

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

Development Alternatives Inc. (DAI)

PROGRESS REPORT FOR

FY 2012_SEMI ANNUAL REPORT

(OCTOBER 1, 2011 TO MARCH 31, 2011)

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LIST OF ACRONYMS

AIDS	Acquired Immunodeficiency Syndrome
CDC	Center for Disease Control
CMs	Cluster Managers
COP	Chief of Party
DAI	Development Alternatives, Inc
DGs	Discussion Groups
DQA	Data Quality Assessment
EMMP	Environmental Management & Mitigation Plan
EOs	Extension Officers
GSL	Group Saving and Loan
GSLAs	Group saving and Loan Associations
HDW	Hand-dug Well
HIV	Human Immunodeficiency Virus
ICEDA	Integrated Community Education and Development Association
IEE	Initial Environmental Examination
IPs	Implementing Partners
IYCN	Infant and Young Child Nutrition
M&E	Monitoring and Evaluation
NGO	Non Government Organization
OAC	Operational Area Coordinator
OVC	Orphans and Vulnerable Children
PEPFAR	The President's Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief
UGP	Urban Gardens Program
USAID	United States Agency for International Development

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1. Reporting period

From October 1, 2011	To March 31, 2012
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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
Round 2 Data Quality Assessment Report	USAID/UGP	March 2012
Mini-Nursery Guide	USAID/UGP	January 2012
Round 1 Data Quality Assessment Report	USAID/UGP	December
Technical Information on Drip Irrigation	USAID/UGP	December 2011
Discussion Group Facilitators training Handbook	USAID/UGP	December 2011
Discussion Group Participants Handbook	USAID/UGP	December 2011
Child Friendly School Gardens: Handbook for OVC Care in School Garden Settings And Environmental Education	USAID/UGP	2012 (First Edition)
Reporting Guide	USAID/UGP	December 2011
UGP Technical Tips and Tricks	USAID/UGP	November 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
Robert Salerno	03/14/2012	04/24/2012	DAI	Senior management
Hilary Langer	09/12/2011	09/29/2011	DAI	Grant support
Caesar Layton	08/19/2011	09/08/2011	DAI	Finalize COP transition plan, mentorship program and start exit strategy planning
Thomas Cole	01/10/2012	02/03/2012	ECI/Africa	Finalized Agronomic Technical Resource Guideline, Develop DRAFT Urban Agriculture Production Guidelines and provide Training
Mandefro Nigussie	Local Hire	Local Hire	ECI/Africa	Urban Agriculture Policy and Strategy development
Rahel Belete	Local Hire	Local Hire	ECI/Africa	Human Resource and operational 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
Tsige Teferi	Bethesda, Maryland	05 January	05 January	DAI, HQ	COP Training

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

Description of Monitoring team	Start date	End date	Sites visited	Written recommendations provided
USAD official Visit	03/26/2012	3/30/2012	7 sites – Bahir Dar; 8 sites – Gondar	Record log to track EO visits; expand gardeners selection of crops;
DQA visit by M&E team together with Technical Advisors and OACs	11/21/2011	12/12/2011	49 IPs were visited	Improve data quality through implementing data improvement plans

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

In the first six months of FY12, the United States Agency for International Development’s (USAID) Urban Gardens Program (UGP) reached 34, 798 (17,256M & 17, 542F) Orphan and Vulnerable Children (OVC). Of these 6816 (3569M, 3247F) OVC were directly involved in the gardening activities through the use of micro gardening, group, school or other institutional gardening mechanism. More than 27,982 (13,687M, 14,295F) OVC were indirectly reached through the support from 4,157 (886M & 3271F) adult gardeners and caretakers or 6816 (3569M & 3247F) OVC gardeners. Furthermore, USAID UGP has achieved the following predetermined targets for the President’s Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief (PEPFAR) enumerated in the **Summary Table of Key PEPFAR Indicators** below: households participating in USAID UGP; OVC served by OVC programs; local organizations provided with technical assistance for HIV related institutional capacity building; individuals trained in HIV related stigma and discrimination reduction, and individuals trained in HIV related community mobilization for prevention care and/or treatment.

Summary Table of Key PEPFAR Indicators

Indicator	Year four Target	Q1 Result	Q2 Result	Semi Annual result	Variance
Number of Households participating in USAID UGP	2,534	10,394	10,978	10,978	+8,444
Number of OVC Served by OVC programs, primarily or supplemental direct	9,500	34,226	34,798	34,798	+25,298
Number of providers / caregivers trained in caring for OVC	1,965	585	1,636	2,163	+198
Number of local organizations provided with technical assistance for HIV-related institutional capacity building	50	51	33	51	+1
Number of individuals trained in HIV-related stigma and discrimination reduction	1,796	795	1,710	2,555	+759
Number of individuals trained in HIV-related community mobilization for prevention care and / or treatment	1,796	795	1,710	2,555	+759

USAID/UGP OVC Technical Advisor assisted OVC gardeners technically through field visits while OVC were at work in the gardens. Periodic supervisions were made by the UGP OVC Technical Advisors. Operation area coordinators (OACs) regularly coached the gardening activities of OVC gardeners and together with Extension Officers (EO) mentored the gardeners as well. Besides, the OACs and EOs provided OVC care training for 2,163 caretakers.

