

Infant feeding and HIV Tools

The WHO/UNICEF tools for counseling on HIV and infant feeding (reference guide) were finally completed this quarter after many reviews and revisions. They will be reproduced next quarter and disseminated.

Country Assessments/TA

Dr Ellen Piwoz traveled to Tanzania this quarter to participate in a mission-supported meeting on infant feeding and HIV/AIDS. At the meeting, she presented data from the ZVITAMBO study. Dr. Jay Ross also presented findings from

the HIV and infant feeding policy simulation, using the IMR analysis approach. Dr. Piwoz also traveled to Mozambique this quarter to assist with the planning of the USAID-mission supported Targeted Evaluation on Early Breastfeeding Cessation. This work is now underway. Continued support will be needed to assist with the analysis and dissemination of findings. Dr. Piwoz also presented findings from ZVITAMBO at the Mozambique national PMTCT workshop.

Papers published

Four papers were published this quarter: 1) AIDS – ZVITAMBO results on infant feeding and HIV transmission; 2) *Journal of Nutrition* (3 papers) – HIV and women’s nutrition overview; ZVITAMBO results on impact of education and counseling intervention on breastfeeding and related behaviors; and use of IMR for policy decisions related to infant feeding and HIV.

2. Nutrition interventions in HIV prevention, treatment & care programs.

Areas:

- Participation in WHO Technical Advisory Group on Nutrition and HIV/AIDS.
- Dissemination of new state-of-the-art (SOTA) documentation on HIV/AIDS & nutrition.
- Development & dissemination tools for implementing nutrition interventions in HIV programs: pre-service training modules; adaptation of existing tools to West Africa context

Expected Outputs:

- Participation in WHO TAG, including meetings & technical reviews, & conference planning sessions
- TA to country presenters
- Participation in regional conference on Nutrition & HIV/AIDS to be held in Southern Africa (April 2005)
- Journal of Nutrition Supplement on Women’s Nutrition & HIV/AIDS published (by January 2005)
- Technical report on WAHO Nutrition Forum on HIV/AIDS & nutrition finalized & disseminated (by January 2005)
- Technical presentations to heighten awareness & understanding of issues given to USG, USAID & other partners
- Pre-service training module on nutrition & HIV/AIDS finalized
- Up to 3 tools for integrating nutrition into HIV/AIDS programs adapted to West African context (details in consultation with WAHO & West Africa Regional Project)

Progress toward outputs, problems encountered, proposed solutions:

WHO TAG & Durban Consultation

Dr. Ellen Piwoz continued her work with the WHO TAG and organization of the Technical Consultation that was held this quarter in Durban, South Africa. Dr. Piwoz was responsible for all aspects of the meeting’s technical agenda and for organizing the group work. Dr. Piwoz participated in weekly conference calls, prepared material for the media, edited technical papers and presentations, briefed presenters, and worked closely with Group Work facilitators prior to the meeting. During the meeting, she was responsible for summarizing the findings and recommendations of the groups and drafting the Participants Statement. She also worked closely with the meeting rapporteur to prepare the final report, delivered in June. Following the meeting, Dr. Piwoz worked with WHO to prepare a proposal for funding follow-up activities as recommended by meeting participants. One proposal was submitted to USAID for support under their Umbrella Grant to WHO. A decision is pending on this.

Ms. Dorcas Lwanga attended and participated in the WHO conference on Nutrition and HIV/AIDS in Durban, South Africa, April 10-13, 2005. Ms. Lwanga helped the WHO TAG team organize and facilitate the Tools Fair at the conference. Several African countries and various NGO’s and UN organizations showcased their work and materials on nutrition and HIV/AIDS at the Tools Fair. Ms. Lwanga also facilitated the dissemination of SARA materials on nutrition and HIV/AIDS at the conference.

Dissemination of SOTA documentation

No further activity this quarter apart from the WHO Durban Consultation.

