

FOOD AND
NUTRITION
TECHNICAL
ASSISTANCE

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AED.

QUARTERLY PROGRAM REPORT

JULY 1 — SEPTEMBER 30, 2000

**COOPERATING AGENCY
ACADEMY FOR EDUCATIONAL DEVELOPMENT**

**SUBCONTRACTORS
CORNELL UNIVERSITY
TUFTS UNIVERSITY**

**COOPERATIVE AGREEMENT No. HRN-A-00-98-00046-00
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LIST OF ACRONYMS

ACC/SCN	Administrative Committee on Coordination/Sub-Committee on Nutrition
ACDI/VOCA	Agricultural Cooperative Development International/Volunteers in Overseas Cooperative Assistance
ADRA	Adventist Development and Relief Agency
AER	Annual Estimate of Requirements
AFSI	Africa Food Security Initiative
ARC	American Red Cross
BHR	Bureau for Humanitarian Response
BHR/FFP	BHR's Office of Food for Peace
BHR/PPM	BHR's Programs, Policies, and Management
BHR/PVC	BHR's Private and Voluntary Cooperation
CARE	Cooperative for Assistance and Relief Everywhere, Inc.
CHANGE	Behavior Change Innovation/State-of-the-Art Activity
CMR	Crude Mortality Rate
CRS	Catholic Relief Services
CS	Cooperating Sponsor (Title II Implementing partner)
CTO	Cognizant Technical Officer
DA	Development Assistance
DAP	Development Activity Proposal
DCOF	Displaced Children and Orphans Fund
DP	Development Programs (as in FFP/DP)
EDDI	Education for Development and Democracy in Africa Initiative
EFS-II	USAID/Haiti's Enhancing Food Security II Project
EHA	Department of Emergency and Humanitarian Action
ER	Emergency Response (as in FFP/ER)
FACG	Food Aid Consultative Group
FACS	Food Assisted Child Survival Program
FAM	Food Aid Management
FANTA	Food and Nutrition Technical Assistance Project
FFE	Food for Education
FFP	BHR's Office of Food for Peace
FFP/DP	Office of Food for Peace, Development Programs Division
FFP/ER	Office of Food for Peace, Emergency Relief Division
FFP/POD	Office of Food for Peace, Program Operations Division
FFW	Food For Work
FHI	Food for the Hungry International
GEM	Global Excellence in Management
GHAI	Greater Horn of Africa Initiative
G/PHN	USAID's Bureau for Global Programs, Field Support, and Research, Center for Population, Health and Nutrition
HFSMT	Household Food Security Measurement Tool
HINAP	Health Information Network Advanced Planning
HKI	Helen Keller International
HPN	Health, Population, and Nutrition, as in AED/HPN Programs)
IEE	Initial Environmental Examination
IFPRI	International Food and Policy Research Institute
IR	Intermediate Result

ISA	Institutional Support Assistance Grant
ITSH	Internal Transport, Shipping and Handling
KPC	Knowledge, Practice, Coverage
LDC	Less Developed Country
LIFDC	Low Income Food Deficit Country
LIFE	Leadership and Investment on Fighting an Epidemic
LINKAGES	Breastfeeding and Complementary Feeding and Maternal Nutrition Program
M&E	Monitoring and Evaluation
MCHN	Maternal/Child Health Nutrition
MSU	Michigan State University
MOST	Micronutrient Operational Strategies and Technologies
NICRA	Negotiated Indirect Cost Rate Agreement
NIH	National Institute of Health
NGO	Non-governmental Organization
OFDA	USAID's Office for Foreign Disaster Assistance
OICI	Opportunities Industrialization Centers International
PAA	Title II Previously Approved Activity
POD	Port of Delivery (as in BHR/FFP/POD)
PVO	Private Voluntary Organization
R2	Result Report
R4	Results Review and Resource Request
REDSO	Regional Economic Development Service Office
REDSO/ESA	Regional Economic Development Service Office/East & Southern Africa
RFFPO	Regional Food For Peace Office
RNIS	Refugee Nutrition Information System
SANA	Sustainable Approaches for Nutrition in Africa
SARA	Support for Analysis and Research in Africa
SOW	Scope of Work
SO	Strategic Objective
STC	Save the Children
SUSTAIN	Sharing U.S. Technology to Aid in the Improvement of Nutrition
TAP	Transitional Activity Proposal
VAM/EWS	Vulnerability Assessment and Mapping/Early Warning System
WFP	World Food Program
WHO	World Health Organization
WV	World Vision

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INTRODUCTION

FANTA is a five-year Cooperative Agreement between AED and USAID, funded through the USAID's Bureau of Global Programs Field Support and Research, Center for Population, Health and Nutrition (G/PHN). The project is designed to maximize the impact of the nutrition and food security-related programs implemented by USAID and its partners in developing countries. FANTA's effort to meet this goal is through nutrition and food security policy and strategy development, and the provision of technical assistance in the areas of program design, implementation, monitoring, and evaluation of nutrition and food security-related programs.

