

SARA II QUARTERLY PROGRESS REPORT
January 1 – March 31, 2000

This report covers the second quarter of FY 2000, namely, the period January 1 through March 31, 2000. It follows the initial SARA work plan (February 2000 version) for the period September 30, 1999 – September 30, 2000.

As was the case for SARA I, SARA II is a service project. As such, it is responsive to the Africa region's needs, and USAID and REDSO requests channeled through AFR/SD/HRD, so additional activities may gain priority from time to time as discussed in the Work Plan.

Activities as found in the work plan are listed in bold.

SO 6: Adopt policies and strategies for increased sustainability, efficiency and equity of basic education services

1. Assist the AFR/SD SO 6 team

- **Participate in SO 6 core team meetings;**
- **Assist in the development of the analytic agenda;**
- **Assist team in R4 and other M&E activities;**
- **Assist team with dissemination and advocacy strategies.**

Expected Outputs:

- Weekly team meetings attended
- Analytic agenda revised
- Results packages updated
- Dissemination and advocacy strategies plan for each activity

Progress toward outputs, problems encountered, proposed solutions:

Participation in the AFR/SD SO 6 weekly meetings has been on-going. Dr. Yolande Miller-Grandvaux, SARA Basic Education Advisor, has also participated in several SD activities during this quarter, namely:

- # finalization of the analytic agenda and monitoring of USAID missions responses to the agenda
- # development of SD SO 6 R4 throughout the quarter
- # monthly dissemination and publication meetings in collaboration with ABIC, TMG and ABEL projects to update and forward the SD publication agenda as well as to develop document-specific strategy editing of SD program overview

2. Support ERNWACA in the areas of;

- **Research**
 - **Review and publish national research studies with committee**
 - **Support national chapters in the development of grants research**
- **Advocacy and dissemination:**
 - **Disseminate national reports;**
 - **Conduct advocacy workshop for Anglophone chapters;**
 - **Disseminate information on ERNWACA**
- **Leadership**
 - **Develop fundraising capacity for leadership, advocacy and research**
 - **Assist in establishing scientific committee**
 - **Assist in establishing board of directors.**

Expected Outputs:

- Review committee established
- Research studies produced and disseminated
- Small grant research projects conducted
- Findings available to policy-makers and researchers
- Ghana, Gambia chapters trained in advocacy
- Information disseminated to ed. Networks and universities
- Coordinator recruited
- Funds raised by chapters
- Additional donors mobilized
- Scientific committee in place
- Bd. Of Directors in place

Progress toward outputs, problems encountered, proposed solutions:

ERNWACA's transnational studies were reviewed and finalized over the course of the quarter. SARA identified the format of the final product, which will be a book published in French and English. A synthesis of the report will also be written and included in the book. All ERNWACA chapters are looking forward to the publication of their studies. In spite of Yolande Miller-Grandvaux's persistence, the recruitment of the ERNWACA coordinator was stalled for a few months due to the political nature of the search. The process should resume next quarter following discussions with the ERNWACA administrator, IDRC and SARA.

Additionally, the advocacy training workshop for anglophone chapters is currently being organized and is scheduled to take place in Ghana in early June. Collaboration with the local Ghana FAWE chapter is also underway.

3. Support ADEA working group

- **Participate in ADEA teacher working group meetings**

Expected Outputs:

- Report on proceedings

Progress toward outputs, problems encountered, proposed solutions:

No activity this quarter.

4. Explore partnerships with US universities and donor organizations

- **Participate in CIES, AS, EFA conferences, etc.**

Expected Outputs:

- Contacts established

Progress toward outputs, problems encountered, proposed solutions:

Fruitful contacts were established with several US universities and potential partnership activities were discussed with each of them. They include Indiana University's Education and Leadership School, University of Pittsburgh, and George Mason University.

Two out of three contacts were made during the CIES conference in March 2000 in San Antonio, Texas. Discussions focussed on current capacity of universities to conduct research in Africa in specific areas of interest. For instance, the University of Pittsburgh has strong experience in issues of education in countries in crisis and George Mason in Information Technology and distance learning. Indiana University has long-standing experience in gender studies and policy research. These new partnerships will be operationalized as relevant research activities are conducted.

5. Share experiences and lessons learned on FQL model

- **Organize and implement preliminary country teams meeting**
- **Assist in production of lessons learned paper and presentation**
- **Disseminate lessons learned to policy-makers and follow-up**

Expected Outputs:

- Preliminary multi-country meeting organized and implemented
- Lessons learned paper produced and disseminated
- Presentations made to policy makers

Progress toward outputs, problems encountered, proposed solutions:

This activity is currently on hold as it may be integrated into the AFR/SD analytic agenda, for which approval is still pending.

6. Provide knowledge and guidance on role and responsibilities of NGOs in education of part of the SD/Ed Analytic Agenda

- **Conduct research in selected countries on the new NGO role in basic education through small grants**
- **Disseminate to missions, policy-makers, NGOs**
- **Prepare for consultative meeting**

Expected Outputs:

- Research/issue identification paper produced
- Findings disseminated

Progress toward outputs, problems encountered, proposed solutions:

Preliminary work has been conducted for this crucial study, which will be conducted in collaboration with AFR/SD team members, as well as with African research networks. A data collection questionnaire was developed and used as a basis for the discussions that Yolande Miller-Grandvaux held with a couple of NGO representatives, the University of Warwick (UK) staff and ERNWACA/Mali. The study will be conducted in 3 African countries and will involve USAID missions, donors and NGOs. This activity awaits the final approval of the analytic agenda to be conducted.

7. Assist in Education in Countries in Crisis Project

- **Finalize draft proposal**
- **Proposal presented to SD/Ed**

Expected Outputs:

- TA provided to proposal

Progress toward outputs, problems encountered, proposed solutions:

The countries in crisis paper was finalized in January and February 2000. It was presented at the CIES conference in San Antonio, Texas, in February. It has already received input from various USAID and AED readers, which will allow the authors, Yolande Miller-Grandvaux, and Talaat Moreau, to strengthen the current document.

In addition, it is expected that the SD SO 6 team will develop a program strategy for education in countries in crisis in the coming month.

8. Gather resources and knowledge on youth through the Youth Think Tank (pending sustained existence of think tank)

- Assist SD to organize and convene meetings
- Assist SD to synthesize information
- Assist SD to disseminate information

Expected Outputs:

Meetings convened

Brief on youth development findings and effective practices produced & shared with USAID missions, esp Mali.

Progress toward outputs, problems encountered, proposed solutions:

The youth think tank did not meet during this quarter and may just be defunct. Yolande Miller-Grandvaux and the SO 6 team leader brainstormed possible strategies. As a result, issues of skills training for youth in basic education were identified as a focus for SO 6, which prompted an information-sharing meeting with a USAID/G staff member. Further meetings and discussions will be convened to identify potential areas of strategic interest.

9. Produce SARA impact assessment study

- Review and edit studies
- Develop dissemination plan
- Disseminate for advocacy

Expected Outputs:

- Impact studies printed, disseminated

Progress toward outputs, problems encountered, proposed solutions:

The education impact assessment studies were revised and transformed into reader-friendly one-page briefs through collaboration among SARA education, policy research and dissemination staff. The drafts were submitted to the SO 6 team for review and approval of proposed format. The briefings will be presented in a folder as separate topical sheets. This will be finalized and printed in the next quarter.

10. Assist SD in conducting health/education activities

- **Assist in development of impact assessment of HIV/AIDS on education**
- **Assist in development of school health activities**

Expected Outputs:

- Impact assessment proposal developed
- School health activities coordinated through SARA

Progress toward outputs, problems encountered, proposed solutions:

Micheline Nturu, SARA/SANA Nutritionist, collaborated with the CORE Group, Save the Children USA and AFR/SD in the preparation of a proposal to the World Bank for funding for a consultative meeting to engage PVOS in a forum to discuss priority School Health and Nutrition (School Health and Nutrition) interventions. This meeting was to be held in mid-April during the Child Health week at the World Bank.

However, Don Bundy of the World Bank decided that resources available for School Health and Nutrition activities would best be used in a different manner. He proposed to the CORE Group the idea of linking up with one or two NGOs in several focus countries to assist with implementation of SHN activities. Don Bundy of the World Bank is working with Joy del Rosso of Save the Children to implement this idea. Ms Nturu will continue to work with Joy and the CORE Group on SHN issues as well as help to identify specific areas in which SARA/SANA can support.

Ms Nturu also prepared, as part of the proposal to the World Bank, a one-page paper of the linkages between education, health and nutrition, and opportunities for the participation of PVOs in this arena.

No problems were encountered with this activity.

11. Assist AFR/SD in providing backstopping to Mali USAID mission

- **Follow-up education policy agenda**
- **Provide TA when needed**
- **Monitor activities on a regular basis**

Expected Outputs:

- Education portfolio updated and monitored
- TA provided

Progress toward outputs, problems encountered, proposed solutions:

Yolande Miller-Grandvaux maintains on-going contact with the USAID mission in Mali on a weekly and often daily basis. Backstopping activities have included sharing of information between SO 6 and the mission, identifying consultants when needed, sending research studies of interest to the mission in Bamako and providing technical guidance to the education results package manager. A visit to the mission is scheduled for April 2000.

Throughout January and February 2000, Dr. Miller-Grandvaux provided technical and strategic input to the evaluation of the World Education community school program in Mali. The design was developed in Boston during a two-day workshop at the World Education headquarters in February. It resulted in the launching of the evaluation study in March in Mali.

12. Assist AFR/SD in providing backstopping to Benin USAID mission

- **Assist in development of education portfolio**
- **Provide TA when needed**
- **Monitor activities on a regular basis**

Expected Outputs:

- Visits to, contacts with ERNESA, FAWE, BOLESWA completed or established

Progress toward outputs, problems encountered, proposed solutions:

Yolande Miller-Grandvaux maintains contact with the USAID mission in Benin on a monthly basis, and especially with the SD/Ed backstopping officer. She provides technical guidance when needed and, most recently, on a skills training for youth in Benin. She also monitors decentralization and FQL activities at the Ministry of Education in Benin.

