

Introduction of Antiretroviral Therapy in Mombasa, Kenya Trip Report of Stakeholders Meeting for Dissemination of Assessment Results November 24-29, 2002

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About RPM Plus

RPM Plus works in more than 20 developing countries to provide technical assistance to strengthen drug and health commodity management systems. The program offers technical guidance and assists in strategy development and program implementation both in improving the availability of health commodities—pharmaceuticals, vaccines, supplies, and basic medical equipment—of assured quality for maternal and child health, HIV/AIDS, infectious diseases, and family planning and in promoting the appropriate use of health commodities in the public and private sectors.

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Acronyms

AIDS	acquired immunodeficiency syndrome
ART	antiretroviral therapy
ARV	antiretroviral [drugs]
CA	cooperating agency
FHI	Family Health International
GOK	Government of Kenya
HIV	human immunodeficiency virus
IMPACT	Implementing AIDS Prevention and Care Project [FHI]
IRB	Institutional Review Board
MOH	Ministry of Health [Kenya]
MSH	Management Sciences for Health
OHA	[USAID] Office of HIV/AIDS
RPM Plus	Rational Pharmaceutical Management Plus [project]
SO4	[USAID/Washington] fourth strategic objective
TAP	technical assistance partners [IMPACT/RPM Plus/Horizons]
USAID	U.S. Agency for International Development

Background

Management Sciences for Health (MSH)/Rational Pharmaceutical Management Plus (RPM Plus) Program has received funds from the United States Agency for International Development (USAID) under USAID's fourth strategic objective (SO4) funding to assist USAID Missions, cooperating agencies (CAs) and countries to assess the capacity of the local government to meet health commodity needs in support of expansion of HIV/AIDS programs which may include identifying constraints and challenges from a health commodity management perspective. RPM Plus has received funding to collaborate with Family Health International (FHI)/ Implementing AIDS Prevention and Care Project (IMPACT) and Population Council/Horizons to work with the Government of Kenya (GOK), USAID/Kenya, USAID/Washington and local partners to introduce antiretroviral therapy (ART) for selected communities of HIV infected individuals in Mombasa, district of Kenya's coast province, as part of a comprehensive package of prevention, care and treatment. The ART introduction program will provide valuable implementation and operations research on how to safely and effectively deliver antiretrovirals (ARVs) and how to build capacity to expand access to treatment.

In September 2001, RPM Plus accompanied representatives from the USAID Office of HIV/AIDS (OHA) and USAID/Kenya to meetings with the Minister of Health, the Permanent Secretary for Health, the Minister of Public Health, the Director of Medical Services and the Chairman of the Pharmacy and Poisons Board of Kenya to discuss the ART Introduction Program, drug registration, procurement and other drug management issues. RPM Plus also accompanied representatives from OHA, Kenya Mission, IMPACT, and Horizons on a site visit to Mombasa where the team met with the Principal Medical Officer for Mombasa, the Chief Administrator and Pathologist at Coast Provincial General Hospital, and local partners.

In April 2002, RPM Plus along with FHI/IMPACT and Horizons participated in a workshop in Mombasa with local partners and GOK Ministry of Health (MOH) to finalize the proposal and to draw up a timeline for the assessment.

In September 2002, RPM Plus conducted an assessment of the capacity of the commodity management system and laboratory services to support the introduction of ARVs in four sites in Mombasa in addition to assessing current access and use of ARVs in the Coast Province.

Purpose of Trip

Ms. Helena Walkowiak, Senior Program Associate RPM Plus, together with Dr. Michael Thuo, Regional Technical Advisor MSH/RPM Plus Nairobi Office, traveled to Mombasa, Kenya on November 25–29, 2002 to present the results of a pharmaceutical and laboratory assessment conducted from September 5–29, 2002 in preparation for the implementation of the ART Introduction Program in Mombasa.

Scope of Work

Scope of work for Ms. Helena Walkowiak and Dr. Michael Thuo

- Participate in an arrival briefing and a departure debriefing for USAID/Kenya as requested.
- Present assessment findings to and discuss options/recommendations with the Scientific Committee of the ART Introduction Program on Sunday, November 24.
- Present assessment findings to and discuss options/recommendations with the Steering Committee of the ART Introduction Program on Monday, November 25 and Tuesday, November 26.
- Meet with other key stakeholders, and local partners within the Kenyan government, Ministry of Health, other cooperating agencies and partners to inform implementation of the ART Introduction Program, as appropriate.

Activities

1. Participate in an arrival briefing and a departure debriefing for USAID/Kenya as requested

Cheryl Sönnichsen of USAID/Kenya attended the Stakeholders meeting on November 25 and was briefed on the current status of the program and next steps at a meeting of the technical assistance partners (TAP) and USAID held on Tuesday, November 26. Reports of both meetings are given below.

2. Present assessment findings to and discuss options/recommendations with the Scientific Committee of the ART Introduction Program on Sunday, November 24.

The meeting with the Scientific Committee to present assessment findings and to discuss options/recommendations was cancelled.

3. Present assessment findings to and discuss options/recommendations with the Steering Committee of the ART Introduction Program on Monday, November 25 and Tuesday, November 26.

