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# USAID/GHANA EVALUATE FOR HEALTH PROJECT (E4H) QUARTERLY PROGRESS REPORT: JAN. 1–MARCH 31, 2015

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# USAID/GHANA EVALUATE FOR HEALTH PROJECT (E4H)

QUARTERLY PROGRESS REPORT: JAN. 1–  
MARCH 31, 2015

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USAID/Ghana Evaluate for Health Project



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## **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.

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## ACRONYMS

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
RING	Resiliency in Northern Ghana
SADA	Savannah Accelerated Development Authority
SPRING	Strengthening Partnerships, Results and Innovations in Nutrition Globally
TNS	TNS RMS Ghana Limited
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 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 (IPs) and selected local partners.

## **2. ADMINISTRATIVE ACTIVITIES**

During the quarter, E4H filled the final key personnel position, the senior capacity development advisor. The project is now fully staffed.

The E4H office received delivery of a generator from the USAID Strengthening Partnerships, Results and Innovations in Nutrition Globally (SPRING) project, allowing the office to function through frequent power outages in Accra.

E4H issued a subcontract award to the firm TNS RMS Ghana Limited (TNS) for baseline survey data collection.

## **3. HIGHLIGHTS, ACHIEVEMENTS AND MAJOR ACTIVITIES**

### **Component I: Evaluation Studies and Assessments**

The following activities were performed under Component 1 during this quarter:

#### **Baseline Survey**

- Received Ethics Committee Review Board approval for baseline study design.
- Finalized qualitative and quantitative instruments.
- Programmed mobile devices for commencement of field work.
- Local data collection firm TNS worked under E4H guidance to recruit enumerators.
- Mathematica and E4H collaborated to train the qualitative and quantitative enumerators from March 16–27.
- Enumerators deployed March 30 and will continue collecting data through May 8.

## Koko-Plus Scalability Assessment

- Submitted a preliminary findings PowerPoint presentation to the task order contracting officer's representative (TOCOR) on March 17.

## Malaria Assessment

- Submitted draft statement of work Feb. 9. Per TOCOR, additional activities have been placed on hold.

## Research Symposium

- E4H is organizing a two-day national research symposium, co-hosted by the Ministry of Health (MOH) and Ghana Health Services (GHS). It will include participation from Ghanaian researchers, development partners and officials from MOH and GHS. This quarter, E4H developed a concept paper and created a steering committee to oversee planning and abstract review and selection for the symposium, which is titled: "Ending Preventable Child and Maternal Deaths in Ghana." Up to 250 participants and 32 presenters are anticipated.
- E4H is tracking daily numbers of registered participants and abstracts submitted using an online conference management program. The steering committee will meet in mid-April to select the final list of presenters.

## Operations Research

- **Savannah Accelerated Development Authority (SADA) health indicators research:** E4H initiated a rapid desk appraisal to inform a high-level SADA health forum scheduled in early April, in collaboration with a World Bank consultant/retired UNICEF/former MOH director of policy, planning and monitoring and evaluation.
- **Resiliency in Northern Ghana (RING) operations research:** E4H began coordinating with Health, Population and Nutrition Office (HPNO) staff, the RING acting director and the group's food security gender specialist to conduct a RING beneficiary gender analysis.

## Component 2: Performance Monitoring and Evaluation Assistance

E4H launched the M&E Community of Practice in January 2015 at the program offices, attended by representatives from all HPNO IPs and the HPNO deputy director. E4H met with HPNO staff and IPs to develop an M&E technology support plan. E4H also reviewed performance monitoring and evaluation plans for several implementing partners, including:

- Communicate for Health
- RING
- Saving Maternity Homes Projects
- SPRING
- Systems for Health
- Vector Works

E4H began preliminary planning for a two-day IP M&E workshop June 2–3 to discuss proposed M&E tools and approaches, including monitoring and evaluation plan development, data management tools and reporting and workplan templates.

## **Component 3: Strengthening Local Capacity for Research Management**

During this quarter, E4H completed a scoping mission to pre-test the organizational capacity assessment (OCA) tool at Dodowa Health Research Center. The OCA will gauge the capacity of the target institutions to solicit and effectively manage grants, including those on local priority areas, and to efficiently organize, implement, publish and disseminate research results.

Based on the pilot test, E4H revised the framework, finalized the data collection tools and developed a data analysis framework. E4H has begun the process of recruiting two short-term researchers for field data collection, expected to begin work in April. Six institutions have been identified for the OCA, out of which two will be selected for capacity building in year one.

## **4. DELIVERABLES**

The following deliverables were submitted in quarter 2:

- Event plan and timeline for the research symposium: submitted to the TOCOR Feb. 9.
- Second quarterly accrual report: submitted to the TOCOR Feb. 27.
- Summary of research institution capacity strengthening opportunities and costs: submitted to the TOCOR March 21.
- M&E plan review memos for IPs.

## **5. ACTIVITIES PLANNED FOR NEXT QUARTER**

The following activities are planned for April–June 2015:

### **Component 1: Evaluation Studies and Assessments**

- Implement baseline survey.
- Finalize Koko Plus Scalability Assessment.
- Research Symposium, May 27–28.
- Continued activities under operations research.

### **Component 2: Performance Monitoring and Evaluation Assistance**

- Two-day IP M&E workshop.
- Continue to provide M&E technical assistance.
- Review and begin implementation of M&E technology support plan.

### **Component 3: Strengthening Local Capacity for Research Management**

- Hire short-term researchers for field data collection with the six identified institutions.
- Test data collection tool with one institution and revise as necessary.
- Complete data collection with five remaining institutions, and compile report on findings to inform the selection of two institutions for capacity building.

## **6. MAIN ISSUES PENDING**

E4H received USAID approval to purchase a vehicle during the quarter. However, customs and tax paperwork is still pending, and E4H has not yet taken delivery of the vehicle.