



## **JSI RESEARCH & TRAINING INSTITUTE**

### **ROMANIAN FAMILY HEALTH INITIATIVE**

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**Line Item 3 – Post Partum/Post-Abortion Care**

**Line Item 5 – Avian Influenza Activities**

**Line Item 6 – Enhancing Sustainability of NGOs and Continuing Support to the  
National AIDS Campaign**

**Narrative Quarterly Report**

**April to June 2007**

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## **INTRODUCTION**

This report constitutes the twenty-third quarterly report of the *Romanian Family Health Initiative* (RFHI) project, the seventh report for the program component entitled, “Post-Partum, Post Abortion Care Project” and updates on “Emergency Relief and Avian Influenza Activities.” The new component, “Enhancing the Sustainability of NGOs and Continuing Support to the National AIDS Campaign,” began during June 2006, and this report includes the fourth full scale reporting on this component.

This report documents activities during the third quarter of FY 2007 (April 2007- June 2007) under the above RFHI components. The project's major accomplishments during the quarter follow, as well as a description of all of the activities related to the implementation of the RFHI project. The format of this report correlates to the annual work plan (approved by USAID/Romania for the fiscal year) in order to better monitor project progress. Information in this report has been provided by JSI staff and the primary RFHI partners (SECS, ARAS, EEIRH and UNOPA) through their quarterly reports submitted to the Romanian office of JSI Research & Training Institute, Inc.

## **RFHI HIGHLIGHTS AND MAJOR ACHIEVEMENTS**

This report constitutes the last quarterly report for the Romanian Family Health Initiative. It was difficult to highlight a few activities due to the quantity and diversity of them. The reasons for this extraordinarily high level of activity are: (1) the great interest that health professionals, and especially nurses, showed in implementing post-abortion and post-partum FP services and, (2) the requests from local authorities and professionals participating in previous components (rural and urban) to consolidate the linkages between PHC services and the PAC-PP component at the hospital level. With all these activities the circle of a safety net is closed and becomes stronger every day. Community and PHC workers know the services that are offered at hospitals and the hospital's staff is aware of the community services to which they can refer their patients after discharge.

In this report you will find information related to the workshop on PAC/PP for nurses working in hospitals that was held in Bucharest. Experiences shared during the workshop showed how welcomed the program was and that it had improved relations between nurses and their female patients.

Since the program started, more than 87,000 women have received information about the rapid return of fertility after an abortion and the availability of family planning methods, which can be used either to avoid another unwanted pregnancy or to create a pause between birth and becoming pregnant again (birth spacing). The 52 hospitals identified for the PAC-PP program cover almost 45% of the abortion events in Romania.

In recent months, innovative solutions were designed to ensure availability and distribution of free contraceptives in hospitals without FP Centers. In those hospitals, managers, local authorities and health professionals reviewed existing regulations to introduce this scenario that had not been contemplated before.

The National FP program has had great success in decreasing the number of abortions as every day more women turn to using reliable contraception instead of abortion. However, there are still a considerable number of women that use abortion repeatedly as a fertility control method. The draft of the research aimed at identifying the profile of these women was

finalized during the quarter and will be available in September. The conclusions of this report, in line with other international studies will help further development of a prevention intervention to target these women.

Another key report that was drafted during the quarter shows the achievements of the RFHI through the impact of the MOPH's FP interventions on the reproductive health outputs of the population, particularly abortion related maternal mortality, which has been significantly reduced since the beginning of the program.

Taking into account that in Romania, like many other countries in the Region, policy is one of the main barriers to implementing FP services that are accessible and affordable to all, efforts were made during the last months of the Initiative to ensure a friendly policy environment towards these services. These efforts were reflected in the last quarter, when both the MOPH and the NHIH, took their greatest steps yet in recognizing the importance of FP in the Romanian Health System through the following policy statements:

- (1) Ministerial Order No. 116/2007 stating the range of FP services (including PAC-PP) that the MOPH is responsible for, including the distribution of free contraceptives, providing information to the general population about the FP program, and providing FP training
- (2) the NHIH definition of the Basic Health Package including FP services for the all citizens of Romania.

Through these two important policy statements the GOR confirmed the political will not to use FP to achieve any demographic, political or socio-economical interests other than the public health interest of their citizens.

SECS continue their efforts to ensure sustainability after the RFHI. In addition to their own clinics, SECS are assessing the viability of other opportunities for further sustainability of their organization.

### ***LINE ITEM 3 –POST-PARTUM/POST-ABORTION CARE***

#### **IR 2. IMPROVE MOBILIZATION, ALLOCATION AND USE OF SOCIAL SECTOR RESOURCES**

#### **IMPROVE MOBILIZATION AND ALLOCATION OF HEALTH SECTOR RESOURCES**

##### **Improve the Managerial Capacity of RH services at the national and local level**

##### Strengthen MOH consultative committees for planning and implementing RH key components

###### *LMIS/Contraceptive Security Working Group*

JSI R&T is currently compiling a review of RFHI experiences and lessons learned to date in relation to commodities availability for various sectoral FP interventions (Rural, Urban and PAC/PP). The CS Plan will then be finalized based on this review and will be available to give future direction in programming and to ensure sustainability of the project beyond its closure.

A key recommendation of this document will be to focus attention on medium and long term product availability and on the factors that contribute towards achieving this goal.

In 2007, under activities related to contraceptive security, MOPH is organizing tenders for oral and injectable contraceptives, as well as for the LMIS monitoring and reporting forms. These are part of a larger list of products to be contracted through tenders this year, under the national health program (subprogram 1.3).

JSI R&T supported MOPH by providing TA with documentation related to needs assessment and by providing PMU and later on MOPH with draft repartitions of products per district, as required.

The latest USAID donation is the last contribution (in products) to Romania and is aimed at sustaining medium-term availability of commodities for eligible beneficiaries. The donation, which complements existing MOPH efforts, consists of 2.7 million condoms that became locally available from June 2007, and responds to the needs of both public and nongovernmental sectors.

- MOPH, the main recipient of the donation, on behalf of the beneficiaries of the National Family Planning Program, will finalize the local legal and administrative procedures for accepting this donation by the middle of the next quarter
- RFHI partner NGOs and institutions (e.g. General Directorate of Penitentiaries) were supplied with quantities (according to requests submitted to JSI R&T) estimated to cover their needs for 2007-2008, or for a minimum of 6 months beyond RFHI lifetime. Priority was given to NGOs that conduct specific IEC/BCC summer activities, targeting youth and high risk groups. Beneficiary NGOs and other traditional RFHI public partners will collect the remaining allocated quantities during the following quarter.

## Increase the level of contraceptive security

### Implement LMIS for distribution of contraceptives at facility level

The web-based reporting system, InterCON, was enhanced through additional features, such as the new automated electronic reports at both district and national level. These improvements were based, in part, upon feedback received from field professionals on the LMIS workshop held under the umbrella of the NP3 National Conference in December 2006. For the eleven operators that could not attend the above-mentioned InterCON training, remote training and assistance was provided in aspects related to the electronic LMIS for free-of-charge contraceptives.

During this quarter, the districts lagging behind in terms of consolidation and import into InterCON of the required historical records received additional technical assistance from SECS to synchronize their performances with the districts that had already completed these steps. By the end of the quarter, all data import was completed and for the first time, the logistic staff of all DPHAs began using the electronic data recording and reporting instrument on a daily basis. By the end of the quarter, 70% of all DPHAs had completed data entry for the second quarterly report of 2007, while the remainder are expected to be completed by 31 July 2007.

SECS continued to work closely with PMU to ensure DPHA support for covering infrastructure needs (e.g. equipment and internet line) and assistance with emergent human resources “losses” due to turnover of trained logistic personnel (InterCON operators), by hiring new personnel. Approximately one third of all districts have hired new operators since the training that was held in December 2006.