Technical report on WAHO Nutrition Forum on HIV/AIDS & nutrition

Ms. Lwanga has been working in collaboration with the SARA publications team to facilitate the finalization of the technical report for the WAHO Nutrition Forum on HIV/AIDS and Nutrition. These Nutrition Focal Points-compiled articles and presentations are edited and awaiting final content approval from OHA, at which point translation, editing,

layout and printing will take place. A translator/editor is lined up, and quotes for printing have been obtained. Layout of the English content is complete, pending any changes from OHA. The cover has also been designed. The publication will be available next quarter as a bilingual flip book, in both English and French. Progress on the report was slowed due to the time taken by the publications team to work on numerous publications activities, as well as the report having to be reviewed by USAID for approval.

Dissemination of Tools for Implementing Nutrition Interventions.

No activity this quarter. This work is planned for next quarter.

Journal of Nutrition Supplement on Women's Nutrition & HIV/AIDS published

The supplement was published in April 2005. Copies were purchased from the Journal for future use/dissemination. These will be available next quarter.

3. Nutrition vulnerability & use of food aid in HIV/AIDS-affected populations.

Areas:

- Enhancing the evidence base for the use of food in HIV programming.

Expected Outputs:

- Protocol for capturing the impact of food aid in HIV programs developed & implemented in up to 4 countries
- Results disseminated in Africa to USG/OGAC & partners
- TA to research in at least two countries (e.g., Mozambique, South Africa)

Progress toward outputs, problems encountered, proposed solutions:

Technical Assistance was provided, as noted above, to Mozambique for a targeted evaluation of Early Breastfeeding Cessation/Replacement feeding options. Dr. Piwoz provided input to the LINKAGES-supported TE on therapeutic feeding in Mozambique. LINKAGES consultants Caroline Tanner and Jean Tsuila traveled to Mozambique in June to further assess and plan this study. Dr. Piwoz was invited to attend a consultation in Kenya in July to plan another study on use of food in ART programs that is being implemented with support from FANTA and USAID. FANTA will also support a related study in Malawi which will also begin next quarter.

Multisectoral Initiatives

1. Support to human resource & health systems.

Expected Outputs:

- Matrix & analysis on HR studies.

Progress toward outputs, problems encountered, proposed solutions:

Please see African Institutions/Capacity Building section above, item #1.

2. Impact of morbidity & mortality on cocoa industry in Ghana.

Expected Outputs:

- Assessment in Ghana & development of follow-up mitigation supported.

Progress toward outputs, problems encountered, proposed solutions:

This study, being implemented simultaneously and jointly by Boston University and the University of Ghana, has been delayed by field work constraints. It is likely that both universities will request an extension in the next quarter.

Care & Support

1. Nurses' experience with complete prescriptive authority.

Expected Outputs:

- Recent experience of changing prescription authority policy to allow nurses to prescribe medication in Uganda documented

Progress toward outputs, problems encountered, proposed solutions:

No activity this quarter.

2. Male involvement in home-based care (HBC).

Expected Outputs:

- Experience of male involvement in HBC for HIV/AIDS documented.

Progress toward outputs, problems encountered, proposed solutions:

The planned document was drafted and is under review. It is expected that it will be finalized next quarter.

Dissemination and Advocacy Support to SO 21

1. Produce and disseminate key documents.

Expected Outputs:

- Documents produced and disseminated:
 - i. BMS guidance
 - ii. OVC SOTA review
 - iii. Food, nutrition & HIV guidelines
 - iv. Repackage of health workforce impacts (from Malawi & Kenya)
 - v. Update & repackage Impact of AIDS on Health Sector report
 - vi. Translation, printing & dissemination of stigma toolkit into French
 - vii. Documents on good practices for pediatric AIDS counseling & testing
 - viii. Document on good practices for treatment adherence in children
 - ix. Implementation guidelines on basic care package for children & how to integrate HIV into child health programs
 - x. Guidance on ES for OVC implementation
 - xi. Guidance for OVC program implementation
 - xii. Final report on lessons learned on OVC & care
 - xiii. Guidance on complementary feeding options (for HIV+ women)
 - xiv. Guidance on integrating HIV activities into food programs
 - xv. GVS BCC & AIDS training curriculum in French.

Progress toward outputs, problems encountered, proposed solutions:

The translation of the Stigma Toolkit is nearly complete. Some concerns were noted in the initial draft of the translated document and these are currently being addressed by the translator. Meanwhile, SARA staff have made contacts with colleagues in West Africa to identify possible events where the translated toolkit could be introduced or launched. Additionally, the staffing options summary document completed by Tim Martineau and will be disseminated during the next quarter.