13. Explore development of relationships with other African networks for the promotion of SD priority issues

Expected Outputs:

- Visits to, contacts with ERNESA, FAWE, BOLESWA completed or established

Progress toward outputs, problems encountered, proposed solutions:

Yolande Miller-Grandvaux organized a panel on African research networks with a SO 6 staff member at the CIES conference in March 2000. The panel brought together ERNWACA, ERNESA, FAWE and ADEA representatives as well as a researcher from Transkei University in South Africa. Following the conference, Dr. Miller-Grandvaux organized a study tour for the ERNWACA representative Ousmane Gueye (ROCARE/Senegal), ERNESA representative Lifeline Matsoso (ERNESA/Lesotho), and FAWE representative Vida Yeboah (FAWE/Ghana). The study tour included visits to several education policy organizations in the US, the US Department of Education, George Mason University, the African Policy Institute, the American Legislative Exchange, the Council for Basic Education, and a charter school in Washington, DC. They presented their networks to USAID/AFR/SD/ED staff and to AED staff during two brown bag lunches. The study tour provided an excellent opportunity for the 3 network members to learn about each other's networks, discuss common issues and propose solutions. They all identified the need to be part of the information technology revolution so that they may not be left behind developed countries again, and the need to receive training in fund raising, grant proposal writing and networking, web use training and advocacy. Such activities can be conducted for the networks with SARA funding.

With respect to technology, in meetings with SARA information dissemination staff, several ideas were discussed about developing the use of technology among these networks. In particular, the FAWE/Ghana participant indicated her willingness to pursue the idea of setting up an education listserv or some sort of electronic exchange among education researchers in Africa.

14. Disseminate knowledge and guidance on policies and practices

- **Develop and present papers at international education conferences: CIES, national summit for Africa, etc.**
- **Attend professional conferences (EFA, etc.)**

Expected Outputs:

- Papers accepted and presented
- Information packets shared

Progress toward outputs, problems encountered, proposed solutions:

Yolande Miller-Grandvaux organized two panels in collaboration with SO 6 team members at the CIES conference held in San Antonio, Texas, in March 2000. The first panel focussed on African research networks and brought together ERNWACA, ERNESA, FAWE and ADEA representatives, as well as a researcher from Transkei University in South Africa. The panel focused on the current achievements and issues faced by African networks and prompted further discussions on the status and use of networks on the international scene. The second panel was devoted to the presentation of the paper on education in countries in crisis. The panel generated much interest from the audience as all recognize the lack of coordination among donors and researchers on the issue that affects over 15 countries in Africa.

Dr. Miller-Grandvaux also organized an education panel at the National Summit on Africa held in Washington, DC, February 16-18, 2000. The panel brought together two senior African educators, Haklilu Habte and Wanjiru Kamuu, Julie Owen-Rea from USAID, Marcia Ellis from AED and Dr. Miller-Grandvaux. The organization of the panel required many interventions and was the subject of much debate for two months, involving all panelists and their institutions. The final product was undoubtedly successful. The presentation started with the showing of the video on the Ugandan experience and proceeded to debate issues of African identities and the role of US-based Africans in education. Over 100 SD and SARA education documents and publications were disseminated during the event.

SO 7: Adoption of policies and strategies for increased sustainability, quality, efficiency and equity of health services

Results Package: Household and Community Approaches to Child Health

1. Dissemination and use of French translation of WHO qualitative research manual

Expected Outputs:

- Manual used by training institutions / projects

Progress toward outputs, problems encountered, proposed solutions:

250 copies were sent to Patricia Huddleson at WHO to disseminate. The remainder are being distributed on request.

2. Dissemination and use of JHU description of qualitative research manuals

Expected Outputs:

- Manual used by research institutions / projects / individuals

Progress toward outputs, problems encountered, proposed solutions:

This document was finalized, printed and disseminated this quarter. The final version has been sent for translation and should be available in French in the last quarter.

3. Assistance to CERPOD and LSHTM for development of qualitative research capacity building in W. Africa, and sustainability

Expected Outputs:

- Technical Assistance provided

Progress toward outputs, problems encountered, proposed solutions:

Discussions were held this quarter with Sarah Castle, LSHTM, and Mamadou Konate of CERPOD. A consensus was reached that the basic curriculum for the qualitative research course should be developed in a workshop setting facilitated, if possible, by Gary Engleberg of ACI. Castle and Konate are to put together a proposal for this activity.

4. Facilitate the design and implementation of consultant training for household/community IMCI

Expected Outputs:

- TA for module development / revision
- Support for facilitation and / or participation in orientation meeting

Progress toward outputs, problems encountered, proposed solutions:

Mr. Bongwele has been hired by BASICS/Washington to work on a briefing package for community IMCI consultants. Work started in late March under the supervision of Dr. Sugunro of WHO/AFRO. Dr. Suzanne Prysor-Jones, SARA Project Director, has discussed the task by phone with Mr. Bongwele and suggested that he talk to Dr. Sogunro about meeting with the BASICS/Dakar regional team, as well as Dr. Musinde of WHO/AFRO/Abidjan.

5. Promote coordination between IMCI and Malaria

Expected Outputs:

- Participation in key meetings
- Linkages established

Progress toward outputs, problems encountered, proposed solutions:

JHU consultant Marc Debay worked with Hannah Searing of AFR/SD to develop indicators for monitoring and reporting on the malaria control and prevention activities funded under the AFR/SD grant. He also finalized the report.

6. Assist CHANGE with issues identification for household and community programs

Expected Outputs:

- Consultative meeting planned, implemented and followed up

Progress toward outputs, problems encountered, proposed solutions:

Consultative meeting held on February 25th, attended by 60+ from the Africa Bureau, Global Bureau and CAs. A topline report of the “voting” on the suggestions was disseminated less than a week later, March 2, to all attendees. The final meeting report is being finalized. Since the meeting, SARA, BASICS and CHANGE staff have been meeting to discuss next steps, which will be presented to the Africa Bureau in April.

7. Consultative meeting on social marketing projects with consultation on supplies at community level

Expected Outputs:

- Consultative meeting planned, implemented and followed up

Progress toward outputs, problems encountered, proposed solutions:

AFR/SD decided not to hold a large consultative meeting on this subject. SARA is helping to organize an informal half-day discussion, which will take place next quarter. Potential dates for this meeting are being discussed with participants.

8. Facilitate improvements in IEC/community approach training in West Africa

Expected Outputs:

- African institutions curriculum (IRSP, CERCOM, Public Health Schools, etc.) improved

Progress toward outputs, problems encountered, proposed solutions:

Suzanne Prysor-Jones held discussions with Hammouda Hanafi, Director of the UNFPA-funded AED initiative to improve IEC training in Africa. Mr. Hanafi is following up with BASICS and UNICEF regional staff in West Africa.

9. Promote appropriate costing of household and community programs

Expected Outputs:

- TA provided for review of literature and follow-up

Progress toward outputs, problems encountered, proposed solutions:

The Hugh Waters review of costing experiences is being published as an interagency working group project and is currently being printed. It should be ready for distribution for the CORE meeting on community programs in early May.

10. Participate in IAWG on household and community IMCI

Expected Outputs:

- AFR/SD priorities promoted
- AFR/SD feedback provided on issues

Progress toward outputs, problems encountered, proposed solutions:

Suzanne Prysor-Jones participated in the IAWG meeting at PAHO this quarter. Discussions centered around planning for the IAWG-sponsored global meeting on community IMCI to be held in Durban in late June.

11. Develop advocacy materials on community programs

Expected Outputs:

- Advocacy materials developed as required

Progress toward outputs, problems encountered, proposed solutions:

No activity this quarter.

12. Participate in WHO/AFRO, UNICEF, and/or BASICS meetings in Africa on household and community IMCI

Expected Outputs:

- Trip reports submitted
- AFR/SD priorities promoted
- AFR/SD feedback provided on issues

Progress toward outputs, problems encountered, proposed solutions:

No meetings were held this quarter.

13. Assist AFR/SD with issues identification, portfolio management, and evaluation

Expected Outputs:

- Core Group meetings organized
- M & E system functioning
- Results packages updated

Progress toward outputs, problems encountered, proposed solutions:

SARA staff assisted AFR/SD in the development of R4s for all SO 7 RPs, including this one. *M&E System:* See progress reported under Cross-cutting, item #1.

SO 7: Adoption of policies and strategies for increased sustainability, quality, efficiency and equity of health services

Results Package:

Provider Performance

1. Facilitate the dissemination and use of QI tools and methods:

- COPE for child health and other
- QA for IMCI
- Performance Improvement methods

Expected Outputs:

- Evaluation results reviewed and strategies for scaling up developed in coordination with AFRO UNICEF, BASICS, REDSO
- Strategies developed in coordination with URC, BASICS, AFRO, REDSO
- Strategies developed in coordination with INTRAH
- Meeting held at CESAG of all parties to discuss scaling up of QI in West Africa

Progress toward outputs, problems encountered, proposed solutions:

Suzanne Prysor-Jones has had several discussions with AVSC staff, as well as Dr. Sugunro and Musinde of WHO/AFRO, to strategize about ways to disseminate and scale up the use of COPE for child health. Attempts were made to organize a study tour for Drs. Musinde and Geslin (BASICS/Dakar) to visit the Guinea testing site. This has been postponed until next quarter when the group may be accompanied also by Laurence Codjia of CESAG. The possibility of COPE for child health being discussed and even visited by IMCI program managers during the WHO/AFRO IMCI meeting planned for Kenya in early June was discussed with Dr. Sugunro.

2. Participate in WHO meetings on IMCI components 1 and 2

Expected Outputs:

- Trip reports submitted
- AFR/SD priorities promoted
- AFR/SD feedback provided on AFRO issues

Progress toward outputs, problems encountered, proposed solutions:

Suzanne Prysor-Jones participated fully in meetings with Drs. Loco and Sugunro at AFR/SD. Discussions covered implementation strategies for IMCI and all components of IMCI.

3. Facilitate the development of a strategy to scale up IMCI, e.g., through the private sector

Expected Outputs:

- Strategies developed in coordination with BASICS, AFRO, CORE to track bilateral activities, test alternative training methodologies and promote resource mobilization

Progress toward outputs, problems encountered, proposed solutions:

See no. 7 in previous RP for community supplies. In addition, Suzanne Prysor-Jones discussed possible activities on private sector involvement (exp. Drug sellers) with Dr. Yusef Tawfik of BASICS, based on his experiences working in Asia on this issue.

4. Facilitate the focusing of BASICS W. Africa attention on AFR/SD priorities, including:

- **pre-service training**
- **improved in-service training**
- **problem-solving / supervision**

Expected Outputs:

- Participation in BASICS meetings
- Strategies developed and feedback to AFR/SD on issues received

Progress toward outputs, problems encountered, proposed solutions:

No significant activity this quarter, although some informal discussions were held with BASICS regional staff on plans for pre-service training.

5. Develop / contribute to advocacy and analyses of lessons learned materials on IMCI, as needed

Expected Outputs:

- Advocacy brochure finalized and disseminated
- Needs for other documents identified

Progress toward outputs, problems encountered, proposed solutions:

The IMCI brochure has undergone significant revision based on input from IAWG partners. The revised version will be again reviewed by the IAWG partners, then finalized, printed and disseminated.

