



**USAID**  
FROM THE AMERICAN PEOPLE

# EVALUATE FOR HEALTH PROJECT (E4H)

QUARTERLY PROGRESS REPORT: OCT. 1–DEC. 31, 2014

**DECEMBER 15, 2014**

This publication was produced for review by the United States Agency for International Development. It was prepared by Management Systems International.

# EVALUATE FOR HEALTH PROJECT (E4H)

QUARTERLY PROGRESS REPORT: OCT 1-DEC 31,  
2014

Contracted under AID-641-Q-14-00001/AID-641-TO-14-00003

Evaluate for Health



A SUBSIDIARY OF COFFEY INTERNATIONAL, LTD

Management Systems International  
Corporate Offices

200 12th Street, South  
Arlington, VA 22202 USA

Tel: + 1 703 979 7100

## **DISCLAIMER**

The author's views expressed in this publication do not necessarily reflect the views of the United States Agency for International Development or the United States Government.

# CONTENTS

- Acronym List..... ii
- 1. **Background** ..... 1
- 2. **Administrative Start-up** ..... 1
  - 2.1 Staffing..... 1
  - 2.2 Office Space..... 2
- 3. **Highlights, Achievements and Major Activities**..... 2
  - 3.1 Stakeholder Consultations ..... 2
  - 3.2 Baseline Survey ..... 2
  - 3.3 Koko-Plus Cost Effectiveness Study ..... 3
- 4. **Deliverables** ..... 4
- 5. **Activities Planned for Next Quarter** ..... 4
- 6. **Main Issues Pending** ..... 4

## ACRONYM LIST

CHPS	Community-Based Health Planning and Services
E4H	Evaluate for Health
GHS	Ghana Health Service
GOG	Government of Ghana
HPNO	Health, Population and Nutrition Office
IP	Implementing Partner
M&E	Monitoring and Evaluation
PMP	Performance Monitoring Plan
TOCOR	Task Order Contracting Officer's Representative
USAID	U.S. Agency for International Development

## **I. BACKGROUND**

Evaluate for Health supports USAID/Ghana in improving accountability, learning and evidence-based decision-making. E4H will also work to ensure that local capacity is built to sustain monitoring, evaluation and research functions, providing overall evaluation support to the entire health portfolio. This will include establishing baselines, developing and implementing studies and evaluations, building the capacity of Ghana's research institutions and rapidly implementing operations research to guide continual programmatic improvement.

USAID/Ghana's Country Development Cooperation Strategy (2013–2017) recognizes Ghana's current investments in health, but highlights the unmet need for expanded access to quality services and for strengthened national and community-based health systems. USAID/Ghana's guiding development objective in health is that members of its population experience more equitable improvements in their health status through increased access to quality integrated health services, increased availability of community-based health resources, strengthened and responsive health systems and improved governance and accountability in the health sector. In support of this, E4H will measure overall effectiveness, transparency and optimal use of USAID health resources through monitoring and evaluation support to the Mission, its implementing partners and selected local partners.

## **2. ADMINISTRATIVE START-UP**

Evaluate for Health Task Order #01 became effective Sept. 15, 2014. The first quarter of the project, Oct. 1 through Dec. 31, has focused on setting up the administrative and operational systems and developing the Year 1 work plan. A four-person start-up team from MSI and subcontractor Mathematica Policy Research traveled to Accra from Oct. 7–17 with the purpose of administrative and operational start-up, meetings with USAID Task Order Contracting Officer's Representative (TOCOR) and stakeholder meetings. The team also met and interviewed potential staff.

The start-up team held 23 meetings with USAID, implementing partners (IPs), the Government of Ghana (GOG) and data collection firms.

The team's technical director made a second trip to Accra during the quarter, arriving Nov. 31 and departing Dec 11. She held a team planning meeting with office staff to discuss roles, responsibilities and the revised project timeline. During her trip, she was able to work with MSI and E4H local staff to finalize the purchase of office furniture and equipment and obtained quotes for purchasing an office generator.

### **2.1 Staffing**

During the quarter E4H hired six full-time employees: a project director, a senior evaluation adviser, a monitoring and evaluation (M&E) specialist, an M&E/database manager/IT specialist, a finance and administrative officer and an administrative assistant.

## 2.2 Office Space

On Nov. 28, E4H signed a lease for an office in Labone, Accra, and began the process of establishing a fully equipped and functional office.

# 3. HIGHLIGHTS, ACHIEVEMENTS AND MAJOR ACTIVITIES

## 3.1 Stakeholder Consultations

Members of the E4H start-up team met with six IPs during the October visit. The purpose of the meetings was to introduce E4H to the IPs, familiarize IPs with the project purpose and gather information about baseline data collection.

The team also met with several Ghana government representatives, data collection firms and technical resources.

