

**SARA II QUARTERLY PROGRESS REPORT**  
**January 1 – March 31, 2005**

This report covers the 2<sup>nd</sup> quarter of FY 2005, namely, the period January 1 – March 31, 2005. It follows the SARA FY 05 work plan for the period October 1, 2004 – September 30, 2005.

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. In addition, in this final year of the SARA II Project, various activities in the work plan may be deleted or modified in form to adapt to changing circumstances and opportunities.

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 Health**

**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:***

Some assistance was provided to AFR/SD in developing the child survival components of the new WHO/AFRO grant.

**2. Taking stock of child survival – dissemination strategy development & follow-up.**

***Expected Outputs:***

- Final report submitted to USAID – dissemination strategy developed

***Progress toward outputs, problems encountered, proposed solutions:***

The final report was disseminated to missions this quarter and plans for reprinting and wider distribution were discussed. In addition, a draft 5-page brochure was developed and submitted for AFR/SD review.

**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:***

SARA contacted CORE to explore possibilities for joint activities in Africa. Discussions were held on who should represent CORE at the Regional Community Case Management Consultative Meeting in Dakar. SARA will support the core representative's travel costs. Discussions were also held with BASICS in planning for this meeting.

**4. Provide technical input to USAID & WHO on child health issues.**

***Expected Outputs:***

- Sara participation in key meetings
- Advice given on priority issues

***Progress toward outputs, problems encountered, proposed solutions:***

Dr. Suzanne Prysor-Jones, SARA Project Director, was instrumental in involving WHO/AFRO in discussions on how to move CCM forward in West Africa.

## Moving the Private Sector Agenda

### 1. Organize advocacy forum on involving private providers in child health & malaria & follow-up activities.

#### *Expected Outputs:*

- Forum organized in Africa
- WHO/AFRO takes on capacity development role

#### *Progress toward outputs, problems encountered, proposed solutions:*

Dr. Suzanne Prysor-Jones and Carmen Coles, AED staff consultant, organized the steering committee meeting at the World Bank this quarter. The meeting included a representative from UNICEF as well as several new World Bank participants. It was decided that the forum on private providers should take place in Uganda, probably in October 2005. The focus should be more on policy barriers and the main participants would be country teams from 8 African countries. Sylvia Meek from the Malaria Consortium attended the meeting by phone and will circulate an updated agenda version next quarter.

### 2. 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:*

Dr. Suzanne Prysor-Jones and Dex Thompson, SARA Publications Coordinator, are making concerted efforts to finalize the content of the main toolkit paper and CD-ROM. Specifically, additional tools, such as charts detailing care-seeking behavior for childhood illness, were added to the CD-ROM and additional revisions were made to the main paper. This will be circulated for review to USAID, WHO and other technical partners next quarter.

## Moving the Community Child Health Agenda

### 1. Participate in inter-agency meetings on community health & follow up on actions needed to support scale-up.

#### *Expected Outputs:*

- SARA participation in meetings
- Follow-up on key activities identified

#### *Progress toward outputs, problems encountered, proposed solutions:*

No activity this quarter.

### 2. 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:*

No activity this quarter.

### 3. Support the inclusion of AIDS-related issues in child health programs (see HIV/AIDS section).

#### *Expected Outputs:*

- Best practices identified & disseminated

#### *Progress toward outputs, problems encountered, proposed solutions:*

Agnieszka Sykes, SARA HIV/AIDS Advisor, organized a brown bag on the Hearth Nutrition Model, which included her presentation on the experiences of scaling up the hearth in Guinea. One topic discussed was the relationship between HIV/AIDS and child nutrition in the context of hearth.

She was also invited to participate in a Hearth Nutrition TAG meeting, organized by the CORE group, where participants discussed adapting the Hearth guide to high HIV/AIDS prevalence countries. A small group, which Ms. Sykes joined, was identified to continue further brainstorming on this issue. (also, see SO 21, Pediatric HIV/AIDS)

**4. Support for regional initiative for community-based case management (ARI, malaria, etc.).**

***Expected Outputs:***

- Support provided as needed

***Progress toward outputs, problems encountered, proposed solutions:***

Many discussions on the CCM Consultative Meeting in West Africa were held this quarter with AWARE, BASICS, AFR/SD, USAID/Global, etc. The meeting, which was originally planned for the end of March, was postponed until late April. Dr. Suzanne Prysor-Jones provided input to the agenda and background materials.

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

**Technical Area:** Malaria RP

**1. Follow-up TA for the implementation of the Regional Integrated Vector Management (IVM) Partnership meeting recommendations.**

***Expected Outputs:***

- TA provided by SARA staff

***Progress toward outputs, problems encountered, proposed solutions:***

Dr. Magda Robalo, Regional Advisor for Malaria, and Dr. Lucien Manga, Regional Advisor for Vector Biology and Control (VBC), were in Washington, DC, to attend a meeting of the Partnership for Measles and Malaria control hosted by the American Red Cross. They took the opportunity of their stay in DC to meet with Dr. Sambe Duale, SARA Senior Research Manager and Infectious Diseases Advisor, to discuss continued collaboration between SARA and the Malaria and VBC Units of WHO/AFRO to support the implementation of country plans for IVM.

**2. 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 assisted WHO/AFRO in identifying a consultant with expertise in reproductive health and infectious diseases to review a draft framework prepared to guide the collaboration between national malaria control programs and the reproductive health program to support malaria prevention and management among pregnant women. Dr. Sambe Duale has reviewed the framework and provided WHO/AFRO with comments for consideration to improve its content and structure.

**3. Technical support for the implementation of the CORE Group malaria & IMCI work plan for FY 05.**

***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 and Dr. Suzanne Prysor-Jones met with Karen Leban and Lynette Walker, Director and Deputy Director, respectively, of the CORE group, to explore possible collaboration on malaria and community case management of childhood illness.

**4. 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:***

SARA procured and disseminated to African institutions about 400 copies of supplement number 2 , Volume 71, of the *American Journal of Tropical Medicine and Hygiene* entitled "The Intolerable Burden of Malaria: What's New, What's Needed". The supplement contains a series of papers with rich and relevant information on the epidemiological, environmental, clinical, social and economic burden of malaria and the control actions needed to reduce the malaria burden in Africa. The document will be a helpful reference material to policymakers, malaria program managers, researchers, academics, clinicians, social scientists, economists, health experts and advocates in the African region.

**5. 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:***

Prof. Alimata Diarra-Nama, Director of Disease Control and Primary Health Care of WAHO, submitted a concept paper on this activity to SARA and NetMark for review. SARA is to consult with NetMark on the way forward.

**6. 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:***

No activity this quarter.

**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:***

The dissemination of the report continued this quarter. Dr. Sambe Duale exchanged e-mails with the two principal investigators to discuss the preparation of a manuscript for submission to a peer-review journal.