FANTA subcontractors, Cornell and Tufts Universities, two centers of excellence in food security and nutrition, focus on select policy and technical areas, operations research, and meta analysis. In addition, Food Aid Management (FAM), the consortium of Title II Private Voluntary Organizations (PVOs) assists FANTA in developing and maintaining a strong partnership with these organizations.

The major focus of FANTA's efforts and resources are the areas of food consumption and utilization, with attention paid to the aspects of food access. In collaboration and partnership with the PVO community, host country governments, and local NGOs, the FANTA team assists USAID in:

- Adapting proven approaches to improve food security and nutrition of women and children;
- Supporting USAID strategic planning and program analyses;
- Improving program quality and impact;
- Delivering cost-effective and demand-driven assistance; and
- Supporting integrated food security and nutrition programs.

This report describes the activities undertaken by the project during the fourth quarter FY2000, from July 1 to September 30, 2000. Activities are grouped by Intermediate Results. A brief section highlighting major activities for the quarter is also included.

QUARTERLY HIGHLIGHTS

IN-COUNTRY TECHNICAL SUPPORT

Ethiopia

FANTA has been providing technical assistance to USAID/Addis Ababa and Title II Cooperating Sponsors (CSs) since November 1999 to include nutrition programming in the Integrated Strategic Plan and to maximize the impact of these nutritional activities on target populations. A workshop, held in early 2000 using the Profiles nutrition advocacy tool, led to a consensus among USAID staff and its partners about the need for a nutrition strategy and the development of a set of recommendations for specific nutrition interventions. These recommendations were endorsed by the USAID Mission and will be part of the revised Country Strategy Plan to be implemented in 2001. In addition, training was provided to Cooperating Sponsors (CSs) and USAID staff to build capacity for these activities. Preparations for a second workshop were initiated to present the USAID nutrition strategy to the government of Ethiopia and other key development players and to obtain their cooperation in this area.

Guatemala

As part of the USAID Mission's efforts to strengthen Maternal Child Health/Nutrition (MCHN) practices in Title II programs, FANTA provided technical assistance to the USAID Mission to assess the behavior change components of the PVO maternal child health programs. As a result of the assessment, a workshop with PVOs and Mission staff will be held in the next quarter to identify key focus behaviors and appropriate indicators for improving practices.

Honduras

FANTA provided technical assistance to CARE/Honduras on refining indicators for the five-year follow-on Title II development proposal and revising the design for the final evaluation survey to be conducted in 2001. Programmatic recommendations were made including, developing an exit strategy for several existing districts and a phase-in strategy for new districts. The main focus of this activity is to strengthen women's nutrition and survival and to develop plans for handling obstetric emergencies at the community level.

PRIORITY AREAS

Food for Education and USDA's Global Food for Education Initiative

Food for Education (FFE) is implemented using Title II donated food to increase enrollment and school attendance in the short term in selected developing countries. To complement existing technical materials, and because there is limited guidance on monitoring and evaluation of the impact of this initiative on educational progress and achievement, FANTA is developing an indicators guide. A draft is currently being revised and the final document will be published in early 2001.

FANTA staff attended a briefing by the Director of Food for Peace/Bureau of Humanitarian Response on the Global School Food for Education Initiative (GFFEI) announced by the U.S. government in July 2000 and on existing Title II FFE programs. FFP staff explained how the GFFEI is expected to work with the Title II-supported FFE efforts to ensure that the objectives of Title II program are met. FANTA will assist FFP in reviewing proposals from the World Food Program and other PVOs that have a nutrition or food security component.

Agriculture/Consumption Linkages

Based on the FANTA paper, "Increasing the Nutrition Impacts of Agricultural Interventions", FANTA prepared a technical brief for USAID's Africa Bureau, Office of Sustainable Development and included recommendations on increasing consumption and nutrition impacts of agricultural interventions. The information is intended for USAID Mission staff— particularly agriculture and health officers— and PVO agriculture and health officers. The brief will be presented at an international food security conference and at a regional meeting of USAID agriculture officers in Nairobi, Kenya.

HIV/AIDS: Nutrition Care and Support

FANTA completed a draft of the nutrition guide on care and support (including the use of food) for HIV/AIDS affected households. The guide is organized into six modules:

1. Nutrition and HIV/AIDS: the basic facts;
2. Coping with HIV/AIDS in the household;
3. Managing symptoms in adults living with HIV/AIDS;
4. Nutritional issues with traditional and modern medicines;
5. Special nutritional and care recommendations for children; and
6. Selecting an appropriate food basket for the household or institution.

