

PD-ABU-148

FOOD AND  
NUTRITION  
TECHNICAL  
ASSISTANCE

**QUARTERLY PROGRAM REPORT**

**PROJECT YEAR 3**

**APRIL 1 – JUNE 30, 2001**

**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
DIP	Detailed Implementation Plan (Child Survival)
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
EP	Emergency Program (as in FFP/EP)
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)
PVC	Private Voluntary Cooperation
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
SWOT	Strengths, Weaknesses, Opportunities and Threats
TAP	Transitional Activity Proposal
VAM/EWS	Vulnerability Assessment and Mapping/Early Warning System
WFP	World Food Program
WHO	World Health Organization
WV	WorldVision

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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 FANTA during the third quarter of the third year, from April 1 to June 30, 2001. The Quarterly Highlights section describes some activities and results for the quarter and is followed by a summary of ongoing activities grouped by Intermediate Results (IR). Much of FANTA's work is ongoing and results will be highlighted in future reports.

## QUARTERLY HIGHLIGHTS AND RESULTS

### **Strengthening PVO Programs: Technical Reviews of Title II Proposals**

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During this quarter, FANTA reviewed forty proposed and ongoing Title II development programs—just over half the Food For Peace portfolio. The reviews focused on program design and monitoring and evaluation plan to address issues identified in the food security problem analysis. FANTA provided written reviews and participated in Washington-based review meetings for Title II Development Activity Proposals (DAPS) and for on-going programs (CSR4). What made the current process different from other years is that there was more FANTA involvement at earlier stages of the proposal process: concept papers, draft versions of proposals (in some cases, multiple draft). Because of this, many of the FANTA recommendations were incorporated into the final proposals and in a number of cases led to higher overall scores in the review and were more likely to be approved and funded.

### **Promoting Dialogue on Technical Issues: ACC/SCN Meeting on Adult Malnutrition**

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In July 2000 the SCN published “Assessment of Nutritional Status in Emergency Populations-Adults”, which described simple techniques suitable for the assessment of the nutritional status of emergency-affected populations. During famine-relief operations workers are increasingly recognizing and treating severe adult under-nutrition. However, there have been few studies to investigate the problems associated with screening and treating severely undernourished adults during famine and consequently, little guidance is available to field workers.

As follow up to this report, FANTA provided support to the ACC/SCN Working Group on Emergencies to host a one-day meeting at the Annual SCN Conference in Nairobi, Kenya. The meeting that took place in April 2001, presented, discussed and disseminated recommendations to an audience from the international nutrition community and the East Africa region. Practical steps were identified to improve practice in the assessment of adult malnutrition. This meeting produced a report “Assessment of Adult Under-nutrition In Emergencies” available from FANTA at [www.fantaproject.org/emergencies](http://www.fantaproject.org/emergencies). The report summarizes key practical recommendations for assessment of adults and an account of the practical outputs of the working groups.

### **Improving Policies and Programming: Non-Fat Dried Milk (NFDM)**

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During the 1980s, Non-Fat Dry Milk (NFDM), Instant Corn Soy Milk (ICSM), Corn Soy Milk (CSM), and Wheat Soy Milk (WSM) vitamin/mineral enriched blended food commodities were procured by the U.S. Government and were used widely in P.L. 480 programs. By the early-1990s, however, these products were discontinued for export. In February 2001, the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) announced the availability of more than 300,000 metric tons of NFDM available for immediate P.L.480 programming use. Following this, the BHR/FFP appointed a special Task Force to explore the feasibility and viability of NFDM for ongoing and proposed Title II programs.

FANTA is a member of the Task Force looking at integrating the new Corn Soy Milk (CSM) products into the Commodity Reference Guide. The Task Force is chaired by the Office of Food

for Peace (FFP) and includes representatives from the Global Bureau, FFP-Emergency Programs and Program, Policy, and Management (PPM). The Task Force looked at a number of key issues including:

- a) Distribution of the NFDM, monetization and shelf life and quality of the NFDM;
- b) Compliance with the international code of marketing of breast-milk substitutes; and
- c) Ensuring that policies and guidelines support USAID's efforts to improve maternal child health/nutrition.

In addition, FANTA and AED's LINKAGES Project are assisting in the development of guidelines on the use of NFDM in therapeutic feeding programs. The products are slated to become available in September 2001.

### **Agriculture, Consumption & Nutrition Linkages**

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FANTA staff met with CRS/Ghana and USAID/Mozambique to discuss options for improving nutritional outcomes of agricultural interventions based on the recommendations from the strategy and program brief and the Addis Ababa Workshop held in 2000. The USAID Mission in Mozambique disseminated the workshop handouts to all PVOs working in Mozambique—which were all submitting new proposals—with nutrition components attached to their on-going agricultural interventions. In October-November 2001, the Mission plans to undertake a joint Mission-PVO study to determine the reasons of high incidences of malnutrition despite Mozambique's good economic performance and to identify the most appropriate nutrition components to be incorporated into on-going agricultural activities. FANTA is providing technical assistance to the Mission in this effort.

### **Food for Education (FFE)**

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**Food for Education Indicators Measurement Guide:** This guide was developed last year to assist PVOs monitor and evaluate the impact of Food for Education (FFE) programs on educational progress and educational achievement. The guide was developed with active stakeholder participation and will be published during the next quarter. Drafts of the guide have already been shared with a number of PVOs. CRS/India included three indicators recommended in the Guide in the Title II development proposal's monitoring and evaluation plan. CRS expects to improve the monitoring and evaluation component of its program, which will provide assistance to 307,200 school children annually.

### **Advocacy for Women's Nutrition: Improving the PROFILES Model**

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FANTA began work on the modeling of the nutritional determinants of maternal mortality and disability. The first phase focused on the search for applicable coefficients and determining the feasibility of these models. The results were a literature review and an outline of suggested models based on the findings. The second phase will focus on upgrading the PROFILES model to include:

- a) A productivity component related to anemia;
- b) A revision of the PROFILES anemia and mortality model based on newer coefficients;
- c) The development of a model that relates night-blindness and mortality; and
- d) The exploration of the nutritional determinants of chronic disease risk, including the long-term effects of fetal malnutrition.

## 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

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#### DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMS

The majority of PVOs programs focus on aspects of improving maternal child health/nutrition. FANTA works on a range of activities in this area from applied research to technical assistance to sharing lessons learned.

#### Strengthening PVO Programs/Title II Technical Reviews

As part of its efforts to strengthen and improve Title II programs, FANTA reviews Title II development program proposals. During the last quarter, FANTA reviewed forty proposed and ongoing Title II development programs— just over half the Food For Peace portfolio. This review focused on program design and monitoring and evaluation plan to address issues identified in the food security problem analysis. FANTA participated in Washington-based review meetings for Title II Development Activity Proposals (DAPS) and for on-going programs (CSR4). What made this process different than past reviews is that there was more FANTA involvement at earlier stages of the process: concept papers, proposal drafts (in some cases, multiple draft versions). Following is a summary chart of all the programs reviewed.

