



**Innovation through Sport:
Promoting Leaders, Empowering Youth (ITSPLEY)**

**CARE USA
Also with Better Care Network (BCN)**

FY09 Quarter 3 Report
(Covering 1 April 2009 through 30 June 2009)

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Contact: Maria Muller
Address: 1625 K Street, NW
Suite 500
Washington, DC 20006
Tel: 202-595-2800
Fax: 202-296-8695
Email: mmuller@care.org

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Acronyms

ARSHI	Adolescent Reproductive and Sexual Health Initiative (CARE Bangladesh)
BGE	[CARE] Basic and Girls' Education unit
CARE	Cooperative for Assistance and Relief Everywhere
CDA	Community Development Agency
CSO	Civil Society Organization
DCOF	Displaced Children and Orphans Fund
ITSPLEY	Innovation through Sport: Promoting Leaders, Empowering Youth
LEADER	Learning and Advocacy for Education Rights (CARE Tanzania)
M&E	Monitoring and Evaluation
MOU	Memorandum of Understanding
NFE	Non-Formal Education
NGO	Non-Governmental Organization
NJN	Nijeder Janyia Nijera pilot
PTL	Power to Lead Alliance
SSCI	Sport for Social Change Initiative
TOT	Training of Trainers
USAID	United States Agency for International Development
WAGE	Women and Girls Empowerment program (CARE Tanzania)
YFEDC	Youth Fun, Education & Development Centers (CARE Bangladesh)

I. Executive Summary

This report covers the activities of the “Innovation through Sport: Promoting Leaders, Empowering Youth” (ITSPLEY) project in Bangladesh, Egypt, Kenya and Tanzania for the period of April through June 2009, as funded by USAID/DCOF.

CARE USA efforts this reporting quarter focused on continued project planning and monitoring and evaluation design support to the participating CARE Country Offices (Bangladesh, Egypt, Kenya and Tanzania). CARE USA also continued to build and strengthen project administration mechanisms and collaboration as part of CARE USA’s Basic and Girls’ Education (BGE) unit. Collaboration within BGE is ongoing to determine and solidify linkages between ITSPLEY objectives with those of CARE’s *Power Within* Signature Program and the Patsy Collins Trust Fund Initiative program. Activities also continued in the creation of the overall and country-specific monitoring and evaluation framework. With the assistance of a short-term consultant, an initial framework was developed, from which CARE USA will continue to evaluate and refine in the coming quarter through close consultation with the Country Offices.

The CARE Country Offices focused this quarter on continued project planning, solidifying agreements with local partner community-based organizations, and preparing for initial implementation activities.

In Bangladesh during this reporting period, programmatic synergies continued to be explored between the ITSPLEY project and the Adolescents’ and Women’s Reproductive and Sexual Health Initiative (ARSHI). Because one of ARSHI’s main goals is that of women’s empowerment and poverty reduction, CARE Bangladesh has found strong convergences with ITSPLEY in the target area. This quarter, ITSPLEY within CARE Bangladesh focused on strategizing and mobilizing efforts with ARSHI, in order to systematically introduce sport and physical education activities to complement existing ARSHI interventions, and thus best promote this critical yet complex social change process in the targeted Sunamganj district.

CARE Egypt continued preparation for implementation of the ITSPLEY project by focusing efforts on further development of the M&E framework and finalizing negotiations with local partners and consultants. It is important to note that during this quarter, CARE Egypt determined that the Education Program within the Country Office will take the lead in managing the ITSPLEY project activities, while the Governance Program will be coordinating in overall administrative management and responsible for technical assistance and capacity building to the civil society organizations and youth mentors.

In Kenya, the ITSPLEY project focused on internal sessions to review and refine project documents, and ultimately, realign activities with the country-specific M&E framework, as well as structuring and hiring for the ITSPLEY Kenya Project Coordinator position. Discussions between CARE USA and CARE Kenya have helped to focus and streamline programming, so that ITSPLEY objectives will be in line with the integration of sexual and reproductive health (SRH), HIV risk reduction, and gender mainstreaming elements into

sport-based activities. This quarter also served to refine planned activities and indicators, in order to ensure that ITSPLEY efforts respond to the challenges affecting youth, especially girls, by increasing their knowledge and life skills to enhance their HIV risk perception, increase knowledge and expand opportunities for girls' education and leadership, empower girls through mentorship and training, and ultimately, prepare them for current and future life challenges.

CARE Tanzania's main activities have also focused on laying the foundation of the ITSPLEY initiative by refining the indicator framework, and identifying local and national level implementing partners, as well as the synergies between ITSPLEY and other CARE Tanzania education and health interventions. Specific activities included undertaking a rapid CSO capacity needs assessment for potential partners; compilation of partnership agreements; a start-up workshop with key stakeholders; final selection of participating schools and communities; and training local Women and Girls Empowerment (WAGE) project and Learning and Advocacy for Education Rights (LEADER) project participants on peer mentoring and leadership competencies through sports.

The programmatic report for BCN is being submitted here. The financial reports for ITSPLEY and BCN are being submitted directly to the USAID/DCOF CTO by CARE USA Headquarters and are not a part of this report.

II. Project Activities

Bangladesh

During this quarter, CARE Bangladesh's ITSPLEY efforts centered on the following key objectives. The central outcome of CARE Bangladesh's ITSPLEY efforts thus far has been the rapidly growing interest in and demand for sport-centered activities among staff, partners and communities.

- 1) Youth, especially girls, in Sunamganj District in Sylhet Division regularly participate in sport-based training provided to them by local organizations and in cooperation with CARE Bangladesh's ARSHI, PCTFI, and Nijeder Janyia Nijera (NJN) pilot.**

CARE Bangladesh focused this quarter on wider dissemination, planning, and support building among all stakeholders to the ITSPLEY project, including local partner organizations, key government agencies, expert groups (sport, etc.), civil society and community-based organizations, and especially youth and girls' organizations and groups. CARE held a series of consultations, orientations and preliminary planning meetings and workshops with these various players. Creative and nuanced design workshops brought together staff from CARE Bangladesh and local partner organizations, as well as youth and community volunteers, for greater participatory planning. The Country Office focused on

ways to utilize existing resources related to girls' empowerment and leadership promotion currently being undertaken by other similar projects and initiatives, such as ARSHI and PCTFI. CARE Bangladesh also tested basic sport and leadership building events in conjunction with these existing initiatives at selected communities, in order to assess synergies and the likelihood for collaborative activities in the future.

One of the major achievements of this reporting period has been the identification of 36 frontline partners with diverse connections and expertise related to sport-based programming. The list includes secondary schools (most with co-education facilities), colleges, madrasah (religious educational institutions), sport and social welfare youth clubs, local government departments, and community-based organizations. These partners have been selected based on critical criteria, such as:

- i. Standing registration by the government;
- ii. Interest in implementing sport activities;
- iii. Availability of physical education instructors or sport leaders;
- iv. History of organizing sport events;
- v. Engagement with ARSHI;
- vi. Good governance;
- vii. Community relations and transparent practices;
- viii. Financial management and other technical capacity.