After an internal review by FANTA and AED's SARA project is conducted, the guide will be field-tested with CRS in Malawi during the next quarter. The guide will be available in early 2001.

INTERMEDIATE RESULT NO. 1
IMPROVED USAID'S AND COOPERATING SPONSORS' (CSS) NUTRITION AND
FOOD SECURITY-RELATED PROGRAM DEVELOPMENT, ANALYSIS, MONITORING,
AND EVALUATION

TECHNICAL SUPPORT TO BHR/FFP

Development Programs (DP)

- FANTA reviewed reports for FY99 to assess progress on ISAs (Institutional Strengthening Agreements.) These agreements provide resources (including training and workshops) to Title II PVOs for improving their programs and building staff capacity both at headquarters and field levels. Technical assistance provided by FANTA has focused on strengthening monitoring and evaluation capacity among Title II PVOs.
- Provided technical advice to BHR/FFP in the preparation of the Commodity Ration Guide (CRG) regarding the identification and appropriate use of Title II food rations. The sections reviewed include Food for Education programs, Emergency, Non-emergency Humanitarian Assistance and Maternal and Child Health sections. This detailed guide for practitioners shows how to select the most appropriate and cost-effective food rations to accomplish program objectives. The materials in the guide complement the work recently conducted by FANTA on the use of rations in Maternal and Child Nutrition programs (see www.fantaproject.org). In the next quarter, FANTA will review the final draft for BHR and will be posted on the USAID's Humanitarian Assistance Website (www.usaid.gov/hum-response) in early December 2000.
- Food for Education: USAID/FFP has long supported School Feeding (SF) and Food for Education (FFE) programs by providing food commodities to schools in various developing countries. These programs are well liked by recipient countries, but the extent of their impact on nutritional and educational outcomes is not well known. FANTA is developing a conceptual framework and an indicator guide to assist in the design of these programs and to better assess their impact on education. These products have received a fair amount of attention from the agency and other development partners and FANTA has been subsequently requested to participate in various forums to present the views of the agency on this issue. Among others, FANTA attended a FFP meeting to discuss the relationship between Title II FFE policy, current Title II programs and new proposals with school feeding components. In the context of the Global Food for Education Initiative (GFFEI), FANTA attended a meeting at USDA to highlight the role of food in enhancing educational outcomes and at CRS Baltimore, to discuss the Presidential Global Food for Education Initiative. Finally, FANTA is actively providing information to the CS community about the measures adopted by FFP with respect to future FFP programs in light of the changes generated by the GFFEI.
- In support of USAID's activities to strengthen PVO technical functions, FANTA drafted the mid-term scope of work review criteria for the Institutional Support Agreement (ISA). The focus is on improving PVO program reporting and providing timely information to USAID on their progress. The new review criteria is intended as a tool to help FFP determine if the scopes

of work include all the necessary elements to respond to questions regarding the overall progress of the ISA. In addition, the review criteria will help FFP focus the discussions, including how to provide the most useful guidance to PVOs in revising their work plans. As part of this process, FANTA convened a meeting with FFP and ISA recipients to present the review criteria in more detail. Eleven of the 14 ISA recipients attended this meeting and were asked to submit scopes of work for their mid-term evaluations. FANTA will review these documents with FFP, which will help link with operational partners to impact on food security and nutrition.

- **USAID Guidance for future development activities:** Provided comments on the FY2002 Development Program Proposal Guidelines draft and suggested modifications in mid-term and final evaluation reporting requirements. Annually, FFP issues guidance on future proposal submissions. This Federal Register publication is a critical component in reinforcing existing as well as future program directions including improved progress reporting, and technical enhancements, such as the response to HIV/AIDS and impacting on women’s nutrition. FANTA recommended that midterm evaluation requirements focus more on the implementation process and effects at the beneficiary level. PVOs will be encouraged to carry out a midterm review near the end of the second year of implementation. The midterm review would look at how well the proposed activities are being implemented (timeliness, quantity and quality of inputs and outputs) and whether the intermediate effects in terms of adoption of improved technologies and behaviors were taking place among direct program participants. The final evaluation would be scheduled for the fourth program year and will require a population-based survey to update effect and impact indicators for comparison with baseline numbers. The latest draft version of the guidelines, issued on September 29, 2000 by FFP, reflects FANTA’s recommendations.

