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Improving National Capacity to Implement High Impact Health Services and Promote Healthy Behaviors in Mali

Assistance Technique Nationale Plus ATN Plus

Annual Summary FY 2009 and
Second Semester Report
April – September 2009

Consortium: Abt Associates, Inc. (prime) IntraHealth International, Johns Hopkins University/Center for Communication Programs (JHU/CCP), Helen Keller International (HKI), Groupe Pivot Sante et Population (GP/SP), and CARE International

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Executive Summary

Assistance Technique National Plus (ATN Plus) is a five-year contract funded by USAID Mali under the TASC3 mechanism. The title of the subtask is: "Improving National Capacity to Implement High Impact Health Services and Promote Healthy Behaviors in Mali". ATN Plus's main objective is to support a comprehensive effort by the Government of Mali to expand the delivery of high-quality maternal and child health services to key Malian populations, particularly in rural areas, while promoting the use of services and improving key health behaviors. ATN Plus completed the first year of project funding on September 30, 2009. This report provides a summary of FY 2009 results and a more detailed discussion of activities during this past semester (April-September 2009).

Key Activities and Accomplishments for FY 2009

Establishing a regional presence for ATN Plus

The ATN Plus contract was signed on October 1, 2008. USAID Mali organized and funded the national launch, held on February 25, 2009. After this date the establishment of regional offices in Bamako (for Bamako, Koulikoro and Kayes), Segou (for Segou, Sikasso, and Mopti) and Gao (for Gao, Timbuktu, and Kidal) took place. Three ATN Plus coordinators during the past year became members of the regional health teams in particular in those regions where they are based. Another key accomplishment this year was the selection of nine local NGO's for partnership in the consortium. These NGO's were contracted by CARE International (in the North) and Groupe Pivot/Sante Population.

Key results by Technical Domains

The following are selected results. Additional achievements and further details are found in the technical sections.

Maternal Health, Family Planning and Essential Newborn Care Key results for FY 2009:

- Active Management of Third Stage of Labor (AMTSL): A key highlight of the semester was the agreement by the Minister of Health to permit matrones to practice active management of the third stage of labor with oxytocin. This decision was made immediately after the dissemination to the Minister's cabinet of the pilot study's successful results by the MOH/DSR, POPPHI, PATH, CAPACITY, USAID ATN Plus and Keneya Ciwara 2. Task shifting to matrones is a critical piece in the expansion of reproductive health services to women and this decision has opened an important door to the additional training of matrones in other areas. (See Success Story in Annex).

For maternal health, family planning (FP) and essential newborn care (ENC) key first year accomplishments were:

- 303 people including 121 women in 6 regions participated in dissemination meetings on the feasibility of AMTSL by midwives

- 68 trainers of which 32 women were trained in AMTSL / ENC in 3 regions; with CAPACITY funding 120 matrons were trained in Bamako including a training of trainers
- 60 regional MOH officials, including 25 women, were trained in facilitative supervision in 6 regions
- 70 participants including 52 women participated in the dissemination meetings on the National Family Planning Supervision Guide and the results of the situational analysis of FP services,

Immunization

Key results for 2009:

- Training of trainers in monitoring and microplanning of vaccination and malaria activities: 18 District doctors from Ansongo (Region of Gao) and 20 trainers from the region of Timbuktu were trained in a joint effort with the ATN Plus malaria advisor. Malaria and vaccination activities have certain synergies in terms of target groups, delivery of products such as LLINs, and monitoring and evaluation so it is appropriate to take advantage and hold joint trainings to improve capacity. Note that monitoring is a component of the Reaching Every District (RED) approach for which ATN Plus intends to invest in the long term to improve routine immunization coverage in poor performing districts.
- Plan for the introduction of new vaccines: ATN Plus supported the Immunization Section to develop the plan for the introduction of new pneumococcal vaccine that has been submitted to GAVI. ATN Plus worked with other immunization partners and the Immunization Section of the MOH on the development of population targets for the vaccination of the age group 0 to 29 years for 2010 with the new vaccine meningo A conjugate, which provides protection for 10 years.

Diarrheal Disease: Prevention and control and IMCI

Key results for 2009:

- Finalization of IMCI tools: ATN Plus staff participated in an update of IMCI tools, funded by UNICEF. The IMCI tool was updated to formally include the directives for case management of acute diarrhea with the new ORS low-osmolarity formula and zinc. ATN Plus funded an additional session to finalize the tools after Sélingué and provided financing for the printing of the tools. Job aids were developed which focus on diarrhea case management and handwashing. ATN Plus was obligated to focus broadly on IMCI guidelines and updating in order to eventually narrow this focus in the coming years to diarrhea case management with ORS and zinc.

Nutrition

Key results for 2009:

- National Nutrition Weeks: ATN Plus's nutrition advisor participates in every phase of the planning of this important nationwide activity which contributes to the progress towards the achievement of the MDG's for Mali. The following are the results for FY 2009

2nd round 2008 (January 2009)	1st round 2009 (July 2009)
2,478,632 children from 6 to 59 months received vitamin A; 97% coverage	2,690,450 children from 6 to 59 months received vitamin A ; 105% coverage
2,308,342 children from 12 to 59 months received albendazole; 98 % coverage	2,407,376 children from 12 to 59 months received albendazole; 100% coverage
77,098 Post Partum Women received vitamin A 107% coverage	73,312 Post Partum Women received vitamin A 114% (NB: the total number of PP Women is calculated according to the number of months since last NNW and therefore varies)
70,977 Post Partum Women received albendazole ; 98% coverage	72,881 Post Partum Women received albendazole; 99% coverage

- Meeting on sustainability of the National Nutrition Weeks: The subject of sustainability of a national health activity is not often addressed in a resource limited country such as Mali. The Nutrition Division organized a national workshop to discuss sustainability of the NNW which was held July 17 - 18, 2009 in Bamako. This landmark meeting included high level actors from the Ministry of Health – the Minister’s technical advisor, the National Director of Health and several regional health directors participated in the discussions. The Segou region was highlighted as one of the only regions that has completely funded the NNW from their budget and without donor support for operational costs. Participants came from regional health offices, regional social development offices, research organizations, and technical partners. At the end of the two day meeting important recommendations were made by the workshop participants.

Malaria: Prevention and Treatment

Key results for FY 2009:

Technical assistance and financial support was provided to training and supervision activities for the training of trainers in case management for malaria, training for the pilot testing of the pre-transfer treatment of severe malaria, the revision of the training modules for case management, the development of a training, monitoring and supervision plan for service providers for case management of malaria. Training for facilitative supervision which addresses focused ante-natal care was implemented in six regions this year.