These organizations will work very closely with Youth Fun, Education & Development Centers (YFEDC) and ARSHI partner organizations. CARE Bangladesh continues to identify core intervention areas where these partners will assist in carrying out certain focused activities.

During the reporting period, 26 separate sport events were organized throughout the target area, including both indoor and outdoor games and sport activities. Events included girls' handball, football, swimming, badminton, and track and field. Based on contextual appropriateness, some of these events centered on boys' participation. A total of 878 girls and 639 boys directly participated in these events, while another 5,626 women and girls and 12,644 men and boys attended and were secondary beneficiaries. In addition, ITSPLY collaborated with ARSHI on other extracurricular activities, such as debate and quiz competitions, community-level snake and ladders (ludo) games, and girls' cycling races. For many participants, this involvement proved personally rewarding, as it was first time they had ever taken part in such game-based activities.

2) Increase advocacy for social change involving girls in Sunamganj District.

Another main accomplishment this reporting period included the design workshops and exercises for ITSPLY, which centered on situational analyses and community needs assessments. Evidence gathered through this research will continuously inform the design of ITSPLY and focus the advocacy component for promoting girls' empowerment at all levels of the society. The ITSPLY project in Bangladesh specifically aims at addressing the low social status of girls and gender based violence.

3) Increase partner organizations' institutional sustainability and capacity to provide opportunities for sport-based training in leadership to youth (especially girls) in Sunamganj District.

The identification of the 36 partner organizations demonstrates a strong accomplishment this quarter. Currently, institutional and technical capacity assessment tools are under design and will be utilized soon. Based on identified capacity needs, a final capacity building plan will be developed and implemented in an interactive and participatory manner.

In addition, networking and collaboration have comprised some of CARE Bangladesh's core activities as part of this initial segment of the ITSPLEY project. One such collaboration actively being formed is with the Physical Education College (BPE) and the Bangladesh *Krira Shiksha Protishthen* (BKSP – the National Institute for Sport Education), which is the top ranked quality sports training institute in the country. The Country Office has begun discussions with these institutions with the intent of forming a capacity building partnership for various partner CBOs in the ITSPLEY target area.

Egypt

CARE Egypt's ITSPLEY activities fell under the following main categories:

1) Drafting of the M&E framework.

In coordination with CARE USA and an external M&E consultant, CARE Egypt worked on developing an M&E framework for ITSPLEY in Egypt. The process took place in various phases, of which the first included refining objectives and designing initial project activities for each objective. CARE Egypt's Governance program designed this initial set of activities, based on field visits, lessons learned from other projects, and meetings held with local partners in the previous quarter.

The second phase consisted of conducting an M&E workshop hosted at the CARE Egypt offices in early May 2009. With the attendance of local NGO partners, CARE Egypt arranged this three-day workshop to focus on further developing and solidifying CARE governance and education program staffs' and local partners' M&E skills and capacity, in addition to discussing and refining the draft ITSPLEY M&E framework. The participating partners at the workshop were Key of Life from Qena governorate, Youth Association for Population and Development from Qena, and the Youth and Environment Association from Benisuef governorate. Outcomes of the workshop included:

- 1) Raising knowledge of different M&E tools and concepts for main local ITSPLEY partners;
- 2) Formulating a more detailed activity plan;
- 3) Developing a joint understanding of ITSPLEY project objectives among all partners contributing to project implementation;

- 4) Refining the M&E framework based on constructive comments from workshop participants.

The collection of feedback and coordination with the USAID-funded Power to Lead (PTL) Alliance project, also being implemented by CARE Egypt, made up the third phase of this past quarter's ITSPLEY M&E framework development. CARE Egypt's Governance program worked closely with the Country Office's Education program to explore synergies with the PTL project, seeing as it also focuses on promoting girls' leadership in overlapping communities where ITSPLEY is being implemented. Based on discussions with the Education program, it was determined that coordination between PTL and ITSPLEY will be especially useful for conducting the baseline study, utilizing the Girls' Leadership Index being developed by PTL, and using existing M&E tools from CARE Egypt specific to civil society organizations.

2) Progress on agreements with local partners.

Local CBO partners were asked to submit proposals to CARE Egypt, in order to outline their expected roles and responsibilities against an initial vision suggested by CARE, along with allocated budgets. By the close of this reporting quarter, intermediate organizations in Qena and Benisuef governorates sent in their proposals, upon which the final agreements will be signed by the start of the next quarter. In Menia governorate, CARE Egypt's Governance and Youth and Women's' Empowerment programs met with the Jesuits & Brothers Association for Development to review in detail the objectives of the ITSPLEY project. As a result of the meeting, the organization began working on its proposal, which will be submitted at the beginning of the next quarter and will finalize its agreement by the end of July.

In the last quarterly report, there was mention of a consultancy to provide training to youth mentors on sport-based programming to promote girls' leadership. The aforementioned consultancy firm, Aspire, submitted a proposal to CARE Egypt. However, CARE Egypt has decided to hold an open bid and has invited other organizations to submit proposals, in order to ensure the best quality and cost effective consultancy.

3) Continued exploration of synergies within CARE Egypt.

Finally, CARE Egypt's Governance program held several meetings with the Education program staff to continue exploring synergies and prospects of complementary implementation. As an outcome of these meetings, a joint M&E framework was drafted that highlights the joint activities with key indicators to measure the outputs and outcomes of both the Power to Lead (PTL) project and ITSPLEY.

Kenya

Last quarter, CARE Kenya's efforts centered on project start-up, namely around staffing and the review and refinement of project documentation. Key outcomes from this past quarter include having developed a clear project focus and approach, along with relevant indicators to better capture the full scope of these interventions. During the reporting period, CARE Kenya recruited an ITSPLEY field coordinator, who will support the integration of SRH, HIV risk reduction, and gender mainstreaming into ITSPLEY sport initiatives in Kibera.

In conjunction with three other OVC (orphan and vulnerable children) integrated urban programs managed by CARE Kenya in the Kibera informal settlements and slum, staff management for the ITSPLEY project is comprised of field coordinators, who direct the day-to-day implementation of activities. The coordinators work closely under the leadership of the ITSPLEY coordinator, as part of CARE Kenya's Health and HIV & AIDS sector. The ITSPLEY coordinator is responsible for managing the integration of ITSPLEY project components and sport-based interventions with the SRH, HIV risk reduction, and gender mainstreaming elements.

In addition, CARE Kenya has been in discussions with the BGE unit to involve the Sport for Social Change Coordinator, based in Nairobi, in a technical advisory role to the ITSPLEY project. The coordinator will provide technical programmatic advice on the implementation of innovative sport interventions, SSCN activities, strengthening of the SSCN Chapter in Kenya, growth of the Marketplace, and eventual building of sport for development portfolio within the Country Office. This role will also serve to solidify linkages between CARE's work and SSCN member organizations, and to support the collection and sharing of best practices with the Kenya Country Office to inform future programming.

