Collaboration with Malawi and H4 on: Strengthening MNCH Systems to Improve Maternal & Perinatal Health Outcomes

Perspectives, Priorities and Potential Contributions:

CDC Global Perinatal Integration Working Group (GPIWG)
Global Perinatal Integration Working Group

- **What is the GPIWG?**
  - A cross-cutting body of CDC technical experts that draw on their collective public health expertise **to advance the science and delivery of comprehensive, integrated maternal newborn and early child health services globally**

- **GPIWG Members**
  - Enthusiastic team of technical representatives from **18 CDC Divisions** involved in global MNCH research and program meeting since 2007
  - Mainly **technical staff** involved in disease-focused or other (e.g., RH) specific program areas c/w CDC’s structure, and **with a shared vision of contributing to larger MNCH goals** through integration of program interventions when appropriate and possible
Global Perinatal Integration Working Group

**WG Focus**

- *Not strictly “perinatal”* – but on mothers and newborn infants through early childhood, with an emphasis on interventions for pregnancy and delivery, post-partum and beyond

**WG Goals include**

- To support development and implementation of quality-assured interventions that improve maternal, newborn and child health outcomes
- To promote and conduct evaluation research around integration of MNCH services, i.e., to contribute to the science base on integrated MNCH efforts
- To provide technical assistance as needed on a wide range of specific MNCH interventions and on effectively integrating interventions
Malawi/H4 Collaboration: Perspectives

- The GPIWG is excited to support Malawi in implementing, ensuring quality and evaluating one or more evidenced-based MCH interventions and practices.

- Ideally, the approach would:
  - use a “package” of evidence-based interventions
  - have opportunities to try out interventions together to identify challenges (possibly using a phased approach)
  - support the existing ANC and Labor/Delivery (and as possible Post Partum) services
  - involve ongoing and iterative surveillance, monitoring and evaluation
  - support and enhance the capacity of the existing workforce, health system and community
  - lead to reports that build the evidence-basis for integration of certain MCH activities (emphasis – “get the message out”)
Malawi/H4 Collaboration -- Needs

GPIWG Needs:

- Clear understanding of roles and responsibilities, including timeline
- Funding for any required travel for technical staff (technical visits to be determined in the process)
Malawi/H4 Collaboration -- Potential

Potential contributions of GPIWG:

- WG has depth and breadth
  - Technical expertise on surveillance, M&E, a range of specific evidence-based technical interventions; representatives across CDC Divisions
- Members come from a variety of disciplines
  - Clinicians, laboratory scientists, epidemiologists, behavioral scientists, statisticians, public health advisors, policy experts and health economists
- Several members have worked with closely with Malawi currently or in the past
  - GAP, Malaria, Safe Water, Reproductive Health, TB, STD, Hepatitis, SMDP
- WG can support several aspects of activity: planning, evaluation, reporting, training on integrated interventions at systems, facility (e.g., ANC, L&D, PP) and community levels
Malawi/H4 Collaboration: Potential

GPIWG has potential to support the Malawi, H4 and other partners in several areas, e.g.,

- Developing an appropriate and feasible “package” of interventions, and means of coordinating and linking them
  - Assessing baseline services, needs, surveillance data, linkages, etc. with local communities, Malawi MOH and other partners
  - Pilot testing feasibility of intervention packages

- Enhancing or developing iterative and ongoing surveillance, monitoring & evaluation of the integrated activity that can measure *quality, coverage* and (if possible) *impact* of intervention package, and rapid feed back of results to program
  - Identifying and assessing feasibility of data elements, collection processes
  - Ensuring quality and fidelity of the interventions
  - Supporting the project in reporting back results to the MOH, H4 and larger MNCH community
**Examples of Specific Types of Support***

**Planning and Systems Levels**

- Support in defining a conceptual framework or model on integrated intervention/evaluation needs and developing protocols
- Identification of key indicators/outcome variables (i.e., critical program outcomes for specific interventions TBD and for integrated program) and evaluation plan
- Technical assistance (TA) in
  - developing standard operating procedures and tools
  - strengthening existing program data collection systems to allow evaluation of integrated model(s)
  - training for HCPs or Trainers on specific interventions TBD, on integrated interventions; strengthening professional regulatory boards and certification
  - strengthening diagnostic laboratory services through training and ongoing QA/QC monitoring
  - enhancing health systems capacity for process improvement around MCH services (e.g., using SMDP models)

* Have technical representation in GPIWG
Examples of specific technical elements for GPIWG support using continuum of care model*

