



South Sudan Quarterly Report January-March 2012

Introduction

The Maternal, Child Health Integrated Program (MCHIP) is the U.S. Agency for International Development's (USAID) flagship maternal health project. MCHIP South Sudan is a partnership comprised of two strategic partners; Jhpiego and John Snow Inc. (JSI). The goal of MCHIP is to assist in scaling up evidence-based, high-impact maternal, newborn and child health (MNCH) interventions; thereby contributing to significant reductions in maternal and child mortality as well as progress toward Millennium Development Goals 4 and 5.

In January 2011, at the behest of USAID, MCHIP requested the Ministry of Health (MOH) of South Sudan to compile data on postpartum hemorrhage (PPH) and eclampsia and prepare poster presentations for the PPH regional meeting in Addis Ababa in February 2011. MCHIP posted the first staff member to South Sudan in August 2011 as a response to the MOH request to USAID. The staff member is based in the MOH as an advisor for Family Planning and Reproductive Health (FP/RH) with a major focus in FP. The Technical Advisor for HIV/AIDS M&E joined MCHIP South Sudan in February 2012 and is based at the division of HIV/AIDS within the MOH.

Key activities accomplished in the first quarter of FY2012 include: finalization of the RH Policy and Strategic Plan, as well as identification of colleges in Kenya that can train South Sudan students in midwifery, anesthesia (Nurses and Clinical Officers) and Tutors in nursing and midwifery. Other accomplishments include the review of the Expanded Program for Immunization (EPI) program in South Sudan and dissemination of the EPI policy.

MCHIP Program Objectives and Key Activities

1. To build capacity for family planning and reproductive health.
2. To strengthen human resources.
3. Support a program for prevention of postpartum hemorrhage.

Results for the Quarter

1. Family Planning/Reproductive Health Advisor

During the second quarter MCHIP assisted the Ministry of Health to achieve the following results:

- a. Enhanced provision of family planning services in South Sudan following the development of the South Sudan Family Planning policy (currently in draft form) and development of FP service providers training curriculum
- b. Increased availability, access and range of choices and contraceptive options for birth spacing/family planning in Western Equatoria State (WES) through provision of technical support to WES State Ministry of Health (SMOH) during their strategic planning for the reproductive health program.
- c. MCHIP staff offered technical support in a mentorship training for 26 EmONC national trainers. This is expected to lead to improved delivery of quality, accessible, affordable FP/RH services in South Sudan.
- d. MCHIP staff assisted the division of the reproductive health network to form partnerships in a bid to harmonize national approaches to FP/RH. The division of health through technical assistance from MCHIP worked with UNFPA, FHI 360, MSH and Marie Stopes International.

2. HIV/AIDS M&E Advisor

During this the second quarter MCHIP assisted the HIV/AIDS Division of the Ministry of Health. Key activities include:

- Improved analysis and use of routine HIV/AIDS and RH data at the national and lower levels. During Q2, the HIV/AIDS M&E Advisor supported the HIV/AIDS Division in compiling, cleaning and analyzing 2010 and 2011 CT, RH/PMTCT, Antiretroviral Treatment (ART), blood safety, condoms and sexually transmitted infections (STI) data
- Assisted the division of HIV/AIDS to compile the South Sudan 2012 Global AIDS Progress Report
- Provided support for conducting an emergency obstetric care (EMOC) needs assessment and maternal mortality ratio (MMR) survey. These studies will enable the MOH to improve emergency obstetric care and decrease maternal mortality in South Sudan.
- Improved planning, coordination and implementation (including tool/register revision and dissemination) of HMIS roll out. Reviewed the FHI360 HIV/FP Integration tools, supervision checklist and the division annual report template

3. Maternal and Neonatal Health Advisor

MCHIP is still waiting for approval of the Scope of Work for this position from the MOH and will begin recruitment once this is received.

4. Budget Advisor

MCHIP is still waiting for approval of the Scope of Work for this position from the MOH and will begin recruitment once this is received.

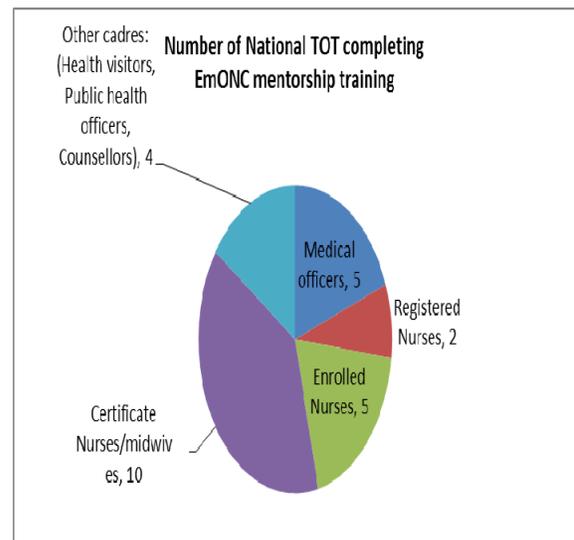
5. PPH Activity

Support for prevention of postpartum hemorrhage to decrease maternal mortality in South Sudan. MCHIP staff together with SHTP II finalized the PPH program implementation plan and various training materials including clinical guidelines.

