



REPUBLIQUE DU MALI
MINISTERE DE LA SANTE
Un Peuple – Un But – Une Foi.



PROGRAMME SANTE USAID
ASSISTANCE TECHNIQUE NATIONALE (ATN)

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Acronyms

ACT	Artemisinin-Based Combination Anti-Malarial drug
ATN	National Technical Assistance Project
CNI	National Center of Immunization
CNIECS	Center for the Information, Education, and Communication for Health
CCIA	Inter Agency Coordination Committee
CDD	Control of the Diarrheal Disease
CLIC	Community Learning and Information Center
CPN	Prenatal Consultation
CSCOM	Community Health Center
DNS	National Direction of the Health
DN	Division of Nutrition
DSR	Division of Reproductive Health
DPTP	Diphtheria Pertussis Tetanus and Polio Vaccine
EDS	Demographic and Health Survey
FNUAP	UN Fund for Population
HKI	Hellen Keller International
HPP	Post-Partum Hemmorage
ICP	Interpersonal Communication
INRSP	National Institute of Public Health Research
IPT	Intermittent Preventive Treatment
NIDS	National Immunization Days
MAC	Malaria Action Coalition
NGO	Non-governmental Organization
WHO	World Health Organization
PRODESS	Program for the Development of Health and Social Services
PNLP	National Malaria Control Program
PSNAN	National Strategic Plan for Nutrition
PEV	Expanded Program for Immunizations
PCIME	Integrated Case Management of Child Illness
PF	Family Planning
KC	Keneya Ciwara
SBC	Community Based Services
SIS	Health Information System
SIAN	Nutrition Weeks
SRO	Oral Rehydration Salts
TPI	Intermittent Preventive Treatment of Malaria
TRO	Oral Rehydration Therapy
USAID	United States Agency for International Development
UNICEF	United Nations Children's Fund
VAT	Anti-tetanus Vaccine

1 INTRODUCTION

The present document constitutes the first semester report for fiscal year 2005 of USAID's Health Program / National Technical Assistance (ATN) project. This report covers the activities of the period October 2004 to March 2005, the first semester of ATN's second year of operation.

The staff working at ATN have become a stable, productive and dynamic team. Advisors for each component have developed fruitful and transparent relationships with their various counterparts in the Ministry of Health. Through a process of ongoing consultation with USAID Mali's Health team and a productive collaboration with the Ministry of the Health and other partners, ATN is able to work towards achieving USAID's strategic objective in health: Increased Use of High Impact Services within the framework of PRODESS.

These first six months have seen the project working closely with the different high impact services, trying to prioritize their activities towards a higher coverage of the target population. Special attention in this period went into finalizing and validating policies for family planning and malaria, as well as ensuring integrated implementation of Vitamin A supplementation and national immunization days.

This first semester report presents the two important project components: high impact services and cross-cutting interventions, and discusses activities carried out during this period, lessons learned, and obstacles encountered and planned activities for the semester.

2 COMPONENT I: High Impact Services

2.1 Nutrition

ATN's long-term strategy for nutrition is to create capacity and institutionalize the SIAN and other nutritional activities into the routine nutrition activities of the MOH. The present semester report reflects the principal activities undertaken by ATN according to the 2005 Workplan. These activities were accomplished in collaboration with various key partners including the Nutrition Division of the National Direction of the Health. The activities are designed to meet the principal nutrition objective of universal vitamin A coverage of all children 6 to 59 months. Current coverage with vitamin A after the July 2004 SIAN evaluation is 83% for children 6-59 months and estimates of coverage from the Vitamin A/NIDS activity of February 2005 are 84% for children 6-11 months and 75% for children 12-59 months (MOH statistics). "Synergy" activities which are carried out with USAID programs funded under other strategic objectives, in this case Education, were also developed further as outlined in the Workplan.

2.1.1 Accomplishments of the past six months

1. SIAN (Nutrition Weeks) / National Immunization Days coupled with vitamin A

1.1. Evaluation of SIAN

- ✓ Production of the final version of the evaluation report of the SIAN with HKI and the Nutrition Division
- ✓ Dissemination of the evaluation report with all partners (DNS, USAID, HKI, UNICEF)
- ✓ Support to the Nutrition Division for the production of the final results report of the SIAN for 2004

- ✓ Preparation meetings for the workshop of the restitution and of validation of the SIAN results for 2004 and the SIAN Evaluation
- ✓ Organization of the restitution workshop and validation of the SIAN results 2004 and their Evaluation presided by the National Director of Health February 2005 at the INRSP. This workshop brought together forty participants from national and regional levels, including regional directors of health from most of Mali's regions.

