



West
Africa
Regional
Program

WARP

QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER

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The big NEWS is WARP's move to its new Offices in Accra!!!!

On October 01, 2003, the West Africa Regional Program (USAID/WARP) officially moved from Bamako, Mali to Accra, Ghana. WARP will occupy a newly constructed wing within USAID/Accra. Note, however, that WARP's Agriculture/Food Security & Environment Team will remain in Bamako through FY2005.

New WARP
Office Site:
Watch this
Space...



Reproductive Health, Nutrition, Child Survival and HIV/AIDS:

Meeting of Regional HIV/AIDS Capacity Building Coordination Group (RHACG) for West & Central Africa: The West Africa Regional HIV/AIDS Capacity Building Coordination Group (RHACG), which is composed of the UNAIDS/Inter-Country Team, USAID/WARP, CERPOD(Centre d'Etudes et de Recherche sur la Population pour le Développement), WAHO(West Africa Health Organization), FHI and JHPIEGO, met for the first time in August 2003 in Dakar. The purpose of the meeting was to explore ways to build and strengthen capacities in HIV/AIDS planning, implementation, monitoring and reporting.



Technician working in a laboratory in Kribi, Cameroon. The lab was renovated through the WARP's Ambassador's HIV/AIDS Fund

A major outcome of the meeting was a decision to support the multi-donor HIV/AIDS Monitoring and Evaluation (M&E) workshop which will take place in October 2003 in Dakar, Senegal. Participating countries will include Benin, Botswana, Burkina Faso, Cameroon, Côte d'Ivoire, Ethiopia, Ghana, Haiti, Kenya, Madagascar, Malawi, Nigeria, Rwanda, Senegal, South Africa, Tanzania, Uganda, Zambia and Zimbabwe.

The RHACG and the M&E organizers agreed that the effectiveness of the workshop would be enhanced with focused pre- and post-workshop support. With the

concurrence of USAID/Washington conference planners, the RHACG has constituted four teams that will undertake a rapid assessment of country situations in preparation for the workshop.

Team 1: Burkina Faso (Sept. 15-16) and Senegal (Sept.22-23) (CERPOD and JHPIEGO)

Team 2: Benin (Sept. 15-16) and CI (Sept.18-19) (UNAIDS/ICT and JHPIEGO)

Team 3: Ghana (Sept. 22-23) and Nigeria (Sept. 18-19) (WAHO and FHI)

Team 4: Cameroon (Sept. 22-23) (UNAIDS/ICT and FHI).

Assessment of Ambassador's Fund Activity in Cameroon:

An assessment of an activity carried out under the Ambassador's HIV/AIDS fund in Cameroon was conducted August 18-20 in the towns of Kribi, Tiko, and Yaounde. In Kribi and Tiko, sections of local hospitals had been renovated and transformed into Voluntary Counseling and Testing (VCT) centers by a local NGO "Care and Health Program." The centers were furnished with

materials for information, education and communication including audio-visual equipment; two rooms for discrete counseling; and a laboratory. At least two providers in each VCT center have been trained in the techniques of counseling and follow up of clients. On the other hand, the team identified areas to be improved including the necessity of translating the

VCT guidelines and training manuals into English for the English-speakers. The Permanent Secretary of the Cameroon National AIDS Committee, Central Technical Group promised to supply the two

centers with expendable materials ranging from disinfectants to test kits. This will enable the VCT centers to reduce the cost of a single HIV test to one-fifth of the current cost.

Steps Towards Enhanced Regional Commodity Security:

West African countries rely heavily on donors for their contraceptive and condom supplies. Declining donor input and increasing HIV/AIDS programming in the region has resulted in a significant reduction in the provision of commodities in the region, above all contraceptives.

Two key meetings focusing on regional commodity security were held. The first was the Fourth Ordinary Meeting of the West Africa Health Organization (WAHO) in July in Banjul, which featured the participation of the ECOWAS region's Health Ministers. At that meeting, WARP's partner DELIVER made a presentation on regional reproductive health commodity security, its precarious state and possible options for addressing the problem. The presentation was the result of a collaborative effort between donors and concerned regional institutions. The presentation was well received by the Ministers who authorized WAHO to undertake a feasibility study on pooled procurement as a long-term option to address commodity supply issues. WAHO will drive the process.

