

## How Donor Coordination Immediately Brought Family Planning Services to 55 Communities

Getting accessible family planning services to rural Romanian women has been a particularly frustrating problem. Initial efforts in the early 1990's resulted in services at primarily urban health centers. Often, women would need to travel hours to access basic health services and family planning commodities. Over the last three years, USAID- and UNFPA-funded programs began training rural doctors and nurses to provide patient-centered family planning and other reproductive health services in several counties. Without family planning commodities or insurance payments, however, those services have not been initiated.

In the fall of 2001, UNFPA received a large donation of family planning contraceptives and was planning to use them in only the counties where they had trained providers. Through an AIHA (American International Health Alliance) program, additional contraceptives were acquired to complement this donation. The JSI Research and Training Institute, Inc. had been working with the Ministry of Health and Family on their new reproductive health strategy and in piloting a logistics and management information system (MIS) for contraceptive distribution.

RFHI persuaded the Ministry of Health to negotiate with UNFPA to spread the contraceptives to the 18 (of 41) counties where both USAID and UNFPA had trained providers. The same logistics system and MIS used for the distribution of the donated contraceptives will be applied nationwide for the contraceptives supplied by the Ministry of Health for the rest of 23 counties.



*Family doctor cabinet – Family planning counseling session*

RFHI with its Romanian partner, SECS (the Society for Education on Contraception and Sexuality), quickly provided just-in-time logistics and MIS training to the UNFPA-trained providers and any USAID-trained providers who had not been involved in the previous logistics pilot. Within four weeks, contraceptives were in the hands of 62 primary care providers in 55 communities, dramatically increasing the use of modern contraception. For example, in five rural villages last year, over the first three

*The Health Education summer beach campaign is just one success story of the Romanian Family Health Initiative (RFHI), a bilateral USAID-funded project implemented by JSI Research & Training Institute, Inc. The RFHI is designed to increase the availability and utilization of high quality client-oriented services at the primary health care level and to assure sustainability of reproductive health services in Romania, including family planning, safe motherhood, early detection of breast and cervical cancer, and HIV/AIDS and STIs prevention.*

months, approximately 100 women per village began using oral contraceptives.

Though new figures are not yet in, a dramatic increase is expected in the use of modern contraceptives in the 375 communities which have rapidly come on line with family planning services.