In the first quarter, the UGP OVC Technical Advisor, visited schools that are supported by Fikir Behiwot and Medan ACTS in Hawassa; Mulu Wongel and Mekidim in Shashemene and ICEDA in Zeway. He also visited schools in Debre Markos, Maksegnit and Bahirdar. During the visit, it was observed that children continued to work on their gardens throughout the summer, despite the schools being closed, and sold their vegetables being sold.

Because of the good relationship established with school administrators including Principals and School Focal Persons, OVC gardeners have easy access to school grounds even after schools were closed. The School Focal Persons provided USAID UGP gardeners with a special pass ID card so that they could enter the school compound any time they wanted. Moreover, schools paid water bills, supported the fencing of gardens and the school guards in most instances were very cooperative to the extent of supporting the OVC in the actual gardening activity.

During the visit to schools, the Technical Advisor held extensive discussions with School Principals on issues such as school committee formation, working with school clubs and safety issues. In the discussion, the objectives of the school committees were explained to the School Principals and School Focal Persons.

USAID UGP is promoting the establishment of school committees, among other things to assist in gardener selection and registration; create a conducive gardening environment within the school community; follow-up on garden management activities with EOs; assist discussion groups (DGs); motivate OVC gardeners in their academic performance; follow up with school drop-outs and their timely replacement; promote proper management and utilization of in-kind support; strengthen market linkages and encourage OVC to participate in savings and loan activities.

School committees are expected to secure the collective voice for OVC as well as provide an opportunity for gardeners to discuss issues they may be facing. The committees also encourage links with other clubs thereby offering opportunities for resources mobilization, sustainability of programs and the reduction of the burden of garden management on school Focal Persons. The School Principals accepted the proposal to strengthen or form school committees and have worked on it diligently. So far 77 school committees have been formed. The committees are comprised of 5 members tasked with the following responsibilities: replacing drop out gardeners; mobilizing gardeners through motivation and field monitoring; supporting group discussions; monitoring savings and loans accounts; highlighting and encouraging access to health services; supporting marketing linkages; assisting with the procurement, maintenance and organization of events like vegetable day, field fairs and micro gardening contests. Each committee member has assigned roles and responsibilities and receives appropriate coaching. The committees have also developed in-school gardening activity plans and sustainability strategies.

Environmental clubs are frequently integrated into schools' USAID UGP activities. The environmental clubs integrate environmental mitigation plans into their work, advocate for cleaner work environment through their focus on having sanitary gardens.

Through the anti-HIV/AIDS clubs mini medias, the school principals/School Focal Persons create awareness on HIV/AIDS and the importance of gardening and nutrition. HIV related conversations are also conducted with club members. School Focal Persons encourage other students to be part of saving groups and also facilitate the creation of linkages with idirs¹ and other charitable clubs.

In the reporting period, USAID UGP provided comprehensive training for EOs and Operational Area Coordinators (OACs) on OVC care and support, health integration, savings and loans accounts, and poultry management. The training was conducted in Adama for the Southern Cluster team, Debre Zeit for the Central Cluster team and in Bahir Dar and Dessie for the Northern Cluster Team. The following issues were emphasized and addressed during the training:

Major OVC Service areas were clearly discussed with participants in the first day's morning session.

¹ Idirs refer to traditional burial societies now are involved in care and support in most cases

Participants indicated ways to address the needs of children based on the service areas.

Participants raised the following **Safety Issues** to be considered for OVC while they are working in the garden:

Holes: Could cause children to drown or be harmed if they fall inside without noticing it. *Holes should be covered or fenced properly.*

Laborious work: Children may work long hours and work in a tiresome manner. Some children are involved during the land preparation stage which is somehow laborious. *Involve caretakers to provide support to children, as well as offer opportunities for children to observe and learn land preparation.*

Sharp materials: Most OVC gardeners wear old shoes or have no shoes at all, increasing their risk of being cut and being exposed to particular contaminants. *Clean the garden and inform gardeners that if cut with rusted metal they need to be treated for tetanus.*

Hygienic gardening practices: Children work in the garden and leave the garden without washing their hands before eating. *Teach children about hand washing and sanitation. Determine suitable working hours for gardeners and understand the time constraints of young gardeners. For example, some gardeners often live far away from the garden sites and they return home very late. EOs must consider the distance of the garden from homes; being especially mindful of female gardeners working late, since they may be at an increased risk for gender based violence.*

Garden fences: At times gardens are fenced with sharp or metallic materials that may be harmful to OVC gardeners if they brush or fall against the fence. *Be mindful when selecting fencing materials and warn children to be cautious with fences.*

Use of gardening tools: Some gardening tools are very sharp or have rusty handles. *Make sure OVC use only safe gardening tools.*

Watering cans: Some watering cans are too large for some of the gardeners to use safely. *Consider the size of the can and the children's age and size to avoid any injury.*