6. Assist AFR/SD with issues identification, portfolio management, and evaluation, including a review of USAID strategies and investments for child survival

Expected Outputs:

- M & E system functioning
- Results packages updated
- Review document produced

Progress toward outputs, problems encountered, proposed solutions:

SARA staff assisted AFR/SD in the development of R4s for all SO 7 RPs, including this one. For the *M&E System*: See progress reported under Cross-cutting, item #1.

SO 7 : Adoption of policies and strategies for increased sustainability, quality, efficiency and equity of health services.

Results Package: Malaria RP

1. M&E of the Joint WHO/AFRO and USAID support for malaria control programs in Africa

Expected Outputs:

- TA provided by SARA staff and consultant

Progress toward outputs, problems encountered, proposed solutions:

Dr. Duale Sambe, SARA Senior Research Manager, has participated in, and contributed to joint planning meetings between AFR/SD/HRD, World Bank, DfID, WHO/AFRO, and the malaria consortium on incorporating the evaluation recommendations in the development of the WHO/AFRO biennial work plan for malaria control.

SARA provided the technical services of Dr. Marc Debay to join Hannah Searing of AFR/SD on a short assignment in Harare, Zimbabwe, to assist WHO/AFRO in selecting indicators and developing a joint reporting format for disease control activities.

2. Updating AFR/SD strategic framework for research, analysis and dissemination on malaria

Expected Outputs:

- Literature reviewed
- Expert survey results synthesized
- Working group meetings held
- Strategic framework produced and disseminated

Progress toward outputs, problems encountered, proposed solutions:

The final draft of the strategic framework has been sent to selected USAID Global Bureau and other experts for comments. The experts were given the deadline of April 26, 2000, to send in their comments. The comments will be incorporated in the final version before production and dissemination.

3. Dissemination of relevant information on malaria and pregnancy

Expected Outputs:

- Production and dissemination of Annals supplement

Progress toward outputs, problems encountered, proposed solutions:

The supplement to the *Annals of Tropical Medicine & Parasitology* was printed by Taylor & Francis, Ltd., under a SARA purchase order, and 500 copies were sent to SARA. SARA publications staff then sent 10 copies to each author and distributed the rest per the mailing list agreed upon with AFR/SD/HRD.

4. Support for initiatives on the prevention of malaria in pregnancy in Africa

Expected Outputs:

- Working group meetings held
- Advocacy briefs developed

Progress toward outputs, problems encountered, proposed solutions:

Copies of the *Annals of Tropical Medicine & Parasitology* supplement on malaria and pregnancy were distributed at a multi-agency workshop hosted by AFR/SD this quarter to review the new WHO proposed initiative (IMPAC) on maternal and child health. Dr. Stephen Kinoti, SARA HIV/AIDS Advisor, Suzanne Prysor-Jones, Caroline Blair, SARA Reproductive Health Advisor, and Duale Sambe attended the workshop.

5. Manual on qualitative research for case management of malaria and other malaria-related documents requested by AFR/SD

Expected Outputs:

- Consultant hired
- Manual developed, produced and disseminated

Progress toward outputs, problems encountered, proposed solutions:

This quarter, the French versions of WHO's Rapid Assessments were completed, printed and disseminated along with the English and French versions of *Improving Community Case Management of Childhood Malaria*. Printing assistance was given by CIHI. The French version of *Partnerships in Communication* was finalized and sent to the printer and should be ready for distribution early in the third quarter.

6. Joint planning and coordination of activities on priority areas such as IMCI, Malaria, IDS with other USAID projects and partners (e.g., BASICS, NetMark, CORE, UNICEF, CDC)

Expected Outputs:

- SARA staff & consultant involved in meetings and electronic exchanges with partners

Progress toward outputs, problems encountered, proposed solutions:

Duale Sambe advised Dr. Elizabeth Higgs of NIH on priority areas and strategic approaches for malaria control before she had to travel to Mali to assist the MTRC colleagues in developing a comprehensive work plan for the use of the Clinton/USAID fund for malaria control. It is expected that Dr Duale will provide more TA to NIH and AFR/SD in finalizing the work plan.

Suzanne Prysor-Jones and Dr. Duale participated in joint discussions by USAID, WHO/AFRO, World Bank and DfID on future directions to better maximize the synergy between IMCI and Roll Back Malaria in Africa.

7. Co-sponsor a session on the social and behavioral aspects of malaria at the 4th SOMA-Net conference

Expected Outputs:

- Co-sponsorship arrangement made with the SOMA-Net Secretariat
- Resource persons and selected participants identified and sponsored
- Relevant background materials disseminated

Progress toward outputs, problems encountered, proposed solutions:

No activity this quarter.

SO 7 : Adoption of policies and strategies for increased sustainability, quality, efficiency and equity of health services.

Results Package: Infectious Diseases

1. Support the development of an AFR/SD Results Package for infectious diseases

Expected Outputs:

- Review meetings held
- Results package developed and produced

Progress toward outputs, problems encountered, proposed solutions:

Duale Sambe has attended infectious diseases Core team meetings and provided comments on the RP on tuberculosis.

2. M&E of the joint WHO/AFRO and USAID support for integrated disease surveillance systems in Africa

Expected Outputs:

- Technical assistance from SARA staff and consultant

Progress toward outputs, problems encountered, proposed solutions:

Marc Debay traveled with Hannah Searing to Harare to assist WHO/AFRO in initiating a joint reporting system that includes the IDS component.

3. Africa-based consultative meeting on potential of, and constraints to effective use of laboratory to support infectious disease control

Expected Outputs:

- Meeting organized
- Report produced and disseminated

Progress toward outputs, problems encountered, proposed solutions:

Duale Sambe reviewed and provided TA to CIHI on the French translation of a laboratory manual that CDC developed with AFR/SD funds a couple of years ago.

4. Production and dissemination of TB advocacy briefs and other documents requested by AFR/SD

Expected Outputs:

- Review materials developed, produced & disseminated

Progress toward outputs, problems encountered, proposed solutions:

Duale Sambe assisted Dr. Cornelia Davis of AFR/SD to prepare and send out an e-note on TB in Africa and also to draft an advocacy brief on TB. The advocacy brief will be produced by ABIC.

5. Organize information sharing, including study tours, on the implementation of DOTS strategy for TB control in African settings

Expected Outputs:

- Tours and other information-sharing activities planned and organized
- Lessons learned documented and disseminated

Progress toward outputs, problems encountered, proposed solutions:

SARA has initiated arrangements for Duale Sambe and three African participants to attend an African Conference on TB to be held May 24-27, 2000, in Conakry, Guinea, and being organized by the International Union Against TB and Lung Diseases (IUATLD) and the STOP TB Initiative.

SO 7: Adoption of policies and strategies for increased sustainability, quality, efficiency and equity of health services

Results Package: Nutrition

1. Assist AFR/SD SO 7 team in managing the Nutrition Results package

Expected Outputs:

- Core team meetings held
- SO 7 portfolio reviews conducted
- Performance monitoring plan drafted
- Peer reviews organized
- Expert advice provided

Progress toward outputs, problems encountered, proposed solutions:

SARA provided assistance to AFR/SD in the preparation of the nutrition/SO 7 R4, which was presented to the Africa Bureau in February. In addition, SARA provided expert advice on mother-to-child transmission of HIV (for notes to the field). The SARA/SANA nutrition advisors (Dr. Ellen Piwoz and Micheline Nturu) met with Cheryl Jackson, the Africa Bureau's new nutrition advisor (for SO 3) to discuss activities and possible linkages between nutrition and food security work in Africa.

No core team meetings were held this quarter. A meeting to discuss the SANA evaluation has been repeatedly postponed because of scheduling conflicts and travel. This meeting must be rescheduled in the 3rd quarter.

2. Provide technical support to AFR Core Groups, G-PHN, and CA partners (e.g., MACRO, BASICS, LINKAGES, MOST) on nutrition issues in Africa

Expected Outputs:

- Meetings attended
- Expert advice/input provided

Progress toward outputs, problems encountered, proposed solutions:

Dr. Ellen Piwoz, SARA Nutrition Advisor and SANA Project Director, made a series of presentations this quarter on nutrition issues in Africa for CA partners and international organizations. These included three presentations at the Regional Quality of Health Care Conference (held in Entebbe, Uganda) on HIV and nutrition (2) and malaria and anemia (1), and presentations on HIV and infant feeding for the World Bank Human Development Week and the BASICS Project.

Dr. Piwoz also continues to provide assistance to the G-PHN-supported ZVITAMBO Project in Harare, Zimbabwe, for the infant feeding component, which is partially funded by LINKAGES. She also met with MOST nutrition advisor Dr. Phil Harvey this quarter to discuss HIV and nutrition issues, as well as SARA and SANA supported work in South Africa. This meeting was in preparation for the MOST technical assistance visit to South Africa in April 2000.

Dr. Piwoz also provided technical support to LINKAGES (GHAJ) to prepare job aids on HIV and infant feeding and contribute text to the technical justification paper for the Essential Actions to Improve Maternal Nutrition. This paper will be completed by LINKAGES later this year.

Micheline Nturu provided support to the Education Core Group to organize a consultation on Health/Nutrition and Education linkages in collaboration with the World Bank and the PVO Core Group as described above.

Ms. Nturu also provided technical assistance to LINKAGES to review their work on elements of successful community nutrition programs. This activity, which is part of their Greater Horn of Africa portfolio (GHAJ), complements work that was done with SARA/SANA support in West Africa under SARA I.

No problems were encountered with this activity.

3. Provide technical support to African partner institutions for strategy development and planning related to nutrition policy/programming

Expected Outputs:

- Meetings attended
- Expert advice/input provided

Progress toward outputs, problems encountered, proposed solutions:

SARA continued its dialogue with the Commonwealth Regional Health Community Secretariat (CRHCS) and with the Regional Center for Nutrition Research (CRAN) to identify priority areas for future collaboration. CRHCS is in the process of developing a comprehensive proposal for SARA collaboration across sectors. In nutrition, this will likely include: 1) policy monitoring of PROFILES work; 2) information generation and dissemination (e.g., updating the Nutrition Briefs and producing them regionally); and 3) technical assistance on HIV, MTCT and nutrition issues (e.g., information dissemination, capacity building). CRHCS will present their proposal in April 2000.

SARA met with the CRAN Director, Dr. Andre Ouedraogo, to discuss SARA/CRAN collaboration. Unfortunately, CRAN is in a holding pattern and cannot commit to a complete program of collaboration as they await information concerning the restructuring that will occur with the newly formed West Africa Health Organization (WAHO). In the meantime, however, SARA and SANA have agreed to support this year's nutrition focal point meeting by assisting with the preparation and facilitation of the meeting. (The meeting is scheduled for September 2000). The technical theme of this year's meeting is Breastfeeding. LINKAGES will provide technical assistance and financial support for the breastfeeding update.

