

# June Monthly Progress Report

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## African Strategies for Health

June 15, 2012

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**African Strategies for Health (ASH)**  
*Monthly Progress Report: June 2012*

**Activities and Achievements**

**Infection Diseases:**

*HIV/AIDS* - Following discussions with the USAID focal point for HIV and AIDS, Jenny Albertini it was agreed that ASH's activities in HIV/AIDS for year would focus on support to **elimination of HIV transmission from parents to their babies and supporting scaling up of male circumcision**. The Infectious diseases specialist, Dr. Rudi Thetard, after a careful review of regional activities around these two focus areas, drafted a working paper on regional institutions and their roles in support of the above two activities.

**IDSR and Pediatric TB –**

- (a) Rudi met with Mary Harvey to discuss
  - Pediatric TB and IDSR related issues and next steps forward.
  - Future laboratory work and met with Tomori Oyewale
  - Regional TB approaches for health and commenced the drafting of a regional strategy
- (b) Reviewed ANNECA proposal and initiated discussion with USAID on the potential of ANNECA in strengthening pediatric TB
- (c) Worked with the MNCH specialist Edna Jonas on next steps for IPTp.

**MNCH**

- At the request of USAID AFR, Edna Jonas revised the AU's 2012 Status Report on MNCH.
- Networking activities – Edna (a) attended sessions during USAID's Frontiers in Development Conference; (c) participated in the CSO pre-Call to Action meeting; (c) attended a roundtable discussion on MNCH that was hosted by MSH; (d) attended the "Women Deliver and Global Health and Diplomacy" meeting; (e) attended the Call to Action for Child Survival meeting; (f) met with MCHIP to discuss potential collaboration on ORS.

**Advocacy, Communication and Dissemination**

**IDRS Advocacy Strategy** - Gwen met with Mary Harvey at USAID and ASH team member Rudi Thetard on updates regarding our work in Infection Disease Surveillance on June 11. It has been proposed that Gwen design an advocacy strategy for new partners funded to do work in IDS on the IDSR strategy, developed by WHO/AFRO. This advocacy strategy and campaign would be designed to bring all partners working in IDS under one IDSR strategy.

**AGOA** - Gwen worked closely with the USAID/AFR team to assist in organizing a session at the African Growth and Opportunity Act (AGOA) annual forum, held at the US Department of State in Washington, DC June 14-15. The forum hosts African prime ministers, finance ministers, and trade ministers to discuss various themes in improving trade between the US and Africa. The theme of this year's forum was infrastructure (electricity generation, water,

health care technology, etc.). The session involving ASH was held on June 14 as a concurrent session on health infrastructure and m-Health. Gwen worked with Suzzane and other staff to review and edit session presentations. In addition, she prepared a flyer advertising the session, and assisted in preparing folders and reference materials for the session, including three case studies on m-Health. She then rehearsed with the presenters, and attended the opening meetings and the session, ensuring that attendees received materials.

*ASH Brochure* - Working with Sunday Bitrus and other ASH staff, Gwen finalized the ASH project brochure and ordered 600 copies for printing. Gwen also completed an ASH Powerpoint template and standard presentation for technical audiences.

Gwen met with MSH/Arlington's librarian, Kindra Willis, to learn more about MSH journal and online research resources, as well as the procedure in place to request and purchase articles in journals to which MSH does not subscribe. Gwen was also interested in past requests for information by ASH team members to learn about informational needs within the team, which Kindra agreed to compile and forward.

ASH staff participated in a three day training taught by staff at JHUCCP on the K4Health Project on Knowledge Management.

### **Monitoring and Evaluation**

ASH prepared a revised PMP for the project in the light of the revised budget and project deliverables.

### **Project Management and Administration**

#### **USAID Request for issuance of a grant to University of Kinshasa School of Public Health**

ASH received a request from USAID to issue a grant to University of Kinshasa School of Public Health to support the MPH and PhD Scholarship Program for one year. This project was previously funded under Health Systems 20/20 project of Abt Associates. During this month, ASH communicated with the mission to get a scope of work and other relevant information about this program. A grant agreement was submitted to USAID Contracting Officer for his approval during the first week of July. The agreement will be issued to the University as soon as CO Approval is received.

#### **COR meetings -**

Three COR meetings held on 8<sup>th</sup>, 21<sup>st</sup> and 29<sup>th</sup>, 2012

During June 29<sup>th</sup> meeting the whole ASH was introduced to Lisa Baldwin, the new head for the health team at the Africa Bureau.

#### **ASH staff meetings**

Two ASH staff meetings were took place 7<sup>th</sup> and 21<sup>st</sup> June, 2012

#### **Key Activities planned for July, 2012**

- (a) Godfrey will represent ASH at the HHA (Harmonizing for Health in Africa) conference in Tunis. The meeting will bring together Ministers of Health, Ministers of Finance and Parliamentarians to discuss health financing in the region.

- (b) ASH will hold a retreat July 17-20 which will include a team building session on day one and a two-day year 2 planning session.
- (c) ASH team members will attend sessions at the International AIDS Conference in Washington, DC July 23-27.
- (d) ASH staff will continue to work on year-1 SOW.
- (e) Start work on designing the ASH Project website and templates for ASH Policy briefs and factsheets.