During this quarter, areas were identified where final assistance and support are needed in order to consolidate DPHA capacity to use all features of InterCON and to close implementation gaps due to personnel turn-over. As a result, JSI R&T and SECS are organizing a one-day training workshop targeting DPHA operators and national level professionals. The topics to be discussed during training include lessons learned during InterCON implementation and further recommendations for sustaining the information system that provides evidence of contraceptive security.

### Design LMIS for PAC/PP facilities according to action plans

Following an invitation from Dolj DPHA, JSI R&T logistics staff conducted a field visit to Filiasi Hospital in June. The DPHA request was for facilitation in implementing contraceptive distribution in one hospital facility (Dolj PAC/PP site) that represents a unique situation in that it lacks a feasible partnership with a nearby FP cabinet. The local situation was analyzed together with PAC/PP and DPHA professionals and various solutions for implementation of LMIS in the facility were proposed. Technical recommendations and practical steps for including this PAC/PP facility as a unit to dispense contraceptives under the FP National Health Program were identified. This model will be replicable in similar cases in other districts.



**Personnel from Filiasi hospital post-abortion facilities presenting the IEC materials**

#### Draft logistics procedures manual and conduct review with stakeholders

The final version of the “Guidelines for the Family Planning Logistic Management Information System, 2007” was produced in this quarter. This includes the completed contraceptives fact sheet from USAID’s DELIVER II project, which has been translated into Romanian by JSI R&T and incorporated, along with comments from stakeholders.

In addition, the “InterCON 1.0 User’s Manual” drafted in December 2006 was also updated in the light of this year’s implementation activities and upon the suggestions of the DPHA personnel already using the software application.

After a final revision was made in June 2007, both documents were sent to the printing house. It is estimated that they will be available by the end of the following month, in time to be distributed to the relevant MOPH bodies and DPHA personnel for use as background materials in the follow-up training workshop planned for July 2007.

#### Update annual contraceptives forecast

During the reporting quarter, consumption and stocks data from the October- December 2006 quarter became available in their final format, including the latest adjustments due to the revision of DPHA databases. Annual contraceptives forecasts were then updated, taking into account additional information such as overall consumption data for 2006, remaining stocks at central, as well as at DPHA level, and total number of providers, in order to ensure a high level of accuracy.

At the request of MOPH, data was forwarded to the General Directorate for Policies, Strategies, and Quality Management, and to the National Agency for Programs, the two ministerial bodies responsible for the national tenders for free of charge products, including contraceptives, to be organized in 2007.

The last forecast conducted with RFHI TA is anticipated for August-September 2007, the results of which will produce a technical legacy incorporated in the anticipated CS Plan for Romania.

#### Draft and finalize contraceptive security plan with partners in MOPH and PMU

An important barrier to the consistency of the interventions aimed to ensure contraceptive security in Romania emerged in December 2006, with the omission of FP services reimbursement from the Methodological Norms of the 2007 Framework Contract with primary health care providers. Following intense advocacy efforts targeting the new management of the relevant NHIH and MOPH bodies, this unforeseen obstacle has been removed with the issuing of Order no. 727/168 in April 2007. This Order, co-signed by MOPH and NHIH, reintroduced coverage for FP services, thus returning the policy environment to a status favorable for FP program implementation, as previously preserved over RFHI implementation.

#### Finalize system performance indicators

The newly developed reporting features of InterCON complete the set of key indicators that can be used for further performance monitoring of the FP Program from both a managerial and logistical perspective. The automated built-in indicators and various InterCON reports will be useful, not only for national level institutions, but also for DPHA professionals involved in local governance of the program.

Provide TA to MOPH/PMU in organizing and monitoring contraceptives distribution

Several meetings took place this quarter between PMU/IMCC and JSI R&T representatives in order to ensure the proper organization and monitoring of activities related to the supply of contraceptives to DPHA in the first semester.

As MOPH had finalized the legal procedures related to the acceptance of the UNFPA pills donation launched in 2006, these products officially replenished the central level stock, and became available for re-supplying DPHAs. With JSI R&T technical assistance, PMU performed a data analysis of October 2006– March 2007 consumptions and stocks-on-hand, and provided MOPH with a district repartition of methods available. All DPHAs were informed by MOPH of the quantities allocated under this semester’s re-supply, and they promptly collected the assigned products before the end of the reporting quarter.

The next national supply will be the first to rely solely on InterCON generated data and will be the last activity of this kind assisted by RFHI. This re-supply will be partially covered by donated products (condoms and pills from USAID and injectables from UNFPA).

### IR 3. INCREASE ACCESS TO QUALITY INTEGRATED SERVICES

#### Design and implement post-abortion contraception program

##### Conduct research to identify risk factors for repeat abortions

Under the post-abortion contraception component, the East European Institute for Reproductive Health (EIRH) is responsible for developing a three-component research project that is nearing the end of its contract. Preliminary results from the three research components are as follows:

- *Assessment of the RFHI Program Impact*

A comprehensive draft report on RFHI impact was issued and submitted to JSI R&T. It presents the main achievements of the Romanian Family Health Initiative in increasing access to and use of family planning services (including modern contraception), which are reflected in abortion and maternal mortality declines. The report values the official statistics and data routinely collected under the national family planning program, and presents the evolution of key FP indicators, outlined and analyzed in the context of the recent demographic transition in Romania and in comparison with other countries.

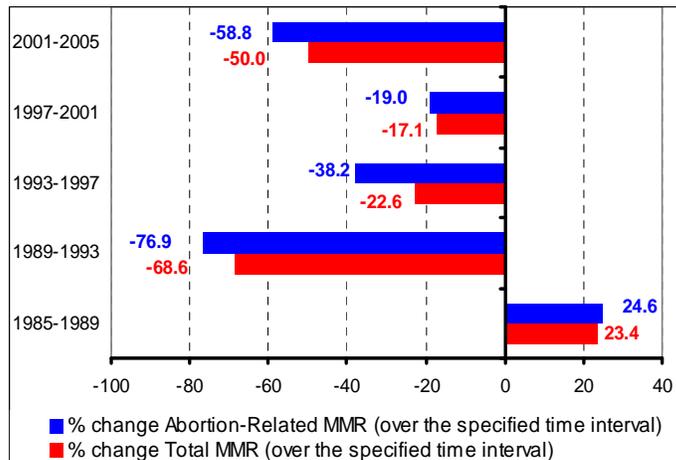


Figure: Five-year percent change of maternal mortality ratio (MMR)

A key highlight of the report is the graph inserted herewith, which presents the percent changes in total and abortion-related maternal mortality ratios (MMR) over five year intervals, from 1985 to 2005. The graph confirms that, with the fall of communism, the legalization of abortion reversed the increasing trend of MMR observed before 1989. The largest relative decline in abortion-related MMR occurred during the first five years (68.8% lower in 1993 as compared with 1989) but the

MMR decline diminished during the next two observation intervals (1993-1997 and 1997-2001). A highly favorable trend re-emerged starting 2001 (50% MMR decline between 2001 and 2005), probably due to inclusion of FP at PHC level and to the increased coverage of these services in rural areas.

This final report highlights the impact of the financial and technical assistance that USAID/JSI provided to the MOH for FP-related interventions (training of health providers, programming and logistics management for effective free contraceptive distribution, policy framework improvement, etc.)

- *Conduct research to identify risk factors for repeat abortions*

The investigation of the repeat abortion phenomenon is aimed at clarifying the profile of repeat aborters, with a view to providing scientific evidence for further development of a prevention intervention to target this specific group of women.

Analysis of data collected from 773 questionnaires administered to women in abortion clinics from 10 hospitals across 10 cities in Romania has begun and will be provided in the final research report. This analysis is structured in order to profile women with repeat abortions, in

comparison with those with no abortion history. A draft structure of the final report was submitted to JSI R&T for review and technical assistance.