The second meeting on commodity security was convened by the WARP Health Office. The meeting was organized by DELIVER and attended by a representative from Global Health, health teams of the Benin, Guinea and Ghana Missions, the new WARP/Health partners. The purpose of the meeting was to address the issue of providing contraceptives to an ever increasing number of countries. WARP's previous health program, the FHA Project, provided commodities to four countries (Cote d'Ivoire, Burkina Faso, Cameroon and Togo). Under its current mandate, WARP covers four times as many countries (the greater ECOWAS region) and it now hard pressed to meet the increasing demand. At the commodity consultation meeting the participants developed criteria for commodity allocation to a larger number of countries. Outcomes included an agreement to continue funding commodities for Togo and Cameroon through FY05 while actively engaging in alternative funding options and commodity security plans which may serve as models in the region.

WARP New Health Program Partners:

WARP is very proud to announce its partners for the new West Africa Regional Health Project which begins on October 1, 2003. For reproductive health, child survival, infectious disease and institutional capacity-strengthening, a cooperative agreement was awarded to *Engender Health and its partners Abt Associates, the Academy for International Development (AED) and Management Sciences for Health (MSH)*.

For HIV/AIDS prevention and care/support, a cooperative agreement was awarded to *Family Health International (FHI), with partners Population Services International (PSI) and The Futures Group International/ POLICY Project*. These partnerships represent decades of collective experience in West Africa and bring together vast expertise and experience in key technical areas. All partners will be initially based in Accra.

WARP/Health will also collaborate with CDC, both the Atlanta headquarters and the regional office- Retro- in Côte d'Ivoire to provide technical assistance and training to improve and standardize HIV/STI surveillance systems in the region; improve data analysis capability for use in M&E surveillance, decision making and planning, build the monitoring and evaluation capacity of regional and national institutions and develop capacity in field epidemiology in public health in general and specifically in HIV/STIs prevention care and support and program implementation.

In addition, WARP will provide direct grants with *two regional health sector institutions, WAHO and CERPOD* to strengthen institutional capacity. These grants will also fund specific policy support and research activities in the region.

The first meeting of the partners working under this new program is scheduled for the first week in October and will include implementing partners, donors and USAID/Washington supporters. The meeting will initiate the work planning process and result in improved collaboration and coordination among the partners.

Next Quarter Events:

1. **PHN Technical Advisor Group (TAG) Meeting, November 20-21 in Accra, Ghana:**

Following the WARP Governing Board Meeting, WARP's Health Team will hold its annual TAG meeting. The meeting will gather PHN Officers and representatives from the non-USAID presence countries to discuss the new WARP Health Program and regional health issues. More information on that meeting will be shared with the relevant parties.

2. **Health Program M&E Meeting-**
The WARP Health Program plans to

gather partners for a second time in early December to prepare the Project Monitoring Plans to ensure for effective monitoring and evaluation of its programs. More information on that meeting will be shared with relevant parties.

3. **Reproductive Health Directors Meeting-** As a follow-up on the commodity security issue, reproductive health program managers will be convened in November by WAHO and EngenderHealth to build consensus and set the agenda for regional commodity security.

For more information about upcoming or past FHA activities, visit: www.fha-sfps.org

Food Security, Natural Resources Management & Environment:

Food Crisis Prevention Meeting:

WARP staff is participating in all the Permanent Interstate Committee for Drought Control in the Sahel (CILSS) Crisis Prevention meetings throughout the 2003 cropping season.

CILSS is forecasting record crop production for the entire Sahel region in this year's

agricultural season. USAID/WARP is CILSS's major donor- provides ongoing support to CILSS to carry out its Food Monitoring and Crisis Prevention responsibilities.

Vulnerability Assessment and Monitoring: USAID/WARP is a member of the Technical Committee for Vulnerability Assessment and Monitoring of the CILSS countries. The group recently came to agreement on an approach for the harmonisation of the methods to identify and

analyse zones at risk and vulnerable people within the CILSS countries. A document explaining the approach will be submitted to partners and to the CILSS Council of the Ministers in December.



