

**MIYCN/FP Integration Working Group  
Meeting Minutes**

**October 22, 2013  
9:00 am – 2:30 pm  
MCHIP Office**

**Attendance**

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22 people from 12 organizations were present.

- 1) Shelly Amieva – FHI 360/FANTA
- 2) Kristina Beall – JSI/SPRING
- 3) Holly Blanchard – Jhpiego/MCHIP
- 4) Dennis Cherian – World Vision
- 5) Emma Clark – International Medical Corps (IMC)
- 6) Chelsea Cooper – Jhpiego/MCHIP
- 7) Laurette Cucuzza – Plan
- 8) Shannon Downey – CORE Group
- 9) Heather Forrester – Pathfinder International/E2A
- 10) Rae Galloway – PATH/MCHIP
- 11) Agnes Guyon – JSI/SPRING
- 12) Joan Jennings – Save the Children
- 13) Justine Kavle – PATH/MCHIP
- 14) Ghada Khan – PATH/GWU
- 15) Rose Khasiala-Amolo – Consultant
- 16) Peggy Koniz-Booher – JSI/SPRING
- 17) Devon Mackenzie – Jhpiego/MCHIP
- 18) Lisa Nichols – Abt Associates
- 19) Anne Pfitzer – Jhpiego/MCHIP
- 20) Michelle Prosser – Save the Children
- 21) Rushna Ravji – USAID
- 22) Kathryn Reider – World Vision

## Highlights

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### Welcome & Review of Minutes from May Meeting – Holly Blanchard, MCHIP

- Welcome to all the working group members attending the meeting
- Review of meeting minutes from last meeting

### SPRING Update – Peggy Koniz-Booher, SPRING

- SPRING is beginning work in the Sahel region and the need for integrating family planning with nutrition programming is becoming increasingly clear as the region has incredibly high fertility rates which inhibit improvements in nutritional outcomes. The scope of our work is still evolving but we are certainly looking to initiate work on integrating MIYCN-FP and will keep the working group in the loop as things progress.
- We are continuing our work with Digital Green in India on using low cost video technology to promote social and behavior change around nutrition in rural agriculture communities. The first ten videos created focused specifically on MIYCN content but the communities have expressed a desire for more videos and we are exploring adding family planning content as well as this program scales up.
- The SPRING IYCF and Counseling Training packages for community and health workers, currently adapted in Haiti and Nigeria (as presented at the CORE Group meeting), include some FP but could be strengthened more. Holly volunteered to help SPRING strengthen the FP components of our packages when we have an opportunity to update them.

### LAM WHO Medical Eligibility Criteria Update – Justine Kavle, MCHIP

- WHO is reviewing evidence to update the Medical Eligibility Criteria (MEC) for LAM.
  - The MEC included LAM but had a very small description, no table (as it has for other contraceptive methods, including level of risk), LAM was not included in the contraceptive wheel endorsed by WHO, and a systematic literature review was never completed
  - MIYCN-FP Working Group developed a summary of programmatic evidence to submit to WHO, including evidence from the Healthy Fertility Study (HFS) in Bangladesh, supporting including the MEC for LAM in the WHO's *Medical Eligibility Criteria for Contraceptive Use*
  - Through discussion, the group noted that there is in fact a Cochrane review on LAM from 2003 ("Lactational amenorrhea for family planning," see <http://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pubmedhealth/PMH0010987/>)
- The MIYCN-FP Working Group believes that if guidelines on LAM criteria and use are included as part of the WHO MEC, a globally accepted reference, health-workers may be more inclined to promote it
  - Goal is to operationalize LAM so that it can be used
  - Should emphasize transition to other modern methods

#### ➔ Next steps

- Agnes suggested forwarding the package to Francesca as Carmen is retiring.