- *Analysis regarding abortion-related complications*

This research component focuses on the prevalence of abortion complications and the associated costs, in an attempt to document the burden of this on both society and the health system. It is proposed that the information provided in the final report will be used as an advocacy instrument for refining specific public health interventions in Romania.

## **Design and implement post-abortion contraception program in 11 districts and Bucharest**

### Assess legislation/review the regulatory framework to assure PAC/PP services

On April 1, 2007, a new MOPH Order was issued (No.116/2007), under National Program No.1 (the National Prevention Program), subprogram 1.3 (women and child health). Objective 1 (Increasing access to Reproductive health Services) of this Order states that MOPH is responsible for:

- the activity of contraceptives procurement
- training and logistical support
- the promotion of contraceptives used within the Program
- the free distribution of contraceptives

According to the Order, contraceptive distribution will be conducted through FP clinics, FD clinics that are included in the Program, Ob/Gyn hospital and outpatient clinics and gynecological wards that provide abortion services. Categories that are entitled to free contraceptives include: unemployed persons, students, persons receiving social support, women with residence in rural areas, women who have undergone an abortion in a public unit and persons with no income, based on a personal statement.

This Order is a result of extensive advocacy at all levels, performed by JSI R&T, and ensures the future sustainability, not only of PAC/PP, but of the whole services package provided in the FP area.

### Implement action plans in project facilities

Action plans were developed and implemented for all 52 facilities. The main activities during the quarter were:

- Training of medical staff on conducting information sessions

Four basic FP information sessions entitled “Contraception for all” were provided for 77 nurses from the Brasov facility. Two training sessions in providing information to women post-abortion (26 nurses) and postpartum (28 nurses) were also organized for 54 nurses from the Brasov facility. An additional facility in Brasov is now providing post-abortion and postpartum women with FP information, bringing the total number of facilities to 52

- Follow-up sessions for medical staff who participated in the basic FP info sessions

97 follow-up meetings were held for more than 2000 nurses trained previously in providing basic information on contraception and FP in all districts and Bucharest. These additional

information sessions covered 4 major contraceptive topics: COC, POP, IUD and injectables. The sessions were organized at the facility level, with the support of the Chief nurses and, in some cases, the Romanian Order of Nurses and Midwives (OAMMR) local support and were facilitated by the FP doctors. For each topic SECS adapted the specific chapters from the last Romanian version of the “Essential of Contraceptive Technology” and ensured 3000 copies were made. Participants received the materials and a number of copies were given to each facility in order to be distributed to the nurses who could not attend the follow-up meeting.

- Follow-up meetings with nurses conducting info sessions for PA/PP clients

In each selected facility at least one nurse, but usually 2-3 nurses, have been trained in order to conduct information sessions for PA/PP clients by using the magnetic board. 13 follow-up meetings were held with nurses conducting info sessions in order to obtain feedback from both the nurses and the women receiving the information sessions on this new educational tool.

Feedback showed that the women are very interested in the sessions and open to finding out more about their own body and about FP methods. Nurses also expressed a feeling of reward because of the women’s reactions, and recognized that the relationship with their patients has significantly improved.

In addition, 70 maternity nurses from 38 selected facilities attended the seminar “Information/education programs for postabortion and postpartum women – practice models”, which was organized in Bucharest, on 25-26 June.

- Training of medical staff through basic FP courses

In order to increase women’s access to FP counseling, five basic FP courses were held in Cluj, Dolj and Prahova, and Timis for 96 maternity nurses working in 23 selected hospitals, five maternity nurses working in three policlinics, four Obgyn doctors, one FD, and 9 FD’s nurses. Training was focused on facilities without FP clinics or where the FP clinics have reduced opening hours. In Cluj and Timis four Obgyn Doctors also expressed an interest in participating in training.

In order to increase access to FP services, including free of charge contraceptives for women in need for services after an abortion or a delivery, 8 basic FP training sessions were organized, with the support of DPHA, in seven districts (districts (BC, BH, BN, CJ, PH, SM, and TM). A total of 93 FDs, two Ob/gyn Doctors, and 94 FD’s nurses received training.

- Dissemination and consistency of PA/PP messages at the community level

In order to ensure the linkage between the FP services provided at the hospital level and the medical and social services provided at the community level, professional meetings were organized with FDs in rural and urban areas, trained and not trained in FP, in order to present the project and to disseminate the PA/PP messages.

Meetings were organized with the support of DPHAs and usually took place at the hospital level, with each participant receiving IEC materials developed under the project.

19 professional meetings were held with 76 rural and urban FDs trained in FP basics in selected hospitals from 10 districts and nine professional meetings were held with 402 urban FDs that were not trained, in nine districts. A stock of posters and leaflets were ensured at the DPHA level, to be distributed to FDs who could not attend.

21 meetings were held with 282 social workers from communities with selected hospitals for presenting the PAC/PP project and key PAC/PP messages in nine districts. From the 21 meetings, 10 were meetings of the Local Consultative Group established under the Urban Component, in 8 districts: BC, BH, BR, CJ, CT, DJ, GL, and IS

Six meetings were held with 92 community nurses from communities with selected hospitals for presenting the PAC/PP project and key PAC/PP messages in four districts (BC, BH, GL, and TM).

***Implementation Plan Highlights***

*Action plans implemented in all selected facilities*

*Training of medical staff in conducting info sessions achieved 100% (in 52 hospitals out of 52)*

*Total number of women exposed to Family Planning messages: 87,460 (87,5%)*

The total number of post abortion and postpartum women exposed to the PAC/PP messages is collected on a monthly basis. The data are obtained from DPHAs and from statistic departments of hospitals.

During the quarter, 37,716 (15,778 PA women and 21,876 PP women) have been exposed within the project to FP messages.

The total number of women exposed to FP messages within the project is 87,460 (almost 87,5% of the total indicator of the project).

**Produce and distribute IEC materials for project facilities**

During this quarter, a leaflet on postpartum fertility return and LAM messages was produced and distributed in all facilities. IEC materials were also ensured at the Brasov facility level and the required criteria were accomplished in order to expose women during hospitalization to PA/PP messages from April onwards.

**Conduct supervision visits in project sites**

During this quarter a total number of 89 supportive supervision visits were conducted in all selected districts.

**IMPROVE THE PROFESSIONAL SKILLS OF THE RH SERVICE PROVIDERS**

**Increase the number and capacity of FP/RH service providers**

**Train family doctors in antenatal care sessions**

During this quarter 20 FDs from the Cluj district (4 sessions), 55 FDs from Hunedoara district, and 131 family doctors from Mures district (15 sessions) attended antenatal care sessions. A total of 206 FDs were trained in antenatal care as a result of these sessions.

**Print & distribute the Comprehensive Curriculum**

The following three curriculums are currently being edited in two languages (English and Romanian), after which they will be printed: the LMIS curriculum for family planning doctors, the LMIS curriculum for family doctors, and the antenatal practical training curriculum.

### Print and disseminate community nurses assessment report

Although the report was printed and ready for dissemination, the initial plan to organize a dissemination meeting together with UNICEF, UNFPA and MOPH was cancelled due to the political changes within the MOPH. Under these circumstances, the report will be disseminated within the JSI dissemination conference from September, 2007.

## **DEVELOP INNOVATIVE MODELS TO IMPROVE ACCESSIBILITY AND THE UTILIZATION OF RH SERVICES FOR PEOPLE WITH SPECIAL NEEDS**

### **Design and implement project to increase access of Roma communities to RH services**

#### Conduct one-day workshops in Roma Culture

Five workshops in Roma culture were organized for 151 nurses working in maternity wards from nine facilities in the three selected counties.

