

PEPFAR Ethiopia In-Country Reporting System (IRS)
Reporting Template

Development Alternatives Inc. (DAI)
QUARTERLY PROGRESS REPORT FOR

PROGRESS REPORT FOR

FY2011

(Q 3)
(APR 2011 - JUN 2011)

CONTACT INFO FOR THIS REPORT:

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LIST OF ACRONYMS

AEO	Assistant Extension Officer
AIDS	Acquired Immunodeficiency Syndrome
CC	Cluster Coordinator
CM	Community Mobilizer
COP	Chief of Party
COTR	Contracting Officer's Technical Representative
CVDA	Common Vision Development Association
DAI	Development Alternatives, Inc
DCOP	Deputy Chief of Party
DG	Discussion Group
EMMP	Environmental Management & Mitigation Plan
EO	Extension Officer
FGAE	Family Guidance Association Ethiopia
GD	Group Discussion
GO	Government Organization
GSLA	Group Saving and Loan
HDW	Hand-dug Well
HIV	Human Immunodeficiency Virus
ICEDA	Integrated Community Education and Development Association
IEE	Initial Environmental Examination
ILRI	International Livestock Research Institute
INGO	International Non-governmental Organization
IP	Implementing Partner
IYCN	Infant and Young Child Nutrition
JHU	Johns Hopkins University
M&E	Monitoring and Evaluation
NGO	Non-governmental Organization
OAC	Operational Area Coordinator
OVC	Orphans and Vulnerable Children
PEPFAR	The President's Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief
SWDA	Social Welfare Development Association
UGP	Urban Gardens Program
USAID	United States Agency for International Development

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I. Reporting period

From April 1, 2011	To June 30, 2011
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2. Publications/reports

Did your organization support the production of publications, reports, guidelines or assessments during the reporting period?

No/Not Applicable

Yes If yes, please list below:

Publications/Reports/Assessments/Curriculums

Title	Author	Date
Summer School Plan	Biniam Habtewold	June 1, 2011
Second Version of Garden Dialogues in English and Amharic	USAID UGP Technical Team	April 28, 2011

If Yes, Please attach an electronic copy of each document as part of your submission.

3. Technical assistance

Did your organization utilize short-term technical assistance during the reporting period?

No/Not Applicable

Yes Please list below:

Consultants/TDYers

Name	Arrival	Departure	Organization	Type of Technical assistance provided
Nicholas Parkinson	4/26/11	6/15/11	ECI Africa	Publications Support
Thomas Cole	4/24/11	5/17/11	ECI Africa	Technical Training Support
Caesar Layton	3/14/11	4/1/11	DAI	Management Support
Caesar Layton	4/27/11	5/4/11	DAI	Management Support
Alyson Lipsky	3/25/11	4/16/11	DAI	M&E and Nutrition Support

If Yes, Please attach an electronic copy of the TA report as part of your submission.

4. Travel and Visits

Did your organization support international travel during the reporting period?

No/Not Applicable

Yes Please list below:

International Travel (All international travel to conference, workshops, trainings, HQ or meetings).

Name	Destination	Departure from Ethiopia	Arrival	Host Organization	Purpose of the travel

Have any Monitoring Visit/supervision been made to your program during the reporting period?

Description of Monitoring team	Start date	End date	Sites visited	Written recommendations provided
Keith Hourihan* Jon Blashford*	4/2/11	4/12/11	Addis	
Therese Hermes*	4/10/11	5/5/11	Addis	

* DAI-sponsored activities; resulted in revised procurement strategy.

5. Activity

Program Area (Tick all which apply)	Activity ID	Activity Title (Please write the title of the activity)
<input type="checkbox"/> 01-PMTCT		
<input type="checkbox"/> 02-HVAB		
<input type="checkbox"/> 03-HVOP		
<input type="checkbox"/> 04-HMBL		
<input type="checkbox"/> 05-HMIN		
<input type="checkbox"/> 07-CIRC		
<input type="checkbox"/> 08-HBHC		
<input type="checkbox"/> 09-HTXS		
<input type="checkbox"/> 10-HVTB		
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 11-HKID		CARE: OVC
<input type="checkbox"/> 12-HVCT		
<input type="checkbox"/> 13-PDTX		
<input type="checkbox"/> 14-PDCS		
<input type="checkbox"/> 15-HTXD		
<input type="checkbox"/> 16-HLAB		
<input type="checkbox"/> 17-HVSI		
<input type="checkbox"/> 18-OHSS		

6. Accomplishments and successes during the reporting period

Please write a narrative for each Program Area with explanations for under and over achievements

I. OVC Care and Support

During April- June 2011 quarter, US Agency for International Development's (USAID) Urban Gardens Program (UGP) has reached 70,828 orphans and vulnerable children (OVC) directly and indirectly; 11,832 are directly involved in gardening activities established in schools or other institutions. More than 58,996 OVC were reached indirectly through support to households (8,210 adult gardener/caretakers or 11,832 OVC gardeners). Further, USAID UGP has achieved the following predetermined targets for the President's Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief (PEPFAR): USAID UGP has not yet met the target for number of providers/caregivers trained in caring for OVC, but it is expected that this will be achieved by the end of the program year. For targets and results, please see *Summary Table of Key PEPFAR Indicators* below. Additional indicators are located in the *Appendix* at the end of the report.

