

SARA II QUARTERLY PROGRESS REPORT
October 1 – December 31, 2003

This report covers the first quarter of FY 2004, namely, the period October 1 – September 30, 2003. It follows the SARA FY 04 work plan for the period October 1, 2003 – September 30, 2004.

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

The bulk of staff time during this quarter was finalizing the FY 04 work plan itself, a complex task involving all the SO teams. The January – March 2004 report for the 2nd quarter of FY 04 will reflect a strong increase in activity during that time.

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

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

Technical Area: Child Survival

Support to AFR/SD

1. Assist AFR/SD with issues identification, portfolio management & evaluation.

Expected Outputs:

- ? Issues related to child health identified
- ? Child Survival Core Group meetings organized

Progress toward outputs, problems encountered, proposed solutions:

Much of this activity related to preparing the FY 04 work plan, which was completed by December 31st.

2. Taking stock of child survival.

Expected Outputs:

- ? Information presented from Mission & key informant interviews
- ? Best practices documented from selected missions – e-notes, briefs, etc.)

Progress toward outputs, problems encountered, proposed solutions:

By the end of December 2003, much of the interviewing had been completed. The Lancet list had been received from 16 countries, and health officers in 11 countries had been interviewed. In addition, 16 key informants had been interviewed. During the next quarter, interviews and analysis should be completed, and drafting of the report begun.

3. Link with CORE, HCP, BASICS & WHO to promote the Africa Bureau's priorities for child health.

Expected Outputs:

- ? AFR's priorities in child health promoted

Progress toward outputs, problems encountered, proposed solutions:

No activity this quarter.

Moving the Private Sector Agenda

1. Organize advocacy forum on involving private providers.

Expected Outputs:

- ? Intl. steering committee established
- ? Forum organized in Africa
- ? WHO/AFRO takes on capacity development role

Progress toward outputs, problems encountered, proposed solutions:

Dr. Suzanne Prysor-Jones, SARA Project Director, held several discussions with Dennis Carroll, USAID/Global, and Dr. Chandramouli, WHO/Geneva, to prepare the formation of a steering committee to guide this initiative. SARA began planning with the Malaria Consortium for both the first steering committee meeting and the forum itself. By the end of the quarter, a first draft of the scope of work and a budget were completed. The steering committee meeting is scheduled for March or April 2004. In addition, Mr. Carroll provided \$75,000 in funding for this activity, which AFR/SD then obligated to SARA for this purpose.

2. Influence programs / partners to use health care-seeking behavior data to design programs.

Expected Outputs:

- ? Specific health care-seeking information gathered & used.

Progress toward outputs, problems encountered, proposed solutions:

Consultant Elisabeth Sommerfelt started to carry out the secondary analysis of recent DHS data to pull out care-seeking behavior from about 20 countries. This data will be used by Tonya Marek at the World Bank to inform appropriate World Bank publications and also be packaged for the private sector forum and used for advocacy in other venues.

3. Collaborate with WHO/Geneva, et al, to develop & disseminate toolkit for including private practitioners in child survival & malaria programs.

Expected Outputs:

- ? Toolkit (paper & CD) developed & disseminated

Progress toward outputs, problems encountered, proposed solutions:

SARA, in collaboration with WHO/HQ's Child and Adolescent Health Division (CAH) and Dr. Youssef Tawfik (former SARA senior child survival advisor), began finalizing the toolkit this quarter. The main body of the toolkit will present an overview of the national strategy development process for involving private practitioners in national child survival programs. The toolkit's accompanying CD-ROM is still being developed. SARA has collected relevant tools and examples for national strategy development and different types of interventions, as well as general papers related to private practitioners and intervention-related documents, but is seeking more tools and permission to include them in this toolkit.

Moving the Community Child Health Agenda

1. Participate in Inter-Agency Working Group(IAWG) meetings on C-IMCI & follow up on required action.

Expected Outputs:

- ? SARA participation in IAWG

Progress toward outputs, problems encountered, proposed solutions:

Dr. Suzanne Prysor-Jones participated in discussions to plan the next IAWG meeting to be held in the next quarter.

2. Participate in WHO/AFRO, UNICEF and/or BASICS meetings to facilitate scaling up of C-IMCI.

Expected Outputs:

- ? Strategies to expand C-IMCI developed

Progress toward outputs, problems encountered, proposed solutions:

No activity this quarter.

3. Collaborate with partners to explore the role of NGO networks in the scale-up of child health programs.

Expected Outputs:

- ? NGO networks strengthened in selected countries

Progress toward outputs, problems encountered, proposed solutions:

The main activity this quarter was the development of the strategy and planning for sharing nutrition tools/approaches with NGOs in West Africa.

4. Follow up with AFRO on use of facilitators briefing package for household & community IMCI (C-IMCI).

Expected Outputs:

- ? Suitable facilitators oriented for C-IMCI
- ? Planning approach used

Progress toward outputs, problems encountered, proposed solutions:

No activity this quarter.

5. Identify & disseminate “best practices” sustainable approaches for BCC programs.

Expected Outputs:

Best practices identified & disseminated

- ? Prior work on issue identified
- ? Issues related to sustainable BCC identified
- ? Feasible approaches / possible interfaces identified

Progress toward outputs, problems encountered, proposed solutions:

No activity this quarter.

6. Support the inclusion of AIDS-related issues in community IMCI.

Expected Outputs:

- ? Best practices identified & disseminated

Progress toward outputs, problems encountered, proposed solutions:

No activity this quarter.

Advocacy on Other Key AFR/SD Priority Issues

1. Look for opportunities to advocate for access to ARI & other CS drugs/commodities at community level.

Expected Outputs:

? BASICS results disseminated & taken forward post-BASICS

Progress toward outputs, problems encountered, proposed solutions:

No activity this quarter.

2. Disseminate findings on funding issues for child health.

Expected Outputs:

? TBD

Progress toward outputs, problems encountered, proposed solutions:

No activity this quarter.

3. Disseminate & promote the use of the COPE tool for child health (with WARHP & AFRO).

Expected Outputs:

? COPE tool adopted & used

Progress toward outputs, problems encountered, proposed solutions:

No activity this quarter.

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

Technical Area: **Malaria RP**

1. Production & dissemination of a document on USAID Malaria programs in Africa.

Expected Outputs:

- ? TA provided to prepare the document
- ? Document produced and disseminated

Progress toward outputs, problems encountered, proposed solutions:

The final draft of the document prepared by PHNI is being vetted with USAID missions. The final report is expected to be ready for production and dissemination next quarter after SARA has laid it out and finalized it. Antonia Wolff, SARA Dissemination Specialist, will collaborate with AFR/SD, PHNIP, WHO/AFRO and WHO/HQ to formulate a strategic dissemination plan for the report.

2. Co-sponsorship of the Regional Integrated Vector Management (IVM) Partnership meeting.

Expected Outputs:

- ? TA provided by SARA staff & consultants
- ? Selected African participants supported to attend
- ? Report prepared

Progress toward outputs, problems encountered, proposed solutions:

Dr. Sambe Duale, SARA Infectious Diseases Advisor/Senior Research Manager, used the opportunity provided by a visit in Geneva in October 2003 to meet with Dr. Kabir Cham of the WHO/RBM and Dr. Yeya Toure of WHO/TDR to discuss strategic directions for building capacity for integrated vector management (IVM) as a prevention and control strategy for vector-borne diseases, especially malaria. The USAID-funded EHP Project and SARA are discussing ways to assist WHO/AFRO in the development and the implementation of its IVM program. SARA staff has initiated discussion with WHO/AFRO and EHP Project colleagues on the planning of a regional IVM workshop. SARA is waiting for WHO/AFRO to decide on the dates and venue for the meeting.

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

Expected Outputs:

- ? Working group meetings held
- ? Review of MIP policies & guidelines in ECSA conducted
- ? Advocacy briefs developed & disseminated
- ? Malaria & pregnancy brochure & press kit updated, produced & disseminated

Progress toward outputs, problems encountered, proposed solutions:

SARA staff had electronic exchanges with colleagues at PATH in Nairobi and CRHCS in Arusha to discuss plans for an advocacy meeting for interested parties involved in the malaria and pregnancy network in Eastern and Southern Africa (MIPESA). The decision to hold an advocacy workshop for MIPESA was made during the RBM Working Group on malaria and pregnancy (MIP) meeting held the first week of October 2003 in Dar es Salaam, Tanzania. PATH and SARA were tasked with leading a sub-working group on MIP advocacy. The MIPESA advocacy workshop is planned for January 2004 in Kampala, Uganda. SARA will provide MIP background materials for the meeting.

Holley Stewart, SARA Reproductive Health Advisor, represented SARA at a meeting held October 9-10, 2003, in Cotonou, Benin, to launch the MIP network for West Africa (RAOPAG). SARA staff is in contact with Dr. Dorothee Kinde-Gazard, RAOPAG Coordinator, and other interested parties to discuss ways to move the network activities forward.

Meanwhile, the Malaria and Pregnancy Review is completed (jointly with REDSO) and the consultant is sending in her report. After the report is submitted, CRHCS will determine whether to develop briefs on the state of the art of treatment, etc., based on what already exists.

Finally, the MIP brochure has been updated, produced and disseminated in English and French. Over 5,000 copies of the brochure have been dissemination throughout Africa.

4. Procurement and dissemination of the AJTMH supplement on the Burden of Malaria in Africa.

Expected Outputs:

- ? Up to 300 documents procured & disseminated

Progress toward outputs, problems encountered, proposed solutions:

SARA has prepared a CTO Letter for submission to USAID for approval to purchase the document. The NIH Foundation expects the supplement to be produced in April 2004, and SARA will purchase 300 copies to disseminate to USAID and partners.

