

AIDSTAR-Two – Trip Report Namibia - April 18-27, 2011

May 2011

5 key words:

AIDSTAR-TWO, Namibia, Centerships, Community Health Workers, USAID

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AIDSTAR-Two Project Trip Report

1. Scope of Work:

Destination and Client(s)/ Partner(s)	Namibia - USAID
Traveler(s) Name, Role	Erin Rains, Program Officer AIDSTAR-Two; Adam Mbundure, Director of Finance and Administration, AIDSTAR-Two
Date of travel on Trip	April 18-27, 2011
Purpose of trip	To meet with stakeholders and partners to plan upcoming work for the Namibia HIS Centerships activity
Objectives/Activities/ Deliverables	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Establish relationships with key partners and stakeholders -Determine the roles and responsibilities of all key partners -Establish next steps for moving the activity forward
Background/Context, if appropriate.	<p>The Namibia community “Centerships” were conceptualized by the Health Information System Technical Working Group (TWG). The original idea was to create community- based entrepreneurial, revenue generating hubs. The Centership concept was later refined to focus more on the hubs capturing health data in communities that are often missed by the current facility-based HIS system and also providing community health education to the populations. The communities would learn business planning and business models and hopefully attract funding for their business plans in order to run a small business that would generate revenue to sustain the Centership activities. The communities of Tutungeni near Rosh Pinah and Ondarombapa referred as Aminuis were selected by USAID to serve as pilot communities for the project. The physical structure of the Centerships will serve as community-based health information hubs, housing community health workers who will carry-out health education activities and the collection of health information. The Centership will also include a community-led committee to oversee Centership entrepreneurial and health activities. The committee will oversee Community Health Workers (CHW) who will offer needed HIV/AIDS and other health information and education to community residents, serve as referral links between the community and public facilities and collect community HIS data agreed upon with the Ministry of Health and Social Services (MOHSS). To help achieve some level of sustainability of the Centerships in both communities, attention will focus on two primary areas: developing a well-functioning Centership committee; and helping the Centership to develop a business plan that outlines a revenue generating business opportunity to support the sustainability of the Centership and cover the costs of specific health activities. Peace Corps has placed volunteers in each community to help with the planning and implementation of the Centerships.</p> <p>In March 2011, USAID requested that AIDSTAR-Two assume the role of managing the Centership activity. Prior to this request, AS-Two was providing technical assistance to the project, specifically through the implementation of the Business Development Model in each of the communities. Upon taking on the management of the activity, AS-Two began preparations for a trip to Namibia to establish relationships with all key partners and stakeholders and solidify plans for moving forward on establishing the Centerships. AS-Two</p>

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AIDSTAR-Two Project Trip Report

had proposed in the trip SOW that a stakeholder meeting be held in Windhoek on April 21st to develop a joint work plan for the project. One-day trips to each of the two communities were also proposed. The trip to Ondarombapa would serve as a means to reassure the Centership committee that progress was being made on the Centership, and the trip to Tutungeni would serve primarily to establish relationships with key stakeholders that USAID had not involved in AS-Two's previous visit to the community in June 2010. Additionally, AS-Two would use the opportunity to develop a strategy for managing the activity in-country.

2. Major Trip Accomplishments: Should include the major programmatic goals realized, relevant metrics, and stories of impact from the trip.

While AS-Two had proposed a stakeholder meeting in Windhoek to develop a joint work plan, five days prior to arriving in country USAID Namibia informed AS-Two that they had been unable to establish contact with Ministry of Health and Social Services, a key partner in the project, and they would thus not be in attendance. AS-Two, jointly with USAID Namibia, decided that without the MOHSS a joint stakeholder meeting was no longer feasible. However, Adam Mbundure and Erin Rains from AS-Two met with USAID Namibia as well as key stakeholders in both Tutungeni and Aminuis. The results of these meetings are as follows:

1) Aminuis (Ondarombapa) – April 19, 2011:

Regional MOHSS: AS-Two met with the regional MOHSS director (Puumwue Katjiunju) and HIS representatives (Emgard Kaune, Batseba Kambatulca, S.K. Swartz) to discuss the HIS/CHW component of the Centership project in Aminuis. It became clear during the meeting that the MOHSS had not been clear on their role in the activity, namely, to provide the CHW component of the activity. The regional level of the Ministry indicated they are unable to fulfill some of the stated responsibilities due to budget limitations and protocols. The regional MOHSS did commit to provide training and participant transportation during training for CHWs, but are not able to provide any additional support especially incentives. According to them, it is not possible to incorporate CHWs in Aminuis into any existing MOHSS CHW program as this would need approval at ministerial/national level. The regional MOHSS representatives did express enthusiasm for the Centership activity and acknowledged that there was a definite need for improvement in HIS at the community level. AS-Two discussed the adaption of existing data collection forms to incorporate the information needs of the MOHSS. One of the primary concerns raised by the MOHSS was the ability of the CHWs to reach the more outlying areas of the community because of distances and lack of transport. Transportation is an issue to be carefully addressed when planning the HIS and health education component.

Centership Committee: AS-Two and USAID Namibia met with the community Centership committee. Upon USAID's request, AS-Two carried out an impromptu work planning session to identify next steps with the community members. Next steps primarily focused on renovating the identified facility that will house the Centership. It was agreed that the next AS-Two visit would be to start training in late May or early June. The tasks for the community and PCV were clearly articulated, including among other things; getting quotations for facility renovation materials and labor, signing lease agreement between the Centership committee and the community group currently managing the building that will be used for the Centership, and purchasing materials and starting the renovation work.

Peace Corps: AS-Two met with the Peace Corps volunteer (Sarah Roush) who was recently placed in the Aminuis community. AS-Two discussed her role in providing daily support to the Centerships. Similar discussions were also held with the PCV supervisor (Maria Bock) who indicated that the volunteer was there for the project and will work with AS-Two as needed. What remains to be ironed out are reporting protocols and financing of some costs for the volunteer such as business travel and communication.

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AIDSTAR-Two Project Trip Report

2) Tutungeni – April 26, 2011:

Regional MOHSS: AS-Two and USAID Namibia met with regional MOHSS official (Dr. Davies Nkalamo) and the HIS team (Joleni Shipopyeni, Sister Catherine Klein, Hanbelgeleni Hanukoohi, Elizabeth McKay) to discuss the HIS /CHW component of the Centership project in Tutungeni. Similar to Aminuis, the MOHSS representatives were unfamiliar with the Centership project and were not clear on their role in the Centerships. They similarly could not commit to provide more than training to the selected CHW workers. AS-Two discussed the current HIS system and the adaption of current HIS forms to be used at the community level.

Center for Hope: AS-Two and USAID Namibia met with the director and treasurer (Anabela Beulte and Susan Schoombee) of the Center for Hope. Center for Hope is an organization run by the wives of the managers of the various mines in the area. The organization provides afterschool care for orphans and vulnerable children from Tutungeni. Currently around 30 of the registered 90 children regularly attend the center activities. Center for Hope is a potential partner in the Centership initiative and AS-Two discussed expanding their daycare model into a business opportunity for community. Center for Hope expressed their difficulty in engaging with community members. The community of Tutungeni is comprised primarily of workers released by the mining companies, and the Center for Hope is run by the Afrikaans wives of men who often were formerly these workers managers, which has created tension between the two groups. Center for Hope also mentioned that community members identified the physical distance between Tutungeni and Rosh Pinah as an impediment to collaboration. The organization requested that AS-Two help to build consensus and relationships between the various groups. It was agreed that this would be done during the next visit.

Centership Committee: AS-Two and USAID met briefly with the chairperson (Simon Nambondi) of the Tutungeni Centership committee. The committee has identified two possible buildings to be used as the Centership (both requiring renovations), or the possibility of using space in a new community center being built by the mine company in the community. The chairperson of the committee also expressed some frustration at the lack of communication over the past several months, and hoped that communication would improve.

3) Meetings with Additional Stakeholders:

AS-Two met with the USAID Namibia team that had been supporting the Centership initiative, including Susna De, Ida Lamperth, and Rosalia Indongo. In this meeting, AS-Two communicated the outcome of the meeting with the Aminuis MOHSS team, and jointly USAID and AS-Two developed next steps for a smooth transition of Centership responsibilities.

