



# *Implementing Best Practices Initiative*

## **IBP Initiative Quarterly Report May 2003**

Thank you all again for your participation in our recent meeting. It was good to see you and we believe it was a very productive meeting. While electronic communication is efficient, it does not replace the pleasure and efficiency of a face-to-face meeting.

We would like to give you an update of where things are after the meetings at JHPIEGO and JHUCCP earlier this month, and after an additional few days' discussion with Bob Rice and Florence Carayon, who were in Geneva on another assignment last week.

### **Electronic Communication System**

As a result of our meeting, we have formed four task teams for the Electronic Communication System:

- Language and Governance
- Systems Design/Interface
- Field Testing
- Public Space

The individuals who signed up for these teams are listed in the attachment. If you did not sign up and would like to join any of these teams, please contact Tim Ryan by June 2, with a copy to me and Susan Monaghan. Tim is the project manager from our MIS Department who is co-ordinating the development of this system. He will lead these task teams, supported by Florence Carayon. We need to work on all four issues, but a priority is the interface and field testing.

Tim plans to visit India in July for user input and to plan the field testing in India. He will discuss the system, field testing, and timeframe with our India IBP Steering Committee, and if time and resources permit, he will also meet their teams working in the different states. We need to work out with you other countries in which to field test this system, but India is the first priority. Prior to the July visit to India, there are a number of items to be prepared, such as a discussion framework for Tim to use for user input. Tim is going to provide us with a PERT chart/activity framework for the development phases of the system so that all of the development processes and timeframes are clear.

**Point Person at WHO for Consortium: Maggie Usher-Patel**

**Task Team Leader: Tim Ryan**

### **Mini University for India Meeting**

Bob and Florence will lead on the completion of this aspect of the India Meeting. We have reviewed the Mini University schedule, and also discussed issues related to the structure and presentation of the sessions. Bob is currently refining the Mini University plan. To help finalize the Mini University, Florence will visit India in July. We plan to combine this visit with Tim's field trip and a follow-up visit by Maggie to discuss follow-up, meet with MOH officials, donors, etc. so that we harness and reenergize our momentum and make sure everything is organized.

**Point Person at WHO for IBP Consortium: Maggie Usher-Patel**

**Task Team Leader: Bob Rice**

### **Agenda for India Meeting**

We have received feedback from India, taken into consideration your comments, and revised the agenda. We believe it is looking pretty good. Bob is going to do some last checking and will check in with the India team for the final review. It will then be circulated to the Task Team for a last check for any egregious oversights or problems. We expect to have it ready the first week in June.

**Point Person at WHO for IBP Consortium: Maggie Usher-Patel**

**Task Team Leader: Bob Rice**

### **Exercises for India Meeting**

Bob Rice has done an excellent job of pulling together the work that has been done by the Exercise Task Team to refine the exercises and to develop the facilitators' guide. He intends to finalize this and circulate it to the task team. The facilitators' guide will be printed. We have also discussed the possibility of printing a brief participant's guide with the objectives of each session, note pages and work sheets to support participants when they return to their work after the meeting. Bob Rice and Florence Carayon will be preparing a draft of this participant's guide.

**Point Person at WHO for IBP Consortium: Maggie Usher-Patel**

**Task Team Leader: Bob Rice**

### **Participants of the IBP India Meeting**

The IBP Steering Committee has put together a list of individuals they are inviting to this meeting. We have added the individuals we will invite who are non-sponsored. The present list does not identify everyone who has been invited or everyone who will be coming from the IBP Consortium organizations.

The file of invitees will be sent in a separate e-mail, requesting your input. **Action requested:** We will need your response NO LATER THAN Monday, June 2.

**Point Person at WHO for IBP Consortium: Maggie Usher-Patel**

### **India Meeting Preparation timetable**

We have reviewed this and will circulate it in early June.

**Point Person at WHO for IBP Consortium: Maggie Usher-Patel**

## **Tool Kit**

We have received some excellent feedback from our Middle East (EMRO) Regional office about the Tool Kit. Maggie recently met with Dr. Ramez Mahaini, Reproductive Health Regional Advisor from WHO-EMRO, and he indicated that it was very useful and requested 50 more of the CDs and reports.

We are starting to consider the next phase of development for a tool kit, and Susan will be working with the Tool Kit Task Team on this. She and Sallie Craig Huber will be in touch with you all about this.