Technical Reviews

During this quarter, FANTA provided written reviews and participated in Washington-based review meetings for Title II Development Activity Proposals (DAPs) and for on-going Previously Approved Activities (PAAs) with their associated Result Report (R2). FANTA also reviewed Transition Activity Proposals (TAPs) and other relevant documents as follows:

Region	Program	Country	PVO
Africa	Development Activity Proposal (DAP)	Madagascar	CRS
		Mauritania	World Vision
		Senegal	Counterpart
	Emergency Response (ER)	Burundi	CRS
		Eritrea	CRS
		Ethiopia	CRS
		Sierra Leone	CRS
Asia	Transitional Activity Proposal (TAP)	Indonesia	CARE
		Indonesia	CRS
		Indonesia	MCI Indonesia
Latin America	DAP	Guatemala	CARE
	PAA	Bolivia	PCI
N/A	Commodity Reference Guide (ER Section)		SUSTAIN
	Burundi Nutrition Situation		
	Final Report	Indonesia	ADRA

Emergency Response (ER)

- Emergency Ration Bar: FANTA was requested to develop generic specifications for an Emergency Ration Bar (ERB). The ERB will be procured by USDA for short-term use by children over six months of age in emergency situations, as well as displaced, ambulatory and people without or with limited access to local food sources and/or lower cost bulk or bagged food aid commodities. FANTA is currently conducting a consultative and technical process to ensure that the ERB meets with the nutritional, organoleptic and technical requirements.
- Guidelines for Transition Proposals: The period between an emergency and the development of activities demands special consideration as populations move from food handouts to sustainable efforts to reestablish food security. The need for guidelines for PVOs in this period must meet technical, legal and bureaucratic requirements. FANTA provides overall coordination and technical support to the office of FFP in developing guidelines for Transition Activity Proposals (TAPs). FANTA's comments on the draft have been shared with FFP Senior Management.
- FANTA continued to support the Department of Emergency and Humanitarian Action (EHA)'s Health Information Network Advanced Planning (HINAP) at the World Health Organizations to review reports and information on Crude Mortality Rate (CMR) and nutritional status of refugees and displaced population from FY1999 data collection. The objective of this review is to determine if CMR information is available for those areas where only nutritional status data is available. The work was fully implemented during this quarter and the Final Annual Performance Report was completed as schedule.

TECHNICAL SUPPORT TO COOPERATING SPONSORS AND USAID MISSIONS

- Counterpart International/Senegal: Assisted Counterpart International in revising the M&E section of their development proposal, including indicator revisions, targeting issues and microfinance components. Resolved many of the issues discussed in the initial proposal review. Counterpart International is a new Title II partner, whose proposal included microfinance and health components.
- Africare/Guinea: Worked with Africare on revising the M&E portion of their follow-on development proposal, including indicator, targeting issues and matching activities with measurable results for the health, agriculture, natural resources management and capacity-building components. The follow-on proposal will focus on impact and sustainability of the large monetization component.
- Africare/Mali and Chad: Held a meeting with Africare staff to review status of the Title II development programs and scopes of work for inter-country technical assistance and the mid-term evaluations in both programs.
- Technoserve/Uganda: Briefed new TechnoServe staff about ISA M&E plan and the Uganda program indicators and evaluation approach. FANTA has been working with these PVOs over

a long period and is often a resource and institutional memory on the background of current projects.

- World Vision/Rwanda and Bangladesh: Worked with World Vision on the baseline sampling design (sampling frame, cluster size, household level) and questionnaire for the upcoming Rwanda program baseline. In addition, provided comments on draft baseline questionnaire for Bangladesh.
- Data Analysis Workshop: Met with Food Aid Management (FAM) to discuss the upcoming data analysis workshop and review the agenda for the ISA Managers' meeting.
- Behavior change and Africare: Identified potential areas for collaboration between FANTA and Africare to strengthen assets-based approaches for improving maternal and child health and nutrition programs. Potential collaboration activities include:
 1. A regional workshop and additional training in West Africa to build the capacity of field staff and local partners, district health officers, women's groups and village development committees in the hearth method. (Note that other Title II partners, such as ADRA, are implementing hearth approaches in Guinea, as well as programs in Mali, and it may be worthwhile to share experiences and discuss sustainability plans with partners).
 2. Collaborate with Title II partners to develop a resource guide for community health workers to train volunteer mothers about the hearth method. This activity could tie in with the West Africa workshop mentioned above, and also build on the work done by other organizations.
 3. Address a number of topics, such as: a) the impact on food security with hearth approaches from the community's perspectives, community acceptance of assets-based approaches, behaviors for identifying malnutrition by the community, rather than using growth promotion; b) the seasonality of the hearth-effect on sustainability related to behavior and practice change; and c) the role of income generation activities and sustainability.
 4. Follow up with BASICS on the guide on monitoring and evaluation being developed.