Program	Country	PVO
Concept Paper for New Activity (Description of a new program)	Ethiopia	REST
	Mozambique	ADRA
	Mozambique	CARE
	Mozambique	FHI
	Mozambique	Africare
	Mozambique	Save the Children
	Mozambique	WVI
CSR4 (Annual report of Title II program including results and resource information)	Bangladesh	WVI
	Benin	CRS
	Burkina Faso	CRS
	Gambia	CRS
	Ghana	OICI
	Guinea	ADRA
	Guinea	OIC
	Honduras	CARE
	Indonesia	WVI
	Kenya	CRS
	Liberia	CRS
	Madagascar	ADRA
	Madagascar	CRS

	Malawi	CRS
	Mali	Africare
	Rwanda	CRS
	Rwanda	WVI
	Uganda	WVI
	West Africa	WVI/Winrock
	Peru	CRS
	Uganda	TNS
Development Activity Proposals (DAPs) (Proposal submitted by PVO for Title II activity- once approved it becomes the program)	Burkina Faso	CRS
	Ghana	CRS
	Ghana	CBO
	India	CARE
	India	CRS
	Mozambique	Save the Children
	Mozambique	FHI
	Mozambique	CARE
	Mozambique	WVI
	Senegambia	CRS
	Uganda	CRS
	West Africa	ACDI/VOCA
	R2 (Result Report) (The annual report of activity results)	Ghana
Ghana		ADRA
Guatemala		SHARE
Mozambique		ADRA
Mozambique		Africare
Mozambique		CARE
Mozambique		FHI
Mozambique		Save the Children
Mozambique		WVI
Resource Request (The annual request for resources by a Title II program)	Mauritania	WVI

### Improving Programming on the Use of Non-Fat Dried Milk (NFDM)

During the 1980s, Non-Fat Dry Milk (NFDM), Instant Corn Soy Milk (ICSM), Corn Soy Milk (CSM), and Wheat Soy Milk (WSM) vitamin/mineral enriched blended food commodities were procured by the U.S. Government and were used widely in P.L. 480 programs. By the early-1990s, however, these products were discontinued for export due to limited availability of NFDM, and rising price supports. In February 2001, USDA announced the availability of more than 300,000 metric tons of NFDM for immediate P.L. 480 use. Following this, the BHR/FFP appointed a special Task Force to explore the feasibility and viability of NFDM for Title II programs.

FANTA is part of the Task Force looking at integrating the new Corn Soy Milk (CSM) products into the Commodity Reference Guide. The Task Force is chaired by FFP and includes

representatives from the Global Bureau, FFP-Emergency Programs and Program, Policy, and Management (PPM). The Task Force looked at a number of key issues including:

- a) Distribution of the NFDM, monetization and shelf life and quality of the NFDM;
- b) Compliance with the international code of marketing of breast-milk substitutes; and
- c) Ensuring that policies and guidelines support USAID's efforts to improve maternal child health/nutrition.

In addition, FANTA and AED's LINKAGES Project are assisting in the development of guidelines on the use of NFDM in therapeutic feeding programs. The products are slated to become available in September 2001.

### **Institutional Support Agreements (ISA) Monitoring and Evaluation (M&E) Plans**

Throughout Project Year 3, FANTA has been helping ISA recipients and USAID strengthen their ability to report on and demonstrate the results of investments in institutional strengthening and improved capacity. ISAs are granted to PVOs by the BHR/FFP to support technical initiatives in food security and nutrition at their headquarters. There are currently 14 recipients representing a wide range of PVOs engaged in development and emergency programming. Twelve of the grantees are undertaking mid-term reviews of their programs and two are conducting final evaluations. FANTA provided technical assistance to review these programs was credited as important in changing aspects of their ISA.

One of the topics covered by FANTA at the May 2000 Title II Monitoring and Evaluation Workshop in Bamako, Mali was how to improve the quality of mid-term evaluations by strengthening the task TORs (Terms of Reference). FANTA's decision to focus the workshop on this topic was based on extensive evidence that the quality and detail included in a TOR was probably the single most important variable associated with the quality and policy impact of the resulting exercise. Based on the workshop recommendations, Africare developed a series of TORs for various project activities. Following is an example:

Six activities for TOR preparation were pilot tested during late 2000 and early 2001 including: (a) two pre-evaluation missions that were designed to strengthen the Title II Mali Program's capacity to measure community food security and community capacity; (b) a pre-evaluation mission that was designed to help the Mali team critically examine the technical options for its agricultural program; (c and d) the mid term evaluation missions for Mali and Chad; and (e) a pre-evaluation "supervision mission" of the title II Burkina Project. In contrast to many of the earlier mid-term evaluation and pre-evaluation activities of the Title II Africare programs, all six of the resulting documents and recommendations stemming from them were considered to pass both USAID and Africare requirements upon their first initial submission. All six were also considered to offer significant project impacts in terms of helping to re-orient project activities and /or to improve project capacity for monitoring and evaluation.

Other ISA activities undertaken by FANTA with partners included:

**Counterpart:** FANTA reviewed Counterpart extension proposal and held a preliminary meeting to discuss revision, refinement of activities.

**Local Capacity Building Working Group:** FANTA met with the FAM Local Capacity Building Working Group (LCBWG) to discuss plans to assess M&E indicators of capacity-building among Title II programs and possible tools and methodologies for measuring the indicators. In addition, the group designed a plan to identify gaps in existing indicators and develop recommendations for improved monitoring and evaluation of capacity building.

**World Vision:** FANTA responded to the mid-term evaluator's request for proposals' scores across available years, compared with global averages, and whether their proposals met FFP/SO2 criteria (75% of the indicators had averages of three or better on a four-point scale). Data shows some progression over time in terms of quality of World Vision's proposal preparation—note that FANTA did not provide score sheets to the CS, but rather averaged scores for each indicator of the proposal review. This methodology may be useful to other ISA recipients, but is definitely useful for FANTA reporting in pinpointing improvements resulting from technical assistance.

**CRS and Save the Children:** met with the mid-term evaluators to provide an overview of quality progress on their proposals and ISA contributions.

**Africare:** FANTA worked on follow-up to the two ISA-funded monitoring and evaluations workshops in March 2001.

**Food Aid Management (FAM):** FANTA met with FAM to discuss their mid-term evaluation and suggested revisions included upgrading analysis, correcting information, linking evaluation more closely with results framework and elaborating recommendations.

**USAID/Food For Peace:** FANTA met with FFP about the current status of the ISA portfolio and proposed actions for remaining of the fiscal year and for the rest of the grant cycle, which might lead to some decision about whether or not there is a follow-up to the current ISA grants.

## EMERGENCY PROGRAMS

**Emergency Ration Bar (ERB):** USAID has begun the first phase of developing a ready-to-eat compact food. The food will provide essential nutrients and will help prevent the onset of nutritional deficiencies and ameliorate outbreaks of epidemic illness. FANTA has been providing technical assistance to USAID on the specifications for this bar and prepared two documents with the specifications for the committee at the National Academy of Sciences (NAS).