5. Organize advocacy activities on involving private providers in health outcomes related to child survival & malaria.

Expected Outputs:

- ? Intl. steering committee established
- ? Forum organized in Africa
- ? WHO/AFRO takes on capacity development role

Progress toward outputs, problems encountered, proposed solutions:

See item #1, "Moving the Private Sector Forward", in the previous section.

6. Technical support for the implementation of the CORE Group malaria & IMCI work plan for FY 04.

Expected Outputs:

- ? TA provided by SARA staff and consultant
- ? Staff of SARA & partner institutions participated in key meetings
- ? Electronic exchanges organized

Progress toward outputs, problems encountered, proposed solutions:

Dr. Sambe Duale participated in two CORE Malaria Working Group meetings this quarter. SARA staff reviewed the 2004 CORE malaria work plan. Dr. Duale has been asked to provide support for the development of the technical agenda and identification of potential speakers for the CORE national malaria conferences being planned for Ghana and Sierra Leone in the second trimester of 2004.

7. Technical support for malaria activities of selected African institutions and networks (e.g., CRHCS, WAHO, MRTC, WHO/AFRO, RCQHC, ICIPE, ECSACON, RAOPAG).

Expected Outputs:

- ? TA provided by SARA staff & consultant
- ? Staff of partner institutions participated in key meetings Electronic exchanges organized

Progress toward outputs, problems encountered, proposed solutions:

In addition to the outputs mentioned under #3, Dr. Suzanne Prysor-Jones, Badara Seye and Fara Mbodj (Advocacy and Institutional Development Specialists at AWARE – RH), met with Dr. Antoinette Ba of WHO/AFRO in November 2004 in Dakar at the first annual meeting of the new Francophone MIP network (RAOPAG) to explore ways to get RAOPAG support for the agenda of the new USAID Regional Project in West Africa. SARA is also working with the coordinator of RAOPAG's secretariat on its scope of work and planned activities for FY 04 in coordination with AWARE-RH.

8. Support a WAHO consultative meeting to identify strategic approaches to the promotion of ITNs for malaria prevention & control in West Africa.

Expected Outputs:

- ? TA provided by SARA & consultants
- ? Workshop organized
- ? Report & advocacy materials prepared & disseminated

Progress toward outputs, problems encountered, proposed solutions:

No activity this quarter.

9. Provide support to the design of advocacy materials on taxes & tariffs on ITNs.

Expected Outputs:

- ? SARA support provided

Progress toward outputs, problems encountered, proposed solutions:

SARA is assisting the NetMark Project in developing an advocacy package (REDUCE-like) on the reduction of taxes and tariffs for insecticide-treated bednets (ITNs). Consultants Marc Debay and Elisabeth Sommerfelt will start to work on this in January with Martin Alilio of NetMark. Dr. Suzanne Prysor Jones and Dr. Sambe Duale will provide further input.

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

Technical Area: Tuberculosis

1. Dissemination findings of the Women and TB study in Tanzania.

Expected Outputs:

- ? Development, production & dissemination of briefs & advocacy materials

Progress toward outputs, problems encountered, proposed solutions:

SARA edited and finalized the final study report submitted by HealthScope. SARA will be working with HealthScope and CRHCS to develop a dissemination plan for the report. The report will be produced and disseminated next quarter.

2. Support for information sharing on the implementation of TB control programs in African settings.

Expected Outputs:

- ? Information-sharing activities planned and organized.

Progress toward outputs, problems encountered, proposed solutions:

No activity this quarter.

3. Support for the documentation and dissemination of findings on innovative TB -HIV linked programs.

Expected Outputs:

- ? Literature review, key informant interviews & site visits conducted
- ? Advocacy briefs produced & disseminated

Progress toward outputs, problems encountered, proposed solutions:

Dr. Sambe Duale has communicated with REDSO/ESA and CRHCS on planning this activity. CRHCS is to hire a consultant to lead this activity with technical support from SARA.

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

Technical Area: Infectious Diseases

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

Expected Outputs:

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

Progress toward outputs, problems encountered, proposed solutions:

SARA continued to disseminate the packet of policy briefs on IDSR implementation in Africa. The IDSR Briefs were among the background materials distributed at the Global Consultation on Strengthening National Capacities for Surveillance Response and Control of Communicable Diseases held October 22-24, 2003, in Geneva. Ms. Antonia Wolff presented on SARA Project support to WHO/AFRO and its partners for the documentation and dissemination of lessons learned so far with the implementation of the IDSR strategy. The meeting recognized the need for increased advocacy to mobilize resources for strengthening surveillance, preparedness and response systems.

Meanwhile, the SARA team will continue to disseminate the briefs at events, workshops and WHO/AFRO meetings.

2. Global Consultation on Disease Surveillance & Response.

Expected Outputs:

- ? SARA represented at meeting
- ? Report prepared & disseminated

Progress toward outputs, problems encountered, proposed solutions:

Dr. Sambe Duale and Antonia Wolff attended a World Health Organization (WHO)-sponsored Global Consultation on Strengthening National Capacities for Surveillance Response and Control of Communicable Diseases. The meeting was held October 22- 24, 2003, at the WHO/Headquarters in Geneva, Switzerland. A trip report summarizing the meeting deliberations, recommendations and next steps was produced and shared with AFR/SD and other interested parties.

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

Expected Outputs:

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

Progress toward outputs, problems encountered, proposed solutions:

Antonia Wolff traveled to the World Health Organization (WHO) African Regional Office (AFRO) in Harare, Zimbabwe, November 15-21. She provided technical guidance and strategic thinking around dissemination issues for the new dissemination officer, Zora Machekanyanga, with the goal of strengthening WHO/AFRO's Vaccine and Preventable Disease (VPD) unit to design, produce and disseminate key materials.

While there, Ms. Wolff worked closely with Grace Kagandu, the EPI Communications Coordinator, and Ms. Machekanyanga to assist the VPD staff in prioritizing their communication and dissemination needs. Ms. Machekanyanga and Ms. Wolff met with VPD staff technical advisors and finalized the draft communications strategy. Seven core areas were identified as high priority: lessons learned in polio – country best practices; VPD's implementation of NIDs; info on rumors, myths and misconceptions on OPV/Immunization safety; GAVI lessons learned; measles and routine immunization; RED (Reach Every District) Initiative; injection safety; and waste management. They then devised short- and long-term work plans, and presented the strategy and work plan to over 25 VPD staff members, including its director, Dr. Deo Nshimirimana. The presentation included an overview of dissemination issues, its importance, constraints, the Dissemination Officer's Roles & Expectations within VPD; VPD's prioritized information needs; and recommendations. Recommendations for staff included incorporating dissemination into bi-annual work plans; systematizing the Dissemination Officer's presence in the technical sub-units; using the Dissemination Officer as a resource when thinking about developing products; and partnering with technical staff. Ms. Wolff also provided guidance on systematizing the dissemination process with VPD staff.

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

Expected Outputs:

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

Progress toward outputs, problems encountered, proposed solutions:

This activity has been included on the joint work plan that WHO/AFRO, CDC, USAID and other technical partners outlined in Geneva during the Global Consultation. SARA is waiting for more guidance on the way forward from WHO/AFRO.

5. WHO/AFRO Annual Meeting of the Task Force on Integrated Disease Surveillance and Response.

Expected Outputs:

- ? SARA & partners represented at meeting Report prepared & disseminated

Progress toward outputs, problems encountered, proposed solutions:

Nothing to report this period. WHO/AFRO hopes to convene the Task Force in June 2004.

6. Technical support to AFR/SD on Epidemic Preparedness & Response, & Transition Initiatives.

Expected Outputs:

- ? Review meetings held
- ? TA provided for the development & production of activities in this technical area

Progress toward outputs, problems encountered, proposed solutions:

In the past few years, more countries in Africa have experienced an increasing number of outbreaks of cholera and other epidemic-prone diarrheal diseases. At USAID/AFR/SD's request, Dr. Sambe Duale led an effort to prepare a cable to provide missions with information and guidance necessary for their involvement in cholera epidemic preparedness and response activities. The draft cable has been sent to WHO/AFRO for comment. AFR/SD plans to send out a final cable to field missions next quarter.

During the Global Surveillance meeting in Geneva, Dr. Duale joined Ms. Mary Harvey of AFR/SD to facilitate side meetings to discuss the joint USAID, CDC, UNF and WHO work plan for 2004 IDSR activities in Africa. The SARA Project will be involved in the development and implementation of selected activities of the joint work plan, including:

- 1) Packaging and dissemination of findings of the IDSR documentation exercise;
- 2) The review of the of the USAID grant to WHO/AFRO for the period 1999 to 2003;
- 3) Setting up a working group to discuss and outline a strategy for WHO/AFRO to improve short and long term training on disease surveillance and outbreak response;
- 4) Assistance to WHO/AFRO for the develop of a long term strategy for better mobilization and management of contingency stocks for preparedness and response to outbreaks;
- 5) The 2004 IDSR Task Force

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

Technical Area: Nutrition

1. Assist AFR/SD SO 19 team in managing the Nutrition Technical Area (including MTCT/nutrition, HIV/AIDS issues).

Expected Outputs:

- ? Core team meetings held
- ? SO 19 portfolio reviews conducted
- ? Expert advice provided

Progress toward outputs, problems encountered, proposed solutions:

The SARA Nutrition team contributed to the AFR-organized conference on Orphans and Vulnerable Children by reviewing the background document, and making presentations in two working group sessions. One presentation, by Dorcas Lwanga, SARA Nutritionist, was on nutrition for HIV-positive children. The other presentation, by Ellen Piwoz, SARA Nutrition Advisor, was on HIV, infant feeding and maternal health.

