

MEETINGS AND CONFERENCES

“**Family Planning and Reproductive Health Through Corporate Social Responsibility**” was held in Dhaka, Bangladesh in March 2004. CATALYST sponsored the workshop in partnership with the NGO Service Delivery Project (NSDP) of Bangladesh to train both urban and rural NGOs in the principles and best practices of corporate-NGO partnerships. CATALYST will continue to collaborate with local businesses, associations, and NGOs to design, manage and evaluate mutually beneficial partnerships to provide reproductive health and family planning services in workplaces and communities.

CATALYST/Peru and NGO ADAR organized the first **regional conference on OBSI** in Iquitos for more than 100 participants. OBSI activities in Iquitos are receiving full support of the Regional Health Authority (DISA), members of the Ob-Gyn Society of Iquitos, Universities, Schools of Medicine, Nursing and Midwifery. As part of the OBSI project activities in Iquitos, a baseline study was conducted and main results include strong support from the community to implement the OBS initiative. The community is actively participating in project activities to create awareness of OBSI.

The **CATALYST ANE Conference “Scaling Up for Success: Best Practices in Family Planning and Reproductive Health”** was held in Cairo, Egypt on March 29 – April 2. The conference was held under the auspices of First Lady, Suzanne Mubarak, and the Egyptian Minister of Health and Population attended the opening ceremonies. Eighteen countries participated. Researchers and experts from around the world presented on optimal birth spacing, community based postpartum and postabortion care, corporate social responsibility, sustainability, male involvement, youth programs and integration of services.

MARK YOUR CALENDARS

The **CATALYST Work Plan Work Shop** will be held at headquarters on April 12 – 15th.

On May 4th the **Pathfinder Board of Directors** will be in Washington, DC and CATALYST will host a reception from 5:30pm-7:30pm.

The **Management Review** of CATALYST will take place May 13th in Washington, DC.

The **Fifth OBSI Champions Meeting** will be held at the Jury’s Hotel May 26th in Washington, DC.

COUNTRY UPDATES

BOLIVIA: In February, CATALYST/Bolivia obtained approval for implementation of the Special-initiative-funded PAC community mobilization activity, which will be carried out in the cities of El Alto (in the mountains) and Santa Cruz (located in the Amazon River Basin). This project is the first USAID-funded PAC activity of its kind. Thus far, the team has hired a Peru-based Technical Advisor with expertise in community mobilization, as well as a La Paz Project Coordinator. Congratulations to the Bolivia team! Please see the Peru update for more information about the CATALYST community PAC initiative.

EGYPT: TAHSEEN commissioned a puppet show in Minia to present issues related to FP/RH in an attractive manner to youth, especially engaged and newly married couples. In a comic fashion, the show “**The Marriage of Araguz and Kishkelioz**” addresses early marriage, parent-adolescent communication, premarital counseling, and child spacing.

The pilot of the “**Gender and Sexual and Reproductive Rights: A Strategy to Improve the Quality of Care**” Training Manual for Sexual and Reproductive Health Providers was successfully completed in Minia. Male and female providers from the public, private and NGO sectors participated.

INDIA: Adolescent Health and Family Life Education (FLE) programs have been designed for

2 NGOs in Uttar Pradesh - World Vision in Ballia and Sabla in Rae Barielly. Adolescent Health and FLE training packages have been developed and master trainers and lead trainers trained in Ballia and Rae Bareilly. Along with SIFPSA, CATALYST also facilitated a two-day workshop for the Education Department to finalize the curriculum for FLE-Summer Camps for Students of Class VII and VIII.

Two sub grants - to implement activities to sustain Family Life Education and Adolescent Health Services – are in process with partners Prayatan and Child Survival India in New Delhi. Price Waterhouse Coopers (PWC) is providing TA for setting up a Cost Accounting System in the two institutions in order for program and finance managers' to track and manage revenues and costs in different components of the program.

PERU: As part of the USAID Peru mission strategy to institutionalize processes within Peruvian institutions that will guarantee health care quality, the first national medical exam was piloted in 6 medical schools with major success. CATALYST/Peru and USAID Peru Mission have facilitated this process over several months in close collaboration with the Peruvian Association of Medical Schools-ASPEFAM.

CATALYST/Peru continues participating in a series of workshops in Pucallpa with AED, CEPSCO, CEDRO and PDAP. Workshops train mediators, who will in turn train teachers from all over Ucayali in teaching methodologies, environment protection and promotion of healthy behaviors.

YEMEN: Dr. Hamouda Hanafi has been hired as CATALYST's Chief of Party for the Yemen office. He is supported by an experienced team of Yemeni professionals. The work plan is in the final stages of completion and programming should start very soon.

PROGRAMMATIC UPDATES

The OBSI Guide to train health providers in optimal birth spacing counseling has been finalized for field trial. It combines the statistical data of studies commissioned by CATALYST and

the findings of focus groups conducted in five countries (Bolivia, Egypt, India, Pakistan, and Peru) to provide trainers with tips and suggestions on exercises, use of materials, and role-playing that can aid them in counseling a woman about the potential benefits of practicing optimal birth spacing. When the field-testing is done, the responses to the pretest questionnaire will be used to make the necessary adjustments.

The “**Gender and Sexual and Reproductive Rights: A Strategy to Improve the Quality of Care**” Training Manual for Sexual and Reproductive Health Providers has been finalized. The manual provides conceptual and methodological tools, from changing personal attitudes to incorporating gender and human rights perspectives into the adoption of action plans by organizations that offer FP/RH services.

The Documentation of CEDPA/Egypt New Horizons and New Visions, Youth Empowerment Program, was finalized. The objective of this documentation is to share lessons learned from the design, implementation of the program strategies as well as the impact of participation on youth, on implementing NGO partners, and on program results and achievements.

TAKE NOTE

Congratulations CATALYST! On February 4, 2004 **The Wall Street Journal** published an article on optimal birth spacing “**New Math on When to Have Kids.**” CATALYST’s involvement in examining the emerging body of evidence with the intent to create new, standard recommendations on birth spacing is specifically mentioned.

Welcome to **new headquarters staff:** Ed Abel, Deputy Director, Kamlesh Giri, Reproductive Health Officer, Suzanne Knecht, Reproductive Health Officer, and Malu Jiminez, Program Officer.