Location of water options: Some water sources are far from the garden so children may be forced to carry water and walk long distance to water their gardens. Rivers pose particular risks as children can fall and be harmed. Water options should be near the garden to ensure safety and allow children have more time for other responsibilities such as studying and doing homework at the end of the day. *It is important to use appropriate water conveyance systems. If children obtain water from a river, arrange for an appropriate mechanism that will improve their safety.*

Weeds with thorns: Weeds with thorns can harm children as they walk through their plots and around the garden site. *Clean the garden carefully.*

Toilets: Toilets close to the garden can have an adverse effect on the vegetables grown and may be harmful when consumed. *Ensure that gardens and toilets are not in close proximity to one another.*

Electricity used for conveyance and other system: Electricity can be dangerous if it is not managed properly. *Set up a proper electricity management system that ensures children cannot easily access electrical panels and wires.*

USAID UGP, as part of its effort to create conducive working environment for school gardening, held an

awareness creation forum at Jiren Primary school in Jimma in the first quarter of FY12. The forum was attended by the School Principal, Implementing Partner Head, Child Rights Supervisor, delegates from the Education Office and members from the parent teachers association (PTA).

In the second quarter of FY12, the UGP OVC Technical Advisor visited seven schools in the Amhara region, met with the School Principals and School Committees, paid visits to OVC on garden sites and assessed the implementation of the Child Friendly School Gardening Guideline. During the visit, it was observed that schools are engaging in gardening activities with the OVC adequately. Some schools had gone a step further by increasing plot sizes for OVC gardeners. In all the locations, the child friendly school gardening guideline is being applied for gardening activities. As a result, OVC gardeners report improvements in their confidence; self esteem and better daily work habits.

2. Deepen Long-Term Urban Gardens Capacity, Management and Policy

The first quarter activities focused on providing trainings for IPs, conducting assessments, registering new beneficiaries and undertaking preparatory works for garden establishment, conducting water quality tests, establishing school and other committees and carrying out other activities. In the second quarter, more emphasis was given to monitoring gardens, providing onsite technical assistance to gardeners, strengthening of School Committees and to the launching of a micro gardening contest in all clusters. The activities for the first and second quarter periods respectively are highlighted below:

Task I: Improve Community Garden Management

- Land preparation training was provided to beneficiaries in 229 gardens (1st quarter: 148 & 2nd quarter: 81)
- Soil fertility, nurturing and moisture conservation training was provided to beneficiaries in 227 gardens (1st quarter: 148 & 2nd quarter: 79)
- Garden layout assessments were completed for 229 gardens (1st quarter: 156 & 2nd quarter : 73)
- Garden upgrades based on assessment recommendations were completed for 229 gardens (1st quarter: 134 & 2nd quarter:95)
- Marketing crop calendar preparation training was provided to beneficiaries in 224 gardens (1st quarter: 122 & 2nd quarter:102)
- Marketing crop calendars were developed for 228 gardens (1st quarter: 116 & 2nd quarter:112)
- Fencing materials were mobilized and fences were constructed for 104 gardens (1st quarter: 3 & 2nd quarter: 65).
- A Mini Nursery Establishment Guideline was developed and 4 mini-nurseries have been established (1st quarter: 2 & 2nd quarter: 2). In the North Cluster 150 mini nursery plastic trays were distributed.
- Micro gardens have been established in 65 school gardens (1st quarter: 3 & 2nd quarter:62)
- Evaluation of the fruit tree program in community gardens was conducted for 113 gardens (1st quarter: 96 & 2nd quarter: 17).
- Fruit tree management, maintenance and care were conducted in 113 gardens (1st quarter: 85 & 2nd quarter: 28).
- Land from local government was secured for garden expansion in Gondar (1st quarter)
- In order to sustain their gardening activities, some gardens in the North Cluster initiated the establishment of garden funds through reserving portions of their vegetable sales(2nd quarter).
- Garden dialogue facilitation training was provided to OACs, CMs and EOs (2nd quarter). The training was provided in two rounds. The first round was attended by OACs and CMs; whereas in the second round the first round trainees rolled out the training to EOs.

Task 2: Strengthen quality and management of School-Based Gardens

- MOUs were reviewed in 106 school gardens (1st quarter: 86 & 2nd quarter: 20).
- School Committee management refresher training was provided to 76 schools (1st quarter: 24 & 2nd quarter: 52).
- TOT training in child friendly school gardening was provided to 29 EOs, OACs and Cluster Managers

in the first quarter.