2. Provide technical support to AFR Core Groups, G-PHN & CA partners on nutrition issues in Africa.

Expected Outputs:

- ? Meetings attended.
- ? Expert advice/input provided.

Progress toward outputs, problems encountered, proposed solutions:

Dr. Ellen Piwoz drafted guidance for AFR/OHA/HIDN on the use of breast milk substitutes in USAID-funded PMTCT programs. She also provided input to LINKAGES, FANTA and MOST on HIV and nutrition issues. On December 17th, she made a presentation at USAID on the work of the WHO Technical Advisory Group on nutrition and HIV/AIDS, including their conclusions related to nutritional requirements for people living with HIV/AIDS.

3. Evaluate the impact of AFR/SD nutrition investments & disseminate results:

- ? **Short brief of results of the PROFILES evaluation**
- ? **Disseminate results of the West Africa Nutrition Focal Point Network evaluation .**

Expected Outputs:

- ? Brief on PROFILES evaluation completed & disseminated
- ? Report disseminated in WA sub-region

Progress toward outputs, problems encountered, proposed solutions:

The brief describing the results of the PROFILES evaluation was completed and disseminated. It will be placed on the website.

4. Nutrition Policy Analysis and Advocacy:

- ? **PROFILES support to countries to enhance understanding of ENA & linkages with HIV/AIDS, RH programs (emphasis on PEPFAR & WA countries)**

Expected Outputs:

- ? Up to 3 countries in the region assisted as needed
 - Benin (Jan. 2004)

Progress toward outputs, problems encountered, proposed solutions:

Kinday Samba, SARA West Africa Regional Nutrition Advisor, prepared for the PROFILES workshop in Benin. This workshop will be carried out in January 2004.

5. Strengthen African partners' capacity for:

- ? **Use of AFR-supported tools & approaches in NGO & pre-service settings in the West Africa region**
- ? **Nutrition advocacy in West Africa**
- ? **Dissemination of promising practices in Africa through regional networks:**
 - **WAHO focal points**
 - **CRHCS nutrition network**
 - **Other nutrition networks**

Expected Outputs:

- ? Meetings organized in 3 countries for NGOs from 6 countries in West Africa
- ? Follow-up on implementation of approaches & tools into curriculum of 7 countries in West Africa
- ? Workshop conducted to revise training manual integrating elements of approaches & tools
- ? Workshop conducted to update ANCDI West & Central Africa 10-year action plan & presented to potential donors
- ? Support for one regional meeting each for WAHO & CRHCS nutrition focal points
- ? Dissemination of Regional Training Manual on Essential Nutrition Actions to Schools & NGOs through focal points network

Progress toward outputs, problems encountered, proposed solutions:

SARA provided support for the CRHCS annual nutrition focal points meeting, which included a technical update on nutrition and non-communicable diseases. Dorcas Lwanga drafted a brief on this issue for meeting participants. She also provided input and assistance on the meeting agenda.

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

Technical Area: Maternal and Newborn Health

<p>1. Join with other partners to develop & disseminate a program brief that refocuses the role of traditional birth attendants as part of a facility/community team to improve maternal health .</p> <p><i>Expected Outputs:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">? Program brief? Review & discussion by WHO RH focal points <p><i>Progress toward outputs, problems encountered, proposed solutions:</i></p> <p>No activity this quarter.</p>
<p>2. Provide support on malaria in pregnancy.</p> <p><i>Expected Outputs:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">? Translation of malaria in pregnancy briefing packet, development of additional fact sheets, etc., in French for dissemination in francophone countries? Work with RAOPAG (West African Network for the Fight against Malaria during Pregnancy) <p><i>Progress toward outputs, problems encountered, proposed solutions:</i></p> <p>See SO 19, Malaria, item # 3.</p>
<p>3. Work with WHO/AFRO & African institutions to expand REDUCE/ALIVE initiative in Africa through capacity development of regional consultants.</p> <p><i>Expected Outputs:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">? Increased monitoring of advocacy impact? Capacity development demonstrated <p><i>Progress toward outputs, problems encountered, proposed solutions:</i></p> <p>SARA helped leverage \$100,000 from the World Bank for AED and WHO/AFRO to advocate and mobilize resources to reduce maternal and neonatal morbidity and mortality in Ethiopia, Malawi and Uganda. So far the funds have reactivated the REDUCE model in Uganda, involving new partners and expanding to the district level, and developed and disseminated advocacy tools to the regional and district level in Ethiopia. Uganda will finalize an advocacy plan, implement advocacy activities in two districts and develop simple advocacy materials based on REDUCE. In Ethiopia, REDUCE participants recommended creating an ad hoc committee under the MOH's Family Health Department. This committee will identify opportunities, partners, technical capacities and community mechanisms to help reduce maternal and newborn death. World Bank-funded activities have been carried out in close coordination with WHO/AFRO and managed by Luann Martin at AED.</p> <p>WHO/AFRO and CRHCS are finalizing the maternal health advocacy activity monitoring tool which was piloted with SARA support in Uganda and Nigeria .</p>
<p>4. Promote attention / interventions to improve newborn care through use of ALIVE, dissemination of best practices, etc.</p> <p><i>Expected Outputs:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">? BASICS/Senegal experience disseminated / discussed in AFRO & other forums? Funding leveraged for ALIVE <p><i>Progress toward outputs, problems encountered, proposed solutions:</i></p> <p>No activity this quarter.</p>

5. Work with AFRO to build capacity in Africa for formative research on newborns.

Expected Outputs:

? Capacity developed & research planned & conducted

Progress toward outputs, problems encountered, proposed solutions:

No activity this quarter.

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

Technical Area: Health Reform

1. Support advocacy on human resources as part of Africa Working Group.

Expected Outputs:

- ? Advocacy tool developed

Progress toward outputs, problems encountered, proposed solutions:

No activity this quarter.

2. Identify & disseminate “best practices” for long-term approaches to continuing education in coordination with relevant partners.

Expected Outputs:

- ? Inter-Agency Working Group established with SARA participation
- ? Relevant partners & countries that have worked with professional associations identified
- ? Best practices identified & collected
- ? Ways of using continuing education as performance incentive, for license renewal, identified

Progress toward outputs, problems encountered, proposed solutions:

No activity this quarter.

3. . Identify & disseminate “best practices” for developing a critical mass for public health leadership.

Expected Outputs:

- ? Partners with interest & activities in public health leadership identified
- ? Best practices of foundations, graduate schools, USAID experience & countries identified
- ? University networks strengthened in selected countries

Progress toward outputs, problems encountered, proposed solutions:

No activity this quarter.

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

Technical Area: Expanded Program of Immunization (EPI)

1. Assist AFR/SD SO 19 EPI team in managing the EPI agenda, especially human resources/capacity development.

Expected Outputs:

? Assistance provided as needed.

Progress toward outputs, problems encountered, proposed solutions:

No activity this quarter.

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

Expected Outputs:

? Publications produced & disseminated.

Progress toward outputs, problems encountered, proposed solutions:

No activity this quarter.

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

General – Related to overall SO

1. Assist AFR/SD/HRD SO 20 team with managing the RH results packages.

Expected Outputs:

- ? Core team meetings held
- ? Results packages completed & periodically updated
- ? Annual report completed
- ? Strategic support & guidance provided to AFR/SD & WHO/AFRO regional RH task force
- ? Agenda set with AFR/SD priorities included
- ? Task force recommendations
- ? Follow-up
- ? PMP updated

Progress toward outputs, problems encountered, proposed solutions:

One core group meeting was held on Dec 17, 2003. SARA also organized a meeting with AFR/SD and CAs involved in youth programs to discuss next steps in improving youth reproductive health in Africa. SARA drafted the FY03 SO 20 section of the AFR/SD annual report and finalized it with the indicator tables with the RH core group. SARA provided guidance to the WHO/AFRO regional RH task force in October, 2003. One of the outcomes of this meeting was to re-vamp the MNH partners' approach so that reduction of maternal and newborn disability and death can be accelerated. A meeting to this effect will be held next quarter.

2. Guidance to AFR/SD & CA partners on dissemination & advocacy as related to documentation of FP & RH.

Expected Outputs:

- ? Guidance provided as needed.

Progress toward outputs, problems encountered, proposed solutions:

SARA provided technical guidance on a CD-ROM developed and produced by JHPIEGO. The CD is a compilation of best practices produced during the SFPS project. SARA will replicate and disseminate the CD in the next quarter. SARA also provided guidance on the dissemination of the Malaria and Pregnancy brochure and the PAC report.

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

Expected Outputs:

- ? Issue identification & promotion of AFR/SD priorities

Progress toward outputs, problems encountered, proposed solutions:

As reported elsewhere in this section.

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

1. TA on dissemination of findings of formative research on male involvement.

Expected Outputs:

- ? Brief to be included in RH briefing packet (French & English)
- ? Dissemination to RH e-mailing list
- ? Translate summary brief in French

Progress toward outputs, problems encountered, proposed solutions:

SARA drafted the Brief, and is now awaiting AFR/SD approval. SARA needs to find out whether AFR/SD wants to continue adding to the RH briefing packet.

2. Support CERPOD to update information on adolescent RH in the region by conducting an in-depth analysis of new DHS data from the region.

Expected Outputs:

- ? Up-to-date information on ARH in at least four CERPOD member countries where new DHS & other data is involved
- ? Wall chart or brochure presenting this new information in an accessible way
- ? Development of dissemination strategy
- ? Data turned into a PowerPoint presentation to be used at meetings

Progress toward outputs, problems encountered, proposed solutions:

This is an ongoing activity. Reports for a program review and secondary data analyses of DHS have been drafted. The next steps include the synthesis of reports and CERPOD's production of dissemination materials. There is supposed to be a consultative meeting with adolescent/youth stakeholders to determine appropriate kinds of materials.

