



**Associação
Saúde da
Família**

Final Report

(Year-3 progress report: July 2007 - June 2008)

Project: Expanding HIV/AIDS /STI prevention and care integrated to primary care in the City of Fortaleza, Brazil - Year 3: educational intervention and care to women and female adolescents living in specific poor areas of Fortaleza

Sponsored by:

Johnson & Johnson

**FORTALEZA, BRAZIL
July, 2008**



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- **Faculdade Christus**
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Sponsored by

- **Johnson & Johnson**
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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Project Main Strategies – Year-3

- Continued education on STD/AIDS for FHP professionals;
- Intensification of education promotion and assistance actions on STD/AIDS to women, children and teenagers;
- Education of men and young male teenagers using the events and locations where there is higher concentration of this population to diffuse information;
- Door to door community education by the Health Community Agents;
- Follow-up and monitoring of activities developed by Primary Health Care Units Professionals within the scope of the Project.

Trainig Activities And Information

- Training course on sexually transmitted diseases for Health Care Agents of region SER II – September 2007.
- Workshop with educators on Sexuality and educational intervention for HIV/AIDS/STD prevention;
- Workshop with Community Leaders on educational intervention for HIV/AIDS/STD prevention;
- I Regional Seminar on STD/HIV/AIDS – December 2007 at Faculdade Nordeste – FANOR
- Upgrade meetings on STD/AIDS
- 8º HIV/AIDS Forum for primary care professionals – June 2008

Reproduction And Distribution Of Educational Materials

- Reproduction and distribution of Materials to train Health teams, CDs and DVDs with STD/AIDS Prevention and Treatment classes .

Events

- World AIDS Day – December 1st, 2007 – A week of activities
- Pre-Carnival and Carnival – 2008
- International Women's Day - 2008

Donations For Ser II Family Health Units

- DVD players – Philips - 10 Units;
- TV sets – 29 inches – Philips w/ Flat Screen – 10 Units;
- Collection of 08 DVDs – “Notebook of Permanent Education for HCA” - 10 Units;
- *DVDs – “Integrated Project Reproductive Health” - 10 Units;*
- CDs – “Radio stories of Condom” – 10 Units;
- World AIDS Day pins – 300 Units;
- *Educational Kit (Folders, Posters, Fliers, Stickers) - “On STD and AIDS” and “Reproductive Health”, “Prevention against gynecologic cancer” and “Family Planning” – 600 Units;*
- Uniforms for 300 SER II Health Community Agents.

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1. TRAINING ACTIVITIES AND INFORMATION

1.1. Training course on sexually transmitted diseases for Health Care Agents of region SER II – September 2007.

The Johnson & Johnson Project entitled "Educational Intervention and Assistance to Women and Female Adolescents with Low Income for HIV/AIDS/STD Prevention in the Municipality of Fortaleza/Ceará – Brazil/CE" allowed that the performance of the training course entitled "Childhood, Adolescence and STD/HIV/AIDS prevention for Health Community Agents of SER II".

The training course was performed from 18 to 28 September 2007 with the participation of 85 Health Community Agents from 06 Units covered by the Project. These Agents were divided in two groups since the beginning for a total of 32 hours of training at Faculdade de Medicina Christus.

The contents approached aimed at meeting the requests and needs of HCAs at the work field. In general, a 40-hour retrospective of the training was performed in 2005, getting deeper into some subjects (e.g. contraception and STD/AIDS) and introducing new themes, as "Affection, Childhood and Sexuality and HIV/AIDS/STD prevention, growing up with prevention and pleasure", Actions Assisted by the Project on SER II, Recommendations related to HIV testing, Positive Communication, Intervention Methodology for Health Promotion.

The work methodology used was mixed, with exhibitions and debates, audiovisual projections and participative activities, and this facilitate the HCAs interventions during the learning process.

Two evaluations were applied, one in written form and another gestalt.

In the end, there were exchange of messages among the colleagues and good-byes per groups of work areas.

We expect and hope that the participants feel stronger after each training and that the training enables them to reflect on their personal value and reliability and allow a personal and collective progress.

1.1.1.1 Training dynamics

The training started with a **warming up** with music. Next, it was proposed a **desensibilization, "Remembering 2005"**, in which the HCAs quoted themes and participative activities from the course that took place that year, on "Male and female sexuality, reproductive health and STD/AIDS prevention".

For the initial survey of expectations, paper foldings (origami) were made, **"The Shape"**, a gestaltic activity to be re-evaluated at the course completion.

The following theme, **"Esteem"** dealt with individual records that justified the **Self-esteem** and **Alter-esteem** by complementation of the phrases "I love myself" and "I'm loved", encouraging the identification of the meanings of these two situations.

In order to make a retrospect of the of the participants' psychosocial development several activities were carried out in which memories from childhood emerged, under the theme - **"Childhood, Sexuality and STD/AIDS Prevention"**. Activities such as "The train", "My discoveries", living drama on "HIV+ Pregnancy with or without ART (antiretroviral therapy)", projection of theoretical contents and of the DVD "Aquarela" by Toquinho enabled an intense involvement of all participants.

Another topic that also roused emotions, "Growing up with Prevention and Pleasure", addressed the teenagers in the History, the image of the body, normal adolescence syndrome, loss and gains, dilemmas and activity on pregnancy during adolescence. Other items on the same topic will be addressed in a 2nd module.

A subject already discussed in the 2005 course, **"Contraception"**, required reinforcement on the knowledge about **diaphragm**, the acceptance of **male and female condoms** in sexual relations and the **emergency contraception**.

A projection and exhibition on sexually transmitted diseases were presented to encourage a dialogue with the participants on the theme **"The Role of Health Services in managing STD Cases"**. The importance of the **syndromic approach** for the most common symptomatic STDs was emphasized, at the moment of appointment, for patient identification and referral to treatment.

It was explained that there is also risks of contamination during acts of **Sexual Violence**, leading people to seek help in the Public Health and Security Systems, as well in medication prophylaxis. It was also reassured the need to watch the Health Professionals **attitude** on counseling, communication and ethical respect to clients who seek the Health System.

Under the theme "**Actions Assisted by the Project on SER II of Fortaleza**", health data collected by the HCAs and the scope of prevention programs were shared to the decision making process of actions aiming at the desired health promotion.

Regarding the **HIV testing and recommendations**, the importance of being aware of the ethical implications that involve HIV testing and its legal aspects was pointed out through examples and discussion of cases.

The World Health Organization has alerted to the need to refine the **Positive Communication** in interventions for STD/HIV/AIDS prevention. In response to this alert, the importance of being aware of **universal values** (equality, freedom, dignity, respect and responsibility) to make **decisions**, to have **assertiveness**, to know how to establish **limits** and to have **negotiation** ability were discussed in the course.

