

December Monthly Progress Report

African Strategies for Health

January 14, 2013

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: December 2012

1. Notable Achievements

- ASH provided technical and logistical support to USAID for the organization of the January 16-18 “African Leadership for Child Survival—A Promise Renewed” in Addis Ababa
- ASH participated in WAHO’s West Africa Regional HIS Partners’ Forum in Ouagadougou

2. Technical Updates

A. Maternal, Neonatal and Child Health

Call to Action Meeting USAID/Ethiopia

The month of December was largely devoted to providing technical and logistic support to USAID to organize the “African Leadership for Child Survival—A Promise Renewed” meeting that will be held in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia from January 16-18. Ministers of Health and child survival leaders from across Africa will attend the meeting focused on overcoming challenges and scaling up high priority, high impact interventions for child and maternal health. The ASH team spent four weeks in Addis Ababa during December to assist with preparations and will return in January to further assist with preparations and implementing the conference.

Maternal Mortality and HIV

The MCH and ID specialists continued preparations for the review of relationships between HIV and maternal mortality. The COR letter and Scopes of Work for the teams that will research the three study questions will be sent to USAID in early January for approval.

IPTp

ASH also finalized analysis of the data from Malawi on characteristics of clients who received IPTp, which was collected through the BASICS project. A report which discusses the findings will be finalized in early January and shared with USAID. The ASH MNCH Advisor will also present findings from the data analysis at the January Global Maternal Health Conference in Arusha, Tanzania.

B. Infectious Diseases

TB

No activities were implemented during December in anticipation of the possible re-definition of TB activities for ASH.

IDSR

ASH provided feedback on the proposed communication strategy for IDSR. Based on discussions with AFR/SD, laboratory activities were re-incorporated into the ASH year two work plan. The ID specialist searched for materials related to IDSR evaluations that may have been conducted in the recent years, and identified important past IDSR work implemented through USAID’s PHR Plus project.

C. Health Systems Strengthening

mHealth Compendium

ASH received a second batch of printed compendiums and distributed the document widely during the month of December via USAID/AFR and Global Bureau. ASH also assisted with follow-up activities from the Tanzania mHealth meeting, including finalizing the meeting report.

HCF Paper Review

ASH completed an external review of the paper: "Financing universal health coverage of essential services: funding trends and gaps in sub-Saharan Africa".

D. Monitoring and Evaluation (M&E)

The M&E Specialist continued to transform the PMP into an M&E Plan with a Logical Framework, in accordance with the latest ADS guidance. Indicator definitions were revised and expanded.

Multi-country HIS study

ASH also participated in WAHO's West Africa Regional HIS Partners' Forum in Ouagadougou. During this meeting, ASH contributed technical content to the draft HIS Operational Plan and Regional HIS Forum Terms of Reference to be shared by WAHO in January 2013. In addition, the M&E Specialist met with WAHO's HIS officer to discuss potential collaboration on the multi-country value-for-money study of investments in HISA meeting was also held with USAID/GH/OHA M&E Team Leader John Novak to discuss the HIS study and PEPFAR's new Open Health Information Exchange initiative.

E. Cross Cutting

Regional USAID Africa work planning and coordination

Upon receiving direction and clarification during conference call with AFR/SD, the ASH project began the process of sourcing logistical and human resources for the February 2013 USAID Africa work planning and coordination meeting between AFR/SD and the three USAID regional missions in Nairobi. The ACD Specialist worked with the MSH Kenya Country Office to obtain quotes for meeting venues as well as to identify and inquire about the availability of consultants for to provide meeting facilitation services.

3. Management and Administration

A. Finance

The books for December, 2012 will not be closed until all the year-end postings are made. It is expected that the information will be available after January 31, 2013. Therefore, for the purpose of this report expenses for December 2012 is based on estimates.

1) Total Obligation	=	\$6,783,004
2) Expenses		
Total expenditure and accruals as of November 30, 2012	=	\$2,561,764
Estimated expenses for December, 2012	=	<u>\$ 290,000</u>
Total estimated expenses as of December 31, 2012	=	<u>\$2,851,764</u>
 Pipeline (1-2)	=	 \$3,931,240

B. Project Management

ASH began developing a revised year two work plan based on feedback from USAID/AFR. Strategic teams met to review some of the activities proposed in the draft year 2 work plan. The HSS strategic team discussed activities proposed under the topics of Community Strategies to achieve MDGs and activities proposed under support to HHA.

C. Project Communication and Dissemination

Call to Action Meeting USAID/Ethiopia

The ASH ACD advisor spent most of December in supporting preparations for the ALCS meeting. Activities included: drafting the program; developing the template for meeting folder; creating the banner; developing briefing papers; and other communications related work.

Website

The ACD Advisor continued work on development of the ASH website.

D. Partnership Collaboration

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

E. Other Updates

a. *Staffing*

Nothing to report.

F. COR Meetings

One COR meeting took place on December 13, 2012

G. Potential Issues or Areas Needing USAID Support

No new issues needing support.

4. Key Activities Planned for Next Month

- a. Finalize technical and logistic preparation for and participate in the January 16-18 “African Leadership for Child Survival—A Promise Renewed” meeting that will be held in Addis Ababa.
- b. Finalize the sourcing of the meeting venue and facilitator for the February 2013 USAID Africa work planning and coordination meeting between AFR/SD and the three USAID regional missions in Nairobi.
- c. Finalize and submit the operations research report on pregnant women’s use of IPT in Malawi.
- d. Continue revising the ASH PMP
- e. Continue the development of the ASH draft partnership strategy

- f. Participate in the 2013 Global Maternal Health Conference in Arusha, Tanzania
- g. 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