During this quarter FANTA continued to provide technical support to the National Academy of Sciences (NAS) committee on the ERB. FANTA, FFP-EP, OFDA and USDA made presentations to the committee at the NAS meeting on the ERB. The NAS committee will issue the final report in August 2001 and a subsequent report review process will take place. One important outcome from this meeting was an interest in having the final product field tested for acceptability and functionality.

**ACC/SCN Session on Adult Malnutrition— Annual SCN Conference, Nairobi, Kenya:** The ACC/SCN mandate includes raising awareness of nutrition issues and mobilizing commitments at the global, regional and national levels to help solve them; refining the direction, increase the scale and strengthen the coherence and impact of actions against malnutrition; and promoting cooperation among UN agencies and other partners in support of local efforts to end malnutrition. In July 2000 the SCN published the “Assessment of Nutritional Status in Emergency Populations-Adults”, which described simple techniques suitable for the assessment of the nutritional status of emergency-affected populations. During famine-relief operations workers are increasingly recognizing and treating severe adult under-nutrition. However, there have been few studies to investigate the problems associated with screening and treating severely undernourished adults during famine and consequently, little guidance is available to field workers.

As follow up to this report, FANTA provided supported the ACC/SCN Working Group on Emergencies to host a one-day meeting at the Annual SCN Conference in Nairobi, Kenya. The meeting, that took place in April 2001, presented, discussed and disseminated recommendations to an audience from the international nutrition community and the East Africa region. Steps were identified to improve practice in the assessment of adult malnutrition. This meeting produced a report "Assessment of Adult Under-nutrition in Emergencies", summarizes key practical recommendations for assessment of adults and an account of the practical outputs of the working groups. The report is available from FANTA at [www.fantaproject.org/emergencies](http://www.fantaproject.org/emergencies).

**Emergency Task Force:** FANTA met with the Emergency Task Force experts on Community Therapeutic Feeding (CTC). CTC focuses on managing malnutrition in the community, taking aspects of the Hearth model and adapting it to the emergency context. Preliminary studies have demonstrated the possible variability of this approach not only for bringing down mortality, but also supporting the community and local infrastructure. This is in contrast to typical feeding programs, which are often ill conceived, poorly managed and costly, both in resources and to the community. FANTA will continue to look at possible avenues to support this endeavor.

**Protocols for Therapeutic and Supplementary Feeding Programs:** FANTA supported a review to assess how the standardized protocols and reporting tools established in Burundi are being maintained and adopted by organizations and if this model could be replicated in other countries. The national protocols currently being implemented in Burundi and Angola have been cited as examples of effective coordination mechanisms for overcoming the persistent problem of lack of qualified staff, high staff turnover and the need for standard guidelines. The systems in Burundi and Angola seek to triangulate data from food security assessments, nutrition surveys and feeding centers in order to obtain the full picture and make informed decisions. Based on the field review, FANTA prepared a draft summary of the key points from the report to assess the suitability of the model for replication in other complex humanitarian emergencies.

**Assessment on Pellagra Deficiency in Angola:** Pellagra is a dietary-deficiency disease resulting from inadequate intake or absorption of niacin, which is one of the components of the vitamin B complex. Reports of pellagra have been a recurrent concern for public health and emergency in the Kuito area of the Bie Province in Angola.

At the request of USAID/FFP, FANTA is conducting a review on the Pellagra situation in Angola to provide an understanding of the existence, determinants and recommendations for appropriate interventions to address this disease, based on the situation in the Kuito area. The field review will

be conducted in July 2001 to fit with mission priorities and an epidemiological survey conducted by Medecins sans Frontieres (Belgium) in the region. The fieldwork will focus on reviewing historical data on Pellagra in the Bie province; analyzing trends including changes in percentage of reported cases; and examining possible explanations or related factors such as the existence of a seasonal cycle. The review will be based on available health and nutrition reports/surveys and should be conducted through interviews with displaced persons in Kuito, and health personnel who are cognizant of the problem in the province. The field review will also identify the most vulnerable populations and assess the nutritional and other relevant factors causing or contributing to the deficiency. Based on this assessment, FANTA will recommend food aid, medical and other interventions, including the best use of donated and local foods to address the problem. A final report on the study is expected to be available in September 2001.

**Impact Assessment of Drought Emergency Response in Kenya:** The WFP emergency operation (EMOP) in Kenya has targeted 3.3 million people in 22 districts. The EMOPs also provided school lunches to over one million primary and pre-primary students under its expanded school-feeding program (ESFP) component. An assessment of the impact of the current EMOP is needed before WFP and donors approve any additional food aid after June 2001.

In response to a request from USAID, FANTA will participate as part of a multi-disciplinary, multi-donor team that will assess the impact of WFP drought response emergency operation (EMOP) in Kenya. Because the EMOP covers a large population and geographic area and use new food aid methods, the results of the impact assessment may be used to inform future food aid activities in Kenya. During this quarter, the team began a four-week field assessment.

## **TECHNICAL SUPPORT TO CSS AND USAID MISSIONS**

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### **DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMS**

Throughout Project Year 3, FANTA has been providing technical assistance to PVOs and USAID Missions on Title II programs and related nutrition, food security and monitoring and evaluation activities.

**ADRA, OICI, Technoserve/Ghana:** FANTA provided on-site technical advice to these Title II PVOs on monitoring and evaluation and commercialization issues.

**SHARE/Guatemala:** FANTA reviewed materials and provided comments on the sample size, sampling frame and survey methodology for their upcoming baseline survey.

**Africare/Guinea:** FANTA facilitated a discussion about their baseline survey.

**CRS/Uganda:** FANTA provided technical assistance on the development of their Development Activity Proposal (DAP), specifically on an emergency/transition strategy.

**ADRA, Africare, CARE, FHI, Save the Children, World Vision in Madagascar, and USAID/Maputo:** FANTA provided technical assistance on monitoring and evaluation, agricultural research interventions, gender and commercialization. FANTA helped draft a scope of work for a

study on causes of malnutrition and discuss opportunities for direct distribution and value-added commodity in the Title II program in Mozambique. The study will be conducted in the first quarter of Project Year 4. The rationale and steps for better coordination of indicators among PVOs were also discussed. FANTA will participate via e-mail in the working group proposing and managing this process, as well as review the scope of work for the final evaluations for all six Title II Development Activity Proposals (DAPs).

**CARE, CRS, Save the Children and World Vision/Haiti:** FANTA provided technical assistance to the four Title II PVOs in designing their Development Activities Proposals (DAPs) and refining their M&E systems, so they are closely integrated together and with the future USAID Mission indicators.

**PVOs/Ethiopia:** FANTA provided technical assistance to the eight Title II PVOs in streamlining the design of their next Development Activities Proposals (DAPs) to better integrate nutrition activities and to fine tune their M&E systems so they are compatible with one another.