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:

See SO 19, Infectious Diseases, # 1.

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

Expected Outputs:

- Assistance provided as needed.

Progress toward outputs, problems encountered, proposed solutions:

See Infectious Disease section.

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:

See SO 19, Infectious Diseases, # 1.

2. Support for the implementation of strategic & institutional development plans of WAHO & CERPOD.

Expected Outputs:

- TA provided to WAHO and CERPOD.

Progress toward outputs, problems encountered, proposed solutions:

SARA staff worked with CERPOD colleagues to plan a Forum to be held in July 2005 on Adolescent Reproductive Health in West Africa.

3. Technical analysis & 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:

Dr. Sambe Duale participated in, and contributed to technical discussions at the REDSO Partners Meeting held June 14-17 in Mombassa, Kenya.

SO: Cross-cutting

Technical Area: Dissemination and advocacy

Result ia: Capacity to Advocate & Disseminate Information

1. Identify key issues for which to advocate: examples; repositioning FP, private practitioners.

Expected Outputs:

- Issues identified
- Activities implemented
- Materials developed & disseminated.

Progress toward outputs, problems encountered, proposed solutions:

Ms. Antonia Wolff continues to participate in the Repositioning Family Planning Advocacy Working Group meetings. This quarter, the group formulated a matrix of policy communications and advocacy activities.

The publications team is also continuing work on developing a private practitioner toolkit that will include a reference manual and a CD-ROM. Production is planned for next quarter. The SARA team also is in the process of translating the HIV Stigma Toolkit into French. The Toolkit is scheduled to be launched in the pre-ICASA workshop that will be held next quarter in Dakar, Senegal.

2. Advocacy workshop with CERPOD on ARH.

Expected Outputs:

- Advocacy workshop held with SARA input & guidance.

Progress toward outputs, problems encountered, proposed solutions:

The SARA publications team worked in tandem with Holley Stewart to help prepare CERPOD's brochure, *Lueurs d'Espoir*. Specifically, the publications team provided substantial editing and revision of the text and graphics. Ms. Stewart assisted CERPOD in the development of its presentation of the data at the regional ARH forum held June 27-30. The brochure was launched during this forum; 3,000 copies were printed and will be distributed to the participants of the forum (parliamentarians, RH program managers, youth councils) and those on the INSAH mailing list.

3. Work with African institutions to build dissemination capacity: CRHCS, AFRO, CERPOD.

Expected Outputs:

- For CRHCS:
 - Implement aspects of communication strategy
 - Administer CD-ROM questionnaire
 - Conduct workshop with information focal points on roles in community core groups & repackaging
 - Work with PRB & CRHCS to determine next steps for electronic networking
 - Review & advise on policy brief series
- For AFRO: TBD on as needed basis
- For CERPOD: Oversee repackaging of *Jeunes en danger* with RH Advisor.

Progress toward outputs, problems encountered, proposed solutions:

Ms. Renuka Bery has been working closely with the ECSA-HC Secretariat's communication specialist to promote the community core group approach suggested by the Secretariat's evaluators in 2002 to improve communication among countries and between ECSA and member countries. The Community Core Group (CCG) approach has been endorsed by the Health ministers, but to date, only Seychelles has adopted it. ECSA proposes to involve senior-level information specialists from the Ministry of Health as the information focal person (IFP) on the CCG—a position tasked with stimulating the country core group to develop and implement strategies for sharing information among countries and with ECSA.

This quarter, Ms. Bery worked with James Watiti to develop the terms of reference for the IFPs and develop a workshop to define the roles and responsibilities of these IFPs and their relationship with their country's community core group and with ECSA. Ms. Bery traveled to Arusha June 19-24 to facilitate the IFP workshop and to assist Mr. Watiti in developing follow-up actions that ECSA can take to motivate community core group development.

At the end of the workshop, the participants had identified the following:

- Roles and responsibilities for IFP, CCGs and ECSA
- Action plans that each IFP will refine and formulate with country counterparts
- A PowerPoint presentation each IFP could adapt and use to advocate for the CCG approach
- Next steps to take in developing the CCG.
- Challenges and needs, some of which ECSA may be able to address.