3. Support CERPOD communication specialist.

Expected Outputs:

- ? Cover Amadou Sankare's salary for first quarter of FY04, possibly 2nd quarter, until WARP contract with CERPOD takes over

Progress toward outputs, problems encountered, proposed solutions:

His salary was covered during the first quarter and will also be covered during the second quarter since the WARP contract with CERPOD has yet to be finalized.

4. Provide technical assistance to CRHCS in the rollout of its RH strategy.

Expected Outputs:

- ? Strategy that outlines the key priority RH areas of focus by CRHCS
- ? Development of materials for repositioning FP
- ? Electronic & print FP repositioning advocacy presentation materials specific to ECSA (link with other partners)
- ? Documentation
- ? Regional & national advocacy action plans
- ? Enhanced commitment to mobilize resources to integrate FP in RH programs
- ? Regional approach for monitoring, evaluating advocacy action plan implementation

Progress toward outputs, problems encountered, proposed solutions:

A draft of the RH strategy was submitted to SARA for comments. SARA and CRHCS discussed it and CRHCS will revise it with its consultant. CRHCS is working with REDSO partner FHI on repositioning family planning. SARA provides occasional TA and will continue to do so.

20.1.3 New strategies for incorporating STI/HIV/AIDS into other existing services adopted

Provide support for addressing the integration of FP & HIV/AIDS programs.

Expected Outputs:

- ? Review final reports, finalize briefs & dissemination strategy with POLICY
- ? Publish & disseminate brief on findings from focus group discussions with clients and providers
- ? Present findings at fora where appropriate

Progress toward outputs, problems encountered, proposed solutions:

POLICY still owes SARA briefs and dissemination strategies. Meanwhile, POLICY presented findings to USAID and expects to present the findings to the International AIDS conference.

20.1.4 New strategies for empowering women developed

1. Support to FGC initiatives.

Expected Outputs:

- ? Will depend on activities defined

Progress toward outputs, problems encountered, proposed solutions:

SARA continued to participate in the interagency working group to eradicate female genital cutting. Ms. Holley Stewart participated in several discussions with the USAID/GH FGC technical advisor Abdelhadi Eltahir and the working group to refine the FGC strategy and finalize the work plan.

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

Expected Outputs:

- ? Compilation & publication of post-Dakar 2002 conference report
- ? DC-based dissemination meeting on report to develop dissemination strategy
- ? West African launch of report
- ? Transfer of Francophone PAC Initiative Committee Secretariat from IntraHealth to CEFOREP

Progress toward outputs, problems encountered, proposed solutions:

The report was finalized in English and the French translation is expected to be completed in January. The English version will be sent to the printers. Distribution lists are being compiled. The transfer of the PAC secretariat duties to CEFOREP has been coordinated by SARA with Intrahealth providing the majority of the technical support. This has been a difficult transfer; it got off to a slow start, and ownership of the Francophone PAC initiative is still tentative. During this period, CEFOREP has contacted 5 PAC focal points, created a reference list of the focal points and is in the process of collecting country updates on the profile of PAC activity and progress.

20.2.1 Reproductive health policies / strategies promotion: Strategies to strengthen African regional capacity to plan, manage & implement reproductive health programs developed & promoted

1. Assist Mwangaza to augment its regional profile & increase its involvement in social mobilization for RH & MNH issues.

Expected Outputs:

- ? Mwangaza activity briefs
- ? Mwangaza development of regional White Ribbon Alliance
- ? Linkages between Mwangaza and other partners

Progress toward outputs, problems encountered, proposed solutions:

SARA worked with Mwangaza on its scope of work to be submitted to SARA for FY 04. Mwangaza was unable to attend the White Ribbon Alliance advocacy training workshop but plans to meet with national maternal health stakeholders in the first quarter of 2004.

2. Support to African regional institutions (AFRO, CEFOREP, CERPOD).

Expected Outputs:

- ? Continue to participate as a member of AFRO's regional RH task force
- ? Assist with the development & follow up of task force recommendations
- ? Coordinate & collaborate with WHO/AFRO on FP, RH, MNH issues/activities
- ? TA to CEFOREP as sub-regional coordinator of PAC Initiative monitoring
- ? Guidance to CERPOD as requested to develop or implement RH communication/dissemination strategies

Progress toward outputs, problems encountered, proposed solutions:

SARA participated in the 2nd annual AFRO regional RH task force in October, and assisted in the development of its recommendations for this year and summary reporting of the follow-up to the recommendations of last year. The task force was recommended to organize a meeting of maternal and newborn health partners to develop a guide to accelerating the reduction of maternal and newborn death and disease and the attainment of the MDGs. SARA was invited to participate in this meeting to be held in February 2004.

TA to CEFOREP as sub-regional coordinator of the PAC initiative monitoring will be discussed with other regional partners as the timeline for its scope of work and SARA support is to end by July 1, 2004, and CEFOREP was slow to start up many of the activities. It would help if CEFOREP had a dedicated staff person to run the PAC secretariat and coordinate substantive follow-up with the country PAC focal points.

<p>20.2.2 Innovative advocacy strategies to increase support of expanded reproductive health programs developed & promoted</p>
<p>1. Assessment of outcomes & results of West African media activities.</p> <p><i>Expected Outputs:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ? Summary briefing booklet on the story of Pop’mediafrique (process, lessons learned & results) distilled from final analysis report <p><i>Progress toward outputs, problems encountered, proposed solutions:</i></p> <p>No activity this quarter.</p>
<p>2. Explore activities to promote & advocate for the repositioning of FP in RH programs.</p> <p><i>Expected Outputs:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ? Participate in developing a framework for USAID interagency working group to reposition FP ? Develop & distribute info packets & advocacy tools <p><i>Progress toward outputs, problems encountered, proposed solutions:</i></p> <p>SARA participated in the task force of the IWG to draft an agency/partner-wide strategy for repositioning FP. The strategy will be presented to the larger IWG and the Global bureau in the first quarter of FY 04. PHNI is now in charge of developing info packets and advocacy tools.</p>
<p>20.2.3 Strategies for improved coordination among stakeholders and/or partners for RH programs developed & promoted</p>
<p>Support to Advance Africa to produce & disseminate a strategic mapping manual for RH services.</p> <p><i>Expected Outputs:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ? Manual developed ? Dissemination strategy developed with Advance Africa & PARTAGE <p><i>Progress toward outputs, problems encountered, proposed solutions:</i></p> <p>This quarter, Advance Africa worked on editing and reviewing the mapping manual. The finalization, printing and dissemination are planned for next quarter. SARA plans to support Advance Africa to produce & disseminate this manual.</p>

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

<p>Enhanced coordination of partners to support HIV/AIDS programs in Africa</p> <p>1. Assist AFR/SD/HRD Team, as needed, in managing the HIV/AIDS results package.</p> <p><i>Expected Outputs:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">? Core team meetings held.? SO 21 portfolio reviews organized.? Performance monitoring plan drafted.? Peer reviews organized & expert advice provided. <p><i>Progress toward outputs, problems encountered, proposed solutions:</i></p> <p>SARA HIV/AIDS Advisor Stephen Kinoti continued to serve as the focal point person for HIV/AIDS activities, work plans and coordination of meetings, preparation of results packages in consultation with technical advisors in the project and the technical officer at AFR/SD. He assisted in the preparations for the OVC consultation organized under the SARA Project and reported in detail below. He also helped review the AFR/SD priority HIV/AIDS activities and coordinated actions by the task managers at SARA related to HIV/AIDS.</p>
<p>2. Participate in the Global and Africa Bureau's Implementation Working Group (IWG) consultations and the HIV/AIDS New Indicators Group (HANIG) activities.</p> <p><i>Expected Outputs:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">? Reports of meetings.? Follow-up actions developed based on the recommendations. <p><i>Progress toward outputs, problems encountered, proposed solutions:</i></p> <p>No HANIG meetings were held this quarter.</p>
<p>3. Work closely with REDSO/ESA to coordinate activities with African institutions and transfer ongoing activities to REDSO/ESA as needed.</p> <p><i>Expected Outputs:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">? Joint REDSO/SARA/CRHCS activity plans developed and implemented, reports shared.? Partners meetings attended, reports developed.? Plans for the transfer of field activities to REDSO/ESA developed and implemented. <p><i>Progress toward outputs, problems encountered, proposed solutions:</i></p> <p>No joint REDSO/SARA/CRHCS joint planning meetings were held mainly because of the inability to travel to Nairobi due to security reasons. However, electronic communication with REDSO and CRHCS was possible to provide TA on the implementation of HIV/AIDS activities in the SARA-CRHCS subcontract.</p> <p>The future of this activity will depend on REDSO decisions, the choice of institutions with which it will work and on activities to be supported. Collaborative procedures and coordination of activities will need to be discussed and agreed upon among REDSO's HIV/AIDS Unit and HPN units, AFR/SD, SARA and the relevant African institutions.</p>

4. Coordination with partner agencies on HIV/AIDS initiatives in Africa.

Expected Outputs:

? SARA staff involved in meetings & electronic exchanges with partners.

Progress toward outputs, problems encountered, proposed solutions:

Dr. Stephen Kinoti participated in, facilitated and presented a paper on the Impacts of HIV/AIDS on the health work force in Sub-Saharan Africa at the Regional Health Ministers Conference held in Livingstone, Zambia, in November 2003. He facilitated the presentation of results on assessments of HIV/AIDS impact in Malawi and Kenya. The results of these assessments were presented to the Health Ministers and were very well received with commitments of follow-up action at country level.

During the meeting, the Ministers urged USAID and other partners to support national initiatives to strengthen human resources in the health sector.