Summary Table of Key PEPFAR Indicators

Indicator	Year Three Target	Q3 Result	Variance
Number of Households participating in USAID UGP	15,334	20,042	+4,708
Number of OVC Served by OVC programs, primarily or supplemental direct	44,375	70,828	+26,453
Number of providers / caregivers trained in caring for OVC	12,150	3735	-8,415
Number of local organizations provided with technical assistance for HIV-related institutional capacity building	50	51	+1
Number of individuals trained in HIV-related stigma and discrimination reduction	743	5092	+4,349
Number of individuals trained in HIV-related community mobilization for prevention care and / or treatment	743	5092	+4,349

Summer planning for schools

As per the Ministry of Education schedule, all Ethiopian schools will be closed for summer vacation, which begins the last week in June. Thus, it is crucial to prepare a plan for the summer so that OVC can still operate their gardens. To allow OVC gardeners access to the garden sites, USAID UGP worked with OVC, EOs, OACs and school committees to develop a plan for the summer break for all schools implementing USAID UGP. The plan provides detailed information and guidance on how to work with gardeners, the gardening environment (how to make the garden safe for children, what to plant during the rainy season, erosion checking mechanisms, etc.), how to support OVC in group discussions and saving and loans. Further, with USAID UGP, school committees worked to prepare ID cards for gardeners and / or notified school guards to allow access for OVC gardeners.

Grow bag Contest

During the second quarter, on 14 Feb 2011, a contest called, "Innovation in Small Spaces" was initiated in schools in all USAID UGP operational areas. Gardens were planted in bags or in recycled containers (e.g., tires, shoes, buckets, etc.) to demonstrate how much produce can be grown in small areas with little water. The contest aimed to widen the support for OVC in schools and decrease stigma among the school community by involving other children and the school staff. The contest had 3,910 OVC participants and 1,467 children who are not classified as OVC participants. School principals, teachers, guards and cleaners actively participated by being part of teams alongside OVC. There were five people

on a team, and each team was led by an OVC. There were 89 participating schools, with 877 teams established. Each participant received one grow bag to use in the contest, and an additional four bags to take home to replicate the gardening activity at home, making the number of grow bags distributed approximately 27,000. On April 28, 2011, an event with more than 1,000 urban gardeners led by students from around the country celebrated the art of growing nutritious vegetables with limited resources at events in 15 cities.

During the event, gardeners demonstrated food preparation, savings and loan activities, and gardeners sold their products. The event was also a means to publicize micro gardening; more than 1,000 gardeners, 1,500 invited guests, 300 principals and teachers, and 80 government officials planted their own microgarden guided by gardeners. During the event, winning groups and schools were awarded.

Information collected from schools that participated in the contest demonstrated that through their gardening activities, children were able to gain respect from their school community. School principals and teachers indicated that such children became more articulate and self-disciplined and the contest became a platform to display this behavior. Children also showed their creativity through the use of growing materials amongst which includes old shoes, purses, footballs, TVs, etc. Female school gardeners indicated that the contest in particular, and gardening in general helped them realize that they can also do other work and get recognition. In this way, they believe that gardening helped them enrich their sense of confidence.

2. Technical Support for Gardens

Strengthen local government support

Linkages between USAID UGP and local government offices continue to be strengthened, as shown through the continued government provision of land, water, and in some cases, electricity. Local government officials also participated in the micro-gardening contest, in field fairs and in bi-annual stakeholders' meetings. Participants came from a variety of local government offices including, city and kebele administrations, local agriculture, water and livestock offices, and all city mayors. During these events, government officials demonstrated appreciation for USAID UGP and often asked that similar activities be conducted for other city and community residents.

Roll-out of Weekly Garden Dialogue Tool

The second edition of the Garden Dialogue Tool was developed and printed. It was launched on April 28 at the microgarden contest event in Addis. The tool is translated to local language (Amharic) and distributed to IPs. The tool provides the basis for a participatory approach adapted from the farmer field school methodology for ensuring sustainable improvement in beneficiaries' ability to critically analyze and assess their garden plots, and decide on action items for greater yield. For details on the development of the Garden Dialogues Tool and to see the Tool itself, please see the FY2011 Q1 Report.

EOs have been using the Garden Dialogue Tool regularly, and group discussions have been held with gardeners to improve the quality of gardens and solve emerging technical and operational problems such as pest, weed, fertility, animal encroachment, post harvest loss, etc.