- School Principals information sharing meetings were conducted in 81 schools (1st quarter: 20 & 2nd quarter: 61).
- Micro garden equipments were disbursed and information was disseminated. A total of 7064 grow bags (1st quarter: 402 & 2nd quarter: 6662) and 86 media packets (1st quarter: 4 & 2nd quarter: 82) were distributed.
- 324 micro gardening sets (1st quarter & 16 2nd quarter: 308) were distributed.
- Micro gardening training was provided to School Committees in 70 schools (1st quarter: 9 & 2nd quarter: 61)

Task 3: Water Supply and System Improvement

- Garden water supply and system assessments were conducted for 124 gardens (1st quarter: 113 & 2nd quarter: 11).
- Bidding requirements for water supply construction works were finalized in 41 schemes.
- Procurement and installation of water systems investments was done for 22 hand dug wells (HDW) pumps (1st quarter: 11 & 2nd quarter: 11); 3 boreholes (1 in first quarter and 2 in second quarter); 3 roof water harvesting systems (all in first quarter); 85 water tank stands (1st quarter: 1 & 2nd quarter: 84); 1 river stream diversion and 1 canal.
- Water tanker system maintenance and assessment was completed for 29 schemes (1st quarter: 10 & 2nd quarter: 19).
- Training in proper utilization and maintenance of water system technologies and conveyance systems was provided for beneficiaries in 41 gardens (1st quarter: 16 & 2nd quarter: 25).
- Training to water management committees were provided for 44 gardens (1st quarter: 8 & 2nd quarter: 36).
- Water management committees were established in 44 gardens (1st quarter: 8 & 2nd quarter: 36).
- Water quality tests were completed for 4 new wells (1st quarter: 3 & 2nd quarter: 1).
- Thirty trainings in water treatment process and scheduling were conducted (1st quarter: 6 & 2nd quarter: 24).
- Extensive communication was made and required information was provided to “Corvallis and Charities by Friendship”, partner organizations working in linkage with UGP and they pledged to construct water supply schemes in UGP supported school gardens located in Gondar town.

Task 4: Improve Irrigation and Water Saving Techniques

- Assessment of drip irrigation kit requirements were conducted at 256 gardens (1st quarter: 164 & 2nd quarter: 92).
- 4689 drip kits were distributed (1st quarter: 1,108 & 2nd quarter: 3581).
- 4194 (1st quarter: 684 & 2nd quarter: 3510) drip tank stands and covers were constructed.
- Drip lines “gate valve” were installed for 100 gardens (1st quarter: 11 & 2nd quarter: 89).
- Training in valve installation techniques, maintenance & utilization was provided to beneficiaries in 101 gardens (1st quarter: 35 & 2nd quarter: 66)
- Guideline on installation, maintenance and utilization of drip kit technology was developed and is being printed.
- A total of 905 water cans (1st quarter: 68 & 2nd quarter: 837) were procured and distributed.
- TOT session in practical applications of drip irrigation technology, installation and maintenance was provided to 16 OACs.
- Training in drip irrigation technology system installation, operation and maintenance was provided to 84 EOs (1st quarter: 74 & 2nd quarter: 10).

Task 5: Expand Knowledge of Environmental Practices, Technologies, Services and vendors

- Development and updating of EMMPs was completed in 226 gardens (1st quarter: 116 & 2nd quarter: 110).
- Environmental mitigation techniques trainings were provided to 4974 gardeners in the reporting period.
- Construction and provision of technical assistance for biophysical conservation enhancing

infrastructure was completed for 94 gardens (1st quarter: 26 & 2nd quarter: 68).

- Trainings in safe waste water sorting, filtration and use provided to 66 EOs (1st quarter: 47 & 2nd quarter: 19).
- Gardeners in one garden in Dessie constructed a pond near the garden and practiced gravel sand filtration technique to get clean water for their garden.
- Program linking and integrating school gardens with school environmental committees conducted in 74 schools (1st quarter: 28 & 2nd quarter: 46).
- A guideline on environmental hygiene and education was developed and is being printed.
- One IEE amendment for water supply and irrigation investment was completed

Task 6: Review Land Access Issues for Gardens

- MOUs reviewed and updated to ensure access to land and water in 229 gardens (1st quarter: 151 & 2nd quarter: 78).
- Gardener registry updated in 229 gardens (1st quarter: 157 & 2nd quarter: 72).
- Garden profiles were prepared and completed for 118 gardens (1st quarter)
- Cost recovery plan developed for 150 gardens (1st quarter: 22 & 2nd quarter: 128)

Task 7: Strengthen and Expand Urban agriculture Policy Framework

- Strengthening of Urban Agriculture Policy Steering Committee and role clarification completed for 2 committees in the 2nd quarter.
- Finalization and translation of Urban Agriculture Implementation Strategy is in process.
- Abbreviated version of Urban Agriculture Policy and Implementation Guide production in process.
- Broader education campaign on urban policy framework and implementation guide development is in process.

3. Expand Integrated Opportunities for Economic Creation and Market Access

With regard to expanding integrated opportunities for economic creation and market access, activities in FY12 Q1 & Q2 focused on providing refresher trainings, developing and updating guidelines, disseminating guidelines, expanding GSLs, linking GSLs with micro finance institutions and following up on the backyard poultry program as detailed below:

Task 1: Mobilize Savings and Expand Gardeners Financial Literacy

- GSL guideline and training materials were updated and disseminated widely.
- Three refresher trainings were conducted using the updated GSL methodology.
- 270 GSLs established in the reporting period.
- 51 linkages between GSLs and local microfinance institutions established (1st quarter: 19 & 2nd quarter: 32).