**CRS/Nicaragua:** In response to FANTA's comments on a draft of CRS 5-year Title II development proposal, CRS incorporated the following activity in the final proposal: "Project technicians will work with the traditional birth attendants, community health volunteers and the community board to develop a plan for emergency transport of pregnant women."

**CARE Headquarters:** FANTA provided technical assistance to CARE on community oriented health programming. CARE is seeking to move Title II programs away from a food-oriented MCH approach to a community approach. Resources were provided as requested on community health approaches and Community Health Worker (CHW) incentives.

**Africare/Chad:** FANTA provided input on sampling design for Africare's evaluation. Changes were suggested in the approach used to determine sample size and selection of sample clusters to ensure a sample of sufficient size for reliable estimates and to avoid the need for unnecessarily complicated weighting of data during the analysis.

## EMERGENCY PROGRAMS

During this quarter, FANTA continued to support various USAID and PVO working groups in revising and updating nutrition and food security related guidance for Title II emergency programming and for USAID's internal reporting reflected in the Results Report and Resource Request (R4) submissions. During Project Year 3, FANTA has been assisting USAID and PVOs in the development of guidelines for programs that bridge emergency and development programming. Short-term development activities are an emerging area of programming for Title II activities.

**USAID/Addis Ababa:** FANTA initiated discussions with the Mission on the possible adaptation of the sentinel site surveillance system to better monitor the onset of emergencies.

**USAID/Port-au-Prince:** FANTA met with USAID, the four Title II PVOs and the Conseil National de la Securite Alimentaire (CNSA) about the establishment of an Early Warning System to prevent famines and acute malnutrition problems, which have been on the rise in Haiti in recent months.

## PRIORITY-COUNTRY ACTIVITIES

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### Ethiopia

The large Title II Program in Ethiopia (valued at approximately US\$41 million in FY99, representing 41% of the Mission's portfolio) is implemented by eight PVOs and covers a variety of food security program interventions. In addition, the Mission has a development assistance portfolio focused on maternal and child health and HIV/AIDS.

During this quarter, FANTA provided technical assistance to PVOs and the USAID Mission on the final evaluation of the Title II portfolio. Specific recommendations were made in terms of survey design, instruments to be used, staff training, data entry and validation and report preparation. Also, FANTA developed a set of guidelines to help PVOs prepare for the final evaluation of their individual Title II programs, above and beyond the Special Objective (SPO) survey. In addition, FANTA provided written recommendations to the Mission about the integration of the Title II programs and the various strategic objectives at the Mission level. FANTA also provided input on the scope of work prepared by the PVOs and their Concept Notes for the upcoming Development Activity Proposals (DAPs).

### Madagascar

The Title II program in Madagascar (approximately \$7.4 million in FY99) is implemented by ADRA, CARE and CRS. Their activities cover interventions in agriculture, maternal and child health, water and sanitation, disaster preparedness and mitigation, and other child feeding/humanitarian assistance. FANTA's support during Project Year 3 has focused on assisting the USAID Mission in developing a Food Security Strategy, which will be the keystone of the new ISP. This strategy will reflect the current food security situation in Madagascar and provide explicit opportunities for integrating Mission resources to address nutrition and food security. FANTA has also been assisting other USAID partners in the areas of food security, nutrition programming, and information exchange for in-country partners.

**Food Security Situation Analysis:** Madagascar is currently one of the world's poorest nations. Throughout the years several attempts have been made to reduce poverty and food insecurity. Recent initiatives have been proposed to address urgent social problems but the scarce local resources imply that support for many of those actions will depend upon the international community. Originally, FANTA was requested to assist the USAID Mission in revising its Food Security Strategy. However, USAID later decided that this document should be a food security situation analysis, which provided FANTA more latitude in making recommendations and could be shared with other USAID missions. During this quarter, FANTA incorporated the Mission's final comments on the Food Security Situation Analysis. This tool stands as a good example of how a food security analysis can help in designing appropriate responses in the field. As such, the document is a showcase for this particular type of product. Other USAID missions who wish to improve the effectiveness of their food security interventions, may commission such analysis in the future.

## India

India has the largest program (valued approximately \$97 million in 1999) in the Title II development portfolio. The Title II programs implemented by CARE and CRS support maternal and child health and nutrition (MCHN) activities. During Project Year 3, FANTA continues to provide support in the review of the scope of work for the final evaluations of CARE and CRS development programs. In addition, FANTA provides technical assistance to the USAID Mission in incorporating women's nutrition programming and strengthening Vitamin A activities.

**"Population and Health in India: Key Findings from the 1998-99 National Family Health Survey":** During this quarter, FANTA attended a presentation by ORC Macro on "Population and Health in India: Key Findings from the 1998-99 National Family Health Survey". Funded by USAID through the MEASURE DHS+ project, the survey covered 900,000 ever-married women between the ages of 15-49 in 26 states of India. Among the results relevant to FANTA's work were high rates of malnutrition (36% adults BMI<18.5) and non-optimal breastfeeding practices (16% within one hour of birth and 37% within one day), despite improvements since the last NFHS survey in 1992-93. Complete survey results and information on obtaining survey data were obtained for use in FANTA's work providing technical assistance to food security programs in India.

**"Enhancing Child Survival Impact of PL480 Program in India":** FANTA distributed the report "Enhancing Child Survival Impact of PL480 Program in India" to USAID/Washington, USAID/New Delhi and PVOs. The report is based on a field review, document review and meetings with stakeholders conducted by a team from USAID/Washington and Mission offices, CARE, CRS, FANTA and MOST. If implemented, the report's recommendations for community-based interventions to improve immunization and vitamin A coverage, neonatal mortality reduction, and infant feeding practices are expected to improve the Title II program's child survival impact.

**CRS/India:** The Food for Education component of the CRS/India FY2002-2006 Title II program used recommendations from the FANTA Food for Education Indicator Guide. (The Guide will be published during the fourth quarter). Three indicators recommended in the Guide have been included in the monitoring and evaluation plan of their new Development Activity Proposal (DAP). CRS expects to improve the monitoring and evaluation of this program, which will provide assistance to 307,200 school children annually.

## Guatemala

Guatemala's Title II program (funded at approximately \$18 million in 2000) is made up of a range of food security activities, including agriculture, water and sanitation, maternal and child health (MCHN) as well as some institutional child feeding interventions. In 2000, USAID/Guatemala requested that FANTA provide technical assistance in improving health and nutrition practices in the Title II program and support the Mission's Strategic Objective of "Increased Rural Household Income and Food Security". During Project Year 3, FANTA has been providing technical assistance to MCHN programs to improve family health and nutrition, especially in the area of behavior change and complementary feeding. FANTA also collaborated with the Mission's Local Income Generation Activities (AGIL) project in the development of monitoring and evaluation systems for Title II PVOs to report on achievement of Mission objectives. The Title II PVOs are CARE, CRS, Save the Children and SHARE.