For malaria key 2009 results include:

- ATN Plus developed, printed and distributed with the NMCP 350 copies (with workbook) of the participant's manual and 350 copies of the trainer's guide for malaria case management; these modules were used during the training sessions for trainers.
- In May 2009, ATN Plus with the NMCP and partners held a workshop for training of trainers in malaria case management from central level (Bamako). The workshop brought together 32 participants (5 from the central level and 3 per region and the District of Bamako).

- ATN Plus with NMCP and partners trained 105 health center directors and health providers in pre-transfer treatment of severe malaria from CSCOM to CSREF in the health districts of Sikasso and Koutiala in August 2009.
- In July 2009, ATN Plus with the NMCP and partners organized and funded the training of trainers in malaria case management for the Mopti region. 37 participants (4 per circle (8 circles), two staff from the regional hospital, 1 from the training institute for nurses and 2 from the regional health team) were trained.
- In November - December 2008, the ATN Plus advisor participated in the national supervision of malaria activities in Gao and Sikasso with the NMCP. The supervision included two CSCOMs per circle, the CSRef for each district, the regional hospital, the regional drug warehouse, the military base and INPS clinics.
- ATN Plus funded and technically supported training in Monitoring / micro planning which will allow monitoring of malaria activities at the community health centers CSCOMs with the involvement of all health stakeholders; Training of community health center directors in the circle of Ansongo: 18 participants trained; training of trainers in the region of Timbuktu: 20 participants trained (two per circle and DRS and the Regional social development office)

Health Systems Strengthening

Key results for FY 2009:

- ATN Plus organized a training of twenty seven (27) field staff (regional coordinators, advisors to NGOs, consultants and district planners in the revised planning tools for the PRODESS II. The training was led by the Planning and Statistics Office of the MOH (CPS) and was timely as it occurred before the start of the 2010 planning cycle. This allowed the regional coordinators to become familiar with the tools and the planning process. They in turn will be better equipped to participate in the MOH planning process and provide relevant assistance in the regions.
- MOH accreditation process for CSRef and CSCOMs (Ciwara d'Or): 45 regional trainers trained in the accreditation approach (quality) for CSREF and CSCOMs; 236 district supervisors trained in the accreditation approach for CSREF and CSCOMs.
- Geographic Information System tool developed and ready for user training (MOH, CPS, regional staff, ATN Plus) in FY 2010. This tool will assist with data presentation in a geographic format, resource allocation, activity planning and monitoring availability use and availability of services.

Behavior Change Communication

Key results FY 2009:

- Validation of Nutrition communication plan; this tool will foster the development of effective communication strategies in the areas of prevention and management of malnutrition.
- The Malaria National Communication Plan was been finalized, validated, and three hundred (300) copies were printed and disseminated.
- The region of Koulikoro has benefited from the development of a regional communication plan for Reproductive health. All nine health districts in Koulikoro have developed a communication plan for reproductive health.

Acronym list

ACT	Artemisinin based combination therapy
AMTSL	Active Management of Third Stage of Labor
ANC	Antenatal care
ASACO	Association de santé communautaire (Community Health Association)
ATN Plus	Assistance Technique Nationale Plus (National Technical Assistance Project Plus)
BCC	Behavior Change Communication
CNIECS	Center for the Information, Education, and Communication for Health
CPS	Planning and Statistics Office, Ministry of Health
CROCEPS	District level planning meetings
CSCOM	Centre de santé communautaire (Community Health Center)
CSRef	Centre de Sante de reference (Reference Health Center)
DHS	Demographic and Health Survey
DNS	Direction Nationale de la Santé (National Health Directorate)
DRS	Direction Regionale de la Santé (Regional Health Directorates)
DSR	Division de Santé Reproductive (Division of Reproductive Health)
DPM	Direction de Pharmacie et Medicaments
ENA	Essential Nutrition Actions
ENC	Essential Newborn Care
EONC	Emergency Obstetric and Neonatal Care
EPI	Expanded Program for Immunization
FANC	Focused Antenatal Care
FP	Family Planning
GIS	Geographic Information System
GPSP	Groupe Pivot Santé Population

HKI	Helen Keller International
IMAD	Improving Malaria Diagnostics
IMCI	Integrated Management of Childhood Illnesses
INPS	Malian Social Security agency
INRSP	National Institute for Research in Public Health
IPT	Intermittent Preventive Treatment of malaria
JHU/CCP	Johns Hopkins University Center for Communication Programs
LLIN	Long Lasting Insecticide Treated Nets
MDG	Millennium Development Goals
MOH	Ministry of Health
MRTC	Malaria Research and Training Center
NMCP	National Malaria Control Program
NGO	Non-governmental Organization
NNW	National Nutrition Weeks
ORS	Oral Rehydration Solution
ORT	Oral Rehydration Therapy
PKCII	Keneya Ciwara II
PMI	President's Malaria Initiative
PNLP	Programme National de Lutte contre le Paludisme (National Malaria Control Program)
PNP	Policies, Norms and Procedures
PPH	Prevention of postpartum hemorrhage
PRODESS	Program for the Development of Health and Social Services
RED	Reach Every District
RH	Reproductive Health
SP	Sulfadoxine-Pyrimethamine
USAID	United States Agency for International Development
UNFPA	UN Fund for Population Activities

UNICEF

United Nations Children's Fund

WHO

World Health Organization

1 Introduction

Assistance Technique National Plus (ATN Plus) is a five-year project, funded on October 1, 2008 by USAID Mali. The project is funded under the TASC3 mechanism and is known as “Improving National Capacity to Implement High Impact Health Services and Promote Healthy Behaviors in Mali”. ATN Plus supports a comprehensive effort by the Government of Mali to expand the delivery of high-quality maternal and child health services to key Malian populations, particularly in rural areas, while promoting the use of services and changes in key behaviors.

ATN Plus focuses on improving maternal health, family planning, essential newborn care, immunization, diarrheal disease, nutrition and malaria services and addressing cross-cutting health systems strengthening (through quality assurance and improved planning) and behavior change communication. In each of these eight focus areas, the project supports the Ministry of Health (MOH) at the national, regional, district/community health center level to develop policies, improve services and expand access to care, design and implement behavior change communication activities to increase the demand for services, and identify opportunities for public-private partnerships that expand the provision of services.