Task 2: Improve Understanding of Market Dynamics and Market Identification

- Understanding market guideline and market assessment tool updated and disseminated to EOs.
- Market assessments completed and marketing action plans developed in 25 gardens (1st quarter: 8 & 2nd quarter: 17).
- 102 Market information boards expanded and improved (1st quarter: 17 & 2nd quarter: 85)
- A guideline on basics of market information collection was developed and disseminated
- Market linkages with restaurants and retailers were created by gardeners in the North Cluster.

Task 3: Strategic Marketing Events and Formation of Market Groups

- Two trainings on marketing and basic business skills conducted (1 in each quarter).
- Three new vegetable marketing groups with shops established (in the 2nd quarter)
- A training was provided on the management of marketing groups
- Performance assessment conducted in 12 existing vegetable marketing groups (1st quarter: 10 & 2nd quarter: 2).

- Feasibility evaluation of conducting cluster level field fairs completed (first quarter)
- Regional level field fair was conducted at Gondar along with the celebration of the Ethiopian epiphany. It was estimated that the fair was visited by around 5116 local and 218 foreign tourists.

Task 4: Strengthen Backyard Poultry Program

- Chicken status assessment of all IPs located in Hawassa, Meki, Ziway, Debremarkos, Gondar and Bahirdar conducted (1st quarter)
- One thousand chickens were procured and distributed to beneficiaries (2nd quarter).
- Development of guideline on basic poultry raising methods is underway (2nd quarter)
- Assessment to identify suitable chicken breeds for 2012 poultry disbursement was completed (2nd quarter).
- Evaluation of health and economic benefits or risks associated with integrated ruminates is underway (2nd quarter).
- Refresher training for EOs and OACs on feed preparation and sanitary practices provided (1st quarter)
- Training in poultry health and husbandry practices and zoonotic diseases provided to the 33 core IPs (1st quarter).
- In *Tsehay* group garden (Dessie), the gardeners discovered that egg production increased by feeding chickens a white colored material, which is locally called 'Yergo Firfir'. The material is believed to have a fat reduction effect in chickens.
- A group garden in Dessie applied chicken waste to improve soil fertility.

4. Deepen Learning and Understanding of Linking Gardening to Improved Health Outcomes

In the reporting period activities focused on strengthening linkages with health service providers and updating reference materials and providing trainings as detailed below.

Task 1: Strengthen and Expand Garden Health Referral Networks

- Linkages with 254 health service providers created (in both quarters).
- Referral guidelines updated in the 1st quarter(see attached)
- 26 health and social services maps revised and disseminated (1st quarter).
- Referral card was updated and currently being distributed (2nd quarter).

Task 2: Expand Health and Nutrition Education Opportunities

- 149 health and nutrition discussion experience sharing sessions conducted (1st quarter: 55 & 2nd quarter: 94).
- In the reporting period, 3327 beneficiaries participated in nutrition related discussions
- 141 trainings on food preparation and preservation conducted (1st quarter: 47 & 2nd quarter: 94).
- In partnership with the Infant and Young Child Nutrition project (IYCN), 3 trainings in infant and young child nutrition were provided (1st quarter).
- Health and Nutrition Discussion Guide for discussion groups was developed and translated into Amharic. It is due for dissemination within short time (2nd quarter)

5. Build Capacity and Knowledge of IPs

As detailed below, different trainings were provided in the reporting period in order to enhance the capacity of IPs to plan for long term institutional sustainability. Besides, IPs were provided with continued technical assistance in areas of grant management, water supply system construction, water application technology and biophysical conservation techniques

- M&E training was provided to 51 IPs Extension Officers
- Training in grant and financial management was provided to 51 IPs in the 1st quarter. IP Heads and Finance Managers participated in the training.
- EOs trained in positive behavior checklist and its proper utilization

- A training on effective outreach & success story writing was conducted for 13 IPs (2nd quarter)
- Motorbikes were purchased and provided to IPs

6. Monitoring and Evaluation

USAID UGP gave a great deal attention to improving the M&E of the project in the reporting period. Improving the quality of data collection system was considered a high priority activity. M&E training was provided, data quality assessments was carried out, data collection and reporting formats were standardized and regular follow up visits to local implementing partners were conducted.

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

Quarterly challenges and Constraints for each program area

- In the first quarter of year 4, one of the largest challenges has been managing the expectations of USAID UGP IPs who are used to having larger PEPFAR-funding from other PEPFAR funded projects. Since USAID UGP is a PEPFAR-funded project, they expect larger funding than the project can provide.
- Unexpected budget reduction created a strain in program implementation
- The delay in budget release delayed the start up of gardens on time.
- IPs needed time to be acquainted with the new granting mechanisms and payment requests.
- Due to the budget constraints the sudden dissolution of certain transitional IPs was a challenge. They needed more time for transition.
- Delays in water supply and conveyance system construction due to the absence of sufficient number of licensed bidders led to re-announcement of bidding which consumed extended time for the work to commence on time and for gardens to get adequate water.
- Land scarcity and challenging land policy environment to secure land for establishment of marketing groups.
- Staff turnover in some IPs affects continuity at garden sites
- Environmental constraints include water access issues and inconsistent weather patterns