CARE Kenya also worked closely with CARE USA's BGE unit to review project documentation and to work on ensuring harmonization with existing programs in the Country Office, as well as alignment with the *Power Within* Signature Program. The revised document takes into consideration the need to concentrate project implementation on one geographic area, Kibera, in order to improve the level of programmatic engagement and to better define the impact group. The Country Office seeks approval of the revised program documentation in order to undertake the baseline survey, as per these revised strategic objectives, and to align the draft M&E framework with the SRH, HIV risk reduction, and gender mainstreaming components.

Tanzania

The ITSPLEY project in Tanzania focused last quarter on activities around these areas:

1) 4000 young girls participating in the Women and Girls Empowerment (WAGE) program and Learning and Advocacy for Education Rights (LEADER) program will be mobilized to organize sport opportunities and trained on mentorship and role modeling related to leadership skills and self esteem.

The ITSPLEY project in Tanzania, in collaboration with the LEADER program, conducted a sports competition for girls from ten non-formal education (NFE) centers, as an introductory step towards mobilization of LEADER girls to organize sport-based opportunities. ITSPLEY staff provided technical expertise in organizing the event, selecting sports and games to be played, and facilitating different competitions. The event brought together 533 girls from NFE centers, 50 girls (mentors) from formal schools, 36 teachers, and 21 leaders from village and ward levels. In the next quarter, the project will focus on training these girls on mentorship and role modeling related to leadership skills.

2) Capacity of local sport and non-sport organizations and networks will be strengthened and effectively implementing activities designed to use sport for empowerment and developing leadership skills among youth, especially girls.

A key activity conducted towards this objective was the identification of existing sport and non-sport organizations in the target area of Kahama district. Preliminary meetings were held with government leaders at the village, ward and district levels to collect information about organizations and groups that the ITSPLEY project could collaborate with. A total of fifteen organizations and groups have been identified, visited, and their profiles documented. The ITSPLEY project is now working toward conducting a participatory capacity assessment for each organization before the final selection and signing of Memorandums of Understanding.

3) Advocate for social change through annual forums involving the young women and girls participating in Objective 1.

This quarter, the ITSPLEY project in Tanzania facilitated a start-up workshop that involved village and ward leaders, school heads, and representatives from sport and non-sport organizations and groups. This one-day workshop brought stakeholders together with the aim of introducing them to the project, advocating for the use of sport for social change, and receiving recommendations and feedback for designing and improving implementation of planned activities. Outcomes from this workshop included recommendations for the ITSPLEY project to support ongoing capacity building for coaches and referees, ensure adequate supply of sport equipment, involve the community in planning sport activities, and seek possibilities to motivate those who perform in the sport activities.

Capacity building of ITSPLEY Project staff:

During this reporting period, project staff from CARE Tanzania also participated in the following activities as part of their capacity building efforts to undertake tasks related to ITSPLEY more effectively.

- CARE Tanzania's Education Sector participated in a workshop to develop a strategy for the school age impact groups in the current Long Range Strategic Plan (2010–2020). The impact group is composed of school aged girls in rural underserved areas. A draft strategy has been developed, also incorporating the *Power Within* Signature Program.
- Staff took part in a training on leadership skills organized by the Power to Lead Alliance. Elements of leadership skills that were covered included voice, vision, decision making, confidence, and self organization.

III. Next Steps for Quarter 4 (July – September 2009)

Bangladesh

ITSPLEY plans for the next quarter in Bangladesh include conducting a situational and context analysis, community diagnosis, and capacity building needs assessment, all of which will better inform upcoming programming. In addition, the Country Office will continue to

refine its country-level M&E framework and develop the necessary tools for indicator measurement. CARE Bangladesh also plans to carry on close planning with community and multiple stakeholders' involvement, as well as the Bangladeshi national government's NGO Affairs Bureau. Due to deep-rooted and widespread challenges regarding community resistance toward girls' participation in certain outdoor sports, CARE Bangladesh also seeks to strategically analyze and plan future effective and accepted events.

Egypt

In the upcoming quarter, CARE Egypt outlines several goals to finalize the several agreements with partner organizations and to commence training of mentors, as described below.

- 1) Complete agreements with local community-based partner organizations in Qena, Menia and Benisuef governorates (July 2009). This will involve finalizing MOUs with each partner organizations and overseeing the MOU process between schools and community-based organizations.
- 2) Finalize agreements with local education departments in Qena, Menia and Benisuef governorates (August 2009). This will involve meeting with Education Department representatives in each of the three governorates to provide greater detail and build understanding about the project, to discuss implementation, and to sign an MOU with each of the Education Departments.
- 3) Conclude contracts with consultancy responsible for training youth mentors on sport-based leadership activities (July-August 2009). This will involve opening bids for several consultants interested in conducting the Training of Trainers on leadership through sports and signing the contract with the winning bid.
- 4) Finalize the selection of all targets in Qena, Menia and Benisuef governorates (July-August 2009). This will include final selection of 12 school in Qus and Armant District, 6 community development agencies (CDA) to work with 12 schools, 5 grassroots CDAs in Menia governorate to partner with previously selected 10 schools, and 5 grassroots CDAs in Benisuef governorate to work with already selected 10 schools.
- 5) Select youth mentors in Menia (July 2009). This will consist of developing criteria for selecting the youth mentors, starting an outreach campaign to introduce the ITSPLEY project and its objectives to youth within different CSOs, and conducting interviews with various youth groups to promote interest in the project.
- 6) Finalize the M&E plan (August 2009). This will involve the hiring of a local M&E consultant to conduct the following:
 - 1- Review the project proposal documents, overarching ITSPLEY M&E plans, baseline tools developed by CARE USA and other M&E documents produced, to date, by both ITSPLEY and PTL initiatives;

- 2- Collaborate with staff from both initiatives on common indicators, develop an M&E plan of these common indicators based on the format provided by CARE Egypt, and finalize the tools for measuring the different indicators;
 - 3- Develop, in a participatory manner with CARE Egypt staff, a plan of action for the baseline study, including the methodology of research, sample size, and analysis tools;
 - 4- Supervise the implementation of the field research to ensure quality and consistency with plans;
 - 5- Analyze the data from the field baseline research with the CARE Egypt team;
 - 6- Produce the baseline report in Arabic and English.
- 7) Conduct the baseline study (August 2009). This is expected to take place after the further development of M&E framework.
 - 8) Provide orientation sessions to communities on the ITSPLEY project (September 2009).
 - 9) Commence the training of youth mentors (September 2009). This will include organizing the first Training of Trainers sessions on sport-based leadership programming in Qena and Benisuef governorates.

