

CFPHS Monthly Report – November 2009

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

November 2009

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

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Monthly Report for November, 2009

1. Main activities

The main activities for the month of November included: (1) Conducting CBDA refresher trainings/Review Meetings; (2) Conducting supportive supervision for CBDAs and HSAs; (3) Conducting Community Drama activities; (4) Facilitating Listeners' Club discussions; (5) Facilitating Open Day Sensitization Meetings; (6) Participating in the International Conference on Family Planning research and best practices and policy makers' seminar in Uganda; (7) Conducting Field Office field visits; and (8) Participating in various program related meetings.

2. Accomplishments

2.1 Conducting CBDA refresher trainings/Review Meetings

CBDA refresher trainings were conducted in Nkhotakota, Karonga and Phalombe districts at community level, a year and a half after their initial training. Issues covered during the refresher trainings included review of records and registers, Tally sheet, Family planning methods and side effects, Gender based violence and Adolescent reproductive health.

Results

- In Karonga, 91 of the 101 CBDAs trained in project year 1 and 2 participated in the Review meetings.
- In Phalombe, 79 of the 146 CBDAs trained in project year 1 and 2 participated in the Review meetings.
- In Nkhotakota, 127 of the 154 CBDAs trained in project year 1 and 2 participated in the Review meetings.

Comments

- CBDAs stated that the communities and community leaders have been very accommodating and very willing to work with them.
- There was a general observation that reaching men with FP and HIV&AIDS services remained a challenge as they were not usually available in their homes, often out for other social or economic engagements.
- Transport for CBDAs remained a challenge as some of the CBDAs lack bicycles and other bicycles were broken down.

2.2 Conducting supportive supervision for CBDAs and HSAs

The districts of Nkhotakota, Phalombe and Karonga conducted supportive supervision for selected CBDAs and HSAs.

Results

CBDAs and HSAs were supervised as follows:

- 22 CBDAs providing family planning in Karonga
- 6 CBDAs conducting door to door HTC in Phalombe; sit in supervision on HIV testing and Counseling was conducted.
- 39 HSAs providing DMPA at community level in Phalombe.

Comments

- Lack of HTC kits at some health centers in Karonga prevented some CBDAs from conducting HTC at community level
- CBDAs that had problems with record keeping were given on the job training in correct and accurate record keeping.
- There is a continued request for bicycles, umbrellas, raincoats and gumboots from CBDAs to be used during the rainy season.

2.3 Conducting Community Drama activities

The community drama groups in the 8 districts continued to perform the Zina Umanena community drama. The number of people attending drama is derived from 36 shows which were conducted during the month of October.

Results

- 36 drama shows were conducted in the month of October. November drama activities will be reported in December as explained in the October report.
- A total of 9,443 people were reached through the community drama shows (3,863 males and 5,580 females).

Comments

The program is working to ensure timely reporting of data for community drama by the listener's club officers. The project is contemplating an assessment of the effectiveness of drama group later in the project.

2.4 Facilitating Family Planning Listeners' Club Discussion

Listeners' club members continued listening to Zina Umanena radio drama in all the 8 districts.

Result

- A total of 2,759 returning members(1,065 male, 1,694 female) attended the listening club sessions
- A total of 3,386 new members attended the listening club sessions (2,075 female and 1311 male).

Comments

As stated previously, number of people who listened to the radio drama in October are reported in the November report.

2.5. Facilitating Open Day Sensitization Meetings

Open Day Sensitization meetings at community levels were conducted in the districts of Chikwawa, Mangochi and Salima.

Results

- A total of 3,657 people were reached (2,092 were males and 1,565 females).
- A total of 179 people attended the events, 95 male and 84 female accessed HTC services and received their test results; 2 females tested positive and were referred to the nearest clinic.

2.6 Participating in the International seminars

2.6.1 Participating in the International Conference on Family Planning Research and Best Practices

The program was represented by the FP Advisor and Policy Specialist at the International Conference on Family Planning Research and Best Practices Conference which took place in Uganda from 15th to 18th November 2009. The conference provided an opportunity for delegates to share available research findings and best practices, identify knowledge gaps and also use the current knowledge for policy development. The conference brought together about 1,300 delegates from 59 countries.

Results

The following key FP issues came clear in the different technical presentations:

- Family planning is essential for achieving all the MDGs and should be regarded as a vaccine against maternal mortality.
- Overuse of short term methods is contributing to problems in adherence and commodity supply; the use of long term and less expensive methods such as Sino plant and DMPA was recommended.

- Community Involvement is key to successful FP programmes;
- Need for commodity Franchising/ funder collaboration to improve service delivery;
- FP/HIV/RH Integration is vital in leveraging funds;
- Integration of FP and MCH i.e. MCH – Post Partum IUCD (PPIUCD) Insertion; immunization clinics as FP points of delivery is vital to avoid missed opportunities;
- Need for increasing total global financing of FP/RH.
- Public Private Partnerships (PPPs) are important to the success of FP programmes

Comment

Reaffirmation of the existing instruments on Sexual and Reproductive Health was made. A call for harmonization of efforts by different players and ownership of FP programmes by African leaders was made.

Malawi delegates will hold a post conference meeting to discuss lessons learnt and action areas for Malawi.

