



LIFT Associate Cooperative Award

Quarterly Report #2 FY2010, 2nd Quarter

**Livelihood and Food Security Technical Assistance (LIFT)
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BACKGROUND

The **L**ivelihood and **F**ood Security **T**echnical Assistance (LIFT) project is designed to work in close collaboration with US Government (USG) agencies, implementing partners, and other key players to integrate sustainable, market-driven livelihoods strengthening into food and nutritional security interventions. LIFT aims to heighten the impact of work done through USAID, PEPFAR, Feed the Future, USDA, CDC, and the Peace Corps, as well as local governments, civil society, and the private sector. LIFT's ultimate goal is to support the food security of vulnerable households by improving their livelihoods and economic circumstances.

The USAID Global Health Bureau's Office of HIV/AIDS (OHA) established the LIFT project as an Associate Award under the FIELD-Support Leader with Associates (LWA) Cooperative Agreement, managed by AED. LIFT is a five-year project (2009-2014) that draws together leading organizations with expertise in the areas of economic strengthening and food security. Under LIFT, AED partners with Care International (CARE) and Save the Children US (SAVE) as well as a robust group of resource organizations, to provide high-impact technical assistance to USG country teams and their implementing partners, and to offer leadership and strategic learning to the field of livelihood strengthening and food security as a whole. LIFT works in partnership with FANTA-2 (Food And Nutrition Technical Assistance project), and is in the process of establishing relationships with other key USG projects and initiatives around food security.

LIFT will improve vulnerable households' ability to access food through market-led sustainable livelihoods strengthening interventions, thereby leveraging the investments that the US Government, local governments, multilateral agencies, bilateral donors, civil society organizations and the private sector have made toward increasing food security.

ACTIVITIES

1. Global

1.1 Capacity-Building of Stakeholders

From January to February 2010, LIFT Project Director Margie Brand served on the design and facilitation team for “Household Economic Strengthening for Orphans and Vulnerable Children,” a capacity-building workshop for USAID Missions, organized by AIDSTAR-Two, and held in Nairobi, Kenya from February 1-3, 2010. The workshop objective was to orient attendees on the basics of household economic strengthening for orphans and vulnerable children. Margie Brand and Leah Berkowitz Nchabeleng, from LIFT partner Care International, conducted capacity building sessions on “Household Economic Strengthening” and presented the LIFT technical assistance opportunities to participants. Six USG country offices were represented at the meeting, with representatives from USAID and CDC from: Kenya, Mozambique, Namibia, Nigeria, South Africa, and Tanzania. LIFT explored areas for technical assistance in one-on-one meetings with each country group.

1.2 Stakeholder Coordination and Outreach

- a. LIFT engaged with several stakeholders to coordinate activities and discuss potential partnerships in the quarter, including:
 - IFPRI (in general and through their RENEWAL project)
 - PATH International
 - Cardno Emerging Markets (through their AIDSTAR-II project)
- b. On March 18-19, Margie Brand participated in a World Food Program (WFP) HIV & Nutrition Roundtable, on “Addressing Patient and Family Needs” with other participants from around the globe.

1.3 M&E Technical Assistance

- a. USAID/OHA connected LIFT with the MEASURE Evaluation project to discuss opportunities for collaboration. MEASURE supports a broad range of M&E activities related to USAID health programming. LIFT and MEASURE had multiple meetings this quarter to discuss the M&E needs of cross-sectoral programs and how MEASURE can work with LIFT in addressing these needs.

1.4 Knowledge Management and Learning

Key learning activities during the quarter at the global level:

- a. LIFT Resource Library: Save the Children volunteered to spearhead the development of the LIFT technical resource library. With input from the other LIFT partners, SAVE developed and proposed a categorization system for the resource library and will begin populating the system to test how well it works. The resource library will be a key feature of the Learning Platform that LIFT will launch later this year.
- b. Learning Platform and LIFT web presence: Working with Grand Junction Design, LIFT began creating a Learning Platform for livelihoods and food security, based on the proven design of the Children, Youth and Economic Strengthening (CYES) Network Learning Platform. The Learning Platform will gather and share information about activities, events and funding opportunities in livelihoods and food security, and will host the resource library and provide a space for expert commentary. It will also provide LIFT with a web presence

enabling USG agencies and USAID Missions to access information about technical assistance available.