WARP's Food Security Advisor Jorge Oliveira (right) participating in the Food Crisis Prevention Meeting in Niamey in September 2003

Upcoming Events:

During the next quarter, WARP will take part in the following activities linked to the CILSS program:

- Annual meeting to analyse the provisional forecast of crop production from the 2003/2004 agricultural season;
- Series of meetings during early December to prepare for the CILSS Heads of the States Summit Meeting;
- Sahelian Food Crisis Prevention Meeting;
- CILSS Annual Work Plan Meetings;
- CILSS Partners meeting;
- Regional Committee for Monitoring and Programming of CILSS;
- CILSS Endowment sponsor group meeting.

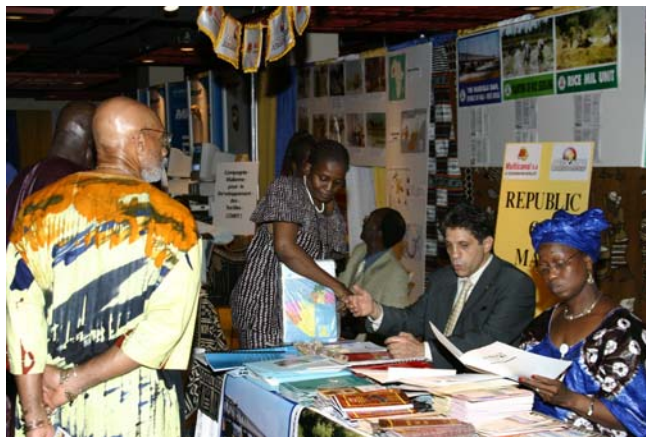
Initiative to End Hunger in Africa (IEHA):

This summer, WARP's action plan for agriculture was granted provisional approval. Under the Science and Technology part of this program, WARP will be supporting rice, maize, sorghum, and millet commodity networks in 2004 (in association with WARDA, IITA and ICRISAT). Under the rubric of markets and trade, WARP will be implementing a regional Market Information System (see page 7). In biotechnology, WARP chose to buy into several field support mechanisms that will support development of biotech policies and provide technical assistance in developing biotech programs. The Agricultural Biotechnology Support Project (ABSP) II will be used to promote the application of modern biotechnology tools to improving agricultural productivity. The Program for Biosafety Systems (PBS) will address biosafety regulatory policy.

Regional Economic Integration:

The West African Business Links (WAIBL) Program successfully presented two workshops on trade financing and export development at the Corporate Council on Africa's Forth business summit, held this year in Washington, DC. Over twenty West Africans were selected to receive partial funding to attend the Summit. Programming included five women partially sponsored by the ECOGEE program. All participants

competed for spaces were required to submit a full business plan and consideration. Each participant met with US businesses. To date this program has registered nearly \$75 million in US sales directly related to its interventions. In addition to staffing its own booth, WAIBL staff worked with the Gambian and Malian delegation in planning workshops and booth presentations.



Mali booth for
CCA Summit

The first in a series of management training program for the ECOWAS Secretariat was held in August 2003. Participants included the ECOWAS's senior management staff. The series includes planning and team building. This is the first of this type of

training since ECOWAS was born 27 years ago. Expect great things! Early in August a meeting of donors and the WAEMU Commission, ECOWAS Secretariat staff, and the ADB met to discuss the newly launched regional program on Transportation Facilitation for Trade. A

region-wide stake holders meeting will be held in Accra in November with assistance from WARP through the Trade Hub.

In late August the ECOTrade Team (which is working on the development of the ECOWAS customs union) met with all non-

WAEMU countries to review progress in tariff consolidation and scheduling to harmonize customs programs throughout the region under the expansion of the common external tariff for the ECOWAS region.

Upcoming Events this Quarter:

Market Information Systems: With funding provided under IEHA, USAID/WARP has launched a new project that aims at increasing trade of agricultural products and inputs within the region. USAID/WARP has made two awards, each with a 6 month Base Period starting on October 1st. The Base Period is the design phase of the activity. Note that both grantees have been instructed to contact those USAID Missions and US Embassies that have expressed an interest in supporting the development of market information systems, and that the inputs received from Missions and Embassies will be incorporated into the project design to the greatest extent possible. The two design awards include a follow-on Option Period (Implementation Phase) for up to 4 1/2 years in duration. One of the two competing designs produced during the Base Period will be selected for the award of the follow-on Option Period.