Uncertainties regarding the future of CRAN hinder SARA collaboration with this institution. SARA must continue to be supportive of CRAN during the next several months (to insure that it viewed favorably by the WAHO decision-makers).

4. Strengthen African partners' capacity for:

- nutrition policy analysis and advocacy**
- information dissemination and sharing of better practices and lessons learned in nutrition**

Expected Outputs:

- Technical support provided
- Regional training organized
- Country advocacy strategies implemented
- Information shared during regional meetings (e.g., nutrition focal points)
- Support provided for documentation of better practices

Progress toward outputs, problems encountered, proposed solutions:

Ellen Piwoz and Micheline Nturu have participated in a series of meetings with LINKAGES' Monitoring and Evaluation advisor Dr. Nadra Franklin and PROFILES Coordinator Dr. Victor Aguayo to discuss collaboration on the monitoring and evaluation of PROFILES capacity building and implementation in Africa. LINKAGES has already initiated an evaluation of their work in Ghana and they will take the lead in evaluating the activities in their core countries (Ghana, Madagascar, Bolivia).

SARA and SANA (Micheline Nturu, Kinday Samba, Debbie Gachuhi) will take the lead in working with African partner institutions to document the impact of the regional activities in West Africa with CRAN, HKI and BASICS, and in East and Southern Africa with CRHCS. SARA/SANA and LINKAGES will work together on the documentation of PROFILES in the GHAI countries (Kenya, Uganda and Tanzania, particularly, with the Regional Quality of Health Care Center). The evaluation will make use of the Policy Monitoring tool developed by SARA I evaluation specialist Dr. Bill Rau.

SANA regional advisor Debbie Gachuhi helped to organize and participated in the Kenya country PROFILES training and advocacy strategy development workshop, held in Mombasa in March 2000. Debbie was a member of the team that prepared the presentation for the Education Sector on nutrition-education linkages. She will assist the education core team in their advocacy efforts with Education stakeholders. Debbie will also prepare a generic training guide for PROFILES and nutrition advocacy capacity building that will facilitate the institutionalization of this work in Africa over the next two years. These activities have been carried out in collaboration with LINKAGES/REDSO Greater Horn of Africa Initiative (GHAI).

Resources must be made available by the project (SARA) to enable African partner institutions to play a lead role and take ownership of the PROFILES policy monitoring/evaluation process.

5. Review advocacy experience and future directions in Africa. Develop materials to facilitate and support nutrition advocacy activities (including finalizing Nutrition Briefs; handbook or guidelines for nutrition advocacy at the country level)

Expected Outputs:

- Structured meeting on nutrition advocacy held (in Washington)
- English nutrition briefs finalized and French/West Africa version developed
- Additional tools developed, tested, and disseminated based on recommendations from the field
 - Special bulletin or packet produced
 - Small document prepared.

Progress toward outputs, problems encountered, proposed solutions:

SARA updated and reproduced the Nutrition Briefs this quarter.

Work began this quarter on modifying the Nutrition Briefs to reflect the nutrition context in West Africa. These will be completed later in the FY.

A structured meeting to review experience with PROFILES and discuss future directions will be held in April 2000, following the ACC/SCN nutrition meeting to be held in Washington, DC.

No problems were encountered with this activity.

6. Actively disseminate and ensure the use of existing nutrition tools, training packages, and related materials in pre-service and in-service training opportunities and NGO networks in Africa

Expected Outputs:

- Materials disseminated at relevant meetings, workshops and conferences
- Meetings organized / attended to discuss the content / use of available tools

Progress toward outputs, problems encountered, proposed solutions:

SARA continued its dissemination of nutrition tools and training packages, on request from end users. During the quarter, 116 copies of *Nutrition Briefs*, 14 of the paper on HIV and Nutrition, 89 of the Foodbox document, 1 of monitoring & evaluation and 46 on IMCI and nutrition were disseminated.

Nutrition materials were disseminated at the Regional Quality of Health Care meeting in Entebbe, Uganda.

Discussions were held with the BASICS West Africa Regional Office, CRHCS and the Regional Quality of Health Care Center to identify potential uses of SARA/SANA nutrition materials in pre-service and in-service training settings.

Efforts to incorporate nutrition training materials into various training settings must be accelerated in the future.

7. Technical assistance on mother-to-child transmission, infant feeding options and nutrition for African HIV/AIDS programs

Expected Outputs:

- Technical support, expert advice provided

Progress toward outputs, problems encountered, proposed solutions:

Ellen Piwoz continued to provide technical assistance to the ZVITAMBO Project to document the impact of their infant feeding counseling activities on women's feeding decisions and skills. Dr. Piwoz visited Zimbabwe in February to 1) review the results of the skills assessments (a protocol to assess women's post-counseling knowledge and skills related to safer breastfeeding and replacement feeding practices); 2) monitor the delivery of counseling services; 3) discuss a technical update for counselors/educators who are meeting women with children 6 months and older; and 4) prepare a questionnaire for assessing feeding decisions at the 12 month visit. Dr. Piwoz also assisted with the preparation of an abstract for the Durban AIDS meeting which describes the infant feeding intervention and preliminary results. She will return to Zimbabwe in May 2000 to assist with the preparation of the Durban presentation and review the findings from the piloting of the 12-month questionnaire and other qualitative research activities.

The unstable political situation in Zimbabwe continues to affect the ZVITAMBO project. The government mandated retroactive pay raises for civil servants and sky-rocketing fuel costs have seriously depleted the project budget, requiring cut-backs in study follow-up procedures. In response, AFR/SD should consider providing additional financial support to ZVITAMBO to ensure that important post-natal MTCT outcomes are preserved. The LINKAGES-supported data collection will not be completed until February 2001. Data analysis must be accelerated so that results will be available before the completion of the LINKAGES Project (in September 2001).

Dr. Piwoz has been working with the team at the University of the Western Cape (UWC) to finalize their report on the formative research on HIV and infant feeding. The UWC team prepared and submitted two abstracts to the Durban AIDS meeting to disseminate the research findings. The research report will be completed in the next quarter. No problems are expected.

8. Develop tool for monitoring and evaluating infant feeding practices in the context of research and programs on mother-to-child transmission of HIV

Expected Outputs:

- Literature reviewed
- Working group meetings organized
- Tool drafted, reviewed, and finalized

Progress toward outputs, problems encountered, proposed solutions:

Ellen Piwoz submitted the first draft of the tool for assessing breastfeeding, replacement feeding and related practice in the context of MTCT of HIV to WHO in December 1999. To date, comments have been received from UNICEF, the Ghent Working Group and ZVITAMBO only. The tool was disseminated at a regional meeting in Botswana on MTCT programs in East and Southern Africa in March. Feedback from meeting participants has not been received. An abstract describing the tool and its uses was submitted for presentation at the Durban AIDS meeting.

WHO has been slow to return comments on the paper to the author. A visit to their headquarters to meet with relevant professionals may be required in the next quarter to speed up the process of finalizing this tool.

9. Develop tool and/or lessons learned paper re: formative research on infant feeding and mother-to-child transmission of HIV, and conduct advocacy related to this approach to MTCT strategy selection and program design

Expected Outputs:

- Formative research completed
- Lessons learned extracted
- Existing research instruments and experiences reviewed
- Tool and/or advocacy papers drafted, reviewed, finalized, disseminated

Progress toward outputs, problems encountered, proposed solutions:

Ellen Piwoz prepared a paper entitled, "HIV and infant feeding: Risks and realities in Africa," which is a first step for advocacy on MTCT and formative research for program design. This paper was presented in March 2000 (at the BASICS Project). A related paper on adapting UN guidelines on HIV and infant feeding to the local context was also prepared and presented at the World Bank HD week (in February 2000).

No additional work on this issue was carried out in the quarter because of travel and competing priorities. However, recent meetings in Africa have resulted in a resurgence of interest in formative research and improved communications about HIV and infant feeding at the national down to the family levels. As a result, SARA was asked to provide technical assistance to UNICEF to discuss the formative research and to develop a communications strategy on HIV and infant feeding options. This technical input will commence, pending AFR approval, next quarter through e-mail communications and possibly site visits.

10. Prepare issues papers on:

- **HIV and nutrition**
- **HIV and early weaning**

Expected Outputs:

- Issues papers developed and disseminated

Progress toward outputs, problems encountered, proposed solutions:

Ellen Piwoz and SARA consultant Beth Preble completed the first draft of the paper, “HIV/AIDS and Nutrition: A review of the literature and recommendations for nutritional care and support in Africa”. The paper is currently being reviewed by external experts from Africa, the US and Europe in the fields of HIV/AIDS, nutrition and programming. Comments are expected by the end of April 2000. A revised draft should be available next quarter.

The findings from the review were presented at the Regional Quality of Health Care meeting in Entebbe, Uganda and several PVO/NGO groups have requested similar presentations in April and May 2000. These presentations will be organized by the FANta Project and the PVO CORE Group.

The work on the HIV and early weaning paper has not yet begun. This will commence later in the year.

11. Continuous issues identification, information dissemination, and advocacy on issues of importance for nutrition in Africa (e.g., HIV/AIDS and nutrition; MTCT and infant feeding, women's nutrition, anemia and infectious diseases/malaria)

Expected Outputs:

- Papers or tools disseminated
- Posters or oral presentations developed
- Consultative meetings organized
- Workshops / conferences with dissemination component attended

Progress toward outputs, problems encountered, proposed solutions:

No new papers were completed this quarter. Dissemination of all existing papers continued.

As noted previously, several oral presentations were made this quarter on HIV, nutrition and infant feeding issues, and on malaria and anemia. In addition, four abstracts for the Durban AIDS meeting were prepared and submitted.

Ellen Piwoz was invited to do an oral presentation on exclusive breastfeeding and HIV at the Durban pre-conference satellite meeting on HIV and breastfeeding, which has been organized by the CDC and University of Natal. Dr. Piwoz will be very busy next quarter preparing for the Durban meeting, which offers an excellent opportunity to disseminate and advocate for MTCT approaches of priority to AFR/SD.

Dr. Piwoz participated in the Regional Quality of Health Care meeting, which included dissemination of new information on HIV and nutrition and dissemination of AFR-developed nutrition tools and materials.

Additional efforts will be needed next quarter to address women's nutrition, anemia/malaria and low birth weight issues, which continue to emerge as priorities in the region.

No problems were encountered with this activity.

12. Document impact of AFR/SD nutrition investments (e.g., capacity development through SARA/SANA; regional collaboration, etc.)