COUNTRY-SPECIFIC ACTIVITIES

AFRICA

Ethiopia

- Since 1999, FANTA has been providing technical assistance to USAID/Addis Ababa and Title II Cooperating Sponsors (CSs) to help integrate nutrition programming in their Integrated Strategic Plan and maximize the impact of these nutritional activities on target populations. The request for FANTA assistance was initially motivated by the Mission's concern over the country's worsening nutrition situation. An initial fact-finding FANTA visit to Ethiopia in

November 1999 laid out the general approach for FANTA technical assistance. Subsequently, a workshop was held in February of 2000 using the nutrition advocacy tool: PROFILES. This led to a consensus among key stakeholders about the nutritional strategy to pursue; and to a set of recommendations specifying key areas for nutrition intervention. The next step is to strengthen the capacity of the Cooperating Sponsors to conduct these interventions. In addition, the advocacy presentation will be repeated for the government of Ethiopia and other donors in early November. Based on the outcome an agenda for action will be developed

Madagascar

- FANTA has been requested by the USAID Mission to help revise its food security strategy document. This document will examine programming options to improve food availability, access and utilization in the country, starting from the current programmatic lineup. A critical element of the strategy will be the close integration of activities around the population/health/environment nexus. Given that the strategic goal of the USAID Mission is poverty reduction, this document will be a key element in the country strategy plan that will be prepared in the next fiscal year.
- In addition, FANTA is providing ongoing support to the Title II Cooperating Sponsors in Madagascar on program design, integration with other Mission-funded programs and monitoring and evaluation. Progress has been made in all these areas in recent months with an increased degree of integration between the activities of the Title II Cooperating Sponsors and those of other USAID-funded programs. FANTA also expects the Title II Cooperating Sponsors to endorse the Mission's strategic plan when it is implemented in 2003.
- A representative from the Food Security staff at USAID/Antananarivo met with FANTA staff in Washington, DC. During this meeting, FANTA briefed staff on information resources available to the mission. Materials from FANTA and other cooperating agencies were provided as well

LATIN AMERICA

Guatemala

- As part of USAID/Guatemala's efforts to strengthen MCHN practices in Title II programs, FANTA is providing technical assistance and assessing the behavior change components of the PVO maternal child health programs. A workshop is planned for December with Title II partners to select key focus behaviors and appropriate indicators for improving practices.

Haiti (09/13-15/00 and 09/21-22/00)

- The USAID Mission in Haiti has requested FANTA's technical support in the preparation and review of the final evaluation of its "Enhancing Food Security" (EFS-II) program. FANTA assisted the Mission in writing the terms of reference for the evaluation team and in representing the technical interests of the Mission when the evaluation design was discussed. The outcomes of this evaluation will help USAID understand the global impact of food aid on the country's development, where, how and under what conditions is food aid best used and what are the

lessons from the USAID-supported MCHN and Food for Education programs. FANTA will provide technical analysis of the evaluation results when they are presented in December of 2000. Later on, FANTA will work with the Mission to integrate the outcomes into a redesigned Food Security country strategy and will provide technical assistance to Title II PVOs to integrate the strategy in their programs.

Honduras (08/28/00-09/01/00)

- Technical assistance was provided to CARE/Honduras to help refine indicators for the next five- year proposal for Title II development funding and revise the evaluation design for the final evaluation survey. A number of programmatic recommendations were made, including:
 1. Exit Strategy: The need for an exit strategy for the districts where CARE is currently implementing its fully integrated intervention. It was suggested that CARE consider the following 3-phase strategy: By FY 2003, develop an exit strategy with the district; in FY 2004, cut the MCHN rations in half; in FY 2005, eliminate rations entirely (including FFW) and focus on follow-up in the district to ensure that the activities and impacts are sustainable. These districts would not be included in any follow-on activity funded by Title II. The exit strategy does not necessarily mean that CARE would no longer have any presence in the village, but that Title II's contribution of donated food would end.
 2. Expanded activities: Since the exit strategy will reduce resource requirements in the selected districts, it was recommended that CARE develop a phase-in strategy for new districts during FY 2004 and FY 2005. This strategy will be restricted to those districts that were prioritized under the original proposal but could not be accommodated due to resource constraints.
 3. Given that the activity was approved at a reduced resource level, CARE needs to insure that the amount of MCHN rations programmed is sufficient to cover 100% of families with children under 2 in their selected districts. CARE needs to prioritize districts where they are implementing their community-based health and nutrition centers.
 4. Enhancing women's survival: CARE is assisting districts' plans to deal with obstetric emergencies and include them in each district's annual strategic plan.

Nicaragua

- During this quarter, FANTA recruited a Food Security Specialist for a one-year in-country assignment to help promote improved family nutrition, focusing on maternal/child health and achieve significant development results in agriculture through the monetization of food combined with Hurricane Mitch food for work activities. The Food Security Specialist will provide technical guidance to the Mission to assure that these activities are integrated into the Mission's Special Objective and that the implementing entities have the technical ability and orientation to manage immediate impact activities and to design and implement longer-term development initiatives.