In October the West African Trade Hub will join together with several other WARP programs to deliver trade capacity building opportunities to the private sector in West Africa.

Mid October, the first of the paired business linkage programs will be delivered by CCA under WAIBL with the partnership of the Trade Hub. The focus of this round of programming enables West African textile enterprises to learn about trade and trade finance with the US businesses. A second program follows in November in the United States.

Doing Business With the US, a program jointly designed with the WAIBL staff and the US Embassy in Ouagadougou will take place on October 18. The program was largely funded under the State Department Business Facilitation Fund with some assistance through the WARP funded WAIBL program.

The West African Businesswomen's Network (WABNET) holds its second annual plenary meeting in Conakry late in October, with support under the ECOGEE program. The Trade Hub and WAIBL will also join the programming. In addition to annual planning, several days of in depth training offers a range of business development assistance to members.

West Africa Trade Hub Update:

The Trade Hub is a program that covers 18 West African countries and is intended to encourage West African exports, particularly under AGOA. The program, implemented by Carana Corporation in association with Abt Associates, began operations earlier this year and works out of offices in Accra.

July-September Activities. WATH has completed an inventory of trade capacity building (TCB) activities in the region. This database, which will be available on the WATH website shortly, allows users to identify TCB programs implemented during the past three years, by the type of program, by country, by type of beneficiary or by donor. To improve the availability of AGOA information to businesses, WATH initiated a program to strengthen the AGOA Resource Centers that were developed by WARP over the last eighteen months. Centers are currently located in Benin, Cape Verde, Gambia, Ghana, Guinea, Mali, Niger, Senegal, and Sierra Leone and most have been surveyed by WATH staff. Additional centers will be established and negotiations to set up new centers in Nigeria are currently underway. WATH has a special focus on hand-woven textiles, and staff have identified producers and vendors in Niger, Mali, and Ghana, assessed production constraints and provided training about U.S. market opportunities and requirements. WATH has also initiated efforts to help countries (eventually including Cameroon, Ghana, Mali, Niger, Senegal and Sierra Leone) to complete applications for textile VISAs and/or Category 9 Certifications for the export of hand-woven textiles.

October-December Planned Activities. WATH will support and lead sessions at several key regional conferences, including (1) a World Bank-sponsored regional transportation/trade facilitation conference (Accra, Nov.11-14), (2) WAIBL Textile and Trade Seminar (Accra, Oct. 16), (3) the West African Businesswomen Network 2003 General Assembly (Conakry, Oct. 18-25), (4) the Festival International de la Mode Africaine (FIMA) (Niger, Dec. 1-6), and (5) the AGOA Forum (Washington, D.C., Dec. 08-11).

The transportation conference will bring together private and public sector stakeholders and is expect to result in World Bank and WATH programs to reduce transportation bottlenecks (costs) constraining regional and external trade. WATH will provide technical support to a WAEMU program to improve and harmonize SPS standards. WATH will upgrade and expand information and training materials available through existing AGOA Resource Centers, and it will launch at least one new center in Nigeria. WATH will expand its training of hand-woven textile producers and potential exporters, converting its training materials into tutorials on its website.

For more information on the West African Trade Hub, please contact the Chief of Party at:
Website: www.watradehub.com or info@watradehub.com

West Africa Power Pool (WAPP) Update:

Recent Activities:

In the first half of September, AIRD and Purdue University organized a 15-day training session in Indiana for two West African electricity modeling specialists conducting analysis of the development of electricity trading within the West African Power Pool (WAPP). The modelers, originally trained at Purdue in August-September 2002, learned advanced techniques for (a) using the model to conduct policy analysis, (b) writing coherent reports based on the model's conclusions, and (c) preparing and giving public presentations. The modelers will present their findings to the WAPP Technical Working Group at the next meeting in Senegal in November.

Upcoming Events:

- The WAPP will convene its semi-annual Steering Committee meeting in Dakar, Senegal from November 03-07. At this meeting, the Energy Ministers are expected to approve the Zone B Priority Projects (Zone B extends from Senegal to Cote D'Ivoire).
- This fall, USAID will begin work on a "stability study" of the regional power system. The stability study will be used to help prepare financing documentation for bank loans associated with transmission investments in the region. The study will update previous analyses regarding: (a) the long-term vision and the implementation strategy of the regional transmission system; (b) the main characteristics and capital costs of the regional transmission investment program over the next 17 years (2020 horizon), more specifically over the first 4 years (2004-2007); and (c) the stability, reliability and operationality of the regional systems.