African Institutions/Capacity Building

1. Technical support for increased African capacity to provide quality care, treatment and support for HIV/AIDS with CRHCS pre-service training in HIV/AIDS.

Expected Outputs:

- ? African institutions review and update pre-service curricula on issues related to HIV/AIDS (ECSA follow-up).
- ? Training carried out for HIV/AIDS/PMTCT in collaboration with RATN.
- ? Regional training given to HIV/AIDS program managers (RATN).
- ? Ambassadors of Hope trained and carrying out their mission; Ambassadors' toolkit produced.

Progress toward outputs, problems encountered, proposed solutions:

Dr. Stephen Kinoti worked closely with the Coordinator at CRHCS to finalize a report on the HIV/AIDS activities for 2001-03. This served as the exit report of Dr. Bannet Ndyabangi at the completion of his contract with CRHCS as HIV/AIDS Program Coordinator. This report provides the next steps for the main activities; namely, pre-service training in HIV/AIDS, country follow-up actions to strengthen HR, HIV/AIDS policy monitoring, support for NACs and ACPs, and systems strengthening for ART.

SARA requested and received reports on progress in the management training of national AIDS control managers by three regional management institutions, ESAMI, MANANGA and MIM. The results of the training will be monitored through RATN with TA from SARA in developing the monitoring tool.

Progress on the PMTCT training by NARESA and Witwatersrand University of the RSA was noted this quarter. A formal report is being prepared.

No AOH training was undertaken during this period but Dr. Kinoti assisted NAP+ in the development of a proposal for future funding by SARA and AFR/SD to provide continued financial support for institutional strengthening of NAP+.

2. Support to the HIV/AIDS Coordinator at the CRHCS.

Expected Outputs:

- ? Salary of the Coordinator provided with REDSO co-funding.
- ? Work plan carried out.

Progress toward outputs, problems encountered, proposed solutions:

The position of HIV/AIDS Coordinator at CRHCS was supported with co-funding from REDSO. Discussion on future funding of this position by the ECSA Conference of Health Ministers was initiated. In their November meeting, the health ministers resolved to take over the costs beginning September 2004.

3. Support to HIV/AIDS Policy Advisory Committee in ECSA.

Expected Outputs:

- ? HAPAC identifies new issues for policy development.
- ? Policy briefs on HRH issues prepared and disseminated.
- ? Results of policy monitoring documented and disseminated.
- ? Road map for ARVs finalized & disseminated among ECSA member states.
- ? Regional Procurement and Drug Forum guidelines finalized and disseminated.

Progress toward outputs, problems encountered, proposed solutions:

No HAPAC meeting or consultation was supported this quarter.

4. Strengthen Collaboration between CRHCS/ECSA, REDSO/ESA, WHO/AFRO and HEARD in health systems strengthening.

Expected Outputs:

- ? The 4 organizations undertake collaborative activities in health systems strengthening.

Progress toward outputs, problems encountered, proposed solutions:

Consultations between AFR/SD, REDSO/WHO/HEARD and SARA on human resources for health with a view to scaling up ARV treatment in East and Southern Africa were planned for Harare in November 2003, but the meeting was postponed by AFR/SD.

5. Strengthen RATN in HIV/AIDS training programs.

Expected Outputs:

- ? Support for monitoring of management training for HIV/AIDS national program managers.
- ? Report of training carried out for HIV/AIDS/PMTCT in collaboration with RATN.

Progress toward outputs, problems encountered, proposed solutions:

A proposal for the support of monitoring of management training for national AIDS control program managers expected from RATN during this period was not received. We will follow up during the coming quarter.

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

Expected Outputs:

- ? Institutional evaluation and strategic plan follow-up completed.

Progress toward outputs, problems encountered, proposed solutions:

NAP+ presented a proposal to SARA to support institutional strengthening, strategic evaluation and support for a dissemination strategy. This was shared with AFR/SD and agreement was reached that funding will be provided pending in-depth review of the proposal and funding availabilities.

7. Strengthen capacity for M&E of HIV/AIDS programs in West Africa.

Expected Outputs:

- ? HIV/AIDS consultant hired by CERPOD.
- ? Situation analysis of M&E needs and gaps conducted.
- ? Guidelines and tools disseminated.
- ? Workshop on M&E conducted.

Progress toward outputs, problems encountered, proposed solutions:

CERPOD contracted the services of Dr. Idrissa Ouedraogo of Burkina Faso to restart the implementation of the HIV/AIDS activities interrupted because of the departure of key technical persons due to the re-organization of CERPOD and the subsequent departure of HIV/AIDS consultant David Ojaka. The consultant carried out a rapid assessment of the HIV/AIDS monitoring and evaluation (M&E) and management in selected West Africa countries. The assessment was part of a sub-regional activity jointly organized by USAID West Africa Regional Program, JHPIEGO, Family Health International (FHI), West African Health Organization (WAHO), UNAIDS, CIDA and CERPOD. CERPOD participated in the assessment of HIV/AIDS M&E capacity of the following countries: Burkina Faso, Cape Verde, Gambia, Mali and Senegal. The findings of the assessment were used to help better prepare and inform a multi-county regional meeting held in November 2003 in Dakar to discuss capacity development needs to improve the M&E of national AIDS control programs. It is also hoped that CERPOD will use the findings of the assessment to develop proposals and better plan technical support to countries on HIV/AIDS M&E.

8. Support collaborative activities with WAHO on HIV/AIDS and ECOWAS armed forces.

Expected Outputs:

- ? TA provided by SARA staff and consultants.
- ? Advocacy materials prepared and disseminated.

Progress toward outputs, problems encountered, proposed solutions:

Dr. Sambe Duale has provided technical support electronically to WAHO colleagues to plan a workshop for commanders of ECOWAS Armed Forces to validate a regional framework and an updated 2003-2006 action plan for addressing HIV/AIDS among uniformed services in ECOWAS member countries. The workshop will be held in Accra, Ghana in early 2004.

9. Review of pre-service training curricula in the era of HIV/AIDS in West Africa (WAHO).

Expected Outputs:

- ? Medical, nursing and allied health training curricula reviewed and updated.

Progress toward outputs, problems encountered, proposed solutions:

Discussions were held on monitoring progress on curricula revisions to include HIV/AIDS content in the training programs in medical and allied professional training institutions and the activity was included in the SARA FY 04 work plan. SARA will continue to provide TA for the monitoring work.

10. Strengthen capacity of SWAA to implement key actions identified in work plan development workshop supported in FY 03 by SARA.

Expected Outputs:

- ? TA provided in operationalizing the activities developed in the work plan and their implementation supported.
- ? Reports of the actions implemented.

Progress toward outputs, problems encountered, proposed solutions:

No activity with SWAA during this period. Meanwhile, SARA received the final report on the strategic planning and training needs workshop held earlier in the year and funded under a SARA purchase order.

<p>Improved Strategies and Models</p> <p>1. Contribute to the development of toolkits for scaling up ARV treatment and VCT by WHO/Geneva.</p> <p><i>Expected Outputs:</i></p> <p>? SARA TA provided to final review of toolkit.</p> <p><i>Progress toward outputs, problems encountered, proposed solutions:</i></p> <p>No activity this quarter.</p>
<p>2. Documentation of Learning Sites/Models of Care and Treatment in Africa in collaboration with partners.</p> <p><i>Expected Outputs:</i></p> <p>? Resources and documentation of models of care/learning sites, best practices developed.</p> <p><i>Progress toward outputs, problems encountered, proposed solutions:</i></p> <p>Continuation of this activity is contingent upon the outcome of current consultations between AFR/SD and the Global Bureau.</p>
<p>Orphans and Vulnerable Children</p> <p>1. Understanding the needs of Orphans and Vulnerable Children (OVC): Technical Consultation.</p> <p><i>Expected Outputs:</i></p> <p>? A background paper prepared by a consultant.</p> <p>? Consultation held.</p> <p>? Report of consultation produced and disseminated.</p> <p><i>Progress toward outputs, problems encountered, proposed solutions:</i></p> <p>A draft background paper was developed and shared at the OVC Technical Consultation. Participants have been requested to share comments. The paper will be finalized next quarter, however, it is anticipated that this will always be circulated in draft format.</p> <p>The OVC Technical consultation was held November 3-5, 2003. It was well attended (close to 400 people). The purpose was to determine a course of action for an increased response to children orphaned and made vulnerable by HIV and AIDS. A wealth of ideas was shared over the three days and key actions were derived to overcome challenges and to accelerate the response to the crisis.</p> <p>A first draft of the meeting report was submitted to USAID for comments in late November but no comments were received by the end of the quarter. It is anticipated that this report will be finalized and distributed next quarter.</p>
<p>2. OVC meeting(s) in Africa.</p> <p><i>Expected Outputs:</i></p> <p>? TA provided to conference planners in Africa.</p> <p>? Other activities TBD.</p> <p><i>Progress toward outputs, problems encountered, proposed solutions:</i></p> <p>No activity this quarter.</p>
<p>3. Economic strengthening workshop.</p> <p><i>Expected Outputs:</i></p> <p>? Workshop and related activities (TBD) completed.</p> <p><i>Progress toward outputs, problems encountered, proposed solutions:</i></p> <p>No activity this quarter.</p>

HIV/AIDS and Nutrition, Prevention of PMTCT

1. Prevention of mother-to-child transmission of HIV/AIDS.

Areas:

- ? Development and implementation of improved PMTCT policies and guidelines in Africa.
- ? Review/analyze status of safe infant feeding policies and practices in PEPFAR/PMTCT countries.
- ? ZVITAMBO research and analysis with dissemination of findings on nutrition, HIV and PMTCT.
- ? Formative research for PMTCT programs.
- ? Formulate and disseminate improved WHO policies and guidelines and new research findings related to infant feeding and HIV/AIDS.
- ? Develop, produce, disseminate new tools and approaches and disseminate new research findings for HIV and infant feeding counseling.
- ? Early breastfeeding cessation paper.

