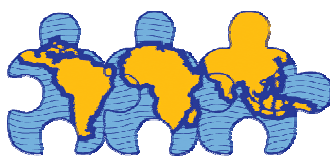


Annual Report 2001



Partners in Population and Development

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Foreword

South-South co-operation uses existing skills and expertise in developing countries to disseminate knowledge and transfer modes of best and most effective program and project practice. It is also about identifying technical and training needs that will create a new generation of leaders and planners who will help each other to create dynamic but also realistic solutions to the needs of people in developing countries.

Within the context of reproductive health, South-South co-operation takes on particular resonance and significance. Reproductive health programs, including the continuing fight against HIV/AIDS, seek some very particular answers to some very important attitudes and practices. Our broad remit now extends to many aspects of reproductive health including access to essential health commodities - an issue that Partners in Population and Development is now focusing on at regional and international levels.

In September 2001, the leadership at the Executive Director of **Partners** level changed. Treasurer and Vice Chair at the Executive Committee have also changed.

2001 was a year in which the **Partners** have demonstrated their commitment to expand and improve South-South collaborations in scope, geographically and in depth. They have significantly strengthened the capacity of their training, research and service institutions. A rapid increase of South-South training programs was noted.

The **Partners** consultative programs were enhanced by covering technical consultations, in addition, to their ongoing governing and exchange of reproductive health updates. All this is reflected in an increased number of country institutions actively involved in South-South collaborations.

In 2001, **Partners** obtained new grants from the Netherlands Government to promote Southern Experts and from the David and Lucile Packard Foundation to develop leadership in the area of Reproductive Health in the South. Ford Foundation also provided support to the Cairo Technical Office (CTO) for South-South Collaboration in Egypt and UNFPA to the South-South Center in Bangladesh.

We thank our donors, supporters and Secretariat staff, all of whom are helping us to make South-South an attainable and empowering model of development co-operation in reproductive health.

Dr Ismail Sallam
Chair - **Partners** Board

Ambassador Simon A. Bullut
Secretary - **Partners**

Message from the Executive Director

Upon joining, I was delighted to note the excellent accomplishments that **Partners** has achieved, under the dynamic leadership of my predecessor, Balla Musa Silla, within a broader framework of its strategic plans.

Nonetheless, considering the immense scope and opportunities for the **Partners** Countries to gain from each other through South-South exchange mechanisms and the as yet unfinished agenda to meet the goals and objectives, much greater challenges associated with poor overall resource environment characterized by shift in donor focus, reduction in core support to the **partners** remain ahead of us. In addition to the financial challenges, we still have institutional sustainability challenges such as ensuring global visibility and more South-South in-country activities. I have firm conviction that the **Partners** Countries, as well as most other developing countries, can significantly enrich and strengthen the entire range of their reproductive health and population programs through appropriately designed modalities for sharing their expertise and experience.

Doubtless, such challenges cannot be met and sustained by the **Partners** without wide-ranging support from the global community, including donors, international agencies, non-governmental organizations, private sector and individuals who have demonstrated commitment and interest for South-South exchange strategies.

During the last four months of working in **Partners** it became clear that a major emphasis is needed on the active reflection of South-South collaborative activities at country level. It is therefore, my delight to present this Annual Report which, demonstrates the expressed mission of the **Partners** member countries in conducting South-South exchanges and the role played by the Secretariat in facilitating the South-South collaboration.

The report is therefore divided into six sections with section 5 and 6 providing the contrast between the facilitation and the conduction of South-South collaboration. The latter being the function and the thrust of the alliance at country level.

I am seeking your guidance, support and active collaboration in furthering the very important strategies that **Partners** has developed in close cooperation with you all.

My sincere thanks to the Board of **Partners**, the donor community, the **Partners** Country Coordinators the International Advisory Committee, development agencies and collaborators for their valued support and guidance.

I am also grateful to the Secretariat staff for all the hard work they have put into this report and for the work all the year round.

I look forward to working closely with you to face and address the challenges ahead and I would like to assure you of my total commitment.

Dr. Timothee Gandaho
Executive Director
Partners in Population and Development

Background

Partners in Population and Development is an alliance of 16 developing countries who established themselves during the International Conference of Population and Development (ICPD) in Cairo in 1994.

3.1 The Mission

- To expand and improve South-South collaboration in the fields of family planning and reproductive health;
- Each Partner will strengthen institutional capacity to undertake South-South exchange activities and will rapidly expand the number of South-South training and consultative programs. Long-term collaborative arrangements will be encouraged;
- **Partners** Secretariat will provide the central point for networking among Partners and for identifying opportunities for South-South exchanges and sources of financial support.

3.2 Membership

Partners Countries are developing countries applying for membership and willing to contribute annually to the **Partners'** budget. By 2001, **Partners** Countries are:

Bangladesh, China, Colombia, Egypt, The Gambia, India, Indonesia, Kenya, Mali, Mexico, Morocco, Pakistan, Thailand, Tunisia, Uganda and Zimbabwe

Associates, may be invited to participate in **Partners'** meetings and other activities. They shall be multilateral, bilateral, regional and national entities private and non-governmental organizations, from both developing and developed countries.

3.3 UN Observer Status

In May 2001, negotiations between **Partners** and the United Nations to consider Partners in Population and Development for observer's status started and are intensifying.