2.6.2 Participating in a Policy Makers Seminar

The Policy Specialist participated in a daylong seminar for Senior Policy makers on “financing the health related Millennium Development Goals: Challenges and Opportunities” on 16 November 2009, concurrent to the International Conference on FP, Research and best Practices. About 150 participants; including ministers of finance, health, economic planning; members of parliament, women leaders and other key persons in policy attended the seminar. Malawi was represented by 2 parliamentarians, 2 officials from the vice presidents’ office, representatives from MoH, USAID, UNFPA and the University of Malawi.

The objectives of the policy maker’s seminar were to : discuss progress on the MDG 5 (less has been achieved on MDG5); to share some best practices and learn from each other; appreciate the contribution of FP to reducing maternal mortality; increase resource allocation to FP programmes; and to advocate for ownership of FP programmes by African leaders.

Results

The seminar identified the following as contributing factors to poor progress on MDG 5:

- There are less resource allocation for FP;
- Over dependence on donor funding and fragmentation of donor funds was highlighted
- The shifting of donor funding to HIV/AIDS and the shifting of health providers to HIV programmes impacts negatively on FP programs.

Comment

The seminar recommended an increase in country and donor resources for FP, ownership of programmes and community participation through CBD programmes and strengthened public private partnerships.

2.6.3 Participating in training of Master trainer in fertility awareness

The FP Advisor attended an auxiliary event which was organized by Institute for Reproductive Health (IRH) from 13th to 14th November 2009 in Uganda before the main FP conference. IRH organized Training for Master Trainers in Standard Days Method (SDM), Lactational Amenorrhea Method (LAM) and Fertility Awareness-based Methods (FAM). The training covered updates on:

- Service protocols for SDM
- Guidelines on operationalizing definitions and messages about LAM,
- An understanding of modern FAM, mode of action, efficacy, eligibility criteria and training, IEC and program resources to guide integration of FAM in FP programs. Twelve countries attended the training.

Result

- FP advisor presented a paper on how Malawi introduced SDM in the country and lessons learnt.



The FP Advisor making a presentation on SDM

Comments

IHR will build the capacity of FP programs across Africa to offer a full range of options by training local trainers in FAM and equipping them to be a knowledgeable resource for local organizations.

2.7 Conducting Field Office visits with MSH's Global Technical Lead for FP/RH

Dr. Halida Akhter, MSH's Global Technical Lead for FP/RH visited the CFPHS program from the 21st to 26th November 2009. The overall goal and objective of the visit was to provide direct technical support to the in-country team in documenting practices. In addition she looked at the processes and strategic approaches adopted for implementation.

Results

- The GTL FP/RH was oriented to the specific areas of the programme by the team
- Visited Salima district where she met the DHMT, visited a health center, an HSA providing DMPA at community level and a CBDA at his home.
- Visited Nkhotakota district where she met the DHMT, visited a health center, one Traditional Authority, an HSA and a CBDA providing HTC at community level.



The GTL FP/RH discussing with the Traditional Authority in Nkhotakota

- Conducted multiple meetings with the program team including FP Advisor, Policy Specialist, HIV/AIDS Advisor and M&E Advisor and the COP.
- Advised the team on the determination of the at risk women of child bearing age these are the under 18 and the over 35 years of age.
- She also helped with updating the team on calculation of the couple years of protection (CYP).

Comments

Dr. Halida Akhter and the team reviewed the program activities and isolated the components and activities that needed to be documented for sharing as best practices and claiming organizational credibility. Several documents were also shared with the team members in the areas of Best practices.

2.8 Participating in various program related meetings and workshops.

2.8 .1 Conducting a meeting on COP indicators with USAID

CFPHS conducted a meeting with USAID to discuss the 2010 indicators for tracking HIV activities for the program.

Results

- CFPHS project was advised to report on FY09 COP indicators from the Next Generation Indicators guide.
- Clarification was sought and provided on some of the indicators which seemed somehow similar but expected to be captured separately; and in some cases Indicators had to be combined into one i.e. Indicator #10 and #12 on CFPHS Performance Indicator Table
- The program agreed to continue tracking some indicators, though dropped, internally for program use i.e. indicator #15; and the program was also advised to develop some custom indicators for the same purpose i.e. indicator #19 to be rephrased as custom indicator.

Comments

The meeting agreed that USAID would advise on the new indicators to be tracked on CBO activities after consultations with other partners who work with CBOs.

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
- The CBDA golf shirts bought last year are “worn out”.
- Jadelle is reported out of stock in two districts of Phalombe and Karonga. The Central Medical Stores is expecting an immediate arrival of the order in the Country.

4.0. Major activities for December 2009

- a. Conduct supervision of CBDAs, HSAs and LPTM providers;
- b. Conduct airing of the radio drama on the four radio stations;
- c. Conducting CBDAs review meetings;
- d. Attend Dawa Muslim women meetings;
- e. Conduct Supervision of Listening Club and Community drama activities;
- f. Conducting open days;
- g. Participate in the recruitment process and orientation of District Coordinators for Mangochi and Balaka
- h. Reprint Job aids for HTC/Standard Operating procedures and procure room temperature thermometers for CBDAs
- i. Participate in World AIDS Day commemorations
- j. Finalize Report on FP and HIV Integration Survey