

Project Title	Technical Assistance to Health Priorities Programme, South Sudan
Client	Ministry of Health, Government of South Sudan
Year	2008-2011

Context

To date, resources and expertise for administering the health sector have been insufficient and largely dependent on external assistance. Given the current need to coordinate the expansion of health service delivery and to adopt coherent policies and reliable systems in the medium term, the demands on the Government of South Sudan (GoSS) MOH and the State MOH (SMOH) would be considerable in any environment. Where both physical and administrative infrastructure needs to be almost entirely rebuilt, the challenge is immense, and ministries at GoSS and state levels will require technical assistance to strengthen their capacity to manage health policy-making and coordination, enhance stakeholder communication and participation in sectoral reforms, and improve skills to mobilize resources and implement actions to effect policy change.

Programme Objectives

LATH is providing technical support to this three year programme of work in support of the Ministry of Health's (MOH) sector development plan. The programme is providing a framework for strengthening the sector's managerial capacities, developing essential health care delivery systems, and increasing the population's access to basic health services. The principal objective of this contract is to assist GoSS, MOH and the SMOH in the analysis and formulation of a range of priority policies, the implementation of key health service delivery modalities, and the establishment of a solid, empirical basis for sector development. LATH is supporting the following technical areas:

- (i) Policy-making, planning, legislation and regulation;
- (ii) Human resource development;
- (iii) Health sector financing
- (iv) Service delivery strengthening.

Approach

Dr. Simon Gould has been appointed by LATH as Programme Manager and took up post on the 1st October 2009 based in Juba. We have completed a three month Inception Phase during which time LATH set up offices and recruited key staff.

Activities in year 1 have included:

- Health performance mapping of State Ministries of Health in Southern Sudan
- Completed inception report and planning of workplan activities for the early stages of implementation
- Recruitment of a short term health planning expert to support the MoH-GoSS in producing the midterm report and draft budget sector plan
- Engagement of executive support within the MoH

- Engagement of a Health Economist/Planning Specialist to support the MoH planning Unit
- Provision of ongoing management and technical support to the MoH from LATH HQ

Expected Programme Outcomes

- 1) Improved MOH stewardship role in the health sector to strengthen policy analysis, strategy formulation, and pilot testing to provide an empirical basis for implementing sector reforms
- 2) MOH departments at GoSS level to develop necessary legislation and regulation of health services
- 3) Strengthened operations and functions of the Department of Human Resources, in particular with respect to formulation of and advice to MoH management on appropriate human resource policies and strategies, which are consistent with GoSS directives
- 4) Strengthened operations and functions of the Departments of Planning and Administration and Finance and the Departments of Primary Health Care and Preventive Medicine.