Institutional Arrangements

The institutional arrangements of **Partners** are: the governing body, coordinating body, advisory body and the Secretariat as a central point.

Partners' Board Members (BM)

The **Partners** Board consists of Ministers of Health, Population and Planning Commissions and other high ranking government officials from all 16 countries.

The key tasks of the Board are to govern, advocate, provide support and mobilize funds and other resources for the alliance. There was a change in Board Members in the following countries: Bangladesh, Colombia, Indonesia, Thailand and Mexico. Two of the Board members were members of the Executive Committee.

Partner Country Coordinators (PCCs)

The **Partners** Country Coordinators' (PCCs) are appointed by each of the country's Board members and act as a link between the member country and the **Partners** Secretariat.

Their key responsibilities are to coordinate and provide leadership for South-South in-country initiatives.

They develop the country's annual South-South work-plan and liaise with Secretariat and in-country institutions and donors to document and disseminate information about projects, institutions, and individuals engaged in South-South activities. The PCCs play a key role in the South-South exchange of expertise in population and organizations with demonstrated capacity in reproductive health and development activities.

International Advisory Committee (IAC)

The International Advisory Committee's role is to advise the **Partners** and the Secretariat on issues regarding population, reproductive health and development. The new member to the IAC in 2001 was Mr. Balla Musa Silla, who was the former Executive Director of **Partners** in Population and Development.

The Secretariat

The Secretariat's 3 key roles are to:

- catalyze the development of long-term South-South exchange programs between members and other developing countries;
- provide opportunity for strengthening institutional capacity through the development of South-South tools and approaches, training, advocacy, and resource mobilization.
- facilitate the exchange of expertise, knowledge, skills and information among developing countries through dissemination of the lessons to the broader community.

Change in Leadership

Mr. Balla Musa Silla, who was the Executive Director of **Partners** in Population and Development since November 1997, left the organization in August 2001.

Dr. Timothee Gandaho was appointed as the new Executive Director of **Partners** in Population and Development in September 2001.

Dr Timothee Gandaho, a national of Benin, a medical doctor with an MSc. in Demography and a PhD in Maternal and Child Health from the University of London, is also a Public Health Specialist. He has worked in various fields of population and reproductive health. He has collaborated with international organizations, donor agencies, governmental and non-governmental organizations. Before coming to **Partners**, he worked for the Future's Group International as a Regional Advisor in West Africa, for Population Council as the Regional Director for West and Central Africa and for the World Bank as a Consultant for Africa Region.

Re-structuring

Partners faced sustainability challenges, which required special management attention. On assuming his responsibilities the Executive Director in consultation with the Executive Committee, took up a restructuring exercise of the Secretariat in order to reduce the staff dependency on core funds. The guiding principle was to position the **Partners** in Population and Development as an organization that will continue to grow, consolidate its work related to South-South exchange of resources, such as technical experts, knowledge, information, best practices, domestic financing, joint political leadership, essential health commodities in order to improve reproductive health and the quality of life in the South.

To ensure sustainability of the Partnership, the re-structuring resulted in retaining a staff complement, compatible with the resources available and relevant to the skills and the functional needs for facilitating and promoting South-South exchange. Some of the staff was shifted to work on project-based activities rather than rely on core support.

The staff retained has the capacity to address multiple functions. Regional representation and international experience at the Secretariat were maintained within the current staffing. The support and operational requirements were rationalized to optimize their relevance in line with the workload in support of project related activities.

Establishing Administration and Finance Mechanisms

To strengthen Secretariat's administrative, accounting and financial systems, additional staff was recruited and computerized management systems were instituted. **Partners** took over the full administrative functions from UNDP in January 2001 as planned. Various management, security and information processing systems were installed or strengthened in 2001.

During 2001, **Partners** started using the Financial, Administrative and Personnel Manuals that were developed and approved in the year 2000. **Partners** improved its record keeping system by installing an Accounting Package in order to generate a wide range of financial reports, facilitate financial management decisions, provide an efficient mechanism for responding to donors' requirements and managing staff payments.

Various administrative forms were installed on the **Partners** Intranet to standardize information sharing. Filing systems were consolidated. Personnel files were set up to effectively track information.

The Second Annual Meeting of **Partners'** International Advisory Committee was held in Harare in July 2001. IAC made the following key recommendations for **Partners** at the meeting:

- o **Partners** to collaborate with international agencies in database on documentation of success stories, lessons learned, and innovative case studies around the world.

- o **Partners** should link between researchers and policy makers to ensure that the research agenda addresses priority policy and program issues, and thereby bring its benefits to the community and the people.

- o **Partners** should identify relevant research findings and transform them into modular form to be incorporated into its training and capacity development programs.

- o **Partners** should focus on fewer relevant products such as (i) Cyclofem, a Southern product endorsed by WHO, opportunities to expand its availability can be explored; (ii) Sino-implant, a contraceptive implant produced by China at a cheaper price and (iii) Misoprostol, available as tablets, to be used for the treatment of post partum hemorrhage.

- o Commercial market promotion could be another area of **Partners'** action.

- o **Partners** should review of technology or interventions, which are practical, affordable and readily available.

- o **Partners** should identify ten key questions, pertinent to policies and programs, brainstorming with policy makers, research scientists and other experts, and discuss them at **Partners** Board meeting.

- o **Partners** and non-Partner Countries to facilitate access to essential health commodities involvement the private sector with government and social marketing.