The objectives of the workshop were to sensitize the participants to Roma culture and to improve trust and communication between health professionals and Roma patients. Topics addressed during the meeting include ethnic identity, characteristics of Roma community organization and different aspects of Roma culture. The cultural diversity manual was also distributed to the participants in order to stimulate further interest in Roma culture.



**Nurses at a cultural diversity workshop**

All nurses found the workshop extremely useful for their work; they gained a deeper knowledge of the status and role of Roma women in the family and the importance of understanding, acceptance, cultural sensitivity and education. Despite the nurses' lack of time and the lack of immediate feedback from clients, a strong desire was expressed to continue the counseling in PAC/PP.

#### Conduct two-day training in birth spacing for RHMs

The general PAC/PP concept and message was adapted for the RHMs and their knowledge in RH was improved with new information about birth spacing and how to provide post-partum and post-abortion education to women in need. On the second day, RHMs studied real cases that they have encountered in their daily work. In total 31 RHMs attended the training, all of whom had previously been trained in FP/RH areas. The most challenging session was related to myths and bad practices surrounding birth spacing.



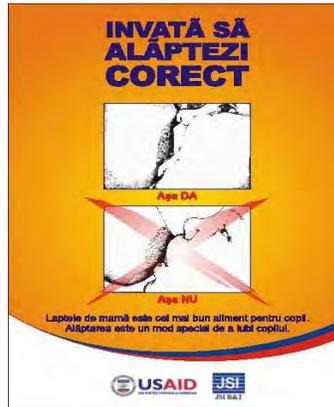
**RHMs practicing a case study**

### Develop culturally appropriate IEC materials, by adapting the existing PAC/PP materials for working with Roma populations

One of the main PAC/PP messages is addressed to new mothers and refers to LAM (Lactational Amenorrhea Method). Because this natural method must be applied under certain conditions, a flyer was designed to highlight the use of the method and how to breastfeed correctly. A total of 20,000 copies will be made of the flyer, which will be used by the RHMs in their outreach activities.



Be a mum without worries!



Learn how to breastfeed correctly

### Develop professional cards for the RHMs

These cards are instruments that help RHMs to identify themselves as a professional entity under the public health service. They contain the RHMs' name, communities covered and contact details on one side and main responsibilities on the other, which can be used by the RHMs for facilitating communication and trust with public institutions. A total of 200 RHMs from 20 counties received 75 cards each.

### *PAC/PP pilot project for Roma women in Cluj, Bihor and Timis district rural areas*

The majority of activities in PAC-PP pilot project in Cluj, Bihor, Timis districts took place during this quarter. The PAC-PP program worked with BCC networks developed under the Urban RFHI program and FDs to empower them to provide, support and advocate for FP/RH at the community level.

Through BCC networks, outreach workers were trained under RFHI in providing FP information, the needs of the poor urban population were assessed (including those related to PAC/PP) and access to FP services increased..

In this quarter, a total of five BCC group meetings were organized:

- One meeting in Cluj: 10 participants from LHA, Social Services, AFER, DGASPC, Local Insurance House, SECS, JSI R&T
- Two meetings in Timisoara: 12 participants from DGASPC, LHA, Social Service from City Hall, APFR, Timisoara 89, Roma AFT, AJOFM, JSI R&T
- Two meetings in Oradea: 15 participants from LHA, Social Service from City Hall, DGASPC, Local Insurance House, RUHAMA, CASA, Community Police, SECS, JSI R&T

During these meetings social workers were empowered to offer new information regarding PAC/PP. All BCC groups requested additional IEC materials on PAC/PP, which will be provided by JSI/SECS as soon as possible. In the Bihor district, LHA requested an additional five sets of magnetic tables and 20, 000 condoms for future activities and a new NGO (Speranta) that works with mothers and pregnant women became an active member of the BCC group. Whilst in the Timis district, the LHA is currently implementing the IEC campaign in rural areas using JSI/SECS materials.

JSI R&T also works with FDs in the three districts to promote PAC/PP messages to their clients through FP services (including counseling), client monitoring and information about birth spacing during prenatal consultations.

In this quarter, the following meetings were organized involving Family Doctors:

- Meetings with the representatives of the Family Doctors Association (AMF) in each district
- Participation in the monthly AMF meetings in each district (except Bihor district, which does not have regular meetings but instead has a Yahoo group, which will be consulted for further information)
- Nine meetings with FDs from Cluj-Napoca, Oradea and Timisoara
- 22 meetings with beneficiaries of the project provided by three doctors trained in providing RH information. A total of 186 participants attended, including pregnant women, young mothers and poor women with babies who currently receive powder milk from social services.

#### *PAC-PP pilot project for Roma women in Cluj district rural areas*

In this quarter the pilot PAC/PP project for Roma women was implemented in the Cluj district, together with AFER, the JSI R&T partner for Roma projects.

The objectives of this pilot were:

- to increase the level of information available to Roma women, regarding the pre- and post- natal care
- to decrease the numbers of abortions amongst Roma women

The target group for this project was Roma women from Aghires, Mociu, Apahida, and Cluj Napoca. Roma Health Mediators (RHM), trained under our previous project were contacted and meetings held to create a work plan for each community. In each community, 10 meetings took place involving local authorities, Roma community leaders and the local area FD (to ensure their support in RHM activities). Topics discussed in the meetings included pre and post-natal care, consequences of abortion, contraceptive education and access to RH information.

Over 20 Roma women were also present at each of these meetings and were informed about the existence of the PAC/PP project in public maternity wards in the Cluj district. In addition, PAC/PP related information materials were distributed to women during the meetings.



**An educational meeting with young Roma women**

Following requests, additional small meetings were held, catering to the needs of specific age groups. As a result of these meetings, a total of 45 women were assisted by RHM to access OG and FP services.

Lessons learned from the implementation of this project include, the importance of the presence and activities of RHM in communities, greater access to RH information for Roma communities, and communication with local authorities.

Train professionals involved in the PAC project in the 11 districts and Bucharest in HIV/AIDS risk reduction and pre/post testing and counseling

HIV and STI prevention training was given on providing information, education and counseling by ARAS, a partner organization of the RFHI. This activity complements the existing services provided to post partum and post abortion women in maternity wards through the PAC/PP component.

*Establish collaboration agreements*

During the first month of the project, ARAS established collaboration agreements with the National Order of Nurses and Midwives in Romania (OAMMR) and obtained accreditation of the training courses (18 continuous medical education hours/ participant).

JSI R&T organized a meeting at the beginning of April with the relevant actors from ARAS and the SECS national coordinator for the PAC/PP component. ARAS presented the training plan for interventions within the PAC/PP program and the strategy for organizing 3-day training workshops on HIV prevention with health professionals working in the selected facilities. The SECS coordinator provided a summary of training provided by SECS, including the challenges encountered in different facilities and offered support to ARAS in establishing contacts in the field if necessary. The list of facilities for training was checked and updated and a communication strategy was agreed upon by the two NGOs, in order to avoid any overlap in activities.

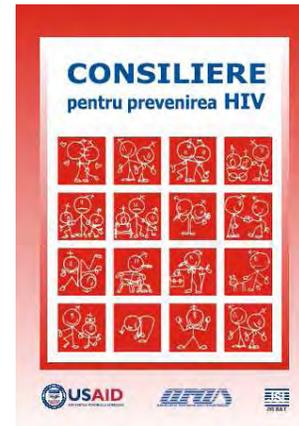
ARAS then established agreements with the facilities selected for the PAC/PP program (in Bucharest, Oradea, Cluj, Iasi, Braila, Galati, Timisoara, Craiova, Constanta Bacau, Brasov and Ploiesti), through direct collaboration with the directors of the hospitals or the head of nurses in each maternity ward and the training plan was finalized.

### *Prepare the training materials*

During the first month of the project, the training curriculum was *updated* and tailored to this specific training intervention. A total of 400 copies of the new edition of the updated participants' manual "Counseling for AIDS prevention" were printed.