INTERMEDIATE RESULT NO. 2
USAID, HOST COUNTRY GOVERNMENTS, AND COOPERATING SPONSORS
ESTABLISH IMPROVED, INTEGRATED NUTRITION AND FOOD SECURITY-RELATED
STRATEGIES AND POLICIES

GLOBAL

Support G/PHN and USAID initiatives

- **HIV/AIDS Guide on Care and Support for HIV/AIDS Affected Families:** The first draft of this guide was circulated among FANTA and SARA staff for review and comments. The revised guide will be field tested in Malawi in the next quarter.
- **Women's Nutrition:** FANTA attended the final meeting of MotherCare project. The recommendations from this meeting are applicable to Title II programs. Other recommendations for strengthening the maternal health and nutrition component of FANTA related programming include:
 1. Develop a fact sheet about the importance of maternal health and the role of PVOs in reducing maternal mortality, nutrition, health and disability.
 2. Work with Title II programs to help establish systems for monitoring obstetric emergency cases and use community resources to transport women into emergency care.
 3. PVOs could distribute iron tablets for women (including pregnant women) along with food supplementation and work with local workers (e.g. TBAs) and community leaders who distribute food in protocols for iron. PVO headquarters can work with the Ministry of Health, other donors and the private sector to ensure adequate supplies.
 4. Assist the Ministry of Health in identifying and training birth attendants so they can teach danger sign recognition and link women with the formal health care system.
 5. Expand programs to focus not only on prenatal care but postpartum care using food supplementation to lactating women as the entry point for iron tablets.
 6. Reach adolescents through food for education programs with iron supplementation and other interventions.

Health and Nutrition in Emergencies

- Finalized a scope of work for the development of specifications for an emergency ration bar (ERB) to be used by USAID in emergency situations prior to the arrival of food aid. The bar will be a versatile product that can be stored and will meet daily requirements for micro and macronutrients for up to 30 days. In addition, these specifications will be used by the USDA for procurement purposes.

- Reviewed draft of the Commodities Reference Guide and forwarded comments to BHR for incorporation in the final draft. FANTA will be involved with further review prior to the December 12, 2000 USAID web site launch.

Child Survival

- A meeting was held among Cooperating Agencies receiving funds from the Office of Private and Voluntary Cooperation (PVC) at BHR to discuss collaboration and support efforts to strengthen PVOs conducting child survival activities, especially as many of these partners implement both child survival and food security activities.

The Office of Private and Voluntary Cooperation funds over 80 agreements in 32 countries at US\$65 million annually. The Child Survival Technical Services (CSTS with MACRO, Inc.) contract is the basic technical resource working closely with the CORE PVO consortium. FANTA will continue to work with the PVC-supported projects to ensure a shared understanding of activities and synergy among the projects. The five Global Bureau collaborating agencies represented by the PVC support are:

1. The Quality Assurance Project (QAP)
2. The Rational Pharmaceutical Management Program (RPM)
3. The Environmental Health Project (EHP)
4. The Food and Nutrition Technical Assistance Project (FANTA)
5. The Change Project (CHANGE)

USAID MISSIONS

Greater Horn of Africa Initiative (GHAI)

- FANTA is awaiting feedback on a series of proposals submitted to the Regional USAID office in Nairobi (REDSO). A number of activities were proposed: targeting emergency rations, information/networking on HIV/AIDS nutrition care and support, and monitoring and evaluation. FANTA will coordinate with AED's LINKAGES to ensure complementarity and efficient use of resources.

PRIVATE VOLUNTARY ORGANIZATIONS (PVOs)

Title II PVOs and Headquarters

- FANTA has retained the services of a sampling expert to provide ongoing technical advice and feedback to PVO staff on issues related to program evaluation, specifically on sampling issues. Already PVOs have used this service to improve the sample frames of final evaluations and to ensure consistency with baseline sample frames.

INTERMEDIATE RESULT NO. 3
BEST PRACTICES AND ACCEPTABLE STANDARDS IN NUTRITION AND FOOD
SECURITY-RELATED POLICY AND PROGRAMMING ADOPTED BY USAID,
COOPERATING SPONSORS, AND OTHER KEY STAKEHOLDERS

TITLE II INDICATORS AND BEST PRACTICES GUIDES

Credit With Education

- FANTA staff reviewed and commented on the paper developed by Freedom From Hunger (FFH), under a subcontract between FFH and FANTA. The paper entitled, “The Case for Integrated Delivery of Group-based Microfinance Services and Health/Nutrition Behavior Change Education for Cost-effective Impact on Chronic Food Insecurity and Malnutrition”, makes a case for including credit with education in Title II programming and how it might enhance Title II program objectives. The provision of a credit option can be a strong motivator for behavior change and communication messages related to child feeding, general nutrition and health. FFH will present and discuss these paper at the November TAG meeting.
- In an effort to improve monitoring and evaluation tools, two proposals from FFH are currently being reviewed by FANTA. The first proposal aims at developing measurement tools and techniques for targeting, monitoring and evaluating the impact(s) of Credit With Education, necessary for improved food security and nutrition. This initiative gives priority to the development of practitioner-oriented techniques that are cost-effective while providing valid client-level information useful to managers in their efforts to improve the nutrition and food-security impacts of Credit With Education.