**2. Support documentation & information sharing on the implementation of CTBC & HIV-TB interventions within TB control programs in African settings.**

***Expected Outputs:***

- Documentation report produced & disseminated.

***Progress toward outputs, problems encountered, proposed solutions:***

No activity this quarter.

**3. Support for the documentation & 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:***

ECSA-HC finally hired four consultants to assess TB-HIV linked programs in seven African countries (4 southern and 3 eastern). The field work is expected to be completed by the middle of May, which will allow time for the consultants to do their report and various presentations to be given to the DJCC, WHO TB/HIV Task Force, and the Ministers Meeting in November 2005. SARA is expected to contribute to the technical review of the report(s), the editorial and layout of a study report and brochures. Dr. Sambe Duale is also expected to join REDSO and WHO resource persons at the consultants debriefing meeting to synthesize and finalize the study report.

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

**Technical Area: Infectious Diseases**

<p><b>1. Technical support to AFR/SD for the implementation of the ID portfolio activities.</b></p> <p><i>Expected Outputs:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• TA provided by SARA staff &amp; consultants</li><li>• Core team &amp; joint partners' meetings supported</li></ul> <p><i>Progress toward outputs, problems encountered, proposed solutions:</i></p> <p>SARA staff joined AFR/SD twice this quarter to discuss the management of the grant to WHO/AFRO for disease prevention and control and reproductive and family health. SARA will continue to provide technical support to AFR/SD and WHO/AFRO for the development of detailed implementation and M&amp;E plans.</p>
<p><b>2. Dissemination of findings from the documentation of IDSR implementation in Africa.</b></p> <p><i>Expected Outputs:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• TA provided by SARA staff &amp; consultants</li><li>• Report &amp; advocacy briefs produced &amp; disseminated</li></ul> <p><i>Progress toward outputs, problems encountered, proposed solutions:</i></p> <p>Copies of the country reports were requested and sent to CDC this quarter. Dissemination of the IDSR briefing packets continues on request.</p>
<p><b>3. Technical support to WHO/AFRO DDC for the development &amp; implementation of an advocacy &amp; dissemination strategy.</b></p> <p><i>Expected Outputs:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• TA provided by SARA staff &amp; consultants</li><li>• Advocacy materials produced &amp; disseminated</li></ul> <p><i>Progress toward outputs, problems encountered, proposed solutions:</i></p> <p>No activity this quarter.</p>
<p><b>4. Technical support to WHO/AFRO for strategy development &amp; advocacy for mobilizing resources for IDSR implementation (e.g., training, contingency stocks, etc.).</b></p> <p><i>Expected Outputs:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• TA provided by SARA staff &amp; consultants</li><li>• SARA represented at partners' joint planning meeting strategy</li><li>• Advocacy materials produced &amp; disseminated</li></ul> <p><i>Progress toward outputs, problems encountered, proposed solutions:</i></p> <p>SARA received most of the needed documents from WHO/AFRO to prepare a fixed price purchase order for the hiring of Dr. Jennifer Wanyama to lead this activity. Communication issues and frequent TDYs by WHO/AFRO responsible colleagues have slowed progress on contract arrangements with AED for this activity.</p>
<p><b>5. WHO/AFRO Annual Meeting of the Task Force on Integrated Disease Surveillance and Response.</b></p> <p><i>Expected Outputs:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• SARA &amp; partners represented at meeting</li><li>• Report prepared &amp; disseminated</li></ul> <p><i>Progress toward outputs, problems encountered, proposed solutions:</i></p> <p>No activity this quarter.</p>

**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:***

Dr. Sambe Duale worked with USAID/W and USAID/Monrovia to finalize plans for the organization of a workshop on harmonizing USG health programs and the humanitarian relief to development transition. The workshop is currently scheduled April 4-8, 2005 in Monrovia. Dr. Duale will travel to Liberia to facilitate it.

**7. Support the evaluation & dissemination of findings on the implementation of IDSR in selected USAID presence countries (e.g., Tanzania, DRC, Ethiopia).**

***Expected Outputs:***

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

***Progress toward outputs, problems encountered, proposed solutions:***

Dr. Sambe Duale participated in a series of e-mail exchanges to develop protocols and tools for an evaluation of IDSR implementation in Ethiopia. The evaluation is scheduled for the first week of April 2005.

**8. Provide technical support for the implementation of the IDSR Operational Research Agenda set by the 5<sup>th</sup> WHO IDSR Task Force.**

***Expected Outputs:***

- TA provided by SARA staff & consultants
- SARA represented at partners' joint planning meeting strategy

***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: 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:***

No core team meetings or portfolio reviews were held this quarter. However, SARA staff participated actively in the AFR SARA evaluation process. SARA circulated minutes of the December 2005 meeting on Operations Research on Nutrition, Food and HIV/AIDS this quarter.

It may be worthwhile to call a Nutrition Core Team meeting during the next quarter to review progress and priorities for the future. Of particular importance is following up on the outcomes of the December operations research meeting to identify a strategy for advancing in this area.

**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:***

SARA staff have provided technical assistance to GPHN and CA partners, as well as colleagues at the Office of the Global AIDS Coordinator, this quarter.

Dr. Ellen Piwoz, SARA Nutrition Advisor, made a presentation to the USAID PMTCT interest group meeting, organized by the Office of HIV/AIDS and held at the Synergy Project (in February). She was also invited back to lead a discussion on program implications of new data from the ZVITAMBO study.

Dr. Piwoz also provided technical assistance to the Quality Assurance Project/URC on the organization of their informal consultation on HIV and infant feeding held in Dar es Salaam in March 2005 with support from the USAID/Tanzania mission. Dr. Piwoz gave inputs on the agenda and participated in the meeting, presenting ZVITAMBO data and providing input to the country-level discussions.

Dorcas Lwanga, SARA Nutritionist, provided technical support to the FANTA Project this quarter. Ms. Lwanga, with support of FANTA traveled to Kigali, Rwanda, provided a 3-day training on HIV and Nutrition, February 22-24, 2005. Ms. Lwanga adapted sessions from a recently developed USAID/REDSO-funded pre-service training manual on Nutrition and HIV/AIDS to prepare content for the training in Kigali. Ms. Lwanga is very familiar with the content of the pre-service training manual as she is a co-author of some of the sessions in the manual. The main purpose of the training was to provide comprehensive but simplified information on nutrition and HIV/AIDS issues for those providing care and support to PLWHA. The training was well received.

Ms. Lwanga has also continued to provide technical assistance to FANTA, writing, reviewing and editing chapters for the nurses' pre-service training manual on nutrition and HIV/AIDS. Work on the manual is still in progress.

OGAC formed an informal Food and Nutrition Technical Working Group this quarter. Although SARA is not directly involved in this working group, inputs were given to USAID members on key issues to address at the first meeting. Furthermore, OGAC documents related to the preventive care package for HIV-positive children and for others were reviewed for nutrition content and comments were provided.

No further problems encountered.