The ATN Plus model for providing technical assistance will be extended to all eight regions of Mali plus the District of Bamako. All technical assistance is based on ATN Plus’s principles: 1) working side by side with ministerial counterparts at the national, regional, and district levels to improve capacity in planning and service delivery; 2) promoting innovation 3) building skills and capacity for scale up and rolling out of proven interventions and 4) building skills to improve quality in all aspects of service delivery. To ensure the transfer of skills, ATN Plus provides technical inputs; helps guide processes and training, and coaches and mentors MOH staff.

The ATN consortium members each play an important role in providing technical assistance and in facilitating the implementation of key activities. The nine local NGO’s, selected during this year by a team comprised of Keneya Ciwara II and ATN Plus staff, are in place and play an important role in the interface between ATN Plus, the Ministry of Health, and other key partners in the nine administrative regions of Mali.

2 Achievements by Technical Domain

2.1 Maternal Health, Family Planning and Essential Newborn Care

This semester's activities for these three technical domains primarily focused on continuing support for the dissemination of key documents and policies in Maternal Health Family Planning, Essential Neonatal Care both at the national and district levels.

A key highlight of the semester was the agreement by the Minister of Health to permit matrones to practice active management of the third stage of labor with oxytocin. This decision was made immediately after the dissemination to the Minister's cabinet by the MOH/DSR, POPPHI, CAPACITY, USAID ATN Plus and Keneya Ciwara 2 of the pilot study's successful results. Task shifting to matrones is a critical piece in the expansion of RH services to women and this decision has opened an important door to the further training of matrones in other areas.

FY 2009: For maternal health, family planning (FP) and essential newborn care (ENC) key first year accomplishments were:

- 303 people including 121 women were informed in 6 regions on the feasibility of AMTSL by midwives
- 68 trainers of which 32 women were trained in AMTSL / ENC in 3 regions; with CAPACITY 120 matrones were trained in Bamako including a training of trainers
- 60 regional MOH officials, including 25 women, were trained in facilitative supervision in 6 regions
- 70 participants including 52 women were informed about the contents of the National Family Planning Supervision Guide and the results of the situational analysis of FP services,

2.1.1 Key Maternal Health Achievements for the Semester

Active Management of Third Stage of Labor (AMTSL)

ATN staff participated more actively in the dissemination of results of the feasibility study of AMTSL with matrones pilot activity which has been carried out since 2006 in Mali. Prior to this AMTSL was promoted among mid-wives and other qualified personnel.

The pilot study was presented to the Ministry of Health Cabinet and concluded with the Minister authorizing matrones to practice AMTSL with oxytocin. A steering committee which includes ATN Plus staff was introduced and a plan of action was developed. A written communication to the regions and

health districts on AMTSL and the caesarean policy was also produced by a designated group which included ATN Plus staff.

This study release was disseminated to heads of regions, circles in the presence of representatives of civil society, representatives of health training schools, representatives of administrative authorities, and representatives of the professional orders in 6 regions namely Kayes, Koulikoro, Sikasso, Segou, Gao and Kidal. The team also provided technical support to 3 sessions of training of trainers in AMTSL in Kayes, Sikasso and Segou and training of matrones in the district of Bamako.

In total 303 people are informed of the results of the AMTSL study in 6 regions including 121 women. 68 teachers including 32 women were trained in AMTSL as well as 120 matrons in Bamako.

Facilitative Supervision

ATN Plus for synergy and efficiency is promoting facilitative supervision that allows training providers to resolve problems during supervision. This training addresses application of facilitative supervision in all areas of service delivery including malaria case management, Focused Ante Natal Care, Essential Newborn Care, Vaccination, Family Planning, AMTSL and other services.

ATN has formed regional teams of 10 persons each in Kayes, Koulikoro, Bamako, Sikasso, Segou, and Mopti for a total of 60 health officials trained in facilitative supervision, including 25 women.

Other maternal health activities include:

- Monitoring the dissemination of Policies, Norms and Procedures (PNP) and job aids for the matrons. Given the importance of these documents for service quality the team followed up their release during its dissemination activities of the AMTSL by matrones.
- Technical Presentation at the Global Health Council 2009 meeting in Washington USA. During the Global Health Council's annual meeting which is a conference of public health professionals, ATN Plus staff assisted the Ministry of Health of Mali to share its experience on the effects of the exemption of user fees for caesarean deliveries.
- HS2020 Cesarean section policy evaluation: ATN Plus has contributed to the evaluation of the user fee exemption policy for caesarean section deliveries with funding through HS 2020. To date Health Information System information has been compiled and the protocol has been approved by the Ministry of Health.

2.1.2 Key Family Planning Achievements for the Semester

Dissemination of key reference documents for Family Planning

The National Family Planning supervision guide was prepared under ATN and consolidates a number of forms and tools for FP supervision into one single document (CD copies and hard copies of the document were produced). The family planning situational analysis was a major nationwide study which completed a series of data collection and analyses carried out from 2004 – 2008: The Qualitative Study on Family Planning completed in 2006 under ATN, the Demographic and Health Survey for Mali 2006 (DHS IV) and the Situational Analyses of Family Planning Services completed in mid-2008. Because the situational analysis uncovered certain weaknesses in Family Planning service delivery it was important to disseminate the document and get buy in from the Ministry at all levels. These documents have helped with decision making about resource allocation and other improvements to family planning services.

ATN Plus disseminated the supervision guide and the situational analysis to 70 participants including 52 women.

Partnerships for strengthening Family Planning:

ATN Plus technically supported and provided trainers for a PSI-funded training on long term Family Planning methods. The team facilitated the training of 27 FP providers in Bamako CSCOMs on long term methods such as IUD and Jadel (implants). Practical sessions were held as well as a review of theoretical aspects of contraceptive technology and the prevention of infections.

ATN Plus funded a two-day consultation meeting in August 2009 with civil society organizations organized by Groupe Pivot Sante Population to discuss and exchange on best practices in Family Planning in Mali. Over 40 participants from NGO and civil society organizations came together to present successful Family Planning experiences in Mali and to discuss the future of Family Planning. The need for support for the scale up of these experiences in particular community based distribution of contraceptives, improved coordination, and the need for stronger links between the community and the CSCOMs were raised. The recommendations from the meeting will be presented by civil society organizations to the Minister of Health in a formal statement.

Other Family Planning activities:

- Participation in the planning and launch of the Family Planning campaign for 2009: significant time and investment was made to the planning, updating communication messages, and reviewing the workplan for the Family Planning campaign. This is the fifth edition campaign and the theme this year was Leadership. Meetings were held with the Minister and his cabinet to advocate for high level political involvement in the launch and in key activities. Unfortunately a high level effort to advocate the President of Mali to participate was not successful; although the Prime Minister did officially launch the campaign.