Progress toward outputs, problems encountered, proposed solutions:

Dr. Ellen Piwoz participated in a workshop at WHO/Geneva on research issues related to HIV and infant feeding in November. She and AED consultant Liz Thomas, and Raymond Lambert, SARA Publications Manager, continued to work on the finalization of the WHO counseling tools on HIV and infant feeding. These will be in final layout and production next quarter. The formative research manual on HIV and infant feeding, produced for WHO, was finalized and went to layout this quarter. It will be produced next quarter. Dr. Piwoz continued to work on the analysis of the results of the ZVITAMBO infant feeding and HIV transmission study. The preliminary results were presented at the WHO meeting mentioned above, and at an investigators and stakeholders meeting in Zimbabwe in December.

There was no activity this quarter on the review of safe infant feeding policies and practices in PEPFAR/PMTCT countries. Dr. Piwoz assisted AFR/OHA/HIDN by drafting guidance on use of breast milk substitutes in USAID PMTCT programs. This guidance was reviewed and revised internally at USAID. It will be finalized and disseminated to the missions next quarter.

2. Nutrition care and support for PLWHA.

Areas:

- ? Participation in WHO Technical Advisory Group on Nutrition and HIV/AIDS.
- ? Development of guidelines for NCS for HIV-positive women and children.
- ? Review of ARV treatment issues in malnourished populations.
- ? Inclusion of nutrition and HIV/AIDS in pre-service curricula.
- ? Community-based approaches to nutrition care of children and families affected by HIV/AIDS: CTC study.
- ? Development and local adaptation of counseling tools on nutrition care and support of PLWHA in the ECSA sub-region.
- ? TA to African institutions and networks to enhance or increase involvement in food, nutrition and HIV/AIDS issues.

Progress toward outputs, problems encountered, proposed solutions:

Dr. Ellen Piwoz participated in the WHO Technical Advisory Group meeting and workshop on issues in Southern Africa, held in Durban, SA, in November 2003. She presented the findings of these meeting at USAID in December.

The report on the workshop of nutrition in pre-service training of nurses (a joint activity with CRHCS/RCQHC) was completed and disseminated this quarter. A copy of the report is available on the CRHCS website. The pre-service training manual on nutrition and HIV/AIDS was finalized and disseminated this quarter by RCQHC.

The scope of work, CTO letter and purchase order for the Valid International CTC study were finalized this quarter. Approval from the USAID/Malawi mission was also obtained. A memorandum of understanding with FANTA was created to outline Caroline Tanner's responsibilities in this study. Dr. Piwoz traveled to Malawi for the UNC/CDC BAN study. During her visit, she met with USAID/Malawi and Valid International, and traveled to Dowa to visit the site of the

study. Valid International is finalizing the research instruments and the study will begin in January 2004. Caroline Tanner is expected to visit the study site in February 2004. The main anticipated problem encountered to date relates to funding. Only 1 out of 2 phases of the study have been funded and additional resources will be needed to complete this work.

Dorcas Lwanga continued work with LINKAGES, FANTA and RCQHC on the development and adaptation of counseling tools on NCS of PLWHA. These will be completed next year.

No activity this quarter on review of ARV treatment issues.

3. Food security, rural livelihoods and nutrition vulnerability in HIV/AIDS affected populations.

Areas:

- ? Review of empirical evidence and program experience on food aid, food security/rural livelihoods and nutrition in HIV/AIDS-affected and vulnerable populations.
- ? Development of operational guidance for USAID missions on food, HIV/AIDS and nutrition and preparation of necessary advocacy and informational materials.
- ? Participation in analysis of food and nutrition situation in East and Southern Africa.

Progress toward outputs, problems encountered, proposed solutions:

No activity this quarter.

Multisectoral Initiatives

1. USAID/AFR strategy for public/private partnerships in HIV/AIDS activities in Africa.

Expected Outputs:

- ? Work in Nigeria finalized and transferred to USAID/Nigeria.
- ? Decision produced and disseminated at AGOA meeting.

Progress toward outputs, problems encountered, proposed solutions:

Mr. Percy Wilson, SARA consultant for about two years, completed his work with the Nigerian government and private sector interests in forming the national HIV/AIDS coordinating committee and providing technical assistance to it. He has completed his final report and SARA will finalize it to provide lessons learned on this kind of effort in other countries.

2. Support and TA to technical meetings of African experts, program managers and policy-makers on topical and emerging issues in RH, including HIV/AIDS.

Expected Outputs:

- ? Trip reports.
- ? Next steps identified.

Progress toward outputs, problems encountered, proposed solutions:

On November 14th, at the request of the Ministry of Health and Population of Malawi, CRHCS organized a presentation of the Malawi results to the PS Health, Chief Medical Officer, and the Controller of Human Resources Development and Management. The PS responded by thanking the teams for a job well done and indicated that the results will fill a gap in the current understanding of the impacts of HIV/AIDS on the health workforce but, more importantly, will provide evidence to guide planning.

The 2003 Regional Health Ministers Conference was held in Livingstone, Zambia, also in mid-November. The ministerial participation was very strong with the ministers themselves making presentations on issues of health workforce and scaling up of HIV/AIDS responses. Countries represented were Kenya, Lesotho, Malawi, Mauritius, Mozambique, Seychelles, Swaziland, Tanzania, Uganda, Zambia and Zimbabwe. Regional and international agencies present included WHO/AFRO, WHO/Geneva, NEPAD, REDSO, DFID, AED, SARA and MSH. The central theme of the Conference was “Strengthening and scaling up health interventions in ECSA: The central role of human resources for health”.

A whole session was dedicated to the impact of HIV/AIDS on the health workforce. Dr. Stephen Kinoti gave presentations, or assisted in presenting on the Impact of HIV/AIDS on the Health Workforce in Sub-Saharan Africa: An

overview, in Kenya and in Malawi.

The results from Kenya and Malawi showed increased disease burden and strained health systems as a result of HIV/AIDS, high health workforce attrition rates due to death, early resignation and staff leaving MOH services, particularly clinical to non-clinical services, high proportion of unfilled posts, high absenteeism and low morale among workers and other related findings. The presentation stimulated a lot of discussion following the presentations and in the corridors. The Health Ministers and delegates felt that the most important follow-up action should be to use these results to formulate mitigation action towards strengthening human resources for health.

3. Provide TA for PMTC+ formative research of drug uptake during antenatal and immediate post-partum period in Zambia.

Expected Outputs:

? PMTC+ programs improve drug uptake of seropositive pregnant and post-partum women.

Progress toward outputs, problems encountered, proposed solutions:

No activity this quarter.

4. Impact of morbidity and mortality on cocoa industry in Ghana.

Expected Outputs:

? Assessment in Ghana and development of follow-up mitigation supported.

Progress toward outputs, problems encountered, proposed solutions:

No activity this quarter.

Africa Bureau Data and Analysis Support

1. Develop country profile reports focused on data and program information.

Expected Outputs:

? Country profiles reports useful for data comparison and programming provided to Africa Bureau and partners.

Progress toward outputs, problems encountered, proposed solutions:

No activity this quarter.

2. Dissemination to relevant partner missions; use of profiles data.

Expected Outputs:

? Data and information to improve programming shared.

Progress toward outputs, problems encountered, proposed solutions:

No activity this quarter.

Health Financing, Systems and Health Manpower

1. Strengthen national capacities to allocate and deliver financial resources to programs in the field efficiently.

Expected Outputs:

? South African Partners supported in improving the accounting and accountability of HIV programs' ability to absorb resources through training and TA.

Progress toward outputs, problems encountered, proposed solutions:

Dr. Stephen Kinoti reviewed the proposal developed by South African Partners and discussed it with AFR/SD. The decision was made to include the activity in the 2004 SARA work plan. SARA and AFR/SD will continue to discuss the funding of this activity in the upcoming quarter.

2. Strengthen health systems and health manpower.

Expected Outputs:

? Consultation organized between USAID, WHO and other partners.

Progress toward outputs, problems encountered, proposed solutions:

This consultation was planned for this period but was postponed by AFR/SD until next quarter.

3. Analysis on human resources and HIV/AIDS finalized and disseminated and used for strategy development in the ECSCA region.

Expected Outputs:

- ? Production and dissemination of 2 reports on impact of HIV/AIDS on health work force (Kenya, Malawi).
- ? Reports repackaged and disseminated.
- ? Strategy dialogue stimulated in at least 2 countries.
- ? Country consensus-building workshops planned and carried out in Kenya and Malawi.
- ? International partners engaged in process.

Progress toward outputs, problems encountered, proposed solutions:

Dr. Stephen Kinoti visited Malawi to facilitate data analysis and preparation of the country reports on the impact of HIV/AIDS on the health workforce in Kenya and Malawi based on assessments undertaken between April and October 2003. Kenyan team members were Boaz Cheluget, Epidemiologist/Statistician, Carol Ngare, Social Scientist, and Lawrence Mwikya, Information Officer, and the Malawi team members were Mike Makuti, Human Resources Specialist, Andrew Gonani Physician, Bertha Simwaka, Social Scientist, and Allan Machezo, Clinical Officer, Epidemiologist. CRHCS was represented by Bannet Ndyanabangi, HIV/AIDS Coordinator.