**Point Person at WHO for IBP Consortium: Susan Monaghan**

**Task Team Leader: Sallie Craig Huber**

## **Follow-up/Mentorship Activities**

Susan Palmore is developing the three papers discussed at the meeting, and they will go out to the task team no later than June 9. Susan Palmore is also collecting recommendations re the labels for the various roles related to the Follow-up/Mentorship Activities. We will be working with the Communication System Field Testing Task Team to pilot these labels in India.

We have requested feedback from all IBP Consortium members, specifying whether they could commit to follow-up in the specific states in India. A reminder for this feedback will be sent separately.

A Michigan Fellow, sponsored by USAID, will be placed in India later this year to assist with IBP follow-up activities. Candidates will soon be interviewed, and hopefully the timing will permit the Fellow to be in place prior to the September India meeting.

**Point Person at WHO for IBP Consortium: Susan Monaghan**

**Task Team Leader: Susan Palmore**

## **Africa Launch**

A review of African countries where IBP Consortium members have ongoing activities, USAID and WHO priorities, and other factors, such as good donor coordination, rendered a potential approach for the IBP Initiative Launch in African countries. At the Baltimore meeting, an agreed-upon approach for the foreseeable future was to cluster 4-5 countries in each of 3 phases with launch meetings not more frequent than every 9 – 12 months. At least one of the 3 phases would include Francophone countries, but most of the IBP Consortium committee agreed that we were not ready to include Francophone countries in phase I. The anticipated timing for the first phase of the Africa launch is a meeting in early February. This date was chosen primarily due to funding/program considerations. Planning would need to begin almost immediately. **The countries chosen at the IBP meeting in Baltimore as the Consortium recommendation include Uganda, Kenya, Ethiopia, and Tanzania, with the possibility of doing some work in Mozambique, as well.**

Since returning to Geneva, we have met with the WHO Regional Reproductive Health Regional Advisor and other key WHO officials from AFRO. They basically concurred with the country selections, but made a case for an accelerated approach. However, an important consideration that has surfaced since the IBP Consortium meeting in Baltimore is *security*.

The U.S. State Department has issued a travel warning for Kenya, and non-essential personnel at the U.S. Embassy there are being evacuated. British Airways has suspended travel operations to Kenya. Other East African nations (all those on our phase I list) have had warnings issued by the British government. We will need to follow this situation closely before proceeding with a final plan.

In spite of this slight uncertainty, anyone interested in working on a planning task team or who has recommendations on organizations or networks that should be included in the planning task team should contact Susan Monaghan by June 2. We are scheduling country visits and a planning meeting in early August to coincide with a WHO reproductive health network meeting in Maputo, and will try to make it just prior to the Best Practices in Training conference being organized by JHPIEGO. There will be another planning opportunity the week of October 20, when a meeting of the African Regional Task Force on Reproductive Health is held, but things will need to be well under way by that time. More information on the Africa launch will follow in the near future.

**Point Person at WHO for IBP Consortium: Susan Monaghan**

**Task Team Leader: To be determined**

**Efficiency in our communication with you:** Please note that with each item above, we have indicated who from our team (Maggie or Susan) will be the lead person from the WHO IBP office handling that particular issue. We ask that, if you contact us on these items, you write to the point person, with a copy to the other, instead of addressing the e-mail to both of us. That way, we will both stay informed, but we both will not respond to your e-mail or—worse yet—both expect that the other is responding to your e-mail and you wait with no answer.

**Coming months' activities:** **Refinement of 3-year strategy**  
**Development of a technical basis paper**  
**India Meeting**  
**Planning for a funding proposal**  
**Initiate Planning for Africa launch of IBP**

*All the best. Maggie and Susan*

**ATTACHMENT –**

**New Task Teams for IBP Electronic Communication System**

*Note: Please contact Tim Ryan at WHO if you wish to be added to any of the following Task Teams ( [ryant@who.int](mailto:ryant@who.int), with a copy to [usherpatelm@who.int](mailto:usherpatelm@who.int) and [monaghans@who.int](mailto:monaghans@who.int) )*

**Language and Governance**

Thada Bornstein  
Susan Palmore  
Bob Rice  
Sharon Rudy

**Systems Design/Interface**

Rick Banks  
Bill Lesker  
Ruby Thind

**Field Testing**

Florence Carayon  
Jennifer Rodin  
Engender Health (name?)  
JHPIEGO (name?)

**Public Space**

Natalie Maier  
Ward Rinehart