- Suggestion – Justine could author a blog for the Gates Impatient Optimists or similar site, making the case in lay terms (could summarize HFS findings on PPF and LAM counseling and impact on exclusive breastfeeding rate)
- Panel at the International Family Planning Conference –Healthy Fertility Study results are being presented at the ICFP in Ethiopia

**Presentation: FP Counseling during Nutrition Weeks in Mali – Lisa Nichols, Abt Associates**

- Pilot activity – Abt partnered with HKI, JHU-CCP, IntraHealth, and Groupe Pivot/Sante Population (a local group) to integrate FP counseling into national nutrition weeks (NNW) in Mali.
  - NNW is held every six months at fixed sites (CSCOM) and provides over 70% of women in the immediate postpartum period with vitamin A and deworming capsules (80,000 postpartum women covered by national nutrition weeks)
  - Integration activity was implemented in one district through two phases: Began July 2011 in 6 health sub-districts, expanding in December 2011 to 29 sub-districts
  - Aims: Test integration and acceptance of FP messages in NNW setting, use nutrition (exclusive breastfeeding, infant health) as a “gateway” to discuss FP and return to fertility, and reinforce linkages between community and health centers
- Implementation
  - Integration of FP messages and counseling, not actual FP services/distribution
  - During FP counseling, women referred to CSCOMs for FP were given plastic tickets to track follow-up at health centers (tickets were so popular that some CSCOMs have printed their own plastic tickets; can serve as an incentive – for example, in some centers they allowed people with plastic tickets to skip to the head of the line)
  - Low literacy context – radio was key; broadcast messages on rural radio (joint initiative with the Ministry of Social Affairs) and did training in interpersonal communication on FP
- Results
  - Over 98% of the women in the immediate postpartum period (first 40 days) who were reached by NNWs participated in interpersonal counseling sessions on FP
  - Significant increase in the number of new FP users from the period six months before pilot (Jan-June 2011) compared to six months after pilot (Jan-June 2012)
  - Got a number of women receiving FP counseling who weren’t immediate postpartum as well
- Future Considerations / Discussion
  - Spontaneous integration: During a recent trip to Mali, Anne Pfitzer noticed a spike in implants during January 2013 in 4 of 7 CSCOMs which was attributed to nutrition weeks – some of the sites had decided to make FP free that week
  - Movement to eradicate polio may shift attention from national nutrition weeks; a lot of resources are going to polio immunization days and nutrition weeks have been absorbed into that
  - DFID is very interested in nutrition being incorporated into FP

## **Presentation: Timed & Targeted Counseling (TTC) – Kathryn Reider, World Vision**

- TTC approach is series of household visits with corresponding counseling messages to be given at the appropriate times (originally designed with 10 visits, now 11)
  - Extends primary health care counseling to the household level through community health workers (CHWs) and volunteers; cohort and lifecycle approach targeting the whole household
  - Core intervention topics are related to pregnant women and children 0 to 24 months and include nutrition, maternal and newborn health, malaria prevention, family planning, immunization, etc. (see PowerPoint presentation for details)
    - World Vision tries to do assessment in community beforehand to figure out which practices to emphasize
    - Timed and targeted messages – not too early to have difficulty recalling at the appropriate time, not too late to act on
    - While originally potentially targeted towards even newly-married women, the package now really starts with antenatal care (ANC); gets into FP at 8-9 month visit
    - Exclusive breastfeeding, LAM, and birth spacing messages brought into the visit during week 1 after birth
- Results from India (see PowerPoint for graphs)
  - Complementary feeding and vitamin A supplementation increased dramatically
  - Knowledge of FP sources increased a lot, but use did not increase as much
  - Immunization dropouts went down

## **Review MIYCN-FP Toolkit & Update on Use – Holly Blanchard, MCHIP**

- Overview of web stats (from May 7, 2012 to October 8, 2013)
  - MIYCN-FP Toolkit visitors have gone down this year compared to last year: 1,854 visits in 2012 down to 1,213 visits over same time period this year
  - Most visitors from United States (1,633), Kenya (246), and India (224), though SAVE did a MIYCN-FP event in Ethiopia, after which the toolkit got a lot of hits from Ethiopia
  - Not much info in French on it yet so not much use in Francophone countries
  - Google analytics showed a lot of visits June 3<sup>rd</sup> to 9<sup>th</sup> 2012 but not sure why the jump (possible that CORE group followed Toolkit launch at spring meeting with announcement to listserv; other partners may have sent out info)

### **→ Next steps**

1. Need to disseminate info about the Toolkit to encourage use
  - Suggestion: Hold a webinar on the MIYCN-FP toolkit and set the date sometime around the CORE group meeting
2. Ensure Toolkit is updated at least every 6 months e.g. prior to CORE group meetings (next one is beginning of May 2014)