### **3. Nutrition Policy Analysis and Advocacy:**

- **PROFILES support to countries to enhance understanding of ENA & linkages with HIV/AIDS, RH programs (emphasis on President's Emergency Program for AIDS Relief focus countries).**

#### ***Expected Outputs:***

- Up to 3 countries in the region assisted as needed
  - Mozambique
  - Zambia
  - Rwanda

#### ***Progress toward outputs, problems encountered, proposed solutions:***

No activity this quarter.

### **4. Strengthen African partners' capacity for Nutrition:**

- **Use of AFR-supported tools & approaches in NGO & pre-service settings in the West Africa region**
- **Technical support to WHO with implementation of West Africa for Capacity Development in Nutrition**
- **Dissemination of promising practices in Africa through regional networks:**
  - **WAHO focal points**
  - **CRHCS nutrition network**
  - **Other nutrition networks (Central Africa).**

#### ***Expected Outputs:***

- Follow-up on integration of approaches & tools into nutrition program of NGOs in 3 countries & curriculum of 7 countries in West Africa
- TA provided for action plan revision workshop & implementation of action plan
- Support for one regional meeting of WAHO annual nutrition forum, Regional Network for Central Africa & Madagascar
- Dissemination of SARA tools & materials at regional conferences & through focal points networks.

#### ***Progress toward outputs, problems encountered, proposed solutions:***

Ms. Kinday Samba, SARA West Africa Regional Nutrition Advisor, and Ms. Dorcas Lwanga worked to finish reviewing, writing, editing and compiling all papers presented at the technical update during the West Africa Nutrition Forum that was held in September 2004 on Nutrition and HIV/AIDS in Cotonou, Benin, for a technical report. Almost all of the papers presented have been received with the exception of perhaps two and the group work proceedings, which Ms. Lwanga will continue to work on in the next quarter. Progress on the report has been slow due to presenters not forwarding papers on time. The technical report should be completed June 2005.

Ms. Samba started maternity leave in March 2005 and is expected to return to work the end of May 2005.

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

**Technical Area: Maternal Health / Essential Obstetric Care (EOC)**

**1. Assist AFR/SD Maternal & Newborn Health (MNH) Advisor with managing the MNH results package for SO 19.**

***Expected Outputs:***

- Core team meetings held
- AFR/SD MNH Strategic Framework developed
- Annual report completed
- Agenda set with AFR/SD priorities included.

***Progress toward outputs, problems encountered, proposed solutions:***

The core group met three times to discuss the matrix of activities implemented by AFRO and ACCESS, to discuss the “Beyond the Beltway” activities to increase the interest in MNH on the Hill, and to discuss the ACCESS work plan. Telcons were held with WHO/AFRO to review USAID MNH results indicators and to discuss possibilities for collaboration. The AFR/SD framework was revised and sent to ACCESS and AFRO for additional comments.

**2. Work with WHO/AFRO & African institutions to expand REDUCE/ALIVE initiative in Africa through capacity development of regional consultants.**

***Expected Outputs:***

- Increased monitoring of advocacy impact
- Capacity development demonstrated.

***Progress toward outputs, problems encountered, proposed solutions:***

The USAID-funded AWARE Project has agreed to support two country applications in West Africa. Plans to conduct a REDUCE/ALIVE workshop in Burkina Faso this quarter have been delayed. The AWARE Project has expressed interest in an application in Guinea and will discuss the REDUCE process with the MOH, the WHO office, and the USAID mission. World Bank funding has provided money for district-level activities and for advocacy materials in Uganda. AWARE informed us that in March, the Ghana REDUCE team finalized the presentation and the advocacy plan. AWARE received the action plan from the Mauritania team and will discuss its implementation. AWARE is also supposed to support Mali and Senegal follow-up activities.

**3. Promote attention / interventions to improve newborn care through use of ALIVE, dissemination of best practices, etc.**

***Expected Outputs:***

- BASICS/Senegal experience disseminated / discussed in AFRO & other forums
- Funding leveraged for ALIVE.

***Progress toward outputs, problems encountered, proposed solutions:***

REDUCE/ALIVE was presented to the ACCESS program partners this quarter.

**4. Work with AFRO to build capacity in Africa for formative research on maternal & newborns at community level.**

***Expected Outputs:***

- Capacity developed & research planned & conducted.

***Progress toward outputs, problems encountered, proposed solutions:***

AED sent WHO/AFRO a revised draft TOR for the WHO Senior Researcher, the Tanzanian Research Coordinator and the Zambia Research Coordinator, as well as the draft guidelines for collection of information for the desk review and stakeholder interviews. We are waiting to hear back from AFRO on these. We have had a difficult time communicating with AFRO and getting timely responses. Efforts on AFRO's part to debrief national officers about this research and seek their approval still has to be made.

**5. Documentation of Best Practices in MNH by developing a core group of experts in documentation of best practices. [AFRO-led activity].**

***Expected Outputs:***

- Core group of experts trained in documenting best practices
- Best practices in 10 countries documented
- Compilation & dissemination of documented best practices
- Documented best practices used to inform program development & implementation at country level.

***Progress toward outputs, problems encountered, proposed solutions:***

No activity this quarter.

**6. Training of facilitators for the implementation of the Road Map at country level [AFRO-led activity].**

***Expected Outputs:***

- Core group of experts / facilitators available to support countries for the development & implementation of country-specific National Road Map
- National Road Map that includes situation analysis, plan of action, time frame, budget & indicators for M&E in 12 countries.

***Progress toward outputs, problems encountered, proposed solutions:***

To use the Africa Road Map for Safe Motherhood to influence programming in key countries, WHO/AFRO, SARA and ACCESS will train Road Map technical experts/facilitators in USAID priority countries in Africa. ACCESS participation will allow (1) a fuller understanding by USAID of the Road Map roll-out and its in-country results; (2) the inclusion of USAID, AFR/SD priority areas in the roll-out, e.g. community approaches to improving MNH, attention to the newborn, etc.; and (3) some contact/knowledge of other country strategy development (follow-up of WHO/AFRO trained facilitator/trainers).

This quarter, Dr. Suzanne Prysor-Jones assisted ACCESS in collaborating with WHO/AFRO to plan facilitator training and roadmap adaptation in 2 countries.

**7. Publication & dissemination of the African Road Map & its implementation guide for improving MNH in Africa [AFRO-led activity].**

***Expected Outputs:***

- Road Map & its implementation guide available in 3 languages
- Dissemination & use of road map by countries

***Progress toward outputs, problems encountered, proposed solutions:***

No activity this quarter.

**8. Capacity building in advocacy for MNH in Africa [AFRO-led activity].**

***Expected Outputs:***

- Modeling of Optimal Birth Spacing Interval integrated into the REDUCE/ALIVE model.

***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. 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:***

See item # 8, SO 19, Infectious Diseases, for a related activity. Otherwise, no activity this quarter.

**2. 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
- Presentation & dissemination of the Pretoria consultative meeting report at various for a.

