

September Monthly Progress Report

African Strategies for Health

October 15, 2013

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African Strategies for Health (ASH)

Monthly Progress Report: September 2013

1. Notable Achievements

- Two abstracts based on the systematic reviews of evidence on relationships between HIV and Maternal Mortality were accepted for poster presentations for the ICASA in December 2013 in South Africa: the review on the effectiveness of interventions for HIV-infected pregnant and postpartum women and the review of health system factors that affect the use of ART among this population.

2. Technical Updates

A. Maternal, Newborn and Child Health

IPTp

- ASH finalized selection of the senior international consultant for the IPTp facility assessments and development of the quality assurance tool

HIV and Maternal Health

- ASH continued working on the articles from the systematic reviews of health system and demand-side factors affecting the use of ART among HIV-infected pregnant and postpartum women in preparation for submitting them to a peer-reviewed journal
- ASH provided notional budgets for hosting various events at ICASA in December and followed up with conference organizers to determine options for participation.

B. Infectious Diseases

IDSR

- Together with WHO AFRO and CDC continued planning for the AFENET Conference
- ASH worked with WHO AFRO and CDC to define a joint work plan for FY 14

Malaria

- The Tanzanian IRS evaluation was launched during September
- ASH continued support for the SRN assessment consultancy team. The activity required close liaison with Stephanie Weber of USAID to ensure that the consultancy team were able to access important information from stakeholders such Roll Back Malaria and Malaria Program Managers of Ministries of Health.

C. Health Systems Strengthening

Research Assistance to USAID/AFR

- ASH conducted a quick literature scan with research notes on existing evidence on the relationship between dependency ratio and income per capita, as well as on the effectiveness of youth livelihood programs.

Landscape Analysis

- ASH began a preliminary data analysis. Continued to carry out interviews with key informants.

mHealth

- ASH initiated the process of developing the 3rd volume of the mHealth Compendium. This third volume will be produced in time for dissemination at the 2013 International Conference on Family Planning taking place on 12-15 November, 2013, in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia.

D. Monitoring and Evaluation (M&E)

WHO AFRO Joint Mid-term Review

- ASH met with USAID/AFR to discuss the upcoming Joint Review of the USAID grant to WHO/AFRO.
- ASH also provided substantial technical inputs into the draft terms of reference’s methodology, LOE/schedule and consultant qualifications sections, and suggested a description of the roles played by the advisory team versus that of the review team.
- The project identified 3 senior evaluation consultants for the team leader consultancy and submitted their names to USAID.

Strengthening the Capacity of African Evaluators through AfrEA

- ASH met with USAID to discuss ASH’s support the 2014 African Evaluation Association conference. USAID agreed to have ASH 1) provide technical and logistical support to the Health Evaluation Strand of the conference; 2) organizing a half-day knowledge and skills transfer workshop on the USAID evaluation policy for African evaluators who attend the conference.

3. Management and Administration

A. Finance

MSH accounting has not closed the books for September, 2013 yet. Therefore, for the purpose of this report, expenses for September, 2013 are based on estimates.

1) Total Obligation	=	\$7,430,658
2) Expenses		
Total expenditure August 31, 2013	=	\$4,842,900
Estimated expenses and accruals for September, 2013	=	<u>\$ 300,000</u>
Total estimated expenses as of September 31, 2013	=	<u>\$5,142,900</u>
Estimated Pipeline (1-2) as of September 31, 2013	=	\$2,287,758

B. Project Management

ASH and USAID held a Quarterly Review meeting to discuss Year 2 results and planned activities for Year 3. After USAID sent feedback to ASH on first draft version of the Year 3 workplan, ASH team members made revisions and finalized the second draft.

C. Project Communication and Dissemination

The project received comments and feedback from USAID on the ASH website.

D. Partnership Collaboration

Nothing to report.

E. Other Updates

a. Staffing

MSH submitted to USAID the information of its selected candidate for the ACD position for approval.

MSH continues the recruitment process for the Project Director position.

F. COR Meetings

COR meetings took place on September 6 and 19, 2013

4. Key Activities Planned for Next Month

- a. Finalize focus of HSS cutting edge issue with USAID as well as plan of action for this major activity
- b. Clarify issues and limits to study of poverty, health and access with focus on Family Planning and initiate work
- c. Further exploration with USAID about possible private sector activity for ASH in Year 3
- d. Begin the IPTp facility assessment activities, including development of the questionnaires and protocols.
- e. Develop the posters for presentation at ICASA. ASH will continue work on the articles from the systematic review on HIV and Maternal Mortality in preparation for their submission.
- f. Begin planning for an ICASA satellite session on HIV and maternal health integration
- g. Continue discussions with the Survive & Thrive GDA partners, together with USAID, to explore ASH involvement in the coming year and beyond.
- h. Continue to oversee the implementation of the Tanzania IRS evaluation
- i. Finalize preparations for AFENET Conference
- j. Initiate proposed TB activities – data analysis, country profiling
- k. Develop case studies for the mHealth Compendium (Volume 3)
- l. Continue providing technical and logistical support to the joint review of the USAID grant to WHO/AFRO.
- m. Oversee the completion of key informant interviews for the Landscape Analysis of Key Regional Organizations in the African Health Sector. Begin data analysis and prepare for presentation of preliminary findings.

5. Attachments

- a. Updated list of COR Letters and Related Clearances