1.2. Coupling of the administration of Vitamin A with National Immunization Days (NIDS Polio) in February 2005

- ✓ Organization and participation in a coordination meeting to discuss the financing of vitamin A distribution activities of vitamin A with various key partners: DNS, USAID, UNICEF and HKI prior to the NIDS / vitamin A in February 2005
- ✓ Development and harmonization of the data collection forms and tools for vitamin A (tally sheets, summary forms, supervision and monitoring forms, training guide for training volunteer distributors) during the February NID 2005
- ✓ Coordination meetings to review data collection forms for vitamin A during the NIDS/vitamin A in February 2005
- ✓ Printing and distribution to the DNS of operational forms (24,496 copies of training guides for supervisor training, 24,496 training guides for the vaccinators / distributors, 47,465 tally sheets for vitamin A, 15,854 summary tally sheets of the day's results, 2,450 tally sheets for supervisors, 19,026 monitoring and evaluation forms, and 37,455 plastic bags. Scissors for cutting vitamin A capsules for each vaccination/ distribution team were provided during the NIDS/vitamin A.
- ✓ Development and review with CNIECS of the mass media messages for the NIDS/vitamin A in February 2005
- ✓ Participation in the training of the national supervisors for the NIDS/vitamin A in February at WHO
- ✓ Supervision visit during the NIDS/vitamin A in February 2005 in the Segou region
- ✓ In March 2005 participation in the final results workshop of the organizing committee and the pilot committee of the NIDS/vitamin A February 2005 activities

2. The National Strategic Plan for Food and Nutrition (PSNAN)

- ✓ Facilitation of the technical assistance mission of Dr Mohamed Ag Bendeck of HKI in November 2004 to prepare for a revision and validation workshop of the National Strategic Plan for Food and Nutrition (PSNAN)
- ✓ Organization of technical meetings to discuss the revision of the PSNAN was held with various key nutrition partners (DNS, CPS/MOH, INRSP, DNPEF, REMANUT, UNICEF, WHO, PKC, GP/SP, HKI, PKC and the Dutch Aid offices)
- ✓ Dr Mohamed Ag Bendeck of HKI received the current draft of the PSNAN in March 25 2005 and will lead the technical revision in the next semester.

3. PROFILES Nutrition in collaboration with POLICY Project

- ✓ Organization of coordination meetings with POLICY Project to prepare the validation workshop of PROFILES Nutrition
- ✓ Organization of the validation workshop of PROFILES Nutrition February

- 2005 at the Palais du Congres
- ✓ Finalization of the various PROFILES tools after the validation workshop
- ✓ Consultation with POLICY for the preparation of the workshop for the training of presenters on the PROFILES model.

4. Synergy Activities with World Education

- ✓ Coordination meetings with World Education staff on the preparation of information boards on vitamin A for use by Parent/Teacher groups, teachers, literacy trainers, and other community groups to increase awareness of vitamin A deficiency and increase participation in vitamin A supplementation activities.
- ✓ Preparation of preliminary draft of the information boards on vitamin A prepared after consultation meetings with World Education staff on target groups and appropriate formats.

5. Control of Diarrheal Disease and Zinc

- ✓ Coordination and preparation meetings with key partners: MOH/ DNS, USAID, PSI, Keneya Ciwara, CREDOS, SAVE, WHO and UNICEF for preliminary discussions around the control of diarrheal disease with zinc.
- ✓ Elaboration of the terms of reference and the agenda of the Consultative Meeting on the “Revitalization of Prevention and Case Management of Diarrheal Diseases” to be held in the second semester.

6. Other activities

- ✓ Technical revision and production of updated messages and images on nutrition for a nutrition flipchart prepared under the previous USAID Mali bilateral project. This revision was done in collaboration with the CНИЕCS. 970 copies of the flip chart were produced for distribution to health facility workers. These were provided to the National Health Direction for distribution to Regional Health Directions, the Referral Health Centers, and also and especially to Community Health Centers and NGOs working in health.
- ✓ Organization of a reporting out meeting of the 9^{ème} Forum Nutrition of Cotonou (of September 2004) on the Nutrition and HIV/AIDS
- ✓ Development and presentation of: *Vitamin A Capsule Distribution in Mali through National Nutrition Weeks: Reaching and Maintaining High vitamin A Supplementation Coverage* to the International vitamin A Consultative Group (IVACG) meeting in Lima Peru in November 2004
- ✓ Participation in meetings of the Nutrition Technical Partners
- ✓ Participation in the coordination meetings of the fortification project of HUICOMA oil with vitamin A
- ✓ Technical support to the DN for the preparation of Mali’s presentation regarding supplementation in Iron/Folic Acid to the workshop in Bobo Dioulasso (December 2004) on anemia control in the CEDEAO countries
- ✓ Participation in the conception and the production of a radio program on high impact health services
- ✓ Participation in a reporting out workshops for focusing on advocacy for Iodine control held in Dakar in November 2004 and the consensus declaration of Bobo Dioulasso December 2004 for anemia control in the West African region
- ✓ Technical support to the development of a national policy document addressing nutrition of persons living with HIV/AIDS and the community.

2.1.2 Lessons Learned

The synergy activities constitute an entry point for developing nutrition activities in other sectors and also allow for larger population groups to be reached with awareness and mobilization activities.