A total of 1,600 copies of the new educational leaflet "It is your right to know" were produced (left side).



### *Organize the training workshops*

During this quarter 18 workshops were organized and 370 nurses were trained on voluntary HIV counseling and testing and HIV and STI prevention. There was a higher level of interest in the training program in hospitals where no similar HIV-related interventions had previously taken place. In Iasi and Braila second workshops were organized, following requests for additional training.

The objectives of the workshop were that by the end of the training participants:

- gain knowledge on HIV/STI transmission and prevention
- develop/ strengthen communication skills
- increase awareness of personal values that might affect ability to discuss sex and sexuality
- develop respectful and nonjudgmental attitudes
- gain basic counseling skills for helping clients to explore their risk of HIV infection and develop a prevention (or risk reduction) plan
- understand confidentiality, informed consent, risk and benefits of voluntary counseling and testing
- understand the causes and consequences of HIV related stigma and discrimination
- practice group facilitation skills (for group education activities)

The training sessions were interactive, based on experiential learning, and the preliminary analysis of the evaluation forms completed by the participants indicated that the above goals and objectives were achieved.

Many of the hospitals expressed an interest in organizing future workshops on HIV prevention and counseling for nurses working in other departments.

## ***LINE ITEM 5 – DISASTER RELIEF AND AVIAN INFLUENZA ACTIVITIES***

### **IR 5. SUPPORT FOR EFFORTS TO ENSURE APPROPRIATE RESPONSES TO PUBLIC HEALTH EMERGENCIES**

#### Design national inter-sector AI plan and train mid-level professionals

Following the two working meetings that took place during March 2007, the joint consensus was that MOPH will coordinate the AI-related multi-sectorial plan at the national level with the Ministry of Interior – General Inspectorate for Emergency Situations (GIES) as the main partner, as well as other representatives.

The minutes, self-assessment tool and a situation report were therefore sent to MOPH in order to ensure they are fully equipped with the technical tools to take the lead in this process.

In addition, the Romanian Red Cross provided a translation of the French national influenza preparedness plan, to be distributed as a starting point for key stakeholders in Romania.

#### Design, publish and disseminate IEC materials to increase awareness related to avian influenza

The IEC materials developed under the previous quarter (stickers, brochures) received approval from MOPH, the Ministry of Education and Research, WHO, the College of Physicians, the National GP/FDs Association and pending approval from the National Health Insurance House. During the previous quarter, approval for distribution in villages, cities and municipalities through mayors' offices was granted. The materials will be finalized during the next quarter and distributed through both FDs and mayors' offices.

In addition, a new innovative IEC tool was developed (fever cards) by combining prevention messages with a new attractive layout. These will be distributed through family doctors from the sentinel districts.

#### Conduct KAP study on avian influenza

During this quarter the knowledge, attitudes and practices study related to AI was initiated and will be carried out in the next quarter. The study has two components:

- Quantitative: questionnaires will be administered to measure the level of knowledge, attitudes and practices of the general population aged 15-60 in rural areas on flu and avian flu. Besides from providing an evaluation of the AI activities conducted within RFHI to date, this can also be used as a basis for future public information campaigns.
- Qualitative: In-depth interviews will be conducted with 3-5 children, aged over 6, from 8 villages in two districts (Tulcea and Valcea) participating in the AI puppet show.

It is expected that the preliminary report will be produced by early September.

## Design training packages for various health professionals

### *Infectious diseases training*

The training intervention "Avian influenza versus seasonal influenza and pandemic preparedness" took place on 24 – 26<sup>th</sup> of April 2007 at Institute Matei Bals, Bucharest. Participants were infectious diseases specialists from the 9 Hospitals for infectious diseases (Regional Centers) in Romania that will play a key role in managing human cases (Bucharest - 2, Iasi, Cluj, Targu Mures, Brasov, Constanta, Craiova, Timisoara).

The course curriculum covers the following areas:

- Epidemiology and surveillance of influenza
- Laboratory diagnosis of seasonal and avian influenza
- Management of avian influenza cases
- Universal protective measures
- Correct use of Personal Protective Equipment
- Management of hospital's waste produce

74 people (58 infectious diseases specialists and 16 nurses) attended the course.

All participants received training materials and personal protective equipment through USAID donation.



**Demonstration of using personal protective equipment**

The objectives of the course were fully achieved. According to the results of the evaluations, the course was very well received and perceived as useful and well organized by the majority of the participants. The training was also accredited by the College of Physicians and Order of Nurses and Midwives.

### National Conference in Epidemiology, Iasi

The Romanian Society of Epidemiology organized the National Conference in Epidemiology in Iasi, on 17<sup>th</sup>-19<sup>th</sup> of May 2007. JSI R&T organized and facilitated the round table "Influenza: present and future" during the conference and presented the following two papers on our AI project:

- Technical assistance to the Government of Romania for avian influenza
- Training of surveillance network in influenza pandemic preparedness

JSI R&T also covered the participation (meals, accommodation and transport) of 17 epidemiologists in the conference.

### Round table in occupational health, Sovata

MOPH organized a round table, which was attended by MOPH representatives and 36 occupational health specialists in Sovata, from May 30 - June 1, 2007. During this meeting, JSI R&T provided a training session on flu and avian flu covering the following issues:

- Laboratory methodology,
- Universal protective measures,
- Correct use of Personal Protective Equipment

### Disseminate guidelines and tools

During this quarter, the JSI R&T team selected the following WHO guidelines for translation, adoption and distribution in Romania:

- The guide on taking and transporting laboratory AI samples was translated and adapted for Romania. It also contains a forward on behalf of the National Institute “I. Cantacuzino”, which is in the final draft. It will be distributed to the microbiology and laboratory personnel from infectious diseases hospitals, Institutes of Public Health, DPHAs, Universities of Medicine and private laboratories
- The guide “A practical tool for the preparation of a hospital crisis preparedness plan, with special focus on pandemic influenza” was translated and will be distributed to hospital staff participating in the hospital planning workshop to be held during the next quarter.
- The guide “International Health Regulations” was translated and submitted to MOPH for comments in May.
- The guide for PPE use is in the process of being designed and will be finalized, printed and distributed during the next quarter.

### Implement infection control and medical response procedures for health facilities

A total of 10,000 masks and 60,000 gloves were procured to be distributed through FDs and emergency medical staff (especially ambulances). These are currently stored in the JSI R&T warehouse pending a final decision regarding distribution during the next quarter.

## ***LINE ITEM 6 – ENHANCING SUSTAINABILITY OF NGOS AND CONTINUING SUPPORT TO THE NATIONAL AIDS CAMPAIGN***

### **IR 2. IMPROVE MOBILIZATION, ALOCATION AND USE OF SOCIAL SECTOR RESOURCES (MANAGEMENT)**

#### **IMPROVE THE OVERALL MANAGEMENT OF RH SERVICES**

##### **Build basic business and management skills to support implementation of sustainability plans and future operations for SECS**

###### Conduct market research, market plan and marketing materials for each clinic

SECS contracted a PR agency, which met with SECS staff on a regular basis, in order to review and approve proposed materials. By the end of the quarter the format for the poster promoting SECS clinics was agreed and will be produced next quarter. The clinics are also now promoted through the two websites: [www.sexdex.ro](http://www.sexdex.ro) and [www.secs.ro](http://www.secs.ro). A strategy for promoting FP services provided at SECS clinics was elaborated and a new corporate ID was finalized by the PR Agency.

###### Develop business plan for clinics and implement plan

During this quarter, SECS's Board of Directors analyzed the situation of the 6 existing clinics and decided to close the Calarasi and Timisoara clinics, which despite continual efforts, had not registered any progress, with the number of clients remaining very low. As a result, only 4 out of 6 clinics (Bucharest, Cluj, Constanta and Targu Mures) remained open for implementing sustainability plans. Activities this quarter were focused on finishing the remodeling of the clinics and on the clinics' management process.