During this quarter, FANTA met with a USAID/Guatemala FFP representative to discuss the current status of FANTA's technical assistance to the Mission and allocation of additional field support funds to complete work in progress. The current field support funds to FANTA are nearly exhausted yet there is a clear interest for continued field support on the child feeding strategy and other technical areas to Title II programs. The areas discussed include FANTA's current technical assistance in strengthening the behavior change communication components of Title II MCHN programs and continued support to the Mission's Title II program, especially MCHN programming and M&E improvements. While awaiting word from USAID regarding additional field support funds, FANTA is drafting a workplan and strategy for improving maternal/child health and nutrition practices for USAID/Guatemala's Title II program. FANTA is also developing an outline for a short publication documenting the efforts on strengthening behavior change communication in MCHN activities in Guatemala.

## Haiti

FANTA's technical assistance to the USAID Mission in Haiti initially supported the review of food aid programs; however, this role has evolved into additional technical assistance on food aid and food security portfolio. In 1999 the Mission allocated field support funds for FANTA to participate in the mid-term evaluation of its Title II programs and for the preparation of the final evaluation of the Title II portfolio. FANTA will continue to play a key role as the Mission and partners design the next phase of the Enhancing Food Security (EFS) Program 2002-06. This program will build upon the advances made under the previous program and will feature an increased integration between the Mission's SO team activities and the corresponding Title II program activities.

During this quarter, FANTA attended in-country reviews of four new Development Activity Proposals (DAPs) for CRS, CARE, Save the Children and World Vision International. The four proposals integrated, to varying degree, the key recommendations from the recently submitted final evaluation of the EFS-II program, in which FANTA played a key role. Among the key implementation activities, the following recommendations stand out as critical improvements in program design:

- 1) Stand alone school feeding programs will be replaced by FFE programs, with substantial input of private resources to fund the non-food aspect of educational reform;
- 2) MCHN programs will add preventive intervention to their supplementary feeding component, rather than concentrate only on recuperation of malnourished children; and
- 3) Substantial progress will also be made in the area of targeting food aid, by using preventive supplementation for the groups most at risk (children between 6 and 24 months).

Finally, it was agreed that a study will be undertaken to compare the effectiveness of universal targeting of children under two years of age versus the targeted feeding of malnourished children between 6 and 59 months. FANTA will provide technical assistance for this study, which will begin at the same time the initial baseline is conducted by WVI for its DAP activities. In preparation for this study, FANTA prepared a concept note, which has received strong support from USAID/Haiti, USAID/G/PHN and WV/Haiti. Consultations are under way to finalize the design of the study and the role of the various institutions involved. The results of this study will be used by G/PHN in designing future nutrition program interventions.

## Honduras

FANTA has been providing technical assistance in program design, and monitoring and evaluation to CARE Honduras' Title II program since 1995, with funding from USAID/Tegucigalpa. CARE/Honduras will start implementing a follow-on Title II program valued at approximately \$5.1 million a year, focusing on expanding coverage of their integrated activities in agricultural productivity, health and nutrition, rural infrastructure development and local government strengthening. The Mission has allocated field support resources for FANTA to continue its support for both the evaluation of CARE's current Title II program and the baseline and evaluation strategy for the follow-on program.

During this quarter, FANTA provided on-site technical assistance to CARE/Honduras to analyze the results of their final evaluation, write the final evaluation report, and meet with the local firm (ADAI) doing the data analysis for the evaluation. FANTA activities included:

- 1) Review status of data entry. ADAI is on target in terms of the status of data entry. All questionnaires have been entered and the process of data cleaning is underway;
- 2) Review and revise the draft report table formats developed by ADAI based on the tabulation plan previously developed. The definition and calculation of several variables were clarified, and the format of the tables was standardized.
- 3) A draft report outline and a framework for final evaluation of CARE's FY1996-2000 Development Activity Proposal (DAP) were developed.

Another visit to Honduras is planned for the next quarter to review the economic and agricultural data analysis with ADAI and the CARE.

## INTERMEDIATE RESULT No. 2

### USAID, HOST COUNTRY GOVERNMENTS, AND COOPERATING SPONSORS ESTABLISH IMPROVED, INTEGRATED NUTRITION AND FOOD SECURITY-RELATED STRATEGIES AND POLICIES

#### SUPPORT G/PHN AND USAID INITIATIVES

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#### WOMEN'S NUTRITION STRATEGY DEVELOPMENT

A number of USAID projects and partners are carrying out activities to improve women's nutritional status. As an USAID-general nutrition project, FANTA is taking the lead in coordinating these efforts, encouraging increased collaboration and bringing promising practices and program options to the widest possible audience. Efforts are focused on two complementary approaches to improve women's nutrition: advocacy and program strengthening. Improving advocacy for women's nutrition will concentrate on the development of new data-based models that can be presented to audiences such as USAID, its Missions and national-level policy-makers. Program strengthening will be done through a number of activities that will provide information and technical assistance on better practices for FANTA's partners and PVOs. Some of the activities carried out by FANTA this quarter that will lead to meeting these objectives included:

- 1) Finalized the memoranda detailing the scope of work, timeframe and deliverables for the first and second phase of the modeling of the nutritional determinants of maternal mortality and disability. The first phase focused on the search for applicable coefficients and determining the feasibility of these models. The results were a literature review and an outline of suggested models based on these findings. The second phase will concentrate on: a) upgrading the PROFILES model to include a productivity model related to anemia; b) revising the PROFILES anemia and mortality model based on newer coefficients; c) developing a model that relates night-blindness and mortality; and d) exploring the nutritional determinants of chronic disease risk, including the long-term effects of fetal malnutrition.
- 2) Organized and participated in a working meeting on Evaluating Indicators for Women's Nutrition. The objective of the meeting was to provide guidance to the MEASURE Evaluation Project on updating the Women's Nutrition section of the Compendium of Indicators for Evaluating Reproductive Health Programs. FANTA will be reviewing the introduction to the section and the indicators before the work is submitted for internal and external review.
- 3) Presented on Women's Nutrition and the life-cycle approach and FANTA's proposal for increasing the focus on Women's Nutrition. The presentations drew extensively from the review of the literature and program experience in women's and adolescent girls' nutrition that was completed last year by FANTA. The audience included FANTA staff and CTO and the AED Senior Vice-President and Director of Nutrition and Population. These presentations will be given to the USAID SO2 team and FANTA's Technical Advisory Group next quarter.