4. Collaborate with other USAID projects as appropriate.

Expected Outputs:

- Products developed/translated/disseminated on an as needed basis.

Progress toward outputs, problems encountered, proposed solutions:

SARA has been working with AFRICARE to repackage a pilot study they implemented in Zimbabwe on men providing home-based care for people living with AIDS. The repackaged report was finalized this quarter and will be disseminated next quarter.

5. 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:

This activity is ongoing. A consultant has been hired and is currently working on a first draft.

6. Document the lessons learned in the Namibia website activity.

Expected Outputs:

- Information documented & disseminated.

Progress toward outputs, problems encountered, proposed solutions:

This activity is slated to begin next quarter.

Result iia: Materials Development and Production

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

Expected Outputs:

- Selected information designed and packaged, e.g., PP Toolkit, OVC SOTA report, RH Briefs, HIV/Stigma Toolkit (French), WHO Counseling Tools, Taking Stock documents.

Progress toward outputs, problems encountered, proposed solutions:

This quarter, SARA staff finalized the WHO Counseling Toolkit and it will be printed by both the SARA Project and WHO/AFRO. The Taking Stock overview and full report were reprinted this quarter and adhered to the new USAID publications guidance. Work is in progress on the translation of the HIV Stigma Toolkit, which will be finalized in the next quarter.

8. Dissemination of key AFR/SD-SARA cross-cutting products per dissemination plan.

Expected Outputs:

- Products disseminated.

Progress toward outputs, problems encountered, proposed solutions:

This quarter, over 150 copies of the Taking Stock (full report) and 25 overviews were disseminated. Copies of the Africa Malaria Report 2003 (20); Lives at Risk: Malaria and Pregnancy (21 English, 20 French, 20 Portuguese); and HIV/AIDS and Nutrition (15 English, 20 French) were also disseminated.

9. Assessments of use of AFR/SD-SARA products (3-6 documents): Community Nutrition, MTCT, Private Practitioners (?), HR Crisis (?).

Expected Outputs:

- Use of documents assessed & presentation given.

Progress toward outputs, problems encountered, proposed solutions:

Work is continuing on assessing the following documents:

An assessment of the Post-Abortion Care analytical report was finalized this quarter. Work is continuing on assessing *The Self Evaluation Guide*.

10. Develop & design FINAL SARA publications & CD compilations.

Expected Outputs:

- Develop format
- Finalize & publish.

Progress toward outputs, problems encountered, proposed solutions:

Meetings continued this quarter between SARA staff and consultant Gayle Gibbons. A first draft was developed and will be finalized in the next quarter.

Result iib: Dissemination Channels

11. Continue to disseminate information electronically.

Expected Outputs:

- Documents publicized on e-lists
- Increased number of documents on Internet
- Increased number of hits
- Quarterly publications list.

Progress toward outputs, problems encountered, proposed solutions:

Electronic versions of publications are sent via email when requested; or as a substitute for publications that are out of print/ out of stock.

12. Develop plan for post-SARA website information.

Expected Outputs:

- Website reviewed & updated on periodic basis

Progress toward outputs, problems encountered, proposed solutions:

No plan has been developed this quarter.

13. Assess use of CD-ROMs in Africa (this also falls under CRHCS in item 3a).

Expected Outputs:

- Survey at AHILA conference, Malawi
- Survey at Health Ministers' Conference, Zimbabwe
- Analysis & recommendations report on request.

Progress toward outputs, problems encountered, proposed solutions:

This activity is completed, with no new assessments carried out this quarter.

14. Analyze tracking information on major SARA publications.

Expected Outputs:

- Information analyzed on request.

Progress toward outputs, problems encountered, proposed solutions:

Surveys continue to be designed and implemented on an as-needed basis. In addition, the SARA database has recently been upgraded in a new format which utilizes SQL Server and Microsoft Access. The new database is much more stable and is easier to interact with, allowing users to create multiple styles of statistical reports. The next step will be to go through the database and "clean" out the excess data and inaccuracies that have accumulated over time.

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

15. 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:

This activity is ongoing.