Garden Management

A monitoring tool (attached) was developed in collaboration with Thomas Cole, a consultant. The monitoring tool is now being tested by OACs. This tool will help OACs to assist Eos in determining where problems are in the field and to improve the skills of the beneficiaries.

OACs and CCs regularly monitored garden activities to identify gaps related to garden management and suggest possible solutions. A number of field visits were conducted during the reporting period to assess and address potential challenges in compliance, management and implementation. Participants included the COP, DCOP, other Addis Ababa-based technical staff, CCs, OACs, and EOs.

Feedback is regularly provided to the respective OACs, IPs and EOs to enable them to take corrective

measures.

IPs have taken efforts to improve soil fertility with manure, soil and water conservation measures, and pest reduction by planting various grasses such as rodents, vetiver and elephant, as well as Africa Merry Gold, reduce aphids by using ash, animal urine and soap, improve compost preparation, and other agronomic practices such as intercropping, planting leguminous plants like beans, etc.

Nurseries were established for all cycle 2 IPs that recently began gardening activities, resulting in transplanting and direct sowing in preparation for the rainy season. Gardeners planted maize and other varieties that are suitable for the rainy season.

An inventory of fruit trees was conducted at Gondar and Kombolcha sites to assess their survival rate, which is more than 80 percent. Shoa (sheep and goat) distribution selection is ongoing.

Land and Water Management

USAID UGP continued to secure land and water throughout the quarter. Water quality tests have been conducted for 13 garden sites to identify sources of pollutants, any threats to human health, help to determine appropriate crops, and provide information on appropriate food preparation and consumption. Schools and IPs worked to construct water tanker stands and fences to improve productivity and protect gardens from animals.

Local contractors are currently constructing HDWs in various places to sustain gardens at schools and within communities. In these respect contract agreements signed with UGP for Gondar (2), B/Dar (3), Finoteselam (2) & D/Markos (11 rope and washer pumps). The status of the construction of HDWs has been regularly monitored and reports weekly updated and submitted. In this respect, 11 rope and washer pumps fixed and the wells are productive in Debre markos, 2 HDW are productive in Bahir Dar and 1 HDW in Gondar while digging continues in the remaining sites. Using drip kit irrigation system has been reinforced in Desse and Kombolcha areas. IPs have tried to facilitate municipal water supply connections (e.g. Desse).

Conveyance of water from wells to gardens has been an issue. The environmental advisor has suggested that a skilled person be hired to assess all water needs. Costs for installing pumps are also being reviewed.

3. Integration of Health into Gardens

Group discussions

Discussion groups are conducted well in all operational areas; the CMs play a critical role in the smooth and proper operation of the GDs. A total of 200 (128 OVC and 78 care taker groups) have been conducting their GDs properly, as determined by maintaining schedules, trained facilitators, well-kept minutes, rules and regulation, etc. CMs have been working to solve challenges the OVCs are facing to conduct and participate in GDs, and work on their gardens such as difficulties in gaining access to gardens after school hours, including weekends. The CMs are also working to aware all the school community what the school OVCs are doing there so that to make them cooperative to USAID UGP OVCs. Successful DGs contribute to high gardener commitment to planting vegetables and to continuing to garden after graduation.

Developing resources to strengthen referral system

The service directory data has been collected, and will soon be distributed once editing is complete. A total of 300 health, HIV/AIDS and social service providers have been identified. The directory will be translated into Amharic so that the information in the service directory is more accessible to beneficiaries. The English version of the directory will be provided to relevant partners.

A one day Consensus-building meeting was conducted with WFP technical staff. The objectives of the meeting were to ensure mutual understanding of USAID UGP and WFP Urban HIV Program implementation, to identify gaps and achieve agreed solutions, to share roles and responsibilities, and to set action points. Five WFP focal persons, the WFP Urban HIV program head, thirteen OACs and three CCs attended the meeting which was facilitated by the health integration officer. WFP and USAID UGP have agreed to hold bi-annual meetings. OACs and WFP focal persons will meet monthly, and CCs will

communicate directly with focal persons to discuss regular challenges and progress. Through the partnership, USAID UGP and WFP hope to provide beneficiaries with different types of services, allowing gardeners to spend more time on their gardens, and learn about improved vegetable consumption.

Assessing nutritional impact

USAID UGP is continuing to work with the Infant and Young Child Nutrition Program (IYCN), Johns Hopkins University (JHU), and Tufts University to assess the nutritional impact of the program. IYCN recently completed the first phase of its research efforts, including recipe trials and focus group discussions. JHU has implemented a baseline survey to a mother support group based at Assosa Hospital, and USAID UGP is currently working to ensure the productivity of the garden. Tufts University has completed the first phase of its participatory impact assessment and is using the results to design the second research phase.

