

CFPHS Monthly Report – April 2010

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

April 2010

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

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Monthly Report for April 2010

1. Main activities

The main activities for the month included: (1) Conducting quarterly district supervision feedback meetings; (2) Conducting DMPA review meetings and supervision; (3) Conducting CBDA supervision; (4) Conducting SDM supervision; (5) Conducting HTC supervision; (6) Conducting sensitization Open Days; (7) Conducted door to door HTC/CBDAs review meeting; (8) Conducting client exit interviews; (9) Conducting SMS Frontlines training; (10) Conducting HTC sensitization campaigns; (11) Conducting CBO supervision; (12) Conducting LTPM supervision; (13) Conducting Mid Term Project Evaluation; (14) Conducting training of private sector providers; (15) Performing community drama; (16) Conducting clinic talks; and (17) Other project related activities.

2. Accomplishments

2.1 Conducting Quarterly Supervision Feedback Meetings

A supervision feedback meeting was held in Phalombe District. The meeting was called to discuss issues that were observed during supervision visits by the District Family Planning Coordinator and the MSH District Coordinator. It was also aimed at sharing field experiences with all supervisors as well as provide an indication of how the programme was performing.

Results:

- The meeting was well attended by 25 primary supervisors (20 male and 5 female), 5 secondary supervisors (1 male and 4 female), and 1 male DHMT member.
- The checklist for both primary and secondary supervisors was reviewed.
- Performance review of the FP programme was done and it was found that the programme was generally on track.

Comments:

- The program will consider providing both primary and secondary supervisors with stationery for example files for proper filling of reports.

2.2 Conducting DMPA Review Meetings and Supervision

Supervision of DMPA activities were conducted in Phalombe, Salima, Nkhotakota, Balaka and Karonga Districts. In Phalombe, DMPA providers and their supervisors together with the DHMT participated in the review meeting. A total of 37 people were present (33 male and 4 female). In Nkhotakota, DMPA supervision took place during an outreach clinic so that the providers could be observed in action. In Balaka, a DMPA

provider was observed counseling and providing DMPA. In Karonga, 12 DMPA providers were supervised. The aim of the supervision was to provide encouragement and mentoring to the HSAs.

Results:

- Only One HSA has dropped out of the programme in Phalombe.
- Aprons were issued to the HSAs during the review meeting in Phalombe
- 11 HSAs and 10 HSAs were supervised in Salima and Nkhotakota respectively.
- It was noted that the HSA visited in Balaka had clients ranging from 150 – 200 in a month.
- An HSA who had previously stopped providing DMPA services in Karonga returned to the district and resumed providing services.

Comments:

- Supervision of the 11 HSAs in Salima showed the need for a DMPA Review meeting to be held in the district so that the rest of the HSAs can benefit from the discussions.
- There is need to increase the number of DMPA providers in Salima in order to enhance the contribution currently being made by the few trained HSAs.
- It was encouraging to note that DMPA continues to be a method of choice in the target districts.

2.3 Conducting CBDA Supervision

During the reporting month, CBDA supervision was conducted in Salima, Nkhotakota, Chikhwawa and Karonga. The aim of the supervision was to check on the quality of services being offered by the CBDAs and also to promote the spirit of volunteerism, by recognizing their contribution and providing moral and technical support.

Results:

- Some of the CBDAs were heavily engaged in agricultural activities (i.e. harvesting) in their gardens and/or helping out family members. This has lessened the time they are available to provide services to clients.
- In Salima, 39 CBDAs (24 Male and 15 females) were visited as part of the monthly supervision done by the District Coordinator.
- In Nkhotakota, 10 CBDAs were visited.
- In Chikhwawa, 3 CBDAs (All Males) were supervised out of the planned 10.
- In Karonga, 26 CBDAs were supervised.
- CBDAs complained of erratic supply of male condoms, visibility materials like T-Shirts and bags being worn out in Karonga,
- It was encouraging to note that the standards of services provided by CBDAs was generally of high quality reflecting the standard of training provided to them.

Comments:

- It was reported during the month to the District Coordinator in Salima that Domeck Nangoza aged 31 from Kapanda Village, TA Kambalame died suddenly. He was a very hard working CBDA.
- The program should continue conducting quarterly review meetings.

2.4 Conducting SDM Supervision

It is now four months since the Standard Days Method of contraception was introduced by the project in the eight districts. The project is currently consolidating the achievements by intensifying supervision. In the reporting month, supervision was done in Salima, Nkhotakota, Mangochi, Chikhwawa and Karonga districts.