The Secretariat Facilitating South-South Collaboration

Central Point for Networking

Policy Dialogue Missions of the Executive Director

The Executive Director made consultative and assessment visits to the Board Members, PCCs including selected institutions involved in South-South activities in Thailand, China, Bangladesh, Kenya, Egypt, Tunisia, Morocco, Mali, The Gambia, Mexico and Colombia.

In Thailand: September 2001

Discussions were held with the representative of **Partners** Treasurer, Dr. Suwanna Warakamin, who is the PCC regarding the financial situation and to prepare for an in depth analysis. It had been recommended at the July Executive Committee meeting. The new Board Member was formally introduced. A Memorandum of Agreement was signed with the College of Population Studies, Chulalongkorn University training institute for a Global Leadership program financed by Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation.

In China: September 2001

H.E. Madame Zhang Yuquin, the Vice Minister of the State Family Commission and Board Member of **Partners** discussed how UNFPA had recognized Chinese manufactured condoms and that UNFPA would purchase them from Egypt and other countries. More South-South collaboration in the area of health commodities was going on between China, Indonesia and India.

An eight-member delegation, led by the Minister of the State Family Planning Commission of China visited Egypt and Kenya in December, 2001. Two Memorandum of Agreements (MOA) to collaborate on health commodities, technical experts, equipment and information sharing were signed. He committed to financing, equipping and providing Chinese technical experts for the construction of a health center in an urban slum of Nairobi in Kenya.

The Shanghai Institute of Planned Parenthood Research, with a long history of collaborating with private and government pharmaceutical organizations was assisting counterpart organizations in Indonesia to process finished products. The Institute expressed interest to work with similar organizations in other developing countries.

Executive Director of **Partners** also officiated at the launching ceremony of the first Global Leadership training program in Nanjing, China: 'The Strategic Leadership and management of Reproductive Health Programs.

In Bangladesh, October 2001

Policy dialogues were conducted to various bi-lateral and multi-lateral agencies, such as the UNFPA, WHO, UNDP, CIDA, JICA, DFID, honorable Minister for Foreign Affairs, the Care-Taker Government, Ministry of Health and the External Resource Division.

In Egypt: November 2001

Consultations and discussions with H.E. Prof. Ismail Sallam, the Chairperson of the **Partners** Board and Minister of Health and Population of the Government of Egypt that followed soon after the visit to Kenya consolidated the measures for coping with the funding situation and financial status of the **Partners**.

The Chair supported the need to reorganize the Secretariat to reduce core dependent expenses. He also went on to write letters to donors requesting for core support to the **Partners**. He encouraged the development of project proposals to explore new funding sources for innovative South-South projects. During the visit, a preparatory meeting for the steering committee to launch the Arab Reproductive Health Network was held, which the Executive Director of **Partners** attended.

In Tunisia: November 2001

The Honorary Chair and Board member of **Partners**, Professor Nabiha Gueddana assured and guided the Executive Director on keeping focused on the agenda of South-South collaboration in reproductive health. Office National de la Famille et de la Population (ONFP) of Tunisia had been awarded a grant from Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) to explore new South-South activities in Western African Franco-Phone countries.

The Executive Director also attended the closing ceremony of the international course under **Partners'** Global Leadership training program on 'Legal and Cultural Barriers for Reproductive health'.

In Morocco: November 2001

Discussions with the Secretary General of the Ministry of Health, Dr. Fouad Hamadi focused on the establishment of the Rabat Bureau for South-South cooperation with francophone countries. La Direction de la Population of the Ministry of Health of Morocco received an award from USAID with Technical Assistance from John Snow Incorporation (JSI) for South-South collaborative activities with Mauritania and Mali.

In Gambia: November 2001

Consultations with the **Partners** Board Member and Vice President of the Gambia, the national South-South steering committee, other government officials and bilateral agencies, identified a number of capacity building requirements such as technical expertise in social marketing, conducting census, improving South-South through training and regional networks including the involvement of religious leaders.

In Mali: November 2001

Discussions were held with the Board Member H.E. Mme Diakite Fatoumata N'Diaye, Minister, Ministry of Social Development and Solidarity with Aging Persons.

At a Bamako youth project, possibilities to enhance information base and knowledge among young people, through Internet Café Services and linkages to other youth programs in Sub-Saharan Africa were explored.

In Kenya: November 2001

Discussions were held with the **Partners** Board Member also the Secretary to the Executive Committee and Director of National Council for Population and Development (NCPD), H.E. Ambassador SBA Bullut, focused on the financial situation of the **Partners**. He provided some guidance regarding strategies to make the Secretariat financially sustainable and expressed his support in writing to the Chair.

In Mexico: April and December 2001

A new Board member of **Partners** for Mexico Dr. Rodolfo was identified in April 2001.

From discussions between National Population Council (CONAPO), **Partners** Secretariat and Mexfam a Memorandum of Agreement was signed between Mexfam and **Partners** Secretariat to implement the Global Leadership Program (GLP).

Another Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) was signed between the Ministry of Health, **Partners** Secretariat and Mexfam to move forward in the implementation of the European Commission funded South-South collaboration project between Mexico, Honduras, Venezuela and Peru after the project had been frozen as a result of change in leadership at the Board level.