- Task subgroups to be responsible for updates to each section (K4H has worksheets on how to review and update toolkits)
  - Update the map of MIYCN-FP activities and projects
  - Advancing communities project – link RFAs to toolkit
  - Promote what’s NEW in the toolkit, highlighting it on the home page or through direct links
  - Convene another MIYCN-FP working group meeting in new year on updating the Toolkit
  - Note: Send updates for the Toolkit to Kristina and Devon, who will compile and post (after confirming these updates with COP Working Group)
3. Find ways to address concerns and barriers to use
- The toolkits do not PDF well (e.g. via the link on the landing page to PDF all the toolkit pages)
  - Internet bandwidth is barrier to use, people get frustrated trying to find what they’re looking for as they have to keep clicking through and waiting for pages to load
  - Suggestion: Create a CD version of the toolkit page text as well as all resource documents for offline access

### **Discussion on Using the Community of Practice – Kristina Beall, SPRING**

- Kristina provided an overview of the MIYCN-FP Community of Practice website: <https://knowledge-gateway.org/miycnfp>
- Outreach – other projects are collecting information on MIYCN-FP, results should be shared with the Community of Practice and brought into the Toolkit
  - Health Policy Project (HPP) is looking at evidence for integrating FP into food security, nutrition – room for bibliography / evidence section to be updated
  - FANTA project (FHI360) is working on a desk review on promising practices for integration of family planning into food security and nutrition programs
  - These are two separate activities but will be brought together through a technical consultation next May 2014

#### **→ Next steps**

- Resend info on what the MIYCN-FP Community of Practice website is and how to log in to all members
- Link Toolkit to MIYCN-FP Community of Practice and add MIYCN-FP Working Group tab to toolkit with meeting reports etc.
- Engage representatives from the projects identified by HPP and FANTA to share resources and information with COP; update Toolkit with country experiences
- Make sure all sub-group main files are uploaded to the site library
- Create/update info sheet for community of practice to invite people (including information on how many people are in the working group, how many organizations represented, etc.)

## Intro to Small Groups & Update from M&E Group – Devon Mackenzie, MCHIP

- Existing sub-groups:
  - [Dissemination](#)
  - [Documentation of Field Experiences and Results](#)
  - [Engaging HIV](#)
  - [Engaging Nutrition](#)
  - [HTSP and Engaging Adolescents](#)
  - [M&E](#)
  - [SBCC](#)
  
- M&E subgroup update
  - Leaders: Jennifer Yourkavitch & Leah Elliott (pending project approval)
  - Goal: Advance rational measurement of integrated programming
  - Activities:
    - Review and update existing MIYCN-FP indicators list to highlight core indicators that should be included for all integrated programs
    - Review and update existing MIYCN-FP conceptual framework – this has been drafted and will be circulated to the community of practice for feedback; final version will be uploaded to the M&E tab on the Toolkit
    - Create briefing paper providing guidance on M&E for MIYCN-FP
  - Coordination: Subgroup arranged and holds monthly standing phone calls to work on and coordinate activities
  
- Small group work
  - Each sub-working group was asked to review their sub-group form from the last meeting (which contains a list of the members, goals, activities, and proposed products, as well as toolkit dissemination efforts), discuss plans for working together as a group to accomplish these activities, and identify which sections of the Toolkit they could work on updating

## Small Group Report Out – Devon Mackenzie, MCHIP

- Each small group reported on their proposed activities and timelines for working together
  
- ➔ Next steps
  - Subgroup leaders will each post their updated small group forms to their subgroup section in the Community of Practice website
  - Devon and Kristina to email information about the subgroups with instructions on how to join to the overall Community of Practice, for members who have not attended a recent meeting but want to get involved

## Closing and Next Steps – Agnes Guyon, SPRING

- Next meeting tentatively set for the week of February 17<sup>th</sup> – the focus will be to prepare updates to the Toolkit (based on subgroup inputs) before the CORE group spring meeting
- Please stay engaged via the Community of Practice: <http://knowledge-gateway.org/miycnfp>

- Anyone can send out an e-mail to the MICYN-FP community of practice using:  
[miycnfp@my.ibpinitiative.org](mailto:miycnfp@my.ibpinitiative.org)

Please contact Devon ([devon.mackenzie@jhpiego.org](mailto:devon.mackenzie@jhpiego.org)) or Kristina ([kristina\\_beall@jsi.com](mailto:kristina_beall@jsi.com)) if you have any problems accessing the MIYCN-FP Community of Practice on the Knowledge Gateway.