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

- Manage IP expectations of increased budgetary support.
- Continually assist IPs in payment request and preparing deliverables on time.
- Transfer beneficiaries of dissolved IPs to other, active IPs in their area so they may continue their work without interruption.
- Replace gardens of continuing IPs having water shortage with other gardens of transitioning IPs, which has enough water source
- Replace EOs, who resigned, with the EOs from transitioning IPs.
- Expand micro gardening activities in area where land access is a major issue.
- Facilitate & secure rental shops and kiosks for marketing groups

8. Data Quality issues during the reporting period

Specific concerns you have with the quality of data for program areas reported in this report

- IP source documents should be continually improved. In the first DQA it was observed that only 27% of IPs could present source documents. This improved in the second DQA and 42% of IPs could present source documents for all verified indicators; and all IPs could present source document at least for one of the indicators verified.
- Incomplete reporting: in verifying FY11 Q4 reports, 43% of the IPs did not submit complete reports on “# of beneficiaries trained on Gender, OVC care & nutrition.
- Timeliness of reports: Delaying reports was observed in 46% of IPs while checking dates in which they submitted their December 2011 & January 2012 monthly reports, which showed some improvement

<p>from the last DQA result in which nearly 60% of IPs delayed timely reporting.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - M&E structure and staffing: There was limited capacity to assign M&E Focal Person to each IP. The monitoring tasks of UGP activities were undertaken informally by IP Heads or Project Officers that are available in the projects. - M&E work planning: Though IPs have M&E plans, some IPs plans were not comprehensive and exhaustively linked to overall project work plan.
<p><u>What you are doing on a routine basis to ensure that your data is high quality for each program area</u></p> <p>The USAID UGP M&E team conducted data quality assessments (DQA) on a quarterly basis. The aim of the DQA is to verify the quality of the reported data for selected indicators and assess the ability of the IPs' M&E system to collect and report quality data. Forty nine IPs in the first quarter and 33 IPs in the second quarter were assessed in the DQA. The process includes a thorough review of all UGP related documents stored at each IP. The documents reviewed included: reports, source information records, beneficiary registration forms and action plans. Each IP Head is briefed on findings and an action plan was jointly developed with the M&E staff.</p> <p>Follow up of the implementation of data quality improvement plan continued by the respective Operation Area Coordinators and UGP M&E team. Most of the activities proposed in the plan during the first quarter DQA were accomplished and reported.</p> <p>In the reporting period, USAID UGP staff:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Provided updated standardized formats to register source information - Periodically checked that IPs are using standardized source documents to record data routinely. - Developed and shared a report guideline which outlines who, to whom, what and when to report and also how to manage dropouts and put periodic updates of beneficiary registry in place. - Conducted two DQAs: one in each quarter and developed data quality improvement action plan - Followed up the implementation of data quality improvement plans proposed during the DQAs. - Reviewed periodic reports from IPs, cluster managers and OACs and provided feedback. - Indicators definition spreadsheet has been redistributed for reference purposes.
<p><u>How you planned to address those concerns / improve the quality of your data for each program area</u></p> <p>The M&E team together with the CMs and OACs addressed data quality concerns by incorporating the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - By establishing a strong follow up mechanisms on the implementation of data quality improvement plans; - Keep conducting DQA on a regular basis; - Close supportive supervision to assure timely recording of source documentation formats - Strengthen the review of reports at OAC and CM level before being reported to USAID UGP central office - Involve the technical team on the process of data quality assessment - Improve M&E planning capacity of IPs through continued technical support, reviewing and commenting on the plans - Lobby IPs to assign M&E School Focal Persons so that the M&E tasks will be performed by designated personnel formally and regularly.

9. Major Activities planned in the next reporting period

Upcoming activities should highlight planned activities and solutions to identified constraints (write for each program area)

I. Deepen Long-Term Urban Gardens Capacity, Management and Policy

Task 1: Improve Community Garden Management

- Continue to work on soil fertility, nurturing and moisturizing.
- Support gardeners in fruit tree management, soil amelioration-manure tea and manure application to garden plots
- Implement proper exit strategies and prepare IPs for phasing out from UGP and enable them to continue gardening independently.
- Develop an Agronomy manual and provide agronomic training
- Improve and disseminate garden dialogue tools
- Continue to promote mini-nurseries in more gardens
- Continue to promote micro-gardens
- Strengthen field level supervision and monitoring of gardens

Task 2: Strengthen Quality and Management of school based Gardens

- Conduct micro gardening contests
- Assist and closely follow up micro gardening activity in schools
- Follow up implementation of child friendly gardening in schools

Task 3: Water Supply and System Improvement

- Complete construction and rehabilitation of water supply/conveyance systems (HDWs, river diversion, canals, shallow well and water tanker stands)
- Complete water quality tests for irrigation and potable water.
- Provide training on proper management of water supply or conveyance systems to EOs, water committees & gardeners and facilitate handover