In Colombia: April and December 2001

A change in leadership at Board level required a follow up to facilitate the identification of a new Board member as well as focal institution for **Partners**. The Colombian Agency for International Cooperation expressed interest.

Strengthening of Communication Mechanisms

The Secretariat required to maintain a Core Team of Communication Staff to implement its activities during the past year.

The Secretariat has achieved considerable success in developing print materials and Internet based mechanisms to facilitate exchange of information among the health professionals. However, a lot remains to be done in the area.

The Secretariat updated the content on its web site and incorporated new design elements by:

- Developing new materials and interactive tools on the website: www.South-South.org
- Consolidating the success stories in the member countries, and incorporating them into the web site to ensure easy access by other stakeholders;
- Updating the web site periodically.

The team also had meetings with HIVE who had initiated the [website](#) design of **Partners**. The meeting resulted in an agreement to officially hand over the domain and server administration to the Secretariat to maintain.

Strengthening of the Documentation Mechanisms

By the end of December 2001, the following tools of documentation have been uploaded on the web site:

- Documentation Strategy
- Documentation Manual
- Documentation Clinics
- Documentation Questionnaire

A workshop was held in Cairo on "Bridges South-South Mechanisms for Young People's Sexual and Reproductive Health" jointly organized by Population Concern, United Kingdom and **Partners** during July 16-18, 2001.

Five NGOs from Asia, Africa and Latin America (AVESA) of Venezuela, the Latin American and Caribbean Women's Health Network (LACWHN), Women's Health Project (WHP) of South Africa and the Center for Development Services (CDS) of Bangladesh attended this workshop to:

- share the documentation models and workable practices for young people's sexual and reproductive health programs
- develop a draft guide/manual of tools and mechanisms for South-South collaboration in young people's sexual and reproductive health

Barriers to achieve successful South-South interventions in the area of young people's sexual and reproductive health were discussed during the workshop.

Preparation for French Web Site:

A multi lingual website in the official languages of **Partners** was developed. As a first effort, the static English sections were translated in to French.

Managing Projects

Global Leadership Program

With the objective of expanding cost-effective and sustainable training programs in selected institutions of the developing countries, the Global Leadership Program (GLP) continued to be carried out by the Training and Development Division of the **Partners** Secretariat, with synergic support from the other Divisions of the Secretariat. Towards fulfillment of the targeted expansion of the program, effort continued for identification of more institutions for hosting GLP courses and also establishing contacts with top experts and a number of international and regional agencies for collaborative support for resource persons and materials in various fields of reproductive health.

With a very positive response from the participating countries and agencies, as many as thirteen institutions in eleven member countries were brought under the network by the end of the year 2001. An International Program Committee was formed with the Course Directors in the respective GLP Institutions as members and the first meeting of the Program Committee was organized in Harare in July 2001 overlapping with the second meeting of **Partners** International Advisory Committee (IAC). Interactions among the GLP institutions including exchange of resource persons among them were initiated during the year as a further step towards strengthening their respective capacity through South-South collaboration. Process was initiated for development of multi-country modules

through South-South exchange of expertise in priority areas of reproductive health and population defined by the ICPD agenda.

The GLP Team also benefited from attending the Packard and Gates Foundations Leadership Grantees Meetings held in Santa Cruz in January 2001 and December 2001.

Global Research and Communication Program

Partners is carrying out a Global Program of Research and Communication on South-South exchange using five long-term projects. The projects are models for South-South exchange and can be used to improve RH programs. The programs provides **Partners** with a tool to explore and document different and effective ways for transferring skills and expertise through South-South exchange.

The aim is to demonstrate, document, disseminate and communicate the results in three distinct phases of the program:

- The experience and lessons learned in setting up and develop management systems, mechanisms and tools related to contracts, coordination, monitoring and accountability for South-South collaboration in RH, population and development
- The experience and lessons learned in using these systems for South-South collaborations in RH, population and development programs
- The contribution of such systems in building the capacity of institutions and individuals in the South for the purpose of providing quality RH, population and development services.

There were 12 disbursements to project sites during 2001 to carry out program activities. Monitoring sheets were developed and updated regularly to track expenditure and progress of project activities. Monitoring visits to three projects were carried out to review the program status. A questionnaire was shared with the project managers in 17 institutions involved in this project to document the experience on the process of carrying out South-South collaborations.

A Management Information System (MIS) was developed to monitor the progress of all **Partners** programs and will be pre-tested.

Identifying opportunities for South-South Exchange

Andean Health Convention "Hipólito Unanue" (CONHU)

The Executive Secretary of the CONHU, former **Partners** Board Member, Dr. Mauricio Bustamante, expressed his willingness to develop joint activities with **Partners** and to reinforce South-South collaboration through the regional network of the CONHU.

World Health Organization (WHO)

Partners' Secretariat was represented as an observer together with the representatives of UNDP, UNFPA, WHO, IPPF and the World Bank, at the Fourteenth Annual Meeting of the Policy and Coordination Committee (PCC) for the Special Program of research development and research training in Human Reproduction (HRP) in Geneva from the 21st-22nd June 2001. The PCC is a 32 member governing body as intergovernmental and inter-agency cooperation and

participation that deliberates on policies, priorities and decisions of budgetary allocation for the Special Program. **Partners** was incorporated as a member of the newly established consortium to implement best practices.