Another item highlighted referred to the **Methodology for Health Promotion Intervention** in which was used an interesting variation and combination of methods in development of Qualifications. The **Exhibition Method** refers to a short presentation, without interruptions of a theme. In general, the **Audiovisual Method** uses projection material. In the **Participative Method** active techniques are used in group dynamics in group activities which are more efficient to reach the desired behavioral changes.

Before the end of the training, the participants were encouraged to make a **Review**, talking about the course's relevant points, by brainstorm.

Next, the Health Community Agents filled out a **Written Evaluation** with their opinions about the Course offered, the relevance of the themes for professional and personal development, the methodology used, self-evaluation, their feelings, positive and negative points and with blank space for other comments.

Finally, the participants performed a **Gestalt Evaluation**, taking the individual folded papers and deciding if the shapes should remain the same or should be changed in relation to the expectations they had before course.

In the **closing session**, each participant wrote a message, put it in an envelope and delivered it to a colleague, after dancing in concentric circles. There were also good-byes per work groups on Health Basic Units (UBS) which was completed with the group singing the song "Caminhemos Juntos" (Let's walk together), followed by body expression.

1.2. Meeting with Educators on educational intervention related to HIV/AIDS/STD prevention

Aiming at strengthening this integration with schools, the Associação Saúde da Família/Nordeste with the support of Fortaleza Municipal Secretaries of Health and Education, held a meeting with 10 educators in September 2007 at the Frei Tito School. In this Event, the need for Schools to continue developing with the students programs for orientation on HIV/AIDS/STD prevention was reassured, using mainly the participative methodology.

The facilitators heard the perceptions and needs of the group of educators related to the teaching exercise: concerns referring to inadequate manifestations of students (obscene figures and terms, exaggerated sexuality, lack of limits, violence, rebellion and sneer), unwanted pregnancy of teenager students, internal issues (teaching department) and external issues (students' family

Regarding the doubt the educators had about the legality of the approach to **Sexual Education**, it was explained that it is supported by the legislation, based on **Integral Education** which includes Sexuality Education.

It is important to point out that half of the participants were graduated in Educational Advising which is appropriate to coordinate educational programs related to Health and Sexuality and STD/AIDS prevention.

Books and teaching materials related to the topics addressed at Associação Saúde da Família /Nordeste were presented to facilitate the training process.

At the end of the meeting, the teachers requested periodical meetings to discuss the topics worked and meetings with the students' families, in order to facilitate the understanding of the problems and to use their participation to solve them.

1.3. Workshop with Community Leaders on educational intervention for HIV/AIDS/STD prevention

The Meeting with the leaders based on the importance of these people within the community was held on September 24, at the Associação Cristã Feminina, with the participation of 13 community leaders representing movements related to: Women's Health, Health Promoters, Residents Association, Health Council, Prostitutes Association, Young Agent Movement (adolescents), Religious Movement, Christian Women, AIDS Support and Prevention.

Some activities such as **"The train"** showed the need to strengthen the feelings of union, safety, search for common objectives, resistance to threats and redefinition of individualities in the group.

The public and personal security situation was a problem mentioned by all participants who gave it as much importance as collective health, STD/AIDS prevention, teenage pregnancy, and thus the debate was very interesting.

In the end, the need of the work of these leaders in their communities was recognized, as well as the need to deal with information on STD/AIDS prevention (both adults and kids), violence and teenage pregnancy.

1.4. I Regional Seminar on STD/HIV/AIDS – December 2007 at Faculdade Nordeste – FANOR

In the seminar addressing the theme **"Ethics, Stigma and Prejudice"** 110 professionals including doctors, nurses, dentists, Units Coordinators and nurse assistants, dental office assistants, receptionists, General Services/Cleaners, Representatives of Local Health Council, CAPS General Coordinator, STD Municipal Coordinator and COREM (Regional Board of nursing).

1.5. Upgrade meetings on STD/AIDS

The idea of a refreshment meeting came up due to the need identified by the monitors to strengthen the motivation for the STD/HIV/AIDS prevention work at health care units and in the community. This strategy gained support at the project monitoring meetings with suggestions of the HCAs who identified knowledge gaps, even though they had already been trained to work in the Project. This is a reasonable and justifiable request, since it was raised on the basis of the contact of HCAs with the community, which probably did not have ease access to information and to condoms previously.

Two meetings with teams of HCAs were held in April and June 2008. The first was held at the Secretary of Health of the State of Ceará and the main topic discussed was "Prevention of HIV and syphilis vertical transmission". The program followed the schedule below:

- Presentation of the video "Anjo de Asa Quebrada" (Angel with a broken wing)- debate;
- Counseling -(why, to whom, when and how to offer HIV and syphilis testing)- exhibition and debate;
- What are the implications of a negative or positive result of an HIV test – group dynamics;
- How to use counseling to expand the HIV and syphilis testing during pre-natal care - debate with the group.

1.6. 8º HIV/AIDS Forum for primary care professionals – June 2008

The second meeting was held on 30 June during the 8º HIV/AIDS Forum for primary care professionals of the region of Fortaleza, Caucaia e Baturité, with the participation of 65 Health Community Agents involved in the Project of ASF Fortaleza. This strategy was developed based on meetings held with professionals who work in HIV/AIDS services and who reflected on the importance of the prevention and early detection of the infection and in the management of people living with HIV/AIDS.

Following are some of the main objectives of the 8º Forum: to train and update the primary care teams on HIV/AIDS infection; to learn theoretical aspects of the HIV/Aids infection to promote actions involving diagnosis and follow-up of people living with HIV and Aids (PLHA); Identify opportunities for an early detection of HIV and Aids infection in the primary care; to discuss aspects related to the counseling process: importance, components, objectives and techniques; To define actions for the follow-up of PLHA to be implemented in the Primary Care; To stimulate the introduction of the care to PLHA in the Primary Care according to the Principles and Strategies of the Family Health Program (FHP); To discuss the following topics during the activities: Ethics; Rights of PLHA; Work in multidisciplinary team; Role of the Primary Care in the follow-up of PLHA; Relationship between the Primary Care and SAE and other units.

2. EVENTS

2.1. World AIDS Day – “December 1st, 2007”

Beach Tents, Squares and Inspections

The Events took place in Beach Tents at Districts of Praia do Futuro and Serviluz, Praça dos Stressados, at Avenue Beira Mar and an Informative Inspection at Avenue Desembargador Moreira.

Health Professionals including Community Agents, Women’s Health Center Coordinators and Volunteers participated in the event.