The two teams undertook data analysis and initiated the report writing facilitated by Dr. Kinoti and Dr. Ndyanabangi. The report writing will be completed by the teams on return to their countries in consultation with the respective Ministries of Health. The teams also developed PowerPoint presentations of the results to be made at the Regional Health Ministers Conference in Livingstone, Zambia. An executive summary of the results was also prepared for the Malawi data as the analysis of this data was more advanced. The teams were very keen to involve the USAID/Malawi mission during the analysis but efforts to contact the mission in Lilongwe were not successful. In a phone conversation with the mission's action officer, it was agreed that Dr. Kinoti would share the trip report with the mission.

Dr. Kinoti then prepared an executive summary of the Malawi results and shared this with MOHP Malawi and AFR/SD. Plans for writing the final reports from the Malawi and Kenya data were initiated and will be completed in the next quarter. In addition, plans for country level consensus workshop with stakeholders were initiated with CRHCS and MOHP Malawi and MOH Kenya, in consultation with the respective country USAID missions.

4. Examine strengths and weaknesses of existing systems.

Expected Outputs:

- ? Assessments undertaken in selected countries (countries TBD).

Progress toward outputs, problems encountered, proposed solutions:

No activity this period.

5. Document and disseminate experiences and best practices.

Expected Outputs:

- ? Dissemination strategy developed.
- ? Lessons learned and best practices disseminated.

Progress toward outputs, problems encountered, proposed solutions:

No activity this quarter.

Pediatric AIDS

1. Strengthen information base for pediatric AIDS in Africa.

Expected Outputs:

- ? Concept note developed on USAID options for action.
- ? Guide for programs developed.
- ? Support given for development and use of a rapid communications strategy using innovative methods.

Progress toward outputs, problems encountered, proposed solutions:

The issue of pediatric AIDS in Africa was included in the SARA work plan following consultation with AFR/SD, who identified it as a priority issue.

2. Strengthen linkages with African institutions and networks working on pediatrics AIDS.

Expected Outputs:

- ? Consultation held with the African Network for the Care of Children Affected by HIV/AIDS (ANECCA) and others.

Progress toward outputs, problems encountered, proposed solutions:

No activity this quarter.

3. Support strengthening of pediatric AIDS services.

Expected Outputs:

- ? Support provided to documentation of guidelines.
- ? Support provided to development of tools for pediatric AIDS services.

Progress toward outputs, problems encountered, proposed solutions:

No activity this quarter.

African Experience with ARV Rollout

1. Document models of care and treatment in SSA.

Expected Outputs:

- ? A resource paper documenting models of care and treatment in SSA drafted.

Progress toward outputs, problems encountered, proposed solutions:

No activity this quarter.

2. Develop program guidelines for lessons on ARV rollout.

Expected Outputs:

- ? E-notes and summary papers prepared on models of care and disseminated to missions and partners.

Progress toward outputs, problems encountered, proposed solutions:

No activity this quarter.

Monitoring of HIV/AIDS Programs

1. Document results of HIV/AIDS policy monitoring in at least 4 countries.

Expected Outputs:

- ? Documentation completed, produced and disseminated at country level.

Progress toward outputs, problems encountered, proposed solutions:

Discussions were held concerning the way forward in analyzing data received from 5 countries. It was decided that CRHCS would undertake the analysis, prepare the draft report and present it for discussion to a workshop involving the respective country representatives. Action will be taken by the Department of Human Resources and Capacity Building of the CRHCS.

2. Provide technical support to RATN to monitor and follow-up on training of ACP managers in management.

Expected Outputs:

- ? TA provided.
- ? Report of ongoing performance of ACP managers following their training.

Progress toward outputs, problems encountered, proposed solutions:

No activity this quarter.

3. Support implementation of the National AIDS Councils and AIDS control program rollout of their roles and functions developed by the ir joint consultations in 2003.

Expected Outputs:

- ? Country-level activities and implementation plans developed.
- ? Stakeholder consensus developed.
- ? M&E framework developed.

Progress toward outputs, problems encountered, proposed solutions:

Discussions held during this period concluded that CRHCS, with support from partners, including SARA, would monitor implementation of the activity at country level and get reports describing the mechanisms set up in the countries to enable collaboration and coordination of HIV/AIDS activities between the Ministry of Health, ACPs and the National AIDS councils and commissions. The progress will be presented to the governing bodies of the community and enable mobilization of more resources to support other countries in establishing similar mechanisms.

SARA has some funding for this activity for FY 04 but action will be spearheaded by CRHCS and the national focal points. SARA will provide TA.

Dissemination and Advocacy Support to SO 21

1. Produce and disseminate key documents.

Expected Outputs:

- ? Documents produced and disseminated (as listed in work plan).

Progress toward outputs, problems encountered, proposed solutions:

As mentioned elsewhere in the report, the background paper for the OVC Technical Consultation, entitled *Orphans and Vulnerable Children: The State of the Science*, was produced and disseminated to the participants. It is being finalized and will be ready for distribution (still in draft) next quarter. A brochure on the Nigeria Public-Private Partnership was developed and produced and distributed at the AGOA meeting.

SO 24: **Polio**

Technical Area: **Polio**

1. Assist AFR/SD in the implementation of their SO 24 portfolio.

Expected Outputs:

? Assistance provided as needed.

Progress toward outputs, problems encountered, proposed solutions:

No activity this quarter.

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

Expected Outputs:

? Assistance provided as needed.

Progress toward outputs, problems encountered, proposed solutions:

See SO 19, Infectious Disease, item #3.

SO: Cross-cutting

Technical Area: Various areas – Monitoring and Evaluation Activities

1. Assist AFR/SD SO 19, 20 and 21 with issues identification, portfolio management and evaluation.

Expected Outputs:

- ? Core group meetings organized.
- ? Joint meetings with partners conducted.
- ? Expert advice provided.
- ? Monitoring & evaluation activities carried out.
- ? Technical briefs produced as requested.

Progress toward outputs, problems encountered, proposed solutions:

SARA staff joined AFR/SD colleagues in October 2003 for a series of meetings with Dr. Elizabeth Mason of the World Health Organization Regional Office for Africa (WHO/AFRO) during her visit in Washington, DC. Dr. Mason is a senior staff member of the WHO/AFRO Division of Disease Control (DDC), which has a long working relationship with USAID/AFR/SD. The meetings with Dr. Mason were to assess progress and discuss priority issues for consideration in the development of the health sector in Africa. SARA will be helping with the planning and organization of a review of the USAID grant to WHO/AFRO for the period 1999 to 2003. The review is planned for February 2004.

2. Consultative meeting on issues and lessons learned in building public health capacity in West and Central Africa.

Expected Outputs:

- ? Meeting organized.
- ? Issues and lessons learned paper produced and disseminated.
- ? Presentation done at the AfriHealth Regional Conference.

Progress toward outputs, problems encountered, proposed solutions:

Dr. Sambe Duale joined Prof. Carel IJsselmuiden, AfriHealth Project Manager, and the designated Executive Secretary of COHRED for a meeting with USAID colleagues on October 29, 2003, to discuss public health capacity and training issues in Africa. Following the meeting, SARA was asked to work with AfriHealth to organize the proposed consultative meeting on public health training capacity in Africa. The rationale for this consultation is to engage emerging African public health leadership in discussing future capacity building initiatives aimed at Africa. The purpose of this consultation is to attempt to define what constitutes “good practice” when developing partnerships with African public health training and research institutions. Dr. Duale will work with Prof. IJsselmuiden on moving this activity forward in consultation with USAID, WAHO, CRHCS and WHO/AFRO colleagues.

3. Support for the implementation of strategic planning and institutional development plans for WAHO and CERPOD.

Expected Outputs:

- ? TA provided to WAHO and CERPOD.

Progress toward outputs, problems encountered, proposed solutions:

No activity this quarter.

4. Technical analysis and expert support for USAID West Africa Regional Program (WARP) and REDSO/ESA.

Expected Outputs:

- ? TA provided to WARP and REDSO/ESA.

Progress toward outputs, problems encountered, proposed solutions:

No activity this quarter.

SO: Cross-cutting

Technical Area: Dissemination and advocacy

Result ia: Capacity to Advocate

1. 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:

11 English advocacy guides were mailed to fill 7 separate requests and 1 was sent electronically.

2. Identify key issues for which to advocate.

Expected Outputs:

? Follow-up completed.

? Recommendations made for future.

Progress toward outputs, problems encountered, proposed solutions:

No activity this quarter.

Result ib: Capacity to Disseminate Information

3. Assist CRHCS in strengthening its info communication activities by developing strategy and hiring an appropriate staff person.

Expected Outputs:

? Communication strategy developed.

? Staff person recruited and hired.

Progress toward outputs, problems encountered, proposed solutions:

SARA reviewed the job description and the job announcement that was distributed. SARA anticipates being involved in selecting the candidate.

4. Work with Namibian web competition team to document experience and explore how to replicate it in other ECSA countries.

Expected Outputs:

? Namibia experience documented.

? Collaboration with other regional organizations and donors to replicate experience in one other country.

Progress toward outputs, problems encountered, proposed solutions:

No activity this quarter.

5. Work with African institutions to build capacity in dissemination and repackaging information.

Expected Outputs:

- ? Workshops with CRHCS IDCs, WHO/AFRO, AHILA members.
- ? Information disseminated.

Progress toward outputs, problems encountered, proposed solutions:

Antonia Wolff provided assistance to WHO/AFRO in November to work primarily with the new Dissemination Officer to identify and prioritize VPD's dissemination needs. Ms. Wolff also reviewed VPD's annual work plan to ensure that the dissemination activities planned were consistent with the needs identified by VPD staff.

SARA also collaborated with CEFOREP, WHO/AFRO and WAHO on the dissemination of the PAC report.

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

Expected Outputs:

- ? Information repackaged and appropriately disseminated.