Objective 1: To build capacity for family planning and reproductive health

During the second quarter of FY2012 MCHIP continued to improve the policy environment for family planning and reproductive health provision through development of FP policy, strategy and guidelines. This will enable the reproductive health division of the MOH to lead and coordinate all the development partners as well as state and county health departments in improved provision of quality and affordable family planning services. MCHIP staff also supported the

RH division improves the delivery of quality, accessible, affordable FP/RH services by building strong health provider skills through training and facilitative supervision. During the last quarter MCHIP staff provided technical support during a one week competency based training with practical sessions at Yambio hospital. A total of 26 health workers were trained as shown in figure1 below. The participants were able to learn all the practical aspects of identifying what to do when confronted with hemorrhages in pregnancy, how to practice infection prevention to avoid sepsis, and the value of generating records and record keeping.



MCHIP staff provided technical support to WES Ministry of Health during their strategic planning meeting for the RH program. The meeting was attended by representatives of all development partners working in the state. The State Ministry of Health was able to have all partners align their operational and annual work plans to reflect Ministry of health MCH/FP priorities. A key resolution of the meeting

was to lay more emphasis on FP provision and to address the skills of health workers to provide basic emergency obstetric care (BEMOC) and comprehensive emergency obstetric care (CEMOC). These activities will lead to increased availability, access and range of choices and contraceptive options for birth spacing/family planning in Western Equatoria State.

With assistance of MCHIP the division of reproductive health strengthened partnerships with UNFPA, FHI 360, MSH and MARIE STOPES. This allowed the partners to fund various activities for the division, to align their priorities with those of the division of reproductive health, and granted MARIE STOPES access to FP commodities from MOH and SHTP II. The MCHIP FP/RH technical advisor reviewed FHI360 training materials. In addition, training of trainers (TOT) and FP service provider training materials developed under the SHTP II program (approved by the MOH) were shared with FHI 360. The MCHIP advisor worked with FHI360 to review and facilitate their production of information, education and communication (IEC) materials in family planning for distribution to health facilities.

Objective 2: To strengthen human resources

During quarter 2 of FY12, the MCHIP HIV/AIDS Advisor provided technical support to strengthen the M&E function of the HIV/AIDS Division of the Ministry of Health (MoH) to ensure the improved analysis and use of routine HIV/AIDS and RH data at the national level. Although the MOH has established the District Health Information System (DHIS), the system has yet to be implemented in all the states in South Sudan. In the states where the DHIS has already been implemented, challenges with data reporting exist with minimal data reaching the national level. Additionally, various partners implementing HIV/AIDS activities have vertical data reporting systems which vary from partner to partner. In many instance, partners are also collecting the data only required for reporting to their donors. Therefore, merging of these datasets from the MOH and various partners is difficult. However, MCHIP has been assisting staff at the HIV/AIDS Division with compiling, cleaning and analyzing 2010 and 2011 CT, RH/PMTCT, ART, blood safety, condoms and STI data. This technical assistance enabled the HIV/AIDS Division contribute to the South Sudan 2012 Global AIDS progress report.

The Way Forward

In the third quarter MCHIP will assist the Ministry of Health by:

- a) Printing, launching and disseminating the RH policy, strategy and FP policy
- b) Reviewing and updating the family planning technical guidelines in light of the new emerging evidence
- c) Reviewing and harmonizing FP training materials/curriculum
- d) Conducting advocacy with the various state-level stakeholders, including:Governors, SMOH, CHD, commissioners, partners, and community leaders for sustained commodity security and sustainability
- e) Supporting the HIV/AIDS Division in setting targets for all program areas

- f) Revising and updating HIV/AIDS Division data reporting guidelines in collaboration with MOH M&E unit
- g) Identifying data management needs of the HIV/AIDS Division and supporting the formulation of data management and analysis procedures
- h) Strengthening the supportive supervision function of the HIV/AIDS Division by training staff in conducting supportive supervision using a checklist
- i) Conducting quarterly supportive supervisory visits to Central and State Health facilities jointly with RH officers in consultation with the Nursing and Midwifery Division

Challenges

- Office space has been a challenge- The director of DRH to follow on the Finalization and completion of the offices with MOH and UNFPA
- Lack of office stationery and the office requirements
- Budgetary allocation to support the technical officers seconded to the various departments (RH,HIV/AIDS) for them to competitively carry out their activities (***especially in the next couple of months when there are Austerity measures when the Ministry and the GRSS will be relying on partners to support various activities***)