The Units were responsible for the activities carried out in specific tents: Vira-Verão (C.S.F. Flávio Marcílio and Pio XII), Atlantis (C.S.F. Paulo Marcelo and Célio Brasil Girão), Barraca Chico do Caranguejo (C.S.F. Benedito Artur and Aída Santos), Barraca América do Sol (C.S.F. Miriam Porto Mota and Odorico de Moraes). A group performed activities at the Praça dos Stressados (at Avenue Beira Mar) – (UBASF Rigoberto Romero and Sister Hercília), and at inspections in Avenues (UBASF Frei Tito).

Performed Activities: Distribution of condoms, condom holders, fliers, stickers and bracelets and performance of play and educational activities.

Each Health Unit invited Community Artists to support the Event (Groups of popular dance and music as Pagode, Ciranda, groups of Comedians, Clowns) and established associations between ASF/NE and SER II with COREN and the media.

2.2. Pre-Carnival 2008

STD/Aids prevention activities were performed during the pre-carnival period from 29 January to 2 February with the participation of Family Health professionals at Health Care Units Aída Santos e Silva, Flávio Marcílio, Frei Tito, Paulo Marcelo e Célio Brasil in order to reach a larger number of participants through health education and distribution of condoms and information material.

2.3. Carnival 2008

The activities were performed in the “blocos” and partying points of the carnival circuit, at the bus terminal Papicu, traditional meeting points of the population within the area covered by SERII.

Activities such as tents mounting, distribution of material, instructions, presentation of music groups addressing STD/AIDS prevention, as well as distribution of fliers, condoms and performance of health education activities at Health Care Units were included in the schedule of this period.

The multidisciplinary team consisted of physicians, nurses, dentists, nurse aids, dental assistants as well as health community agents, among other professionals.

Contacts and distribution of condoms and information material also took place in the concentration areas of the “Blocos”, *Amantes de Iracema, Banda do Periquito da Madame, Carnival do Buono Amicí’s, Num Ispaia Sinão Ienche, Concentra mais não sai;*

At Praia de Iracema, Carnaval da Beira Mar, a **Prevention tent** was mounted for information material and condoms distribution; with the participation of the **Prevention Band**.

2.4. InternaTional Women's Day

CAMPAIGN FOR INTENSIFICATION OF GYNECOLOGIC CANCER PREVENTION

"International Women's Day"

It is well known that breast cancer and cervical cancer are the types of cancer causing the largest number of deaths among Brazilian women. Having this in mind and considering the proximity of the International Women's Day, it was decided to develop actions on prevention and early detection of these types of cancer through a pap smear "Papanicolaou" and breast screening in 11 sites of the family health program. A campaign was launched to intensify the performance of these tests among women who had not performed then within the last year giving priority to women between 25 to 59 years of age and based on the reality of each site. The screening tests were performed on Saturdays according to the following schedule:

On 08 March the activities were performed in the following Units: CSF Odorico de Moraes, **CSF Flávio Marcílio**, CSF Benedito Artur, CSF Rigoberto Romero. On 15 March, the activities were performed at the Units below: CSF Irmã Hercília, **CSF Aída Santos e Silva**, **CSF Frei Tito de Alencar**, **CSF Pio XII**. **On 29 March the activities were performed in the following Units:** CSF Miriam Porto Mota, **CSF Célio Brasil Girão**, **CSF Paulo Marcelo Martins**.

The activities developed during the campaign were: Education in Women's Health, cervical and breast cancer prevention, as well as other topics such as STD/HIV/AIDS.

The materials used in the activities were provided by SER II.

3. MONITORING ACTIVITIES

During these activities, HCAs' opinions were collected from the chatting groups and during specific Meetings performed at several Family Health Centers.

3.1. Considerations on the work developed in the Primary Care Units monitored by Dr. Telma Martins – ASF/NE.Monitor

During the monthly meetings held with the Health Community Agents Teams from July to December 2007 we had the opportunity to hear their opinions, which indicate a high vulnerability and risk of HIV infection and other STD among adults/teenagers.

"The girls/teenagers who are smoking crack, at the District of Varjota, prostitute with older men, for the amount of R\$ 10.00, which is the price of a crack rock. We managed to talk about AIDS with one of these groups of girls and hand out the condom, but we are not sure they will use it while under the effects of the drug".

(Luciene – Community Agent)

We suggested in the Meeting that the Health Community Agents performed an educational work at Av. Beira Mar, for the girls that prostitute in the sidewalk.

The objective was to make an educational approach, with distribution of condoms, and at the same time, to refer the girls for an appointment in the afternoon/evening at Health Center Flávio Marcílio for cancer prevention.

Two Teams of the Health Unit, 04 (four) Health Agents tried an approximation, getting a few entries in the project, but most of the girls presented a very rebellious behavior, even saying they were having prevention exams or that they were not "street girls"

According to the Health Community Agents, the use of drugs such as *crack* has been increasing a lot in that area among the teenagers. The theme “drugs” has been discussed by the Health Community Agents in Schools.

"We performed 2(two) lectures at the Bárbara de Alencar School, and we got a good audience, but we noticed that 2 (two) teenagers could not participate because they were too drugged"

(Francisca Lopes – Health Community Agent)

Problems as the use of drugs and child-adolescent prostitution make STD and AIDS prevention a bigger challenge. However, some reports lead us to believe that the actions developed in the Project are increasing:

- The perception of people on STD
- The search for cancer prevention
- The search for STD care
- The interest and wish to get condoms at Health Units.

"We have been referring women for cancer prevention, women who had not gone sought a Health Unit for this purpose in more than 10 (ten) years".

(Cosma – Health Community Agent)

"After attending the lecture, many people ask to talk in private with us and say that they need a consultation for STD".

(Rosilene – Health Community Agent)

"We have been observing a great demand for condoms at the Health Units, and the fact that people do not need to make an appointment to receive condoms make people feel satisfied and also encouraged to use them".

(Rosilene – Health Community Agent)

The changes occurred after the beginning of the Project were also noticed by other members of the Family Health Team, as Doctors and Nurses These Professionals who participated in the 2006 Training are very impressed and meeting the demand at the Health Units.

"I have witnessed an important increase in the number of people seeking STD care, which I link to the local prevention work performed by the Health Community Agents. I've also noticed that the patient have been coming to the appointment in a more calm and informed way, and many of them already come with his/her partner".

(Dr. Ananias – Medical Doctor)

At the evaluation of the Health Agents, the Project's actions in 2007 brought many benefits to the people living in the areas covered by the Project, and also to the Professionals who work at the Health Units.