Result:

- The District Family Planning Coordinator supervised only one couple providing SDM in Chikhwawa
- In Karonga, two parishes were visited for supervision.
- In Nkhotakota, 3 SDM providers were supervised

In Salima;

- 14 SDM providers were supervised.
- During supervision SDM providers in Salima district were encouraged to advise their clients about other methods so that they can make informed choice.

In Mangochi:

- 12 SDM providers (6 male and 6 female) out of the targeted 19 were supervised.
- Four out of the six catchment areas supervised show that there is a high demand of the method from clients, including non-Catholics.
- 10 out of 12 SDM providers' supervised were out of beads.

Comment:

- The programme has now received a consignment of cycle beads and will distribute to all SDM providers in the eight districts once they have been cleared at custom
- Regular supportive supervision will be conducted to ensure that providers are on track with the right information to the clients and counseling skills
- There is need to train more providers to adequately improve access and increase method mix
- A sustainable alternative to cycle beads that can be locally sourced at a low cost should be explored given that the ministry does not stock cycle beads.
- The project is contemplating to extend training to CBDAs as a way of increasing access. The field experience shows that there is an increased interest in the method.

2.5 Conducting Supervision of HTC CBDAs

Supportive supervision was conducted for CBDAs in door to door HTC provision in the month in Salima, Nkhotakota, Karonga and Balaka districts.

Results:

- In Salima, four CBDAs doing HTC were supervised
- In Balaka, 1 CBDA was supervised.
- In Nkhotakota, 4 CBDAs were supervised.
- In Karonga, 9 out the 10 HTC CBDAs were supervised
- Registers were reviewed and the CBDA records were found to be up to date
- Supervised CBDAs were using the SOPs to deliver quality services.

Comment:

- Communities visited by HTC counselors have welcomed this service and have a very positive attitude on the Door to Door HTC. However, the expansion of the service is limited by shortages of test kits
- The CBDAs are being supervised every month

2.6 Conducting Open Days

During the month, open days were held in Nkhotakota, Balaka, Mangochi, Karonga and Chikhwawa. The aim was to highlight the importance as well as the availability of Family Planning and HTC Services in the communities. The open days were organized by PSI in collaboration with Management Sciences for Health and the Ministry of Health. The open day in Chikhwawa was affected by bad weather.

Result:

- A total of 1596 people (766 men and 830 women) attended the function in Nkhotakota
- In Mangochi, a total of 1765 people (750 males and 1015 females) attended the open day.
- In Balaka, 2009 people (973 males and 1036 females) attended the function.
- In Karonga, 2031 people (812 males and 1219 females) attended the function.
- In Chikhwawa, 466 people (222 male and 244 females) attended the function.
- The traditional leadership was fully involved in the activity with the Traditional Authority attending the function in Nkhotakota.
- Dances, Drama; Poems, Speeches and a Quiz all focusing on FP and HIV & AIDS were performed during the functions.
- A total of **169 people (80 males and 89 females)** were tested for HIV and **4 females and 1 male** were tested positive and were referred for treatment.

Comment:

- The program is planning to increase availability of IEC materials at these functions.
- In Karonga, no HTC testing took place because test kits were out of stock.

2.7 Conducting Door To Door HTC/CBDAs Review Meeting

An HTC review meeting was conducted in Karonga during the month to review progress made so far in implementing Door to Door HTC.

Results:

- 11 CBDAs, 8 HSAs and 4 supervisors attended the meeting.
- Activities included review of registers, the reporting system and referral channel, planning for proficiency testing, and discussions on storage of HTC kits.
- The meeting also discussed challenges faced and identified possible solutions.

Comments:

- HTC Kits still remain very scarce. This is the major impediment to the implementation of program.
- The meeting agreed to continue with ongoing community sensitizations to assure the communities on the confidentiality of the door to door HTC by CBDAs.

2.8 Conducting Client Exit Interview

Client exit interviews were conducted in Kasungu during the month. The aim of the interview was to learn from clients if services offered are of a good standard.

Result:

- From the interviews conducted, it was learned that providers know how to deliver the various services they are trained in and maintain confidentiality.

Comment:

- It was observed that Kasungu District Hospital has a short supply of exit interview forms. Arrangements are in place to send the forms to Kasungu. The Central Office (MSH) will share the project tool with the district.

2.9 Conducting SMS Frontlines Training (MHG)

It was reported, in the last monthly report that not all the CBDAs could be reached for the Frontlines SMS training in Mangochi. The training of the remaining CBDAs was conducted in the reporting month. The training targeted CBDAs, in addition to their primary and secondary supervisors.

Result:

- 6 CBDAs out of the targeted 7 were trained and received their cell phones.

Comments:

- The remaining CBDA will be trained during routine supervision of CBDAs.
- Most of the CBDAs are having their previously loaded reporting forms accidentally deleted at places where they leave their phones for charging. This problem will be resolved once the solar chargers have been delivered.