- 4) Met with JHPIEGO/Maternal & Neonatal Health Project (MNH) in Baltimore to present an overview of the FANTA project, learn about the MNH project, discuss Women's Nutrition, and identify potential areas for collaboration. Concrete areas of overlapping interest were identified. MNH is interested in several of the Women's Nutrition initiatives, including the Women's Nutrition and Food Security Package and the model on the nutritional determinants of maternal mortality and disability. MNH also agreed to support a presenter to the West African Nutrition Focal Points meeting in Ghana focusing on the consequences of malaria during pregnancy. (See below)
- 5) Began preparation for the 6<sup>th</sup> annual West African Nutrition Focal Points Meeting (ANFPM). The conference will take place in Ghana in September 2001 and will focus on "Maternal and Adolescent Nutrition". The audience will include the nutrition heads of the 15 Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS) countries and representatives from observer countries from other regions of the continent, NGOs, USAID, donors and the private sector. As part of the planning process, FANTA met with the international planning committee in June in Ghana. Participation in this meeting resulted specifically in the decision to include summaries of country-level activities related to Women's Nutrition in each Focal Point report; the use of a standardized format for collecting this information; the addition to the program agenda of an update on the new PROFILES models on maternal nutrition; and a presentation on "The Nutritional Consequences of Malaria during Pregnancy".
- 6) Provided comments and guidance on the Population Reference Bureau Maternal Nutrition Policy Brief that is being drafted by AED's LINKAGES project. The brief focuses on the impact of nutrition throughout the lifecycle on birth outcomes, maternal morbidity and mortality and cost-effective interventions. FANTA will continue to review and comment on this paper as it progresses.
- 7) FANTA has been examining the opportunities for promoting a Women's Nutrition and Child Survival agenda in a priority country. India may be a potential priority country because of FANTA's established relationship with the Title II PVOs, the Mission's interest and the extent of the unmet need. FANTA attended a presentation on LINKAGES' work to date in India and met with LINKAGES India Project Coordinator to discuss details of the MCHN work to learn more about LINKAGES formative research and the performance of the PVOs in this area. A concept paper will be developed outlining FANTA's recommendations and options in India.

## NUTRITION POLICIES, PROGRAMS AND INITIATIVES

**BHR Private Voluntary Cooperation (PVC):** There is significant complementarity between FANTA objectives and stakeholders and the objectives of PVC's Child Survival Grants Program. Under a Memorandum of Understanding with PVC, FANTA reviewed and provided extensive comments on the Detailed Implementation Plans (DIP) for Child Survival grants awarded in 2000 and attended several DIP review meetings with PVC and PVOs. FANTA reviewed several projects with large nutrition components including ADRA/Haiti, Aga Khan Foundation/Tajikistan and CARE/Peru. In addition, FANTA has been asked by the Aga Khan Foundation to assist in revising their child survival strategy for Tajikistan.

## FOOD AID AND FOOD SECURITY POLICY AND PROGRAMS ASSESSMENT (FAFSA)

Throughout Project Year 3, FANTA has been conducting an assessment of the success of Title II Development Programs activities in achieving and reporting the food security goals of the Food Aid and Food Security Policy Paper (FAFSPP). The assessment looks at achievements by sector and explores the factors that have influenced the outcomes. The assessment also includes a review of result reports, evaluations and the development of country-based case studies, and will culminate in a high-level review meeting to raise the profile of this important resource. During this quarter, FANTA:

- 1) Conducted field visits to Benin, Ghana and Mozambique. The objective of these field visits was to add depth to the assessment and provide an opportunity for the FAFSA team to interact with Title II partners working in the field. The team provided feedback to the Missions and PVO field staff and detailed trip reports were prepared.
- 2) Reviewed mid-term and final evaluations, as well as yearly reports from PVOs engaged in Food for Education (FFE) programs in the field focusing on their performance, extract lessons learned and highlight promising practices for the FFE component of FAFSA.
- 3) Hired a Micro-Enterprise/Micro-Finance expert to review the 1997 FAFSPP and FAFSA scope of work to frame the micro-enterprise/micro-finance section of the report. In addition, the Micro-Enterprise/Micro-Finance expert will identify key factors of the success and failure of micro-enterprise/micro-finance activities; review existing FFP programs that support the development of micro-enterprise/micro-finance; identify successful practices in micro-enterprise/micro-finance with relevance to the Title II program; and provide recommendations for the FAFSA final report with regards to the appropriate role and implementation of micro-enterprise/micro-finance interventions within the Title II program.
- 4) The FAFSA team is currently drafting the report and a submission and comment schedule has been developed. The final report will be submitted in time for distribution at the FFP conference in November 2001.

## SUPPORT USAID MISSIONS AND REGIONAL OFFICES

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### GREATER HORN OF AFRICA INITIATIVE (GHAI)

Since Project Year 2, FANTA has been working with the support of REDSO/ESA in the GHAI Priority Area 3, "Improve Maternal and Child Nutritional Status in Emergency and Refugee Situations". The GHAI activity is captured by REDSO/ESA's Strategic Objective 7, "Enhance Regional Capacity to Improve Health Systems". FANTA is collaborating with three African organizations: Center for African Family Studies (CAFS); Regional Center for Quality of Health Care (Uganda); and Kenya Coalition for Action in Nutrition (KCAN).

During the third quarter, FANTA:

- 1) Continued supporting activities with Nutrition Coalitions in Kenya, Uganda, and Tanzania and with regional partners. Based on the concept paper prepared by FANTA, the Nutrition

Coalitions will develop proposals for technical assistance from FANTA to work on nutritional care and support of HIV/AIDS-affected persons and on women's nutrition. Regional partners will be assisting the work on emergency nutrition in the region. FANTA will facilitate proposal development by the Coalitions and partners and the planning and initial implementation of activities. FANTA's support of the Nutrition Coalitions is expected to lead to improved local capacity to improve the status of nutritionally vulnerable population groups in the region, such as those affected by HIV/AIDS.

FANTA also developed a scope of work to participate in the Strategic Planning meeting of the Kenya Coalition for Action in Nutrition (KCAN), the Nutrition Coalition in Kenya. At the meeting FANTA's technical mandate to KCAN will be presented, areas in which KCAN proposes to work with FANTA's technical assistance will be identified, and concrete steps and plans will be taken toward early preparation of proposals for this technical assistance.

Finally, FANTA met with AED's SARA/SANA and Linkages to discuss the Nutrition Coalitions and develop next steps for joint activities. FANTA will send a concept paper to additional members of the Coalitions.

- 2) Reviewed a concept paper from the Tanzania's National Nutrition Consultative Group (NNCG) and Tanzania Food and Nutrition Center (TFNC), which describe areas in which support from FANTA, LINKAGES and the Center for African Family Studies (CAFS) is being requested. FANTA's support was requested to prepare and disseminate guidelines for nutritional care and support of PLWHAs. These activities would be coordinated with a possible regional workshop supported by REDSO/ESA on development of national guidelines for nutritional care and support. Feedback and suggestions were provided to NNCG and TFNC for further development of the proposal. FANTA's assistance to NNCG in this process helps support development of the coalition and advance nutrition activities in Tanzania.

