

**PROGRAMME TITLE: TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE TO HEALTH PRIORITIES PROGRAMME
SOUTHERN SUDAN**

Client	Multi-Donor Trust Fund (MDTF), Ministry of Health of the Government of Southern Sudan (MOH-GOSS)
Year (s)	2008 – 2011

CONTEXT

LATH is providing technical support to a three year programme of work in support of the sector development plan of the Ministry of Health of the Government of Southern Sudan. The programme is working closely with the ministry to deliver a framework for strengthening the health sector's managerial capacities, developing essential health care delivery systems, and increasing the population's access to basic health services.

PROGRAMME APPROACH

LATH is currently supporting the MOH-GOSS in the following technical areas:

1. Monitoring and Evaluation:

In March 2010, **Joe Valadez**, **Carmen Camino** and **William Vargas** conducted a scoping for the MOH-GOSS to determine the level and type of support that LATH will provide in various aspects of Monitoring and Evaluation (M&E) up to the end of the programme. It was decided that LATH will be assisting with the establishment of the Health Management Information System (HMIS) at national level.

This includes:

- Piloting of data collection tools
- Design of reporting formats for the routine monthly report at primary health care facilities and county levels
- Core health indicators and data aggregation
- Analysis at county health departments and State Ministries of Health.

LATH is advising the MOH in the production of other tools for the HMIS, as follows:

- a. A Quantified Supervisory Checklist (QSC), which has been completed and is currently being piloted in three states.
- b. Rapid Health Facility Assessments (HFAs), which are planned to take place in early 2011.
- c. Lot Quality Assessment Sampling (LQAS) to evaluate the performance of the Lead Agencies contracted to provide health services in four states (Upper Nile, Central Equatoria, Eastern Equatoria and Jonglei).

During a recent assignment **Carmen Camino** with **Richard Lino Laku**, the Director of M&E in the MOH-GOSS, presented health development partners with core health indicators, data collection tools, and guidelines for pretesting of those tools. A preliminary draft of the QSC has been produced and presented to partners for comments.

LATH has also been supporting the MOH-GOSS to implement the District Health Information System (DHIS) as the official database for the health sector in Southern Sudan. **Norah Stoops** of Health Information Systems Programme (HISP) has been conducting training workshops and seminars for stakeholders involved in data collection and analysis from MOH-GOSS, various States MOHs, the three teaching hospitals in Southern Sudan and the lead agencies.

2. 2010 Household Health Survey for Southern Sudan:

LATH was requested by the MOH-GOSS to provide a statistician with wide experience of large household surveys to oversee the completion of data entry, data cleaning, analysis and report writing of the 2010 national household health survey of Southern Sudan. The survey used the UNICEF MICS4 programme and was conducted in both Northern and Southern Sudan. LATH statistician, **Jose Garcia Nunez**, has been working closely with the Directorate of M&E in MOH-GOSS, as well as other partners from the US Census Bureau, the Southern Sudan Centre for Census, Statistics and Evaluation (SSCCSE), the World Bank, UNICEF and UNDP to complete data entry and cleaning. An editor and a team of writers has also been recruited by LATH to produce the final report, which is expected to be ready by November 2010.

3. Human Resources for Health:

LATH, through two short term missions carried out by **Nicola Ruck**, has been supporting the MOH-GOSS in the use of planning and management tools for Human Resources for Health (HRH), including inputs to the HRD department work plan, and advice to the HR Technical Working Group. A mapping and assessment of health training facilities in Southern Sudan has recently been completed under the leadership of **Mark Beesley**, with a team from the Directorate of Human Resources, MOH-GOSS. This is an important step in determining the budgeting and support required by these facilities and that will be incorporated into the Five Year Strategic Plan of the health sector.

4. Strategic Planning and Financial Management:

Long term LATH Technical Assistant, **Grace Murindwa**, is supporting the Directorate of Research and Planning to produce the five year Strategic Plan for the Health Sector of Southern Sudan. Working groups have been established and progress is being made in drafting sections of the plan. A team of health economists will soon be brought in to fully cost the plan, which is expected to be completed by November 2010. In addition, LATH consultant, **Andy O'Connell**, has supported the MOH to produce the budgets and annual operational plan and mid-term reports in 2009 and 2010.

5. Nursing and Midwifery:

LATH has supported the MOH through two missions conducted by **Ann Evans, Ulrika Rehnström and Medoline Lema**, to assess the current standards of care by community midwives, as well as the training curriculum provided to them, to ensure implementation of the recommendations for improvement of skilled assistance to delivery. The second mission also produced a road map with both long and short term actions to improve access of mothers to skilled attendance during labour and delivery in Southern Sudan.

6. Hospitals:

An assessment was carried out by **Bryan Haddon**, with the assistance of **Loi Apac Thuou** of MOH-GOSS, on the standards of management of the three teaching hospitals in Southern Sudan, with the aim to come up with a plan for strengthening hospital management. Using a peer review technique, LATH consultants have assessed Juba, Malakal and Wau Hospitals and are currently working with MOH officers to identify the next steps. A second mission has just been conducted by **Emmanuel Sokpo** to produce a Framework for Hospital Services, setting out MOH-GOSS principles and policies to guide the development of hospital services, as part of the Basic Package of Health Services for Southern Sudan.

7. Communication:

In March 2010 a communications consultant, **Daniel Harris**, completed an assessment of corporate communication and challenges to effective communication in Southern Sudan. A plan of action is being prepared as a result of the assessment, with a follow on mission planned for October 2010, to coincide with the 3rd Government of Southern Sudan Health Assembly (GOSSHA III), for which LATH has also been requested to help organise.

8. Health Performance Mapping of the States Ministries of Health

A team of five LATH international and national consultants together with State and MOH-GOSS staff carried out an assessment to provide an overview of the current state of affairs of the Southern Sudan health care system and to identify staff capacity building needs, as well as to discuss and agree on a road map for the LATH Technical Assistance to Health Priorities Programme in MOH-GOSS. The assessment was a descriptive study that used as much as possible, a participative methodology based on the analysis of qualitative and quantitative information from primary and secondary sources. Information was obtained by a combination of methods including an extensive document review, observation of county and State procedures and places of work, as well as healthcare centres and semi-structured interviews with key informants.