Between January and June 2008, 16 monitoring visits were performed at the Units with the participation of HCA teams (Health Community Agents) who were already working in the Project and the HCA teams recently hired by the Municipal Secretary of Health. These meetings are performed as "chatting groups" where the data produced by the health teams and inserted in the report of the previous month are discussed. In total, 103 education group meetings were performed at the Primary Care Units with the community for reproductive health, family planning and HIV/AIDS prevention. After this discussion, the Agents talk about the educational activities performed in the current month regarding quantity, locations, target population and methodology used. In this point, the HCAs report

their own experiences with the community, in which they mostly notice a vulnerability and risk of the population living in the region covered by SER II.

"Many adolescents who have an active sexual life without the knowledge of their parents seek our services to get condoms. We have been identified by them as people in who they can rely to tell the most intimate experiences of their life. We take this opportunity to talk to them about the risks they run of getting AIDS and refer them to the Primary Care Unit. Most of these girls have never been involved in a prevention program before".

(Luciene – HCA of C.S Flávio Marcílio)

"The number of adolescents seeking us for condoms has increased. We noticed this just after the lecture performed in schools. The problem is that when this number increase too much, there are no enough condoms to be distributed in the Unit".

(Rosilene – Health Community Agent)

"I see more and more pregnant adolescents each day. This worries me as it shows that the use of condoms is not a common practice among these girls. Many of these girls that frequently use condom at the beginning of the relationship stop using them as they get in love. This makes us very sad because we think that our work is not having any effect on them.

(Edna – HCA of C.S Odorico de Moraes)

We take this opportunity to reinforce the high vulnerability of the adolescents and the importance to make of this group our priority. It is very important to have a contact with these adolescents wherever they are with a proactive attitude, remembering that adolescents rarely get sick and therefore this population is not present at the Units. We also suggest a more comprehensive program with adolescents who work as prostitutes.

In a second stage of the meeting, the HCAs ask questions about different subjects and about doubts raised during the field work. Whenever possible we try to answer their queries or we arrange to answer these queries in the next meeting. Finally, we discuss the difficulties faced during the work within the Units, questions that are forwarded to local management, to the SER II management and/or to ASF-Fortaleza Project Coordinator.

Regarding the evaluation of the HCAs and managers, the Project actions in the first semester had continuity problems due to the dengue epidemics which mobilized all professionals. The actions continued to be performed but more in an individual basis rather than in the community.

The HCAs suggested the following actions for the second semester of 2008

- Courses on STD/AIDS for HCA recently admitted by the SMS;
- Meetings with specialists or NGO activities on prevention methodologies;
- Make the female condom available at the Project's Health Units;
- Renew the stock of kits of materials provided by ASF at the beginning of the project (gel and female condom);
- Provide new backpacks and sunscreen for Health Community Agents;
- Involve the Project "Ciranda da vida", from SMS to expand the adolescents' participation in the educational work
- Provide condoms for the HCAs field work.

The Units' managers emphasized the importance of the audiovisual materials donated by ASF Project.

"The intervention Project for STD/AIDS prevention among adolescents, supported by Johnson & Johnson, benefited our Unit in all aspects. The didactic materials as well audiovisual materials (DVD and TV) have helped our employees in the continued education process, either in the Unit or in the community"

(Edna Maria- Coordinator of the health center Flávio Marcílio)

The HCAs suggested the following actions for 2008

- Courses and/or Meetings for updates on STD/HIV/AIDS;
- Use theatrical plays as a methodology for the prevention work, involving teenagers from the Community;
- Provide female condom at the Project's Health Units;
- Renew the stock of kits of materials (gel and female condom);
- Provide new backpacks and sunscreen for Health Community Agents;
- Involve the Project "Ciranda da vida", from SMS – Fortaleza, to identify adolescents who would form the group to work with the theater group;
- Launch a educational campaign at the Tents of Praia do Futuro, during the pre-carnival period (January).
- Distribution of educational material at the party points in the region covered by SER II.

3.2. Results of the follow-up activities developed in the Primary Care Units monitored by Dr. Jocileide Campos - ASF/NE Monitor

In the monitoring process, developed at the time points of monthly meetings in chat groups or specific meetings with the Health Community Agents, Doctors, Nurses and Units Coordinators, it was possible to confirm once again the high risk of STD, including infection by HIV/AIDS among the population in the area reached by the Units. Overall, the main points mentioned are the lack of

information of among the community population and prejudice which leads to denial or fear to give their opinion about the possibility of such diseases and even to ask information

However, it is stimulating to know that some HCAs trained by ASF/NE allocated to new areas (previously, without the presence of such professional), where capable of establishing a reliable relationship during the registration of families and thus obtain important information to detect STDs.

The following data were collected during the second semester 2007:

Jorge, Health Agent of CSF Frei Tito, talks about his surprise when he started working in a new area for which he was allocated according to the criteria of his admission. *"I was afraid to not get along well. However, I was so sure of what I was doing, and I wanted to find out. I think I learned a lot by attending the Course. I started to ask and to listen more, and to insist as well, but respecting people. I realized that these people wanted to know the symptoms and the ways to catch the diseases. I was impressed with the way men started to get closer to us... There is even a homosexual who comes to talk to us about the use of condom and the forms of STDs transmission with his partner every time he changes partners. They want treatment and to know about the HPV symptoms"*.

Also from C.S.F. Frei Tito, the Health Community Agent Sonelita says that *"there was an increase in the number of men seeking condoms and also lab tests for the diagnosis of VDRL and HIV"*. *"They already know that the treatment is important as well as the use of a condom"*, she adds.

Along with Elivaldo and Das Dores (HCAs), they comment that in lectures held in schools, they see *"more participation and sharing with questions and answers on STD and pregnancy, and the young students take the matter seriously"* They also say that *"they (students) are less shy to get condoms at the Uni as now they don't need to make an appointment to do so, it is more open"*. They add that Ana Karina – a HCA admitted after the Training, feels sorry to have missed the Course, as she notices her colleagues *"have more information and are more confident to do their work with the community"*.

The Unit Coordinator, Nurse Adenilson, is excited with the HCAs and other professionals work, because he thinks they are more stimulated to work with the community. He comments that the week activities for the fight against AIDS

were developed with a lot more enthusiasm and commitment from all. *"The DVD and TV, and the films used were very important, encouraging at least the curiosity among the users of the Health Unit".*

Auxiliadora, CSF Célio Girão coordinator, comments that *"there was really an increase in the number of people looking for condoms and diagnostic tests for STDs. They are more afraid now of catching diseases. She gets sad when she sees that the HCAs are afraid to use their new backpacks and have them stolen. In her range area, another HCA entered the group increasing the coverage, but she notes there is a need of more Training. Regarding the work with theater plays that convey information "it is a little reduced, because a nurse who was the soul of that activity was transferred to another Health Unit, due to the criteria of the public contest".*

The HCAs Da Luz and Elizabete, as well as Clécio, say they can give lectures in a more clear way, but they notice an increase in the number of pregnant teenagers, even with more men getting condoms. And they can understand why this is happening.

