

Project Name: Food and Nutrition Technical Assistance (FANTA) Project
Agreement Type: Field Support
Duration: 2000-2008
Geographic Scope: All India
Technical Assistance Agencies: Academy for Educational Development (AED)
Implementing Agency: CARE, Catholic Relief Services (CRS)

DESCRIPTION:

The FANTA Project supports integrated food security and nutrition programming to improve the health and well-being of women and children. FANTA is a 10-year Cooperative Agreement managed by the Academy for Educational Development and funded by USAID. FANTA provides technical assistance to USAID missions and host governments, private voluntary organizations (PVOs) and non-governmental organizations (NGOs) to improve program design, implementation, monitoring, and evaluation. In India, FANTA provides technical assistance to USAID/New Delhi and its Title II PVO partners, CARE and CRS, assesses and strengthens the effectiveness of food security programs, supports the replication of program approaches and practices developed through the Title II program into the broader Government of India (GOI) Integrated Child Development Services (ICDS) program area, and supports the program transition for phase out of Title II resources supporting ICDS.

KEY ACTIVITIES:

- In partnership with CARE and GOI, develop and roll out quality standards for key ICDS practices and approaches. Through a process of consultation, documentation, and capacity building, apply the quality standards to support replication of successful approaches from CARE-supported program areas into the larger ICDS program. Provide intensive technical assistance in Andhra Pradesh and Chhattisgarh to support universal replication in these states, and broader technical assistance nationally through sharing of experiences and materials to support replication in other states.
- Work with CARE and GOI to establish a national resource center that supports implementation of effective ICDS approaches and practices. The center, to be housed in an existing institution, will contain and disseminate information, tools, and resource materials that support best practices in ICDS programming.

KEY ACHIEVEMENTS:

- Carried out an assessment of key ICDS program tools and approaches developed by CARE's Title II program.
- Carried out an assessment of the financial and operational viability of decentralized food models used in the ICDS program and the models' impacts on the core ICDS program.
- In collaboration with FANTA subcontractor International Food Policy Research Institute (IFPRI), carried out a study of the progress and impacts of the transition from Title II food commodities to locally procured food, and conducted national workshops for Government and CARE stakeholders to present results and identify options to strengthen program processes and impacts related to the transition.
- Conducted a program review and developed a recommended scenario for changes to Title II programs in response to the need to phase-down the program and to reductions in commodities due to Government of India's decision not to allow import of corn-soy blend.
- In consultation with the Mission, CARE, and CRS, developed a long-term plan for phase-down of the Title II programs that served as the basis for USAID's proposal to OMB.
- Reviewed global experience with program graduation and exit strategies in food aid programs, and provided recommendations for application to India.
- Participated in the Mid—Term Review of CARE's RACHNA program (Integrated Nutrition and Health Project II and Chayan Project).

CONTACT INFORMATION:

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