Kenya

In the coming quarter, CARE Kenya plans to:

- 1) Develop and implement the Terms of Reference for the project baseline evaluation;
- 2) Map out and identify local community partners and project participants from the impact group(s);
- 3) Develop and implement a strategy for mainstreaming SRH, HIV risk reduction, and gender into the ITSPLEY sport initiative;
- 4) Draft a country-level M&E plan and results framework with indicators to measure progress;
- 5) Begin development of a three-year work plan and budget, based on the conclusion of the above mentioned plans;
- 6) Share the plans outlined above with ITSPLEY stakeholders for review and feedback.

Tanzania

During the next quarter, CARE Tanzania will focus on the following areas for the ITSPLEY project.

- 1) Continue development of the ITSPLEY M&E plan;
- 2) Conduct a participatory capacity assessment for sport and non-sport organizations and groups;
- 3) Lead the CSO institutional capacity building on sport for social change;
- 4) Finalize the selection of participating schools and communities;
- 5) Train local WAGE and LEADER girls on mentoring and leadership competencies through sport-based activities.

**Report to Displaced Children and Orphans Fund (DCOF):
Better Care Network Quarterly Report (April – June 2009)
Prepared by: BCN Secretariat
Date: July 2009**

Introduction

Goal A: Information Exchange, Networking and Collaboration

- I. BCN Website
- II. BCN Listserv
- III. Research, Information, and Technical Exchange
- IV. Working Group
- V. Assess and Support the Development of Regional and National Chapters

Goal B: Technical Policy and Guidance

- I. Manual for the Measurement of Indicators for Children in Formal Care
- II. BCN Continuum of Care Series
- III. BCN Working Paper Series
- IV. Better Care Toolkit (formerly Global Social Work Toolkit)

Goal C: Advocacy

- I. Conferences and Events
- II. Publications
- III. Draft UN Guidelines for the Appropriate Use and Conditions of Alternative Care for Children
- IV. Save the Children - Wilton Park Conference on International Policy on Orphans and Children without Adequate Parental Care

Goal D: Support to BCN Steering Committee and Advisory Group

- I. Support the BCN Steering Committee Communication, Planning and Fundraising
- II. Expand, support and engage the BCN Advisory Group & Steering Committee

Successes, Challenges, and Next Steps

Annex A: Faith to Action Initiative Quarterly Report

Introduction

In the short period since becoming fully operational in August 2005, the Better Care Network (BCN) has helped inform and influence global action for children without adequate family care. By connecting and informing an interdisciplinary global network of organizations and individuals, BCN helps generate momentum towards systematic change.

The following report highlights the key activities implemented by BCN during the April – June 2009 reporting period. The activities further contribute to BCN's overarching goal of facilitating active information exchange and advocating for technically sound policy and programmatic action. The quarterly report is organized according to the BCN 2009 Annual Work Plan and its four overarching goals: (a) Information Exchange, Networking and Collaboration; (b) Technical Policy and Guidance; (c) Advocacy; and (d) Support to BCN Steering Committee and Advisory Group.

Goal A: Information Exchange, Networking and Collaboration

The overarching goal and purpose of the BCN is to facilitate global information exchange and collaboration among the growing number of organizations, religious groups, governments, and individuals working on the issue of children without adequate family care. The information exchange and networking is carried out via a number of different avenues, namely: BCN website, listserv, technical exchange, working groups, and the development of regional and national chapters.

I. BCN Website

The BCN Secretariat receives documents from partners, listserv members, and Steering Committee and Advisory Group members regularly. In addition to disseminating current and relevant information through the bimonthly listserv messages, the documents are posted on the website where they are categorized by topic and focus. This reporting period:

- As of July 13, 2009, the website resources increased to **589 documents**, up from 571 in March 2009.
- The site continues to receive between **35,000 and 45,000 visitors monthly**.¹
- As part of its 2009 goal of expanding and upgrading the website, the BCN Secretariat evaluated the website this quarter. This quarter, BCN Secretariat began working with a web designer to include updated information, create new pages, and make the website more interactive and user-friendly.

II. BCN Listserv

In concert with the website, the listserv serves as the primary mechanism through which relevant document and information are disseminated to our global membership. The membership includes individuals from international non-governmental organizations, international organizations, bi-laterals, community-based organizations, academic institutions, social work agencies, civil society networks, and private sector companies. The listserv notifies members bimonthly of new or recently obtained documents now available on the website in addition to providing individual summaries for each document. This reporting period:

- The BCN Secretariat continued to **expand the listserv membership, from 1,674 on April 1, 2009, to 1,724 on July 13, 2009**. BCN has already reached its 2009 target of reaching approximately

¹ The BCN website is hosted on the Child Rights Information Network (CRIN) website. It is therefore difficult to extrapolate the exact number of hits received on the BCN website each month separated from those received on all other parts of the CRIN site. The numbers provided represent the hits to the main and highest used pages of the BCN site. The exact number of hits to all BCN pages is likely higher than these estimates.

1,680 individuals (or 20% membership increase), as presented under Objective 3 of the DCOF Proposal.

- The listserv regularly distributes information on recent job postings, assisting partnering agencies and members in identifying key members of the advocacy community.

III. Research, Information, and Technical Exchange

The BCN Secretariat provides information and technical guidance to email, in-person, and telephone queries. This reporting period, the BCN Secretariat responded to an **average of 30 requests per month**. Highlights include the following:

- **Request for information regarding orphan care in Pakistan:** Via UNICEF HQ staff, in March 2009, BCN received a request for standards on orphanages. The request came from an NGO planning to establish an orphanage in Pakistan. In the response, BCN stressed the importance of family and community-based care and provided resources and papers supporting this position. In addition, BCN forwarded resources on standards for residential care, for instances when necessary. In June, the NGO responded saying that based on the materials forwarded on by BCN and discussions with UNICEF country staff the NGO decided to provide educational and psychosocial support to children and their families, rather than opening an orphanage. This summer the group will build a counseling/care center in Karachi, Pakistan. This inquiry is a concrete example of BCN's ability to facilitate active information exchange and advocate for technically sound programmatic action on-the-ground.
- **Request for information regarding children leaving care:** The last few reporting periods, BCN has fielded an increasing number of requests specific to the issue of children leaving care (or care leavers). This quarter, SOS Children's Village requested research and guidance materials on exiting care arrangements. SOS is enhancing the research base on this area via a newly formed advocacy working group. In preparation for an upcoming workshop and article on care leavers, Feed the Children Kenya requested guidance materials and research around this topic. Due to the growing interest and need for guidance and research, next quarter BCN will feature the topic of children leaving care in a listserv announcement.
- **Research support to CARE HIV/AIDS Section on the issue of male caregivers:** BCN conducted research on the issue of male caregivers, specifically in the context of HIV/AIDS in Sub-Saharan Africa. The research showed that women are increasingly becoming the principal carers of children, in particular those who have lost one of both parents. This lack of male engagement can further exacerbate vulnerabilities within families and communities and policymakers and practitioners need to take a closer look at the role of men and best ways to support families. This research will be used by CARE and BCN to develop a concept note later this year. Additionally, this literature review strengthened BCN Secretariat's knowledge base and the research gathered will be included in upcoming listserv announcements. The research is available for review.