Expected Outputs:

- Case studies and impact reviews completed
- Better practices disseminated

Progress toward outputs, problems encountered, proposed solutions:

A list of possible SARA/SANA nutrition activities to be documented through impact reviews was developed. Unfortunately, the meeting with AFR/SD to discuss this activity has been repeatedly postponed because of scheduling conflicts. This must be discussed and agreed on as soon as possible.

Meanwhile, Debbie Gachuhi has completed a first draft of a paper on lessons learned from the SANA partnerships in East and Southern Africa. This will be completed next quarter (SANA).

SO 7: Adoption of Policies and Strategies for Increased sustainability, Quality, Efficiency, and Equity of Health Services

Results Package: Maternal Health/Essential Obstetrical Care (EOC)

1. Produce and disseminate summary country report on West African post-abortion care study; Develop dissemination and advocacy strategy

Expected Outputs:

- Report produced
- Dissemination and advocacy (D&A) strategy developed for participating countries

Progress toward outputs, problems encountered, proposed solutions:

The draft brochure is now available and JHPIEGO's sub-contract will be finalized in the upcoming days. With the proper documentation now in place, the printing and dissemination can proceed during the next quarter.

2. In collaboration with partners, assist CEFOREP with in-country dissemination and action plan development for 4-country EOC resolutions

Expected Outputs:

- Dissemination and EOC advocacy action plans developed
- Donors identified and funds leveraged for implementation
- Follow-up initiated

Progress toward outputs, problems encountered, proposed solutions:

The CEFOREP consultant resumed her duties following her maternity leave. In January during a visit to Dakar, Caroline Blair and two SARA consultants (one a SAGO member) worked with sub-contractor ACI and CEFOREP to finalize the technical report. During the next quarter, the document will be printed and used in country-level advocacy activities and will be disseminated.

3. Produce advocacy materials to maximize research results of EOC study in West Africa

Expected Outputs:

- *Mere en Danger* booklet as an advocacy tool for EOC developed and disseminated
- Tool integrated into country plans

Progress toward outputs, problems encountered, proposed solutions:

This activity is related to activity 2 above. The CEFOREP consultant has resumed work and is together with ACI working to develop a user-friendly advocacy document based on the technical report. A dissemination plan is also under discussion.

4. Assist SAGO to become more policy / action oriented; provide TA in translating research findings into programs/actions

Expected Outputs:

- Workshop in advocacy and policy communications conducted
- Strategic action plans developed
- Advocacy activities initiated

Progress toward outputs, problems encountered, proposed solutions:

Following the three-day January meeting in Dakar with the SAGO President and two past presidents last quarter, Caroline Blair has been engaged in discussions with AFR/SD's maternal health coordinator to develop the strategy. As part of the process, it is expected that SAGO will hold an executive committee meeting in July at which its articles will be revised and strategy discussed. This meeting will feed into the bi-annual conference scheduled for December of this year.

5. Select 1 pilot country to test the use of Bart Burkhalter’s maternal health PROFILES –like model for creating policy dialogue and as an advocacy tool

Expected Outputs:

- Country(s) selected
- Model developed in collaboration with local orgs.
- Presentations completed
- Next steps defined

Progress toward outputs, problems encountered, proposed solutions:

The Uganda Mission agreed to host the field testing activities. Caroline Blair and Stephen Kinoti traveled to Uganda and met with potential collaborating partners and the USAID Mission. It is now expected that the testing will be done in collaboration with the Regional Quality of Care Center at Makerere University. Planning is ongoing and training and model adaptation are planned for a two-week period in July. The CRHCS was also briefed on the model and would like to send two observers to the training session. The model was also presented to UNICEF Uganda.

6. Develop a comprehensive dissemination strategy for results of 3-country EOC cost studies

Expected Outputs:

- Dissemination plan developed
- Appropriate materials completed and disseminated

Progress toward outputs, problems encountered, proposed solutions:

Although the final strategy will be defined once all documents are finalized, preliminary discussions have taken place between CEFOREP, ACI and SARA.

SO 8: Policies and strategies for increased sustainability and quality of reproductive health services adopted

Results Package: None in particular – Related to overall SO

1. Assist AFR/SD SO8 team with managing the RH results packages

Expected Outputs:

- Core team meetings held
- Results packages completed and periodically updated
- PMPs revised and updated annually
- R4 completed annually
- Technical advice provided

Progress toward outputs, problems encountered, proposed solutions:

Caroline Blair and Rhonda Smith of PRB and Renuka Bery, SARA Dissemination & Advocacy Manager, have attended regular core team meetings and worked with the SO 8 team to finalize the results packages and the PMP. They also participated in the preparation of R4 documents and presentations, including a presentation for Carleene Dei, Acting Director of AFR/SD.

2. Conduct an SO 8 portfolio review of all or selected focus areas to re-examine strategic directions, mix of focus areas; best practices, and overall portfolio balance

Expected Outputs:

- Literature reviewed
- Expert consultative working group meetings organized
- Results packages and work plans updated

Progress toward outputs, problems encountered, proposed solutions:

Draft scope of work for the portfolio review was prepared by Caroline Blair and SARA M&E Advisor Anne Inserra. These were shared with the core group and revised according to their comments. A search for a suitable consultant to undertake this review is underway.

3. Assist AFR/SD with evaluating, tracking, and monitoring performance and results

Expected Outputs:

- TA provided to develop improved M&E system

Progress toward outputs, problems encountered, proposed solutions:

Anne Inserra has continued to participate in the SO 8 Core group meetings and has met with many members individually to discuss various monitoring and evaluation issues, including development of a simple system to track data for performance indicators. An M&E group was formed and Caroline Blair will represent SO 8 in this forum. Ms. Inserra prepared a sample draft worksheet for recording details of data points, and Rhonda Smith and PRB have proceeded to develop amended versions of this worksheet (still in progress). They could eventually serve as a basis for data base development. Ms. Inserra also provided assistance to the group in conceptualizing how they would structure the planned portfolio review mentioned in #2 above, and in planning for an impact assessment of male involvement activities.

More broadly, assistance to SO 8 on M&E issues is being coordinated and harmonized with efforts to develop a functioning M&E system for the entire SD/HRD portfolio. See progress reported under Cross-cutting, item #1, below.

SO 8: Policies and strategies for increased sustainability and quality of reproductive health services adopted

Results Package: Male involvement (Addressing the reproductive health (RH) needs of underserved populations)

1. Assess the outcomes/results of the Male Involvement workshop in Francophone Africa with JHU/PCS, IPPF, AVSC, INTRAH, and SFPS

Expected Outputs:

- Questionnaires collected, analyzed and summary report completed

Progress toward outputs, problems encountered, proposed solutions:

During a visit to JHU/PCS in Baltimore, Caroline Blair provided the completed questionnaires to JHU, who have promised to analyze the findings. Since so few questionnaires were received, the findings may have limited application.

2. Provide technical assistance and support to RESAR in the development and implementation of a multi-country study on *male involvement in RH*

Expected Outputs:

- Research protocol reflecting need to assess existing practices and multiple audiences (e.g., providers; donors; corps; ministries; key informants) completed
- Study implemented in countries (TBD)

Progress toward outputs, problems encountered, proposed solutions:

Caroline Blair reviewed two drafts of the protocol and shared her comments with RESAR and AVSC. Much of this feedback was incorporated into the final protocol.

3. Assess current program activities for males – lessons learned/models; Provide TA to USAID missions in integrating male involvement activities into their programs

Expected Outputs:

- Updated summary of best practices completed
- TA provided to missions (TBD).

Progress toward outputs, problems encountered, proposed solutions:

An impact review of AFR/SD/SARA's support to male involvement activities is underway. Caroline Blair met with JHU and communicated with AVSC to collect additional information to what was already available and SARA consultant Bill Rau is undertaking the review.

SO 8: Policies and strategies for increased sustainability and quality of reproductive health services adopted

Results Package: Women's empowerment

1. Support the establishment of an East and South African women's media network hosted by S. African media org. in collaboration with the Freedom Forum and the S. Africa Department of Welfare

Expected Outputs:

- One seminar completed
- Print articles and broadcast programs produced
- Changes in media strategies documented

Progress toward outputs, problems encountered, proposed solutions:

Preparations for the establishment of the network are underway; funding is now in place.

2. Assist with documentation and dissemination of PIVOT 3 case studies (Lessons learned)

Expected Outputs:

- Case studies documented

Progress toward outputs, problems encountered, proposed solutions:

A meeting is scheduled for early next quarter to discuss dissemination issues with the Networks projects in an effort to ensure that the products will be useful and used by all relevant audiences.

SO 8: Policies and strategies for increased sustainability and quality of reproductive health services adopted

Results Package: None in particular – Reproductive health policies / strategies promotion

1. Provide technical assistance for dissemination and advocacy for RESAR's post-Cairo assessment of RH policies in 5 countries

Expected Outputs:

- Research findings and lessons learned in each country disseminated
- Follow-up evaluation completed

Progress toward outputs, problems encountered, proposed solutions:

No activity this quarter.

2. Support new policy communication position at CERPOD re: producing policy-oriented materials, developing dissemination and advocacy activities in three focus areas: adolescents; maternal health; and HIV/AIDS

Expected Outputs:

- FY 2000 dissemination & advocacy work plan completed
- Policy-relevant materials produced and disseminated on the topics TBD

Progress toward outputs, problems encountered, proposed solutions:

CERPOD provided work plan and budget to Caroline Blair during her January trip to Mali and Senegal. This work plan includes a policy communication position. The position has been advertised. However, in light of recent challenges and changes experienced by CERPOD, there may be additional delays.

3. Disseminate information and results / outcomes of the Francophone MAQ conference through CERPOD, RESAR, and JHPIEGO

Expected Outputs:

- Follow-up interviews and questionnaires completed and analyzed
- One MAQ bulletin published and disseminated to relevant participating orgs
- Outcomes widely disseminated

Progress toward outputs, problems encountered, proposed solutions:

Caroline Blair has been working with JHPIEGO on this and other issues. The MAQ bulletin has yet to be finalized but is expected in the upcoming weeks.

4. Continue to support revitalization and coordination effort of RESAR in collaboration with SFPS and CERPOD; identify an approach for establishing a permanent secretariat

Expected Outputs:

- TBD

Progress toward outputs, problems encountered, proposed solutions:

The conference report of RESAR's Conakry conference of November 1999 has yet to be finalized. RESAR continues to work with SFPS on institutional issues.

