

April Monthly Progress Report

African Strategies for Health

May 15, 2013

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African Strategies for Health (ASH)

Monthly Progress Report: April 2013

1. Notable Achievements

- The team conducting a Systematic Review of Evidence on Relationships between HIV and Maternal Mortality presented their findings and recommendations to USAID on April 30.
- ASH developed the 2nd volume of ASH's mHealth Compendium for the USAID/Global Health SOTA meeting in May. This second volume contains twenty-seven case studies which document a range of mHealth applications being implemented mainly throughout Africa, but also in other regions.

2. Technical Updates

A. Maternal, Newborn and Child Health

Systematic Review of Evidence on Relationships between Maternal Mortality and HIV

The major MNCH activity during April was the Systematic Review of Evidence on Relationships between HIV and Maternal Mortality. The Review teams met in Washington from 29-May 1, and presented their findings and recommendations to USAID on April 30. The reports will be submitted to USAID on May 10 for comments and then finalized by ASH.

Malaria in Pregnancy

The ASH MNCH and Infectious Disease Specialists continued development of the framework for conducting facility assessments for IPTp based on comments received from USAID and held discussions with local counterparts in Benin about the possibility of carrying out assessments there.

The ASH MNCH Specialist participated in the monthly teleconference of Roll Back Malaria's Malaria in Pregnancy Working Group which was primarily focused on finalizing the agenda for the Working Group's annual meeting that will be held in Geneva from May 13-14. The MNCH Specialist plans to attend the annual meeting.

Respectful Maternity Care

The MNCH Specialist also attended the quarterly meeting of the Advisory Council on Respectful Maternity Care in order to identify themes and possible linkages with ASH activities, including the work to strengthen the delivery of IPTp services and ART for HIV+ pregnant women.

B. Infectious Diseases

TB

Keri Lijinsky joined the USAID Africa Bureau team as TB/HIV advisor. Her recruitment provided the opportunity to initiate discussion and planning for ASH's TB activities. The first anticipated activity will be to prepare for the discussion of the Pediatric TB Framework prepared by WHO AFRO.

IDSR

The consultant hired to conduct the IDSR literature review continued her activities during the month. Issues related to the completion of the IDSR communication strategy were unblocked and measures were initiated to continue work on the communication strategy following the resignation of the ASH Communication Advisor.

Malaria

The focus of the month was on recruiting consultants to conduct an assessment of RBM sub-regional networks created to provide technical assistance to countries in the implementation of resources provided through the Global Fund. This included the development of the COR letter and consultant SOWs as well as the recruitment of consultants. A second activity was to develop a COR letter and consultant SOW's for a mid-term assessment of an IRS project currently being implemented in Tanzania. ASH circulated a copy of the Malawi IPTp report to PMI, the Malawi NMCP and USAID Malawi. ASH initiated consultation with MSH staff in Benin for the planned IPTp assessment in Benin.

C. Health Systems Strengthening

ASH spent most of this month leading the development of the 2nd volume of ASH's mHealth Compendium for the upcoming USAID/Global Health SOTA meeting in May. This second volume contains twenty-seven case studies which document a range of mHealth applications being implemented mainly throughout Africa, but also in other regions. The final version of the mHealth Compendium was reviewed and approved by USAID officers. In her feedback regarding mHealth Compendium, IT/KM Advisor Peggy D'Adamo from USAID Global Health Bureau stated: "It looks wonderful. Great job."

D. Monitoring and Evaluation (M&E)

The M&E Advisor participated in the USAID Participatory Impact Pathways Analysis - Thought Leaders in Learning Seminar at the Reagan Building.

3. Management and Administration

A. Finance

Financial data for April, 2013 has not yet been closed by MSH Accounting. It is expected that the information will become available on or around May 17, 2013. Therefore, for the purpose of this report expenses for April, 2013 is based on estimates.

1) Total Obligation	=	\$6,783,004
2) Expenses		
Total expenditure and accruals as of March, 2013	=	\$3,997,638
Estimated expenses for March, 2013	=	<u>\$ 200,000</u>
Total estimated expenses as of March 31, 2013	=	<u>\$4,197,638</u>
Pipeline (1-2)	=	\$2,585,366

B. Project Management

During the April 17th COR meeting, the COR shared hard copies of the Year Two ASH Workplan with her comments and edits based on conversations with colleagues in

USAID/AFR. USAID/AFR and ASH reviewed the workplan line-by-line to ensure mutual understanding and answer questions as necessary. Later in the month, ASH submitted a new revised version of the ASH workplan and budget based on feedback provided by USAID/AFR.

C. Project Communication and Dissemination

Transition

In preparation for her upcoming departure, the ASH Project as Communications and Advocacy Specialist worked on finalizing and/or developing transition/handover plans for many of her assignments.

Family Planning Program Review

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, provided that the consultant was based in the Washington, DC area. During March, the ASH team selected an FP consultant (Ms. Usha Vatsia), received USAID approval to move forward, and subsequently completed the contracting process. Ms. Vatsia completed the work in April, although the scope of her assignment changed during the course of the consultancy. With the limited time available, USAID preferred that she focus her efforts on doing the data analysis and tables. The report writing will be completed at a later date.

In preparation for an Africa regional health SOTA meeting in Johannesburg in early May, the Communications and Advocacy Specialist assisted USAID in preparing a presentation using the FP data collected. The presentation was drafted by the end of April, and will be delivered by USAID during the SOTA meeting.

AGOA

The ASH project was asked to develop a short background paper for the USAID conference session at the annual AGOA meeting in Addis Ababa in June-July this year. Under the guidance of ASH, it was planned that a consultant would undertake a desk review and write a short background paper that highlights the linkages between health, trade and development. In March, the scope of work was drafted, and in April, the ASH team received approval from USAID to move forward with the activity. CVs were collected from potential consultants for the position. In May, we were notified by USAID/AFR that the AGOA meeting might be postponed; thus, ASH was requested to put on hold the consulting activity.

D. Partnership Collaboration

ASH linked WAHO with USAID/AFR and Global Health to organize a meeting in Washington DC between these two organizations. The M&E Advisor held a teleconference call with USAID Southern Africa Epidemiologist / Research & Program Advisor Todd Koppenhaver and MSH BLC Deputy Director Anddy Omoluabi to seek clarification on the IHM activity proposed by the RHAP team at the February meeting of regional missions in Nairobi.

E. Other Updates

a. *Staffing*

The ASH Project as Communications and Advocacy Specialist announced her resignation. Her effective last day on ASH will be May 17, 2013.

F. COR Meetings

One COR meetings took place on April 2 and 17, 2013

G. Potential Issues or Areas Needing USAID Support

No issues needing support.

4. Key Activities Planned for Next Month

- a. Complete the final report of the systematic review of evidence on relationships between HIV and maternal mortality
- b. Print and disseminate the Volume II of ASH's mHealth Compendium for the upcoming USAID/Global Health SOTA meeting in May
- c. Write website content and forward for approval
- d. Continue work on the communications and advocacy strategy for IDSR
- e. Continue the development of the ASH draft partnership strategy
- f. Meet with USAID AFR/SD to present and get feedback on the ASH PMP/M&E Plan
- 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