Per the recommendation of the 2008 BCN evaluation, in January 2009, BCN Secretariat implemented a **management information system to document the number, nature, and quality of the technical assistance provided in response to queries**. The system will be monitored and tracked throughout the year. The information system is available for review.

BCN receives numerous requests for assistance in providing consultant recommendations and technical expertise. In order to strengthen this support, **BCN is developing a roster of alternative care consultants**. BCN has received approximately 30 CVs and is continuing to expand and develop the roster over the coming months. The roster includes: contact information; professional experience; area of expertise; education; working languages; country/regional expertise; minimum three references; and copy of CV. The draft roster is available for review.

IV. Working Group

Faith to Action Initiative (formerly Faith Based Organizations Outreach Committee)

The **Faith to Action Initiative** continues to scale up their advocacy efforts. In keeping with the ethos of the BCN, the Initiative seeks to **encourage FBOs to reorient their support towards family-based care and away from institutional care** as response to vulnerabilities of children. During this reporting period, the BCN Secretariat provided technical and strategic support to the Initiative's ongoing research and outreach activities, as needed. For additional information regarding the Initiative's progress this quarter, refer to Annex A.

- Assistant Coordinator participated in monthly (now quarterly) conference calls through the reporting period.
- Assistant Coordinator participated in the **annual in-person meeting** in Austin, Texas, on June 29, 2009.
- Provided **assistance in fundraising within UNICEF** to support the administrative and program costs of the Initiative: drafted and submitted proposal and budget and conducted follow-up meetings with UNICEF staff. The secured funds, housed at CARE and transferred to Firelight Foundation in two installments, will support the Initiative's work for 2009.
- **Outreached within UNICEF and UN community regarding the Faith to Action Initiative**, namely: UNICEF HIV/AIDS section, Unite for Children Unite against AIDS Campaign, UNAIDS, UNICEF Civil Society Partnerships section, World Conference for Religion and Peace. Participated in joint UNICEF conference calls and meetings to publicize the work of the Initiative and advocate for future collaboration on media outreach etc.
- **Co-wrote article on the Initiative for the UNICEF Children and HIV/AIDS Newsletter July issue.** The article provided an overview of the Initiative structure and mission, strategies employed, successes, and future plans. The newsletter was created to facilitate the exchange of knowledge and information about children and HIV/AIDS within UNICEF.

V. Assess and Support the Development of Regional and National Chapters

The last few years, the BCN has expanded its global scope by exploring opportunities to expand its work in different regions and countries, in order to ensure that advocacy and program development around alternative care is culturally relevant and viable within each national and local context. There is growing interest in developing country and regional-level chapters.

BCN Netherlands Chapter

The Better Care Network Netherlands, the first national chapter of the BCN, was formed by international NGOs and donors in the Netherlands with the aim of raising awareness about appropriate forms of alternative care among the many Dutch groups and organizations working on these issues. The BCNN disseminates information via its website and listserv. In addition, BCNN has a number of working groups: child trafficking (which focuses on child trade for sexual purposes and child trade for adoption) and alternatives to institutional care.

This reporting period the BCNN was engaged in a number of activities: (a) continuing to lobby the 2nd Chamber of the Dutch government regarding policy changes around alternative care; (b) lobbying the government around inter-country adoption issues; and (c) developing series of Dutch community-based groups and private foundations best practices around alternative care.

The BCN Secretariat provides administrative and technical support via conference calls and emails with the BCN Netherlands Coordinator and other members of the core group.

BCB Malawi Alliance

In December 2008, the BCN/CARE was awarded three years of funds to support the establishment of BCN Malawi Alliance. The first year of funds will support policy and legislative work around key alternative care issues, namely: foster care standards and adoption policy reform. This reporting period, the BCN Secretariat provided administrative and logistical support:

- Finalized sub-agreement between UNICEF and CARE. The BCN Secretariat is liaised with both CARE and UNICEF to finalize the sub-agreement.
- Worked with CARE and UNICEF finance offices to transfer funds.
- Liaised with the donor.

African Regional Conference on Alternative Care and Regional Network

ANPPCAN, working in partnership with Feed the Children, Department of Children's Services, Kenya, SOS Children's Villages, Compassion International, Give a Child a Family, UNICEF, BCN) and Lakarmissionen, is hosting the First International Conference in Africa on Family Based Care for Children. The Conference will be held on 28-30 September 2009 at the Intercontinental Hotel, Nairobi, Kenya.

The conference will be an opportunity to bring together local networks, NGOs, FBOs, CBOs as well as international partners. The conference objectives are to learn from African models of care and support, share these practices and other relevant alternative care approaches from other regions, improve coordination and collaboration between different child protection actors at regional and national level, and address the need for constructive government oversight of alternative care. The conference could potentially serve as the launch for a Regional Africa Network on Alternative Care. This reporting period the BCN Secretariat has provided technical support to the conference organizers:

- Member of the organizing committee, in partnership with UNICEF Regional office.
- Provided support to ANPPCAN and Give a Child a Family in finalizing the conference concept note and budget. These documents are available for review.
- Facilitating ANPPCAN and Give a Child a Family's fundraising efforts.
- Selected Linda Richter to open the conference on behalf of BCN.
- Supporting UNICEF regional office in preparing two UNICEF-led panels.
- Supporting UNICEF in organizing pre and post-conference events.
- Supporting ANPPCAN in disseminating conference information to child rights networks, listserv, websites, newsletters, etc. Additionally, outreaching to BCN partners, members, and others to inform them of the conference and encourage their participation.
- Drafted and finalized agreement between CARE and ANPPCAN. First installment of funds transferred to ANPPCAN to support conference organizing meetings and conference secretariat staff salaries.

Middle East and North Africa Regional Conference and Network Development

There remains a significant need for practitioners and policy makers working in and for the Middle East and North African (MENA) region to convene and discuss issues related to alternative care and prevention of family separation. While there are examples of good work on the ground there has yet to be an effort to convene these good practice examples and create a forum of exchange. Thus, this reporting period, the BCN Secretariat has continued to explore opportunities for expansion in the MENA region:

- Conference calls and email exchanges with Advisory Group members from the region to discuss key issues in the region and the possible forum.
- Conducted research on child protection and alternative care in MENA.
- Discussing BCN expansion in the region with UNICEF MENA Regional office and BCN Advisory Group member, Trish Hiddleston.
- Continuing discussions with the Community Development Authority/Government of Dubai to co-host an expert alternative care regional meeting in Dubai 2009. In total about, 1-2 representatives

from 12-15 MENA countries. The BCN Secretariat will discuss this proposal in mid-March with a representative from the Government of Dubai.