The Secretariat representatives also attended the Meeting of Interested Parties in Geneva from the 18-29th June 2001 in which WHO presented its biennium technical program of work focusing on its program achievements, objectives, strategies and the related resource requirements.

The Secretariat participated in the WHO Operations research capacity building consultations, jointly hosted with Population Council, in December 2001, also in Geneva. Other technical consultative meetings were on "Expanding access to safer abortion services" in Johannesburg and Technical Advisory Group meetings on "First time parents" in New York, with Population Council in December 2001.

WHO requested **Partners** Secretariat's representation and to present a paper at a meeting on "Programming for Male Involvement in Reproductive Health in Washington in September 2001, but it got postponed.

United Nations General Assembly

Partners was represented at the Special Session on HIV/AIDS, 25-28th June 2001 and took this opportunity to publicize its Kochi declaration, a position taken by its members to make accessible essential commodities on health to developing countries. A follow-up on the **Partners** application for Observer status to the United Nations was made.

High-Level symposium on South-South in Tokyo

The **Partners** Secretariat and Board members of China and Uganda, PCCs of China and India and service institutions representatives of Bangladesh and India participated at the 3rd Annual High Level Policy-Makers Symposium on South-South collaboration held in Tokyo by 2050, Japan from the 11-13th September 2001. Representatives of multilateral organizations, international NGOs, Universities, parliamentarians, and private foundations also attended the meeting.

The purpose was to raise awareness of the Policy makers the critical role of South-South collaboration in improving reproductive health, population and development in developing countries. The meeting presented a collective petition to the Japanese Overseas Development Assistance, urging the Japanese Government to reconsider its decision to reduce ODA in light of the high levels of social, economic and health imbalances resulting from an increasing population living in poverty.

Afro Asian Parliamentarians' Symposium

A South-South meeting titled 'African and Asian Parliamentarians to Work together in Population, RH and HIV/AIDS' was held from 29-30th November 2001 in Tokyo, Japan. Fifty-one Parliamentarians attended the meeting. The policy makers discussed various population and poverty alleviation issues affecting both continents.

The Director of Documentation and Communication of **Partners** presented a paper at the gathering of policy makers urgently stressing the need for

establishing knowledge networks amongst researchers and policy makers in the two continents to facilitate South-South knowledge sharing at policy level.

G77 Meeting on Development in Tehran

In September 2001, the PCC of Egypt represented **Partners** at the G77 meeting in Tehran and presented a paper on South-South collaboration, the experience of **Partners** in Population and Development.

Forum of Demographers in Beijing

In October 2001, the Executive Director, Dr. Timothee Gandaho made a presentation on the role of South-South collaboration and **Partners** at the National Forum on Population and Development in the 21st Century in China, hosted by the People's University in Beijing, China.

Identifying opportunities for sources of funding

Strategy on Resource Mobilization

Partners Strategy for South-South Resource Mobilization has been developed and presented at the Executive Committee Meeting in Harare, Zimbabwe in July 2001. The strategy paper clearly outlines key areas and ways of raising funds for **Partners**.

The four strategies proposed by the **Partners** Secretariat and discussed were:

- Work within the South: National resource mobilization campaign
- Mobilizing resources beyond the South
- Improving the resource base for core support
- Establishing a South-South Endowment Fund

Opportunities for Funding

In June 2001, the **Partners** Secretariat submitted a proposal to infodev program of World Bank for strengthening capacity of policy makers on use of ICT in health sector. Representatives from the Secretariat met the team from "Development Gateway" project of World Bank resulting in **Partners** signing in as the cooperative organization for the HIV-AIDS topic in their website.

The **Partners** representatives were invited to a symposium on "Information and Communication Technologies for Development: Lessons Learned and Directions for the Future" in December 2001 to Washington DC. Subsequently a country gateway proposal by the Department of Information and Publicity, Presidents Office, Zimbabwe was submitted for consideration to the World Bank.

Through the World Bank's Development Gateway website, **Partners** got an opportunity to disseminate information.

The Secretariat's team took the opportunity to visit UNFPA and Rockefeller Foundation in New York and follow up on the Safe motherhood proposal submitted to UNFPA earlier and the Rockefeller grant and interest to **Partners**.

Grants received in 2001

South-South Technical Advisory Services (STAS)

A grant of USD \$476,740 was received from the Dutch Government for the implementation of the project "South-South Technical Advisory Service (STAS)".

Main purpose of STAS is to create and expand opportunities for developing countries to benefit from each other's expertise and experience in reproductive health interventions. The project aims at identification of twenty high quality Southern experts who have been directly involved in a successfully implemented program intervention.

STAS will also ascertain and define the existing barriers in international agencies to the use of Southern expertise and will propose strategies to create greater access for these agencies to expertise from the South.

Total duration of this project is 30 months, from 1st July 2001 to 31st December 2003.

Visionary Leadership Program (VLP)

In October 2001, The David and Lucile Packard Foundation gave a grant of US\$ 3,000,000 to **Partners** with a consortium of **Partners** in Population and Development (**Partners**) as the lead agency, International Council on Management of Population Programs (ICOMP) and Center for African Family Studies (CAFS) as collaborating **partners**, to improve reproductive health and family planning status in four focus countries - India, Ethiopia, Nigeria and Sudan - by creating a critical mass of about 200 visionary leaders over a period of three years.

An International Steering Committee (ISC), comprising of eminent leaders and personalities in the field of population and development with vast experience in the focus regions, will provide overall guidance to the program. Total duration of this project is 36 months, from October 2001 to September 2004.