A presentation of the RAPID analysis was made during the launch which underscored the increasing pressure that is put on limited resources by rapid population growth. In conjunction with the campaign, ATN Plus funded activities by professional associations (gynecologists, midwives, and students) to promote more active involvement in Family Planning and participated actively in the press conference prior to the campaign launch.

- ATN Plus Chief of Party with the MOH's head of the Division of Reproductive Health made a presentation to USAID Washington (approximately 20 participants) on the future of Family Planning in Mali in June 2009. This presentation was a follow-up to the Family Planning evaluation for the Africa Bureau that was carried out in April 2009.
- ATN Plus produced an abstract on the example of the partnership through the Family Planning group in Mali which has been accepted for presentation at the International Conference on Family Planning in Uganda in November 2009.
- ATN Plus participated in the International Training Workshop on Advocacy for Repositioning FP organized by WHO and the WAHO in Lomé from 21 to 25 September 2009. Immediately after this, ATN Plus led a discussion session with Malian journalists on Family Planning and its importance. This opportunity was organized through a USAID Africa Bureau funded project and was held on September 29 which was also the International Day of Family Planning.

2.1.3 Key Essential Newborn Care Achievements for the Semester

- Essential Newborn Care training was integrated into AMTSL training in Kayes, Segou and Sikasso. 68 trainers of which 32 women were trained in AMTSL / ENC.
- ATN Plus participated in an international workshop in Dakar on the Essential Newborn Care alongside the delegation of the MOH. The workshop highlighted the work in Mali by the MOH on establishing standards of care, adapting care for household and a training of trainers update.

2.1.4 Key Activities for the next six months for Maternal Health, Family Planning and Essential Newborn Care

Pending approval of the ATN Plus workplan for FY 2010, the following activities are planned for the next semester:

- Continued scale up of capacity building activities for AMTSL; training and supervision; integration with ENC
- Support for the integration of the AMTSL training in Emergency Obstetrical and Neonatal Care in health training schools
- Monitoring the dissemination and utilization of PNP / SR and technical data sheets PNP / SR for matrons
- Implementation of formative supervision of providers in FANC/AMTSL, EONC, Family Planning

- Contribute to the organization and launching the national FP campaign 2010 at national level and in the regions and through support to NGOs and associations. Particular accent will be placed on improving data collection and analysis to examine more closely if the family planning campaign is making a difference in FP uptake.
- Participation in the International Conference on Family Planning in Uganda
- Participation in the meeting of the Monitoring Committee Vision 2010 in Equatorial Guinea
- Support for training / retraining of qualified providers in long and medium term methods such as IUDs, implants and injectables
- Support for the introduction of the pilot activity to strengthen the availability of injectables by matrones in the outreach strategy in select districts
- Participation in the updating and implementation of policies and guidelines related to essential care of newborn
- Work with HS 20/20 for coordinating the assessment fee policy of caesarean
- Support for a study on barriers to service utilization of FANC

2.2 Immunization

During the semester, the newly installed ATN Plus immunization advisor began providing technical support for routine immunization at both central and operational levels. Immunization in Mali is a major partnership activity with the lead actors being the Ministry of Health (Immunization Section), UNICEF and WHO. The ATN Plus advisor, being a new member of this group, invested time and effort into integrating into the team and in updating himself on vaccination activities at the national level. In the coming years of ATN Plus more emphasis will be placed on strengthening immunization at the operational level using tools such as Reach Every District and facilitative supervision.

2.2.1 Key Immunization Achievements for the Semester

Training of trainers in monitoring and microplanning of vaccination and malaria activities

18 District doctors from Ansongo (Region of Gao) and 20 trainers from the region of Timbuktu were trained in a joint effort with the ATN Plus malaria advisor. Malaria and vaccination activities have certain synergies in terms of target group, delivery of services such as nets, and monitoring and evaluation so it is appropriate to take advantage of this and hold joint trainings to improve capacity. Note that monitoring is a component of the Reaching Every District (RED) for which ATN Plus intends to invest in the long term to improve routine immunization coverage.

Implementation of the annual review of EPI activities for 2008:

ATN Plus with the Immunization Section and WHO disseminated new national vaccination policies during the annual review of immunization activities and surveillance that was held from May 11-14, 2009 in Bamako. This dissemination was possible because of the immunization advisor's participation in the EPI managers meeting for West Africa held in Ouagadougou in April 2009;

Operational level support to immunization in key districts:

ATN Plus with local MOH carried out financial support and technical supervision of immunization activities in the health district of Niafunké, Timbuktu. In an effort to further support RED activities, ATN Plus provided financial support to four radios for local communication for routine immunization in the health districts of Niafunké and Goundam in the Timbuktu region. These two districts were chosen because they had the lowest vaccination coverage rates in 2008 and the highest dropout rates.

The supervision guide for vaccination: A first draft of the updated supervision guide is available with tools that will be used during supervision of immunization activities. The guide will be finalized and validated in FY 2010

Assistance to the Immunization Section for ad hoc activities

ATN Plus as part of its technical assistance provides support to the Immunization Section and the DNS on an “as needed” basis. Immunization activities are often dictated by epidemiological occurrences such as the resurgence of polio (imported cases from Guinea) and measles epidemics.

- National Immunization Days: Under the initiative to eradicate polio, Mali country was certified polio-free in October 2008 in Windhoek. However, since then imported cases were detected in the Mopti and Koulikoro regions and the MOH determined that additional rounds of polio vaccination should take place to boost immunization protection of children. These activities are a priority for the Ministry of Health for the interruption of the circulation of wild polio virus which is scheduled for the end of 2009. It is in this context that ATN Plus staff was often used to support the Immunization section with other immunization partners (UNICEF, WHO) for organizing and monitoring the implementation of various immunization activities.

In all, during the second semester alone there were three rounds of National immunization days and two rounds of mopping up in five regions in response to the imported cases polio.

- Mali’s national plan for influenza A H1N1: ATN Plus has been invited to participate in the preparatory meetings as part of the country’s readiness to prevent and handle any suspected cases of influenza A H1N1. The Ministry of Health is developing technical documentation such as the emergency plan of action and technical guidelines for national management and prevention of cases at different levels of the health pyramid.
- Plan for the introduction of new vaccines: ATN Plus supported the Immunization Section to develop the plan for the introduction of new pneumococcal vaccine that has been submitted to GAVI. ATN Plus worked with other immunization partners and Immunization Section on the development of vaccination targets for the age group 0 to 29 in 2010 with the new vaccine meningococcal conjugate provides protection for 10 years.

