

CFPHS Monthly Report – April 2009

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

April 2009

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**COMMUNITY BASED FAMILY PLANNING AND HIV&AIDS SERVICES PROJECT
(CFPHS)**

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Monthly Report for April, 2009

1. Main activities

The main activities for the month of April included: (1) Conducting CBDA trainings; (2) Conducting Family Planning and GBV training for nurses and clinical officers in the private sector; (3) Planning Training of Trainers in Standard Days Method; (4) Facilitating field visits to the districts for the USAID; (5) Identifying Family Planning/HIV/AIDS listeners' clubs; (6) Continuing consultative meetings with Muslim Associations in Malawi on FP and HIV/AIDS Advocacy; and (7) Participating in various program-related meetings.

2. Accomplishments

2.1 CBDA Trainings

Eleven training sessions of CBDAs and their supervisors were conducted in five districts—Phalombe, Chikwawa, Balaka, Salima, and Nkhotakota. The training included eight training sessions for CBDAs who were trained several years ago. These are one week training sessions to update the CBDAs on emerging issues such as female condom, emergency contraceptives, gender based violence, Jadelle, HIV/AIDS and STI, adolescent health, and the concept of integration of FP and HIV/AIDS services. Three districts—Phalombe, Kasungu and Karonga—conducted trainings of new CBDAs and supervisors. These training sessions take two weeks for CBDAs and three weeks for supervisors who attend an additional training in supervision.

Results

- A total of 205 CBDAs and 41 primary and secondary supervisors were trained during the month.
- The CBDAs were provided with all the basic supplies except bicycles.
- CFPHS has now trained 948 CBDAs (see table 1 below) with remaining 52 CBDAs to be trained to meet the target of 1000 CBDAs.

Table 1: Summary of CBDAs trained by district, April 2009

District	# of Participants	# of Supervisors	Initial or Update	Dates 1st Session	Dates 2nd Session
Phalombe	32	10	Update/initial	6 th -10 th April	12 th to 25 th April
Mangochi	0	0			
Balaka	40	4	Update	12 th -17 th April	29 th to 3 rd May
Salima	22	6	Update	30 th March - 1st April	
Kasungu	19	8	initial	14 th April -1 st May	To be determined
Nkhotakota	43	5	Update	14 th - 17 th April	20 th to 24 th April
Karonga	25	4	initial	13 th -1 st May	
TOTAL	205	41			

Comments

- Mangochi district did not conduct the planned training for CBDAs in April due to staffing issues. It is expected that Mangochi will conduct two update sessions. These will be CBDAs, previously trained by other NGOs who are no more working in the target districts. The training sessions are planned for next month and will conclude the training of the 1,000 CBDAs.
- It should be mentioned that the importance of the role played by CBDAs in the target districts continues to be acknowledged by top officials in the MOH/RHU. The Deputy Director of RHU recently reiterated this importance during a consultative meeting on Social Marketing of contraceptives to the extent that the MOH is encouraging districts to train CBDAs using Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation funds.

2.2 Conducting Family Planning and GBV training for nurses and clinical officers in the private sector

A one-day workshop on Family Planning for private providers was held in Lilongwe. The training targeted nurses, clinical officers and doctors in the private sector. The aim of the training was to provide guidance on best family planning

practices and inform the health providers about the adverse effects of Gender Based Violence on family planning.

Results

- Twenty six health providers from the private sector attended the training.
- The participants expressed that this training provided them with the much needed refresher training on contraceptives technology.

Comments

This training provided an in-depth look on the composition and action of oral and injectable contraceptives. During this training, the health providers were able to appreciate how the hormones work and that most of the myths and misconceptions had no basis.

2.3 Preparation for Training of Trainers in Standard Days Method

Preparatory work for training of trainers (TOT) for Standard Days Method (SDM) started in all 8 project districts with sensitization of DHMTs and Health Coordinators of Catholic Diocese and selecting participants. The project has also been preparing training materials and ordering cycle beads.

Results

- Each district has identified two members to be trained as TOTs in consultation with the District Health Management Teams and Health Coordinators of the Catholic Diocese.
- The preparations and briefings have generated a lot of interest among the Catholic diocesans in the districts.

