

CFPHS Monthly Report – May 2008

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

May 2008

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

**Contract No: GHS-1-00-07-00006-00
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Monthly Report for the Month of May, 2008

1. Summary

Major activities for the month of May were: conducting baseline survey, training CBDAs, recruiting M&E Advisor and Policy Specialist, attending technical meetings at USAID, the Reproductive Health and National AIDS Commission (NAC) and continued with the orientation of community leaders in districts where orientation had not yet been conducted. The program also submitted the monthly and financial reports to USAID on time.

2. Accomplishments

- **Baseline Survey:** Baseline survey was conducted from the 28th of April to 16th May, 2008. Data entry was initiated concurrently with data collection which then continued up to 4th of June. Due to logistical problems the report was not delivered as planned. It is anticipated that the report will be submitted by Friday 13th June 2008. Table 1 shows districts, health centers and Traditional Authorities (TAs) where the baseline survey was conducted.
- **Training of Community Based Distribution Agents:** Training of CBDAs begun on 28th April 2008 in Kasungu and Nkhotakota continued during the month of May. Two more district (Phalombe and Karonga) also conducted their training bringing the number of districts which completed the first round of CBDA training activities by the end of May to four. s that were identified by the communities they will be serving. See details in Table 2.
- **Recruitment of the M&E Advisor:** The Key position of M & E Advisor has been filled by Bernard Mijoni who took up his position on 5th May 2008. Necessary notification to USAID was provided by the Home Office.
- **Recruitment of a Policy Specialist:** The Policy Specialist position was advertised and interviews are expected to be conducted towards the end of May. Once this position is filled the program will have a full complement of its staff.
- **Strategic Planning Meeting:** A strategic planning meeting was called by the Reproductive Health Unit to discuss among other issues the way forward after a policy change to allow HSAs to administer injectable contraceptives. This policy change has direct implications for the CFPHS project in regard to the use of CBDAs. The CFPHS project will have to consider how to coordinate the activities of the community-based distribution agents (CBDAs) and HSAs. An important decision that the program has arrived at with the RHU is that the scaling up of injectables using HSAs will begin with CFPHS project districts with Zomba as the 9th

district for RHU. This arrangement brings the project to work in close collaboration with the MOH to develop appropriate policies and guidelines for the HSA administration of injectables and pilot models for collaboration between CBDAs that are part of the CFPHS project and HSAs that are now allowed to administer injectable contraceptives.

- **Meeting with NAC Executive Director:** Attended a meeting with the NAC Executive Director to discuss possible areas of collaboration between NAC and CFPHS project. The Director gave possible areas of collaboration and suggested that the project should also liaise with the Head of the HIV/AIDS Unit in the MOH. Such meetings will be on going to appraise both NAC and MOH on the activities of the project.
- **Technical Meetings:** within the quarter. The HIV/AIDS Advisor attended an HIV/AIDS Technical Working Group meeting on 20th May 2008. This meeting shared updates on ART and PMTCT guidelines. Circulated to the TWG members were the guidelines for ARVs and OIs, however, members were advised not to circulate these beyond TWG members because they were not yet approved.
- **Documenting the Decision to allow HSAs to Provide Injectable Contraceptives:** The CFPHS project is working with the Reproductive Health Unit to document the policy change that allows HSAs to administer injectable contraceptives. This is in view if a clearly written policy or a written process about how the MOH arrived at this policy change. The CFPHS project will be working with the RHU to document the process and identify issues that will require attention to ensure that HSAs can safely provide injectable contraceptives. There is also need to identify potential barriers to scaling up and implementation of a community-based distribution strategy using HSAs and potentially other community-level health workers, such as CBDAs. This documentation process will impact significantly on role of CBDAs in the project.
- **Development of a Behavior Change and Communication Module for CBDA Training:** Content for BCC has been drafted and translated to Chichewa which will be reviewed by RHU before it is finally adopted for use in training CBDAs.

Deliverables

- Technical and Financial reports for the month of April were submitted to USAID on time.
- The PMP for CFPHS has finally been approved as a final submission by the Strategic Information Liaison Advisor at USAID Malawi Mission.

