

CFPHS Monthly Report – October 2009

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

October 2009

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

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Monthly Report for October, 2009

1. Main activities

The main activities for the month of October included: (1) Conducting training for HSAs in HTC supervision; (2) Training of SDM providers ; (3) Supervising Listening Club and Community Drama activities; (4) Distributing IEC materials ; (5) Facilitating Open Day Sensitization Meetings; (6) Conducting Quality Assurance assessment of door to door HTC; (7) Conducting survey on integration of FP and HIV/AIDS; (8) Conducting DMPA District Review meetings; (9) Conducting joint monitoring and data quality assessments of Behavior Change and Communication; and (10) Participating in various program related meetings.

2. Accomplishments

2.1 Conducting trainings for HSAs in HTC supervision

Conducted a 5-day training in HTC supervision at MEDI in Mponela for HSAs from all the 8 program districts. The training was officially opened by the Head of the HIV/AIDS Unit of the Ministry of Health. The goal of the training was to develop skills and competency of the HSAs to provide quality HTC supervision to CBDAs and other counselors in all the 8 program districts.



A facilitator from HIV Unit engaging participants during the HTC supervisors training

Results

- A total of 17 participants, 14 male and 3 female were trained as HTC supervisors.
- Knowledge and skills imparted in acceptable HTC supervision models, methods, practices and ethics, including use of all HTC Quality Assurance tools.
- An examination was administered at the end of the course, and 14 out of the 17 participants qualified as HTC supervisors.

Comments

The HSAs trained in HTC supervision were advised to work together with the supervisors already operating in their respective districts to support all the counsellors and CBDAs at community, Health centre and district levels to ensure provision of quality HTC services to the community.

2.2 Training of SDM providers

The trainings of SDM providers were finalized in the two remaining districts of Balaka and Nkhotakota. The trainings were organized to equip providers with knowledge and skills in fertility awareness methods with emphasis on SDM using cycle beads. The training was conducted by the TOTs in SDM from the Catholic churches with assistance from the District Family Planning Coordinator. In the two-day trainings, participants covered all the natural methods.

Results

- A total of 36 participants (female 19 and male 17) were trained from different Catholic churches in the eight program districts. The participants are expected to train clients in their catchment areas in the use of natural method especially SDM.
- Participants were given cycle beads.

Comments

As most of the trainers could not read English, it is important to translate the SDM manuals into the local language. As the uptake of this method increases, it will be important to seek contributions from the Catholic Church. Some Parish Priests have expressed interest in co-funding the procurement of cycle beads. The project intends to conduct follow up meetings with the Catholic Secretariat on the matter as a way of making the SDM sustainable.

2.3 Supervising Listening Clubs

During the month of October Listening Club members continued listening to Zina Umanena radio drama in all the 8 districts. Episodes 9 to 12 of the drama series were aired during the month of October.

Results

- During the month of September a total of **4,459 new members** attended the listening club sessions.
- Out of these **2,735 were females** and **1,724 were males**.

Comments

To facilitate collection and validation of reports from all clubs, reporting on attendances will be done for the preceding month of the reporting month. This means this month, reporting will be for September attendances. Number of new people who have listened to the program for the month of October will be reported in November.

2.4 Distributing IEC materials

Follow up of distribution of IEC materials to the Health Centers and the communities in the target districts were conducted during the month.

Result

- Listening Clubs in the communities have expressed some interest to help distribute IEC materials in the communities.
- More people are being encouraged to attend these clubs.
- Strategies were mapped up to ensure that materials reach the community on time

Comments

The distribution of IEC materials has been slow in getting to the communities. It has therefore recommended that the Listening Club officers assist the DCs in material distribution especially when they go for club supervision activities to ensure that the materials get to the communities in good time.

2.5. Facilitating Open Day Sensitization Meetings

In October five open days were conducted in the following districts: Phalombe, Balaka, Nkhotakota Kasungu and Karonga. The theme for all the open days was “Zina Umanena – Kulera ndi anthu awiri.”

Results

- During all the open days people had an opportunity to go for HIV testing.
- A total of 176 individuals, 83 male and 93 female, were tested and received their test results.

HIV testing results for open days

District	Male	Female	Positive female	Positive male
Nkhota kota	10	18		
Phalombe	6	36	5	0
Balaka	9	30	2	0
Karonga	28	4	2	0
Kasungu	30	5	0	0
Total	83	93	9	0

Total number of people tested **176**
 Total number of people tested positive **9**

- During all the five open days conducted, a total of **7,860** people attended and out of these **3942** were males and **3918** females.
- Below is the breakdown of the total number reached **per district** :

District	Male	Female	Total
Phalombe	724	807	1531
Balaka	408	794	1202
Nkhotakota	298	273	571
Karonga	1172	966	2138
Kasungu	1340	1078	2418
Grand Totals	3942	3918	7860

2.6 Assessing Quality Assurance services in door to door HTC

The Project worked with the MOH Community Health Science Unit (CHSU) to conduct a joint supportive supervision exercise in the remaining districts of Chikwawa, Phalombe, Balaka and Mangochi. The objective of the Quality Assessment was to appraise disposal of waste, proficiency testing, quality controls, storage of test kits and define roles of health centre in supporting QA for CBDAs

Results

- Four health centers were assessed, where the staffs involved in HTC were engaged on their role in supporting Door to Door HTC services.
- Quality Assurance issues for door to door HTC such as observing Quality Controls, participating in Proficiency Testing, and proper waste management were discussed.
- Four CBDAs were assessed on QA using a CHSU checklist.