4. Build the Capacity and Knowledge of IPs

Garden capacity and knowledge

EOs, AEOs, and CMs continue to participate in monthly and quarterly meetings, as well as in practical demonstrations of micro garden contests. A formal poultry husbandry and health training of trainers (ToT) was conducted for two days for 22 EOs, OACs, and AOACs. The updated version of the earlier 'weekly garden dialogue', now named 'urban garden dialogue' was distributed to EOs, AEOs, and CMs. In addition, some copies of the urban garden dialogue were distributed to key personnel and previous IPs and relevant USAID UGP stakeholders for better transfer of the required extension methodologies to all actors.

USAID UGP continues to provide guidance to IPs in gap analysis, garden management and follow up. School principals and public sector leaders are also included in these discussions that cover a variety of topics such as SME, urban agriculture, securing land, issuing business licenses, tax issues, and monitoring. EOs continue to share experiences in utilizing drip kits, quality assurance, savings and loan activities, and other relevant activities. All OACs and EOs participated in training on poultry management.

Health capacity and knowledge

Orientation to refresh CMs capacity in handling DGs and referrals has provided to CMs of Jimma and Assosa areas. The orientations were given during field visits which held with other technical team members. In addition CMs also oriented how to translate resource maps in to action to allow beneficiaries for different services. These capacity building supports contributes for better DG implementation and its sustainability. It also contributes for better service demand and utilization by beneficiaries

Other capacity and knowledge

Cycle 2 IPs received guidance in grant management systems, including using the updated grant monitoring format, timeliness of reimbursement and in-kind requests, and the role of OACs and CCs.

Poultry

Procurement of poultry is ongoing, and will be distributed to select 2011 beneficiaries by the end of April 2011. EOs and OACs will train beneficiaries and cages will be constructed before the poultry is distributed.

Training in chicken (poultry) husbandry and health was given to 4,590 beneficiaries. Ninety OVC beneficiaries per IP were selected to receive six chickens and feed (50kg per OVC). Seven IPs have distributed the chicken and feed, and the others are expected to distribute the chicken and feed shortly. Beneficiaries have constructed poultry cages as an expression of their commitment. Additional five-day training on poultry management was provided to approximately 70 gardeners.

5. Build Income Generation Potential

Basic business skills

In the third quarter, four additional vegetable marketing groups have been registered and obtained legal

recognition from the respective micro and small enterprise agency in three sites (one in Sebeta, two in Dessie and one in Debreworkos), bringing the total number of organized and licensed marketing groups to 12.

The 12 vegetable marketing groups also received in-kind grant support to assist in the establishment of vegetable shops and other business activities. To date, four marketing groups have completed the shop establishment process and started marketing the vegetables as well as other side line business. The rest of the groups are at different stages of implementation that include securing shops and procurement of different materials such as shelves, scales, boxes, refrigerators, furniture, etc.

Group Savings and Loan Associations

There is a marked difference in the uptake of the GSL (additional 98 GSLs established in the reporting period , that brings the total GSLs from 194 to 292 . IPs such as Migbareney of Debreworkos that have some experience in working in saving and loan activities have progressed well in establishment of the GSL in UGP context , this basically mean their groups performing well .

There was a rapid increase in saving deposit of GSLAs from birr 82,953 to birr 207,914 (by birr 124,961) within three months period as most of the groups have harvested and sold their garden products which gave members more enthusiasm to work in GSL. The OVC and caretakers have also started to realize some of the benefits of working in a GSL such as getting access to small loan and saving money to cover their stationery and other schooling costs. With the support of the market information boards the gardeners access to pricing information has improved – this lead to empowering them in deciding the selling prices of their stall based on market information.

Regular follow-up of the performance of the GSL and providing support in areas where there is gap was the other major activity of the reporting period Field visits were conducted in Northern cluster area covering Bhirdar, Gondar, Debreworkos and Dessie operation areas. Crafting strategies to continue the GSL activities in summer vacation was the other achievement of this reporting period. The strategies will be applied in July and August when the kids will be going on 2 months vacation. The strategies include, for GSLs where most of the kids / members leave the school due to completion of their studies, share-out of the saving and other deposit of the GSL according to the bylaw is recommended. In GSLs where the kids will continue next year in the same school and residing in close neighborhoods, alternative GSL meetings day, place and time is arranged to resume the regular saving and loan activities during the period of school closure. For further information, please see the attached document.

Field fairs

Twenty IPs organized field fairs in the reporting period as the period marked the harvesting period of the gardens in many areas. The field fairs are instrumental to bring together the different stakeholders such as the government officials, input providers, service providers, potential consumers of the vegetable products and the gardeners. It forges partnerships to address some of the existing challenges such as securing land, water, and also to exploit opportunities such as market linkages and getting access to available support, such as loan fund, IGA grant and working premises.