2.10 Conducting HTC Sensitization Campaigns

Mangochi district was the only district lagging behind in deploying HTC Counsellors in the community. Sensitization campaigns started in the previous reporting period. Two outstanding sessions had been carried forward to the current reporting period. The HTC sensitization campaigns were conducted in the villages where CBDAs trained in HTC will be offering Door to Door HTC services. It was one way of informing the communities and their leaders that CBDAs have been trained to offer such services. These campaigns specifically targeted HTC door to door services.

Results:

- Distributed 35 “Care” Female Condom posters; 200 VCT leaflets; 4 Zina Umanena T-shirts; 100 Pakechere booklets; 60 Pakachere calendars; 20 Zina Umanena posters; 5 Zina Umanena pens, and 100 Zina Umanenena leaflets
- A total number of 4450 attended these campaigns (1700 males and 2750 females).
- 60 clients (33 males and 27 males) accessed HTC services 3 (1 male & 2 females) tested positive.

Comments:

- The two remaining sessions from the month of March were completed and CBDAs started providing HTC services during the campaigns.
- The HTC door to door initiative was accepted by most members of the communities and their leaders as they showed interest in whatsoever happened during the campaigns including the HTC services that were offered by the trained CBDAs.
- Those that tested positive were referred to HIV and AIDS related services.

2.11 Conducting CBO Supervision

Supportive supervision was provided to Community Based Organizations (CBO) that were trained by the program as motivators for Family Planning and HIV and AIDS services. In Karonga supervision was conducted in collaboration with the district AIDS coordinator.

Results:

- 9 out of 10 CBOs trained by the program were supervised
- The supervision looked into the establishment of referral linkages between CBOs and CBDAs and health facilities.
- The supervision established that CBDAs are well recognized by the CBO members.

Comment:

- Through the supervision, it was established that the CBOs and CBDAs are ably handling the issues of FP and HIV&AIDS including the gender component.

2.12 Conducting LTPM Supervision

Supervision of Long Term Permanent Methods (LTPM) was done at Phimbi Health Centre in Balaka District.

Results:

- Jadelle, one of LTPM which was out of stock from December 2009 to February 2010 was now available, and clients are accessing the method.
- The team witnessed a family planning health talk on LTPM which was given by a trained nurse.
- An interactive drama on FP methods including LTPM organized by the CBDAs in the catchment area was performed

Comment:

- The drama was very well performed and it was a very good educational aid as many clients seemed to agree with the messages contained in the drama.

2.13 Participating in Project Mid Term Evaluation

A midterm evaluation of the project started in the reporting month. The evaluation commenced with presentations at the central office. The Evaluation Team also met other stakeholders. After a series of meetings the Team started visits to the districts. The Team planned to visit 7 out of the 8 target districts.

Result:

- The consultants met various service providers and partners during the evaluation visit.

Comment:

- Debriefing will be conducted on the 13th of May 2010
- The project eagerly awaits the results of the evaluation.

2.14 Refresher Training of Private Sector Providers

On the 25th of April, training on effective counseling in a private setting was conducted at Ekwendeni in the Northern Region for private sector providers.

Results:

- 26 providers from private clinics and pharmacies were refreshed on counseling of different groups of people, i.e., the youth, menopausal women, HIV positive clients and old and new clients
- Training helped highlight some of the knowledge gaps existing in private practice. A lot of the participants highlighted limited knowledge on HIV transmission and handling family planning clients who are also HIV positive.
- Some new providers who had initially not been keen to offer family planning services reported that when they started offering the service, they had very few clients but more and more people were now coming up to get services from their facilities.

2.15 Community Drama Performances

As a result of delays in submission of reports for consolidation, data on community drama performances for the month of March is incorporated in this report. During the month of March drama activities were conducted in all the districts where the project is working. The slow down means instead of the two shows a month, the drama clubs will perform only one show. Drama activities will resume fully in August when the second airing of the radio drama will be done.

Results:

- **12, 473** people were reached through the community drama shows (4, 694 **males and 7, 779 females**).
- In Chikhwawa, Salima and Mangochi the groups took advantage to perform their shows during special activities, for example during different community meetings organized in their areas hence an increase in figures from those districts.

Comment:

- After the March performances, community drama activities have slowed down to resume in August when the radio drama is going to be aired again.

2.16 Clinic Talks

During the reporting month of April one clinic talk was conducted in Chikhwawa district. The aim of the clinic talk was to highlight the benefits of family planning. The clinic talk was conducted in collaboration with the Family Planning Coordinator and IEC officer from the Ministry of Health. The total number of people who attended the clinic talk was **87 (29 males and 58 females)**.