South Asia Regional Conference and Network Development

In April 2009, the UNICEF South Asia Child Protection officers convened in Nepal to discuss the priorities and needs in the region. In light of the recent proliferation of institutional care in the region, the meeting participants stressed the need for practitioners and policy makers working in South Asia region to convene and discuss issues related to alternative care and prevention of family separation. While there are examples of good work on the ground (i.e., India, Sri Lanka) there has yet to be an effort to convene these good practice examples and create a forum of exchange. Thus, this reporting period, the BCN Secretariat began to explore opportunities for expansion in the South Asia region:

- Conference calls and email exchanges with Advisory Group members from the region to discuss key issues in the region and the possible forum.
- Conducted research on child protection and alternative care in South Asia.
- Developed draft concept paper on developing South Asia Regional Network. The concept paper will be shared with UNICEF Regional office to review.

Goal B: Technical Policy and Guidance

The BCN is scaling up its evidence-based technical policy and guidance initiatives. Initial feedback from membership and the recent evaluation is that there is strong need for continued work in this area. Below is a summary of the work completed under Goal B.

I. Manual for the Measurement of Indicators for Children in Formal Care

During this reporting period, the BCN Secretariat continued the dissemination of the *Manual for the Measurement of Indicators for Children in Formal Care*.

- Approximately **1,150 hard copies of the manual disseminated** to Steering Committee members and country offices (primarily UNICEF country and regional offices), advisory group members, partners, conferences, and membership.
- Announcement posted on: BCN listserv and website; CRIN website; UNICEF Intranet and Child Protection newsletter; UNICEF Children and HIV and AIDS newsletter; IFCO newsletter and website; Child Welfare Library, CCABA website; ISCI Indicators newsletter, among others.
- To assist the use and implementation of the manual, BCN is developing a roster of consultants to conduct trainings around the Formal Care Guide.
- BCN Secretariat outreaching to different universities, international networks and associations, journals, and organizations worldwide.
- BCN Secretariat is exploring forums and conferences in which to present and distribute the manual the coming year.
 - Manual distributed at the following conferences: 2009 Caribbean Regional Foster Care Conference. April 22-24. St. Maarten, Netherlands; PEPFAR OVC Leadership Forum in Mozambique, May 2009; IFCO Conference in Dublin, Ireland, July 2009.
 - Abstract submitted to 2nd Annual International Society for Child Indicators Conference. Abstract was recently accepted and Diane Swales (BCN Advisory Group member, UNICEF Child Protection Adviser, and co-author of the manual) will present the manual at the conference.

- BCN, in partnership with UNICEF Child Protection Section and regional offices, plans to host 1-2 regional events to launch and disseminate the manual. First workshop is planned for the East Asia and Pacific Region (EAPR) in January 2010 with Diane Swales, co-author of the manual and EAPR Child Protection Regional Adviser.
- Manual is being translated in Spanish and Russian by the UNICEF Latin American and Caribbean and CEE/CIS Regional offices respectively.

II. BCN Continuum of Care Series

The **BCN Secretariat is currently developing the Continuum of Care Series**. Through the development of the series, BCN aims to generate an interconnected set of high-impact resources that condense global thinking, highlight best practice examples, and identify priority actions. The series will cover the spectrum of family and community based care options, specifically a brief on each of these topics: institutional care, kinship care, foster care, domestic adoption, and international adoption. Cross cutting additional two-pager on alternative care in emergencies will be included. In addition, a two-pager on enhanced protection for children affected by AIDS. The Series will serve as the basis of the BCN's advocacy materials and used to both inform and advance efforts related to care for children.

During this reporting period, the Institutional Care, Kinship Care, and Foster Care briefs were submitted to Steering Committee members for review and approval (the emergency care, AIDS and adoption briefs will be reviewed later in the year). Once feedback is received and incorporated, the Institutional Care, Kinship Care and Foster Care briefs will be produced and launched on the BCN website.

III. BCN Working Paper Series

In 2009, the BCN will launch the Better Care Network Working Paper Series. The Series will consist of 2-3 papers per year highlighting key issues around alternative care. The BCN Secretariat will develop key guidelines for the working paper series. The following papers are in development for 2009:

- **Save the Children UK – BCN Joint Paper on Institutional Care:** At the October Steering Committee, it was agreed that Save UK and BCN will collaborate to produce and disseminate Kevin Brown's paper on institutional care, in which Save UK had commissioned. In March-April 2009, BCN and Save UK formed reference group. Working paper was reviewed and feedback was submitted by the group.
- **Cost Effectiveness of Family and Community-Based Alternative Care versus Institutional Care Paper:** In January, the BCN Secretariat received funds from UNICEF to support the development of the paper. BCN Secretariat is conducting research and speaking with BCN Technical Advisory Group and Steering Committee members on how to best approach the working paper.

IV. Better Care Toolkit

In response to the need for practical tools and resources for practitioners on-the-ground, this reporting period, the BCN **developed the Better Care Toolkit to provide resources and academic materials specifically geared towards social work practitioners**. The documents will be available on a CD-ROM, and housed on the BCN website.

In order to gather and vet useful and technically-sound materials, and provide technical support for content development on the description of the toolkit, BCN solicited the assistance of a consultant, with extensive experience in international social work, Louise Melville-Fulford. Additional assistance was provided by two interns. With input from a broad range of professionals working on care issues, Louise gathered and reviewed over 500 tools and developed the toolkit catalog. The toolkit includes approximately 200 best practice documents and is divided by the following categories: (a) Developing an Informed National Care Strategy; (b) Standards and Policies for Quality Alternative Care; (c) Individual Assessments, Care planning, and Family Reunification; (d) Supporting children in care, their families, and alternative

caregivers; and (e) Protection and Care in emergencies. The toolkit catalog has been reviewed by the BCN Secretariat and select members of the Steering Committee and Advisory Group members. The entire toolkit catalog is available for review upon request. BCN has shared the draft toolkit catalog, or portions of the catalog, to a number of partners as well as supporting its technical guidance to partners and members.

This reporting period, BCN Secretariat worked with web designers to develop the online toolkit. To view the mock-up of the toolkit, you can view this link: <http://bcn.volumesquared.com>. Anticipated launch date of the online toolkit is early Fall 2009.

Goal C: Advocacy

The BCN Secretariat is continuing to explore ways to expand the advocacy platform by attending conferences and strategic events and contributing to publications.

I. Conferences and Events

During this reporting period, the BCN Secretariat participated in a number of conferences, meetings, and events to publicize the work of the BCN and advocate for issues around children without adequate parental care. All presentations and meeting notes are available upon request.