6. Ensuring Greater Sustainability for Gardeners and Promoting More Advanced Skills

Technical approach

USAID UGP continues to work to improve the sustainability of the program through the development of sustainable water sources (e.g., shallow wells, HDWs, grow bags), especially for drought-prone areas. USAID UGP is also developing strong linkages with government offices, including agriculture, health and education. Staff in each office is assigned to be the main point of contact for IPs, and are called “focal persons”. In this way, IPs will develop direct relationships with government offices beyond the life of USAID UGP.

Group discussions were conducted with all beneficiaries during which they discussed gardening sustainability, which includes technical guidance after the gardeners graduate from the program. Gardeners also engaged in activities that promote sustainability and add value such as selling seedlings, producing seeds, home-to-home based selling of vegetables, selling vegetables to hotels, hatching eggs for

additional chicken and egg production, etc. The establishment of vegetable marketing groups is also expected to contribute to garden sustainability as they can help provide the income needed to invest in the gardens. Furthermore, 2011 gardens have retained their land.

USAID UGP is working to strengthen gardener peer networks. The Hiwot group garden association located at Bahir Dar held an experience-sharing session on 1-2 June, 2011. A total of 80 participants took part in the occasion during which they selected role model gardeners (10 from each city in North cluster). EOs & OACs from each city and 5 representatives from South and Central clusters have attended the convention. The participants selected seven thematic areas: irrigation water management & micro gardening, pest control, crop variety selection and nursery establishment, soil fertility enhancement and environmental management, post harvest and marketing, and poultry management for group discussion. They also demonstrated good practices such as liquid fertilizer making, micro gardening, double digging, waste water filtration using gravels, village saving & loan, and animal feed (molasses) making. Participants also had the opportunity to visit group gardens sustained in Bahir Dar and integrated activities accomplished by Hiwot gardeners and provided their reflections. Gardeners found it practical and relevant, and suggested conducting it biannually and replicating at the operation area level.

Field days/fairs were organized successfully at Dessie, Kombolcha, Finoteselam, Gondar, Koladiba and Debre Markos program operation areas/sites. Local government officials including City mayors, government sector heads, NGOs and business community have attended field days/fairs, gardeners have sold their produce and urban gardening promoted by local media.

Policy

Local Addis Ababa government offices have completed a draft policy document on urban agriculture in order to address some of the major land access challenges in the Addis Ababa area. Stakeholders will begin working on an implementation strategy in the next quarter.

7. Expand the Learning and Understanding of How Gardens Improve Health Outcomes

Monitoring & Evaluation

Monitoring and evaluation (M&E) is continuing throughout all operation areas and at all levels as the program requires. The baseline survey has been conducted in 12 operational areas where there are new Year III beneficiaries are enrolled. Tufts University is in the process of completing a participatory impact assessment in Bahir Dar.

7. Challenges and Constraints and plans to overcome them during the reporting period

Reporting period challenges and Constraints for each program area

1. OVC Care and Support

Working through the IPs has presented challenges in regards to compliance, program management and implementation. USAID UGP funds IPs to hire EOs, AEOs and CMs who are responsible for monitoring gardens and working with beneficiaries. However, often IP staffs do not want to follow the direction of the USAID UGP staff. In some instances, IPs use the EOs and CMs to conduct other work of the IP. Finally, IPs often complain that funding is not sufficient.

2. Technical Support for Gardens

The price of vegetables has been fluctuating recently, making it difficult to plan for market engagement. Further, the cost of fuel has increased, as has the municipal water tariff. Land and water can be difficult to access. Water in urban areas is primarily municipal, and is therefore costly. Water that does not come from municipal sources is often polluted. There have also been interruptions in municipal water lines. Further, some IPs (especially cycle 2 IPs) believed USAID UGP was responsible for paying the water bill during the first three months of gardening.

Outside of Addis Ababa, there is no policy or strong institutional support services for gardening activities.

There continue to be procurement delays, affecting the provision of drip kit tankers and accessories, fruit seedlings, and caused the cancellation of shoat distribution.

Pests and weeds have been more prevalent than expected, demanding more time and labor for beneficiaries.

Reliable and certified vegetable feed sources are difficult to find, and are becoming more expensive. Improved chicken feed sources are often limited and unaffordable. This should impact decision-making in the final year of the project.

3. Integration of Health into Gardens

Conducting GDs in school gardens can be difficult as OVC may have difficulties accessing gardens and GD sites after school hours. Further, some DGs do not have as many OVC participants as they are meant to. This may be a function of OVC having jobs that do not allow them to attend GDs, as well as any difficulties in accessing the GD site.

Making external referrals remains challenging because often the beneficiaries who require additional services may not meet the requirements of the referred agency. For example, both the World Food Programme and Food by Prescription have malnutrition requirements that USAID UGP participants may not meet. Further, when WFP or FBP beneficiaries are referred to USAID UGP, they are often unwilling to participate in the program as they are used to receiving aid and commodities for free.

4. Build the Capacity and Knowledge of IPs

IPs lack key financial and grant management knowledge, and there was no training during the reporting period.