***Progress toward outputs, problems encountered, proposed solutions:***

Dr. Sambe Duale has been working with COHRED colleagues to draft a paper based on the report of the SARA and COHRED-sponsored Consultative Meeting on Partnerships for Strengthening Public Health Education in Africa. The plan is to submit the paper for publication in the upcoming special issue on Africa of the British Medical Journal.

**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:***

SARA hired consultant Sandra Callier to facilitate the process of developing a strategic framework for USAID investment in immunization in the Africa Region. Dr. Suzanne Prysor-Jones attended the first half-day meeting in late March.

**2. Dissemination & 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**

<b>General – Related to overall SO</b>
<p><b>1. Assist AFR/SD SO 20 team with managing the RH results packages.</b></p> <p><i>Expected Outputs:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Core team meetings held</li><li>• Results packages completed &amp; periodically updated</li><li>• Annual report completed</li><li>• Strategic support &amp; guidance provided to AFR/SD &amp; WHO/AFRO regional RH task force</li><li>• Agenda set with AFR/SD priorities included</li><li>• Task force recommendations</li><li>• Follow-up</li><li>• PMP updated</li></ul> <p><i>Progress toward outputs, problems encountered, proposed solutions:</i></p> <p>Core meetings were held to go over the SO budget and to discuss the regional conference on Repositioning Family Planning in West Africa and its follow up. Holley Stewart, SARA Senior Reproductive Health Advisor, helped Ishrat Husain of AFR/SD put together the presentation she made in Africa, gathering data and other information for it.</p>
<p><b>2. Guidance to AFR/SD &amp; CA partners on dissemination &amp; advocacy as related to documentation of FP &amp; RH.</b></p> <p><i>Expected Outputs:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Guidance provided as needed.</li></ul> <p><i>Progress toward outputs, problems encountered, proposed solutions:</i></p> <p>Ms. Antonia Wolff and Ms. Holley Stewart conferred with Nomi Fuchs on a strategy for dissemination of the FP/HIV guidelines in French.</p>
<p><b>3. Issue identification &amp; promotion of AFR/SD priorities.</b></p> <p><i>Expected Outputs:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• International meetings attended.</li></ul> <p><i>Progress toward outputs, problems encountered, proposed solutions:</i></p> <p>Ms. Holley Stewart attended and facilitated the <i>Repositioning Family Planning in West Africa</i> conference and the pre-conference workshop, <i>Youth and Repositioning Family Planning</i>, held in Accra, Ghana, February 14-18, 2005.</p>

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

#### **1. 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
- Brochure presenting this new information in an accessible way
- Data turned into a PowerPoint presentation to be used at meetings
- Regional meeting on ARH in the Sahel & implementation plans for advocacy (April 2005)

***Progress toward outputs, problems encountered, proposed solutions:***

Data from the research update was presented as part of a presentation made by AFR/SD at the Repositioning Family Planning workshop with youth on February 14, 2005. The brochure (*Lueur d'espoir*) was further edited (formatting and charts) by SARA, and photos and cartoons for the layout were collected. Ms. Holley Stewart met with the CERPOD consultant to discuss the content of the brochure. She also met with WARP, AWARE-RH, WHO, AFRO and UNFPA during the Repositioning Family Planning conference to discuss the goal and organization of the meeting.

#### **2. Provide technical assistance to ECSA Health Community (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 produced
- 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:***

No activity this quarter.

### **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
- Present findings at fora where appropriate
- Work with Global & AFR/SD on dissemination strategy of USAID FP/HIV integration guidelines.

***Progress toward outputs, problems encountered, proposed solutions:***

Ms. Holley Stewart and Ms. Antonia Wolff are both working on repackaging four country case studies on FP and HIV Integration that were co-funded by SARA and the Policy Project. We anticipate drafts to be completed in the next quarter.

<p><b>20.1.4 New strategies for empowering women developed</b></p>
<p><b>1. Support to FGC initiatives.</b></p> <p><i>Expected Outputs:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Facilitate FGC communication &amp; advocacy workshop in Burkina Faso</li> <li>• FGC eradication advocates trained.</li> </ul> <p><i>Progress toward outputs, problems encountered, proposed solutions:</i></p> <p>Ms. Holley Stewart helped collect materials for the participants in the FGC communication and advocacy workshop.</p>
<p><b>2. Support to West African Post-Abortion Care Initiative.</b></p> <p><i>Expected Outputs:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Compilation &amp; publication of post-Dakar 2002 conference report <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Publication &amp; distribution of post-Dakar 2002 PAC reference document in French</li> <li>• Launch of report in West Africa with CEFOREP &amp; Population Council/Senegal</li> <li>• Meeting of PAC focal points during SAGO conference, organized by CEFOREP.</li> </ul> </li> </ul> <p><i>Progress toward outputs, problems encountered, proposed solutions:</i></p> <p>Ms. Holley Stewart worked with CEFOREP to finalize and distribute its report on the meeting of the focal points, and to discuss the two final products CEFOREP is submitting for completion of its sub-contract with SARA. SARA publications staff formatted the document and created annexes of presentations for the report.</p>
<p><b>20.2.1 Reproductive health policies / strategies promotion: Strategies to strengthen African regional capacity to plan, manage &amp; implement reproductive health programs developed &amp; promoted</b></p>
<p><b>1. Assist Mwangaza to augment its regional profile &amp; increase its involvement in social mobilization for RH &amp; MNH issues.</b></p> <p><i>Expected Outputs:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Mwangaza activity briefs produced &amp; website launched</li> <li>• Staff trained in data management</li> <li>• Linkages between Mwangaza and other partners</li> <li>• Regional consultative meeting on integration of social mobilization into RH programs.</li> </ul> <p><i>Progress toward outputs, problems encountered, proposed solutions:</i></p> <p>The contract between SARA and Mwangaza has recently been signed, so activities on the work plan will begin. Mwangaza has held brainstorming telcons with CEDPA, Futures and SARA on the goal and organization of the workshop, which is now planned for July/August 2005.</p> <p>In addition, SARA was able to successfully link up Mwangaza with AWARE-RH, and they have begun a dialogue for planning activities.</p>

## **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 has organized several telcons between WHO/AFRO and AFR/SD to discuss MNH indicators, AFRO country plans and activities for funding; provided TA to CEFOREP regarding scopes of work with AWARE and will fund a facilitator to work with CERPOD on the regional ARH forum.

## **20.2.2 Innovative advocacy strategies to increase support of expanded reproductive health programs developed & promoted**

### **1. Explore activities to promote & advocate for the repositioning of FP in RH programs.**

#### ***Expected Outputs:***

- Participate in developing a framework for USAID interagency working group to reposition FP
- Participate in working group assembly organized by Advance Africa (October 2004) & regional conference (February 2005)
- Sponsor two facilitators for Youth and Repositioning FP pre-conference event (one for overall facilitation & one for working groups)
- Develop & distribute info packets & advocacy tools

#### ***Progress toward outputs, problems encountered, proposed solutions:***

Ms. Holley Stewart participated in the pre-conference workshop on youth and family planning, as well as the Repositioning FP in West Africa conference in Accra in February 2005. SARA also sponsored Mwangaza's participation.

