

July Monthly Progress Report

African Strategies for Health

August 15, 2013

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African Strategies for Health (ASH)

Monthly Progress Report: July 2013

1. Notable Achievements

- ASH provided support to the African Union's CARMMA to finalize and edit its Annual Report on MNCH for 2013. This report will be submitted by CARMMA to the African Union Assembly.

2. Technical Updates

A. Maternal, Newborn and Child Health

Maternal Mortality and HIV

ASH began developing articles based on the findings from the three systematic literature reviews of Evidence on Relationships between HIV and Maternal Mortality, and held discussions with USAID about which journal will be targeted for submission. Article development will continue during August and a decision will be made about the journal to which they will be submitted.

ASH worked with USAID/AFR to prepare three abstracts based on the systematic literature reviews and submitted them via the online portal for inclusion in the International Conference on AIDS and STIs in Africa (ICASA) taking place in South Africa in December. ASH also submitted an application for a symposium at ICASA on behalf of USAID/AFR and developed a notional budget for a potential side meeting focused on programmatic applications of maternal health and HIV integration.

Leadership and Management Capacity Building of Regional Health Professional Associations

ASH collaborated with the Survive & Thrive GDA to develop a session on institutional capacity building for health professional associations in the ECSA region which will be part of the ECSA-RCQHC Regional Forum on Maternal and Newborn Care in Arusha in August. The COR letter for this activity was submitted and approved by USAID. Session development will continue in August and a team from ASH will attend the Forum and co-lead the session.

IPTp

The COR letter for the IPTp facility assessments and development of a quality assurance tool was submitted and approved by USAID. ASH then began recruiting a senior consultant to carry out this work. Recruitment will continue in August and activities are planned to begin in September.

B. Infectious Diseases

IDSR

The team responsible for the IDSR evaluation in Botswana continued with logistic and technical preparations during July by means of weekly teleconferences. ASH met with a team from WHO AFRO who visited Washington DC to participate in a meeting on eSurveillance.

Malaria

The review of Roll Back Malaria's sub regional network was initiated when consultants began the document review and key informant interviews. PMI is actively participating and supporting the review process. A team was proposed for the mid-term IRS evaluation in Tanzania. USAID Tanzania agreed with the proposed team structure; unfortunately a problem arose with the non-availability of the proposed team lead prior to October 2013. ASH together with AFR/SD reached out to USAID Tanzania to determine an appropriate way forward.

TB

During the first week of July representatives from WHO AFRO, USAID and MoH members convened in Brazzaville, Congo to finalize a pediatric TB Framework for Africa.

C. Health Systems Strengthening

AGOA

ASH completed and submitted a technical paper and developed a technical brief and PowerPoint presentation making the case for "Health as a Driver of Sustained and Accelerated Trade and Investment". The presentation and its technical brief will be presented by the East African Community Secretary General, Ambassador Dr. SEZIBERA Richard, to Ministers of Finance and senior trade representatives at 2013 U.S.-Sub-Saharan Africa Trade and Economic Cooperation Forum also known as the AGOA Forum, on August 12-13, 2013 in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia. ASH also prepared a flyer, poster and agenda for the session, which will be printed locally with the help of the MSH Ethiopia office.

mHealth

The M&E Specialist participated in the July 10 ICT meeting with Dr. Nagy Hanna, Senior Fellow, Center for Policy on Emerging Technologies and former World Bank Senior Advisor and Lead Corporate Strategist.

Landscape Analysis

The M&E Specialist finalized the interview protocols, terms of reference and lists of key informants for the Landscape Analysis of Key Regional Organizations in the African Health Sector. A three-person ASH team pilot tested the Landscape Analysis structured interview guide with Health, Population and Nutrition experts from the World Bank, and the ASH Project Director travelled to East Africa to conduct key informant interviews in the end of July. ASH also initiated the process of negotiating a contract with a senior West African consultant.

D. Monitoring and Evaluation (M&E)

The M&E Specialist continued to develop the list of potential M&E activities for year 3, in collaboration with Khulisa.

3. Management and Administration

A. Finance

MSH financial year ended June 30, 2013. Therefore, the closing of the books for June, 2013 has not been completed by the accounting section yet. Therefore, for the purpose of this report, expenses for June and July, 2013 are based on estimates.

1) Total Obligation	=	\$7,430,658
2) Expenses		
Total expenditure and accruals of June 30, 2013 (estimated)	=	\$4,610,306
Estimated expenses for July, 2013	=	<u>\$ 260,000</u>
Total estimated expenses as of July 31, 2013	=	<u>\$4,870,306</u>
Pipeline (1-2)	=	\$2,560,352

B. Project Management

ASH Year 2 work plan was approved by USAID on June 27, 2013.

ASH technical staff began planning for the development of its Year 3 Workplan. The ASH team also developed a list of potential activities to be proposed for Year 3 and shared this list with USAID/AFR. ASH technical staff began meeting with their Core Technical Teams to discuss and refine ideas for potential activities.

C. Project Communication and Dissemination

The project is awaiting comments and feedback from the COR on ASH website.

D. Partnership Collaboration

Nothing to report.

E. Other Updates

a. *Staffing*

The first candidate for Communications and Advocacy specialist proposed by APHRC turned down the offer. Following a series of discussions, ASH and USAID/AFR agreed that the second candidate was not ideal for the position and decided to begin the hiring process again. USAID and ASH jointly agreed that the position be filled directly by MSH. The job description and request to hire the position was submitted to MSH HR during the last week of July, 2013. MSH HR will post the JD on August 2, 2013.

Lungi Okoko, the M&E Specialist, submitted his resignation on July 31, 2013. Khulisa, the ASH Partner who seconded the M&E Specialist, was notified immediately to start the process of recruiting a replacement.

F. COR Meetings

COR meetings took place on July 16, 2013 and July 31, 2013.

4. Key Activities Planned for Next Month

- a. Facilitate capacity building sessions for professional associations at ECSA-RCQHC Regional Forum on Maternal and Newborn Care in Arusha during August. Four regional professional associations and national professional associations from 16 countries will attend.
- b. Conduct IDSR evaluation in Botswana.
- c. Continue the landscape analysis of regional institutions.
- d. Initiate IRS mid-term evaluation activity in Tanzania.
- e. Submit first draft of the ASH work plan for Year 3.

5. Attachments

- a. Updated list of COR Letters and Related Clearances