5. Build Income Generation Potential

As USAID UGP develops the income generation component of the program, it is clear that it is not reaching a large number of program participants who would like these services.

6. Ensuring Greater Sustainability for Gardeners and Promoting More Advanced Skills

Some gardeners and school principals continue to show they are dependent on aid, as they expect more financial support and trainings to offset income loss from plots committed to urban gardening.

A small number of individual gardeners do not participate at the required level, and there are also free riders, which are serving as a disincentive to gardeners who are committed to the gardening.

7. Expand the Learning and Understanding of How Gardens Improve Health Outcomes

There have been challenges in the partnership with JHU TSEHAI at the Assosa Hospital garden site as the garden has not been producing vegetables as expected.

While conducting the participatory impact assessment, Tufts has been working to identify gardeners from the 2009 gardeners, but has not been able to locate gardeners, or any functioning gardens in the Adama area.

Plans to overcome challenges and constraints in each of your program areas

1. OVC Care and Support

Identify IPs that are conducting training in OVC care and support, as well as to clarify what USAID UGP is able to provide.

2. Technical Support for Gardens

Increase and improve market access through field fairs, as well as regular local market price assessment

and use of market information boards.

To improve land access, work with local government officials. A variety of meetings, workshops and discussions have been coordinated to work with government officials on land and municipal water access issues. Joint reviews and field fairs also included local government officials for this purpose. Land and water are checked for pollutants, and remedial measures taken where appropriate. The search for sustainable water sources such as wells and river/stream sources is an ongoing activity. Utilize a variety of water sources. Five boreholes have been fitted with Afridev hand pumps, 20 hand dug wells fitted with Afridev (15 of them are under construction), hand pumps and seven rope and washer pumps have been accessed for the gardening activities.

IPs that have experienced OVC dropouts are working replace them, care taken during selection of beneficiaries, bylaws developed to regulate absenteeism.

As much as possible, gardeners are advised to buy vegetable seeds from reliable sources. For instance, in Gondar/Maksegnat operation area, IPs tried to buy hybrid maize (BH 540) from Agriculture offices. In addition, during field fairs, seed suppliers are encouraged to participate and create linkages with UGP gardeners.

3. Integration of Health into Gardens

CMs are working to improve awareness and commitment of the school community to DGs, as well as reorienting GD facilitators to DG guidelines.

EOs and CMs have been instructed to improve efforts to identify beneficiary needs to allow for purposeful referrals.

USAID UGP and WFP have developed an action plan identifying the roles and responsibilities of all partners in order to strengthen cross referrals.

4. Build the Capacity and Knowledge of IPs

Explore the possibility of providing financial and grant management training for IPs.

Organize opportunities for EOs from different operation areas to share experiences, as well as increase visits and level of support from OACs.

5. Build Income Generation Potential

Create awareness and develop promotional activities to change customers' attitudes towards buying vegetables via mobile shops, or door-to-door.

6. Ensuring Greater Sustainability for Gardeners and Promoting More Advanced Skills

Gardeners are being advised to follow cropping calendars, as well as to diversify their crops in order to boost production and establish stronger market linkages.

Gardeners are being encouraged to use appropriate cultural practices such as using animal urine, liquid extracted from Neem tree leaf, spreading ash, and washing of vegetable leaves by hand to get rid of pests mainly aphids on cabbages. Gardeners are also being encouraged to mobilize local resources and engage in dialogue with their communities to help reduce feelings of dependency.

7. Expand the Learning and Understanding of How Gardens Improve Health Outcomes

Document challenges and lessons learned from partnership with JHU TSEHAI.

8. Data Quality issues during the reporting period

<p><u>Specific concerns you have with the quality of the data for program areas reported in this report</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• OACs and IPs do not send updates on the list of beneficiaries when there are drop outs• Problem of reporting inconsistent data on type of beneficiaries and sex disaggregation.
<p><u>What you are doing on a routine basis to ensure that your data is high quality for each program area</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Ensure OACs and IPs send updates when beneficiaries drop out using a format that is prepared for this purpose• Frequently reconcile reported data and the original beneficiary data with the OACs and CCs.• Communicate the OACs and CCs whenever there are discrepancies.
<p><u>How you planned to address those concerns / improve the quality of your data for each program area</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Involve technical team in reporting of each program area in order to triangulate data.• Include the CCs in closer monitoring of data recording at operational area level.• Conduct quarterly monitoring and supervision visits to observe and support IPs' record keeping and ground level work.• Conduct periodic data quality assessment