2.1.3 Obstacles/Challenges encountered

The late decision to combine vitamin A distribution with the Polio NIDS contributed to the weak coverage rates in vitamin A of children during the February 2005 NIDS. Additional analysis and a one page brief of lessons learned will be prepared outlining the major points around vitamin A and Polio NIDS implementation.

The problem with addressing nutrition programmatically persists at the national level and remains a challenge for ATN (the main example being the coupling of the vitamin A with NIDS in February 2005). ATN will continue to increase awareness on the importance of addressing nutrition more effectively.

2.1.4 Key activities planned for the next six months

- Consultative meeting on: “Revitalization of Prevention and Case Management of Diarrheal Diseases”
- Lesson learned from the NIDS/vitamin A February 2005 activities
- Training of national-level trainers for PROFILES Nutrition
- PROFILE Nutrition training of trainers at the regional level
- Provision of a multimedia projector to the Nutrition Division of the DNS
- Provision of copies of final SIAN and SIAN evaluation reports for dissemination to the Nutrition Division
- Coordination meetings with the DSSAN of CPS/MOH for the preparation of the validation workshop of the PSNAN
- Validation and dissemination of the National Strategic Plan for Food and Nutrition (PSNAN)
- Technical Consultancy mission of Dr Mohamed Ag Bendeche of HKI for the validation of the National Strategic Plan for Food and Nutrition(PSNAN)
- Feedback and training on the website: www.malinut.net
- Consultation meetings on the organization of the SIAN or the coupling of the distribution of vitamin A with the October or November NIDS 2005
- Organization of the World-wide Breastfeeding Week
- Synergy activities: Production and Multiplication of the information boards on the vitamin A for pilot sites with World Education

2.2 Vaccination

ATN’s strategy for vaccination is to strengthen the MOH’s capacity to implement the National Immunization Days (NID) while strengthening their capacity to provide EPI within the context of routine service implementation.

The semester was dominated by the organization and implementation of several different NIDs: three for Polio (October, November 2004 and February 2005) and one for measles in December 2004. Overall results of these NIDs demonstrated high coverage (over 100% for each Polio NID and the Measles NID) in total numbers of children vaccinated. However, Mali in 2005 will focus on quality indicators for NIDs in order to reach every child and due to the number of polio cases confirmed during the semester.

USAID and the ATN project play a key role in vaccination activities through active participation in the planning and implementation of the NIDS and through technical support to routine vaccination activities. The semester saw the start of support activities to the health districts of Niafunké and Goundam under the approach “Reach Every District” or ACD which is designed to strengthen routine immunization services through improved planning, training and supervision.

2.2.1 Accomplishments of the past six months

For all activities and achievements listed here activity reports are prepared and shared with all partners supporting vaccination.

1. National Immunization Days

- ✓ Participation in the preparatory meetings for the Polio NIDS of 2004, February 2005 and in the measles campaign of December 2004: revision of the NIDS tools, training of the independent monitors and supervisors of the NIDS;
- ✓ Participation in national supervision visits for the supervision of technical and social mobilization activities during all these editions of NIDS. Visits took place in the region of Kayes in October 2004, Segou in November 2004, Kayes in December 2004, and Mopti in February 2005.

2. Participation in international meetings

- ✓ Participation in WHO sponsored regional meeting to review results from the first synchronized Polio NIDS in October 2004. The meeting was held in Bamako in November 2004
- ✓ Participation in an international training on the management of EPI (MLM) to Dakar (Saly) with the head of the Immunization section, November 2004
- ✓ Participation in the Task Force On Immunization (TFI) meeting in Bamako in December 2004; including a poster presentation on the Malian experience of advocacy for EPI with religious and community leaders
- ✓ Participation in meetings with Washington-based Africa Bureau vaccination manager and the manager of USAID’s Polio Eradication Initiative to discuss USAID Mali’s activities. ATN received PEI funds which will be programmed for FY 2006.
- ✓ Participation in the Annual Meeting of EPI Directors in Ouagadougou January 2005
- ✓ Participation in the Inter-country meeting on vaccine independence initiative March 2005

3. Partnership activities

- ✓ Participation in periodic meetings of the EPI group which includes EPI focal points from WHO, UNICEF, and the head of the Immunization Section of the DNS
- ✓ Participation in meetings with field coordinators of the Keneya Ciwara project on vaccination activities
- ✓ Participation in periodic meetings of the Coordination (Pilot) Committee of the NIDS 2004 and 2005

4. Support to the Immunization Section of the DNS

1. Support and participation in the production of the memorandum and technical directives, training guides and supervision of NIDS activities and routine vaccination in collaboration with WHO, the Center for Vaccine Development and UNICEF for successful implementation of the Action Plan of the Immunization Section
2. Joint mission with the Immunization Section and ATN to explain the approach ACD to EPI managers and the head of the Regional Health Direction of Tombouctou and districts of Niafunké and of Goundam, undertake a situation analysis of EPI in these circles
3. Programming of the first activities of the ACD in the selected districts;
4. Participation in the revision of the terms of reference of the EPI external revue planned for 2005