### **2. Support advocacy & dissemination activities to promote & advocate for the repositioning of FP in RH programs with African institutions.**

#### ***Expected Outputs:***

- Planning of a pre-conference event on youth & repositioning family planning & setting the agenda
- Facilitator(s) of pre-conference event trained
- Participation in pre-conference event & following regional conference.

#### ***Progress toward outputs, problems encountered, proposed solutions:***

The pre-conference workshop was successfully held. Mwangaza received training to facilitate group work at the workshop. Ms. Holley Stewart was a facilitator for both the workshop and conference, providing translation help in the breakout sessions, and helping to prepare feedback from working groups to the plenary session.

### **3. Support African institutions to train providers, program managers on the Standard Days Method.**

#### ***Expected Outputs:***

- A cadre of trainers of trainers in SDM in Africa
- Increased advocacy for integration of SDM in FP programs as a method choice.

#### ***Progress toward outputs, problems encountered, proposed solutions:***

SARA will support curricula development, piloting and dissemination of SDM with the Institute of Reproductive Health (IRH) and two institutions in West Africa. SARA also worked with IRH to finalize a scope of work and budget for activities that will take place from April to July 2005.

**20.2.3 Strategies for improved coordination among stakeholders and/or partners for RH programs developed & promoted**

**Support to Advance Africa to produce & disseminate a strategic mapping manual for RH services.**

***Expected Outputs:***

- Manual developed
- Dissemination strategy developed with Advance Africa & PARTAGE

***Progress toward outputs, problems encountered, proposed solutions:***

No progress has been made on this activity. Advance Africa has yet to finalize the manual.

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

### African Institutions/Capacity Building

#### 1. Technical support to CRHCS on key regional HIV/AIDS issues (i.e., health manpower).

**Expected Outputs:**

- Reports & briefs on HR prepared & disseminated.
- 2 health WF stakeholders meetings held in Kenya & Malawi.

**Progress toward outputs, problems encountered, proposed solutions:**

CRHCS is still making preparations to organize the key stakeholder workshop. Other than that, no progress to report this quarter.

#### 2. Support to ANECCA.

**Expected Outputs:**

- Lessons learned in pediatric treatment & care collected.

**Progress toward outputs, problems encountered, proposed solutions:**

SARA consultant Sara Bowsky met with Mary Pat Keiffer to discuss the SOW after preliminary feedback was given to REDSO by Sara Bowsky, Ms. Agnieszka Sykes and Dr. Sambe Duale.

Meanwhile, there is a delay in finalizing draft protocol and timeline due to multiple partners with heavy work loads.

#### 3. Support NAP+ to follow-up on key activities.

**Expected Outputs:**

- Institutional evaluation & strategic plan follow-up completed.

**Progress toward outputs, problems encountered, proposed solutions:**

As SARA II draws to a close, activities are being phased out with NAP+.

#### 4. 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 & gaps conducted
- Guidelines & tools disseminated
- Workshop on M&E conducted.

**Progress toward outputs, problems encountered, proposed solutions:**

SARA has advised CERPOD to negotiate with AWARE-HIV/AIDS to support this activity.

#### 5. Support collaborative activities with WAHO on regional HIV/AIDS activities (military, ARV pooled procurement).

**Expected Outputs:**

- TA provided for Global Fund applications
- TA provided by SARA staff & consultants
- Advocacy materials prepared & disseminated.

**Progress toward outputs, problems encountered, proposed solutions:**

Dr. Sambe Duale attended the Uniformed Services and HIV/AIDS Task Force meeting held March 23, 2005, at the UNAIDS Washington, DC, Office. The Task Force is co-chaired by UNAIDS and U.S. DOD. Dr. Duale provided a brief report on WAHO's initiative to address HIV/AIDS in the Armed Forces of ECOWAS.

Dr. Duale also provided comments on WAHO's concept paper for a planned regional consultation to be held later this year in Niamey, Niger, to assess progress in the implementation of the World Bank MAP program in ECOWAS member countries.

## Pediatric HIV/AIDS

### 1. Support & strengthen pediatric AIDS activities.

#### *Expected Outputs:*

- Please see activity #2 in African Institutions / Capacity Building, above
- Palliative care for children.

#### *Progress toward outputs, problems encountered, proposed solutions:*

Ms. Agnieszka Sykes worked with consultant Sara Bowsky to develop a SOW with a consultant who is also the Associate Dean for Academic Affairs and Associate Professor for Health Policy at the George Washington University School of Public Health and Health Sciences, to produce a document articulating the current status of pain and symptom management and a policy briefing on the above subject for children with HIV/AIDS in LDC.

### 2. Technical assistance to AFR/SD in pediatric HIV/AIDS issues (Sara Bowsky consultancy & other assistance).

#### *Expected Outputs:*

- Trip reports
- Field guidance on scaling up pediatric care & treatment & PMTCT+ in partnership with OHA & OGAC
- Field guidance on home-based care in partnership with OHA & OGAC
- Guidance document on family-centered HIV/AIDS care & support.

#### *Progress toward outputs, problems encountered, proposed solutions:*

Assistance was provided to efforts to strengthen the draft USG Palliative Care Questions and Answers field support document, including participation and support to the USG Palliative Care Research working session.

Technical support was provided for the development of the USAID/Mozambique Palliative Home-Based Care Guidance document and review of the USAID/Mozambique OVC guidance document.

A technical review was carried out of the WHO Chronic Care with ARV Therapy document, *Integrated Management of Adolescent and Adult Illness Interim Guidelines for First-Level Facility Health Workers at Health Centre or Outpatient Clinic at District Hospital*.

Technical support was provided to USG South Africa for the development of instruments and training guide for a rapid appraisal of USG-supported palliative care programs in South Africa serving both adults and children with HIV/AIDS. Tools will also be used by the Government of South Africa for their up-coming national palliative care evaluation in collaboration with Family Health International and are being adapted for application in other countries.

In addition, Dr. Ellen Piwoz reviewed the OHA and OGAC field guidance on home-based care and provided feedback on those aspects related to nutrition support.

While in Mozambique, Dr. Piwoz participated in a national PMTCT workshop organized by CDC and the Government of Mozambique. At this meeting, she presented the ZVITAMBO research findings on HIV and infant feeding and participated in discussions around infant feeding and HIV. Dr. Piwoz also presented ZVITAMBO results to the Columbia University PMTCT-plus partners meeting, which was held in Maputo and attended by PMTCT plus partners from around the world.

### 3. Research & analysis on pediatric HIV & child mortality in Africa: policy projections & analysis.

#### *Expected Outputs:*

- Country simulations on estimated pediatric HIV infections & non-HIV-related deaths carried out
- 5-10-page policy brief summarizing findings prepared.