An Organizational Effectiveness (OE) grant of USD 35,000 was provided to strengthen its accounting system in order to improve VLP management.

Cairo Technical Office (CTO)

The Cairo Technical Office (CTO), a South-South center in Egypt had won an award of USD 75,000 from Ford Foundation to implement training activities covering issues related to Policy dialogue and Negotiation skills.

Partners Countries Implement South-South Exchange

Improving South-South Collaborations

Regional Networks

East African Reproductive Health Network (EARHN)

In September 2001, the Secretariat conducted a need assessment to explore the possibilities for electronically networking East African Reproductive Network, beyond East Africa.

Preparations of the Arab Network

The Cairo Technical Office (CTO) highlighted the need for Arab networking in the areas of Reproductive Health and Population with the goal of applying the South-South initiative and collaboration. A steering committee was established in May 2001 with representatives from Tunisia, Morocco and **Partners** Secretariat to prepare the regional workshop for collaboration among Arab countries.

The CTO organized a seminar to strengthen NGO's participation in South-South activities in Egypt and to enhance the voluntary work of NGO's among Southern countries. The seminar was held in Cairo during December 29-30, 2001. 40 representatives from leading national and international NGOs in Egypt attended the seminar.

The Campaign for the WHO-led Massive Effort for Diseases of Poverty

Partners had been invited by WHO Geneva, to participate in a Massive Effort to reduce the burden of disease associated with HIV/AIDS, TB, polio and malaria. Consultations were held on the role of **Partners** in holding policy dialogue with policy makers, scientists, researchers and journalists.

Consequently, a national workshop attended by high-level representatives from the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare, Bangladesh, the bilateral agencies, training, research, service institutions and the media was organized in Dhaka in May 2001, to develop a national advocacy framework and to generate strategic options.

South-South Models: Alternative Approach to Sustained Improvements in Reproductive Health

These multi-faceted five model projects involve 16 countries in 3 regions between 17 organizations to exchange and transfer technical expertise in the areas of:

- Promoting Reproductive and Sexual Health among Adolescents
- Improving the utilization and quality of care of family planning and reproductive health services
- Orientation and training of Muslim Religious Leaders for the promotion of FP services.
- Increasing accessibility to Integrated Reproductive Health and Family Planning Services through developing extensive IEC materials
- Diagnosis and Prevention of STIs.

During 2001, most projects had reached 'mid-point' of their implementation phase. Project sites were visited to review their progress.

Reproductive Health for Adolescents in four Latin American Cities - Applying Lessons Learned from South-South Cooperation

Profamilia, a non-governmental organization in Colombia, is the lead agency working with three other institutions in Venezuela, Ecuador and Panama to improve adolescent RH programs. 90 volunteers were trained in these three collaborating institutions. A series of IEC materials including a 'Toolbox' in the form of a CD, diskette and a book consisting of key messages and information on Adolescent Reproductive Health were developed. The materials were distributed to schools to provide Reproductive health information to adolescents. A special annual event to mark adolescent day was launched simultaneously in three countries. The celebration attracted thousands of youth.

Support to Muslim Religious Leaders for the Promotion of Reproductive Health and Family Planning among Muslim Communities

The International Islamic Center for Population Studies in Cairo, Egypt trained 8 master trainers from India, Bangladesh, Thailand and China. A Training Module was developed jointly and translated it in three languages i.e. English, Arabic and Chinese, to further train 30 community leaders. Flyers on Women's Rights and Status in a Family, Child Rights and Role of Religious Leaders in RH were developed for wider distribution among the target population.

The Family Planning Association of Bangladesh, as the lead institution, provided technical assistance to the Family Planning Associations of China, India and Thailand in the use of Muslim religious leaders to promote family planning and reproductive health education and services to its communities. These are minority groups in China, Thailand and India. In China, the project site is in the autonomous regions of Xinjiang Uygur and Ningxia Hui, Suburb of Yinchuan City and Litong district in West China. A visit to Ningxia Hui Autonomous Region to review the project was conducted. The mission is documented on video.

The project is well implemented with a broad involvement of the society and other community leaders such as the mayor and leaders, volunteers of the Family Planning Association of China. During the review, sessions at a training center for Imams, the 3 Mosques, Muslim families and Community halls were observed. Interviews with Imams (mostly male and one or two ladies) were intense. The communities had mastered the lessons in family planning and reproductive health. Their average family size was two children. A factor that could not be matched by their counterpart communities in Bangladesh. The leaders in the project sites were seeking assistance to extend the project to remote families within the autonomous regions of China.

Increasing Accessibility to Integrated RH/FP Services in Two Provinces in Vietnam with Technical Support from Thailand

This is a two-year project in which Family Planning and Population Division, Department of Health, Thailand is providing Technical assistance to Vietnam in integrating and improving FP/RH quality of services and care in two provinces i.e. Hatay and Quang Ninh provinces of Vietnam.

The project is nearly half way in its implementation phase. A comprehensive Review meeting with site visits in the two provinces was jointly conducted by the Secretariat staff and the Family Planning and Population Division, Ministry of Health from Thailand during 10th-20th October 2001.

