

## November Monthly Progress Report

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African Strategies for Health

December 14, 2012

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African Strategies for Health  
Management Sciences for Health  
784 Memorial Drive  
Cambridge, MA 02139  
Telephone: (617) 250-9500  
[www.msh.org](http://www.msh.org)

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# African Strategies for Health (ASH)

## Monthly Progress Report: November 2012

### 1. Notable Achievements

- The mHealth Compendium developed by ASH was well-received by participants and highlighted by USAID Knowledge Management Advisor Peggy D'Adamo at USAID's Family Planning Conference in Tanzania.
- The ASH HSS Advisor moderated a session titled "Ethiopian Health Care Financing Reforms: On the Path to Universal Health Coverage" at the Second Global Symposium on Health Systems Research (HSR) in Beijing.

### 2. Technical Updates

#### A. Maternal, Neonatal and Child Health

##### *Call to Action Meeting USAID/Ethiopia*

Following up on the September meeting between ASH and USAID/Ethiopia, the ASH team participated in further discussions with USAID regarding the proposed Ethiopia call to action meeting. As a result of these discussions ASH was requested to provide technical and logistical support for the meeting. A team from ASH traveled to Ethiopia and worked closely with the mission, UNICEF, and the government of Ethiopia to move forward with the planning. ASH will continue to assist with organizing the January 16-18 meeting throughout December and January.

##### *Review of Relationships between Maternal Mortality and HIV*

USAID/AFR/SD, USAID/GH/OHA, USAID/GH/HIDN, and ASH held discussions about implementing this comprehensive review. The overall objective of the review is to improve health outcomes for HIV-positive pregnant women by identifying (i) the demand-side factors influencing women's decision to use ARV/ART during pregnancy, (ii) the operational/service delivery factors affecting the use of ARV/ART among pregnant women and (iii) the most effective interventions to reduce maternal mortality among HIV-positive pregnant women. Findings from the review will be presented at a technical meeting on Maternal Mortality and HIV that will be convened by USAID, the Maternal Health Taskforce (Harvard School of Public Health), and ASH at the end of March 2013 in Washington, DC. ASH has drafted a Scope of Work for consultants who will assist in conducting the review and is awaiting USAID approval of the SOW so it can begin recruiting and contracting the consultants.

##### *IPTp*

ASH's IDSR and MNCH Specialists continued working extensively on the analysis of data on pregnant women's use of IPT in Malawi. This analysis is expected to be submitted to USAID/AFR in early December. ASH and USAID will discuss the report's findings and recommendations in mid-December. This discussion will inform the next steps for ASH's work on IPTp.

## **B. Infectious Diseases**

### ***TB***

The IDRS Specialist travelled to Kuala Lumpur to participate in the annual International Union Against TB and Lung Disease Conference. He was able to participate in a TB Subgroup meeting on Childhood TB and a meeting which included representatives from USAID's Global Bureau and WHO AFRO. Unfortunately, Dr Thetard incurred an injury and had to leave the conference early for medical attention.

### ***IDSR***

IDSR activities were focused on clarifying the ACD strategy for IDSR. This involved telephone and email discussions to clarify and design a technical approach for implementing a communication strategy. Participants included CDC and USAID's Africa Bureau, and ASH's specialists for IDSR and ACD. The next steps will include discussions with WHO AFRO to further refine the strategy.

## **C. Health Systems Strengthening**

### **mHealth Compendium**

The HSS team spent much of the month of November finalizing the first edition of the mHealth. The first edition of the compendium was completed in time to be circulated at the Tanzania meeting in mid-November. The compendium includes an overview of mHealth and 34 case studies of various projects and programs. Hard copies of the compendium were distributed during the meeting, and a soft copy version is available for electronic distribution.

ASH's ACD Specialist also attended the Tanzania meeting and assisted with organization of the meeting, note taking and report writing. ASH assisted with translation of the agenda and other documents into Portuguese and French, assisted with registration, and served as the principal rapporteur for the meeting. ASH will also be assisting with follow-up activities from the meeting, including finalizing a full-length meeting report, and possibly working with USAID EA and regional partners to develop a regional eHealth network.

### **HSS Network**

The HSS team worked closely with USAID/AFR to plan for and advertise a presentation on the health care financing reforms in Ethiopia at the Health Systems Research Symposium meeting in Beijing November 2012. The ASH HSS advisor attended the meeting in China and moderated the session on health care reforms in Ethiopia.

## **D. Monitoring and Evaluation (M&E)**

The new M&E Specialist revised the ASH PMP and transformed it into an M&E Plan with a Logical Framework, in accordance with the latest ADS guidance. ASH held conference calls with the USAID/West Africa Regional Health Office's M&E Advisor and the MSH/WA-LEAD Senior Technical Advisor to introduce ASH and explore areas of potential collaboration. ASH also discussed with MSH experts in HIS and Health Economics the feasibility of integrating a value for money (or cost-benefit) analysis component to the HIS study.

## **E. Cross Cutting**

### ***Harmonizing for Health in Africa (HHA)***

The ASH Project Director participated in Africa (HHA) Steering Committee activities. The main activity of the Steering Committee for November was preparation for the workshop to take place in Nairobi on training materials for national counterparts in National Health Policies, Strategies and Plans in Nairobi 5 to 7 December 2012

### 3. Management and Administration

#### A. Finance

The books for November, 2012 have not been closed yet. It is expected that the information will be available after December 15, 2012. Therefore, for the purpose of this report expenses for September, 2012 is based on estimates.

1) Total Obligation	=	\$6,783,004
2) Expenses		
Total expenditure and accruals as of October 31, 2012	=	\$2,556,114
Estimated expenses for November, 2012	=	<u>\$ 170,000</u>
Total estimated expenses as of September, 2012	=	<u>\$2,726,114</u>
Pipeline (1-2)	=	\$4,056,890

#### B. Project Management

In response to feedback from USAID/AFR, the ASH team reviewed and prioritized activities submitted in the annual workplan.

#### C. Partnership Collaboration

The ASH team continues to develop its draft strategy for partnering with regional African institutions.

#### D. Other Updates

##### a. *Staffing*

*M&E Specialist:* Lungi Okoko from Khulisa, and seconded to MSH, started in his new position as M&E Specialist for ASH on November 1, 2012.

#### E. COR Meetings

One COR meeting took place on November 28, 2012

#### F. Potential Issues or Areas Needing USAID Support

Approval of the Strategic Team Reviews.

### 4. Key Activities Planned for Next Month

- a. Finalize the ASH PMP
- b. Finalize and submit the operations research report on pregnant women's use of IPT in Malawi.

- c. Submit draft partnership strategy to USAID/AFR the draft ASH partnership strategy
- d. Continue to work with WHO/AFRO, USAID/AFR, and CDC to get inputs for a first draft of the IDSR ACD strategy for internal review; work with WHO AFRO to seek internal permission to create a soft logo and branding strategy for IDSR (ongoing)
- e. Draft the advocacy, communications, and dissemination strategy to increase use of local consultants in Africa by USAID/AFR in the area of HSS and submit to USAID/AFR for review.
- f. Participate in planning activities for the call to action meeting in Ethiopia.
- g. Participate in the WAHO regional HIS Partners' Forum meeting in Burkina Faso.
- h. Finalization of technical papers on community strategies as well as on advocacy with parliamentarians and other elected leaders.

## **5. Attachments**

- a. Updated list of COR Letters and Related Clearances