### **Regional Workshop: HIV/AIDS Nutritional Care and Support**

FANTA met with HIV/AIDS Senior Technical Advisor at REDSO/ESA on current and planned HIV/AIDS activities and discussed areas for possible FANTA assistance to regional partners. FANTA discussed the regional workshop proposed in Uganda by the Regional Center for Quality of Health Care (RCQHC). RCQHC, a REDSO/ESA partner, is requesting FANTA's technical support and REDSO/ESA's financial support for the workshop. The workshop will focus on the adaptation of nutritional care and support guidelines to the specific needs and situations of countries in the region. A number of steps for the workshop were identified and shared with REDSO/ESA. The workshop would be a critical first step in the development of national guidelines for the nutritional care and support of people affected by HIV/AIDS. FANTA's Guide on Nutrition, Care and Support will be a key technical document for the workshop and could be used in the development of national guidelines. The workshop will help build capacity in the region for nutritional care and support.

CREDIT WITH EDUCATION (CWE) PROGRAM ADVOCACY AND M&E MEASUREMENT GUIDE

Throughout Project Year 3, FANTA has been collaborating with subcontractor, Freedom From Hunger (FFH), to support the dissemination of the Credit with Education approach, which combines the incentive of credit provision for women with health and nutrition components. Among the key messages targeted to women borrowers are breastfeeding, infant and child feeding, diarrhea management, HIV/AIDS and business practices. FANTA is distributing a paper developed with FFH “ The Case for Credit with Education: A Promising Title II Microfinance Strategy”. In addition to Title II programs, this approach is relevant for other nutrition and child survival programs.

FANTA is also working with FFH on the development of a series of monitoring and evaluation tools for CWE based on fieldwork in ongoing CWE programs. A number of program monitoring and evaluation tools are being reviewed including Lot Quality Assurance Approaches (LQUAS). FFH is planning a meeting next quarter to explore the potential of LQUAS to strengthen program monitoring and estimating point prevalence for key impact evaluation indicators.

During this quarter, FANTA provided comments on a draft of the background paper for the LQAS workshop scheduled for next quarter. FANTA also participated in a conference call with FFH and the LQAS expert to discuss the objectives of the workshop and revisions to the background paper.

### 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

##### INDICATORS GUIDES AND PROMISING PRACTICE SERIES

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FANTA developed a number of guides on key technical issues related to Food Security and Nutrition. Current guides in the series include: Agricultural Productivity Indicators Measurement Guide; Food Security Indicators and Framework For Use In the Monitoring and Evaluation of Food Aid Programs; Infant and Child Feeding Indicators Measurement Guide; Measuring Household Food Consumption: A Technical Guide; Sampling Guide; and Water and Sanitation Indicators Measurement Guide.

**Anthropometric Indicators Measurement Guide:** This guide provides information on the Anthropometric impact indicators and the annual monitoring indicators for Maternal and Child Health /Child Survival (MCH/CS) and income related activities. The focus of the guide is on the collection and reporting of indicators to improve program management and document progress towards the achievement of results. The guide will be published during the fourth quarter.

**Food for Education Indicators Measurement Guide:** This guide was developed to monitor and evaluate the impact of Food for Education (FFE) programs on educational progress and educational achievement. During this quarter, FANTA completed the final revisions of the guide and was shared and discussed at the recent ACC/SCN meeting in Nairobi, Kenya. The guide will be published during the fourth quarter.

**Data Pathways Guide:** This guide will focus on basic monitoring and evaluation (M&E) concepts, USAID's guidance for PVO reporting and suggest options for PVOs on strengthening M&E systems in the field. During this quarter, a first draft of Section 1, Conceptual Framework and Definitions, was completed and commented on.

**Sampling Guide:** This guide for PVOs on the basics of sampling is the most frequently requested FANTA document. Based on requests from PVOS, FANTA translated this guide into French and Spanish and will be available in both print and electronic versions. All participants at the West Africa Monitoring and Evaluation Workshop in September 2001 in West Africa will receive a copy.

**HIV/AIDS: A Guide for Nutrition, Care and Support:** This guide was developed for PVOs and community organizations and field-tested in Malawi and Uganda. The guide is intended to help program managers make recommendations on food management and nutritional issues for HIV/AIDS-affected households. The information focuses on dietary and care practices for adults and also provides suggestions for all household and community members coping with the infection. The guide was completed during this quarter and will be published during the fourth quarter.

**Strengthening Health and Nutrition Programs: Focusing on Children under Two:** Increasingly, there is a consensus to revise the age focus of children in maternal child health/nutrition (MCHN) programs when the main development objective is growth of the child. The proposed shift is from targeting malnourished children under the age of five to including all

children under the age of two in communities with high prevalence rates of malnutrition and food insecurity. FANTA has prepared a paper that presents the scientific and programmatic arguments for focusing on children under two. During this quarter the draft was commented by other FANTA staff and will be revised and shared with USAID and PVO partners for further comments during the fourth quarter.

#### INCORPORATE VITAMIN A INTO FOOD SECURITY PROGRAMMING

USAID considers improved Vitamin A status a major priority over the next five to ten years. Worldwide more than 100 million young children and many of their mothers are vitamin A deficient, increasing the severity of common illnesses and the risk of death by 25 to 30 percent. Title II blended food already contains vitamin A and all refined vegetable oil distributed through Title II is fortified with vitamin A. FANTA will enter into a collaborative agreement with Helen Keller International (HKI) to develop publications to complement activities undertaken by other USAID projects. The documents will provide guidance to strengthen vitamin A programming in PVO community-based projects and focus on improving the utilization of nutrients contained in fortified Title II commodities.

During this quarter, FANTA met with HKI to discuss the development of a Vitamin A Better Practices Programming Guide. The target audience for the guide will be PVO program managers, especially those using Title II commodities in their development programs. The guide will address Vitamin A deficiencies and the best use of Title II food commodities and other approaches to control Vitamin A deficiencies. Sections of the guide will cover assessment/situation analysis of Vitamin A status, types of interventions, Vitamin A requirements, causes of deficiency and approaches and guidelines to address Vitamin A deficiency using local/donated foods.

#### IMPROVE AGRICULTURE/CONSUMPTION/NUTRITION LINKAGES

During Project Year 3, FANTA has been working with the Africa Bureau Office of Sustainable Development (AFR/SD) to raise awareness, identify priority Missions and provide technical support to implement the recommendations for maximizing consumption and nutrition impacts of agricultural interventions presented in the FANTA strategy and program brief. The brief is aimed at USAID mission agricultural officers and other staff.

- 1) During this quarter, FANTA staff met with CRS/Ghana and USAID/Mozambique to discuss options for improving nutritional outcomes of agricultural interventions based on the recommendations from the strategy and program brief and the workshop on agricultural policy, resource access and human nutrition in Addis Ababa. The USAID Mission in Mozambique disseminated the workshop FANTA policy brief "Improving the Nutrition Impacts of Agriculture Interventions" to all PVOs in Mozambique, which were all submitting new proposals with nutrition components in their on-going Title II agricultural interventions. In the first quarter of Project Year 4, the Mission plans to undertake a joint study with PVOs to understand the determinants of the high prevalence of malnutrition in Mozambique despite the country's improving economic performance and identify the most

appropriate nutrition components to incorporate into on-going food security activities. FANTA is providing technical assistance to the Mission in this effort.