2.17 Other Program Related Activities

NAC Proposal Submission

The program worked on developing a proposal on door to door HTC provision by CBDA to NAC.

Results:

- Proposal developed, and submitted to NAC.

Comments:

- The program is awaiting feedback from NAC on the proposal.

HPN Partners Meeting

The program participated in the USAID HPN partners meeting which was hosted by PSI in the month. USAID Health partners meet to discuss and share updates on programs every other month.

Results:

- The HPN team lead shared several updates which included departures of old and coming in of new staff at USAID
- The CFPHS showcased activities on HTC and FP which attracted a lot of discussion.
- Other presentations were made by IntraHealth and PSI

Comments:

- The meeting was concluded with updates from different programs.
- MSH will host the next HPN partners meeting on 23rd June 2010.

Meeting with USAID on Ceiling Increase Work Plan

The program had a meeting with the COTR to discuss the ceiling increase work plan. CFPHS had submitted a work plan for the ceiling increase for USAID review and approval.

Result:

- The ceiling increase work plan was discussed; USAID had raised a few issues for clarification in the work plan. USAID has since provided a conditional approval and asked the project to clarify how it will administer the honoraria and other similar issues.

Comment:

- The COTR indicated that the program could go ahead and start implementing the activities in the work plan.

Meeting with Principal Secretary for the Department of HIV and Nutrition

The program initiated a meeting with the Principal Secretary for the Department of HIV and Nutrition, to get an understanding of the Government plan to recruit 8,000 community workers. This was done so as to establish any possible synergy with the CBDA program.

Results:

- The program made a presentation on its CBDA activities in the communities
- The PS briefed the program on the role of the community workers to be recruited and generally how the program will operate.

Comments:

- The Government program will train multi skilled community workers for employment by NGOs for some period before they are incorporated into the government system. It remains unclear as to when the government will start implementing the program.

Journalists Workshop and Field Visit

A Team of Journalist had a workshop in Salima on how the media could report on Reproductive Health and Family planning issues. MSH was invited to make a presentation on Community Based FP and HIV and AIDS Project. A field visit followed taking the Journalists' to Nkhotakota where the team interacted with a Family Planning Listeners Club, a Standard Days Method provider and two HSAs providing DMPA. Three local leaders were present during the meeting with listeners club.

Result:

- Over 25 FP club members individually interacted with one or two journalists.
- Journalist interviewed the SDM provider and HSAs providing DMPA.

Comment:

- Journalists lack capacity in FP and HIV issues and the workshop helped them to be more informed of RH/FP and HIV to better inform the public with the right information.
- The training of journalists in RH and the CFPHS involvement in the activity has helped to take the program's activities to the public through different media houses. This will create more awareness of FP and HIV issues by the general public; and it has also acted as a way to publicize the activities of the CFPHS project to Malawians.

Meeting with RHU

A meeting was organized between the CFPHS project and the Reproductive Health Unit of the Ministry of Health. It was meant to update the unit on the status of project implementation and plans for expansion.

Results:

- Briefed RHU on ceiling increase for the DMPA Scale up within the eight districts
- RHU liked and were supportive of scaling up DMPA, even though they would have wanted to scale up to the whole country.
- Nsanje, where MSH already has an office (BASICS); Nkhatabay and Ntchisi where offices will be established under the NAC HTC programme) were suggested as additional districts for scale up upon USAID's Approval.

Comments:

- The program will discuss with USAID on the idea of scaling up DMPA initiative in the suggested three districts and will inform RHU of the results. Meanwhile the programme will continue planning for scale up activities in the eight project districts.

Meeting with Peace Corps Director

The program initiated a meeting with the Peace Corps Director. The objectives of the meeting were to brief Peace Corps on the project activities and discuss ways of collaboration.

Results:

- CFPHS made a presentation on the project activities
- It was learnt that Peace Corps are also working in some CFPHS districts
- Peace Corps is interested in collaborating with CFPHS
- Peace Corps Director asked the programme to make a presentation at a Peace Corps meeting in Dedza during the month of May 2010.

Comments:

- Areas of collaboration will be explored with Peace Corps themselves at this May meeting.

3 Challenges Faced During March 2010

- Test kit stock outs

4. Major Activities Planned for April 2010

- Conducting HTC training preparations
- Conducting HTC quarterly review meetings
- Conducting DMPA Trainings
- Disseminate Integration survey results
- Conduct meetings with: CHAM; Nurses and Midwives Council of Malawi; Muslim Association of Malawi and Qadria Muslim Association of Malawi.
- Participate in Evaluation debrief meeting
- Conducting open days
- Conducting Clinic talks