#### *Progress toward outputs, problems encountered, proposed solutions:*

##### Country Simulations

No progress was made on the country simulation activity this quarter. AFR/SD should decide whether it is still useful to undertake this activity as originally planned.

## Orphans & Vulnerable Children

### 1. Support for OVC program.

#### *Expected Outputs:*

- Support to economic strengthening (ES) for OVC network:
  - Action-based research on ES for OVC network
  - Guidance on ES for OVC implementation

#### *Progress toward outputs, problems encountered, proposed solutions:*

In consultation with AFR & the Office of Displaced Children and Orphans Fund, Ms. Agnieszka Sykes developed a SOW and questionnaire for Phase 1 of the mapping of ES for OVC activity.

Ms. Sykes also continued to ensure coordinated activities between the CYES network and the SEEP network and HACI project.

### 2. Technical assistance to AFR/SD in OVC issues (Sara Bowsky consultancy).

#### *Expected Outputs:*

- Field guidance for OVC in partnership with OVC advisor, OHA & OGAC.

#### *Progress toward outputs, problems encountered, proposed solutions:*

See above for economic strengthening for OVCs work that Ms. Bowsky carried out. In addition, assistance was provided to the USAID Office of HIV/AIDS for the review of the National Monitoring and Evaluation OVC Framework, to USAID for the review of the Program Level OVC Monitoring and Evaluation Handbook, and development of USG guidance on OVC programming. Finally, assistance was provided to the USAID Office of HIV/AIDS OVC APS process.

## Nutrition, Infant Feeding & HIV/AIDS

### 1. HIV care & treatment of children: nutrition & infant feeding activities.

#### *Areas:*

- General technical support to AFR/SD & relevant OGAC working groups (PMTCT, Pediatric HIV, OVC, nutrition/food task force if constituted).
- ZVITAMBO research, analysis & dissemination of findings on HIV & infant feeding, growth of children & morbidity/mortality of HIV+ children.
- Valid International research on CTC: Community-based approaches to nutrition care of children & families affected by HIV/AIDS.
- Infant feeding technical assistance in support of President's Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief countries, e.g., Development of guidelines & program tools for HIV & infant feeding: completion of generic counseling tools; finalization of guidance on feeding non-breastfed child after 6 months; adaptation of WHO guidance on feeding non-breastfed child after 6 months.

#### *Expected Outputs:*

- Detailed feedback provided to OGAC working groups on food, infant feeding & nutrition-related guidelines/guidance & preparation of technical materials, as needed
- Participation in country assessment, planning & other technical missions, as needed
- 2- papers on ZVITAMBO infant feeding & intervention data published in peer-reviewed journals
- Paper on growth of children drafted, submitted for publication
- Paper on morbidity/mortality of HIV+ children drafted & submitted for publication
- Findings presented at national, regional & international meetings, including the IUNS Nutrition Congress & elsewhere.

#### *Progress toward outputs, problems encountered, proposed solutions:*

#### General support

As noted previously, SARA continues to provide general technical guidance/support to AFR/SD and relevant OHA and OGAC colleagues who are responsible for nutrition and HIV-related issues. This support includes feedback on technical and operational research priorities, guidelines and other plans. An OGAC informal working group on food, nutrition and HIV/AIDS was established. In the future, it may be useful for SARA to give direct inputs to that working group, as appropriate (not procurement sensitive).

#### ZVITAMBO

The major paper on exclusive breastfeeding and postnatal HIV transmission was accepted by *AIDS* this quarter and will be published in the April 29 edition. A paper on the impact of the education and counseling intervention in MTCT knowledge, testing and feeding behavior was published in the April issue of the *Journal of Nutrition*. A third paper on the impact of the education and counseling intervention on postnatal HIV transmission was submitted for peer review this quarter. No decision on its status has yet been reached.

Work continues on the analyses of ZVITAMBO data related to: 1) pediatric HIV and mortality; 2) viral load as a predictor of HIV outcome among infected children; 3) sensitivity and specificity of IMCI algorithm or predicting HIV in children; and 4) growth of HIV-exposed and infected children. An advance draft of the mortality paper has been drafted and will be submitted to SARA and AFR for comments in April. All viral loads have been run for paper 2; a first draft of the sensitivity/IMCI paper is also in progress. Work has not yet commenced on the growth paper.

A no-cost extension will be requested for the new ZVITAMBO analyses.

#### Valid/CTC study

Work continues on the Valid/CTC study. Phase 1 was completed and Phase 2 is well underway and nearly complete. Caroline Tanner traveled to Malawi to assist with the analysis in March. Preliminary results will be presented at the WHO Technical Consultation on Nutrition and HIV/AIDS.

It is important to note that the prevalence of HIV in the CTC children is much lower than expected. As a result, there will be too few infected children to complete some of the originally anticipated analyses. However, other findings of relevance to the application of CTC to the HIV context have emerged, e.g., high uptake of VCT.

A no-cost extension for the CTC/HIV Valid agreement will be needed to complete the analysis and prepare the necessary reports.

#### Infant feeding and HIV

At long last, the WHO Counseling Tools for HIV and infant feeding have been produced and are beginning to be disseminated. All materials are finalized and have been approved by WHO/UNICEF.

A problem, however, was encountered this quarter. SARA originally agreed to print copies of the Reference Guide for our own use with partners, and for dissemination by WHO. Changes in AFR guidance to SARA about HIV-related materials production have meant that, to date, SARA has been unable to provide/disseminate these materials, as originally agreed. This is holding up dissemination of the entire counseling package (only the counseling cards are now available). A decision on this issue must be made as this information is urgently needed in the field.

## **2. Nutrition interventions in HIV prevention, treatment & care programs.**

### ***Areas:***

- Participation in WHO Technical Advisory Group on Nutrition and HIV/AIDS.
- Dissemination of new state-of-the-art (SOTA) documentation on HIV/AIDS & nutrition.
- Development & dissemination tools for implementing nutrition interventions in HIV programs: pre-service training modules; adaptation of existing tools to West Africa context

### ***Expected Outputs:***

- Participation in WHO TAG, including meetings & technical reviews, & conference planning sessions
- TA to country presenters
- Participation in regional conference on Nutrition & HIV/AIDS to be held in Southern Africa (April 2005)
- Journal of Nutrition Supplement on Women's Nutrition & HIV/AIDS published (by January 2005)
- Technical report on WAHO Nutrition Forum on HIV/AIDS & nutrition finalized & disseminated (by January 2005)

- Technical presentations to heighten awareness & understanding of issues given to USG, USAID & other partners
- Pre-service training module on nutrition & HIV/AIDS finalized
- Up to 3 tools for integrating nutrition into HIV/AIDS programs adapted to West African context (details in consultation with WAHO & West Africa Regional Project)

***Progress toward outputs, problems encountered, proposed solutions:***

**WHO TAG**

Dr. Ellen Piwoz has spent a considerable amount of her time this quarter assisting WHO with preparations for the April 2005 Technical Consultation. In February, she participated in a planning visit in South Africa to meet with government counterparts and the multi-agency communications team that is facilitating the planning and media coverage for the Consultation. She also reviewed and revised some of the scientific papers (e.g., macronutrients and HIV and infant feeding) and prepared documentation for dissemination to media and conference participants. Dr. Piwoz was responsible for identifying African speakers and participants, for providing input on the overall program for the meeting, and for organizing and facilitating the group work elements of the Consultation. She also provided technical support to several of the African presenters at the Consultation.

