

## ASPH Fellows Attend International Project Officer Training in Maputo, Mozambique

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May 2010

From April 12<sup>th</sup> to April 15<sup>th</sup>, ASPH/CDC Allan Rosenfield Global Health Fellows Zara Ahmed, Krysta Gerndt and Jason Houdek participated in the CDC's International Project Officer training course in Maputo, Mozambique. The Fellows, all of whom are specializing in program management, came to Mozambique from their posts in Rwanda, Namibia and Nigeria, joining CDC staff members from five other countries. The goal of the course was to provide the participants with the knowledge and tools necessary for them to establish, monitor, support, and evaluate contracts and cooperative agreements. Topics covered during the training included the processes for developing new funding opportunities and selecting the most suitable candidates to award them to; strategies for effectively and appropriately supporting implementing partners; the roles of field teams, project officers, and supporting units of CDC, and the relationships between them; ethics and government regulations; and the responsibilities of technical staff in the management and oversight of contracts and cooperative agreements before, during, and after the project period.

In addition to the material covered, the course also offered an opportunity for the Fellows to network with CDC staff from other offices, discuss and compare various projects, brainstorm with colleagues to develop potential new awards or activities, and learn about career opportunities within CDC. Fellowship alumni Peter Young (Mozambique) and Seth Greenberg (Vietnam), both of whom are now contractors in CDC field offices, were also in Maputo and met with the current Fellows to offer advice on the fellowship experience and describe their transition to CDC contractors.

The Fellows found both the course and informal discussions extremely informative and enlightening. They took home a greater understanding of their roles and responsibilities as activity managers and project coordinators, as well as a broader knowledge of the opportunities their countries have for innovative and dynamic programming. The course also contributed directly to the development of their expertise in program management, making them an even greater asset to their country teams. Finally, through this course and the friendships that grew during the week, the Fellows were able to learn more about the potential career paths they can embark on the end of their assignments and how they may be able to best contribute to the CDC's global health efforts.