The Steering Committee meeting was changed to a meeting of Stakeholders for the ART Introduction Program. Invited participants included members of the Steering Committee and also other key stakeholders and partners, including representatives from the four sites. The meeting was reduced from a two-day meeting to a one-day meeting which was held on Monday November 25, 2002.

Ms. Walkowiak gave a presentation entitled *RPM Plus Assessment – Initial Results: ART Access and Use in Mombasa & Commodity Management Capacity in Four Selected Sites*. Ms.

Walkowiak explained that the RPM Plus assessment had five objectives:

1. To understand the existing level of access and current use of ARV
2. To seek input from the different groups on ways to improve and maximize the acceptability and rational use of ART
3. Assess existing capacity of the commodity management system in the four learning sites in Mombasa to support access to and rational use of ART and other essential HIV-related commodities
4. Assess the capacity of the laboratory services in Mombasa to support the introduction of integral care, including ART
5. Collect baseline indicators to measure the impact of interventions to improve the HIV/AIDS clinics, laboratory and pharmacy services at the four learning sites to support the introduction of integral care, including ART

The presentation was given in two parts. In the first part, Ms. Walkowiak presented the initial results for the first two objectives of the assessment:

- Existing access to and current use of ARVs in Mombasa – findings and implications
- Improving and maximizing acceptability and rational use of ART – inputs and suggestions

In the second part of the presentation, initial results were presented for comment on:

- The capacity of the commodity management system in 4 selected sites to support ART Introduction Program – initial findings and potential options/recommendations to strengthen the system in each site.
- The capacity of the commodity management system in 4 selected sites to support scale up of ART Introduction Program in long term – initial findings

Dr. Thuo facilitated questions and discussion on the initial findings of the RPM Plus assessment.

The PowerPoint presentation given by Ms Walkowiak is available upon request.

4. Meet with other key stakeholders, and local partners within the Kenyan government, Ministry of Health, other cooperating agencies and partners to inform implementation of the ART Introduction Program, as appropriate.

TAP Meeting on November 24, 2002

A meeting of the TAP partners was held to finalize the agenda and to plan for the Stakeholders meeting.

TAP Meeting on November 26, 2002

The Washington, Nairobi and Mombasa-based members of TAP held a one day meeting with Cheryl Sönnichsen, USAID/Kenya. The participants reviewed the process and the outcomes of the Stakeholders meeting held the previous day to disseminate assessment results and to review of planning options. The need for Institutional Review Board (IRB) approval for the ART program in addition to that required for the operations research component was discussed in addition to the need to convene a Steering Committee meeting to ratify the Scientific Committee

recommendations on selection criteria, cost sharing and laboratory monitoring. The next steps for each of the partners, particularly in relation to developing training curricula and materials, and a monitoring and evaluation plan were discussed. It was agreed that IMPACT and RPM Plus would hold meetings with key stakeholders and implementers at each site to debrief them on the assessment findings and to solicit feedback on the week beginning January 6, 2003.

Debriefing with Chairman of Scientific Committee on November 28, 2002

Dr. Thuo and Ms. Walkowiak met with Dr. Mandalya, the Chairman of the Scientific Committee to finalize the laboratory assessment report and to brief him on the next steps for RPM Plus. Unfortunately, the meeting was cut short due to the terrorist attacks in Mombasa on that day.

Collaborators and Partners

USAID

Cheryl Sönnichsen, USAID/Kenya

FHI

Dr John Adungosi, FHI, Nairobi
Dr. Mukadi Ya Diul, FHI, Washington DC
Ruth Odindo, FHI, Nairobi

Populations Council/Horizons

Ms Susan Kaai, Population Council, Nairobi
Dr Sam Kalibala, Population Council, Nairobi
Dr Avina Sarna, Population Council, Washington DC

ART Program Scientific Committee

Dr Mandalya (Chairman)
Dr Mwanyumba

ART Program Steering Committee members and stakeholders

Adjustments to Planned Activities and/or Additional Activities

The RPM Plus team were unable to finalize the laboratory services assessment report with Dr. Mandalya due to the terrorist attacks in Mombasa.

Next Steps

1. The initial findings and draft options/recommendations will be discussed with each site in early January 2003 to solicit feedback, prioritize activities. In addition, IMPACT and RPM Plus will work with the team at Coast General Provincial Hospital to develop an implementation plan.
2. RPM Plus will work with Dr. Mandalya, the Chairman of the Scientific Committee to finalize the laboratory services assessment report in January 2003.
3. The final report of the RPM Plus assessment will be finalized and disseminated by mid-March 2003.
4. RPM Plus will work with IMPACT and Horizons to develop a monitoring and evaluation plan for ART Program
5. IMPACT and RPM Plus will develop a training plan and map out the curricula. The curricula will be shared with TAP partners for comments to identify overlaps and to merge activities where possible.
6. The TAP coordinator, representatives from the TAP partners and Cheryl Sönnichsen USAID/Kenya will meet with the Provincial Medical Officer in December 2002 to request that he convene a meeting of the Steering Committee to discuss and ratify the recommendations of the Scientific Committee.