## 3.2 Baseline Survey

This quarter, E4H laid important groundwork required to complete a baseline survey by next July. A facility-based quantitative survey will assess quality and equity of care in Ghana relating to maternal and child health, malaria, family planning/reproductive health, nutrition, water, sanitation and hygiene in all 10 regions of Ghana. Qualitative data collection, conducted in the five regions where USAID's activities are concentrated, will provide complementary information to the facility survey.

MSI's baseline survey subcontractor, Mathematica Policy Research, works in coordination with MSI and local staff on the baseline study design, instrument development, training and data analysis. A Mathematica employee joined the start-up team in Ghana to begin the baseline survey design. The team spoke with representatives from the GOG, USAID staff, IPs, knowledgeable colleagues in the field and local data collection firms to inform the design of the baseline during the trip. The team gathered information on current data collection systems, prior relevant surveys, available data, the scope of the USAID health portfolio and the monitoring and evaluation (M&E) needs of five of the nine health portfolio programs.

E4H's technical director took a second trip during the quarter to finalize discussions with USAID's Health, Population and Nutrition Office regarding the baseline survey content, approach and timeline. E4H staff also met with six IPs, representatives from the Ghana Health Service (GHS) and three data collection firms to review the baseline design and indicator list and presented a baseline design at a meeting of implementing partners.

In December, the E4H team visited the district health management team, the subdistrict health center and the Community-Based Health Planning and Services (CHPS) facility in Awutu Senya to discuss the baseline survey approach and determine how realistic projected methodology is in context of local conditions.



**CHPS Compound in Awutu Senya.**

E4H is finalizing the selection of a data collection firm for the baseline surveys and issued a solicitation Nov. 14 for a data collection firm. The firm will assist with mobile device programming, enumerator recruitment and training and field implementation of quantitative and qualitative data collection. A technical review panel of staff from MSI, MSI-Ghana and Mathematica completed the review of submitted proposals to make a selection by Dec. 15, after bidder presentations on Dec. 11 in Accra.

Data collection is expected to begin in February 2015, including both quantitative surveys in all 10 regions and the qualitative interviews and focus groups in the five target regions.

### **3.3 Koko-Plus Cost Effectiveness Study**

In November, E4H commenced work on the first scheduled assessment, a cost-effectiveness study of two marketing strategies for the nutritional supplement Koko-Plus. Koko, a traditional weaning food in Ghana, is porridge made with fermented corn. However, koko is deficient in energy, protein and micronutrients. In response to this deficiency, Japan International Cooperation Agency worked with the Ajinomoto Group to develop Koko Plus as a nutrition supplement.

Since use of this product requires behavior change and product substitution (Koko-Plus substitutes for sugar in the corn dough), USAID financed pilot marketing and information campaigns as a necessary first step to a potential scale-up of product distribution throughout Ghana. Two pilot delivery models were designed: 1) commercial distribution and social marketing through retail stores and 2) door-to-door marketing led by village savings and loan association members.

MSI hired a short-term technical expert in social marketing to assist with the development of interview guides and questionnaires, lead key stakeholder interviews and focus group discussions. The short-term expert is working with MSI's senior evaluation advisor on the assessment.

The project team met with three Koko-Plus IPs in November. The team also held a joint USAID meeting on Nov. 26. After partner and USAID discussions in early December, the project team agreed to finalize the scope of work by Dec. 15. Additional interviews with University of Ghana, USAID, and implementing partners will be conducted as next steps.

## 4. DELIVERABLES

The following deliverables were submitted in quarter 1:

- A revised first-year implementation plan was due to the TOCOR within 30 days of task order award. E4H submitted a revised implementation plan on Oct. 17 at the start-up trip out-brief and resubmitted the documents by email on Oct. 31.
- A revised performance monitoring plan (PMP) was submitted to the TOCOR on Oct 17 at the start-up trip out-brief. MSI resubmitted the documents by email on Oct. 31.
- An initial design and implementation plan for the baseline survey was submitted to the TOCOR on Oct. 31, in accordance with the revised implementation plan.
- The first quarterly accrual report was submitted to TOCOR on Dec. 1.

## 5. ACTIVITIES PLANNED FOR NEXT QUARTER

The following activities are planned for January–March 2015:

Component 1:

- Implement Nutrition Supplement Assessment statement of work.
- Begin engagement with data collection firm to implement baseline survey.
- Recruit and onboard short-term technical staff for Research Symposium.

Component 2:

- Launch M&E Community of Practice.
- Launch knowledge management platform.

Component 3:

- Recruit and onboard key personnel, senior capacity-building adviser.
- Pilot-test research institute capacity building Organizational Development Assessment tool.
- Develop capacity-building plan.

## 6. MAIN ISSUES PENDING

E4H delayed the recruitment of its senior capacity-building adviser, a key personnel position under the contract, until it was able to review the position description and qualifications with its Ghanaian technical staff. E4H expects to recruit and onboard this position by the end of January 2015.

E4H's office does not have a back-up generator, and the landlord was unable to provide a cost-effective generator option. Power outages have caused disruptions to staff during the workday. E4H is researching suitable cost-effective solutions to moderate future disruptions.