When asked about the use of drugs, they say that *"this is a more complicated subject ... it is necessary to talk privately and to make a serious promise it will be a secret".* They say that this complexity is due to the fact that the user is almost always too young, and is afraid of talking about it at home. *"The same happens with the subject pregnancy".*

Auxiliadora, coordinator of UBS Paulo Marcelo, is an Occupational Therapist She is very dedicated to her work and she made a point which we find important – as she is not a nurse, she does not attend the Trainings. This makes it difficult for her to follow this process, and even inhibits her in some situations.

The four HCAs (out of ten) who remain at the UBS are concerned about the population of the areas not covered, and they realize the population feels like "orphan". They enjoyed the Training a lot and now they are attending the Public Health School Course for HCAs. Mara says *"I learned to listen and win the patients by praising what they do right, only after that I comment on their mistakes"* And she adds *"but I want to say, on behalf of everyone in this Unit, that we are very much satisfied with our training, mainly with the way Terezinha*

conveys her knowledge, and we thank the donations of sunscreen, TV and tapes, for now our activities have more soul, and it is a real success.

Dona Magda, one of the oldest HCAs, reports that there is a little group of drug users in the area of Cemitério São João Batista, and when she spots them, she schedules a meeting for after this "session". *"Boys, we have a lot to talk about later. These boys say is that I respect them and so I can take some of them to the Church".*

Elisa, another HCA, adds: *"There is also prostitution at Praia de Iracema, which requires us to work out of our working hours and even have an agreement with Social Action and Police Professionals, but it is very difficult".*

What I think it's more complicated, and it is getting better now, is when we meet an HIV positive patient. It is even more complicated when is a couple, and homosexual. After a lot of talk in private, I convinced a homosexual to come and bring his partner along with him to get information. But the couple ran away from me. The only thing I know is that he has a kid raised by an aunt and he is safe". Elisa – HCA.

Elizene, Nurse, says the training raised the self-esteem and developed the creativity of all participants, *"but it needs to be inclusive, to give a chance to the Coordinator who has a lot of participation with us"*

They participated in the AIDS week with activities scheduled for the whole SER II. On the "D Day", their activities were developed at Downtown Squares and by the sea shore.

Some activities were suggested in these meetings for 2008:

- Refreshment, involving the new HCAs;
- Production of a folder or brochure with instructions on STD protection, in enough amount to distribute to the population;
- Reinforcement with theatrical plays and a greater involvement of the community, of schools, and above all, of adolescents;
- Distribution of female condoms;
- Donation of a large number of bottles of sunscreens enough for the activities of home visits;

- Distribution of condoms along with educational materials and in addition to verbal explanations at the Tents mounted at Praia do Futuro, during the period pre-carnival;
- Strengthening of the training in inter-sectors approach;
- Inclusion of Unit Coordinators in the trainings.

During the 1st semester of 2008, Fortaleza, as well as other Municipalities of the State of Ceará and of the Country, faced a serious problem – the increase in the incidence of dengue cases. This contributed to decision of the health managers to give priority to educational actions aiming to fight this disease, as the rise of hemorrhagic fever caused by dengue would result in a large number of deaths in the population. Therefore, we observed a decrease in the educational activities directed to other conditions, including the STDs and AIDS. This may also have influenced the decrease in the number of condoms distributed in the Primary Health Care Units.

However, the work process was benefited with the admittance of the new HCAs approved in a public contest. Many of these professionals have experience from the pervious work, as they were part of non governmental organizations that have been working in our region. Therefore, they have experience in the work, including on how to approach the target population and organize meetings and home visits. The inclusion of these recently hired HCAs also means and expansion of the population covered allowing the inclusion of a number of new families in the regions added to the different Primary Care Units.

On the other hand, these HCAs need training to standardize the information obtained by both previously and recently admitted HCAs, even if meetings are held for them to share experiences.

Some of the HCAs reports obtained during the monitoring meetings held in different Primary Care Units reflect this situation.

UBS Célio Brasil Girão – According to Maria Lúcia and Elisbênia (HCA) *"even having to give priority to dengue, we are working with a group of pregnant women and the compliance could be stimulated with the distribution of some useful products donated by the JJ Project to some of the future mothers randomly selected in a drawing"*. Luciano, Fábio and Gabriela express their opinion: *"we need training, kit of educational materials...sometimes we feel abandoned"*.

Clécio comment "its is true that we have cassetts and CDs on STDs which we watch in group and show to the population, but we need more informed and qualified people who could share their knowledge with us and also the training is a moment in which we get closer to each other". Maria da Luz and other HCA add: "the number of condoms is not enough, they run out just after the delivery in the Unit... there is also shortage of morning after pills...educational leaflets... the population asks for all this".

For Eliezer, Eunice, Maria da Luz "its is important to have an identifying badge and participate in decisions such as the material used in our uniform which could be produced with a different material and in the community..."

UBS Frei Tito – Jorge and Das Dores express their opinion "The recently hired HCAs in the group have experience from their previous work, such as evangelization, bolsa-família (family grant), pastoral, which helps a lot in our work, but they also deserve to be trained... and we deserve to be updated", Eliete and Sonelita add. They request a cap and folder with information on syphilis. "We have to be confident to explain to the partner that he has to do treatment for syphilis as well", say Paulo Henrique, Zenilce, Cleone and Eliene. Jorge adds "we also have to find a way to convince a pregnant woman that the condom is not only to avoid getting pregnant, but also to prevent sexually transmitted diseases...in this point a folder would help.." Jorge adds: "Besides, there aren't enough condoms, it is not included in the Agent's kit anymore and there shortage of condoms at the Unit..."

UBS Aida Santos – In general, they talk about the importance of the training and about size of the uniforms as they don't fit in three of them. They prefer a cotton T-shirt. Sandra Nogueira comments "... it is good that the new Agents have different experiences and share them in the group, but it would be better if we had an educational folder to participate in the courses".

The coordinators and some technicians of these Primary health care Units, when asked, instruct the use of the equipment donated by the Project – TV, DVD and videos. "... There is a schedule in the Unit. Other topics are discussed in addition to STDs. Such as dengue, tuberculosis, leprosy. The videos are used in meetings with the community, in facilities having the equipment... It has been very important to have equipment which facilitates the information process health education in general".