Antenatal Clinic Visits
- Comprehensive PMTCT+
- Safe water, hygiene
- IPT malaria, ITNs
- Maternal syphilis testing, and “STAT”; partner treatment
- Nutrition, vitamins, supplements
- Safe delivery plan/kit, early warning signs, anemia screening
- Screen for TB, preeclampsia

Post Partum Visits
- Comprehensive PMTCT+
- Support for breastfeeding
- Education on nutrition, vitamin supplementation
- Safe water, hygiene
- Modern contraception, LARC
- Establishing needed linkages (e.g., HIV, TB treatment)

Women’s Health
- Family planning including LARC, birth spacing
- Other RH/STI services
- Adequate nutrition, safe water
- HIV testing, links to HIV care
- TB screening
- Cervical cancer screening; HPV vaccine
- Safe blood supply (community)

Labor and Delivery
- Improved L&D services
- Treatment of sepsis
- Anti-hemorrhage drugs
- Essential OB care; skilled attendants and clean delivery kits
- Emergency OB care
- Safe blood supply
- Neonatal resuscitation

Postnatal Care
- Hygienic cord care
- Thermal care
- Comprehensive PMTCT+
- Breastfeeding
- Birth dose hepatitis B vaccine

Infant/child visits
- Child immunizations
- Comprehensive PMTCT+ and pediatric HIV care
- Safe water, ORT
- Growth curves, nutrition

Post Partum Visits
- Hygienic cord care
- Thermal care
- Comprehensive PMTCT+
- Breastfeeding
- Birth dose hepatitis B vaccine

*Technical representation on GPIWG
Some Additional Thoughts

- Are there clear data on right interventions needed for Malawi to do to prevent maternal and infant deaths and disability?
  - Do we know what is working/not working on the ground, and why or why not?
- How can we best support Malawi to coordinate interventions without overwhelming health providers?
  - Important to consider positive as well as negative effects of integrated interventions
- Are there interventions that also act as incentives to bring people into ANC care and other MNCH services?
- How can we best support Malawi/partners to do interventions right (i.e., fidelity of interventions)?
- Are there opportunities to assess the overall impact of such an integrated program on maternal and health outcomes?

The GPIWG is excited to help in this effort!!
Some examples of Intervention Elements for an integrated ANC, L&D and PP package*

At the ANC Services Level

- Comprehensive PMTCT+ programs to reduce mother-to-child HIV transmission to reduce maternal and infant morbidity and mortality caused by HIV
- Integrating water treatment and hygiene promotion with ANC to reduce diarrhea risk and associated health outcomes, and motivate ANC service use
- Intermittent preventive treatment and long acting ITNs to prevent adverse pregnancy outcomes caused by maternal malaria infection
- Maternal syphilis testing at 1st pregnancy visit with same day treatment of women testing positive (“STAT”) to reduce adverse pregnancy outcomes caused by syphilis and improve maternal health; partner treatment
- Promoting Safe Delivery Plans, including transportation options developed during ANC; training on early warning signs; anemia screening.
- Scaling up TB screening and integrated TB activities during ANC to reduce TB-related morbidity and mortality in pregnant women

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Some examples of Intervention Elements for an integrated ANC, L&D and PP package*

At Delivery, Post Partum and Beyond

- Improved labor and delivery services, including promotion of emergency obstetrical care strategies; Safe blood supply
- Integrating modern contraception, including LARC into PMTCT, antenatal and labor and delivery services to reduce unintended pregnancy
- Comprehensive PMTCT services, with quality assurance for follow up referrals for women and infants; promotion of safe feeding options
- Administration of a birth dose of hepatitis B vaccine to reduce perinatal and infant-acquired chronic hepatitis B virus
- Ensuring recommended childhood immunizations to reduce vaccine preventable diseases in children
- Following infant growth curves, and ensuring adequate nutrition, supplements and vitamins for infants, mothers (and families) to promote maternal and child health
- Integrating water treatment and hygiene promotion in PP, immunization and follow up HIV/TB visits to reduce diarrhea risk and associated health outcomes, and motivate return for other health visits

* Have technical representation in GPIWG
Other examples of potential GPIWG support*

In the Community

- Improved information and advocacy on labor and delivery services, including community-appropriate options in case of emergencies (e.g., identification of transportation, safe stay houses).
- TA to support promotion of blood safety and effective blood donation referral options in the community
- TA in high quality family planning, including LARC, and RH/STI services
- Support for communications systems or networks (e.g., cell phone options)
- Community outreach and peer education models supporting enhanced MNCH services

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