

PROJECT-SPECIFIC ACTIVITIES

Results & Progress

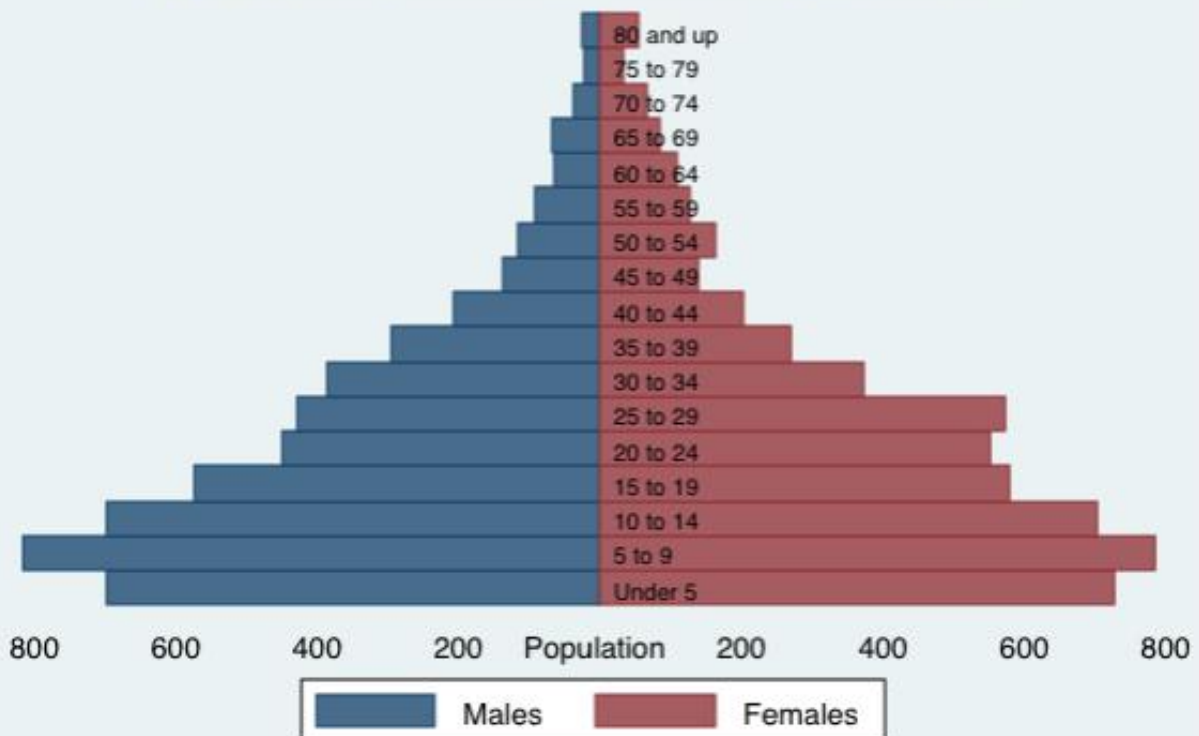
Please see attached PF and RMAF using the provided template.

Challenges and Lessons Learned (0.5-1 page)

The CommCare ECD: Mobile Technology and Community Health Workers for Early Childhood Development is a successor project to the “Mobile phones for integrated early childhood care and development services” project that was sponsored by UBS Optimus Foundation. Start-up of this project has therefore been very smooth with few major obstacles. However, with the increased resources from Grand Challenges Canada, our aspirations and expectations have expanded, and this has raised a few challenges. Some of the challenges met during the six months implementation period were as follows:

1. Sampling frame – In order to select a representative sample of households/children for inclusion in the baseline survey, a sampling frame was necessary. However, up-to-date census data were not available. Thus, we elected to carry out a comprehensive census during January-March 2014. We identified and enumerated the 3,020 households in our designated catchment area. For each household, we enumerated all household members, including variables for age, sex, and pregnancy status. We have been very pleased with the exercise and can now draw a representative sample with great confidence. The census has revealed a total catchment area population of 11,779 individuals. Please see the population pyramid below for the age/sex breakdown of the population. Among the 3,020 households, 1,236 households (40.9%) have at least one child under age 5 years or one currently pregnant woman. In total, there are 1,720 total children under age 5 in the catchment area as well 138 pregnant women. The 1,236 households belong to 842 unique compounds.

Ugunja Sub-Location Population by Age, 2014



Source: Ugunja Community Resource Centre, 2014

2. Delay in training of 10 CHWs in CommCare:ECD:Provider – There has been a delay in testing the ECD modules with the CHWs due to hardware challenges. The ECD module was not compatible with the Nokia phone. The project team has opted to use an Android (Moto G) phone which is working well unfortunately the same is not available in the Kenyan market and thus we are awaiting further availability. The initial batch of Moto G phones was procured from the US.
3. Delay in recruitment of some project staff - The recruitment of additional staff for the project has been slow since we did not get those people whose skills matched the project expectations locally. To help address this challenge, the project team widened the area of recruitment beyond Ugunja and tapped on jobs databases provided by partner organizations. We have currently shortlisted applicants for possible considerations.

Early Results (0.5 page)

This project has achieved some early results and is promising to meet all expectations. Some of the quick results realized so far include:

1. Capacity building of target community through awareness sessions. All the key stakeholders' community members, Ministry of Health, opinion leaders and local

government are aware of the project and are willing to provide support for its success. The awareness was raised through community meetings and reach out to different stakeholders.

2. The project has had success in development of CommCare:ECD:Provider. The CommCare ECD module has been developed and is ready for piloting and eventual roll out as planned.

Next Steps (0.5 page)

In the next six months of the project implementation, we are looking forward to rolling out the following activities:

1. Conduct CHW and household baseline surveys – The baseline process has started with the project team conducting a comprehensive census in the project area. We are now finalizing the household survey instrument to assess baseline status of ECD indicators.
2. Train CHWs in CommCare:ECD:Provider.
3. Launch randomized controlled trial, in which 50% of eligible compounds will be supported by CHWs using CommCare:ECD:Provider, whereas the remaining 50% of eligible compounds will be supported by CHWs using our “basic” (non-ECD) CommCare software.
4. Continue developing CommCare:ECD manual - This activity will mainly involve piloting and continuous improvement of the CommCare ECD modules and their applicability.
5. Procure hardware (phones) – This activity will be about acquiring the appropriate hardware technology i.e. phones, solar chargers, etc.
6. Finalize monitoring and evaluation plan in coordination with data generated from CommCare:ECD:Provider.

Post-Grant Plans (1 page)

The project is at its early stages of implementation and thus we hope to document innovations for possible scale up as we go along. However, this project is very viable and has a great opportunity for replication across Kenya.

Other Accomplishments (0.5 page)

None.

Dissemination

We have not had much effort towards disseminating project activities since we are at the setup stage. Our efforts to disseminate the project activities have thus far been limited to stakeholders' awareness sessions and participation in the conferences organized by Grand Challenges Canada. We are looking forward to doing more of dissemination in the next phase of our project.