The second proposal focuses on work with a Title II PVO to strengthen their capacity in Credit With Education with technical support from FFH’s Practitioner Services Team. Under this task, FFH will provide training in the design and implementation of the Credit With Education components and in routine project monitoring.

Food for Education Indicators Guide

- Food For Education (FFE) is implemented using Title II food to primarily increase enrollment and school attendance in selected developing countries. Because of limited guidance on how to monitor and evaluate the impact of FFE on educational progress and achievement, FANTA is developing an indicators guide in collaboration with PVO partners and technical experts in the field. The draft is currently being revised and the guide will be published in early 2001.

AGRICULTURE/CONSUMPTION LINKAGES

- Based on previous work undertaken by FANTA, a technical brief was drafted with recommendations on increasing nutrition impacts (especially consumption) of agricultural

interventions. The brief, prepared for the Africa Bureau, Office of Sustainable Development, Agriculture Division, particularly for agriculture and health officers at the Mission level and PVO agriculture and health staff. The brief reflects USAID's interest in supporting and strengthening linkages between agriculture and nutrition. The recommendations from the brief will be presented at an international conference on food security and nutrition in October 2000 and at a meeting of USAID agriculture officers in Africa in November 2000.

CHILD ANTHROPOMETRY AND MORTALITY RISK

- Enhancing child survival has been a major health and development goal and has intensified in recent years, due in part to the emphasis on performance-based management and evaluation strategies. Indicators of nutritional status of populations are of interest for two reasons: 1) there is a broad recognition of the powerful impact that malnutrition can have on child mortality as a result of its potentiating effects on infectious disease with roughly half of all child deaths attributable to this effect; and 2) information on changes in population nutrition status may be more readily available and at more frequent intervals than demographic indicators.

The objective of this research will be to use available national and sub-national data on malnutrition and child mortality to provide an alternative approach for estimating changes in child mortality as a function of change in malnutrition. FANTA subcontractor, Cornell University completed the first phase, which included a national-level analysis (cross-sectional and longitudinal) and assembled the sub-national data set. The analysis of the sub-national data (cross-sectional and longitudinal) is currently underway. A report on the analyses will be completed next quarter.

FOOD AID AND FOOD SECURITY ASSESSMENT (FAFSA)

- The Office of FFP has asked FANTA to assess the success of Title II non-emergency PVO activities in achieving and reporting on the food security goals laid out in USAID's 1995 Food Aid and Food Security Policy paper and to identify promising practices for future activities. The results of the assessment will help inform future Program Operational Guidelines and negotiations and will contribute to the discussions for the FY2002 Farm Bill, the governing legislation for PL480 Title II food aid.

Additionally, a health and nutrition consultant was hired to assist the core FANTA team to achieve the goal of this initiative, which is to generate results that will inform operational guidance and political discussions. The specific activities focused by the consultant, include substantive/research and report quality/team management. In addition, the consultant will assist FANTA in MCHN sector activities.

HOUSEHOLD FOOD SECURITY MEASUREMENT TOOL (HFSMT)

- This activity is designed to adapt and validate the USDA Household Food Security and Hunger Assessment Tool for use in a developing country and to test its usefulness as an outcome

indicator for evaluating the access component of food security in food and nutrition program evaluations.

FANTA's Subcontractor, Tufts University, visited Bangladesh to meet with potential collaborators for the second field validation site for the HFSMT. World Vision/Bangladesh was identified as a local operational partner along with another potential collaborator (CARE-Bangladesh), and other organizations who wish to be involved in the research (WFP, BRAC, IFPRI, and others). This field effort will assist World Vision (and possibly CARE) in designing and implementing their own surveys, while conducting additional survey modules for the validation research. Cornell University will continue the implementation of the HFSMT validation study with Africare in Burkina Faso.

METHODOLOGY TO MEASURE AND QUANTIFY CARE

- FANTA has asked the International Food Policy Research Institute (IFPRI) to conduct a data analysis using a case study carried out by IFPRI in Accra, Ghana to measure the importance of care as a determinant of nutritional status. This analysis will also help identify the constraints to good care practices in this setting and key practices that could be targeted by nutrition education and behavior change interventions to improve care in this population. The work will begin on October 2000 and will be completed on December 31, 2000.