Challenges and Issues

- Conducting the baseline survey along with CBDA training has been a major challenge for the staff available in the absence of the M&E Advisor.
- Logistics for undertaking the baseline survey and CBDA training concurrently were grossly under estimated. In particular reproduction and distribution of stationery proved difficult because of old and malfunctioning equipment and shortage of transport.
- Combining baseline survey for the CFPHS project and BASICS was not feasible under the constraints of time in which baseline findings need to be incorporated into the Detailed Implementation Plan for the CFPHS project. However, the survey report will be available to colleagues in BASICS.
- Transport continues to be a major constraint. The four vehicle were deployed to the field and no transport or resources to hire are available for the central office to supervise and monitor program activities.

Major Activities for June

- Complete baseline survey report
- Incorporate baseline survey findings into the DIP
- Conduct a study tour to Madagascar
- Develop quarterly work plan and budget for July to September
- Facilitate IP training for Phalombe district
- Complete the first round of CBDA training
- Brief Community leaders in Salima
- Organize a meeting with partners in FP to come up with a more concrete and acceptable BCC Module.
- Translate the BCC Module into Chichewa
- Finalize the recruitment of the Policy Specialist.
- Finalise documentation of how authorized Health Surveillance Assistants currently are administering injectable contraceptives in order to build a case for CBDAs.
- Finalize the report for documenting the decision making process for allowing HSAs to administer ICs.

Table 1 showing districts, hospitals, health centers and TAs where baseline survey was conducted.

DISTRICT	HOSPITAL	HEALTH CENTER	TRADITIONAL AUTHORITY
1) Karonga	Karonga	Nyungwe	Mwirang'ombe
		Mpata	Kyungu
		Kapolo	Kilupula
2) Nkhotakota	Nkhotakota	Senjere	Kanyenda
		Mpatamantha	Malengachanzi
		Buwa	Mphonde
3) Salima	Salima	Chagunda	Kambwiri
		Maganga	Maganga
		Khombedza	Khombedza
4) Kasungu	Kasungu	Simlemba	Simlemba
		Kawamba	Kawamba
		Chilowamatambe	Chilowamatambe
5) Balaka	Balaka	Chiyendausiku	Nsamala
		Mbera	Kalembo
		Mphimbi	Sub- TA Mkaya
6) Mangochi	Mangochi	Chikole	Chowe
		Malombe	Chowe
		Katuli	Katuli
7) Phalombe	Phalombe HC	Mkhulambe	Nkhulambe
		Mkhwayi	Jenala
		Mpasa	Mkhumba
8) Chikwawa	Chikwawa	Gaga	Chapananga
		Kakoma	Chapananga
		Ndakwera	STA Ndakwera

Source: CFPHS Project May, 2008

Note that Phalombe has HCs not a hospital therefore 4 HCs are appearing under Phalombe District

Table 2 shows the cadre and numbers of trainees in the ongoing CBDA training				
District	Cadre	# disaggregated by gender		Cumulative
		Female	Male	
Kasungu	CBDAs	6	20	26
27 April - 17 May, 08	Primary Supervisors		4	4
	Secondary Supervisors	2	2	4
Nkhotakota	CBDAs	3	24	27
27Apr - 17 May, 08	Primary Supervisors		4	4
	Secondary Supervisors	3		3
Phalombe	CBDAs	16	9	25
4 - 24 May 08	Primary Supervisors	2	5	7
	Secondary Supervisors			0
Karonga	CBDAs	13	13	26
4 - 24 May 08	Primary Supervisors		4	4
	Secondary Supervisors	3		3
Balaka	CBDAs			0
1 - 20 June 08	Primary Supervisors			0
	Secondary Supervisors			0
Mangochi	CBDAs			0
1 - 20 June 08	Primary Supervisors			0
	Secondary Supervisors			0
Chikwawa	CBDAs			0
1 - 20 June 08	Primary Supervisors			0

	Secondary Supervisors			0
Salima	CBDAs			0
July	Primary Supervisors			0
	Secondary Supervisors			0
Total Number of CBDAs trained				104
Total Number of Primary Supervisors trained				19
Total Number of Secondary Supervisors trained				10

Source: CFPHS Project, May 2008.