SO 9: Adoption of Cost-effective Strategies to Prevent and Mitigate the Impact of HIV/AIDS

Results Package: HIV/AIDS

1. Documentation and dissemination of community-oriented HIV/AIDS prevention approaches

Expected Outputs:

- Literature reviewed
- Field visits completed
- Case studies prepared
- Consultative meeting sponsored

Progress toward outputs, problems encountered, proposed solutions:

- Literature search on community –oriented HIV/AIDS prevention approaches has been initiated.
- One field visit has been undertaken to Uganda and discussions held regarding possible involvement of the Director General in compiling case studies community oriented HIV/AIDS prevention activities
- Consultative meeting among the SSA players not held yet.

2. Develop tool for monitoring and evaluating infant feeding practices in the context of research and programs on mother-to-child transmission of HIV

Expected Outputs:

- Literature reviewed
- Working group meetings organized
- Tool drafted, reviewed, and finalized

Progress toward outputs, problems encountered, proposed solutions:

See SO 7, Nutrition, Item 8 above

3. Develop tool and/or lessons learned paper re: formative research on infant feeding and mother-to-child transmission of HIV, and conduct advocacy related to this approach to MTCT strategy selection and program design

Expected Outputs:

- Research instruments and experiences reviewed
- Tool drafted, reviewed, finalized, disseminated

Progress toward outputs, problems encountered, proposed solutions:

See SO 7, Nutrition, Item 9 above

4. Develop an issues paper on HIV and nutrition

Expected Outputs:

- Issues papers developed and disseminated

Progress toward outputs, problems encountered, proposed solutions:

See SO 7, Nutrition, Item 10 above

5. Continuous issues identification, information dissemination and advocacy for comprehensive approaches to reducing mother-to-child transmission of HIV

Expected Outputs:

- Literature reviewed
- Working group meetings organized
- Information briefs and/or advocacy documents drafted, reviewed, finalized and disseminated

Progress toward outputs, problems encountered, proposed solutions:

See SO 7, Nutrition, Item 11 above. Also:

- A draft concept paper on improving pre-service teaching/training in ECSA to respond to the HIV/AIDS epidemic through involvement of chairpersons of relevant departments in training institutions has been prepared and will be soon shared with the CRHCS. The chairpersons will constitute the working group.

6. Youth livelihood best practices for the prevention of HIV/AIDS

Expected Outputs:

- Study protocol developed and implemented
- Paper on lessons learned from youth livelihood programs produced and disseminated
- Dissemination workshop organized

Progress toward outputs, problems encountered, proposed solutions:

Funds have been provided to IDRC since the previous quarter. SARA is currently awaiting a progress report.

7. Technical support for AFR/SD initiatives to address the impact of HIV/AIDS on educational systems

Expected Outputs:

- TA for implementation, dissemination workshop provided

Progress toward outputs, problems encountered, proposed solutions:

SARA has made arrangements for two African professionals working on HIV/AIDS and the education systems in West Africa to attend a workshop to be held in Durban, South Africa, to discuss HIV/AIDS and the education sector in SADC countries. It is hoped that the two SARA-sponsored participants will provide for a cross-fertilization of experience from West and Southern Africa.

8. Assist AFR/SD SO 9 Team in managing the HIV/AIDS Results package

Expected Outputs:

- Core team meetings held
- SO 9 portfolio reviews organized
- Performance monitoring plan drafted
- Peer reviews organized and expert advice provided

Progress toward outputs, problems encountered, proposed solutions:

Two core team meetings were held and a draft of the revised HIV/AIDS RP was sent to colleagues at the HIV/AIDS Division of G-Bureau for their comments. The next steps will include the incorporation of comments from G-Bureau and the development of the PMP.

9. Support advocacy for multi-sectoral approaches to HIV/AIDS

Expected Outputs:

- Working group meetings supported
- Targeted dissemination implemented
- AIDS Briefs and AIDS packets collated

Progress toward outputs, problems encountered, proposed solutions:

- Report from Consultative Group meeting on Intersectoral Approaches to AIDS finalized. 600 copies were printed and 201 hard copies disseminated by SARA.
- AIDS packets: 750 were prepared during this quarter and 375 distributed at following meetings: Department of Labor (100), Africa Summit (150), USAID Mission Directors meeting (40), Ghana Health Foundation Conference (60) and DJCC (25 copies)
- SARA staff attended one meeting of the AFR/SD multi-sectoral AIDS working group this quarter.

In addition, SARA has organized the different publications available for the HIV/AIDS packets and has implemented a system this quarter to assist AFR/SD and others in identifying what documents should be included in a briefing packet for different target audiences. This quarter packets have been distributed to at least three meetings, including the EPA, Africa Summit and the Ghana Health meeting at Howard University. The revised AIDS Briefs are expected to arrive from South Africa next quarter. In addition, the multi-sectoral AIDS meeting report was finalized and distributed this quarter.

10. Strengthen CERPOD capacity and involvement with M&E of HIV/AIDS programs in West Africa

Expected Outputs:

- HIV/AIDS point person hired by CERPOD
- Action plan developed and implemented

Progress toward outputs, problems encountered, proposed solutions:

Because of CERPOD management and organizational difficulties, progress this quarter has been slow in this and all other areas of SARA collaboration with CERPOD. Nevertheless, SARA has facilitated dialogue between CERPOD and other partners, such as Measure-Evaluation and UNAIDS on optimizing CERPOD's role in M&E of HIV/AIDS programs. One or two staff from CERPOD will be invited by UNAIDS to attend the Global Meeting on Guide and Indicators for M&E of HIV/AIDS programs in April 2000.

Meanwhile, SARA staff has worked electronically with colleagues at CERPOD on developing a work plan for HIV/AIDS activities under the new sub-contract.

11. Strengthen CRHCS/ECSA capacity to support HIV/AIDS policy changes in eastern and southern Africa

Expected Outputs:

- Joint strategic planning meeting organized
- Action plan developed and implemented

Progress toward outputs, problems encountered, proposed solutions:

- The Dr. Stephen Kinoti, SARA HIV/AIDS Advisor, assisted in the planning and organizing of the DJCC in Arusha.
- Facilitator and Information expert supported and TA from SARA provided to guide the DJCC in the development of action plans for an expanded response to the HIV/AIDS Crisis in ECSA.

12. Strategic planning meeting for the Civil-Military Alliance networking activities in Africa

Expected Outputs:

- Joint strategic planning meeting organized
- Action plan developed and implemented

Progress toward outputs, problems encountered, proposed solutions:

A proposal has come from Col. Joyce Puta, the Coordinator for Eastern and Southern Africa for the Civil - Military Alliance Against HIV/AIDS, for a meeting in late July or early August to take place in Nigeria. The meeting would be attended by the 25 African member-countries.

13. HIV/AIDS advocacy and information dissemination through African institutions and networks

Expected Outputs:

- Working group meetings organized
- Information briefs and/or advocacy documents produced and disseminated
- Network meetings co-sponsored

Progress toward outputs, problems encountered, proposed solutions:

- HIV/AIDS Sectoral Briefs disseminated to the Directors Joint Consultative Committee meeting (DJCC) in Arusha Tanzania involving 10 ECSA countries.
- HIV/AIDS packets and briefs with 13 items disseminated to the DJCC.

14. Participation at the International Conference on AIDS, July 2000, Durban, South Africa

Expected Outputs:

- SARA represented
- Report prepared with recommendations for AFR/SD & SARA

Progress toward outputs, problems encountered, proposed solutions:

Plans to participate made, travel arrangements in progress and registration completed.

15. Participation in joint planning and coordination activities on international HIV/AIDS initiatives in Africa (World Bank, UNAIDS, WHO, LIFE, SADC etc.)

Expected Outputs:

- SARA staff & consultant involved in meetings and electronic exchanges with partners

Progress toward outputs, problems encountered, proposed solutions:

Meeting held with UNAIDS, WHO Geneva and AFRO, Partners in Population and Development- South to South, and REDSO by Stephen Kinoti. Discussions on collaboration held and continued communication agreed upon, especially in support of African Institutions.

SARA staff involved with the HIV/AIDS portfolio attended a USAID retreat to discuss technical and management support needs to assist in the implementation of the LIFE initiative.

SO 10: Improved Policies, Strategies and Programs for Preventing, Mitigating and Transition out of Crises

Results Package: Epidemic preparedness (Management of complex emergencies)

1. Technical support to update AFR/SD Results Package for Epidemic Preparedness and Response

Expected Outputs:

- Review meetings held
- TA provided for the development and production of the RP

Progress toward outputs, problems encountered, proposed solutions:

No activity this quarter.

2. Review of the joint AFR/SD, WHO/AFRO & CDC initiative on epidemic preparedness and response

Expected Outputs:

- Lessons learned from the WCA block reviewed, documented in a report and disseminated
- TA provided by SARA staff and consultant

Progress toward outputs, problems encountered, proposed solutions:

A CTO letter has been approved for SARA to provide the technical services of a consultant and Duale Sambe to document lessons learned by WHO/AFRO EMC teams in West Africa and the Great Lakes epidemiological blocks. A staff shortage at WHO/AFRO has been a major constraint in deciding on dates and the appropriate consultant for the task.

SPO: Polio

Results Package: Polio

1. Support the development of WHO/AFRO dissemination and advocacy strategy for Polio eradication and EPI

Expected Outputs:

- TA provided to WHO/AFRO to help develop dissemination and advocacy strategy

Progress toward outputs, problems encountered, proposed solutions:

Renuka Bery has had regular conversations with Grace Kagundu this quarter to assist AFRO in moving forward with its dissemination plans. A dissemination strategy should be available next quarter. An e-note was drafted and submitted on the progress of AFR/SD's polio investments with AFRO and will be reviewed next quarter.

SO: **Cross-cutting**

Results Package: **Various areas**

1. Document the impact on PHN & basic education policies, strategies and programs in Africa of selected AFR/SD-funded activities

Expected Outputs:

- TA for M& E of activities provided
- Impact sheets developed and used

Progress toward outputs, problems encountered, proposed solutions:

Anne Inserra has been working closely with SD and SARA staff on the development of proposed improvements to performance monitoring and evaluation systems for the entire SD/HRD program portfolio. She has had multiple meetings with many of the Core SO teams to discuss their perceived needs for assistance in M&E issues, and has drawn up draft proposals for improvements to elements of the system.