- 2) FANTA also participated in the Partnership to Cut Hunger in Africa Conference in June 2001 and commented and provided suggestions on strengthening the linkages between agriculture/hunger/poverty alleviation and measurable impacts on nutrition.
- 3) FANTA reviewed the Uganda Food Security Assessment and participated in a follow-up meeting on Agriculture/Nutrition/Consumption linkages at USAID/Washington.
- 4) FANTA has held discussions among the project nutrition staff to share ideas for the Agriculture/Nutrition/Consumption presentation at USAID. Additional recommendations will be developed for integrating nutrition and agriculture with particular emphasis on the Title II Development Activity Proposals (DAPs) and maternal health. The group proposed developing a set of targeted briefs (e.g. agriculture's contribution on improved maternal health and role of agriculture in HIV/AIDS mitigation) to be shared with FANTA's partners.
- 5) FANTA participated in an inter-agency stakeholder' workshop hosted by ICRW/IFPRI to discuss mechanisms for strengthening agriculture, nutrition and gender linkages.
- 6) FANTA participated in discussions with the USAID Mission in Ethiopia on the integration of nutrition in agricultural projects and a closer collaboration between the activities of PVOs and those of the Mission Strategic Objective teams in those areas.

#### **OTHER HIV/AIDS ACTIVITIES**

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**HIV/AIDS Care and Support Working Group:** FANTA is a member of the USAID/AFR/SD HIV/AIDS Care and Support Working Group to develop a long-term US strategy for care and support and assist USAID Missions to enable the start-up of care and support programs. To date food and nutrition issues have been absent in discussions surrounding care and support and FANTA is playing an important role to help integrate food and nutrition issues into the USAID strategies, developing appropriate indicators and determining policy for the missions.

**Horizons Research:** FANTA provided technical input to the Horizons' study on the impact of two interventions for orphans and vulnerable children. The Horizons project is an USAID-funded cooperative agreement for operations research on HIV/AIDS care and prevention programs managed by the Population Council. FANTA's input was requested on appropriate indicators, different ways of grouping foods to measure various dimensions of diversity, dietary quality and economic status. FANTA also provided guidance on how to collect and compare the indicators at the household level and at the individual child level.

**Use Of Food to Strengthen Household and Community Response:** FANTA provided an update of the project's work for the Semi-Annual Report for USAID under G/PHN's SSO4 ("increased use of improved, effective and sustainable responses to reduce HIV transmission and to mitigate the impact of the HIV epidemic"). FANTA's achievements included:

- 1) Development and field-testing of a guide for nutritional care and support of people living with HIV/AIDS and their families;
- 2) Technical assistance to a Title II LIFE program in its M&E indicators; and
- 3) Support to Missions, PVOs, and other organizations in the integration of food security interventions into programs addressing the HIV/AIDS pandemic.

The World Food Program (WFP), WorldVision (WV) and American Red Cross (ARC) reported using FANTA's document, "Potential Uses of Food Aid to Support HIV/AIDS Mitigation Activities in Sub-Saharan Africa". Information was used for program design and policy development. To date, 230 copies of the document have been distributed to PVOs, institutions, and individuals working in food aid and/or HIV/AIDS mitigation. The PVO responses indicate that the document is being used in the design of program approaches.

## MEASURING IMPROVED HOUSEHOLD ACCESS TO FOOD

### **Dietary Diversity**

FANTA attended IFPRI's presentation on preliminary findings of their work conducted under a FANTA/IFPRI agreement on Dietary Diversity as a Food Security Indicator at a seminar. FANTA support for this activity is part of a series of efforts to develop or validate cost effective user-friendly measures of food security.

Using data sets from Mexico, Egypt, Mozambique, India, Bangladesh and the Philippines and a variety of measures of association, the preliminary findings show a well measured, positive, statistically significant connection between dietary diversity and household per capita expenditures. In every sample, there is a positive, statistically significant association between dietary diversity and household per capita daily caloric availability from non-staples.

The seminar participants provided input and suggestions to IFPRI, recommending greater emphasis on use and interpretation of results, grouping food groups, and going beyond simple caloric food adequacy. As a result of the seminar and a subsequent meeting with FANTA, additional analysis and refinements were proposed. IFPRI will broaden the analyses undertaken on data sets from the six countries and will include the analysis of data from four additional countries (Ghana, Kenya, Malawi and Mali) in the final report. In addition to using a common caloric requirement for all countries, the final analyses will use country-specific caloric requirements and will be repeated using "number of food groups" in addition to "number of unique foods".

### **Household Food Security Measurement Tool (HFSMT)**

FANTA subcontractors Cornell and Tufts University are adapting and validating the U.S. Department of Agriculture Household Food Security and Hunger Assessment tool for use in a developing country. The work will test the usefulness of the tool as an outcome indicator for evaluating change in the access component of food security in program evaluations. Field validation studies are underway in Burkina Faso (Cornell University collaborating with Africare) and Bangladesh (Tufts University working jointly with World Vision). During this quarter, FANTA

provided comments to Cornell University on the second draft of "Development and Results of a Questionnaire-Based Tool to Measure the Food Security of Production Units in Zondoma for Africare's Baseline Survey". The report will be finalized and submitted to FANTA as part of the subcontract next quarter.

## TRAINING/WORKSHOPS

FANTA prepared a presentation and background document for graduate students in international health at Johns Hopkins University. The document entitled "Food Aid: Issues and Applications", focuses on U.S. food assistance program, applications of food aid to emergency and sustainable development activities and to HIV/AIDS.

FANTA is participating in the planning process and providing technical assistance for the CORE/FAM Nutrition Works Workshop to be held in Virginia in September 2001. FANTA will manage a workshop session on anthropometry.

## INFORMATION AND DISSEMINATION

- 1) FANTA met with representatives of International Health Organization (IHO), an U.S.-based NGO working in Bihar, India, to discuss their health, sanitation, and income generation activities and possible collaboration. FANTA also provided information about the project's role and activities.
- 2) The background piece on "Building household food-security measurement tools from the ground up", developed by Cornell University as the first deliverable under FANTA's Household Food Security Measurement Tool field validation activity, was published in the Food and Nutrition Bulletin, Volume 22, Number 1, March 2001.
- 3) FANTA participated and presented information about the project at the CORE group's annual meeting. FANTA used this opportunity to further define the technical support that the project could provide in the joint CORE/FAM Nutrition Works workshop in September 2001. The CORE group is made up of several PVO-led working groups on Behavior Change and Communication (BCC), nutrition, Integrated Management of Childhood Illness (IMCI), malaria, management, M&E, Reproductive Health/Safe Motherhood (RH/SM) and a new HIV/AIDS working group.
- 4) FANTA prepared an article on Credit With Education for the Food Aid Management's Food Forum.

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