

Project Title	Support to and Impact Monitoring of DFID's Maternal and Newborn Health Programme in Zimbabwe
Client	UK Department for International Development (DFID)
Partners	Liverpool School of Tropical Medicine (LSTM), Maternal and Infant Health Care Strategies Unity of the Medical Research Council (MRC) South Africa, Royal College of Obstetrics and Gynaecologists (RGOG), Zimbabwe Health Training Support (ZHTS) White Ribbon Alliance as a supporting organisation
Year	2009 – 2012

Context

The DFID programme "Saving Maternal and Newborn Lives in the Context of HIV and AIDS programme" aims to save the lives of women in the two years during and after pregnancy and those of their newborn children. It builds on previous DFID support to reproductive and maternal health in Zimbabwe over the last 10 years. It aims to maintain universal access to family planning services, deliver essential obstetric care, including emergency obstetric care where it is needed, and improve the services available to HIV positive mothers and their newborns.

The Programme contributes to achievement of four MDG's. Goal 5, target 7 to reduce maternal mortality; Goal 6, Target 7, to reverse the spread of HIV and AIDS; Goal 3 on gender equality; and Goal 4, Target 5, to reduce under five mortality. It also delivers against Zimbabwe's National Maternal Mortality Reduction Plan (the Roadmap).

Programme Objectives

The DFID Programmes' main objectives are:

- To maintain and increase national access to family planning and reproductive health services;
- To improve evidence-based policy planning, budgeting and monitoring;
- To increase equitable access to quality antenatal and postnatal care with a particular focus on the specific needs of HIV positive mothers and their babies and;
- To improve access to life saving essential obstetric and newborn care.

LATH inputs to the programme are to support these objectives and monitor the impact of related activities.

Approach

LATH will provide the following services to the health service and research community of Zimbabwe

- a) Technical guidance in the area of improving access to lifesaving essential obstetric and newborn care;
- b) Deliver outcome and impact monitoring services for DFID's Maternal and Newborn Health programme preferably within the context of the national health information management system, track the results of the programme and lessons learned;
- c) Support the strengthening of the operational and policy environment in which the national road map for maternal and newborn health is delivered.
- d) Support the growing importance of maternal and newborn health in government policy and planning

- e) Support the establishment and practical work of a maternal and newborn health policy analysis and research unit in the University of Zimbabwe Medical School
- f) Manage DFIDs accountable grants and other funding arrangements established within the programme
- g) Work with the maternal health policy unit to track the resources available at referral, district and primary level for maternal and newborn health including human resources (retention, training, management and supervision), transportation and infrastructure, medical and surgical supplies and equipment.
- h) Work in cooperation with the maternal health policy unit to support targeted and selected community based operational research through NGO partners to develop policy on practical areas of support that would demonstrably improve maternal health outcomes in Zimbabwe emerging out of the Maternal and Newborn Mortality study.
- i) Take overall responsibility for ensuring output and outcome monitoring of the DFID project Saving Maternal and Newborn Lives is done drawing necessary material from programme partners, making a schedule for the work, collecting data and preparing the report.
- j) Complete an annual programme review including the review of the log-frame in compliance with DFID reporting obligations and in consultation with programme partners and DFID.
- k) Promote advocacy for maternal and newborn health within Zimbabwe and internationally through the dissemination of findings, development of plans for engagement in key advocacy opportunities, to prepare interventions that support the programme's (and the national roadmap's) policy goals.

Expected Outcomes

The main outcomes from LATHs support in Zimbabwe will be to enable DFID to demonstrate real change in the larger institutional and policy environment around the importance of reducing maternal and neonatal mortality in the health system in Zimbabwe.

The LATH Programme is working to strengthen partnerships with and between stakeholders and demonstrate the impact of DFIDs funding/interventions in Zimbabwe in the area of Child and Newborn Health. It should also show the impact of other interventions from internal funding and policies and other donor programmes, through its support of the maternal health policy unit.

Results to Date

During the first few months of this programme the LATH Programme Manager, Dr Rudolf Schumacher, has been working with the grant partners and DFID in the development of the strategy for this programme going forward. A draft inception report and draft workplan have been submitted. A draft terms of reference for the Maternal and Newborn Health Policy Analysis and Research Unit in the University of Zimbabwe Medical School has also been developed.