Specific items worked on include the following:

- After discussions with all of the Core SO teams and exploration of potential alternatives, Ms. Inserra helped develop consensus among the teams that a “mega” computerized database system to include data for performance indicators is not what HRD needs or wants (such a system would be complex and experience shows that it would be very difficult to maintain).
- Consensus has been developed that a core M&E group (to include membership from every SO Core team) is needed to make recommendations on improvements to specific aspects of M&E systems, and to assist Core teams in implementing those recommendations.
- Ms. Inserra has developed the outlines for a simple proposed M&E system, along with a draft agenda and recommendations for action for the M&E Group to act upon. Items included in the proposed M&E system include:
 - testing and refinement of a simple planning tool (developed under SARA I) for activities,
 - development of a simple computer database to track activity funding (see below),
 - development of proposed formats to try to initiate brief semi-annual activity implementation reports (to be completed by implementing agencies),
 - identification of topics that would benefit from Impact Reviews (an in-depth monitoring report developed under SARA I), and
 - development of draft worksheets for recording the details of actual data for the performance indicators.
- Ms. Inserra has begun work with Hannah Searing of the Infectious Diseases results package and Niloufer DeSilva of The Mitchell Group on the early development of a simplified computer database to track primarily funding data for activities, as well as some limited identifying information for the activities.
- Ms. Inserra continued to consult with Core SO teams on specific M&E issues affecting their programs.

In another development, SARA has drafted terms of reference for a proposed assessment of trends in child survival indicators and program investments in Africa. At least one working group meeting was held to discuss the scope of such an assessment. A search is underway to identify a consultant who will carry out this task once AFR/SD decides on the scope of the work.

2. Support the development of an AFR/SD Strategy and/or Results Package for capacity building

Expected Outputs:

- Working group meetings held
- RP developed
- TA for the implementation of selected activities provided

Progress toward outputs, problems encountered, proposed solutions:

Two working group meetings involving AFR/SD and SARA staff were held this quarter to identify issues and to discuss strategic directions for AFR/SD capacity building efforts.

3. Technical support for the CRHCS/ECSA approach to monitoring and evaluation of PHN policy changes in eastern and southern Africa

Expected Outputs:

- Policy M&E manual and tools developed and disseminated
- TA for advocacy and monitoring policy implementation

Progress toward outputs, problems encountered, proposed solutions:

The manual was drafted and disseminated for comment from a variety of experts in US and Africa. The second version was then produced. The next step is to obtain final feedback from CRHCS and then produce it in final.

4. Production and dissemination of manual on qualitative research

Expected Outputs:

- Manual produced and disseminated

Progress toward outputs, problems encountered, proposed solutions:

Qualitative Research for Improved Health Programs, the manual on qualitative manuals, has been produced in English and is being disseminated. Also being translated into French.

5. Technical support to CERPOD for the development of a self-evaluation guide

Expected Outputs:

- TA provided
- Manual produced and disseminated

Progress toward outputs, problems encountered, proposed solutions:

Anne LaFond of Measure2/JSI worked with CERPOD in January (18-21). She visited 4 of the 5 health centers where the document was being field tested. Based on her observations and discussions, the manual is in the process of being revised. In addition, Anne met with the staff of the bilateral JSI project about the guide, which seems to be consistent with their objective of strengthening and improving the use of information in five region in-country.

6. Support CESAG linkages with other institutions for dissemination and training in health management

Expected Outputs:

- TBD

Progress toward outputs, problems encountered, proposed solutions:

CESAG was undergoing restructuring this quarter. This put several technical activities on hold.

7. Organize an issues identification process on health financing and health sector reform priorities in Africa

Expected Outputs:

- Working group meetings organized
- Literature reviewed
- Issues paper drafted

Progress toward outputs, problems encountered, proposed solutions:

No activity this quarter.

8. Support the planning of CORE consultative meeting on education and health linkages

Expected Outputs:

- Working group meetings organized
- TA provided for agenda and background materials development

Progress toward outputs, problems encountered, proposed solutions:

See SO 6 Section above.

No problems were encountered with this activity.

9. Development of capacity, agenda, and strategy for health systems research in Francophone Africa

Expected Outputs:

- Networking meetings held
- Materials translated and disseminated

Progress toward outputs, problems encountered, proposed solutions:

No activity this quarter.

10. Participation at the REDSO/ESA-sponsored Quality of Care Conference, February 2000

Expected Outputs:

- Resource persons provided for selected roundtable sessions at the conference

Progress toward outputs, problems encountered, proposed solutions:

Ellen Piwoz attended the meeting and made a number of presentations.

11. Promote the twinning of NAPHI member institutions for the development of public health curricula

Expected Outputs:

- TA for the development of the twinning framework provided
- Framework tested with about 3 schools on one topic

Progress toward outputs, problems encountered, proposed solutions:

A proposal on the twinning of NAPHI member institutions was submitted to the World Bank Development Market Place Forum in February 2000.

12. Development and production of a CD-ROM with relevant literature on management of disasters and complex humanitarian emergencies (CHE)

Expected Outputs:

- Relevant materials collected, reviewed and scanned
- CD-ROM produced and disseminated

Progress toward outputs, problems encountered, proposed solutions:

The work for the CD-ROM is being subcontracted to the Tulane University Payson Center under the direction of Prof. William Bertrand. A draft scope of work and budget have been sent to the Payson Center for review. Relevant materials for the CD-ROM are being collected and reviewed.

13. Development of a training manual for NGOs working on management of disasters, complex humanitarian emergencies, and transition programs

Expected Outputs:

- Manual developed, tested and produced

Progress toward outputs, problems encountered, proposed solutions:

Dr. Bill Weiss of JHU has taken the lead on this activity. A number of the training modules are available on the website of JHU School of Public Health Center for the study of Refugees and Migration.

14. Strengthen selected NAPHI member institutions in the area of training, research and information sharing on management of disasters and CHE

Expected Outputs:

- Working group meeting organized
- Action plan developed and implemented, including plan for resource mobilization

Progress toward outputs, problems encountered, proposed solutions:

No activity this quarter.

15. management and maintenance of the CERTI website

Expected Outputs:

- Moderation and quality assurance implemented
- Materials posted on website
- Site maintained
- Listserv expanded to include more field people

Progress toward outputs, problems encountered, proposed solutions:

The website is being reviewed by web experts. Their comments and suggestions will be incorporated into the site. New logos for CERTI as well as more attractive and interactive graphics are being added. A large effort is being made to make the website state of the art in both the presentation and quality of information it contains. Two new documents were added to the site: the Harare conference report and the Liberian case study. The website has been viewed over 800 times since it was first designed.

16. Documentation and dissemination of NGO/PVO promising practices in transition interventions

Expected Outputs:

- Study report produced and disseminated
- Briefs on best practices prepared and disseminated

Progress toward outputs, problems encountered, proposed solutions:

During this period, the "Best Practices" activity has taken concrete shape and is now undergoing a field test. Based on the previous literature review, and preliminary interviews carried out with PVO field and HQ staff, Dr. Storms has designed a questionnaire and study framework to capture PVO best practices in a systematic fashion. The questionnaire addresses PVO best practices with those African populations affected by conflict who are past the immediate emergency, as well as those whose basic needs are met, and are now in a transitional phase. Specifically, the study is chiefly concerned with groups in 3 contexts: refugees in a camp for several months past the acute crisis; displaced persons in a non-camp setting; and persons being resettled (or returnees). Pending prompt return of the pretest, the actual study is due to begin soon.

SO: Cross-cutting

Results Package: Dissemination and Advocacy

Result ia: Capacity to Advocate

1. Train other regional African institutions in advocacy (ERNWACA/Anglophone & CRHCS)

Expected Outputs:

- Selected African institutions trained

Progress toward outputs, problems encountered, proposed solutions:

A date has been selected in the next quarter for the Anglophone ERNWACA advocacy workshop. Renuka Bery met with CRHCS and the Quality of Care Center at Makerere this quarter to discuss advocacy training possibilities. CRHCS plans to train allied health professionals in 11 countries and may be asking SARA to assist in supporting this. In addition, both groups would like to train their senior staff in advocacy. This might be an activity that could be done together that would also help to foster links between the institutions.

2. Provide the Advocacy Guide to groups to use it (African institutions, CAs etc.) on request

Expected Outputs:

- Advocacy Guide provided to selected groups

Progress toward outputs, problems encountered, proposed solutions:

A total of 178 Advocacy Guides were mailed during the quarter. 128 copies were in English and 50 copies were in French. All were requested by various audiences.

3. U.S.-based consultative meeting with organizations involved in advocacy in Africa +materials fair

Expected Outputs:

- Consultative meeting and fair held

Progress toward outputs, problems encountered, proposed solutions:

No activity this quarter.

4. Follow-up on the advocacy training to see whether and how the participants have used their skills

Expected Outputs:

- Follow-up completed

Progress toward outputs, problems encountered, proposed solutions:

Renuka Bery discussed this with CAFS during her visit to Nairobi. Some anecdotal evidence was provided, but no formal follow up has been conducted. However, Ms. Bery reiterated the importance in terms of marketing and future funding as important reasons to conduct follow-up activities. Contacts on the topic were also made with CAFS/Lomé and CESAG.

5. Develop materials to improve the use of advocacy guide, e.g., one-day training guide

Expected Outputs:

- Materials Developed

Progress toward outputs, problems encountered, proposed solutions:

Potential approaches are under consideration. Renuka Bery has been discussing this with Gary Engleberg of ACI and further iterations will be discussed and developed in the next two quarters.

Result ib: Capacity to Disseminate Information

6. Work closely with CRHCS to develop strategy to reintegrate centers. Work with new CRHCS info staff person to strengthen program as necessary

Expected Outputs:

- Centers re-integrated
- Program strengthened as needed

Progress toward outputs, problems encountered, proposed solutions:

The reintegration workshop, held at CRHCS this quarter, was a success. CRHCS has hired a new information specialist who also attended this workshop. The roles of the information dissemination centers (IDCs), country technical focal persons and CRHCS were defined, and each country developed an action plan for the coming year. It is likely that, in the coming months, SARA will need to continue to support and provide technical assistance as CRHCS tries to strengthen its information communication and technology program.

7. Work with African institutions to build capacity in repackaging information. Possible activities include workshop, training, etc through e.g. CERPOD, CRHCS

Expected Outputs:

- Increased capacity of African institutions to repackage information

Progress toward outputs, problems encountered, proposed solutions:

Lonna Shafritz, SARA Senior Program Officer, provided suggestions to KEMRI, the Kenyan IDC, related to improving their new AIDS newsletter. Other occasions, institutions under consideration. Renuka Bery worked with CRHCS in honing their ideas and proposals for various funding opportunities. Renuka Bery also met with Joel Okullo briefly in Nairobi with Melinda Wilson to discuss opportunities for SARA to assist the Quality of Care Center in developing a fully functioning dissemination component.

8. Assist African institutions in repackaging information on an as needed basis.

\$ CRHCS
\$ CERPOD
\$ Others

Expected Outputs:

- Information repackaged

Progress toward outputs, problems encountered, proposed solutions:

SARA continued to support Edmond Bagde to work with CERPOD as a consultant to repackage information.