2.2.2 Key Activities for the next six months for Immunization

(Pending approval of the workplan for FY 2010)

- Technical and financial support for development of updated policies for new vaccines and anti pneumococcal meningitis. ATN Plus will provide technical and financial assistance to the Immunization Section for the development of a supervision guide of immunization activities, the updating of data collection and management tools with the introduction of new vaccine Anti pneumo; training of trainers on the new vaccine;
- Staff training on Reaching Every District (RED) and meningitis surveillance: With the Immunization Section 30 trainers will be trained at the operational level on the Reaching Every District approach (RED). Also, the training of 18 regional health staff (responsible for surveillance and vaccination) on enhanced surveillance of meningitis after the meningo A vaccine conjugate is introduced.
- Technical support to teams for the supervision of EPI Plus (immunization with the distribution of ITNs and vitamin A to children); the organization and implementation of vaccination against meningo A (with the new vaccine conjugate meningo A) among the target ages of 0 to 29 years.

Immunization efforts at the operational level will be focused in FY 2010 in the regions of Timbuktu, the District of Bamako and Kidal (through local partners as possible). ATN Plus will work on the different components of the Reaching Every District (RED) capacity building (training on the new supervision guide, monitoring micro planning, the management of vaccines and cold chain) and facilitative supervision.

2.3 Prevention and Management of Diarrheal Disease

During this semester key events took place which resulted in an update of key IMCI (facility) documents for the case management of diarrhea in health facilities. This semester job aids and IMCI supervision modules were produced with assistance from ATN Plus in collaboration with the DNS and UNICEF.

2.3.1 Key Achievements for the Prevention and Management of Diarrheal Disease for the Semester

- Finalization of IMCI job aids for diarrhea case management and handwashing: The IMCI tool was updated to formally include the directives for case management of acute diarrhea with the new ORS low-osmolality formula and zinc. Increased emphasis on handwashing with soap was included in the job aid for diarrhea case management for the facility level.
- Participation in the workshop to train national supervisors in clinical IMC held from April 06 to 11 April 2009 at the Kati Hospital. The workshop trained 18 national supervisors / trainers;

- Production of IMCI modules: 800 copies for Division of Reproductive Health; 50 copies of the facilitator's guide and the IMCI module and 100 of each of these modules (Introduction, evaluation, and classification of sick infants from birth to 2 months, Evaluation and classification of the sick child of 2 months to 5 years, advise for the mother, identification of treatment, treatment, and follow up care);
- ATN Plus participated in technical discussions on the upcoming IMCI evaluation to be funded by WHO.

2.3.2 Key Activities for the next six months for the prevention and management of diarrheal disease

(Pending approval of the workplan for FY 2010)

- Dissemination of directives for community case management of diarrhea (promoting the use of ORS/zinc at the community level).
- Participation in supervision activities and specific supervision of diarrhea case management within IMCI.

2.4 Nutrition

During this semester ATN Plus technical and financial assistance for nutrition was primarily focused on the organization of the first round of the National Nutrition Week for 2009. A landmark workshop was held with regional health directors, key nutrition and MOH staff to discuss sustainability of the NNW. The Policies, Norms and Procedures in Nutrition with the training curriculum were printed for dissemination (200 copies of a set of three documents). The PNP Nutrition was disseminated in all the 8 administrative regions of the Mali. The dissemination sessions were attended by representatives of regional health offices, the social development representatives, and the chief medical officers of health districts.

2.4.1 Key Achievements for Nutrition for the Semester

National Nutrition Weeks

ATN Plus's nutrition advisor participates in every phase of the planning of this important nationwide activity which generally achieves high coverage of children 6-59 months and contributes to the progress towards the achievement of the MDG's for Mali.

Prior to the first round of NNWs for 2009, ATN Plus's nutrition advisor participated in the workshop on the NNW results for the second round of 2008 (held in early January 2009).

ATN provided technical support for preparatory meetings for the 1st round 2009 of the NNWs. ATN Plus specifically provided input to the NNW preparation committee to determine the dates of the NNW, review messages, prepare reporting forms for results and for the supervision missions, prepare the schedule for logistics – distribution of data collection forms and communication materials, review

announcements, resource mobilization and establishment of the supervisory teams. ATN Plus provided limited financial support to the national supervision team.

The 1st round of the NNW for 2009 took place in the period from June 29 to July 13, 2009 in all regions and the District of Bamako.

ATN Plus provided specific support for the supervision of the NNW in the Sikasso region from June 27 to July 05, 2009 in the circles of Sikasso, Yorosso and Kadiolo. This supervision yielded findings that have been sent in a report to the Nutrition Division.

NNW Results:

2nd round 2008 (January 2009)	1^{er} round 2009 (July 2009)
2 478 632 children from 6 to 59 months received vitamin A; 97% coverage	2 690 450 children from 6 to 59 months received vitamin A ; 105% coverage
2 308 342 children from 12 to 59 months received albendazole; 98 % coverage	2 407 376 children from 12 to 59 months received albendazole; 100% coverage
77 098 Post Partum Women received vitamin A 107% coverage	73 312 Post Partum Women received vitamin A 114% (NB: the total number of PP Women is calculated according to the number of months since last NNW and therefore varies)
70 977 Post Partum Women received albendazole ; 98% coverage	72 881 Post Partum Women received albendazole; 99% coverage

Source: Ministry of Health, Nutrition Division 2009

Meeting on sustainability of the National Nutrition Weeks

The Nutrition Division organized a national workshop to discuss sustainability of the NNW which was held July 17 -18, 2009 in Bamako. High level actors including the Ministry of Health's technical advisor, the National Director of Health and several regional health directors participated in the discussions. The Segou region was highlighted as one of the only regions that has completely funded the NNW from their budget and without donor support for operational costs. Participants came from regional health offices, regional social development offices, research organizations, and technical partners.

At the end of the two day meeting the following recommendations were made by the workshop participants:

- Continue to include the NNW in MOH workplans for the central and regional levels
- Ask the Governors to prioritize credit from the Treasury for the NNW financing ;
- Develop an electronic form so that the NNW results can be easily tabulated (similar to the Polio NIDs forms) and included in routine data collection.
- Disseminate the National Directives for vitamin A supplementation.

Various MOH offices were assigned to follow up on these recommendations and a committee was established to collect and analyze the various regional sustainability proposals that were made.