9. Major Activities planned in the next reporting period

<p><u>Upcoming activities should highlight planned activities and solutions to identified constraints (write for each program area)</u></p> <p>1. OVC Care and Support</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Provide monitoring and coaching visits to improve the quality of gardens and improve child-friendliness.• Ensure implementation of the summer plan for schools.• Prepare a guideline on school OVC support for urban gardening.• Work on making savings and loan activities child friendly.• Training on bookkeeping / leadership for vegetable marketing groups to strengthen their financial management.• Construction of water filtration structure at Modjo, where waste water from slaughter house passes within the garden. <p>2. Technical Support for Gardens</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Wells follow up: The construction of wells (hand dug wells) will be critically monitored to check potential social and environmental hazards. This could be done through the use of the IEE amendment. As well the quality of the construction work will be monitored so that the construction will be performed based on the standards set with in the bill of quantity.• Training & installation plan for drip kit system in the upcoming first on set of dry months• Shoaat distribution plan for some 72 OVCs and/or care takers.• Plan to distribute fruit tree seedlings as fast as possible or postpone for the next year if further suppliers/sellers is a problem• Poultry distribution to areas where distribution has delayed. Effort would be made to organize chicken vaccination with urban agriculture offices,• Fruit tree distribution and planting will be done, training will be conducted to EOs and gardeners before distribution,• Monitoring of gardens will be strengthened by EOs and OACs to give technical support to
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- gardeners for summer season activities,
 - Installation of hand pumps for productive wells would be undertaken.
- 3. Integration of Health into Gardens**
- Strengthen referral linkages within and outside IPs, especially HAPCO, WFP, SME offices, and other donor financed projects dealing with health and urban agriculture.
 - Finalize and distribute the service directory (Amharic and English version) to beneficiaries and relevant partners
 - Facilitate experience sharing among DG leaders
 - Facilitate smooth implementation of DGs
 - Work with WFP Urban HIV staff to create smooth two way referral
- 4. Build the Capacity and Knowledge of IPs**
- Planning to conduct training on financial and grant management
 - Work plans be prepared and gaps identified for intensive training before distribution of in-kind support.
 - Experience sharing would be organized within operation areas to minimize skill gaps among gardeners and EOs.
 - Conduct technical supports to EOs/CMs and OACs through field visits
- 5. Build Income Generation Potential**
- Vegetable marketing shops will be fully operational and close support will be given by OACs and EOs,
 - Saving and loan groups will be further strengthened to mobilize savings for sustainability.
- 6. Ensuring Greater Sustainability for Gardeners and Promoting More Advanced Skills**
- Close follow up of school gardens by EOs and OACs will be strengthened to make sure that all gardens in schools are functional during summary season.
- 7. Expand the Learning and Understanding of How Gardens Improve Health Outcomes**
- Complete participatory impact assessment of social impacts on gardeners.
 - Conduct quarterly internal data quality assessment

10. Environmental compliance

Describe any issues related to environmental compliance (if there are any)

In areas where special support was needed, in flood affected areas for example, soil and water conservation structures and or drainage structures have been constructed. An environmental mitigation and monitoring plan (EMMP) have been developed for all gardens. Accordingly, all the gardens under operation through USAID UGP have been managed through the EMMP. Monitoring of the implementation of mitigation measures has been conducted at all gardens. The program is compliant with USAID 22CFR Reg 216. EOs, who have been working on training beneficiaries, facilitating the preparation process and finalizing the preparation, were trained on how to do the plan preparation. The EOs, and AEOs were also trained on how to select land and water options for gardening. The major topics covered include land resources selection, physical evaluation of land suitability and land management; and water sources selection, water quality assessment (physical), waste prevention from water sources, etc. At the same time a training on waste sorting, filtration and use have been given for EOs and OACs.

The major achievements in this quarter include:

I. Checking quality of water and land sources

All gardens have been checked for their suitability for vegetable gardening through both observation and lab testing. The prevailing contamination risks/hazards, fertility status, potential contaminations/contaminants were checked. Accordingly four gardens – two at Jimma, one at Adama, and one at Hawassa) were unable to be used due to fertility problems (demanding much work for improvement) before registering the gardens and beneficiaries were transferred to other gardens. Around 12 gardens were found marginally suitable for gardening because of erosion and waste, but remedial measures were taken and the gardens are in use after being well cleaned and treated with soil conservation and fertility improvement measures.

2. Accessing of water options

Watering access was a big challenge in making gardens active and productive. Different options were sought and the feasible one is being in use for the gardening activities. In some cases costly bored shallow wells have been constructed. In this regard five shallow boreholes are constructed at five schools in four towns (Hawassa - two, Ziway, Wolisso and Sebeta), and fitted with Afridev hand pumps. About 20 hand dug wells (fitted with Afridev hand pumps and rope & washer pumps) are under construction and constructed in all cities in the country. An initial environmental examination has been prepared for the well construction work and was set in place while working in the construction of the wells at all sites.

a. Shallow wells

i. Bore holes

Five bore holes covering 51 meter depth at Ziway and 73 meter depth at Wolisso. The wells were fitted with blind and screen casings and fitted with Afridev hand pumps, where in Wolisso the pump position was deeper to a depth of 45 meters, and in others to a minimum of 30 meters depth. All cares have been in place during and after construction and though there was a drilling failure at Hawassa, no hazards or damages occurred. All the wells are well functioning. The abandoned well (in Hawassa) is reworked and filled up.