Task 4: Improve Irrigation and Water Saving Techniques

- Complete installation of drip kits
- Complete drip tank stand and cover construction at all sites
- Complete printing and disseminate guidelines on installing, maintenance, and utilizing drip irrigation technology
- Launch program to link gardeners with government and private vendors for provision and servicing of drip irrigation technology

Task 5: Expand Knowledge of Environmental Practices, Technologies, Services and Vendors

- Conduct training on waste water sorting, filtration and use
- Continue overseeing construction of and provide technical assistance on biophysical conservation to enhance infrastructure
- Complete printing of and disseminating guidelines on environmental hygiene

Task 6: Review Land Access Issues for Gardens

- Continue to develop cost recovery plan for the remaining 80 gardens

Task 7: Strengthen and Expand Urban Agriculture policy Framework

- Finalize Urban Agriculture Strategy which is combined with Urban Agriculture Policy document, translate it into Amharic and support the wider dissemination
- Complete the production of abbreviated version of the Urban Agriculture Policy and Implementation Guideline.
- Conduct broader education campaign on Urban Agriculture Policy framework and Implementation Guideline. Share the strategy at garden level.

2. Expand Integrated Opportunities for Economic Creation and Market Access

Task 1: Mobilize Savings and Expand Gardeners Financial Literacy

- Continue to link GSLs to local microfinance institutions

Task 2: Improve understanding of Market Dynamics and Market Identification

- Complete expansion and improvement of market information boards on few remaining community and school gardens.

Task 3: Strategic Marketing Events and Formation of Market Groups

- Continue to conduct trainings in marketing and basic business skills
- Establish one new vegetable marketing group that operates a shop
- Provide training on basics of marketing group management
- Conduct field fairs

Task 4: Strengthen Backyard poultry Program

- Finalize current procurement and distribution of remaining chickens
- Disseminate guideline on basics of poultry raising
- Disseminate poultry productivity assessment report
- Complete and disseminate evaluation of health or economic benefits and risks associated with integrated ruminants in households
- Complete guidelines on control and prevention of communal diseases from animal to humans

3. Deepen understanding of Linking Gardening to Improved Health Outcomes

Task 1: Strengthen and Expand Garden Health Referral Networks

- Keep strengthening of linkages with health service providers
- Revise community health and social services maps
- Update and provide referral cards to IPs

Task 2: Expand Health and Nutrition Education Opportunities

- Continue with organizing health and nutrition discussion experience sharing sessions
- Continue conducting food preparation and preservation training and demonstrations at gardens

4. Build Capacity and Knowledge of IPs

Task 1: Improve capacity of IPs to plan for long term institutional Sustainability

- Conduct training on Planning for Operational and Financial Sustainability for IP directors.

5. Monitoring and Evaluation

- Continue conducting quarterly DQAs
- Follow up on DQA action plans
- Conduct the follow up on surveys
- Organize data for end of project report preparation
- Conduct impact evaluation

10. Environmental Compliance

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

Environmental mitigation and monitoring plans (EMMPs) were developed in 98% of the gardens. In lands where special support was needed (e.g., in flood-affected areas) soil and water conservation structures and drainage structures were constructed. These activities are compliant with the requirements of USAID 22CFR Reg 216. The major achievements in this regard include:

- Garden assessments completed and garden profiles were consolidated for each of the year 4 gardens.
- MOUs renewed with schools and local government organizations in 99% of the gardens.

- Land preparation and lay out completed in most garden sites.
- In many garden sites, soil fertility management is being practiced, especially compost preparation and manure application practiced in many gardens.
- Drip kit system installation has been accomplished in most garden sites. Due to missing accessories drip kit installation was delayed in some sites. Nevertheless, installation of drip kit system in all sites will be completed soon.
- Water system contractors mapping prepared and submitted to Environmental Resource Advisor for the construction of water supply schemes;
- Water system assessments completed by the Water Expert for about 124 garden sites. Based on the assessment, Bill of Quantity and specifications were prepared and submitted; and bidding requirements were completed.
- Two completed HDWs handed over to the respective schools and water quality test result was secured.
- EMMPs are updated in 226 gardens and being implemented in 198 garden sites.
- An IEE Amendment was developed & approved by USAID at the beginning of the year, for the construction of water supply systems such as boreholes, hand dug wells, roof water harvesting, stream diversion and related conveyance/boosting systems.
- Detailed mitigation measures for possible environmental and safety guards have been properly adhered to and acted on every aspect of the construction works. The major achievements in this regard include:
 - o **Awareness raising**
 - Community-based groups are formed to manage well resources.
 - Water-borne disease vectors controlled through proper sanitation, draining pond water downstream and at water distribution points
 - To prevent erosion, appropriate water saving and efficient water application systems were used as needed.
 - o **Safety precautions**
 - Advised people to protect from touching impounded water with their hands or mouths
 - Avoided damaging of vegetation
 - Shallow wells were covered and disposal of refuse /debris was well prevented
 - Personal protection equipment and protective cloths were supplied
 - To avoid human water contact, constructed water bodies were fenced.
 - o **Trainings**
 - Educated beneficiaries on the possible health hazards,
 - Provided health education to communities on the prevention of water and vector borne diseases (e.g. malaria, bilharzias etc.)
 - Trained and monitored workers on best practices in construction of buildings and structures.
 - Trained water committee and care takers on water related diseases and water treatment.
 - Trained gardeners on water application techniques.
 - o **Construct mitigation measures**
 - Proper erosion prevention and control measures were taken.
 - Dug materials (cart away materials) were properly collected and damped off.
 - Proper bedding materials were used for pipes.
 - o **Inspection and monitoring issues**
 - Controlled the operation of the water sources.
 - Managed irrigation through the use of drip watering cans.
 - To determine the safe and sustainable yield capacities of the ground water potential recirculation of water was investigated.
 - Monitored drains and soaked-away and kept them clear of debris
 - Undertook water quality test and water treatment. Non potable water was labeled as 'not for drinking'