5. Communication activities

- ✓ The key activities in this area consist of the support to the development of the message for NIDS Polio 2004 and the measles campaign 2004 (texts for radio and television spots, advertisements and generic messages), production of hats, T-shirts and banners for social mobilization with Polio and EPI messages; for the NIDS / vitamin A for 2005 ATN produced hats, T-shirts, and armbands for the vaccination teams.
- ✓ Participation in preparatory meetings and attendance in the Pan African Forum on the reinforcement of the Partnership for Immunization and Child Survival with religious and traditional leaders and the mass media to Dakar (Senegal) organized by UNICEF in October 2004. An important Malian delegation led by the Minister of the Health participated as well as the participation by four (4) members of this delegation (traditional leaders and the media) sponsored by ATN
- ✓ Participation in the revision of the communication plan of NIDS/vitamin A 2005;
- ✓ Production of an audio cassette on the importance of the vaccination in Sarakollé to be used by local media as part of the Integrated Communication Plan (PIC/PEV) process and tools previously developed by BASICS and whose dissemination and production was continued by ATN;

2.2.2 Lessons Learned

As previously mentioned in the nutrition section of this report, the Polio NIDS combined with the distribution of the vitamin A could have been better organized. In the future, we will draw from lessons learned around the mistakes made (i.e. incomplete or poorly completed tally sheets by the vaccinators, stock outs in vitamin A, incomplete training of vaccination teams in vitamin A distribution, poor central level planning).

The supplemental vaccination activities (NIDS) take up a large portion of time in the Immunization section's workplan in comparison with that consecrated to routine vaccination, this will continue in 2005 with five editions of Polio NIDS and a country-wide Neonatal and Maternal Tetanus vaccination campaign.

2.2.3 Obstacles/Challenges encountered

The majority of the programmed activities usually took place but with some delays noted. Routine immunization activities planned by ATN with the Immunization Section, such as supervision visits, were set aside this semester due to lack of availability of Immunization

Section personnel to plan and travel with ATN. The Immunization Section in general lacks sufficient human resources for the critical amount of work they must carry out for both NIDS and routine vaccination activities.

The activities are carried out in close collaboration with other vaccination partners (Immunization Section, WHO, UNICEF and CVD) this collaboration can sometimes create implementation delays due to schedule conflicts.

2.2.4 Key activities planned for the next six months

- ✓ Participation in the dissemination of the PIC/PEV and relevant tools to NGOs;
- ✓ Continued production of the radio series on the importance of the vaccination
- ✓ Structured training sessions on monitoring in the ACD districts and follow up supervision;
- ✓ Participate in the joint quarterly supervision visits and follow-up on the activities of ACD with partners;
- ✓ Follow up on the use of PIC/PEV tools;
- ✓ Support the introduction plan for the vaccine anti-hémophilus Influenza B (training, followed by implementation);
- ✓ Contribute to the training of EPI program administrators at the national and regional level on the usage of the microplanning tool
- ✓ Support the organization of the next Polio NIDS rounds
- ✓ Support the EPI review for Mali, scheduled for June 2005; ATN will support external consultants and provide technical assistance to the implementation of the review

2.3 Malaria Control Program

ATN has continued its support to the NMCP in changing policy for prophylaxis for pregnant women with intermittent preventive treatment (IPT) and case management with Artemisinin-Based Combination Anti-Malarial drug (ACT). In this line ATN has participated in a series of meetings and workshops related to policy reformulation.

2.3.1 Accomplishments of the past six months

ATN, in collaboration with MAC, supported the organization of a half day workshop, during which Chloroquine resistance was discussed. All key actors within and outside the Ministry of Health were invited to this workshop. A consensus was reached that Chloroquine resistance is high and a change in the first line drug with ACT was needed. Several working groups were established to define the new policy and its roll out. A second workshop was held to choose the first line drug for malaria among the various ACT options; a combination of Artesunate and Amodiaquine was selected for first line treatment of uncomplicated malaria. However, several other issues remain unresolved as yet: the strategy for rolling out the new policy, the strategy for home-based management, use of presumptive diagnosis vs. biological (lab or rapid test) diagnosis, and the affordability of ACT for the average Malian.

For IPT, it appeared that this new policy is encountering some resistance from health providers (as identified during discussions at the CROCEPS). ATN has supported the drafting of a Technical Note on IPT that will be given to the Regional Directors for distribution in their regions.

2.3.2 Lessons learned

A change in policy must always involve the various stakeholders, and this did not happen as much as was needed in the beginning. The MOH appears to not completely recognize the

complexity of policy implementation and the need for systems strengthening to ensure effective implementation. Coverage for treatment of malaria under the previous first line drug was not optimal. Thus, the issue is not just the change in drug but also how to ensure that this new drug effectively reaches those who need treatment, with priority for women and children, those most at risk.