It is important to emphasize that the HCAs believe that the use of this equipment helps them to be updated.

Added or reinforced suggestions for the 2º semester 2008:

- Training for the new HCAs and upgrade for the old ones.
- Production of a folder or brochure with instructions on STD protection, in enough amount to distribute to the population.
- Distribution of female condoms.
- Donation of a large number of bottles of sunscreens enough for the home visits.
- Caps for the use of HCAs during home visits.
- Identifying badge.
- Distribution of condoms and educational materials during the activities performed with the families.
- Donation of products to the care of the baby as a means to stimulate the participation of pregnant women in the groups.

4. EVOLUTION AND ANALYSIS OF THE PROJECT EPIDEMIOLOGICAL AND OPERATIONAL INDICATORS

4.1. Epidemiological indicators

In order to know how the AIDS epidemics progresses in the Municipality of Fortaleza and each of its Regional Executive Secretaries (SER) a search was performed in the National Disease Notification System database (Sistema Nacional de Agravos de Notificação (SINAN)), in which individual reports of AIDS cases are registered.

Figure 1, shows the incidence of AIDS cases in the whole Municipality of Fortaleza per year of diagnosis, from 1991 to 2007, per 10.000 inhabitants. As can be seen in the graph, there was a virtually constant increase in the incidence

of the disease since the beginning of the studied period until 1998, when the incidence reached a plateau of 16.82 cases per 10.000 inhabitants. In 2003, the incidence reached a peak of 19.19 cases per 10.000 inhabitants and since then it has been decreasing. It is important to emphasize that the data from 2006 and mainly from 2007 may change.

In July 2005, specifically in the area covered by the SER II, the Project **"EDUCATION AND CARE FOR PREVENTION OF HIV/AIDS/STD IN LOW INCOME WOMEN AND FEMALE ADOLESCENTS OF FORTALEZA/CEARÁ – BRAZIL"** – was launched.

From the point of view of the Municipal Health System, is important to note the expansion of college graduated professionals such as Medical Doctor, nurses and dentists working in the Primary Health Care, in the Family Health Program, which increased from around 200 professionals in 2003 to 750 in 2006, representing an increase from 15 to 40% in the population covered (Fortaleza, 2007).

Source: SMS/COPS/ Epidemiological Surveillance.

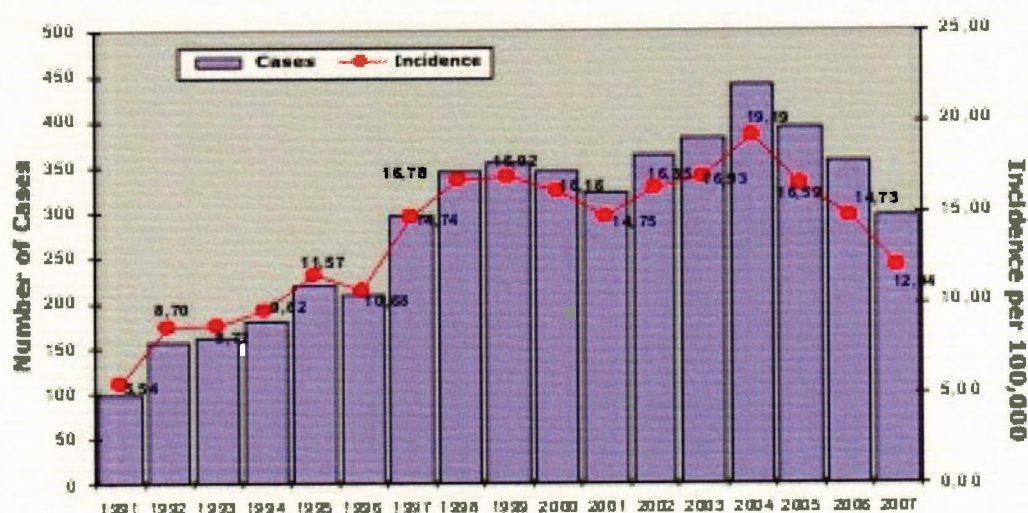


Figure 1 Incidence of Aids cases per 100.000 inhabitants in Fortaleza, per year of diagnosis from 1991 to 2007.

Figure 2 shows the increase in the number of distributed condoms without any cost to the population through the Family Health Program. This number almost doubled from 2004 to 2007, with 5, 472, 864 male condoms distributed.

Source: SMS/COPS/ Epidemiological Surveillance.

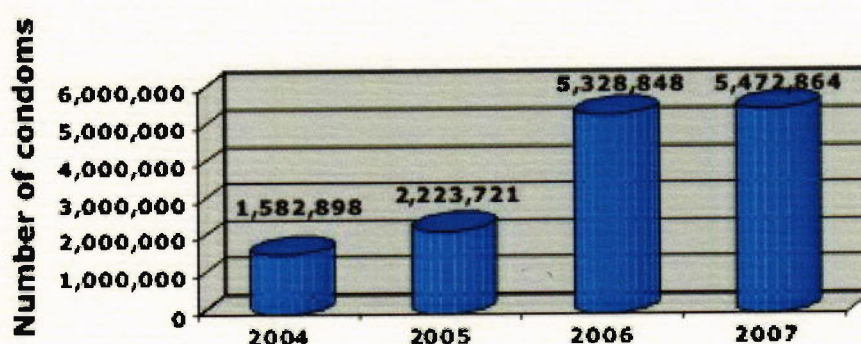


Figure 2 Number of male condoms distributed per year, Fortaleza, 2004-2007

The coefficients of the incidence of HIV positive results in pregnant women were calculated from 2000 to 2006 per Health Regional (Table 1 and Figure 3). These coefficients were calculated considering the number of HIV positive results obtained from SINAN as the numerator and the number of babies born alive obtained from the National System of information of born alive children (Sistema Nacional de Nascidos Vivos – SINASC) as the denominator. In the Regional II, the area covered by the Project, peaks of incidence were observed in 2003 and 2005, with 2.2 cases of HIV positive pregnant women per 1000, followed by a decrease to 1.5 cases per 1.000 born alive in 2006. In Regionals I and V, a substantial increase was observed in this incidence between 2005 and 2006, and this should have special attention of health managers.