**Dissemination of SOTA documentation**

As noted previously, Dr. Piwoz gave a presentation of the ZVITAMBO study infant feeding results to the USAID-organized PMTCT forum.

**Technical report on WAHO Nutrition Forum on HIV/AIDS & nutrition**

Work on the technical report on the WAHO Nutrition Forum on HIV/AIDS and Nutrition is still on going, and is still at the information gathering and editing stages. Completion of this has been slow due to presenters being slow to forward or not providing their technical papers. As a result, Ms. Kinday Samba and Ms. Dorcas Lwanga have had to find time to write the technical papers that are missing using notes and slides from the presentations made. Layout will begin once the information is finalized and the editing is completed. As noted above completion of the technical report is expected June 2005.

**Dissemination of Tools for Implementing Nutrition Interventions.**

This document was proofread and finalized this quarter. Ms. Dorcas Lwanga disseminated SARA tools on nutrition and HIV at the recent WHO Consultation on Nutrition and HIV/AIDS in Durban, South Africa, April 2005.

**Journal of Nutrition Supplement on Women's Nutrition & HIV/AIDS published**

Final editorial changes were made to the *Journal of Nutrition* Supplement. The papers were published in April. SARA is planning to buy copies of the supplement to disseminate to partners in this area. This should be done as soon as possible.

**3. Nutrition vulnerability & use of food aid in HIV/AIDS-affected populations.**

***Areas:***

- Enhancing the evidence base for the use of food in HIV programming.

***Expected Outputs:***

- Protocol for capturing the impact of food aid in HIV programs developed & implemented in up to 4 countries
- Results disseminated in Africa to USG/OGAC & partners
- TA to research in at least two countries (e.g., Mozambique, South Africa)

***Progress toward outputs, problems encountered, proposed solutions:***

Dr. Ellen Piwoz traveled to Mozambique this quarter to work with local partners (EGPAF/Save the Children and HAI) on planning the Targeted Evaluation of Early Breastfeeding Cessation. Next steps were presented to USAID/Mozambique. The only problem encountered is that partner agencies have not yet received funds for this work, and it is not anticipated until late April/Early May.

There was no progress on this issue in other sites, although Valid International expressed interest in research on Nutrition and TB/HIV and was encouraged to prepare a proposal for this work.

There has been no follow-up from the December 2004 meeting on operations research on the use of food in HIV programming. This requires urgent attention in the next quarter.

## Multisectoral Initiatives

### 1. Support to human resource & health systems.

#### *Expected Outputs:*

- Matrix & analysis on HR studies.

#### *Progress toward outputs, problems encountered, proposed solutions:*

Ms. Agnieszka Sykes met with Ishrat Husain of AFR/SD and Capacity Project staff (Geoff King & Laurie Parker) to discuss collaboration on the SOW focused on documenting “innovative practices” in managing the health work force. A potential consultant has been identified (through LATH-Liverpool Associates in Trop. Health).

### 2. Impact of morbidity & mortality on cocoa industry in Ghana.

#### *Expected Outputs:*

- Assessment in Ghana & development of follow-up mitigation supported.

#### *Progress toward outputs, problems encountered, proposed solutions:*

In Ghana, the field survey teams have been collecting data this quarter.

## Care & Support

### 1. Nurses’ experience with complete prescriptive authority.

#### *Expected Outputs:*

- Recent experience of changing prescription authority policy to allow nurses to prescribe medication in Uganda documented

#### *Progress toward outputs, problems encountered, proposed solutions:*

Discussions (through Sara Bowsky) have been held with the USG Palliative Care Technical Advisor and Hospice Africa Uganda to document the experience of policy reform in Uganda, which expanded prescribing privileges to nurses. A draft SOW has been developed and a consultant is being identified.

### 2. Male involvement in home-based care (HBC).

#### *Expected Outputs:*

- Experience of male involvement in HBC for HIV/AIDS documented.

#### *Progress toward outputs, problems encountered, proposed solutions:*

Ms. Agnieszka Sykes and Ms. Antonia Wolff worked with a writer on repackaging Africare’s document on their experiences in Zimbabwe with male involvement with HBC. The document has been condensed to 3 pages and will be reformatted for dissemination.

## Dissemination and Advocacy Support to SO 21

### 1. Produce and disseminate key documents.

#### *Expected Outputs:*

- Documents produced and disseminated:
  - i. BMS guidance
  - ii. OVC SOTA review
  - iii. Food, nutrition & HIV guidelines
  - iv. Repackage of health workforce impacts (from Malawi & Kenya)
  - v. Update & repackage Impact of AIDS on Health Sector report
  - vi. Translation, printing & dissemination of stigma toolkit into French
  - vii. Documents on good practices for pediatric AIDS counseling & testing
  - viii. Document on good practices for treatment adherence in children
  - ix. Implementation guidelines on basic care package for children & how to integrate HIV into child health programs
  - x. Guidance on ES for OVC implementation

- xi. Guidance for OVC program implementation
- xii. Final report on lessons learned on OVC & care
- xiii. Guidance on complementary feeding options (for HIV+ women)
- xiv. Guidance on integrating HIV activities into food programs
- xv. GVS BCC & AIDS training curriculum in French.

***Progress toward outputs, problems encountered, proposed solutions:***

See Cross-Cutting: Dissemination and Advocacy, below, for progress on various publications. For others, there has been no activity this quarter.

**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:***

See SO 19, EPI section, item # 1.

**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 Diseases section.

**SO:** Cross-cutting

**Technical Area:** Various areas – Monitoring and Evaluation Activities

**1. Assist AFR/SD/HRD 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:***

See SO 19, Infectious Diseases section, item # 1.

**2. Support for the implementation of strategic & institutional development plans of WAHO & CERPOD.**

***Expected Outputs:***

- TA provided to WAHO and CERPOD.

***Progress toward outputs, problems encountered, proposed solutions:***

Nothing specific to strategic and institutional development plans to report this quarter. See reproductive health section for description of CERPOD's progress in publishing the update of adolescent reproductive health information in the new brochure *Lueur d'espoir*.

**3. Technical analysis & 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:***

Dr. Sambe Duale met briefly with Dr. Connie Davis of REDSO/ESA during her visit in DC this quarter to discuss ECSA-HC activities jointly supported by REDSO and SARA. The discussion focused mainly on the needed TA from SARA for the assessment of the TB-HIV program links in selected countries.