Additional activities carried out by ATN Plus for vitamin A supplementation included technical and financial support to the workshop to develop an Action Plan for Bi-annual Vitamin A supplementation which includes examining the vitamin A that is provided through routine health services such as immunization.

Policies, Norms and Procedures for Nutrition (PNP) and Essential Nutrition Actions (ENA)

ATN Plus printed 600 copies (200 each of the three documents) of the PNP Nutrition (at 200 copies per document, Procedures, Policies and Standards, Curriculum dissemination). Technical and financial support to the PNP Dissemination was provided to all regions from September 1 - 18, 2009. All regional health offices and CSREFs received two sets of the PNP for nutrition and Social Development received one set.

ATN Plus provided technical and financial support to the workshop to develop job aids for the PNP for nutrition from June 2-6, 2009 at the Conference Room of the Hospital Kati. These job aids will be similar to the popular job aids produced for matrons at the CSCOM level for reproductive health.

Regarding Essential Nutrition Actions, ATN Plus participated in consultation meetings which have been established to monitor the implementation of the ENA in Mali and participated in the finalization of the flip charts for ENA.

Additional Nutrition Activities:

- World Breastfeeding Week: ATN Plus participated in the validation workshop on the law relating to the Marketing of Breastmilk Substitutes in Mali June 18, 2009 at WHO
- Technical support for preparatory meetings and the organization of the World Breastfeeding Week held from August 1-7, 2009.
- National Forum on Nutrition: Scheduled for February 2009, ATN Plus has been participating in the preparatory meetings for the National Forum on Nutrition with other technical partners. Regional forums will take place prior to the National meeting.
- Participation in the Second International Micronutrient Forum in Beijing China with the Nutrition Division chief (May 2009). The theme was "Micronutrient, Health and Development: Evidence - Based Programs." One outcome of the meeting was the place given to micronutrient supplementation for its role in helping countries achieve the Millennium Development Goals.
- Participation in the midterm review of the ECOWAS Nutrition Forum in Abidjan from September 23-25, 2009.

2.4.2 Key Activities for the next six months for nutrition

(Pending approval of the workplan for FY 2010)

- Support to the Nutrition Division for the NNW planning for December 2009
- Organizing the training of trainers at the national and regional level for the Policies, Norms, and Procedures for Nutrition

- Participation in the workshop to harmonize methodologies for nutrition surveys in Mali with the integration of the SMART methodology (Standardized Monitoring and Assessment of Relief and Transition)
- Technical, organizational and financial support for the Regional Nutrition forums
- Dissemination of the job aids for nutrition

2.5 Prevention and Treatment of Malaria

ATN Plus's key role is to provide technical and financial assistance to NMCP for policy development, capacity building among providers for: malaria case management and supervision, pre transfer treatment of severe malaria, facilitative supervision, and improved focused antenatal care (Malaria in pregnancy). ATN Plus supports the NMCP in the implementation of its workplan which includes the PMI designated Malaria Operational Plan activities among others.

During the second semester ATN Plus, in addition to technical and financial support to NMCP and in close collaboration with the PMI team organized the training of trainers in facilitative supervision in six regions to form six teams of 10 supervisors each and carried out regional training and monitoring of malaria control activities to monitor the EPI and ANC "plus" programs including the correct treatment of malaria cases within 24 hours. During these monitoring activities at the CSCOM the distribution of LLINs, SP for IPT for pregnant women and the distribution of LLINs to children fully vaccinated are supervised and reviewed with the participation of the CSCOM health team.

2.5.1 Key Achievements for the Prevention and Treatment of Malaria for the Semester

Malaria Case Management training

Following the revision of the policy document of the National Program to fight against malaria in November 2008, revision of the training modules for providers on case management was necessary to reflect the new treatment guidelines. In April 2009 the ATN Plus funded the revision of training materials for providers. Through technical and financial support, ATN Plus printed and distributed to the NMCP 350 copies (with workbook) of the participant's manual and 350 copies of the trainer's guide, these modules were used during the training sessions for trainers.

In May 2009, ATN Plus with the NMCP and partners held a workshop for training of trainers in malaria case management from central level (Bamako). The workshop brought together 32 participants (5 from the central level and 3 per region and the District of Bamako).

ATN Plus with NMCP and partners trained 105 health center directors and health providers in pre-transfer treatment of severe malaria from CSCOM to CSREF in the health districts of Sikasso and Koutiala in August 2009.

In July 2009, ATN Plus with the NMCP and partners organized and funded the training of trainers in malaria case management for the Mopti region. 37 participants (4 per circle (8 circles), two staff from the regional hospital, 1 from the training institute for nurses and 2 from the regional health team) were trained.

In addition ATN Plus funded and technically supported training in Monitoring / micro planning which will allow monitoring of malaria activities at the community health centers CSCOMs with the involvement of all health stakeholders:

- Training of community health center directors in the circle of Ansongo: 18 participants trained;
- Training of trainers in the region of Timbuktu: 20 participants trained (two per circle and DRS and the Regional social development office)

Follow up supervision with the NMCP

With regards to monitoring and supervision, ATN Plus was involved in the supervision of officers trained in handling pre-transfer of severe malaria in the region of Sikasso in September 2009. This monitoring showed that the pre-transfer treatment of severe malaria was effective in the health districts of Sikasso and Koutiala.

The supervision teams visited 10 CSCOMs per health district, medical records were properly maintained, the number of referred patients and their status was well known, the forms for declaring any side effects from the drugs were available. The difficulties encountered especially in the early implementation of the strategy (limits to targeting children under 5 years and those refusing to go to the CSREF for financial reasons), transport and care of referred patients remain problematic when one considers that the reference evacuation system no longer works. Insufficient stocks of Rapid Diagnostic Tests were found in three CSCOMs. A plan for monitoring and implementation of the recommendations was developed and made available to district teams.

The recommendations made were:

- Efforts should be made to improve the communication system between health facilities (Hospital, CSREF, CSCOMs)
- Supervisory training should be carried out for enhancing skills of health personnel
- Parents and local health authorities should be educated in relation to referrals and discharging of patients
- Oversight should be expanded to all structures in the two health districts.

Participation and leadership in the National forum on improving access to community health (CCM):

After participating actively in the preparation and implementation of the national forum held in March 2009, ATN Plus has participated in the work of the small group responsible for developing the action plan for implementation of community case management (or essential care in the community). Workshops were held in Sélingué from August 17 to 21 and from September 28-30, 2009 to develop the action plan following the recommendations of the Forum. This experience will enable rapid case

management of fever by Community Health Workers (RDT diagnosis and treatment of simple cases by ACT) at villages and thus contribute to reducing mortality from malaria.

