

CFPHS Monthly Report – November 2007

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

November 2007

Keywords: Family Planning, HIV/AIDS, Malawi

This report was made possible through support provided by the US Agency for International Development, under the terms of Contract Number GHS-1-00-07-00006-00. The opinions expressed herein are those of the author(s) and do not necessarily reflect the views of the US Agency for International Development.

Community-Based Family Planning and HIV/AIDS Services (CFPHS) Project
Management Sciences for Health
784 Memorial Drive
Cambridge, MA 02139
Telephone: (617) 250-9500
www.msh.org

**COMMUNITY BASED FAMILY PLANNING AND HIV/AIDS SERVICES
PROJECT**

Contract No: GHS-1-00-07-00006-00

Task Order No: GHS-1-03-07-00006-00

Report for November 2007

1.0 Summary

The Family Planning team had a busy month in November which encompassed development and submission of annual workplan and budget, drafting the Performance Management Plan which is now ready for circulation, attending DQA workshop and meetings with USAID and Family Planning team in Boston. Meetings with USAID and the Boston team were very helpful as strategic issues were raised and some problems got refined. The major challenge for the project has been under-budgeting of training activities which will mean the project will have to look for other sources of funding in order to achieve the same results as outlined in the task order.

2.0 ACCOMPLISHMENTS FOR THE MONTH OF NOVEMBER,2007

(i) Complete and submit draft Year One Workplan and Budget

During the month, the Family Planning team drafted an annual workplan and budget for FY 2008. These were sent to Boston for their inputs and thereafter the document was submitted to USAID as per deadline of 14th November,2007. MSH is still awaiting feedback from USAID on the same to enable it come up with final documentation of the workplan. Critical to the process was the observation that for most training activities, there was heavy under-provision of the funds. For example it was as a result of this observation that in FY 2008, the total number of CBDAs to be trained got reduced from 200 to 70. This will have some negative implications in terms of project impact. The problem was flagged to USAID during one of the technical meetings who committed to look into the issue and assist where possible.

(ii) Draft Performance Management Plan developed and circulated

The Family Planning team put their heads together and drafted a Performance Management Plan which was shared with Boston for their input before it is submitted to USAID. Initially, the document was due to USAID on 29th November,2007 but the date got shifted to 11th December,2007. This was due to DQA workshop that was held on 28th November, 2007 where it was noted that some issues discussed in this workshop had to be incorporated into the PMP. Critical issues learned from this workshop were incorporated and the document is ready for circulation before it gets submitted on 11th December, 2007. The deadline set for submission of the PMP will be met.

(iii) DQA Workshop

The Family Planning Advisor and M&E Advisor attended a USAID-day long workshop on Data Quality Assessment. The two Advisors learnt quite a lot from the workshop like framing a Performance Monitoring Plan, Data Quality and How to carry out an assessment of the same. Participants also provided feedback to USAID on Planning and Reporting for USAID results. Comments provided for the later will be used by USAID to improve Planning and Reporting demand tasks on Partners. The workshop was very educative and was timely in terms of Family Planning Project which has just started and whatever was learnt will be used to reinforce data quality issues with implementing partners. The workshop materials will be very useful as we finalize the PMP and also as we draw data quality planning with our partners. The outcome from the workshop including the workshop CD RM was shared with the Chief of Party and the Family Planning team in Boston. After the workshop, participants got certified.

(iii) Meetings with USAID

During the month, the Family Planning team held a meeting with USAID Team Leader where critical technical issues for the project were discussed. Among the crucial issues discussed were budgetary concerns that were noted as most activities were underprovided and how these will affect work on the ground. USAID promised to link with other donors for any funding opportunities. MSH and USAID agreed to come up with a fundraising strategy to help curb this problem. Another critical aspect discussed was scarcity of contraceptives nationwide. On this, USAID committed to talk to the new Chief of Party for JSI Deliver for possible solutions on this issue.

During the month, MSH Family Planning Project got Ministry of Health approval for the project to continue roll out to districts. This has been welcome news as MSH will now be able to initiate start up activities in the districts. The Advisors will soon start visiting the districts for project roll out.

(iv) INTERACTION WITH CONSTELLA

Constella Futures have reported that they have identified a potential candidate for the position of Policy Advisor. The candidate will take up the position soon and will be housed in the MSH main Project Office in Lilongwe.

3.0 NON-ACCOMPLISHMENTS

The following activities were not accomplished because a go ahead had not been provided by MOH to roll the project to the districts.

- Complete recruitment plan for district staff.
- Orient DHMTs in target districts to project activities.
- Arrange for Advisors to begin start up activities.
- Organize project orientation meetings for MSH district staff.

- Draft detailed implementation plan(Accomplishment of this also depended upon some inputs from the districts).

4. Plans for December, 2007

- Convene collaborating partners meeting.
- Review and submit the Performance Management Plan.
- Meet with RHU to discuss their annual implementation plan.
- Start planning for MIS review and needs assessment exercises.