A Thai Expert Team has been formed consisting of seven (7) experts with specific range of expertise in the areas of Reproductive Health, Counseling, Need Assessment/Survey and Information Education and Communication (IEC). Thai experts and the Vietnamese team (from three levels) met in Vietnam for a Planning meeting. They developed three types of questionnaires for program managers, service providers, and for women in the reproductive age group for a Need Assessment Survey.

Project Management Units (PMU) have been formed in Vietnam at Central, Provincial and District levels who are responsible for implementing this project. A Vietnamese team went to Thailand for a Study Visit to assess the management, supervisory skills of the existing health managers and service providers of RH/FP setups and specially to study the successful experience of Thailand in implementing integrated RH/FP programs. The team visited Chiang Mai (North) and Chonburi (Central) districts in Thailand.

Need assessment surveys have been conducted in the two provinces of Vietnam to identify the kind of IEC materials they need, the current RH/FP situation in the provinces, and the existing level of skills of the service providers. The project has successfully developed six types of IEC materials. These are Leaflet, Magnetic board i) Pregnancy cycle. ii) contraceptive method iii) male sterilization and iv) female sterilization. These can be used through manuals, audiotapes and with narratives, Flip chart, Counseling Handbook, Electric Reproductive Mechanism: i) Pregnancy cycle ii) contraceptive method iii) male sterilization and iv) female sterilization and Contraceptive Model Box- displaying six choices, to be used by the volunteers and project staff during home-to-home visit.

The objective of the IEC materials produced by the project is to create awareness and increase the availability and utilization of a wider range of contraceptive methods i.e. Implant, condoms, injectables other than IUD. The project brought services to the remote areas and vulnerable people, give them choices/options and the knowledge/information to choose appropriate contraceptive method.

South-South Collaboration in the Diagnosis and Prevention of STIs in Morocco and Tunisia

Through a regional strategy, the Ministry of Health of Morocco (Directorate of Epidemiology and Transmitted Diseases) and Tunisia (National Research Center for Reproductive Health) are jointly implementing a project to reduce the prevalence of sexually transmitted infections (STIs) including HIV/AIDS, through the exchange of information and experiences. Key accomplishments:

- An STI prevalence study was conducted to set up a database on STI cases and identify risk factors.
- A Regional Reference Laboratory in Morocco was established and equipped.
- Laboratory personnel were trained.
- Research findings and key elements were disseminated at a National Workshop in Tunisia.
- A regional study on STIs prevalence was completed in Tunisia.

Small Grants

Enhancing NGOs Capacity in Africa

The **Partners** Secretariat is represented on the Task Force for improving the capacity of NGOs in Sub Saharan Africa to participate in South-South exchanges.

The Center for African Family Studies (CAFS) conducted an assessment regarding governance systems of NGOs in population and reproductive health in Sub-Saharan Africa as a pre-requisite to building a strong African South-South NGO partnership. This study covered five regions of Southern, Eastern, Central, Franco-phone and Anglophone West Africa.

A Task Force meeting was conducted in November 2001 in Nairobi, Kenya to discuss the results, plan a dissemination conference and establishment of an NGO Network. The information will be used to develop a regional capacity building program to improve NGO governance and leadership in the region.

Biopsychosocial model on risk assessment of maternal mortality

Partners co-funded a multi-center research project on Biopsychosocial model on risk assessment of maternal mortality in Colombia. The countries involved were Bangladesh, China and Colombia.

Adolescent reproductive health in India

The Institute of Reproductive Research (IRR) in Mumbai, India which is an affiliate of the Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR) was financed to undertake follow-up activities on adolescent reproductive health in India.

Increasing access of high quality IEC materials for youth in Latin America

Mexfam in Mexico was financed to develop a catalog on "Educative Materials on Sexual and Reproductive Health for Youth."

The purpose of the catalog is to:

- diffuse updated materials produced by different organizations aimed to educate youth on sexual and reproductive health.
- To facilitate access to high quality IEC materials for professionals working in sex education and adolescent reproductive health.

This catalog covers 70 high quality IEC materials developed by 13 countries: Brazil, Colombia, Cuba, Chile, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras, Japan, Mexico, Peru and the United States.

Sexual abuse, Alcoholism, Contraception, Self Esteem, Condom, Sexual Rights, Sex Education, Adolescent pregnancy, Sexuality and Gender, STI, HIV/AIDS, Homosexuality, Parenthood and Motherhood, Sex Health, Violence are among the areas included in the catalog.

Other materials are: CD, brochures, educative guides, comics, books, manuals, educative packages, reports, magazines, flipcharts, and videos.

Expanding South-South Training Programs

Global Leadership Program Training Expansion

The Program has a two-pronged approach to help develop a new generation of planners, program managers, technical experts and service providers in reproductive health and population programs in developing countries through a process of institutional capacity building of premier training institutes among member countries of **Partners**. It aims at developing cost-effective and sustainable training programs in the field.

The program efficiency accrued through GLP skill development process potentially benefits an enormous mass of beneficiaries of the developing countries.

The following table represents the geographical and subject areas covered by training programs during 2001.

With a very positive response from the participating countries and agencies, the program has already been initiated in thirteen institutions - six in Asia, three in Middle East and North Africa (MENA), three in Sub-Saharan Africa, and one in Latin America. Twelve courses have been offered, graduating more than 300 participants from nearly sixty-five countries.