2.3.3 Obstacles/Challenges encountered

The implementation of the new IPT policy will require effective follow-up; once the Technical Note is issued. ATN plans to conduct supervision visits to ensure that health workers integrate IPT into ANC along with the new policy on IFA.

Concerns remains for case management that CTA cannot be handled properly at community level, where most of current fever cases are managed. ATN is advocating and will continue to advocate for some operations research to address this issue.

As there is some concern about lack of coordination among partners in malaria, ATN will advocate for a coordination team that will meet on a regular basis to discuss transparently the various issues.

2.3.4 Key activities planned for the next six months

- ✓ Assist the PNLN to finalize and distribute the Technical Note on IPT;
- ✓ Implement media campaign on local radio (*radio de proximité*) to sensitize the population about the new policy;
- ✓ Follow-up on implementation of the IPT policy integrated into antenatal care in the regions;
- ✓ Assist the PNLN in clarifying remaining issues related to ACT policy implementation

2.4 Control of diarrheal diseases

ATN's strategy for diarrheal diseases is to help the MOH strengthen the policy development and implementation process for the control of diarrheal diseases.

2.4.1 Accomplishments of the past six months

During the semester a first consultation meeting between USAID partners (PSI, PKC, SAVE, ATN) was held to begin discussing the policy position and activities on diarrheal disease prevention and case management. As a next step, it was decided that ATN with partners from the DNS, UNICEF, and WHO will structure a consultative meeting on the prevention and case management of diarrheal diseases during 2005. Several planning meetings took place and CREDOS was engaged to provide technical assistance. The terms of reference for the meeting, the agenda, and a speakers list were discussed. The meeting will be held in April 2005.

2.4.2 Lessons Learned

- ✓ Adequate planning and lead time for the consultative meeting allowed for a variety of partners to participate in the planning discussions
- ✓ The meeting is occurring at a critical juncture. Strong interest in the topic exists among all partners and the DNS due to the continuing need for a clear workable policy (ORS is recommended but not available for example) and

due to the availability of new research on the effectiveness of interventions such as handwashing and the new ORS formulation with zinc.

- ✓ In order for ownership of the activity to occur a local research institution, CREDOS, was selected to foster the activity during and after the consultative meeting with all partners.

2.4.3 Obstacles/Challenges encountered

The lack of availability of the current Oral rehydration salts (ORS packets) and the uncertainty of the arrival of the new ORS formula presents a challenge to case management at both the clinic and household level. The consultative meeting will provide an opportunity to discuss these operational barriers as well as new research and its effect on policies for diarrhea case management.

2.4.4 Key activities planned for the next six months

- ✓ The consultative meeting in April 2005 on “The Revitalization of Diarrheal Disease Prevention and Case Management”
- ✓ Assistance to CREDOS for the finalization of the meeting report
- ✓ Follow up on key recommendations and next steps with partners

2.5 Maternal health and Family Planning

ATN’s strategy for maternal health and family planning is to assist the MOH in strengthening policies and assisting in improving contraceptive prevalence by ensuring that new policies reach all health care providers in a format that is compatible to their level of comprehension (job aids, etc.)

The activities of the Maternal Health and Family Planning component were carried out in collaboration with the technical team of ATN, the DSR, other USAID funded projects such as PKC, ACQUIRE (Intrahealth), AWARE, POLICY, and other FP partners.

2.5.1 Key accomplishments of the past six months:

1. **The revision of the Policies, Norms, and Procedures (PNP) with the Division of Reproductive Health (DSR):**

- ✓ In October 2004 the revised PNP documents (seven volumes) were presented to the DSR by the consultant
- ✓ A workshop to develop the guide for testing the PNP was held in November 2004
- ✓ A testing of the document was carried out, corrections were incorporated in the PNP during a workshop after the testing in December 2004
- ✓ The reading of the document external resource persons occurred in January 2005
- ✓ A validation workshop was organized by the DSR and ATN in early March 2005 with 115 participants from various divisions of the MOH; regional health directors and managers; academicians, other health practitioners (public and private sector), NGOs and private sector partners (Mid-wives associations, etc.)
- ✓ ATN provided effective technical assistance throughout the process in the revision of all seven of the PNP volumes

- ✓ A finalization workshop for a final reading of the document occurred in March 2005 after the validation workshop.

2. Training of family planning providers in contraceptive technology and inter-personal counseling

- ✓ Three training sessions took place: a session was financed by PKC, one by Intrah, and a third one by ATN. The training module was reproduced for the participants to refer to and use in training their colleagues. A communication component was presented by the ATN communications advisor during these training sessions.
- ✓ 81 persons were trained of which there were two men (a doctor from PSI, a doctor from SAVE) and 79 women health personnel.
- ✓ For the same module, ATN supported financially and technically a training session for the district of Bamako that trained mid-wives from the CSREF and of CSComs of the communes of Bamako.