9. Collaborate with other USAID Projects (e.g. BASICS, Horizons, Synergy, Measure) to improve their dissemination on priority AFR/SD issues on request

Expected Outputs:

- Dissemination of priority issues improved for selected projects

Progress toward outputs, problems encountered, proposed solutions:

Renuka Bery has been working closely with Khadijat Mojidi of AFR/SD under SO 8 to identify various products paid for by AFR/SD and to help think through dissemination and repackaging strategies and needs. In the next quarter, she will be meeting with the Networks project, Pop Council and JSI and corresponding with SFPS. In addition, SARA has had conversations with the BASICS dissemination staff to identify ways to collaborate and possibly co-fund activities. Ms. Bery, Lonna Shafritz and/or Soe Lin Post, SARA Electronics Applications Specialist, have attended dissemination meetings with other CAs to share experiences and to collaborate where possible in February and March 2000 and occasionally attend the Development Information Group meetings.

10. Collaborate with other African Institutions (e.g. RATN, RESAR, CESAG, WHO/AFRO, Makerere, AMREF, HST, FAWE, NARESA, ERNESA) to improve their dissemination on priority AFR/SD issues

Expected Outputs:

- Dissemination of priority issues improved for selected institutions

Progress toward outputs, problems encountered, proposed solutions:

Renuka Bery met with the FAWE/Ghana representative to discuss electronic communication activities for education. Ms. Bery met with Joel Okullo from the Makerere Regional QOC Centre to discuss TA opportunities for dissemination. Action will be taken next quarter. She has been communicating regularly with Grace Kagandu at WHO/AFRO on strengthening VPD units' plans for disseminating information.

11. Develop series of Dissemination Briefs to assist projects and African institutions in developing and carrying out a dissemination strategy

Expected Outputs:

- Dissemination briefs developed
- Dissemination strategy developed and implemented

Progress toward outputs, problems encountered, proposed solutions:

The briefs have been discussed and an initial model for the first one, *Dissemination Strategy and Dissemination Plans*, is being developed and will be tested next quarter with SO 8 CAs.

12. Monitor CERPOD's activities with dissemination centers and assist in ensuring activities are progressing

Expected Outputs:

- Activities monitored
- Technical assistance provided as needed

Progress toward outputs, problems encountered, proposed solutions:

No activity this quarter.

Result ic: Capacity to Communicate Electronically

13. Provide connection fees and training to African institutions

Expected Outputs:

- Selected African institutions on-line with e-mail and Internet access

Progress toward outputs, problems encountered, proposed solutions:

Last quarter, SARA began working with two OCCGE/CRAN nutrition focal points: Sierra Leone Ministry of Health and Cote d'Ivoire. The CTO signed CTO letter 803, which authorized the purchase of a modem for Sierra Leone and Internet service for both focal points. Sierra Leone was set up and operating by the beginning of the reporting period. SARA has now paid for the Cote-d'Ivoire connection and they are setting up their connection.

14. Link African institution personnel to e-communication opportunities

\$ MOH ministers in ECSA region through CRHCS

\$ CERPOD dissemination center staff

Expected Outputs:

- Selected personnel linked to opportunities

Progress toward outputs, problems encountered, proposed solutions:

Jonathan Metzger, USAID/Leland Initiative, visited Zimbabwe to assess the computer status at the Ministry of Health. He found that the MOH has 864 computers in various states of repair, but felt that no new equipment was needed in order to connect the MOH electronically.

Result iia: Materials Development and Production

15. Design and package information in appropriate formats (books, syntheses, executive summaries, e-notes, policy briefs/brochures, tools). Current documents in production include:

- \$ Manual on Qualitative Manuals (English and French)
- \$ Training guide for *Making a Difference to Policies and Programs* (French)
- \$ Policy manuals for CRHCS
- \$ CRHCS program Briefs (Printing)
- \$ Self-evaluation Manual (English and French)

Expected Outputs:

- Selected information designed and packaged

Progress toward outputs, problems encountered, proposed solutions:

1. *Qualitative Research for Improved Health Programs*, the manual on qualitative manuals has been produced in English and is being disseminated. Also being translated into French.
2. The French training guide for *Making a Difference to Policies and Programs* had been printed and disseminated.
3. The Policy manual for CRHCS has been developed, reviewed and revised. The revised version is being reviewed.
4. CRHCS Program Briefs were printed last quarter and continue to be distributed this quarter.
5. The Self-evaluation Manual field test ended in January with the Mali visit of Anne LaFond. It is being revised.

16. Reprints needed of following documents

- \$ Making the Internet Connection Count (French)
- \$ Advocacy Guide (French)
- \$ Making a Difference to Policies and Programs (English)

Expected Outputs:

- TBD

Progress toward outputs, problems encountered, proposed solutions:

CIHI was able to assist SARA in reprinting all the documents above as well as English copies of *Making the Internet Connection Count*.

In total, CIHI printed the following on behalf of SARA:

- Training Guide for Making a Difference to Policies and Programs (French)
- Nutrition Briefs
- Improving Community Case Management of Childhood Malaria (English and French)
- Rapid Assessment: Health Seeking Behavior for Severe and Complicated Malaria (French)
- Rapid Assessment: Recognition of Illness Symptoms for Severe and Complicated Malaria (French)
- AIDS briefing packets

17. Dissemination of key cross-cutting products as requested, e.g.:

- \$ Introduction to Advocacy**
- \$ Influencing Policies & Programs**
- \$ Making the Connection Count**
- \$ Knowledge Utilization**

Expected Outputs:

- Products disseminated

Progress toward outputs, problems encountered, proposed solutions:

The SARA team has been filling many requests for documents. A total of 524 cross-cutting documents were sent out during this quarter from the list above.

18. Assessments of Use of AFR/SD-SARA products (2 documents per year)

- **Time to Act and Advocacy guide**
- **Research Guide and AIDS Briefs**

Expected Outputs:

- Use of documents assessed & presentation given

Progress toward outputs, problems encountered, proposed solutions:

Plans being developed.

Result iib: Dissemination Channels

19. Mail documents to targeted mailing list

Expected Outputs:

- Documents mailed

Progress toward outputs, problems encountered, proposed solutions:

In addition to requests, SARA conducted 4 large mailings this quarter. A total of 3,776 documents were disseminated during the same period.

20. Redesign and maintain Website with relevant information and publications/publication information

Expected Outputs:

- Website redesigned

Progress toward outputs, problems encountered, proposed solutions:

The new SARA web pages will be incorporated into the USAID Africa-SD website. The SARA information dissemination team met with USAID's webmaster and the Mitchell Group's representatives several times to discuss plans for a redesigned SARA/ Africa-SD web site. Construction is underway.

21. Promote information through various listservs (AFRONETS, ReproHlth, WB, AHILANet)

Expected Outputs:

- Information promoted

Progress toward outputs, problems encountered, proposed solutions:

Several SARA staff members have responded to various listserv queries. In particular, one debate about AIDS in the military in Africa brought the AIDS Briefs on the HHRAA web site to the attention of the readers.

22. Develop an electronic conference (with some SO Team)

Expected Outputs:

- Electronic conference developed with selected team

Progress toward outputs, problems encountered, proposed solutions:

No activity this quarter.

23. Explore new activities such as CD-ROMS and listservs. Assess whether SARA should put something together for a CD-ROM. Explore whether a listserv like AFRO-NETS for health exists for education. Monitor CERTI CD-ROM activity

Expected Outputs:

- New activities of this nature identified, including whether SARA should do CD-ROM
- AFRO-NETS-like listserv for education identified if one exists
- CERTI CD-ROM activity monitored

Progress toward outputs, problems encountered, proposed solutions:

Discussions were held with the representative from FAWE/Ghana about establishing some type of electronic networking. Our conversations were interesting and follow-up is needed to determine how to proceed.

Result iic: User Needs

24. Identify information for decision makers

Expected Outputs:

- Information identified

Progress toward outputs, problems encountered, proposed solutions:

Plans to conduct analysis of decision-makers' needs under discussion.

25. Analyze tracking information on major SARA publications

Expected Outputs:

- Information analyzed

Progress toward outputs, problems encountered, proposed solutions:

Mail tracking database program was updated to a newer version. The existing mailing database was thoroughly analyzed and reconstructed. A new mail tracking database for SARA II was created this quarter.

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

26. Provide TA to all AFR/SD teams to ensure that RPs have dissemination & advocacy built into activities

Expected Outputs:

- TA given & dissemination & advocacy activities reviewed

Progress toward outputs, problems encountered, proposed solutions:

Participation of D&A person as a member of all core teams has increased the focus on D&A of AFR/SD teams.

27. SO Team Core Group Dissemination Activities (cross-referenced)

SO6- Education

Design and Print DHS Profiles

Education/AIDS workshop in Africa

Repackaging and production of Impact Sheets

ERNWACA Anglophone Advocacy Workshop

Expected Outputs:

- DHS profiles designed & printed
- Education/AIDS workshop organized
- Impact Sheets repackaged and produced
- ERNWACA anglophone advocacy workshop organized

Progress toward outputs, problems encountered, proposed solutions:

See information under SO 6 above.

SO7- Malaria/Infectious Diseases

Production, translation, and printing of Malaria docs

Expected Outputs:

- Per Table

Progress toward outputs, problems encountered, proposed solutions:

See information under SO 7 above.

SO7- Nutrition/child survival

Design and Printing of Nutrition Briefs

Collaboration on IMCI modules

Production and Printing of HIV formative Research in SA

Production and printing of HIV and nutrition paper

Expected Outputs:

- Nutrition Briefs designed & printed
- HIV Formative Research in South Africa produced and printed
- HIV and nutrition paper produced and printed

Progress toward outputs, problems encountered, proposed solutions:

See information under SO 7 above.

SO8-Population and Reproductive Health

Expected Outputs:

- TBD

Progress toward outputs, problems encountered, proposed solutions:

See information under SO 8 above.

SO9-HIV/AIDS**Production and printing of Community Mobilization Paper?****Production and printing of Ishrat's paper****Collation of Briefing packets****Other Sectoral workshops*****Expected Outputs:***

- Community Mobilization paper produced & printed
- Ishrat's paper produced & printed
- Briefing packets collated
- Sectoral workshops organized

Progress toward outputs, problems encountered, proposed solutions:

See information under SO 9 above.

SO10- Crisis Prevention***Expected Outputs:***

- TBD

Progress toward outputs, problems encountered, proposed solutions:

See information under SO 10 above.

SPO 2 - Polio Eradication**Continue assisting WHO/AFRO on dissemination and Advocacy*****Expected Outputs:***

- Assistance provided

Progress toward outputs, problems encountered, proposed solutions:

See information under SPO Polio above.