- **26th Annual Social Work Day at the United Nations, New York, NY, April 6, 2009:** BCN Coordinators attended the half day session at the UN. BCN Steering Committee member, Aaron Greenberg, presented UNICEF's work around social work. BCN Advisory Group member, Rebecca Davis, attended the conference.
- **NGO Committee on UNICEF Quarterly Meeting, New York, NY, April 20, 2009.** BCN Senior Coordinator attended the half-day committee meeting. Topics of discussion included: status of US ratification's of the CRC; working group reports; and planned CRC 20th anniversary activities. The Committee is in discussions to form a Working Group on Children without Parental Care, led by SOS Kinderdorf International.
- **CARE USA Staff Health Retreat, Atlanta, GA, May 11-14, 2009.** BCN Coordinators attended the four-day staff retreat. Additionally, BCN met with CARE Finance staff members to discuss BCN finances and reporting.
- **Children and AIDS Presentation, Joint Learning Initiative on Children and HIV/AIDS, June 2, 2009:** BCN Coordinators attended the presentation of JLICA final report, "Home Truths: Facing the Facts on Children, AIDS, and Poverty." BCN Advisory Group member, Linda Richter, presented the JLICA Learning Group 1: Strengthening Families key findings. The event was hosted by the UNICEF HIV/AIDS Section.
- **Faith to Action Initiative Annual Meeting, Austin, Texas, USA, June 29, 2009:** BCN Assistant Coordinator to attend the one day meeting.

II. Publications

In its effort to effectively reach a wider audience and promote best practices around alternative care, BCN is continuing to explore ways to contribute to ongoing research and publications.

The BCN Secretariat, in collaboration with UNICEF Civil Partnership and Child Protection sections, wrote an article for the magazine, *Dharma World*, an English-language magazine published quarterly by Kosei Publishing Company, an affiliate of Rissho Kosei-kai a Buddhist organization based in Tokyo. *Dharma World* invited UNICEF Civil Partnership section to contribute to the April/June issue. The article – "Religious Communities as Front-Line Actors to Respond to Poverty and Promote the Health of Children" – provides an overview of child poverty, concrete examples of positive engagement by religious communities

to address child poverty, as well as how to build on the good work being done, while curbing harmful practices. The article focuses around the issue of institutional care. A copy of the article is available.

The BCN Secretariat and Faith to Action Initiative Coordinator co-wrote an article on the Initiative for the UNICEF Children and HIV/AIDS Newsletter July issue. The article provided an overview of the Initiative structure and mission, strategies employed, successes, and future plans. The newsletter was created to facilitate the exchange of knowledge and information about children and HIV/AIDS within UNICEF.

III. Draft UN Guidelines for the Appropriate Use and Conditions of Alternative Care for Children

This quarter, BCN continued supporting the advocacy efforts around the draft UN Guidelines. To bolster the advocacy efforts leading up to the 11th session of the Human Rights Council (HRC) in June 2009, BCN Secretariat, on behalf of the BCN Steering Committee and Advisory Group members, submitted a letter of support to the Group of Friends, led by the Government of Brazil. The letter commended the commitment of the Group of Friends and expressed full support of its efforts to gain formal adoption for the draft UN Guidelines. A copy of the letter is available.

On June 17th the HRC adopted by consensus a procedural resolution submitting the “Guidelines for the Alternative Care of Children” to the UN General Assembly (UNGA). If adopted at the UNGA, it would coincide with the 20th anniversary of the Convention on the Rights of the Child. The adoption of this resolution without a vote represents a great step towards the desired formal recognition of the guidelines by the UNGA. Next quarter, BCN and other partners will provide needed support to UNICEF to ensure adoption by UNGA later this year.

The Advisory Group members have expressed keen interest in supporting efforts around the UN Guidelines. Thus, the UN Guidelines are a possible opening around engaging the advisory group members and furthering BCN’s efforts in this area.

IV. Save the Children - Wilton Park Conference on International Policy on Orphans and Children without Adequate Parental Care

Save the Children UK, in partnership with Wilton Park, will hold a major high-level conference on the issue of ensuring better care and protection for millions of orphans and other vulnerable children in the developing world. The conference will be held at the Wilton Park international conference centre. The meeting will bring together 50 participants from developing and developed country governments, bilateral donors, international agencies, private foundations, global partnerships, NGOs, FBOs, and other civil society actors.

BCN will provide organizational, technical, and logistical support to Save the Children during the ensuing months, namely: assist with the development of participant list and background paper as well as panel preparations. As of July 1, 2009, BCN Secretariat has participated in two conference calls to discuss the conference and next steps.

Goal D: Support to BCN Steering Committee and Advisory Group

I. Support the BCN Steering Committee Communication, Planning and Fundraising

During this reporting period, the BCN Secretariat continued to provide regular updates on new issues and developments to the Steering Committee members via email, in-person meetings, and conference calls. BCN Secretariat organized a BCN Steering Committee conference call in June 2009, which all members

participated in. This was the second conference call in 2009 (the first was held in March). Conference call meeting minutes are available upon request.

II. Expand, support and engage the BCN Advisory Group & Steering Committee

In order to better engage and support the BCN Advisory Group, in 2009, the BCN started a new quarterly mailing to all the members. In addition to regular email updates and one-on-one engagement with BCN Advisory Group, each quarter the BCN Secretariat will mail a quarterly newsletter and recent BCN publications. The first quarterly newsletter was mailed to BCN Advisory Group and Steering Committee members (which we had mailing addresses on file) in March 2009. The second newsletter will be mailed in July.

Additionally, the BCN Secretariat continued to engage the Advisory Group members to serve on key reference groups, provide assistance to requests, and discuss future activities and initiatives.

Successes, Challenges and Next Steps

Successes:

- Working with web designer to develop online Better Care Toolkit.
- Disseminated *Manual for the Measurement of Indicators for Children in Formal Care*
- Partnering with ANPPCAN, UNICEF, and others to provide financial and technical support to the upcoming Family-Based Care Conference in Nairobi, Kenya.
- Outreached to MENA and South Asia regions to initiate regional conferences and networks.
- In response to the request by the UNICEF Executive Board, UNICEF conducted an analysis of its involvement in partnerships and collaborative relationships. As part of its analysis, UNICEF spoke to Susan Bissell, UNICEF Chief of Child Protection, and Aaron Greenberg, UNICEF Child Protection Specialist. Based on these discussions and review of BCN's materials, BCN was included as a successful case study. The four page BCN case study was presented at the UNICEF Executive Board meeting in June 2009 and included in the board member information packets. The case study is available for review.

Challenges and Lessons Learned:

- BCN Secretariat is facing a number of challenges in light of the financial crisis and impact on CARE. CARE has initiated a furlough (universal salary cut and increase in staff holidays) for 2009-2010 fiscal years. BCN Steering Committee members, led by CARE, are working towards exempting the BCN Secretariat staff from the furlough. If the furlough is upheld for the BCN Secretariat staff, this will greatly the work plan and short/medium term strategic vision of the Secretariat, due to reduced working days.
- Ensuring equal representation of regions within membership, resources and advisory group members. BCN demonstrates commitment to meeting this challenge through extensive outreach with different regions, partnership building and promotion of website in key target areas to ensure representation and applicability globally.
- Reevaluate the utility of the BCN to write proposals for regional and country-level initiatives, such as Wellspring. While BCN continues to assist many members in a technical capacity, we must continue to be deliberate in the commitments we take on.