Support to NMCP

ATN Plus has assisted the NMCP in the preparation and dissemination of survey results on the use of LLINs. A nationwide household survey was conducted in August 2008 and concluded that the free distribution of LLINs in the integrated campaign of December of 2007 had a significant impact on use – at the time of the survey which was during the high transmission season for malaria, nine months after the integrated campaign, **over 80% of households owned at least one LLIN; 78.5% of children under 5 years and 73.9% of pregnant women slept under LLINs.**

Ownership and dissemination of these results are critical for Mali. However, this data has not yet been presented to the Minister or his cabinet due to scheduling conflicts and NMCP's workload. At a recent meeting with WAHO this net use figure was not used in reporting data for Mali in comparison to other countries. When the WAHO representative was asked about this he stated that campaign data could not be used in reporting LLIN use even though this is fact is use data from a household survey. This policy issue needs to be addressed so that Mali's successes can become known and that Mali can move ahead in achieving universal coverage.

Other activities in support of the NMCP:

- ATN Plus attended the Steering Committee meeting of the NMCP in 2009 which is a statutory meeting which examined the 2008 malaria workplan results and validated the workplan for 2009. The meeting was presided by the Technical Advisor to the Minister of Health who asked the NMCP to act on the recommendations made by the participants – to correct the reference documents, to reactivate the malaria thematic group meetings, and to prepare the 2010 campaign for the mass distribution of LLINs.
- ATN Plus participated in early preparatory meetings on the 2010 campaign for the mass distribution of LLINs but will no longer be participating in order to focus solely on activities in the Malaria Operational Plan for ATN Plus.
- ATN Plus participated in thematic group meetings on prevention (FANC), case management and communication organized by the NMCP.
- Communication activities: ATN Plus supported technically and financially the NMCP in finalizing and organizing the workshop for the validation of its Strategic Communication Plan. 300 copies were printed of the plan and the dissemination of the document has been done nationally and regionally.

2.5.2 Key Activities for the next six months for the Prevention and Treatment of Malaria

(Pending approval of the workplan for FY 2010)

- Support the NMCP in the training of trainers at the regional level on malaria case management

- Support the NMCP in supervision activities in the regions
- Support the supervisory training and follow up as part of the FANC (IPT/ SP, distribution of LLINs and FAF) in three regions
- Organize training sessions in Community case management and pre transfer treatment of severe malaria to providers in other districts of the region of Sikasso
- Monitor post training / supervision of providers trained in treating pre-transfer in the region of Sikasso

2.6 Health Systems Strengthening

ATN Plus in order to achieve its objectives at both central and decentralized levels set up an organizational scheme based on regional coordinators working with regional Ministry of Health teams and NGO planners / advisors. The NGOs are established through a contractual partnership which has the NGO staff placed with district health teams to further strengthen the capacity of local Ministry of Health and Social Development staff in planning, implementation, monitoring and evaluation under the PRODESS II. ATN Plus's objective is to make this organizational approach to providing technical assistance functional and the following activities were undertaken in this context.

Key results for FY 2009 for health system strengthening:

- Twenty seven (27) field staff (regional coordinators, advisors to NGOs, consultants and district planners) for ATN Plus have been trained by a team of CPS / Health and the DNS on tools for planning for PRODESS and on data collection for the SLIS.
- 45 regional trainers trained in the accreditation approach (quality) for CSREF and CSCOMs;
- 236 district supervisors trained in the accreditation approach for CSREF and CSCOMs.
- Geographic Information System tool developed and ready for user training (MOH, CPS, regional staff, ATN Plus)
- The heads of technical departments of health, social development and social economy, promotion of women, children and family areas have been oriented on the ATN Plus program during the orientation and introduction of field staff.

2.6.1 Key Achievements for Health Systems Strengthening for the Semester

National, regional and NGO staff participated in and contributed to the following health systems strengthening activities:

- Participation in PRODESS steering meetings (Technical Committee, Monitoring, Joint Assessment Mission) among others;

- Completion of the 2004 National Health Accounts update with DHS IV data
- Orientation of NGO leaders, Health, Social Development technicians in the regions of Timbuktu, Gao and Kidal in the ATN Plus program;
- Organization of training of field staff in program planning tools for PRODESS and data collection forms for the local health information system;
- Organization of missions introducing NGO district advisers and district planners to the authorities in the regions of Timbuktu, Gao, Kayes, Koulikoro, Segou, Mopti, Sikasso and the District of Bamako.
- Technical and financial support for training of trainers and supervisors on the approach to accreditation of CSCOMs and CSREF for the eight (8) regions and the District of Bamako in Mali.
- Orientation of field staff on completing data collection forms for the program (programming quarterly / monthly, quarterly, Terms of Reference of supervision missions, mission statement, etc.).
- Data collection activities to monitor progress on the ATN Plus workplan, conducted by different teams at central and regional levels;
- The development and adoption of the list of indicators which will capture demand and use of health services for the GIS implementation with the MOH and ATN Plus;
- Collection of 2008 data by the regional coordinators with the support of other field staff to serve as a baseline for the GIS.
- Organization of national workshop discussion with civil society organizations on Family Planning in Mali whose synthesis has been presented at the meeting of the Family Planning working group;
- Participation in joint partner meeting which established a coordination mechanism for partners working in child survival in Mali (UNICEF, ATN Plus, Keneya Ciwara 2). The meeting was held in Segou under the auspices of UNICEF.

NB: The specific activities of the regional coordinators in other technical fields are integrated in the technical sections of this report.

2.6.2 Key Activities for the next six months for Health Systems Strengthening

- Organize the training of national trainers, administrators (responsible for planning) and database management (responsible for HIS) in three regional directorates of health on GIS and the use of ArcGIS software;
- Supervise teams in regions with ArcGIS on using GIS and technical support for the development of their regional health profile;
- Organize the collection and analysis of data for preparation of thematic maps in the regions and health districts

- Monitor the implementation of action plan ATN Plus on the ground in the regions and districts.
- Contribute to the management training and organizational support of the CSCOM directors in synergy with PKCII and district teams and FELASCOM.

2.7 Behavior Change Communication

The first year of ATN Plus has been a year of startup activities, particularly in the regions where ATN Plus did not have a presence. During the second semester in particular, efforts were mainly focused on the tasks in terms of providing technical support and the implementation of planned activities in the ATN Plus workplan.