Comments

- The cycle beads procured have arrived in the country and awaiting custom clearance.
- This training which will be conducted in collaboration with the MOH/RHU and the Catholic Diocese will be a milestone in the history of Family Planning initiative in Malawi. The method will add choice to the method mix.

2.4 Facilitating visits to the districts for USAID

i) Visit by the Director of the Africa Bureau at USAID in Washington

The A/COTR requested MSH to arrange a field trip for the USAID Director of the Africa Bureau, Hope Sukin. A field trip to Salima was arranged and conducted on 18th April 2009 where she saw:

- An HSA who provides Village Clinic services for the BASICS project and has also been trained to provide DMPA at community level for the CFPHS project. The concept of using one HSA for both programs reinforces the One MSH approach and integration of services at community level;
- Visited a CBDA providing both FP and HIV/AIDS services at the community level;
- Observed how records were kept by CBDAs; and
- The Director expressed satisfaction with the programs and the effort made to reach the underserved in the hard to reach areas.

ii) Visit by USAID Strategic Planning Team

USAID is currently working on their next Five-year program strategy in the health sector. In order to gain first hand information on health service delivery in Malawi. A team of consultants visited the country to see health some health programs and identify gaps. Two districts where MSH is implementing Family Planning, HIV/AIDS and Child Health programs were selected and visited. The Strategic Planning Team comprised of consultants from USAID/Washington led by Margaret Neuse, and visited Balaka and Nkhotakota districts on 23rd April.

Results

Balaka

- In-depth discussions were held about the role of CBDAs, the need to increase their numbers to expand FP and HTC coverage, and on the sustainability of CBDA work.
- The team concluded that there was a need to anchor support and supervision of CBDAs within existing community and district social structures.
- They encouraged the DHMT to participate in supervision of CBDAs so that the communities make a strong linkage between the community health workers and the district health structure.
- It was observed that Balaka has a significant population served by CHAM/Catholic facilities where the use of natural methods of FP such as cycle beads would be promoted.

Nkhotakota

- The Team was given a district health profile of Nkhotakota district and an outline of program activities implemented by MSH and ACCESS by the MOH Family Planning Coordinator. The Coordinator also outlined achievements of the two programs.
- At the hospital, the team visited family planning clinic and Maternity ward before proceeding to the community.
- In the community, the team visited a CBDA/HTC counselor who is located in a hard to reach area about 2Km walk to the village from the last point of access with a vehicle.
- Finally the team visited Benga Health Centre and HSA to see activities being implemented by the ACCESS project.



Strategic team and CFPHS members walking to a CBDA where a vehicle cannot reach in Nkhotakota District: 23/04/2009

2.6 Family Planning/HIV/AIDS Listeners' Clubs

Identification and recruitment of Listeners' Clubs was done in the project districts of Chikwawa, Phalombe, Balaka, Mangochi and Karonga and planned to train Listeners Club Leaders in May.

Sensitization meetings at district and community levels took place in Kasungu and Karonga and expected to continue to other districts next month.

Results

- A total of 125 listeners' clubs have been identified in Phalombe, Chikwawa, Balaka, Mangochi and Karonga districts. There will be 25 clubs in each districts.
- The family planning listening club activities were introduced at the district level in Kasungu during a District Executive Committee (DEC) meeting conducted on 28 April 2009.

Comments

- The script for the community drama has been developed in line with the radio drama series. The title of the radio drama was reviewed, modified, and pre-tested among stakeholders. The title now represents all aspects of FP/HIV/AIDS and Gender Based Violence.
- For Nkhotakota and Salima, the DEC meetings have been scheduled for May.

2.7 Consultative meetings with Muslim Association of Malawi (MAM) and Qadria Muslim Association of Malawi (QMAM) on FP and HIV/AIDS Advocacy

The team Continued with collaborative meetings with MAM and QMAM during the month in preparation for the upcoming FP/HIV/AIDS advocacy conference.

Results

Two draft papers to be presented at the conference have been submitted and circulated to task force members for review and comments.

2.8 Program related meetings

HIV Test Kits' logistic system

CFPHS initiated meetings with the HIV/AIDS Unit and USAID|DELIVER to discuss stock outs of HIV test kits being experienced at district or health center level. Stock outs are a concern for the program as they directly affect the HTC service provided by CBDAs. Some CBDAs in Salima delayed starting their practicum at health centers due to unavailability of test kits. There is need to ensure availability of test kit especially after the rollout of door-to-door testing.

