

October Monthly Progress Report

African Strategies for Health

November 15, 2013

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African Strategies for Health (ASH)

Monthly Progress Report: October 2013

1. Notable Achievements

- Completed the development of the 3rd volume of the mHealth Compendium to be disseminated at the 2013 International Conference on Family Planning in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia.

2. Technical Updates

A. Maternal, Newborn and Child Health

Maternal Death Surveillance and Response (MDSR)

- ASH developed an update brief for USAID/AFR on the status of activities under way to integrate MDSR into IDSR and submitted it to USAID/AFR on October 17. This brief is meant to inform discussions between ASH, USAID/AFR and other relevant partners, such as the CDC and WHO/AFRO, about a possible future role for USAID/AFR and ASH in these efforts.

Strengthening the management and leadership capacity of regional health professional associations

- ASH participated in conference calls with ECSA-HC, RCQHC, the USAID/East Africa Mission and Survive & Thrive (S&T) GDA partners and the S&T GDA in-person quarterly meeting on Oct. 14 to discuss options for ASH continued support for strengthening the management and leadership capacity of regional health professional associations. There is interest in the possibility of ASH supporting: (i) an ECSA-based web portal that would house resource materials that would supplement workshops and other training and technical assistance supported by ASH and/or GDA partners and (ii) workshops on association leadership and management capacity building during the annual regional forum that likely will be organized by ECSA-HC and RCQHC in August 2014. USAID/GH/HIDN requested that ECSA-HC submit a concept note/proposal that would identify the proposed activities and desired contributions and support from the various partners. This concept note was received during the week of November 4 and will be discussed during an S&T conference call scheduled for Nov. 13.

IPTp facility-level assessments

- Development of the questionnaire and protocol for the IPTp facility-level assessments in Uganda continued and it is anticipated that a draft will be submitted to USAID/AFR and PMI in early December for review. ASH had discussions with PMI/Liberia to provide an overview of the objectives of this activity. They are in support of this work, which they believe will help to inform their work on malaria in pregnancy and issues surrounding IPTp implementation. ASH also talked with the MSH program office in Uganda about Uganda's IRB requirements and requested information to assist ASH in selecting the facilities that will be included in the field work.

Promoting improved effectiveness of CHWs

- Discussions with USAID/AFR and USAID/GH/OHA continued about a possible future role for AFR and ASH in promoting improved effectiveness of CHWs. ASH was asked to send

a staff member to the 3rd Global Health Workforce Alliance conference in Recife, Brazil from November 9-14 and to participate in the side session devoted to identifying and possibly aligning the contributions of the myriad development partners who are working in the area. However, the Brazilian Embassy was not able to issue a visa within the relatively short time frame, so ASH was represented at the meeting by Zina Jarra, an MSH staff member who has worked on costing and financial aspects of CHW programs. Zina will debrief ASH on her return and discussions with USAID will continue in November.

B. Infectious Diseases

IDSR

- Preparations continued for 5th Scientific Conference of the African Field Epidemiology Network (AFENET) through regular teleconferences that included WHO AFRO, CDC, USAID and ASH. The program for the pre-conference was finalized, the venue was confirmed and materials (banner, handouts, and lanyards) were purchased. Dr Miriam Sentongo from the Ugandan MoH will be funded by ASH to present on MDSR in Uganda.

Malaria

- ASH supported the completion of the report for the Review of USG-supported Global Fund Technical Assistance for Malaria Funding Investments. Extensive feedback was given on the first draft of the report as well as guidance in terms of layout and structure. A second version of the report was received on 31 October for further review.
- The ASH-supported consultant team completed the field work component for the IRS mid-term assessment in Tanzania. The team debriefed the Tanzanian PMI team and provided a draft report on their departure.

C. Health Systems Strengthening

Performance-based Financing

- ASH met with USAID/AFR and USAID/GH's Joseph Naimoli on the HSS cutting edge issue concept paper prepared by ASH. The ASH HSS Advisor continued to refine the HSS cutting edge issue activity focused on Performance-based Financing through special meeting and discussions.

Private sector mapping

- ASH developed an approach for the private sector mapping activity proposed by USAID/AFR and met with USAID to get further clarification and feedback. ASH began collecting information on private corporations with health programs in Africa for this mapping exercise.

Landscape Analysis

- ASH continued to lead the Landscape Analysis of Key Regional Organizations in the African Health Sector. Met internally to discuss key patterns, trends, and insights from key informant interviews. Met with USAID/AFR to provide an update, present early findings, seek feedback on proposed products, and prioritize the development of the products. Continued preliminary data analysis based on feedback provided.

mHealth

- Completed the development of the 3rd volume of the mHealth Compendium. This third volume was 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

- Continued technical and logistical discussions with USAID/AFR on the Joint Review of the USAID grant to WHO/AFRO. Secured the services of a senior evaluation consultant for the team leader consultancy.

Strengthening the Capacity of African Evaluators through AfrEA

- Held a second meeting 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.

USAID M&E Working Group

- Participated in the USAID Bureau of Global Health CAs M&E Working Group meeting. This meeting included a number of presentations on Impact Evaluation methodology.

3. Management and Administration

A. Finance

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

1) Total Obligation	=	\$7,430,658
2) Expenses		
Total expenditure as of September, 2013	=	\$4,998,361
Estimated expenses and accruals for October, 2013	=	<u>\$ 300,000</u>
Total estimated expenses as of October 31, 2013	=	<u>\$5,298,361</u>
Estimated Pipeline (1-2) as of October 31, 2013	=	\$2,132,297

B. Project Management

ASH developed and submitted a draft version of its Year 2 Annual Report and continued to revise the draft version of the Year 3 work plan.

C. Project Communication and Dissemination

Nothing to report.

D. Partnership Collaboration

- The M&E Advisor met with USAID/AFR to plan the initial M&E technical assistance visit to the African Union set to take place November 2013.

- Hosted the board of the African Evaluation Association at MSH and organized a session with USAID's Winston Allen, the AfrEA board, and MSH's M&E Director.

E. Other Updates

a. Staffing

USAID approved the appointment of selected candidate (Gayle Mendoza) for the ACD position.

The recruitment process for the Project Director was completed.

F. COR Meetings

COR meetings took place on October 10 and 23, 2013

4. Key Activities Planned for Next Month

- a. Hold a follow-up meeting on the HSS cutting edge issue activity with Africa Bureau and Joseph Naimoli
- b. Continue the gathering of data for exploratory phase of private sector mapping activity
- c. Continue the development of the IPTp facility assessment questionnaire and protocol.
- d. Discuss the future role of USAID/AFR and ASH in strengthening CHW effectiveness will continue.
- e. Continue discussions with the Survive & Thrive GDA partners, together with USAID, to explore ASH involvement in the coming year and beyond.
- f. Work with Kim Connolly to plan a PMI debrief on the Tanzania IRS evaluation
- g. Develop a presentation on "Mobile Technology: Bringing the Community and Health System Together" to be delivered at the FP Conference by USAID/AFR Senior Advisor
- h. Finalize and submit the AfrEA abstract for a half-day workshop
- i. Provide logistical support for the AFENET Conference
- j. Meet with the African Union in Addis to develop TORs for ASH's technical assistance to the AU under CARMMA
- k. Participate in the mHealth workshop at the 2013 International Family Planning Conference in Addis and disseminate 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. Continue data analysis and organize a second meeting with USAID to discuss products and timelines.
- n. Initiate recruitment process for the Technical Director position.

5. Attachments

- a. Updated list of COR Letters and Related Clearances