Progress toward outputs, problems encountered, proposed solutions:

SARA assumed the salary of Ahmadou Sankare, the communications specialist at CERPOD, in October 2003 for a period of 6 months to ensure that information continues to be repackaged and disseminated. His salary should be taken over by USAID/WARP in April 2004. In this quarter, Mr. Sankare began to synthesize the updated quantitative and qualitative reports on adolescent reproductive health as part of the effort to update *Les Jeunes en Danger*.

7. Collaborate with other USAID Projects.

Expected Outputs:

- ? Dissemination of priority issues improved for selected projects.

Progress toward outputs, problems encountered, proposed solutions:

Renuka Bery, SARA Dissemination and Advocacy Manager, worked closely with a range of USAID projects to ensure that the OVC meeting was successfully carried out; in particular, Synergy and PHNI. SARA provided technical guidance on a CD-ROM developed and produced by JHPIEGO. The CD is a compilation of best practices produced during the SFPS project. SARA will replicate and disseminate the CD in the next quarter.

SARA also collaborated with CEFOREP, WHO/AFRO, WHO/HQ, Intrah, Pop Council, JHPIEGO, EngenderHealth, IPAS and WAHO on the dissemination of the PAC report.

SARA has also participated in a number of working groups—HIPNet and AIDS Communication working group.

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

Expected Outputs:

- ? Dissemination briefs developed.
- ? Dissemination strategy developed & implemented.

Progress toward outputs, problems encountered, proposed solutions:

No activity this quarter.

9. Work with missions to strengthen their capacity to produce and disseminate materials.

Expected Outputs:

- ? Workshop reports submitted.
- ? TA provided.

Progress toward outputs, problems encountered, proposed solutions:

No activity this quarter.

Result ic: Capacity to Communicate Electronically**10. Link selected African institution personnel to e-communication opportunities through CRHCS.*****Expected Outputs:***

- ? Selected personnel linked to opportunities.
- ? Links made between PRB and CRHCS for electronic networking activity.

Progress toward outputs, problems encountered, proposed solutions:

PRB is part of the review committee for the CRHCS information person. However, no specific activities have taken place in this quarter.

Result iia: Materials Development and Production**11. Design and package information in appropriate formats (books, syntheses, executive summaries, e-notes, policy briefs/brochures, tools).*****Expected Outputs:***

- ? Selected information designed and packaged.

Progress toward outputs, problems encountered, proposed solutions:

- ? Brochure on Nigeria Public-Private Partnership developed and disseminated at AGOA meeting and on request.
- ? *Orphans and Vulnerable Children: State of the Science* paper drafted and distributed at the OVC Technical Consultation
- ? Involving Private Practitioners in Child Health Toolkit being developed.
- ? E-note on public-private partnership in Nigeria was developed and sent out. An e-note on private practitioners in child health was drafted, revised and has never been approved for transmittal.

Finally, a draft cable on Cholera was reviewed and finalized in this quarter. The cable will be sent to the missions in the next quarter.

12. Dissemination of key AFR/SD-SARA cross-cutting products as requested.***Expected Outputs:***

- ? Products disseminated.

Progress toward outputs, problems encountered, proposed solutions:

SARA products are disseminated regularly as requested both by mail and electronically. Several publications are being downloaded on a regular basis. The most popular seems to be the Multisectoral Responses to HIV/AIDS Compendium.

13. Assessments of use of AFR/SD/HRD-SARA products (3-6 documents/year).***Expected Outputs:***

- ? Use of documents specified in work plan assessed & presentation given.

Progress toward outputs, problems encountered, proposed solutions:

No activity this quarter.

Result iib: Dissemination Channels
<p>14. Mail documents to targeted mailing list.</p> <p><i>Expected Outputs:</i></p> <p>? Documents mailed.</p> <p><i>Progress toward outputs, problems encountered, proposed solutions:</i></p> <p>This quarter, over 7,300 documents were mailed, all of which were requested.</p>
<p>15. Explore new opportunities to disseminate more information electronically, through e-mail, Internet, etc., especially through e-mail groups.</p> <p><i>Expected Outputs:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✍ E-mail lists. ✍ Fewer documents mailed. ✍ Increased number of documents on Internet. ✍ Increased number of hits. <p><i>Progress toward outputs, problems encountered, proposed solutions:</i></p> <p>This quarter, SARA publications continue to be actively sought out on the SARA website. <i>Multisectoral Responses to HIV/AIDS</i> was downloaded as a PDF file 620 times this quarter, while <i>Prevention of Mother- to- Child- Transmission</i> and <i>Qualitative Research for Improved Health Programs</i> were downloaded 480 and 285 times, respectively.</p>
<p>16. SARA, AFR and USAID Website maintenance + publications updates.</p> <p><i>Expected Outputs:</i></p> <p>? Website reviewed and updated on periodic basis.</p> <p>? Publications list moved to USAID site.</p> <p><i>Progress toward outputs, problems encountered, proposed solutions:</i></p> <p>SARA created a sub-website specific to the Orphan and Vulnerable Children Technical Consultation, structured under the sara.aed.org. website. This site served as registration for the conference and hosts all the background papers, as well as the presentations given at the conference. This website is reviewed and updated on an as-needed basis.</p>
<p>17. Promote information through various listservs (AFRONETS, ReproHlth, WB, AHILANet).</p> <p><i>Expected Outputs:</i></p> <p>? Information promoted as needed.</p> <p><i>Progress toward outputs, problems encountered, proposed solutions:</i></p> <p>SARA submitted various RH briefs to Advance Africa's online Best Practices Compendium. This compendium is an online, easily accessible database of proven practices in Reproductive Health and Family Planning Delivery Services. SARA also posted many of its documents on PRB's document online database and to the World Bank's Development Gateway. As mentioned elsewhere, the dissemination team also contributed 20 items to USAID's KM database.</p>
<p>18. Develop and send via e-mail quarterly announcement of AFR/SD publications/products.</p> <p><i>Expected Outputs:</i></p> <p>? Broadcast e-mail sent quarterly.</p> <p><i>Progress toward outputs, problems encountered, proposed solutions:</i></p> <p>This quarter, over 50 new contacts were added to the e-list. The quarterly announcement currently is going out to over 300 recipients, mostly within USAID and the USAID missions. The publications list went out this quarter on time.</p>

19. Explore interactive CD-ROM development. Assess whether SARA should design an interactive CD-ROM and develop it, if appropriate.

Expected Outputs:

- ? New activities of this nature identified, including whether SARA should do CD-ROM.

Progress toward outputs, problems encountered, proposed solutions:

No activity this quarter.

20. Assess use of CD-ROMS in Africa.

Expected Outputs:

- ? Reports from surveys conducted at various forums.

Progress toward outputs, problems encountered, proposed solutions:

No activity this quarter.

21. Analyze tracking information on major SARA publications.

Expected Outputs:

- ? Information analyzed.

Progress toward outputs, problems encountered, proposed solutions:

SARA tracks the distribution of all major publications and analysis is done for particular products on request.

22. USAID Knowledge Management Fair and Inventory.

Expected Outputs:

- ? Contribute SARA/AFR experiences to inventory.
- ? Advocacy Guide shared at Fair.

Progress toward outputs, problems encountered, proposed solutions:

The SARA dissemination team wrote up about 20 submissions to USAID's KM Directory. These were published and are available on USAID's KM web site. SARA also showcased the *Introduction to Advocacy: Training Guide* at USAID's Knowledge Management Fair in October 2003.

23. OVC meeting.

Expected Outputs:

- ? Preliminary report on OVC drafted.
- ? Meeting report drafted.

Progress toward outputs, problems encountered, proposed solutions:

As mentioned in the SO 21 section, Renuka Bery and Rebecca Nigmann, SARA Publications Associate, organized and helped to shape the technical consultation on orphans and vulnerable children held in Washington DC November 3-5, 2003. This high-level meeting drew almost 400 participants. The first day was dedicated to a series of plenary presentations of seminal, cutting-edge information that captured the magnitude of the impact of HIV/AIDS on children and the urgency to which all must respond. On days 2&3, participants met in technical working groups to consider the practical steps required to meet the specific needs of children orphaned and affected by HIV/AIDS. A wealth of lessons and ideas were shared over the course of the three days that resulted in identifying actions for USAID and others to overcome key challenges and to accelerate our responses to the crisis.

24. Global Consultation on IDSR.

Expected Outputs:

- ? Presentation done.
- ? Trip report drafted.

Progress toward outputs, problems encountered, proposed solutions:

Antonia Wolff attended a WHO-sponsored Global Consultation on Strengthening National Capacities for Surveillance Response and Control of Communicable Diseases this quarter. The meeting brought together close to sixty participants from international, regional and national levels of all WHO regions. The purposes of the meeting were: (1) to share experiences, lessons learned, challenges and constraints in applying different models and approaches in strengthening national surveillance, response and control systems; and (2) to define elements of a common framework for strengthening national capacity for surveillance, response and control, and recommend steps for its implementation.

WHO/AFRO is involved in a major effort to implement the Regional Integrated Disease Surveillance and Response (IDSR) Strategy in all Member States. The WHO/AFRO experiences, lessons learned, challenges and constraints in implementing IDSR were also among key featured presentations at the meeting. Ms. Wolff presented on SARA support to WHO/AFRO and its partners for the documentation and dissemination of lessons learned so far with the implementation of the IDSR strategy. The meeting recognized the need for increased advocacy to mobilize resources for strengthening surveillance, preparedness and response systems. The packet of IDSR policy briefs produced by SARA was included among the background materials for the meeting.

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

25. 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:

Renuka Bery and Antonia Wolff have continued to serve as integral members of the various technical core teams to ensure that dissemination and advocacy activities are considered and implemented.