Next Steps

- Facilitate organization and participate in upcoming Family-Based Care Conference in Nairobi, Kenya.
- Support Save the Children UK with the upcoming Wilton Park conference.

- Launch the upgraded and expanded BCN website, including Better Care Toolkit.
- Support the launch of regional initiatives in Sub-Saharan Africa, South Asia, and Middle East and North Africa.
- Develop the Working Paper Series.
- Continue to actively and strategically disseminate the *Manual for the Measurement of Indicators for Children in Formal Care*.
- Lead opportunity to gather Steering Committee and possibly the Advisory Group for strategic planning and consideration for development of common agency positions.
- Strategically engage Steering Committee on fundraising issues and continue to secure the financial future of BCN.
- Advocate around the adoption of the UN Guidelines.

Annex A: Faith to Action Initiative Quarterly Report (April – June 2009)
Prepared by: Faith to Action Initiative Coordinator

Goal A: Advocacy

The primary advocacy message of the Faith to Action Initiative continues to be that of family and community-based care for orphans and vulnerable children in Sub-Saharan Africa. The audience that this advocacy message targets is a subset of the Better Care Network audience – faith-based organizations (FBOs) and churches working in “orphan care.”

1. Faith to Action Initiative Website

- Launched website in December 2008-designed to provide information and resources about limitations of orphanage care and importance of family in a framework that is friendly to a faith-based audience
- Website portal for easy download and tracking of key publication, From Faith to Action
- Website connects to blog with examples of family and community-based care in Ethiopia – goal of blog is to gain followers in the faith community not otherwise drawn to technical websites or resources

2. Faith to Action Initiative listserv

- The listserv is a new action item for the Initiative and will begin summer of 2009 with close to 300 contacts (grown from 50 contacts in 2008)
- Listserv will be sent monthly, will provide information on key conferences and will promote both the Initiative website as well as Better Care Network as a key resource

Upcoming plans: At the annual meeting of the Faith to Action Initiative on June 29th it was decided that the Initiative will form a presence on Facebook which will link with both the website and listserv in order to build followers of family and community-based care particularly among the student age group. We will also

sign up for a statistics program, which can report on hits we receive on the blog and track popular pages and resource downloads.

Goal B: Outreach

The strategy for outreach continues to be targeting Christian leaders, speakers, and pastors of “mega” churches engaged in orphan care in Africa. Some limited student outreach has been conducted.

1. Meetings with Christian leaders

- In this reporting period the Initiative was introduced to Bill MacLeod, influential Christian leader and speaker who provided the opportunity for us to coordinate a series of workshops on working with children at risk at Mission ConneXion NW in 2010 (13,000 in attendance)
- Meetings took place with Lynne Hybels, influential author and pastor’s wife at WillowCreek Church in IL. The relationship with Lynne in this reporting period led to a shared speaking engagement at Baylor University as well as a co-authored article for the Journal of Family and Community Ministries
- Meetings took place with Elizabeth Styffe and Kay Warren of Saddleback Church in Orange County. At a recent orphan care conference for Christians Elizabeth gave a plenary speech, which focused on the importance of family-based care and the limitations of orphanages.
- Participated in the Ethiopia Christian Leader’s Trip in order to influence agenda which focused on viewing/assessing orphan care options in Ethiopia (to date, 3 participants returned home, began small FBOs, and are connected with Initiative outreach)

2. Engage students around best practice through conferences and targeted on-campus outreach

- The Initiative was connected with conference organizer for Urbana Student Missions Conference. Urbana takes place only every 3 years and draws 20,000 college students focused on poverty, missions, and work with children. Initiative will host a booth and is in the process of proposing a workshop series for students.

3. Case Studies and Publications

- One case study of church/church partnership providing community-based care was completed in this reporting period. Case study research in the United States took place with Rockland Community Church in Colorado – case study research in Africa took place with partner church in Arusha, Tanzania.
- Journal of Family & Community Ministries has donated a double issue with the theme of care for orphans and vulnerable children to the Initiative. Over 10 articles/pieces will be published on this theme written for a faith-based audience. (Authors were chosen from Initiative members and key Christian leaders.) The Journal is distributed to churches and social work professionals. Several hundred copies will be made available for BCN and the Faith to Action Initiative following publication in September.

Upcoming plans: a. Baylor University is working to provide the Initiative with a graduate student intern who will assist in creating a tool-kit for students interested in advocating for family and community-based care. Intern will also support coordinator at Urbana. b. A consultant has been contacted based in Africa to provide 2nd Africa case study assessment in Zambia.

Goal C: Networking and Partnership

1. **Increase the number of FBOs** seeking membership in the Initiative or interested in partnering through round-tables, distribution of From Faith to Action or invitations to conferences
 - In this reporting period the Initiative was approached by four FBOs interested in membership/partnership: Bethany Christian Services (largest Christian provider of adoption services in the US funding programs for family-based care in Africa,) Visionledd, Institute for Orphan Advocacy, and Buckner Children and Family Services.
 - Partnership formed between Kidzana, World Relief and the Initiative to host a series of workshops at Mission ConneXion NW in 2010.
 - Invited by Kidzana to join 1 for 50 campaign which is producing missions' curriculum for working with children. Initiative invited to contribute to curriculum around care of orphans and vulnerable children.
 - Invited HIV/AIDS Director of Balm in Gilead (African American network of churches working for global justice) to participate in annual meeting and consider membership.
2. **Conferences/Events/workshops**
 - **Sojourners Mobilization to End Poverty**, Washington, DC, USA, April 26-29, 2009. Coordinator attended, distributed 150 copies of From Faith to Action and held key meetings with attendees.
 - **Christian Alliance for Orphans Summit**, Dallas, TX, USA, April 29-May 1, 2009. Coordinator attended, spoke in 2 workshops with over 150 attendees, distributed 200 copies of From Faith to Action, and held key meetings with attendees.
 - **Faith to Action Initiative Annual Meeting**, Austin, Texas, USA, June 29, 2009. Facilitated by Coordinator.
3. **Networking** with NGOs and possible funding partners
 - Center for Interfaith Action on Global Poverty
 - World Conference of Religions for Peace
 - Parliament of World Religions
 - Legatum Institute
 - US Office of Faith-based and Community Initiatives
 - Global AIDS Alliance

Upcoming plans: a. Initiative has been asked by coordinators of ANPPCAN conference to submit a proposal for an FBO panel to promote/discuss partnership for orphan care. Bethany, Visionledd, and FHI are interested in pursuing this opportunity. b. Initiative has been invited to participate in conference calls regarding JLIFA with Geoff Foster. c. World Vision has requested assistance in coordinating next International AIDS Conference.