AS-Two also met with the MSH Namibia team, including the Chief of Party (David Mabirizi), to discuss facilitating the logistics of the activity in-country. AS-Two established point people within the organization to contact with logistical requests and discussed a communication plan for conveying information about the activity.

AS-Two had hoped to meet with Namibia Telecom (ITU contact organization). USAID Namibia, who had been in contact with Telecom, was unable to set up this meeting while AS-Two was in country. USAID clarified that there was no official commitment yet from Telecom that they would provide computers and internet service although they had expressed interest in this. Further communication with Telecom is necessary to clarify and finalize this agreement.

AS-Two had also hoped to meet with the representative from the Skorpion Zinc Mine to explore possible partnerships in the Tutungeni Centership, however the representative was unavailable to meet during AS-Two's trip.

AIDSTAR-Two Project Trip Report

Local management of activity: AS-Two interviewed five candidates for a consultancy position. The consultant to be hired would be responsible for carrying out the local management of the project. While two of the candidates were promising, AS-Two realized that it would be difficult to hire a quality consultant for only 25% time.

AS-Two also met with the executive director of NANASO (Michael Mulondo), an HIV/AIDS umbrella organization that is well-established in the country. USAID Namibia had previously expressed interest in providing funding to NANASO to take over the Centership project after AS-Two's one year funding ends. The meeting with NANASO covered an overview of the organization's current activities, and AS-Two provided a brief explanation of the Centerships activity. It was agreed that if NANASO is to eventually assume responsibility for the Centerships activity, their involvement from early-on in the project is necessary to ensure a smooth transition.

NANASO represents an alternative local management opportunity. While the possibility of NANASO acting as the local manager for the activity was not addressed in the initial meeting, AS-Two has since reached out to the director by email to explore the possibility of providing a sub-grant to the organization to act as the local manager of the activity. NANASO would be a good partner as they already have the structures and systems to work with community organizations and staff that we can immediately train to lead our activities. They are also already partnering with MSH on another USAID funded activity. It makes more sense to support NANASO than recruit part-time consultants who will be difficult to manage.

3. Next steps: Key actions to continue and/or complete work from trip.

Description of task	Responsible staff	Due date
Support the Aminuis community in the renovation of the Centership building. Follow-up on renovation work progress and review payments system.	Erin Rains/ Sara Roush (Peace Corps Volunteer) Adam	June 1, 2011 June 6-15
Early June TDY to provide training/ consensus building with centership committees, PCVs	Adam Mbundure/ Judy Seltzer	June 6-15, 2011
Establish a local management plan through subcontracting with NANASO or by hiring a local consultant	Erin Rains	June 1, 2011
Confirm the support of Telecom and finalize contributions	Erin Rains	June 1, 2011
Establish contact with the mining companies and solidify their level of support and partnership	Erin Rains	June 1, 2011
Develop HIS data collection tools based upon the specifications of the local MOHSS HIS teams.	Erin Rains	June 1, 2011

4. Contacts: List key individuals contacted during your trip, including the contacts' organization, all contact information, and brief notes on interactions with the person.

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AIDSTAR-Two Project Trip Report

Name	Contact info	Home organization	Notes
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Dr. Davies Nkalamo	nkalamod@mweb.com.na	Regional MOHSS-Rosh Pinah	
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Hanbelgeleni Hanukoohi	0812893773	Rosh Pinah Clinic	
Elizabeth McKay	0812227590	Rosh Pinah Clinic	
Simon Nambondi	Simon7@mweb.com.na	Centership Committee	Chairperson of Centership Committee Tutungeni
Michael Mulondo	coordinator@nanaso.com	NANASO	Executive Director

5. Description of Relevant Documents / Addendums: Give the document's file name, a brief description of the relevant document's value to other staff, as well as the document's location in eRooms or the MSH network. Examples could include finalized products and/or formal presentations, TraiNet Participant List, Participant Contact sheet, and Meeting/Workshop Participant Evaluation form are examples of relevant documents.

File name	Description of file	Location of file

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