- c. Events:
 - o Jennine Carmichael, Clint Curtis, and Lam Huynh from the LIFT Team attended the Partnership to End Hunger and Poverty in Africa Forum from February 25-26.

2. Country-specific

2.1 Namibia

Shortly after project launch, FANTA-2 contacted LIFT about a request from USAID/Namibia to support identifying opportunities linking graduates from food-by-prescription services to income generating opportunities. After meeting with USAID/Namibia and FANTA-2, LIFT provided TA by undertaking an assessment of livelihood and food security activities in Namibia that would identify both short-term linkages to meet USAID/Namibia implementing partner's needs and short-term and long-term investments to meet USAID strategic needs. This assessment was a two-step process, beginning with a comprehensive desk review of the literature on economic opportunities in Namibia. The desk review report was finalized and shared with USAID/Namibia in January.

The second phase of the assessment comprised of a field assessment. LIFT Consultant, Ben Fowler, oversaw a multidisciplinary team comprised of CARE's LIFT representative Leah Berkowitz Nchabeleng (with HIV/AIDS and livelihoods expertise), AFE's LIFT representative Henri van der Land (with market development expertise), and SAVE's LIFT consultant Kathy McCaston (with livelihoods expertise), who were in the field from February 15-26. The team met to examine livelihood and food security constraints and opportunities and their application to HIV/AIDS-affected households.

During the quarter, LIFT began compiling the final assessment report, highlighting key projects and activities underway in Namibia and sectors offering future market linkage potential. As of the end of the quarter, the final report, along with a proposed investment strategy is under review and will be distributed to relevant stakeholders early in April. The report structure and the development process will serve as a template for future LIFT assessments.

2.2 Nigeria

LIFT began discussions with USAID/Nigeria this quarter, presenting LIFT's services and resources, and investigating USAID/Nigeria's needs in terms of linking economic strengthening and food security interventions.

2.3 Malawi

LIFT met with Sarah Sandison of USAID/Global Health prior to her departure for Malawi on TDY to discuss LIFT and explore appropriate way to identify where LIFT technical expertise could be useful to the Mission.

3. Operational

3.1 Communications and Outreach

- a. LIFT created outreach materials describing the project and how to access LIFT services. The materials have been distributed to interested USAID Missions, the USG Food and Nutrition Technical Working Group, FANTA-2, Africa 2010, IFPRI, and Cardno Emerging Markets.

- b. LIFT finalized a project logo and began creating templates for brochures, presentations and publications.
- c. LIFT initiated work on the project's branding and marking plan.

3.2 Staffing

- This quarter, Clint Curtis and Lam Huynh joined the LIFT team as part-time Program Associates.
- LIFT is exploring opportunities to bring on a part-time intern to support LIFT activities such as the development of a web-based Learning Platform.

3.3 Contracting

LIFT issued the following contracts in the quarter:

- Subaward to Action for Enterprise (AFE) to participate in the Namibia field assessment
- Subaward to CARE
- Subaward to Save the Children
- Purchase order to Grand Junction Design for website design
- Consultant agreement to Ben Fowler

3.4 Deliverables

LIFT prepared and submitted the following deliverables to USAID during the quarter:

- Quarterly Report #1 (FY2010, Quarter 1)
- FY09 HOP Partner Progress Review

SUCSESSES

1. Global

LIFT rapidly built on the momentum established by the launch of activities in Namibia, moving ahead quickly with outreach to USAID Missions, developing a project identity, and fostering highly collaborative relationships among the core partners (AED, CARE, and Save the Children) and with other organizations and initiatives working in related areas.