Based on plans developed during the previous quarter, the remodeling activities were finalized and renovations were done in compliance with the new SECS standard. The clinics were completely refurnished and fitted with most of the necessary equipment. Due to these extensive works, the clinics were either completely or partially closed, which led to a decrease of the number of consultations provided during the quarter.

The following steps were taken in order to improve the clinics' management process:

- The process of drafting the Clinic Management Manual of Procedures (CMMP) and of the Manual of Clinical Protocols began, the latter with technical assistance provided by JSI Boston staff.
- A tool to allow SECS to calculate financial objectives, prices for consultations and monthly targets, based on each clinic's expenses, was developed
- Individual clinic plans and reporting templates were developed

In May, a detailed implementation plan was finalized and discussed with the clinics' coordinators. The plan outlines the major activities that need to be done in order to transform the clinics into functional and sustainable facilities. With the exception of Bucharest, all other clinics did not have established plans for their activities but instead used their own individual reporting formats (the only indicator for activities being the number of services provided).

The implementation plan was therefore used to produce a standardized format for reporting, for which staff received training. All clinics started using the new formats for monthly reports as of June 2007.

As part of the sustainability plan, new staff was hired and contracts with private labs to perform PAP Smears were signed and will be fully operational next quarter. With this expansion of services, legal approvals must be issued by the relevant authorities (College of Physicians, District Public Health Authority), for which the necessary steps have been taken. The process of registering with the Local Fiscal Authorities has also begun.

#### Provide assistance in building more effective governance

##### *Board composition, constitution, and SOW revision*

With the assistance of the SECS legal advisor, the Constitution of the organization was revised and all the required amendments were made. The final form of the Constitution was presented to the General Assembly.

The General Assembly reunited in May 2007 and the following decisions were made:

- The revised Constitution was approved
- Five persons were elected for the Board
- The Calarasi and Timisoara clinics were closed
- Power of attorney was given to the Executive Director for Bucharest and to Cristina Lazarescu for Timisoara to fulfill all selling proceedings for three SECS properties (1 in Timisoara and 2 in Bucharest)

The new Board met in June, with the following issues on the agenda:

- Discuss opportunities for further funding from both Phare and structural funds.
- Register branches in Botosani, Brasov, Constanta and Craiova.
- Presentation of the last IPPF Regional meeting in Berlin, attended by Iuliana Baltes and Madgalena Croitoru, as SECS representatives.

##### *Organizational structure*

- In order to increase its institutional capacity, SECS staff attended a significant number of training events, focused on developing business and management skills.

#### Develop investment plan and other income generating activities

In this quarter, SECS took the approach of developing its fundraising capacity and concentrating on new funding possibilities (accessing EU funds, Phare and structural). The organization took steps to start the process of legal registration of its different branches, in order to meet the requirements and eligibility criteria for accessing EU funds.

The international consultancy firm, Deloitte and Touch, were contracted to facilitate access to EU funds, by providing TA to SECS in identifying funding opportunities, writing proposals and eventually managing new grants. Due to the delay of arrival in Romania of the structural funds, which is foreseen for January 2008, SECS needed to sign a new contract with Deloitte and Touch, in addition to the previous one. company presented various project

ideas matching the organization's proved experience and interest, that will be used, together with experience gained from training events, for producing grant applications.

SECS also received accreditation as a training institution for the curricula "Enhancing the Financial Health of a Medical Practice (Banking on Health)" with the Centrul de Perfectionare and "Orientation Program for Adolescents" with the Order of Nurses.

The Schultz Consulting Company were also contracted for technical assistance in accrediting SECS as a training institution for three curricular domains of the list of the CNFPA: management, communication and client-oriented attitude.

As accreditation is a pre-requisite for applying to the structural funds program, these steps will assist SECS in accessing these funds.

#### Additional activities performed by SECS during the quarter

With the accession to the EU, Romania will start allocating part of their funding for activities related to Cooperation for Sustainable Development. These funds will be managed by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs (FOND). Two countries in the Region were identified Georgia and Moldova.

During last quarter, SECS participated in the following activities related with this Cooperation:

- Meetings of the working groups for Moldova and Georgia (in April and May); The mission and modalities of work were designed for the Georgia working group and the Moldova group decided to organize a seminar on the politics of cooperation for development in the Republic of Moldova.
- Upon the request of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, FOND collected project summaries with ideas of projects to be implemented under cooperation for development in Moldova and Georgia. SECS submitted 3 such summaries: 2 for cooperation for development and one for education for development.
- A seminar was organized by the FOND to raise awareness amongst Romanian NGOs of the frame for the cooperation for development between Romania and Georgia and the main areas of assistance in Georgia.

### **Strengthen the organization of other RFHI partners**

#### Identify EU funding opportunities and disseminate to RFHI partners

As part of the commitment to strengthening the financial sustainability of NGOs that are active in reproductive health, particularly family planning, on May 8-10, 2007, JSI R&T organized a workshop on "Strengthen the Capacity of Romanian NGOs Working in the RH Field to Access EU Funds". The workshop focused on the new funding environment arising through Romania's accession to the European Union and the objectives were:

- to present EU funding opportunities
- to facilitate contact and information sharing between NGOs and authorities responsible for managing EU funds in Romania

- to provide training in writing proposals for accessing EU funds.

Prior to organizing the event, a needs assessment was conducted among participants in order to identify their main areas of interest, allowing the trainers to tailor the content to their specific needs. The workshop was conducted by the German Foundation for World Population (DSW), one of the leading institutes in providing training and technical assistance on EU funds accession in Europe. During the 3-day workshop, the participants, RFHI partner NGOs, were familiarized with the two main funding opportunities: European-level funds that are managed centrally by the European Commission in Brussels, and the funds specifically targeting Romania, that are decentralized and managed by the government ministries in Romania. Speakers from relevant institutions, including the Ministry of Labor, Social Solidarity and Family, the Ministry of Development, Public Works and Housing (formerly: Ministry of European Integration), and the European Commission Delegation to Romania were invited to present the latest updates on available funding and future plans. During the last day of the workshop, a practical training on successful proposal writing was provided, which was highly evaluated by participants.

## IR 4. CITIZENS BETTER INFORMED ABOUT SOCIAL SERVICES, RIGHTS AND RESPONSIBILITIES

### AWARENESS AND BEHAVIOR CHANGE OF POPULATION

#### Coordinate/participate in mass media campaigns and events

##### Produce and launch World Aids Day TV production with HIV and AIDS messages

Following the events of WAD, one of the winners of the 2006 photo contest – Alin – has developed a series of 20 short video spots. These were accompanied by testimonials from well known personalities from the youth music TV channel – Kiss TV and were distributed for free twice per day in May. Kiss TV also provided the PR for this event.