- Job aids (Standard Operating Procedures), aprons and stopwatches were distributed to the CBDAs visited as requirements for QA.

Comments

The exercise provided guidance in terms of promoting quality in door to door HIV testing services by CBDAs. CHSU recommended the purchase of thermometers for all the MSH supported districts to monitor the storage conditions of test kits. The program was also advised to reprint laminated HTC job aids to CBDAs.

2.7 Conducting survey on integration of FP and HIV/AIDS

Work on survey for integration of FP and HIV/AIDS continued with data analysis and report writing.

Results

- A zero draft report was submitted to CFPHS for review.
- Preliminary comments have been provided to the consultant.

Comments

The consultant is expected to submit first draft by 20th November 2009. The report will be shared with Home Office once completed. The results of this study are expected to feed into the larger study to be conducted by FPAM. The purpose of working together with FPAM is to enrich the findings of the two studies and conduct a joint dissemination of the two studies together. USAID is in concert with this arrangement.

2.8 Conducting DMPA District Review meetings

During the month of October, CFPHS project conducted four HSAs District review meetings in Salima, Kasungu, Nkhotakota and Karonga. The aim of the meetings was to monitor progress in the implementation of community administration of DMPA by HSAs; to discuss what is working well, the challenges they are facing and practical solutions available to improve performance.

Results

- A total of 158 HSAs, supervisors attended the meeting which was supported by the presence of the District Environmental Health Officer and the Family Planning Coordinator, and Pharmacy Technicians.
- The team reviewed the HSAs records which included DMPA registers, Health centre supervisor's reports, Pharmacy Technician reports and District Family Planning Coordinators reports.
- The records showed high clientele, an indication that more women are accessing DMPA in their communities.
- The districts reported no stock outs of DMPA.

- The Community-based administration is reducing congestion of clients for DMPA at the health centers.
- HSAs were encouraged to submit their reports in time.

Comments

There is sufficient support from the DHMT as evidenced by their presence at the review meetings and support in procurement of DMPA for the communities. While disposal of safety boxes remain a challenge, HSAs were encouraged to dispose the safety boxes at the health centers and supervisors were advised to keep a record of all the safety boxes received from the HSAs.

2.9 Conducting joint monitoring and data quality assessments on BCC.

The Monitoring and Evaluation Advisor conducted Data Quality Assessment in Chikwawa on 21st to 23rd October 2009. The purpose of the visit was assessing the system of collecting and reporting results for Behavior Change and Communication intervention at community levels.

Results

- Discussed data collection systems and reporting of BCC activities with the research unit and members of the listeners' club in Chikwawa.
- Data sources on number of posters, brochures and leaflets distributed for previous quarter were verified.



CFPHS team discussing the baseline findings in relation to BCC interventions, Blantyre, October, 09

Comment

The team developed custom indicators for BCC such as:
-number of new participants attending listening clubs (translated in local language)

2.10. Participating in various program related meetings and workshops.

2.10 .1 Attending the national annual gathering for Muslim women

The program continued to collaborate with the Muslim community on Family Planning and HIV & AIDS issues. The National Muslim Women's known as "**IJITMAH**" invited the CFPHS project staff to make presentations on Family Planning and HIV/AIDS. This is an annual gathering of Muslim women and took place in Karonga district.

The theme of the Ijitmah was "Lighting the Torch of Islam; empowering women". Women from Muslim communities coming from all districts of the country attended the meeting (about 5,000 women attended).



Some of the women captured during the discussions at the annual gathering-IJITMA-in Karonga

Results

- The program made presentations on Family Planning, and HIV&AIDS.
- The family planning coordinator also took the opportunity to present on cervical cancer to raise awareness among the women.
- All presentations were followed by interactive sessions of questions and discussions.
- The Muslim women requested MSH to continue making such presentations on FP and HIV/AIDS in other similar gatherings for Muslim women.

Comment

Most of the women expressed interest in the Family Planning and HIV/AIDS topics that were presented and welcomed the idea of having such presentations included as part of their IJITMA program. It is the intention of the program to continue participating in district and community Islamic Women Dawas.

3.0. Challenges

- As reported in previous reports, lack of bicycles for more than half of the trained CBDAs makes project implementation challenging and difficult since the CBDAs were selected from hard to reach areas;
- Lack of such equipment as tubal hook, uterine elevators and cycle beads make implementation of innovative approaches very difficult. There is need to procure additional cycle beads and instruments for LTPM.
- The golf shirts, bought last year, are reported “worn out”.



The CBDA, D.C. (Salima) and the DCOP, discuss the bicycle depreciation: October, 2009 during MSH Vice President field visit

4.0. Major activities for November 2009

- a. Conduct supervision of CBDAs, HSAs and LPTM providers;
- b. Continue airing of the radio drama on the four radio stations;
- c. Conducting CBDAs review meetings;
- d. Conduct follow-up meetings with CHAM on SDM;
- e. Attend Dawa Muslim women meetings;
- f. The FP Advisor, Policy and Advocacy Specialist, Communication and Gender Specialist will attend the Uganda FP conference and make a poster presentation;
- g. Training of private practitioners in the Northern region;
- h. Continue Supervision of Listening Club and Community drama activities;
- i. Continue conducting open days;
- j. Review HMIS from community level and consider introduction of Frontline SMS;
- k. Finalize survey on integration of FP and HIV/AIDS;
- l. Conducting Supportive supervision for CBOs; and
- m. Preparations for World AIDS Day commemoration.