

December Monthly Progress Report

African Strategies for Health

February 15, 2013

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African Strategies for Health (ASH)

Monthly Progress Report: February 2013

1. Notable Achievements

- ASH senior management participated in the February 2013 USAID Africa work planning and coordination meeting between AFR/SD and the three USAID regional missions in Nairobi.
- Managed the recruitment, selection, and hiring of consultants, and began the literature search process for the systematic review of evidence on relationships between HIV and maternal mortality.

2. Technical Updates

A. Maternal, Newborn and Child Health

African Leadership for Child Survival: A Promise Renewed (ALCS)

As a follow-up to the Call to Action Meeting on Child Survival in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, in January 16-18, 2013, the ACD Advisor drafted the meeting report and forwarded to USAID, UNICEF, and EMOH colleagues in Ethiopia. She is currently awaiting feedback from appointed colleagues and will finalize the report in March.

Systematic Review of Evidence on Relationships between Maternal Mortality and HIV

The month of February was largely devoted to planning and preparing for the launch of the systematic review of evidence on relationships between HIV and maternal mortality. This included recruitment, selection, and hiring of consultants, and beginning the literature search process. The launch meeting will take place on March 11-13, including a meeting with USAID/AFR, USAID/OHA and USAID/GH/HIDN on March 12.

Malaria in Pregnancy

The ASH MNCH Advisor participated in the quarterly teleconference of the RBM MiP Working Group. The next teleconference will be in March. The semiannual meeting of the Working Group is scheduled for May 13-14 in Geneva. The ID Advisor continued to work on the finalization of the Malawi IPTp report and developed a first draft of the assessment tool that will be used for facility-level IPTp assessments.

B. Infectious Diseases

IDSR

The ID Advisor participated in a cholera meeting in Washington DC. The purpose of the meeting was to review trends of cholera in Africa. ASH participated through its joint partnership with WHO AFRO and CDC in the area of IDSR. The cholera meeting was followed by a planning day that included USAID, CDC, WHO AFRO (teleconference) and the Stimson Centre. Key topics discussed included the intended IDSR evaluation (including a discussion of preparatory activities) and the proposed communication strategy for IDSR. The first step in preparing for the evaluation is to develop a logic model. A complementary activity is a literature review that will draw together findings from IDSR evaluations and assessments that have been conducted in recent years. ASH will hire a consultant to facilitate the

literature review process. Arrangements for the hiring of the consultant were largely concluded during February.

HIV

The ID Advisor worked with the M&E Advisor to develop Terms of Reference for a landscape analysis of regional institutions active on the African Continent. The intention is to ensure that the HIV activity on the role of Regional Economic Institutions in the HIV response, as indicated in the Year 2 workplan, is complementary to ASH’s overall landscape analysis of regional health sector actors in Africa.

C. Monitoring and Evaluation (M&E)

The M&E Advisor developed an evaluation framework and a results chain with assumption and risks, and completed the transformation of the PMP into an M&E Plan with a logical framework, in accordance with the latest ADS guidance. Indicator protocol reference sheets were revised and expanded.

Multi-Country HIS Study

The M&E Advisor held a follow-up conference call with the USAID/West Africa M&E Advisor Sheilah Mensah to continue to discuss potential collaboration with WAHO on the HIS study.

D. Cross Cutting

Regional USAID Africa Work Planning and Coordination

ASH senior management participated in the February 2013 USAID Africa work planning and coordination meeting between AFR/SD and the three USAID regional missions in Nairobi. While in Nairobi, ASH Project Director, Godfrey Sikipa accompanied by Dr. Ishrat Hussain met with Professor Miriam Were and some of her staff to discuss Kenya’s experience in the implementation the nation’s community strategy for health care. Godfrey also met with Ms. Makiko Sugishita Chief Advisor for Community Strategy who is seconded by JICA to the Department of Community Health of the Ministry of Health to discuss possible collaboration with ASH in costing of community strategy activities.

3. Management and Administration

A. Finance

The books for February, 2013 have not been closed yet. It is expected that the information will be available after March 21, 2013. Therefore, for the purpose of this report expenses for February, 2013 is based on estimates.

1) Total Obligation	=	\$6,783,004
2) Expenses		
Total expenditure and accruals as of January, 2012	=	\$3,433,894
Estimated expenses for February, 2012	=	<u>\$ 225,000</u>
Total estimated expenses as of December 31, 2012	=	<u>\$3,658,894</u>
Pipeline (1-2)	=	\$3,124,110

B. Project Management

As a follow-up to the Nairobi meeting with USAID regional missions, ASH staff met with their respective strategic team members at USAID/AFR to discuss the newly proposed activities. However, these activities are still pending approval, based on budget and other priority considerations.

C. Project Communication and Dissemination

Over the past one year, ASH technical staff members have performed a number of literature reviews and summaries of findings for proposed scopes of work, some of which were approved, and some of which were not or put on hold. The ASH team decided to take these bibliographies and write-ups and turn them into formal literature review technical reports. The ACD Advisor formatted four bibliographies for public distribution on pediatric TB, HIV and maternal mortality, the use of oral rehydration therapy, and a general literature review on state of the art practices in maternal, newborn, and child health. These will be forwarded to USAID and placed on the ASH website when they are finalized.

In a meeting with USAID/AFR in December 2012, USAID mentioned that they would like assistance in completing the review of USAID family planning programs in Africa. They agreed that the ASH project could contract and work with a consultant to complete this task beginning in February, provided that the consultant was based in the Washington, DC area. ASH drafted a scope of work (SOW) for this task, circulated the SOW, and recruited consultants. In conjunction with USAID/AFR, a consultant will be selected to begin working on the review report next month.

Website

ASH staff also worked on the design and structure of the ASH website. All staff were invited to comment. Additional feedback on the structure and layout will also be sought from USAID before finalizing the content of each of the pages. This will be done in March as well.

D. Partnership Collaboration

The ASH team continues to develop its draft strategy for partnering with regional African institutions. The M&E and ID Advisors also continued the development of an analytical framework and expanded the desk review for the regional African institutions and networks. ASH received communication from WHO's Harmonizing for Health (HHA) concerning a similar landscape analysis supported by NORAD, and began exploring the possibility of collaborating with the consultant(s) who will be hired for this WHO-HHA exercise.

E. COR Meetings

One COR meeting took place on February 14, 2013

F. Potential Issues or Areas Needing USAID Support

ASH needs assistance from USAID/AFR to finalize the review of the Strategic Teams.

4. Key Activities Planned for Next Month

- a. Launch the systematic review of evidence on relationships between HIV and maternal mortality
- b. Incorporate the Finalize the draft report for the “African Leadership for Child Survival—A Promise Renewed” meeting
- c. Begin the development of the 2nd edition of ASH’s mHealth Compendium for the upcoming USAID/Global Health SOTA meeting in May
- d. Continue reviewing and scoring past USAID evaluations for AFR/SD
- e. Meet with USAID AFR/SD to discuss the mapping/landscape analysis of regional African institutions and networks and ASH’s collaboration with WHO-HHA and NORAD
- f. Finalize and submit the operations research report on pregnant women’s use of IPT in Malawi.
- g. Finalize elected leaders study
- h. Finalize distribution plan for compendium and other ASH products
- i. Continue to work on the communications and advocacy strategy for IDSR
- j. Submit the revised the ASH PMP and meet with AFR/SD to discuss the document
- k. Continue the development of the ASH draft partnership strategy
- l. 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