#### Artiștii luptă să schimbe mentalitățile românilor



##### Support UNOPA efforts to increase its capacity to advocate for PLWHA

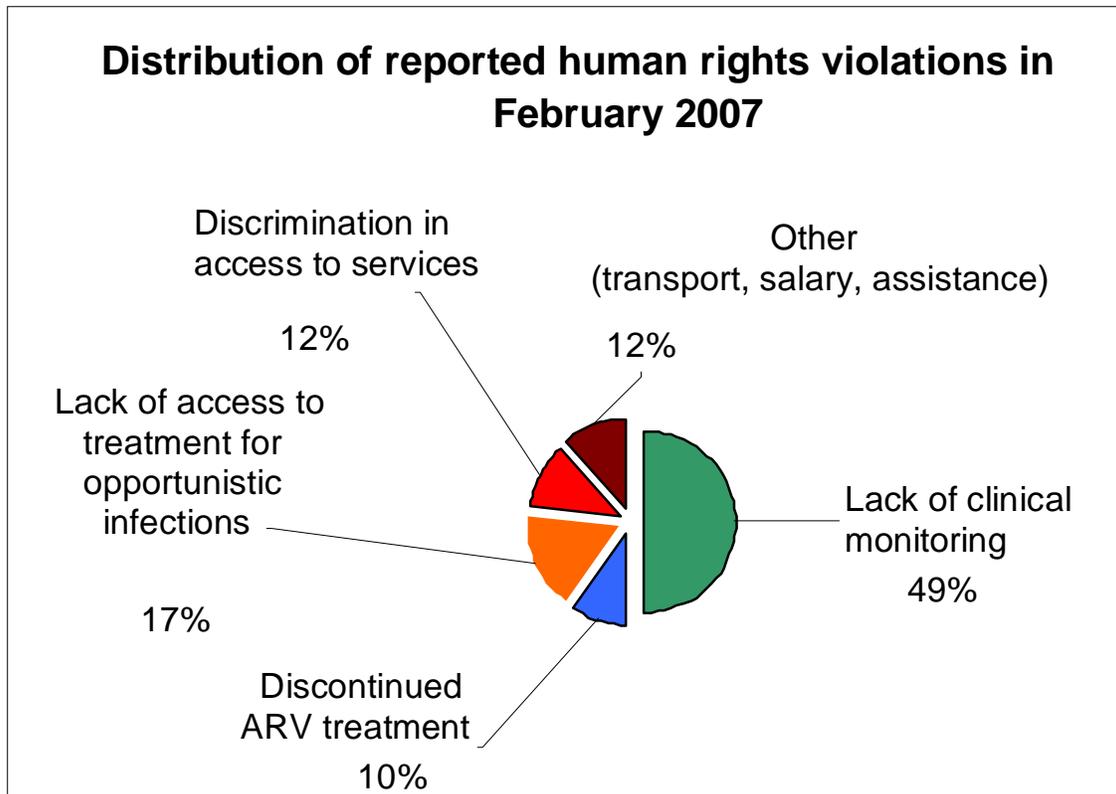
During the last quarter, a sub-contract was signed with UNOPA, aimed at achieving the following objectives:

- Increasing the organizational management of UNOPA in terms of structures, systems and procedures
- Informing and educating the community about the issue of HIV/AIDS in Romania
- Monitoring respect for the rights of PLWHA in Romania, including access to medical and social services and producing a set of recommendations in order to improve public policy concerning PLWHA

The work on the UNOPA Procedure Code continued and a first draft of the Rules of Internal Order was designed. During 13-14<sup>th</sup> of June 2007, a meeting of the UNOPA's Board took place at Calimanesti, where the draft documents were discussed.

During this quarter the monitoring report for July 2006 – March 2007, was finalized, by centralizing the information obtained through monitoring activities developed during February- March 2007. The report will be disseminated to institutions and organizations active in the HIV/ AIDS sector and will also be posted on UNOPA's website: [www.unopa.ro](http://www.unopa.ro)

The following graph summarizes the findings in relation to rights of PLWHA in Romania:



The main conclusions of the monitoring report were:

- A large proportion of human rights violations take place in the health sector (88%), where difficulties in accessing clinical monitoring, treatment and medical care still pose significant problems for PLWHA in Romania. Lack of test kits and chemical substances for specific laboratory tests, as well as denial of treatment or funds for free prescriptions are the most serious issues that PLWHA currently face.
- Whilst a general lack of access to medical services represents a significant problem, denial of access to dentistry services is particularly prominent.
- Several recommendations are made for increasing the impact of fighting against HIV/AIDS

The second monitoring activity concerning defending the rights of PLWHA in Romania took place during the period of May-June 2007,

#### Support follow-up photo campaign for PLWHA

Due to the success and popularity of the 2006 photo contest, a second edition will be organized during next quarter. Under the HIV/AIDS national campaign activity, JSI R&T together with UNOPA organized a two-day workshop on the basics of photography (Predeal, May 26-27, 2007). The participants were the team coordinators of the 21 UNOPA organizations which will register for the second edition of the HIV/AIDS photo contest, "A day of my life". The training consisted of a technical part (theoretical aspects and exercises in photography) conducted by a professional photographer and a general presentation of the contest (rules, criteria, messages) provided by UNOPA.

During the workshop, the participants received photo contest application guides and registration forms. They will now return to co-ordinate teams of 4-6 young PLWHA in their application for this year's photo contest.

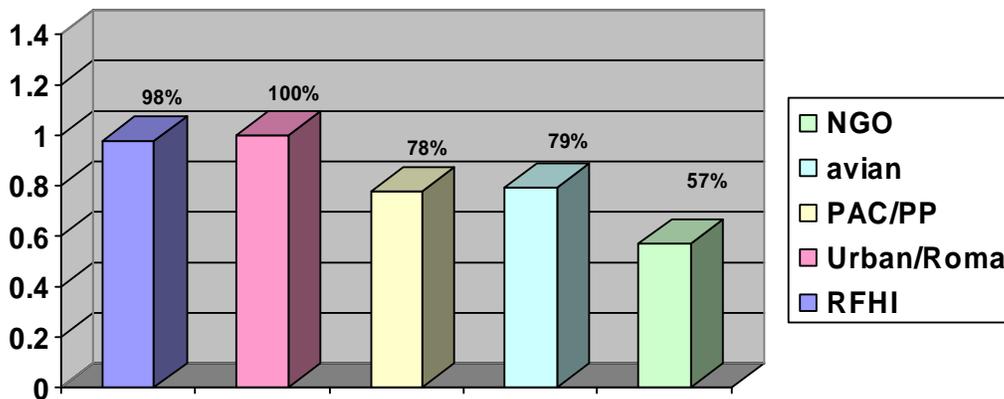
## ***RFHI PROGRAM MANAGEMENT***

### **FINANCIAL REPORTING**

RFHI's total expenditures as of June 2007 are in accordance with the planned figures for this date. Expenditures as well as the projections are closely monitored to make sure the allocation of funds will follow the planned expenditures, and all the funds will be properly spent until the end of each project component.

To increase **cost effectiveness**, market research was completed to determine the best quality/price for goods and services purchased. At the end of this quarter total expenditures and accruals were in amount of \$17,415,000, amounting to 91% of the total budget.

**Level of expenditures**



While some project components have already achieved their expected results and were closed-out, others are in different phases of implementation. The different stages of activity implementation have a direct effect on budget spending, as is illustrated in the following paragraphs.

#### Line Item 1

Expenditures and accruals for this project component were in amount of \$9,800,000 at the end of this quarter. The remaining funds are planned for the following:

- Activities related with contraceptives security plan and LMIS in parallel with the provision of contraceptives in PAC/PP services
- Close out of program activities related to line item 1 (dissemination conference, reports)
- JSI's operation costs for Oct-Dec 2007

Expenditures for Line Item 1 were made according to the following distribution:

- **\$8,432,000** for **RH (86%)**
- **\$1,368,000** for **HIV/AIDS (14%)**

### Line Item 2

The **Urban Poor and Roma Women** component ended its activities in the last quarter and all the funds were spent.

### Line Item 3

The level of expenditures and accruals in this quarter increased for the **PAC/PP** component, as activities levels increased significantly. Expenditures and accruals amounted to **\$2,736,000** and were spent according to the following distribution: **\$2,602,000** was allocated to **FP/RH** and **\$134,000** was allocated to **HIV/AIDS** activities.

### Line item 5

In this quarter RFHI coordinated avian influenza activities, ensuring that they were in accordance with the budget allocations. Total expenses and accruals for the **Avian Influenza** component were in the amount of **\$590,000**.