11. Financial accomplishment

(... in USD)

Life of Project budget (a)	Obligated to date (b)	Expenditure (Accrual and actual disbursement) to date (c)	Remaining balance (d) = (b) – (c)	Remarks
\$9,497,590.00	\$9,497,590.00	8,498,995.00	998,595.00	

12. Issues requiring the attention of CDC ETHIOPIA Management

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

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. Appendix
Summary Table of Additional M&E Indicators

Indicators	Q1 Result	Q2 Result	Semiannual result
<i>Number of gardens established</i>			
Group garden	69	76	76
School garden	100	111	111
Institutional garden	18	22	22
Homestead garden	70	83	83
Total	257	292	292
<i>Number of gardens by type of water source</i>			
Municipal water	104	143	143
River water	39	40	40
Hand-dug well	28	45	45
Spring	10	10	10
Other	7	55	55
<i>Number of beneficiaries participating in micro gardening</i>	194	1841	1841
<i>Number of schools with micro garden</i>	3	52	52
<i>Discussion groups</i>			
Number of discussion groups established	238	265	265
Number of functioning discussion groups at end of reporting period	206	244	244
Number of beneficiaries participated in at least one group discussion during the reporting period	4,541	5,107	5,844
<i>Number of beneficiaries trained by type of training</i>			
Gardening	3,974	5408	7862
Marketing and GSL	1,855	3507	4996
OVC Care	585	1636	2163
HIV Prevention, Care and Treatment	795	1710	2555
Nutrition	1,342	2345	3327
Gender	15	866	895
Environmental Mitigation	2,769	2998	4974
Poultry raising	450	264	354
Other	420	867	1093
<i>Number of OVC referred to OVC support services by type of service</i>			
Food and Nutrition	154	516	657
Shelter and Care	0	118	118
Protection	3	16	19
Healthcare Services	131	419	458
Psychosocial Support	126	183	294
Educational and Vocational Training	103	420	594
Economic Strengthening	0	17	17
<i># of beneficiaries referred to HIV/AIDS, Health and other support services</i>			
ART	78	18	34
PMTCT	8	8	16

Indicators	Q1 Result	Q2 Result	Semiannual result
Anti-TB	2	0	2
VCT	6	8	22
HCBC?PC	367	349	406
Food and Nutrition	10	101	111
Psychosocial Support	112	264	282
Vocational Training	32	25	32
Income generating Activities	41	118	159
Other	0	20	20
<i>Environmental mitigation and monitoring plan</i>			
Number of gardens with environmental mitigation and monitoring plan	167	226	226
Number of gardens implementing environmental mitigation and monitoring plan	146	98	198
Number of gardens using water saving technologies	121	157	157
Total number of fruit trees distributed	0	13	13
Average amount of vegetables harvested by garden site (kg)	48,408.70	108,904.55	142,444.25
Average amount of vegetables consumed by garden site (kg)	21,596.5	34,963.3	47,560.80
Total number of beneficiaries engaged in backyard poultry raising	1,691	1864	2054
Total number of beneficiaries rearing chicken following the EMMP recommendations	619	551	557
Total amount of poultry products produced	Egg 79,598 Chicken 62	Egg 90,766 Chicken 25	Egg 132,930 Chicken 87
Total amount of income gained from surplus poultry products sale (birr)	87,852.70	Egg 117,021.15 Chicken 750	Egg 141,368.85 Chicken 750
Average amount of income gained from surplus vegetable sale by garden site (birr)	878,838	308,018.45	371,407.45
Number of saving and loan groups established during the reporting period	215	270	270
Number of beneficiaries engaged in saving and loan	4,561	5253	5253
Total amount of money saved (birr)	103,306.30 ²	66,855	101,031.65
Total amount of loan disbursed to GSL members (birr)	18,428 ³	21,874	27,694

² The 103, 306.30 birr savings is cumulative of year 3 and year 4 1st quarter; whereas the second quarter and SAPR results indicate the amount of saving in the particular period.

³ Likewise, the 18,423 birr loan disbursed is cumulative of year 3 and year 4 1st quarter, whereas the second quarter and SAPR results indicate the amount of loan disbursed in the particular period.