Table 1 Coefficient of the incidence of HIV positive pregnant women and exposed infants per 1000 born alive children according to domicile in the Municipality of Fortaleza- CE

HIV + PREGNANT WOMEN	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006
Regional I	1.1	0.6	2.1	0.6	1.0	2.6	3.4
Regional II	1.0	0.7	1.7	2.2	1.3	2.2	1.5
Regional III	1.5	0.9	1.1	1.0	1.1	1.2	2.2
Regional IV	0.7	0.4	3.0	0.7	1.8	1.8	2.2
Regional V	1.6	1.3	1.7	0.9	1.6	1.6	3.6
Regional VI	1.1	1.4	1.4	3.9	2.0	3.4	2.2

Source: SINAN and SINASC

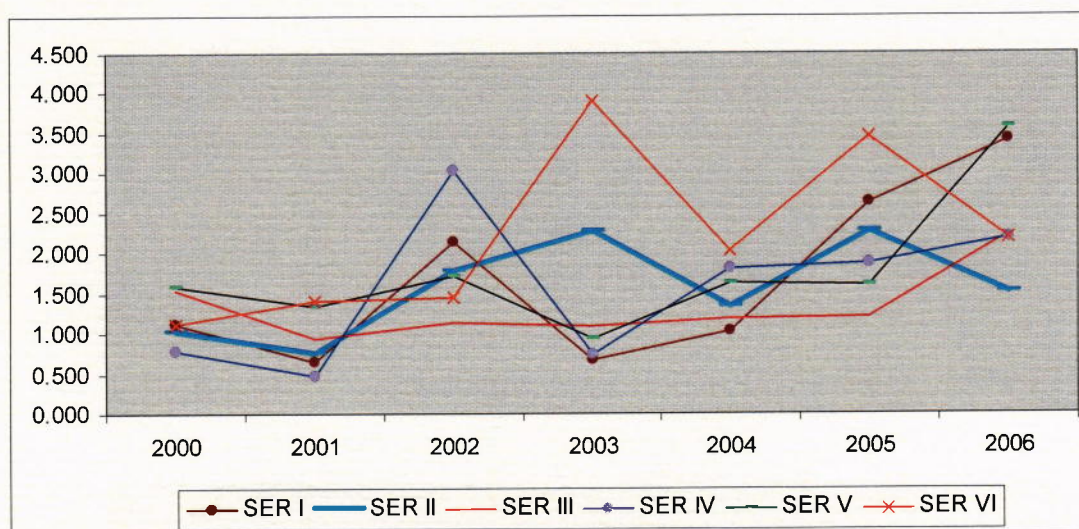


Figure 3 Coefficient of the incidence of HIV positive pregnant women from 2000 to 2006 per Health Regional of Fortaleza.

The progression of the epidemiological indicators for this analysis was not observed for time period sufficient to allow definitive conclusions to be drawn. As this was an ecologic study, it also not possible to establish a causal relationship. However, is logical to conclude that the simultaneous increase in the number of teams working in the Family Health Program, the substantial increase in the

number of male condoms distributed combined with the investment in educational actions may have contributed with the decrease in the incidence of AIDS cases in the entire Municipality and in all its Regional Executive Secretaries.

Particularly in Regional II, area covered by the Project EDUCATION AND CARE FOR PREVENTION OF HIV/AIDS/STD IN LOW INCOME WOMEN AND FEMALE ADOLESCENTS OF FORTALEZA/CEARÁ, where from 2005 a lot was invested in the Continued Education of Health Care Professionals on STD/AIDS, combined with a monitoring of the actions mainly of Health Community Agents and with the intensification of Collective events in special dates, a marked decrease in the coefficient of incidence of AIDS was seen when compared to the other Health Regionals. Regarding this coefficient of the incidence of HIV in pregnant women, in addition to a stabilization in studied period Regional II had the lower index among the Regionals in 2006.

4.2. Project Operational Indicators

Table 2 shows the progression of the Project operational indicators comparing the period from June 2006 to July 2007 with the period from June 2007 and July 2008. Some process indicators related to the clinical care of cases at the Health Units showed positive progression, such as the number of HIV antibody tests requested for pregnant women which increased around 50%, from 1025 requested in the previous year to 1517 in the last year. The number of HIV and syphilis tests performed in non-pregnant women increased slightly between the two years of observation

There was a decrease in the number of condoms distributed by the Primary Health Care Units. In contact with the STDs and AIDS Control Program Municipal Coordination, it was explained that there was a reduction in the number of male condoms shipped by the Ministry of Health to the Municipality of Fortaleza and that this situation would be normalized in the following months.

It was observed an important decrease in the indicators related to the educational actions in the two years of follow-up and this can be explained by the

dengue epidemics that occurred in Fortaleza and that required the involvement of the Municipal Health System and, particularly, of the Family Health teams in its fight.

Since the Family Health teams are responsible for the integral health care of the communities any Program or Project specifically carried out based on the Family Health Strategy will necessarily be impacted by variations in the epidemiological status in the region where it is being developed, and this means that they have to deal with all types of conditions that may affect this population.

From January 2008, Fortaleza was faced with a dengue epidemics, including with hemorrhagic cases, which resulted in the death of eleven inhabitants of the Municipality. The seasonal dengue outbreak was anticipated this year due to the anticipation of the rainy season which started in January 2008 (it usually starts in February). These epidemics forced all Municipal Health System Network, especially the Family Health Centers, to participate in the actions for the disease control. The cases of acute dengue fever were given priority in Health Centers as well as the educational actions directed to dengue control.

This situation affected the work process of the Family Health teams, leading to a decrease in the monthly average of some actions which were being developed on STDs and AIDS prevention and control.

At the beginning of June, the Health authorities reported a 25% decrease in the number of dengue cases. Currently, the dengue epidemics is practically under control. The Project team is currently reflecting together with the Health teams about the need to resume the educational actions and assistance directed to STDs and AIDS control.

Table 2 Comparison of the Project operational indicators between the periods from July 2006 to June 2007 and July 2007 to June 2008.

Indicators	Jul/2006 to Jun/2007	Jul/2007 to Jun/2008
Average number of families registered per month	24,292	16,067
N.º of home visits during the year	135,800	117,847
N.º of pregnant women having an HIV test	1,025	1,517
Number of HIV antibody testing performed in the general population	1,628	1,671
Number of syphilis antibody testing performed in the general population	1,736	1,814
Number of condoms (male and female) distributed by the UBS	425,476	335,203
N.º of people vaccinated against hepatitis B	13,845	12,002
N.º of educational sessions performed at the Primary Health Care Unit to address Reproductive Health, Family Planning and HIV/AIDS prevention.	401	186
Number of educational sessions performed in the community	1,260	430
N.º of women participating in the Project's activities	21,994	13,962
N.º of female adolescents in the Project's activities	16,870	11,939

5. DISSEMINATION OF KNOWLEDGE

Participation in Conferences:

- I. Educational interventions for STDs and AIDS prevention: An evaluation of the results in Fortaleza, Ceará no XVIII World Congress of Epidemiology and VII Brazilian Congress of Epidemiology;
- II. Family Health Teams and STD/AIDS prevention: The experience of Regional II in Fortaleza; and at the IIIª National Exhibition in Family Health Production and IVº International Seminar in Primary Care;

- III. Communication and Health Education for STD/AIDS prevention: Evaluation of results obtained in Fortaleza at the III^a National Exhibition in Family Health Production and IV^o International Seminar in Primary Care;
- IV. HIV/AIDS/STI prevention and care in large cities in Brazil - XVI International AIDS Conference - 3-8 August 2008, Mexico City.