### Line item 6

The level of expenditure for this quarter for the NGO sustainability component is lower than the other components, but it is in keeping with the planned expenditures for this project. The timeline for the LI6 activities is adjusted to guarantee that all planned activities will be performed and the budget spent accordingly. During this quarter the HIV/AIDS and NGO sustainability activities were implemented, bringing about an increase of expenditures, totaling **\$740,000**.

### VAT Reimbursement

Quarterly submissions for VAT reimbursement were sent to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Financial Administration, according to the Bilateral Agreement between the United States and Romania and procedures applicable to foreign institutions operating in Romania. In this quarter the financial audit approved the VAT requests for February and March 2007. The VAT request for January 2007 was not approved due to the delay in submitting documents on a monthly basis, as JSI R&T was previously advised by the MoFA to submit VAT reimbursement requests on a quarterly basis.

## ***ADDITIONAL ACTIVITIES***

### Communicate and disseminate research findings at the national, regional and international level, with emphasis on utilization of results

Mr. Joel Lamstein, President of JSI R&T, visited Romania from May 8-13, 2007 to meet with JSI R&T/Romania staff and to visit project field locations. Mr. Lamstein visited Ploiesti district to meet with local authorities (high management and health programs department coordinators and technicians) and family doctors in addition to a visit to Campina Hospital participating in the RFHI PAC/PP program. In Oradea, Mr. Lamstein met with more local authorities, including the health promotion department, and visited a rural clinic operated by a family doctor trained in family planning by the RFHI project, Dr. Andor. He accompanied Dr. Andor on a visit to a Roma community where he provides services in a small clinic located in the community. While in Bucharest, Mr. Lamstein also met with USAID officials. A particular activity of this event was attending the accounts given by JSI R&T/Romania staff on different intervention areas of the project and their results.



**Mr. Lamstein participating in a counseling session in Campina hospital**

In May 21-27, 2007, the project received a delegation of visitors from Ukraine, on behalf of the JSI R&T/Together for Health project, a follow-up of the visit in 2006. The study tour offered professionals from Romania and Ukraine the opportunity to share experiences in reproductive and maternal healthcare reform and health financing, and to share information



**Professionals from Romania and Ukraine exchanging experiences**

on programs implemented in each country. The Ukrainian professionals had the opportunity to become familiar with the Romanian experience gathered over the five-year implementation of the RFHI with a view to further developing similar projects implemented in their own country. As was reflected during previous visits from other South-Eastern countries, delegates from Ukraine cited the field visit to Dolj district, meetings with local authorities, family doctors, nurses in clinics and the facilities with the PAC component as the most interesting experiences during their trip.

A USAID legacy study was conducted, with the aim of investigating the extent to which USAID-funded programs have had an impact on Romanian Roma communities. Field visits took place in three counties (Ialomita, Brasov, and Cluj) and separate meetings were held

with DPHA inspectors, RHMs, beneficiaries and FDs. During the course of a week, the evaluation team has gained feedback about individual and collective experiences and best practices in working on the field of RH at community level. One of the main successes of the mission was the way that RHMs showed their abilities and expertise in mediation (including in RH) during their outreach work.

**Sustainability actions furthering the “Increasing the access of Roma communities to FP/RH services” project**

Three months after the project was concluded, two District Public Health Authorities (Buzau and Botosani) started their own independent training of newly-hired RHMs’ in FP/RH, using the JSI R&T training pack and the educational tool Maria’s Apron) with support from the RHM trainers and FP doctors.



**RHMs sharing their experience with the evaluation team**

**Conference attendance**

*“Partnerships: Working Together for Global Health”, Global Health Council 34<sup>th</sup> Annual International Conference, Washington DC, May 29 – June 1, 2007*

The theme of this year’s Global Health Council Conference was “Partnerships: Working Together for Global Health”. The JSI R&T Romania team presented the posters titled “Model intervention for cervical cancer prevention - innovative partnerships in Romania” and “Establishing partnerships for enabling Romania to combat a potential avian influenza pandemic” at the conference. The conference provided a good opportunity for JSI R&T Romania to present RFHI, exchange experience and information and meet other dedicated professionals in the field of public health.

## ***MAJOR ACTIVITIES PLANNED FOR NEXT QUARTER***

- ✓ Organize the award ceremony for the second edition of the photo award “O zi din viata mea”, component of the AIDS campaign
- ✓ Organize workshop on hospital preparedness plan with WHO expert, hospital and EMU heads in Tg. Mures
- ✓ Conduct KAP study on AI and launch results
- ✓ Organize the RFHI Dissemination Conference in September
- ✓ Draft the RFHI monograph concerning best practices and lessons learned
- ✓ Finalize the end-of-project reports

**Table 1: List of acronyms**

AI	– Avian Influenza
ANP	– Agency for National Programs
APHA	– American Association of Public Health
ARAS	– Romanian Association Against AIDS
BCC	– Behavior Change Communication
BOH	– Banking on Health
CHPS	– Center for Health Policies and Services
COC	– Combined Oral Contraceptives
COP	– College of Physicians
CSW	– Commercial Sex Workers
CYP	– Couple Years of Protection
DCWCFH	– District Commission for Women, Child and Family Health
DPHA	– District Public Health Authority
DSW	– World Population Development Foundation
DV	– Domestic Violence
DVC	– Dermato - Venerology Commission
DVH	– Department of Veterinary Health
EEIRH	– East European Institute for Reproductive Health
EOP	– End of Project
EU	– European Union
FD	– Family Doctor
FDSC	– Federation for the Development of Civil Society
FP	– Family Planning
GDMA	– General Directorate of Medical Assistance
GDP	– General Directorate of Penitentiaries
GDPH	– General Directorate of Public Health and State Inspection
GIES	– General Inspectorate for Emergency Situations
IDU	– Injecting Drug Users
IEC	– Information-Education-Communication
IPC	– Interpersonal communication
IPH	– Institute of Public Health
IPPF	– International Planned Parenthood Federation
IUD	– Intra Uterine Device
IUHPE	– International Union for Health Promotion and Education
JSI R&T	– JSI Research and Training Institute, Inc.
LCG	– Local Coordination Group
LMS	– Logistic Management Information System
M&E	– Monitoring and Evaluation
MCHI	– Maternal and Child Health Institute
MESRE	– Mobile Emergency for Resuscitation and Extrication
MLSPF	– Ministry of Labor, Social Protection and Family
MND	– Ministry of National Defense
MOAI	– Ministry of Administration and Interior
MOPH	– Ministry of Public Health
MOT	– Ministry of Transportation
MOU	– Memorandum of Understanding
MSM	– Men having sex with men
NACPA	– National Authority for Children Protection and Adoption
NCHPP	– National Center for Health Promotion and Programs
NCPT	– National Center for Postgraduate Training
NGO	– Non Governmental Organization
NHIH	– National Health Insurance House
NIRDH	– National Institute for Research and Development in Health
NP1	– National Program 1
NP2	– National Program 2
NP3	– National Program 3
NVAFS	– National Veterinary Authority and Food Safety
OAMR	– Order of Nurses and Midwives in Romania
PAC	– Post-abortion Contraception
PLWHA	– People living with HIV or AIDS
PMU	– Program Management Unit
POP	– Progestin Only Pills
PPE	– Personal Protective Equipment
PSI	– Population Services International
RFHI	– Romanian Family Health Initiative
RH	– Reproductive Health
SECS	– Society for Education on Contraception and Sexuality
STI	– Sexual Transmitted Infections
TA	– Technical Assistance

TOT	–	Training of Trainers
UNDP	–	United Nations Development Programs
UNFPA	–	United Nations Population Fund
UNICEF	–	Directorate of Family and Social Assistance
USAID	–	United States Agency for International Development
VCT	–	Voluntary Counseling and Testing
WHO	–	World Health Organization
YFY	–	Youth for Youth
WAD	–	World AIDS Day