

CFPHS Monthly Report – January 2009

Community-Based Family Planning and HIV/AIDS Services (CFPHS) Project

January 2009

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COMMUNITY BASED FAMILY PLANNING AND HIV&AIDS SERVICES PROJECT

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Monthly Report for January 2009

1. Summary

The main activities for the month of January included: (1) Conducting Supervision by district teams; (2) Initiating formation of Listeners Clubs; (3) Conducting Initial CBDA Trainings and Training of HSAs on DMPA administration; (4) Conducting knowledge assessment of CBDAs and HSAs by GNU fellow and (5) Participating in various program related meetings and conference calls.

2. Accomplishments

2.1 Conduct Supervision by District Teams

All the eight districts conducted a total of 8 supervisory visits to follow up on CBDAs, HSAs and clinical staff. During the visits the following main observations were reported by districts:

- Increased demand for Depo provera/DMPA due to referrals by CBDAs to health facilities and the newly trained HSAs.
- The number of CBDAs visited by supervisor during supervision ranged from 3 to 33. A uniform approach in conducting systematic visits is being adopted following the Lot Quality Assurance Sampling Methodology.

2.2 Initiate Formation of Listeners Clubs

Meetings were conducted with key stakeholders at district level in Balaka, Phalombe, Karonga, Nkhonkhotakota, and Mangochi with the following outcomes:

- Briefed district partners on objectives of Radio listeners clubs;
- Conducted two focus group discussion in Karonga district to pre-test the IEC messages for use by Listeners' clubs; and
- Assessed the performance of existing Listeners' clubs in Karonga district. The radio drama scripts for initial four episodes were developed and finalized in readiness for the radio listeners clubs

In all districts partners have welcomed the project. The test results were shared with partners for further refinement and contributing to setting the program in motion. Comments on the test results, and the partners briefing and the next steps

2.3 Conducted Trainings

Mangochi district completed training of 11CBDAs and 6 supervisors; and conducted training for 20 HSAs and 5 supervisors in administration of DMPA.

Preparation for training of HSAs on DMPA administration was completed and 80 HSAs will be trained next month.

2.4 Conduct knowledge assessment of CBDAs and HSAs

A GNU fellow was in Malawi during the month to assess knowledge retention of HSAs and CBAs in Karonga district. During the assessment 17 of the 72 CBDAs and 10 of the 20 HSAs trained by the program were visited and interviewed. Preliminary findings indicate that there is substantial retention of knowledge by both groups.

A sampling methodology was applied from a total of 72 CBDAs and 20 HSAs in order to meet the time schedule for the study. The preliminary results show high knowledge retention in Karonga district and details of the study results will be disseminated to partners.

2.5 Participate in various program related meetings and conference calls

Meetings

- The CFPHS team met with the Executive Director of Moslem Association of Malawi to discuss their role in the program and plan for a consensus building meeting on family planning and HIV/AIDS issues. A meeting has been planned to be held in March. Members agreed that a concept paper on Muslim Association of Malawi on FP and HIV/AIDS should be written and produce a list of participants for the planned conference.
- In Kasungu, Balaka and Mangochi districts, the District Coordinators organized a meeting with CHAM on Natural methods. Members agreed to advocate the natural methods and identify trainers to be trained to train the community members on natural FP methods. The training is scheduled to start by March, 2009.

Conference calls:

The CFPHS team members discussed policy/advocacy and integration issues with the Project Officer at the Futures Group in Washington. On integration activities, it was agreed that a consultant will be hired by Futures Group and develop Terms of Reference according to the Scope of Work.. The next supervisory trip to Malawi was discussed where it was agreed that the Project Officer should develop a Scope of Work for review by MSH.

Meeting with USAID/Malawi: The USAID Health Strategy Development Assessment Team visited Malawi to assess FP activities being implemented in Malawi along other health programs. The team visited Nkhotakota district which is a district where MSH is implementing FP activities exclusively. The Team interviewed the DHMT, Health Centre staff and also visited one CBDA at her house.

The Assessment team commended the DHMT and Traditional Authority in the district for their advocacy work on CBDA program. They also appreciated Health Facility staff and the CBDA for informative records and clarity of presentation on progress of the program.

3 Deliverables

Technical and Financial reports for the month of December were submitted to USAID according to schedule. The Quarter 5 Report (October to December 2008) was submitted to USAID. A summary report on Baseline Survey was submitted to USAID for approval.

4 Challenges and Issues

4.1 Gender/Communication Specialist: A suitable candidate for the Gender and Communications Specialist position was identified and but turned down the offer. This has been a difficult position to fill. There is need to review the way forward on this position.

4.2 HIV/AIDS Advisor: Interviews for HIV/AIDS Advisor were conducted and a successful candidate has been offered the job and awaiting USAID approval since this is a Key project position.

4.3 Salima District Staff: Recruitment of Salima district staff to replace staff that were dismissed has been completed. It is anticipated that staff will be in place starting in the middle of February with the Administrative Assistant and the District Coordinator taking his position early March.

4.4 Mobility during the rainy season: Rains have significantly affected the program. Many roads are not passable in the rural areas making supervision and distribution of contraceptives difficult sometimes.

5 Major activities for February 2009

- Start the process of hiring a consultant on integration activity
- Prepare for Muslim Association of Malawi (MAM) conference
- Start dissemination of DMPA guidelines at district level
- Print DMPA Guidelines and Training and Logistics manuals
- Finalize recruitment process of HIV&AIDS Advisor and Salima staff.
- Facilitate DMPA trainings by districts
- Facilitate HTC training for selected CBDAs
- Prepare a quarterly review meeting
- Review program indicators and targets.