6. ACTIVITIES SUGGESTED FOR 2008/2009 PROJECT – YEAR-4

6.1. Events

- World Aids Day– 01/december/2008
- Carnival 2009 – Activities Pre-Carnival: Distribution of condoms and educational materials on STD/AIDS.
- International Women’s Day – 08 March 2009
- II^a Internal vaccination campaign against hepatitis B for all Health Professionals of SER II.
- II^a Internal vaccination campaign against hepatitis and hepatitis/HIV testing in prostitutes of Fortaleza (ASF/NE, SER II and APROCE).

6.2. Training

- Course on Prevention and Control of STD/AIDS and Assistance to people living with HIV/AIDS for Dentists.
- Update and reinforcement of the Training through the educational CDs and DVDs distributed to the Primary Health Care Units.
- Training for healthcare professionals recently admitted.

- Education and Training of information multipliers in the community (teenagers)
- Course on Prevention and Control of STD/AIDS for dentists and dental office assistants

6.3. Research and data collection:

- Evaluation of assimilation of knowledge on STD/AIDS by *comparison through a research among professionals* trained by the Project, and professionals of other geographical area of Fortaleza, where the project is not implemented. (ASF and SER II)

6.4. Dissemination of Knowledge:

- Participation in the National Exhibition of Family Health – August 2008, ABRASCO Conferences – September 2008 and AIDS 2008 – XVI International AIDS Conference – 3-8 August 2008 with presentation of papers and communications.

6.5. Other Activities

- Distribution of backpacks containing educational kits for the new Health Community Agents.
- Walks and other physical activities at Praia do Futuro with the support of the Fire brigade students from Faculdade Christus;
- Intensification of cultural activities such as: theatrical plays and a greater involvement of the community, schools, and particularly, of adolescents;
- Distribution of Uniforms (smocks) for HCAg (with the J&J and ASF logo) – J&J Project – inscribed "Use Condom".

- Distribution of condoms and educational materials during the activities performed with the families.
- Distribution of sunscreen J&J (Donation).
- Formation of Specific Groups (Adolescents, Mouth Health, Family Planning, Women Health, Men) for Education and Assistance in STD/AIDS at the Primary Care Units.
- Classes and Exhibitions on STD/AIDS at the Primary Care Units, Schools and Christus Medical School.
- Family Competences in STD/AIDS - Serial Album - Material from the Technical course for HCA - Ministry of Health - UNICEF.

7. PERCEPTIONS

The Project "Educational Intervention and Assistance to Low Income Women and Female Adolescents for HIV/AIDS/STD Prevention in the Municipality of Fortaleza/Ceará - Brazil" developed in districts covered by Regional II of Fortaleza has been showing a probable relationship with the favorable changes in the process indicators and impact related to STDs - AIDS control.

The activities developed to raise awareness and to provide information, training and monitoring have strongly contributed to the favorable changes defined in the goals of the Project, as shown by the indicators of local information systems when compared to other Health regions.

The Training of professionals is reflected in the quality of the actions developed after the courses / Trainings for college graduated professionals or for community health agents, teachers and community leaders.

The unexpected facts requiring emergencial intervention, such as the dengue epidemics, interfere considerably in the scheduled activities, and shown that any health plan must allow for unexpected events.

8. FINANCIAL SUMMARY

Johnson and Johnson contributed with a total of US\$ 90,000.00 whereas ASF and its partners documented verifiable counterpart contributions of US\$ 10,625,000.00 for the payment of salaries of community health agents, nurses, nurses aides and physicians working in the Family Health Program. The criteria for counterpart contribution were the payroll of ASF employees trained to conduct HIV/AIDS/STD prevention in the region. Additional counterpart was provided by the Municipal Health Department such as medication for HIV/AIDS/STD treatment, laboratory exams and health unit administration.

Table 3 summarizes information on budgets, expenditure and balance from July, 2007 to June, 2008.

Please notice that interests on investments were included in the Total Income and were used in the project activities.

Table 3 Project Johnson & Johnson (FORTALEZA) – Year-3: budget, expenditure and balance from July, 2007 to June, 2008.

Category	Planned Budget (USD)	Planned Budget (Real)	Revised Budget (Real) 29/07/2008	Other Income Distribution (Real) 29/07/2008	Total Project Expenditure (Real) 29/07/2008
Consultant fees/Training activities	41,184.81	79,433.72	51,831.54	17,813.82	69,645.36
Transportation	2,815.20	5,429.72	3,726.98		3,726.98
Office supplies and photocopies	2,000.00	3,857.43	20,661.89	1,745.83	22,407.72
Secretary	16,999.99	32,788.13	45,288.59		45,288.59
Overhead (10%)	7,000.00	13,501.00	13,501.00		13,510.00
Carried Over from Project Year-2				13,837.57	
Interest Account				5,722.08	
Subtotal	70,000.00	135,010.00	135,010.00	19,559.65	154,569.65
Salary and Benefits – Family Health Teams ASF and partners Counterpart	5,000,000.00	9,643,571.00	9,643,571.00	00.00	9,643,571.00
Total	5,070,000.00	9,778,581.00	9,778,581.00	19,559.65	9,798,140.65

* Exchange Rate; US\$ 1.00 = R\$ 1.9287142

APPENDIX I

Distribution of uniforms donated by the Project to new Health Community Agents at Faculdade de Medicina Christus – Participation: Dra. Anamaria Cavalcante e Silva, Dr. Jocileide Sales Campos, Dr. Amanda (Coordinator of Region II) and Dr. Raquel (Primary Care Coordinator) – June 2008.



APPENDIX II

8º HIV/AIDS Forum for primary care professionals – June 2008 with the participation of Dr. Anamaria Cavalcante e Silva, Dr. Jocileide Sales Campos, Telma Martins and Health Community Agents from Primary Health Care Units from the region of SER II



APPENDIX III

Training course on sexually transmitted diseases for Health Care Agents of region SER II – September 2007