TRAINING/WORKSHOPS

Data Analysis Workshop

- In response to PVO requests and working with FAM, FANTA is providing technical input into a data analysis workshop. FANTA held several meetings with FAM in preparation for the November workshop in Nairobi, Kenya. An invitation for up to two participants per organization was sent to the FAM membership.

FANTA hired two consultants to assist in the development and implementation of the technical aspects of handling agricultural and nutrition evaluation data for the workshop. The consultants will also design the annotated command file for creating the average yield gap indicator in SPSS and Epi-Info. The materials from the workshop will be available for future uses and will be accessible from FANTA's website.

Food Aid Managers Workshop

- Materials were prepared for presentations on needs assessments, monitoring and evaluation and indicator use for both emergency and development programs. FANTA presented lectures on needs assessment, monitoring and evaluation and indicator use for emergency and development programs to 32 USAID and PVO participants at the annual Food Aid Managers Course. A lively discussion on food security, reporting requirements and technical challenges in monitoring and evaluation was encouraged and received. The presentation, Food Security Indicators: Focus on Agricultural Productivity and Household Nutrition, was judged to be particularly applicable

to the participants' job requirements, and helped generate interest in accessing FANTA support by several field Mission participants. Of particular interest to FANTA was the interest expressed by the Food for Peace Officer from Mozambique. Follow-up discussions have been held with Mozambique on the range of areas where FANTA could work with the Mission on strengthening food security and nutrition programming.

HIV/AIDS

- A draft of the nutrition guide on HIV/AIDS care and support was completed. After an internal review by FANTA and AED's SARA project the guide will be field-tested with CRS in Malawi during the next quarter. The guide is organized into six modules:
 1. Nutrition and HIV/AIDS: the basic facts
 2. Coping with HIV/AIDS in the household
 3. Managing symptoms in adults living with HIV/AIDS
 4. Nutritional issues with traditional and modern medicines
 5. Special nutritional and care recommendations for children
 6. Selecting an appropriate food basket for the household or institution.

The final guide will be available in early 2001.

- A draft workplan was submitted to the Synergy project. FANTA's activities will focus on field testing and disseminating the HIV/AIDS guide for nutrition care and support of HIV-affected households and reviewing the monitoring and evaluation approaches as part of the use of food for HIV/AIDS affected families as part of the Title II LIFE Initiative.

NETWORKING

African Journal of Food and Nutritional Sciences

- FANTA is providing support to the Rural Outreach Program (ROP) in Kenya to produce and disseminate two semi-annual issues of the *African Journal of Food and Nutritional Sciences*. The Rural Outreach Program (ROP) is a non-profit organization established in 1992 to undertake development activities aimed at improving the livelihoods of the rural poor in Africa. ROP is currently implementing activities related to food insecurity in rural communities, water sanitation, health, income generation, and women's economic empowerment. The AJFNS is intended as a top-notch journal on food and nutrition issues in Africa to enable dissemination and sharing of information and as a forum on food and nutrition issues that affect Africa's development. The journal will tap both social science and biochemical food and nutrition related research and information and will target and serve the African research community working towards solving food and nutrition deficiencies in the African continent. FANTA is joined in this initiative by other international institutions and individuals that have provided funding for the successful implementation of this activity. Under this agreement, the ROP will produce and disseminate the first two issues of the journal due in April and October 2001.

Quality Care Center, Kampala, Uganda

- Met with Director of the Quality of Care Center, Kampala, Uganda. The center is putting together an information strategy and possible collaboration with FANTA and the GHAI on HIV/AIDS and nutrition care and support was discussed.

INFORMATION DISSEMINATION

- Two articles were submitted to Food Aid Management's Food Forum on Monitoring Progress of Title II Emergency Food Aid and the West Africa Monitoring and Evaluation Workshop.
- Copies of the HIV/AIDS and food security technical briefs were distributed to the World Food Program in Rome.
- During this quarter, FANTA staff responded to 39 information requests. There were 79 new names/organizations added to the mailing list (total: 711). The FANTA reference database was expanded by 50 documents and now includes 496 entries. In addition, 332 FANTA publications were distributed during this quarter.
- The redesigned FANTA website was launched last quarter and the number of visitors continues to increase. During this quarter, there were more than 1700 users averaging 11 minutes per user session. This suggests that they are finding information with nearly 500 of them visiting the site more than once. A large number of the users (423) are downloading FANTA publications.

TAG MEETING

- On July 19, FANTA held its quarterly meeting with members of its advisory group and 31 participants attended. Discussions focused on FANTA's progress to date in the six priority areas and activities for the next 6 months. The next TAG meeting is scheduled for November 8, 2000.