Key results for communication for FY 2009 include:

- Validation of Nutrition communication plan; this tool will foster the development of effective communication strategies in the areas of prevention and management of malnutrition.
- The Malaria Strategic Communication Plan was been finalized, validated, and three hundred (300) copies were printed and disseminated.
- The region of Koulikoro has benefited from the development of a regional communication plan for Reproductive health. All nine health districts in Koulikoro have developed a communication plan for reproductive health.

2.7.1 Key Achievements for Behavior Change Communication for the Semester

The communication team provided support to the following technical areas:

Maternal Health and Family Planning:

- An abstract was submitted and accepted on the theme "National Campaign for Family Planning in Mali: a contribution to the repositioning of family planning" for the conference on FP scheduled in the month of November 2009 in Kampala, Uganda.
- Technical support was provided to the Organizing Commission of the Safe Motherhood Day for message development and design of various communication media.
- The regional communication plan for reproductive health in the region of Koulikoro has been developed with the participation of health structures and social development, media, and FELASCOM circle advisors. The nine health districts and the region have their communications plan for reproductive health.
- A film was produced by the CNI ECS with financial and technical contribution of ATN Plus with its central theme on the constructive involvement of men in promoting family planning.

Immunization:

- Comments were made on the supervision grid for immunization activities (communication component) to the MOH.
- Communication activities have been developed in the health districts of Goundam and Niafunke in the Timbuktu region to strengthen the Reaching Every District Approach. Radio programs (16 broadcasts of messages, creation of four panels, and production of four contests) are being implemented by four local radio stations: Gimba and TV and in Goundam Horo and Raoul El Gole in Niafunke.

Diarrheal Disease Prevention and Control:

- As part of the campaign organized by the Hygiene Division on the promotion of hand washing at critical times to reduce the incidence of diarrheal diseases, technical support was provided to organize an information day to raise awareness for school officials in the district of Bamako.
- Meetings were organized to analyze the technical note on the management of diarrhea treatment through the use of zinc.
- ATN Plus participated in preparatory meetings for the information day to raise awareness on the disinfection of drinking water at the family level and community -- Edition 2009: identification of relevant activities.
- Meetings are underway to prepare the celebration of the second edition of the World Handwashing Day with soap at critical moments to prevent diarrheal diseases scheduled for October 15, 2009.

Nutrition

- Several meetings were organized by the Nutrition Division on the organization of the National Forum on Nutrition has a big component communication supported technically by ATN Plus.
- The communication activities of the first round of the NNW for 2009 focused on message development, media communication and design tools for monitoring specific communication activities. Supervision of NNWs by ATN Plus was conducted in the Sikasso region in the circles of Yorosso, Kadiolo and Sikasso.
- ATN Plus has contributed to the celebration of the World Breastfeeding Week (WBW) in 2009 with the theme "Breastfeeding: A Vital Response to Emergencies" by:
 - Message development and other communication products including those produced by the Post Office and Telecommunications (stamps, etc.);
 - Support of media coverage and room rental for the launch;
 - Support of the organization of information days to raise awareness of traditional communicators and members of women's associations and NGOs about the benefits of breastfeeding.

- The communication plan for the promotion of nutrition has been validated with the participation of all stakeholders including representatives of all regions.

Malaria:

- ATN Plus participated in various meetings to strengthen the use of ACTs for the management of malaria in health facilities. ATN Plus was asked to participate with the NMCP and CNI ECS in advocacy sessions organized for prescribers of CTA in the regions.
- A working session was held on the situation of malaria behavior change communication: ATN Plus helped the NMCP fill out the questionnaire sent by PMI on BCC results.
- The Strategic Communication Plan for Malaria was printed and three hundred (300) copies were disseminated in a workshop that brought together all actors. Copies were distributed to representatives of the regional health teams; Ministry of Social Development representatives and other partners.
- Other communication activities

ATN Plus brochure was produced in 1500 copies (1000 in French and 500 in English) and distributed to MOH technical offices, technical and financial partners and the regional coordinators of the project.

A poster of ATN Plus was developed with input from the central office of JHU / CCP in Baltimore for the purpose of the institutions annual meeting.

The second CD-ROM containing activities and accomplishments of ATN has been designed and produced in a thousand (1,000) copies with covers.

2.7.2 Key Activities for the next six months for Behavior Change Communication

- The communications assistant advisor will participate in International Conference on Family Planning in November in Kampala, Uganda.
- The communications advisor will participate in the American Public Health Association Meeting in Philadelphia Pennsylvania in November 2009 to present a poster on the Public Private Partnership to promote handwashing with soap at critical moments to reduce the incidence of diarrheal diseases. He will travel with the head of the Hygiene Division who has been a creative and active catalyst for handwashing promotion.
- Support technically and financially the implementation of radio programs at health district Goundam Niafunke and to strengthen the RED approach.
- Support technically and financially the organization of the World Day of handwashing with soap
- Support the organization of the national campaign for family planning at the national level and at the operational level (Mopti region)
- Supervise the communication activities of the national campaign for family planning at regional and operational (Mopti region)

- Develop and produce a pamphlet on Family Planning for traditional communicators
- Establish a hotline for Family Planning with ORTM
- Support the Nutrition Division and CNECS in the identification and implementation of communication activities for the NNW
- Participate in the supervision of the NNW at the regional and operational levels
- Participate in the National Forum on Nutrition

3 Lessons Learned / Obstacles and Solutions

- A good start, although delayed: The delay in the national launch made it difficult to rapidly introduce activities in the regions and in accomplishing workplan objectives. This can be resolved through applying a tighter geographic focus and a focus on results. We look forward to discussing this possibility with USAID Mali during workplan discussions.
- Combining efforts: Combining certain activities such as the dissemination of AMTSL results with monitoring the use of PNP / SR and technical data matrons helped save time and resources. This is the same for training: AMSTL with ENC, Monitoring and Microplanning of EPI and malaria activities all help resources go further.
- Clinical Case Management needs Communication: Communication efforts to inform the population about malaria case management and pre-transfer treatment are critical to rapidly reaching and treating children suffering from malaria. The new case management protocols will not reach their optimal effect without full understanding and compliance by the population (and by health providers).
- The Family Planning Campaign: The reporting out of the results of the family planning campaign underscored the need for quantifying the results of the campaign. ATN Plus made a commitment to assist the Division of Reproductive Health to meet this need in time for the next campaign.

ATN Plus in the coming year will be shifting more of its resources, time, and effort to the operational level. Scaling up key interventions, piloting new interventions and improving data collection and analysis will be key themes in FY 2010.

Annex A: (See separate French technical reports)

Annex B: Progress on milestones linked to fee

Annex C: Success Story on AMTSL