3. The National Family Planning campaign

- ✓ The goal of the FP campaign was to increase demand and improve access of the population to FP services.
- ✓ Numerous planning meetings took place of the technical committee, social mobilization committee, and national organizing committee with active participation by ATN, before the launch of the FP campaign (development and dissemination of the jingle, generic messages, film, message and the action plan).
- ✓ Implementation of FP campaign launch activities; ATN was responsible for coordinating and planning the FP launch with the DSR and partners on March 14 for the national level and of the 21 to March 25 for the regions
- ✓ In the framework of the campaign preparation, ATN financially and technically supported the training workshops for contraceptive logistics management organized by the DPM and DELIVER in Segou and Mopti in February 2005. Managers of retail sites for contraceptive sales in certain districts were trained.
- ✓ Four (4) round tables of which two (2) televised and two (2) for the radio were prepared for diffusion in the next semester. The topics will be determined by the organizing committee.

4. Validation of training modules for *community health workers (relais)*:

- ✓ ATN participated in a validation workshop organized by PKC and the DSR for the training modules for the community health workers. This module combines and harmonizes the CBD and IMCI approaches for community health workers into one single training module. This module also included the new policy on IPT for pregnant women. Other NGO groups are interested in using this module in their future trainings and eventually, once fully applied in the PKC zones, this module should become a national standard.

5. Revival of the IUD as a contraceptive method for increasing contraceptive prevalence

- ✓ ATN participated in two workshops and discussions organized by AWARE with the DSR, other FP partners, and USAID Mali on repositioning the IUD in Mali in January 2005

- ✓ Participation in a study on IUD use in the I,II,III, and IVth communes of Bamako which contributed to the development of an action plan for the revival of the method in the District of Bamako, March 2005.

6. Other activities

- ✓ Financing the participation of a delegation of Malian mid-wives in the SAGO meeting in Benin in November 2004
- ✓ Participation in the conference on repositioning Family Planning in West Africa organized by AWARE, POLICY, and USAID in Accra, Ghana in February 2005. A large Malian delegation (18 participants) composed of representatives from the MOH, civil society, and development partners attended the meeting.
- ✓ The participation of ATN in regional health planning meetings (CROCEPS) in the District of Bamako in December 2004
- ✓ The participation technical meetings organized by ATN, SAVE, PKC, Policy, USAID, DSR and other FP partners

2.5.2 Lessons Learned

The long preparation and the implementation of the national family planning campaign allowed for ownership and leadership by the DNS/DSR to take place.. The family planning campaign also stimulated the full engagement and active participation of the principal implementing agencies in FP in Mali which from here on will be established as an effective FP working group for Mali.

2.5.3 Obstacles/Challenges encountered

Delays in decision making among certain technical partners in the MOH were caused by unexpected scheduling changes and unplanned activities needing full attention. The PNP is an example of this with numerous delays occurring before the document could be validated in March. This situation is not always within ATN's manageable interest to address however efforts will be made to hold periodic planning meetings (on a trimester basis) to improve planning around major products and events.

2.5.4 Key Activities planned for the next six months

- ✓ Workshop to readapt the implementation guide for the PNP in April 2005
- ✓ Ceremony for the presentation of the PNP to the Minister of the Health and Partners (May 2005)
- ✓ Supervision of the FP campaign activities and the previously trained FP providers
- ✓ ICP/FP clinical training for the remaining FP providers (Mopti:7 agents , Gao: 3 agents, Tombouctou: 5 agents, Bamako: 11 agents of the hospitals , infirmaries of garnisons and center inter-entreprises) (June 2005)
- ✓ Situational analysis in April/May and a follow-up workshop on integrating Gender into DSR activities (TBD)
- ✓ Promotion activities for FP with mid-wives associations, Medical students, Women doctors, the women's NGOs and associations (May)
- ✓ Support to documentation unit of the DSR (May)
- ✓ Broadcasting of IPT spots (May/June)
- ✓ Evaluation of the impact of the IPT spots (May/June)

3 COMPONENT II: Cross-cutting Interventions

3.1 Health Reform

ATN has continued its health reform activities which are an element of the institutional strengthening strategy as outlined in the context of PRODESS. Specifically, ATN has participated in PRODESS workshops and other meetings at national (the PRODESS Technical and Monitoring committee meetings) and regional (CROCEPS) levels.