Results

- The HIV/AIDS Unit together with USAID|DELIVER and MSH have started developing a logistics system for HIV Test Kits to ensure uninterrupted supply of test kits at district level.

- Agreement has been reached to closely monitor HIV Test kits' stock to ensure that health facilities are re-stocking them in a timely manner.

Comments

- The program will also work with USAID|DELIVER to update the community based logistics tools for the HTC/CBDA door-to-door HIV Testing.

MOH Technical working Group on HIV & AIDS

The HIV/AIDS Advisor participated in a Technical Working Group meeting on HIV & AIDS. The meeting discussed HIV supplies such as ARVs, drugs for Opportunistic Infections (OI), and test kits.

Results

- The Technical Working Groups was updated on Malawi elevated risk of stock outs of the most essential medical supplies for the HIV programs: ARVs, HIV test kits and Cotrimoxazole.
- It was learnt that NAC had requested the disbursement of funds by the GFATM, but apparently this request has not been processed yet. As a result, supplies that were planned to arrive in April 2009 have not been ordered, due to delays in the RCC (Rolling Continuation Channel) grant negotiations with the Global Fund. This delay may result in Malawi running out of some drugs/supplies between June and August.

CFPHS and Strategic Information Advisor

The CFPHS program staff held a meeting with the USAID Strategic Information Advisor to discuss Performance Monitoring Plan and related Monitoring and Evaluation documents.

Results

- An endorsement of the PMP and Baseline survey will be communicated to CFPHS after incorporating five custom indicators.
- The five custom indicators agreed by the team are:
 1. Number of monthly meetings held with primary and secondary supervisors and CBDAs at the health centre.
 2. Number of supervisory visits conducted by the primary supervisor to the CBDAs.

3. Number of supervisory visits by District Coordinator and/or Family Planning Coordinator to the CBDAs/HSAs.
4. Number of central level quarterly district facilitative supportive supervision conducted.
5. Number of effective referrals by CBDAs/HSAs

CFPHS with USAID/DELIVER

CFPHS initiated two meetings with USAID|DELIVER to discuss logistics monitoring tools for CBDAs and HSAs in the provision of DMPA and FP services.

Results

- The meetings provided an opportunity to discuss reporting gaps and challenges being faced by district in data management and how to overcome the challenges.
- Members were informed that USAID|DELIVER will fund a one-day meeting in each of the eight districts to strengthen data management.
- The targeted participants will be HSAs, HSA Supervisors, FP Coordinators, Pharmacy Technicians, District Coordinators from MSH and District Environmental Health Officer. The meetings are planned for June 2009.

3. Deliverables

Technical and Financial reports for the month of March, 2009 were submitted to USAID according to schedule. Quarterly reports, Semi-annual Performance of core indicators and Standard Operation Program Reports were submitted to USAID within the reporting time schedule.

4. Challenges and Issues

4.1 Stock outs for DMPA, Jadelle and Female condoms

Two out of the eight districts reported stock out of DMPA. The stock out of DMPA is mainly due to drug budget constraints by the District Health Management Team. It also reflects the high demand for DMPA after the training of HSAs and increased effective referrals by CBDAs for DMPA services. One district experienced stock out of Jadelle and Female condoms. Stock outs for Jadelle and female condoms were a national problem.

4.2 Procurement of Bicycles for newly trained CBDAs

Due to funding constraints, bicycles for newly trained CBDAs have not yet been purchased. The problem may be resolved after the budgeting exercise has been completed.

5. Major activities for May 2009

- Facilitate training of 52 CBDAs
- Continue consultative meetings with Muslim Association of Malawi on Family Planning and HIV/AIDS advocacy;
- Recruit the consultant for the integration study and start the activity;
- Train of club leaders in Phalombe, Chikwawa, Balaka, Mangochi and Karonga
- Hold District Executive Committee and community meetings in order to identify clubs in Nkhotakota and Salima
- Identify and selecting the drama groups
- Facilitate lessons learning visit on Door-to-Door HTC provision
- Facilitate the identification of HIV community based groups
- Facilitate supportive supervision of HTC counsellors, HSAs, and CBDAs.