

Health Policy Project

Building capacity around the world for improved health policy, advocacy, governance, and finance.

HEALTH
POLICY
PROJECT



HPP GOVERNANCE ACTIVITIES AND ACCOMPLISHMENTS - 2013

RH Health

- In **Jamaica**, HPP is supporting the MOH's efforts to integrate elements of its National HIV/STIs Program into its National Family Planning Board. Program integration will result in consolidation within a single national authority for sexual and reproductive health (SRH).
- In **Afghanistan**, HPP continued to build the MOPH's capacity to engage the private health sector in the delivery of health services. Our work on strengthening the policy environment for the private provision of health services in Afghanistan has also strengthened the capacity for health governance.
- HPP's mandate in **Jharkhand, India** was to increase and institutionalize the capacity of health officials for stewardship, policy development, and implementation in support of the state's population policy. To implement this mandate, HPP helped create a State Resource Group (SRG) of master trainers with members from government and nongovernment institutions, including the State Family Planning Cell. The pilot phase in the three focus districts has ended and expansion to scale is underway.
- In **Nigeria**, HPP and UNFPA conducted a workshop for the Nigerian National Population Commission members to deepen their understanding of demographic concepts and population policy options so that they might fulfill responsibilities as stewards of Nigeria's 2004 National Population Policy and to initiate the process of revising the policy in 2013-2014. The commissioners drafted a critique of the policy and a roadmap for its revision during 2013.

Maternal Health

- HPP supported White Ribbon Alliance **Nepal** to conduct five district-level community dialogues in July 2013 with pregnant women, first-time mothers, and mothers with several children. The dialogues were set up specifically to find out about current levels of public knowledge about respectful maternity care (RMC) and to amplify women's voices on the need for RMC in the upcoming Safe Motherhood and New Born Health Care Bill.

HIV

- HPP and partners amFAR (American Foundation for AIDS Research), IPPF (International Planned Parenthood Federation), and Planned Parenthood Foundation of America published a report, *Advancing Country Ownership: Civil Society's Role in Sustaining Public Health*. The report was well received by USAID and PEPFAR, and was included in a cable sent to all PEPFAR Country teams by OGAC calling for steps to better engage civil society in program planning for PEPFAR country operational plans.



Gender

- In **Malawi**, HPP is supporting the Ministry of Gender, Children and Social Welfare (MOGCSW) to develop a more coherent policy direction, improve coordination across program areas, and strengthen its overall organizational capacity. With technical and financial assistance from HPP, the MOGCSW completed an environmental assessment and held one national and three regional consultations to inform a new *Framework for Strengthening the Functions of the Ministry of Gender, Children and Social Welfare 2013–2017*, which was completed in September.
- Under the Gender, Policy, and Measurement (GPM) program in the **Asia and the Middle East** region, HPP conducted a two-part technical exchange on Gender and Health between the Royal Government of Cambodia and the Lao People's Democratic Republic. Participants included representatives of both countries' health ministries, the Lao National Commission for the Advancement of Women, the Lao Women's Union, and the Cambodian Ministry of Women's Affairs.
- In **Ethiopia**, HPP has transitioned its support to the Amhara regional Bureau of Women, Children and Youth Affairs (BWCYA), which plays a critical function in implementing national gender mainstreaming guidance and coordinating local-level gender mainstreaming processes and reporting across sectors. In consultation with the BWCYA gender mainstreaming team, HPP identified priority interventions to strengthen district coordination and monitoring for improved mainstreaming processes.
- HPP is collaborating with Suaahara, a nutrition project in **Nepal**, and MEASURE Evaluation to design, implement, and evaluate a scalable capacity-strengthening intervention for Health Facility Operation and Management Committees to ensure gender equity and social inclusion-related issues are addressed as part of the delivery of health services.
- In **Guatemala**, HEPP worked with the Ministry of Education (MINEDUC), Ministry of Social Development (MIDES), and the Alliance of Indigenous Women's Organizations for Reproductive Health, Nutrition, and Education (ALIANMISAR) to promote gender equity and transparency in the implementation of a rural scholarship program. As a result of advocacy efforts, MINEDUC and MIDES have shifted focus on the current scholarship program to girls and young women, and the MINEDUC has issued formal operational guidance that included a reduction in the grade point average requirements for scholarship eligibility.
- In **Jamaica**, HPP is working with Woman Inc. and the University of the West Indies to pilot a GBV screening and referral protocol tailored to the context of sexually transmitted infections/HIV. The pilot contributes to an improved understanding of gender, sexuality, stigma and discrimination, and violence in the context of HIV for service providers and community partners and strengthened evidence-based advocacy for strengthening responses.
- In the **Dominican Republic**, HPP is strengthening capacity for effective collaboration both among civil society organizations (CSOs) and between CSOs and the government to address GBV and HIV-related S&D at national and subnational levels.