In 2011, the Norwegian Agency for Development Cooperation (Norad) made a commitment to fund the Innovation Working Group (IWG) Catalytic mHealth Grants Program to improve maternal, newborn, and child health in support of the UN Secretary General’s Every Woman, Every Child global strategy. This mechanism is managed by the United Nations Foundation, which provides the direct grant scale-up funding to 26 projects across 15 countries. Selected projects are ones which have demonstrated potential for scale-up of previously evaluated evidence-based mHealth strategies for improving maternal, newborn and child health. World Health Organization-Reproductive Health and Research (WHO-RHR) provides technical assistance to this mechanism in assisting the selected projects achieve objectives related to scale, partnership-building, and generating knowledge and best practices relevant to the broader health community. WHO-RHR’s role in this initiative includes the development of core evaluation capacities of the IWG innovation projects; provision of technical support to IWG innovation projects on aspects that related to scale up and sustainability; and identification of best practices for implementation and evaluation of scale and sustainability across the different rounds of IWG mHealth projects.

15 countries: Cameroun, Ghana, India, Kenya, Mali, Malawi, Nepal, Nigeria, Tanzania, Pakistan, Rwanda, Senegal, South Africa, Uganda, Vietnam,

Development of mHealth Scale-Up Framework for guiding and improving the scale up of mHealth innovations. The MAPS (mHealth Assessment and Planning for Scale) Tool is a project self-assessment instrument that emerged from the recognition of general gaps in the current literature surrounding scale-up.

Provision of Monitoring and Evaluation Technical Assistance in collaboration with Johns Hopkins University (JHU) Global mHealth Initiative (GmI) based on projects’ research needs and global evidence gaps.

Joint Learning Workshops hosted in collaboration with UNF to assist grantees on tackling identified priority thematic areas related to the scale up process.

Development of generic resource tools to benefit the broader mHealth community focused on reproductive, maternal or child health. The projected tools include an M&E workbook, guide for engaging with mobile network operators, and documentation on engagement with government for institutionalization of projects.

United Nations Foundation, Johns Hopkins University Global mHealth Initiative

UNFIP

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Contact reproductivehealth@who.int http://www.who.int/reproductivehealth/en/