

## February Monthly Progress Report

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African Strategies for Health

February 2012

This report was made possible through support provided by the US Agency for International Development, under the terms of Contract Number AID-OAA-C-11-00161. The opinions expressed herein are those of the author(s) and do not necessarily reflect the views of the US Agency for International Development.

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## **African Strategies for Health (ASH)**

### Monthly Progress Report: February 2012

#### **1. Activities and Achievements**

##### **a. Participation in MSH Center for Health Services (CHS) Project Quarterly Reviews**

ASH staff participated in CHS quarterly reviews. These reviews take place every quarter. ALL projects that are implemented by the Center for Health Services make presentations to CHS senior management on progress and challenges that the projects are experiencing. The reviews are a good opportunity for (1) identifying promising or best practices; (2) gathering information on emerging programmatic or policy related issues which may cut across countries; and (3) identifying potential African partner institutions.

##### **b. Revision of Work plan and budget**

ASH staff spent most of February developing scopes of work for activities that were agreed on at the January USAID-ASH retreat. ASH will submit revised TCNs/SOWs to USAID for review by USAID technical officers.

##### **c. Support to World TB day**

ASH (Gwen Morgan) worked with USAID bureaus in supporting preparations for World TB Day in Washington DC.

##### **d. Contact with USAID EA**

On February 27 and 28 ASH met with USAID EA in Nairobi for further discussion on ASH-USAID EA collaboration. Discussions focused on potential support by ASH to ANECCA and RCQHC for ICB as the two organizations evolve into autonomous NGOs.

##### **e. Contact with African Institutions**

During the month of February, ASH made contact with four (4) African Institutions that are involved in important regional level health initiatives (The African Centre for Global Health and Social Transformation (ACHEST), The Regional Center for Quality of Health Care (RCQHC), Africa Network for Care of Children Affected by HIV/AIDS (ANECCA) and Great Lakes University in Kisumu (GLUK)). These contacts provided a very useful opportunity for ASH to connect with African institutions during this year in which we are facing budgetary constraints. Issues discussed with these organizations included:

- Governance in the health sector in sub-Saharan Africa (ACHEST).
- Support for ICB for emerging/nascent African NGOs (ANECCA and RCQHC).
- Community Strategies for health care (GLUK).

Potential follow-on activities are being discussed with ASH COR.

#### **2. Project Management and Administration**

##### **a. USAID Request for Contract Modification.**

ASH submitted a budget modification request to USAID Contracting Officer on February 10, 2012 for changing the contract type from hybrid type of contract to a cost reimbursement type. The project is still waiting to hear feedback/from USAID.

**b.** Subcontracts were issued to ASH Partners APHRC and Khulisa. Khulisa signed the contract 2<sup>nd</sup> week of March, 2012. ASH is still waiting to receive a signed subcontract from APHRC.

**c. COR meetings –**

Two COR meetings were held on February 7 and 15.

**d. ASH staff meetings**

One ASH staff meeting was held on February 14.

## **2. Challenges**

Budget constraints for year one continue to impact ASH's capacity to engage and work in close collaboration with African institutions since ASH will not be able to interact with them face-to-face. In view of the budget constraints ASH is exploring innovative ways of collaborating with these institutions such as leveraging trips by ASH staff funded by other MSH activities.

## **3. Key Activities planned for March, 2012**

- Finalize scopes of work and COR letters for the selected based on retreat outcomes
- Revision of work plan following after USAID approval of retreat report.
- Establish further contacts with partners and collaborators in the USA and Africa.