3.1.1 Key accomplishments of the past six months

1. Update of the health sector Donor Mapping:
 - ✓ The data collection instrument (questionnaire) has been tested with certain financial donors.
 - ✓ The questionnaire has been finalized.
 - ✓ ATN has helped the CPS advocate for effective collaboration and participation during the Donor Mapping.
 - ✓ The recruitment process for a consultant to carry out the work is underway.
2. Technical Assistance to PRODESS, following the coordination meeting organized by USAID:
 - ✓ ATN participated in the CROCEPS in the following regions: Bamako, Segou, Sikasso, and Mopti.
 - ✓ ATN has also been involved in the different meetings for the Technical and Monitoring Committee and various meetings of the PTFs.
 - ✓ ATN participated in meeting organized at national level and regional levels, in the context of Karen Cavanaugh's mission related to "Mainstreaming for Health Reform".
3. Analysis of DAF (Financial and Administrative Division of the MOH) procedures for mobilizing USAID funds in order to improve fund disbursements and program performance:
 - ✓ ATN supported the DAF into the development of guidebook of procedures for financial management of USAID funds.
4. Support to planning for National Health Accounts:
 - ✓ Support during an information and advocacy trip by AWARE with the MOH and the partners for NHA implementation in Mali.
 - ✓ Participation in the development of a protocol for NHA in Mali, following the directives of the NHA committee formed by the MOH and partners. ATN is a member of the technical committee.

3.1.2 Lessons learned

- There are inherent difficulties with the implementation framework for PRODESS:

The financial framework for PRODESS has taken a long time to be put in to place and partners' financial commitments have not always been carried out during workplan implementation.

The socio-health teams have not yet mastered the “management by results” methodology and this will need some strengthening to ensure good monitoring and evaluation of results.

- Utilization of a new methodology for implementing NHA will facilitate capacity building of skills within the INRSP technical team.

3.1.3 Obstacles/Challenges encountered

Delays in implementation of the Donor mapping exercise are mainly due to on-going negotiations about the budget. Similar studies have been done by AWARE in many countries in the region for lower costs than those proposed by the consultants. ATN is still working on this.

The training of accountants in the Guide developed for the DAF has not been able to be carried out due to scheduling conflicts and changes in the director of the DAF. This activity will be rescheduled for the next quarter.

3.1.4 Key Activities planned for the next six months:

- ✓ Provision of assistance to PRODESS implementation process and identification with the MOH of new activities related to health reform
- ✓ Validation of the guidelines and provide technical support to the accountants and the Regional Directors related to financial management
- ✓ Define performance criteria in collaboration with the DAF during this training
- ✓ Assist in the development of data collection tools and data analysis plan for the NHA
- ✓ Continue implementation of the donor mapping update, through the data collection and analysis.

3.2 Health Mutuelle Organization

3.2.1 Key accomplishments of the past six months

In collaboration with PHRplus, ATN has organized the following activities:

1. Implementation of the impact evaluation of the MHOs in Sikasso and Bla and the implementation of the IEC component for maternal and child health in Bla

- ✓ Data collection of household data
- ✓ Data entry
- ✓ Data cleaning

2. Follow up with existing MHO in Sikasso and Bla

- ✓ Data collection on the MHO management

3.2.2 Lessons learned

- ✓ The mutuelles need assistance before they become more independent

3.2.3 Obstacles/Challenges encountered

The most important difficulty has been problems with the quality of the data entry, which has led to the need for extensive cleaning of the data. PHRplus and ATN have organized a team of qualified people to work full time on cleaning this data. Thus, the analysis process has been delayed and is only just beginning.

3.2.4 Key Activities planned for the next six months

- ✓ Data cleaning (finishing early May)
- ✓ Data analysis
- ✓ Dissemination workshop during which a potential new strategy could be put in place.

3.3 Demand Creation

3.3.1 Key accomplishments of the past six months

- ✓ The organization of a development workshop for the production of a radio series on the health services for high impact services brought together forty participants including representatives from health services (national, regional, operational and peripheral levels), local radios, non-governmental organizations and partners. The workshop achieved the following results: the development of 14 synopses for 14 episodes and the completion of the pre-testing of two (2) scenarios in which one will be revised.
- ✓ Two (2) consultative meetings and a visit to the CLIC of Daoudabougou (Bamako) were carried out for the collaboration with the CLICS project manager and to discuss collection and development of equipment and materials for the CLICS.

3.3.2 Lessons Learned

The participation at the radio workshop of all levels of the health infrastructure and of all types of intervention agencies addressing communications for health allowed for fuller expansion of the topics and themes included in the radio series.

3.3.3 Obstacles/Challenges encountered

The completion of the radio series experienced delays because of procedural problems resolved by putting into place a contract management system for subcontracting.

3.3.4 Key activities planned for the next six months

- ✓ Continuation of the development, and production of the radio series on high impact health services
- ✓ Collect and development of materials for CLICS (May – June)
- ✓ Technical visit by ATN's Communication for Behavior Change advisor to JHU/CCP in Baltimore (June 2005)

3.4 Capacity Building

To follow up on the needs assessment undertaken in July, ATN interviewed a consultant with expertise in this field. ATN in collaboration with the DNS Director organized the capacity building activities to be taken place in the beginning of the second semester.