ii. Hand dug wells

About 27 hand dug wells are supposed to serve gardens and some of them are already completed and are serving the purpose. Among the hand dug wells 20 are fitted with Afridiv hand pumps. About seven of them are fitted with rope and washer pump. The depth varies from six meters to 22 meters. There were many abandoned wells due to hard formations before having sufficient water for pumping. The abandoned wells are refilled to prevent drowning of people and other animals and to make the area suitable for others. The IEE prepared before the commencement of well digging has been in use with many components included in the contract agreement. Therefore, no safety issues have been reported to date.

b. Water lifting devices

A variety of pumps (gasoline and electric) pumps were distributed for use to certain gardens for lifting water from the source to a storage/use area. These pumps are used to pump out water from river and other sources and the water has been used for irrigation employing/applying the water through surface/ furrow and drip irrigation systems. Any safety issues in installation and operation & maintenance were circulated to the people working on the equipments.

3. Water saving technologies

As the major technology in the program, drip kits have been used for gardening. Many gardens have been using municipal water sources and the preferred water application system is found to be family drip irrigation. A unit with one full system for two beneficiaries was the standard in kind support in this regard and was used when needed to alleviate water shortages and reduce water Evapo-Transpiration. The system has also helped beneficiaries save labor, have uniform water application, and many more uses. For easing the water use and to protect the land from irrigation-induced erosion, care has been taken to irrigate by breaking the velocity of water flow from pump hoses through proper release of the water jet. Water tanks are also in use to store water for use in other time. The use of water cans was also taken as an alternative for safe and direct watering.

4. Improving the quality of vegetables

In some cases, especially in schools, there are lands near latrines, but can be used for vegetable production. In such circumstances the program has devised and acted on two tiers of solutions - short term and long term and used the open lands for gardening. As a short term solution, the program worked to keep the latrine as clean as possible, covering the latrine openings (like windows and some parts) with biodegradable materials where flies were prevented from soaring to the garden and on the vegetables; and consumers have been advised not to eat uncooked vegetables, and to wash produce with clean water.

As a long term solution, the remedial measures in use are growing longer height grasses (like elephant grass) and other trees on the border between the latrine and the garden, where the latrine is located, planting vegetables away from the latrines; and planting vegetables whose edible parts are not exposed to contamination with wastes from the latrine (crop selection). Beneficiaries have also been educated on the environmental safety and use of vegetables. They have been advised to wash vegetables with clean water and to cook foods especially in risky circumstances. As all gardens are expected to produce organic vegetables beneficiaries have been advised to use organic manure, compost and agricultural practices to improve their garden/land and organic pesticides to prevent pest infestation, and they have been doing accordingly.

5. Waste water sorting and use for vegetable irrigation

To make use of household waste water for irrigation of gardens waste water sorting and filtration has been found suitable technology. Every individual who will be the user of the technique is hoped to have at least hand washing waste water. This technology has been demonstrated and is in use in few areas. The technique is supposed to serve mainly micro-gardening activities. This will be scaled up to many more gardens/beneficiaries in the coming year.

II. Financial accomplishment

(... in USD)

Life of Project budget	Obligated to date	Expenditure (Accrual and actual disbursement) to date	Remaining balance	Remarks
(a)	(b)	(c)	(d) = (b) – (c)	
\$9,838,220	\$5,991,072	\$5,221,088.32	\$769,983.68	

12. Issues requiring the attention of USAID Management

Identify and state issues that USAID needs to look at and address for each program area

None.

13. Data Sharing with Host Government:

Have you shared this report with the host government?

Yes

No

If yes, to which governmental office/s?

[Please put your response here]

If No, why not?

It is not contractually required.

14. Appendices

Summary Table of Additional M&E Indicators

Indicator	Q3 Result
Schools with microgardens (#)	72
OVC referrals to support services by type of service (#)	
Food and Nutrition	1420
Shelter and Care	87
Protection	52
Healthcare Services	1018
Psychosocial Support	681
Educational and Vocational Training	1167
Economic Strengthening	282
Beneficiary referrals to HIV/AIDS services by type of service (#)	
ART	210
PMTCT	29
Anti-TB	71
VCT	541
HCBC/PC	613
Environmental mitigation and monitoring plan	
Gardens with environmental mitigation and monitoring plan (#)	263
Gardens implementing environmental mitigation and monitoring plan (#)	249
Gardens using water saving technologies (#)	125
Amount of vegetables harvested by garden site (kg)	229,355
Amount of vegetables consumed by garden site (kg)	84,643
Amount of income gained from surplus vegetable sale by garden site (birr)	323,862
Saving and loan groups established during the reporting period (#)	98
Total beneficiaries engaged in saving and loan (#)	6,903