**SO:** Cross-cutting

**Technical Area:** Dissemination and advocacy

**Result ia: Capacity to Advocate & Disseminate Information**

**1. Identify key issues for which to advocate: examples; repositioning FP, private practitioners.**

***Expected Outputs:***

- Issues identified
- Activities implemented
- Materials developed & disseminated.

***Progress toward outputs, problems encountered, proposed solutions:***

Core meetings were held to discuss the regional conference on Repositioning Family Planning in West Africa conference and its follow up. SARA provided RH Briefing packets and RH CD-ROMS for the event, which took place this quarter in Accra, Ghana. See SO 20 Reproductive Health above for further detail.

Research and gathering of tools for the private practitioner's toolkit continued this quarter. Production and dissemination are slated for next quarter.

**2. Advocacy workshop with CERPOD on ARH.**

***Expected Outputs:***

- Advocacy workshop held with SARA input & guidance.

***Progress toward outputs, problems encountered, proposed solutions:***

SARA is working with CERPOD on developing a brochure (*Lueur d'espoir*) which was written by CERPOD and edited by SARA this quarter. SARA is currently gathering photos and cartoons for the layout. Production of the CERPOD brochure will likely take place in the next quarter. This is further discussed in the Reproductive Health section above.

**3. Work with African institutions to build dissemination capacity: CRHCS, AFRO, CERPOD.**

***Expected Outputs:***

- For CRHCS:
  - Implement aspects of communication strategy
  - Administer CD-ROM questionnaire
  - Conduct workshop with information focal points on roles in community core groups & repackaging
  - Work with PRB & CRHCS to determine next steps for electronic networking
  - Review & advise on policy brief series
- For AFRO: TBD on as needed basis
- For CERPOD: Oversee repackaging of *Jeunes en danger* with RH Advisor.

***Progress toward outputs, problems encountered, proposed solutions:***

See previous item for progress on the CERPOD brochure.

**4. Collaborate with other USAID projects as appropriate.**

***Expected Outputs:***

- Products developed/translated/disseminated on an as needed basis.

***Progress toward outputs, problems encountered, proposed solutions:***

Ms. Antonia Wolff and Ms. Holley Stewart conferred with Nomi Fuchs, USAID/G/RH, on a strategy for dissemination of the FP/HIV guidelines in French.

**5. 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:***

This quarter, SARA worked on finalizing a CTO letter to hire Gayle Gibbons to do this activity. She will begin working on these in the next quarter.

**6. Document the lessons learned in the Namibia website activity.**

***Expected Outputs:***

- Information documented & disseminated.

***Progress toward outputs, problems encountered, proposed solutions:***

SARA has hired a consultant who was involved with the website activity to write a document that brings out the lessons learned. We expect a draft report in the next quarter.

**Result iia: Materials Development and Production**

**7. Design and package information in appropriate formats (books, syntheses, executive summaries, e-notes, policy briefs/brochures, tools).**

***Expected Outputs:***

- Selected information designed and packaged, e.g., PP Toolkit, OVC SOTA report, RH Briefs, HIV/Stigma Toolkit (French), WHO Counseling Tools, Taking Stock documents.

***Progress toward outputs, problems encountered, proposed solutions:***

Activities continued to progress this quarter on developing these materials:

- PP Toolkit: Additional tools were found and added to the CD-ROM. Further revisions were made to main paper, as discussed in the Child Health section. It will be produced and dissemination beginning next quarter.
- HIV Stigma Toolkit: The text was reviewed by a professional French editor and the French version polished up.
- WHO Counseling Tools: The Reference Guide was finalized and we began formatting the mini-flipcharts.
- Taking Stock documents: A CTO letter was approved for the funds needed to reprint Taking Stock Full Report and Overview. The full report and overview were slightly revised to comply with new USAID publications guidance and are due out next quarter. The related brochure is being reviewed by AFR/SD and SARA. It will be produced next quarter.

**8. Dissemination of key AFR/SD-SARA cross-cutting products per dissemination plan.**

***Expected Outputs:***

- Products disseminated.

***Progress toward outputs, problems encountered, proposed solutions:***

No activity this quarter.

**9. Assessments of use of AFR/SD-SARA products (3-6 documents): Community Nutrition, MTCT, Private Practitioners (?), HR Crisis (?).**

***Expected Outputs:***

- Use of documents assessed & presentation given.

***Progress toward outputs, problems encountered, proposed solutions:***

Work is continuing on these and this quarter, the SARA pubs team completed one more assessment. An assessment of *Utilizing the Potential of Formal and Informal Private Practitioners in Child Survival* found that the publication impacted the development of the National Strategy to Involve Private Practitioners in Child Survival in Uganda and informed the national c-IMCI strategy to include private practitioners in Bangladesh.

**10. Develop & design FINAL SARA publications & CD compilations.**

***Expected Outputs:***

- Develop format
- Finalize & publish.

***Progress toward outputs, problems encountered, proposed solutions:***

The SARA team discussed an end-of-project dissemination plan and came up with a draft outline which was presented and approved by AFR/SD. SARA consultant Gayle Gibbons will start working on a draft end-of-project report in the next quarter.

**Result iib: Dissemination Channels**

**11. Continue to disseminate information electronically.**

***Expected Outputs:***

- Documents publicized on e-lists
- Increased number of documents on Internet
- Increased number of hits
- Quarterly publications list.

***Progress toward outputs, problems encountered, proposed solutions:***

SARA database has continued to randomly present problems. As a result, the database is being recreated in SQL Server format, which will make troubleshooting easier, and also make the database more accessible to all members of the SARA project. The recreated database should be up and running by early next quarter.

**12. Develop plan for post-SARA website information.**

***Expected Outputs:***

- Website reviewed & updated on periodic basis

***Progress toward outputs, problems encountered, proposed solutions:***

The entire website is small enough to fit on a CD, which can be used for dissemination if desired.

**13. Assess use of CD-ROMs in Africa (this also falls under CRHCS in item 3a).**

***Expected Outputs:***

- Survey at AHILA conference, Malawi
- Survey at Health Ministers' Conference, Zimbabwe
- Analysis & recommendations report on request.

***Progress toward outputs, problems encountered, proposed solutions:***

SARA completed a CD assessment on the AHILA conference last quarter. We are currently working on assessing CD-ROM use from surveys gathered at the Health Minister's Conference, which will be reported on in the next quarter.

**14. Analyze tracking information on major SARA publications.**

***Expected Outputs:***

- Information analyzed on request.

***Progress toward outputs, problems encountered, proposed solutions:***

Surveys continue to be designed and implemented on an as-needed basis. The second batch of assessments is being drafted and finalized. This includes Best Practices, Malaria and Pregnancy, just to name a couple.

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

**15. 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:***

This work is ongoing and report on in the previous SO sections.