Regional Conflict Prevention:

USAID/WARP received the courtesy visit of the Economic Community of West Africa States Deputy Secretary for the Department of Defense and Political Affairs, General Cheick Oumar Diarra who expressed concerns over the political

situations in Liberia and the coup in Guinea Bissau. General Diarra and the WARP Director Carleene Dei discussed the outstanding issues and upcoming events between WARP and Diarra's department.

General Cheick Oumar Diarra (left) meeting with WARP Director Carleene Dei (center), & Moussokoro Kane (right), WARP Program Development Specialist



The USAID/WARP through a contract with Deloitte and Touche delivered 10 computers and 2 printers along with the necessary network connections to the ECOWAS Office of Accounting and Financial Management in Abuja on July 21, 2003. Additionally, the Salomon IV accounting software was installed and partially configured. The contractors also submitted to ECOWAS two draft manuals: one for Financial Management Policies and Procedures and a second one for the operation of the accounting software

advance payment and budget monitoring modules.

WARP has hired through United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) a Trafficking in Person consultant/expert to assess the implementation of the ECOWAS Action Plan against Trafficking in Persons in the member countries. The findings of his assessment will become available in December.

Upcoming Events this Quarter:

The Catholic Relief Services/West Africa Network for Peacebuilding will be conducting its mid-term review on October 21-22, 2003 after one year of implementation. The objective of this activity is to strengthen Civil Society Organizations' capacity in conflict prevention, mitigation and resolution.

Deloitte and Touche will finish the configuration of the system and the training of the users and seek approval of the

financial management policies and procedures. ECOWAS and the contractors will also start entering the data for all the months of 2003.

WARP Program Integration and Coordination Advisor Pat Rainey attended the anticorruption meeting in Yaounde, October 7-10, 2003.

Regional Environmental Advisor (REA) Update:

Ralph Conley, WARP's REO left the region in September 2003. He has taken up a position as a Senior Advisor with the Central African environmental protection project known as CARPE. We will miss him.

Robert Clausen, our new REO, arrived in Accra on September 29th. He will be contacting USAID Missions shortly to introduce himself, assess needs and prepare a work plan. Please extend a warm welcome to him. Rob has over 25 years experience working as an environmental/natural resource management specialist in North America, Africa, Asia, Eastern Europe and Central America. More

than half of that time has been on long-term assignments in Africa and Madagascar. His experience has focused primarily on project and program management, technical assistance, and capacity building in the fields of environmental management, forestry, agroforestry, biodiversity conservation, and community based natural resource management.



New WARP/REA Robert Clausen

*** Note that Missions requiring the services of the Environmental Advisor should contact him as early as possible given the volume of requests for his services.**

WARP Staff:**Accra Based:**

- ✚ Carleene H. Dei, Mission Director
- ✚ Ryan Washburn, Economics Officer/Economic Integration Team Leader
- ✚ Moussokoro Kané, Program Development Specialist
- ✚ Patricia Rainey, Program Integration & Coordination Advisor
- ✚ Robert Clausen, Regional Environmental Advisor
- ✚ Margaret Quarcoo, Administrative & Communication Specialist
- ✚ Felix Awantang, Health Officer/ Health Team Leader
- ✚ Willibrord Shasha, FHA Technical Director

Mali based:

- ✚ Rolf Anderson, Environmental Officer/Food Security Team Leader
- ✚ Jean Harman, Senior Trade and Investment Advisor
- ✚ Jorge Oliveira, Food Security/NRM Advisor
- ✚ Oumou Diakité, Program Management Assistant/Newsletter Coordinator
- ✚ Daouda Touré, Administrative Assistant

Advisory Board Members:

WARP Personnel

USAID WEST African Mission Directors

USAID/AFR/DP/SD and WA Directors

U.S. Ambassadors for West Africa Non-Presence countries

The WARP Quarterly Newsletter provides our readers with news about activities and events taking place in our program. Please submit all comments and thoughts about our Newsletter, to cdei@usaid.gov and oudiakite@usaid.gov.