4 KEY INDICATOR TABLE

**Programme Santé USAID / Assistance Technique Nationale
USAID Health Program / National Technical Assistance
Expected Results for FY 2005**

Results	Data source	2004	Target (2005)	Achieved	Comments (First Semester FY 2005)
Impact Results					
% of children 6-59 months receiving one dose of vitamin A in the last six months (in USAID supported areas)	MOH / EDS III (national)	80%	80%	84%	Source : National Immunization Days with vitamin A – nationwide results February 2005
Process Results for Nutrition					
1. The National Policy for Food and Nutrition is written, validated, and disseminated	Division Nutrition/ DNS / ATN	0	1 policy document		
2. PROFILES for Nutrition is finalized and validated	Division Nutrition/ DNS / ATN	0	1 policy document	1 policy document	PROFILES finalized and validated in February 2005 with POLICY
3. One post-campaign rapid evaluation of a SIAN is completed	Division Nutrition / DNS / ATN – rapport d'évaluation	1	1 survey report is disseminated	1 survey report disseminated	The evaluation results were presented and validated in February 2005. The evaluation recommendations are to be incorporated in a future SIAN.
4. Integration of iron/ folic acid supplementation in the SIAN	Division Nutrition/ DNS / ATN	0	2 districts in 2 regions	*****	*****This activity is on hold. The first SIAN of FY 05 was replaced by National Immunization Days with vitamin A. Other interventions were not feasible for integration of a pilot activity.

Results	Data source	2004	Target (2005)	Achieved	Comments (First Semester FY 2005)
Process Results for Immunization					
1. Revise / Develop microplans for immunization in 5 districts selected for "Reach Every District" (RED)	ATN, District reports ; trip reports	0	Microplans in 5 districts revised		5 districts selected ; Work has begun in 2 districts
2. Trimester supervision of routine EPI at a select number of district and sub district sites using integrated supervision tools	Immunization Section / DNS, ATN (trip reports)	1 supervision visit	3 visits/ 1 per trimester	0	Joint supervision difficult due to the workload and full schedules of the Immunization Section due to National Immunization Days
3. NIDS (Polio and Measles) Supervision at select district sites	Immunization Section, DNS, ATN (Trip Reports)	2 supervision visits	1 supervision visit per NID	5	Supervision visits in: Kayes (October/Polio); Segou (November/Polio); Kayes (December/Measles); Mopti et Segou (February/NIDs, Vitamin A)
3. Support to the National EPI Review	Immunization Section / DNS / ATN	0	1 report		Consultant
4. Support the plan for introducing the HIB vaccine	Immunization Section / DNS / ATN	0	2 Training sessions for regional directors for Health and EPI focal points		Training of trainers held at national level; ATN will work with CVD/CNAM on regional and EPI focal point training
Process Results for CDD					
1. New policy for prevention/-case management of diarrheal disease	DNS / ATN	0	1 partners' consultation meeting held		Meeting prepared for second semester FY05

Results	Data source	2004	Target (2005)	Achieved	Comments (First Semester FY 2005)
disseminated					
Process Results for Family Planning / Reproductive Health					
1. Trainers trained in clinical FP (contraceptive technology) and Inter-personal counseling	DSR / DNS / ATN	20	46 in two sessions		One participant per FP unit trained
2. Dissemination of Reproductive Health Policies, Norms, and Procedures revised with job aids for community level, CSCOM and household	DSR / DNS / ATN	0	1 Document(s) validated, disseminated at National level	1 document validated	Dissemination under preparation (development of guide and signing by MOH of preface in second semester)
3. Communication strategy in Reproductive Health developed	DSR / DNS / ATN	0	1 strategy		Awaiting further information on MOH level communication strategy before proceeding with RH strategy development
4. Gender approach integrated in DSR strategy	DSR / DNS / ATN	30 – 50% of training participants are women	50% of participants are women		For all workshops except FP clinic/ IPC (women's participation is a proxy)
Process Results for Malaria					
1. National Policy disseminated	PNLP / DNS/ ATN	1 final document available	1 document disseminated		
2. Health personnel trained on IPT and providing services	PNLP / DSR/ DNS/ ATN	Gao, Segou and Bamako are trained	Personnel trained in 4 regions		Training occurred before ATN began activities
3. Information Campaigns to raise public awareness of IPT	ATN / PNLN	1 campaign started	1 campaign completed		Television spots diffused; campaign interrupted

Results	Data source	2004	Target (2005)	Achieved	Comments (First Semester FY 2005)
					because national policy not fully disseminated; drugs not available (now available)
4. Evaluation of the integration of IPT in prenatal consultations	ATN evaluation report	0	1 evaluation		
<i>Process Results for Component 2</i>					
1. Donor mapping updated	ATN / CPS	1 questionnaire is updated	1 donor mapping is available		
2. Analysis of bottlenecks in health care provision	ATN	0	1 analysis document prepared		
3. Analysis of procedures for fund expenditure by the Division of financial affairs of the MOH	ATN	0	1 financial management of USAID funds prepared		
4. Dissemination of lessons learned and achievements of Health Maintenance Organizations in Mali	ATN	Evaluation designed	1 reporting out of results meeting		
5. Production of radio series on high impact services	ATN		14 Scenarios produced	1 (in progress)	Scenarios recorded and made available for broadcasting