Fellowship Program

Partners successfully launched a Fellowship Program, featuring the cost-sharing arrangement among developing countries in 1999. Prior to 2001, developing countries training institutions offered 44 fellowships to participants from 12 countries.

During 2001, sixty-six fellowships were offered by China, Bangladesh, Egypt and India.

Expanding South-South consultative meetings

Technical

Accelerating Essential Health Commodity Security

Partners' involvement in essential commodity issues began with the International Advisory Committee's recommendation at its 2000 meeting in Bangkok followed by an expressed request made at the **Partners** Board meeting held in Beijing in 2001 to hold a technical consultation meeting in India. Acting upon the recommendation of the Board Meeting in November 2000, where members of **Partners** called on the South to protect its right to essential, high quality drugs at the lowest possible cost, **Partners** organized a technical consultation meeting at Kochi, India from June 12-15, 2001.

The meeting explored effective, lawful means of increasing developing countries' access to affordable Reproductive health commodities. Discussions, panels and deliberations were aimed to achieve three specific outcomes:

- a better understanding of the technical, regulatory and trade-related issues that affect access to essential commodities;
- a consensus among the policy makers of Partner countries on the need for coordinated action to address these issues; and
- a framework for collaboration between both Partner and non-partner developing countries through South-South collaboration.

Discussions covered "Trade related aspects of intellectual property rights" (TRIPS) provisions such as parallel importation, compulsory licensing to promote local manufacture of essential drugs and contraceptives, and a range of issues were presented and discussed at the meeting. Technical experts highlighted supply and demand, essential drug policies, quality assurance systems in drug manufacturing, drug regulatory and licensing systems, access to drugs for HIV/AIDS and commodity management issues such as, logistics and procurement policies and systems. Panel sessions on various global initiatives in the field were organized. In addition, eight working groups looked intensively into two additional issues other than those mentioned above; these are research and development and quality of care. The groups recommended priority South-South actions in respective areas. (Presentations available at: [HYPERLINK http://www.south-south.org](http://www.south-south.org) <http://www.south-south.org>)

The meeting was participated by Board Members of **Partners** along with national delegates comprised of senior government officials and relevant technical experts. Other high-level delegates attended from non-member developing countries like Brazil, Malaysia and Nigeria. Attended the meeting, experts from the UNFPA, UNAIDS, UNDP, bilateral agencies like the USAID, DFID and international NGOs like MSF, OXFAM and FHC provided global perspectives and updates on relevant ongoing initiatives and development. Scholars from the academia like, University of California at Berkeley, Mahidol University, Oxford University, University of Toronto also attended the consultation. Private sector entrepreneurs were represented by pharmaceutical companies namely, Hindustan Latex, CIPLA, Family Care of India, Xianju Pharmaceutical Co. Ltd. of China and BEXIMCO, Acme of Bangladesh and Gonoshashtya Kendra.

The three-day technical consultation resulted in two consensus documents. (i) The political concerns and urge from the member countries: 'The Kochi Declaration' and (ii) The 'Agenda for Action', which contains technical rationale for areas to act upon and possible options and mechanisms to ensure access to essential commodities. (Full text available at: [HYPERLINK http://www.south-south.org](http://www.south-south.org) <http://www.south-south.org>)

The Secretariat developed a five-year action plan following the bearing provided in the two key documents mentioned above. The process of identifying focal point in each of the member countries has been initiated. A pilot project on harmonization of trade regulatory framework was also developed which attracted private sector funding. The pilot project is for one-year involving India, Kenya and Mali.

Meetings/workshops in Sub-Saharan Africa

An expert group workshop on Adolescent-Sexual Reproductive Health STD/HIV/AIDS, February 5-8, 2001, Zimbabwe was conducted to design the curriculum for the Global Leadership Training Program.

A Regional meeting of EARHN was held in March 26, 2001 in Kampala. Uganda handed over the Chair to Tanzania. Attended also by Director of Zimbabwe

National Family Planning Commission. Zimbabwe was invited to explore possibilities for expanding the network to Southern Africa.

Promoting Safe Motherhood and Adolescent Reproductive Health in Latin America: 12 - 14 November 2001.

Partners in Population and Development together with The Population Council, the Alan Guttmacher Institute, and other international Sponsors conducted a regional meeting in the State of Morelos, Mexico on "Unwanted pregnancy and abortion: Public Health challenges in Latin America and the Caribbean".

Sixty-seven (67) papers were presented and discussed covering issues such as the research, legal, social, clinical, epidemiological and community perspectives of abortion.

The meeting was attended by representatives of GO, NGO, International and Academic Organizations from 19 countries such as Argentina, Barbados, Bolivia, Brazil, Colombia, Costa Rica, Cuba, Chile, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras, Japan, Mexico, Paraguay, Peru, Uruguay, and Venezuela.

Governance

The Executive Committee Meeting, July 2001

The Executive Committee Meeting was hosted by Government of Zimbabwe in Victoria Falls from July 26-28, 2001. We would like to express our gratitude to the Government of Zimbabwe for the strong support provided to organize and host this meeting. A Strategy for resource mobilization was discussed. The IAC was invited to present their report which focused on selecting 3 drugs manufactured by developing countries and how the access to these commodities can be improved through South-South exchange programs.

During the Executive Committee Meeting, interviews to select the new Executive Director were conducted.

The Board Meeting, November 2001

The 7th Board Meeting was postponed to June 2002 in Tunis, Tunisia.

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