2. Country-specific

2.1 Namibia

This quarter, with the conclusion of field work in Namibia, LIFT successfully completed its first TA assignment. The assessment report for Namibia was under final review at the end of quarter and will be released early in April. Early feedback from the Mission is encouraging, particularly their positive response to the desk review report. The Namibia assessment was very helpful in rapidly strengthening LIFT's relationship with FANTA-2 by demonstrating the value that LIFT can add to food security programming.

- In conducting the USAID/Namibia assessment, LIFT had planned the desk review only as a foundational step for the field assessment. However, the positive reaction of the USAID/Namibia Mission to the desk review report indicates that conducting a desk review

and reporting on the results can be a valuable deliverable in its own right. Synthesizing information on livelihoods and food security initiatives taking place in country is helpful to Mission staff, particularly within a structure that helps clarify how to understand economic strengthening activities in country.

- The Namibia field assessment team reported that it was valuable to have a team comprised of individuals with different areas of sectoral expertise (HIV/AIDS, livelihoods, food security, and market development). Each team member brought a different lens to the process, resulting in a more complete picture of what types of livelihoods development activities are appropriate for vulnerable households.

CHALLENGES

1. Global

- The speed at which LIFT was requested to undertake activities in Namibia presented a challenge to staff capacity. LIFT met this challenge by moving quickly to bring additional support staff on board and work closely with LIFT partners and consultants.

2. Country-specific

2.1 Namibia

- The tight timeframe for the Namibia assessment resulted in challenges assembling the desk review and field assessment teams. LIFT was able to overcome this through intense outreach efforts, and is making an effort to pre-empt this challenge in the future by developing a database of staff and consultants who would be valuable members of an assessment team.

PLANS FOR THE NEXT QUARTER

1. Global

- LIFT will hold a Partners Meeting in Pretoria, South Africa, from April 5-9. The meeting will address project strategy, opportunities, and learning. The meeting will provide important input into the project framework, workplan, and PMP. Expected participants include representatives from OHA, AED, CARE, Save the Children, and FANTA-2.
- LIFT will continue to develop the LIFT Global Resource Review by populating the categorization system, seeking input about documents to include from major stakeholders and other organizations and proposing a system to highlight strategic documents for users.
- From April 28-29, 2010, a meeting will be held in Washington DC with LIFT stakeholders to discuss monitoring and evaluation frameworks. USAID, CARE, FANTA-2, MEASURE, and Save the Children will participate in this meeting.

2. Country-specific

2.1 Namibia

The livelihood and food security assessment report of Namibia will be finalized, including the desk review findings, with a situational analysis, livelihoods priorities and strategies, recommendations, and appendices of additional resources to utilize. This will include possible areas of investment for USAID/Namibia.

2.2 Nigeria

A country assessment in Nigeria is planned for June 2010.

ATTACHMENT 1
LIFT Meetings Log – FY10 Q2
Connecting and Collaborating

Date	Topic	Attendees
1/13/2010	LIFT Status and Planning Meeting	USAID/OHA, Margie Brand (AED/LIFT), Jennine Carmichael (AED/LIFT)
1/14/2010	LIFT Technical Strategy Meeting	CARE, SAVE, Margie Brand (AED/LIFT), Jennine Carmichael (AED/LIFT)
1/20/2010	LIFT Monthly Meeting	USAID/OHA, Margie Brand (AED/LIFT), Jennine Carmichael (AED/LIFT)
1/21/2010	Namibia Assessment Meeting	USAID/Namibia, Pact/Namibia, Margie Brand (AED/LIFT), Jennine Carmichael (AED/LIFT)
1/22/2010	FIELD-Support Partners Meeting	Partners, FIELD-Support, Margie Brand (AED/LIFT), Jennine Carmichael (AED/LIFT), Lam Huynh (AED/LIFT)
1/30/2010	USAID Collaboration Meeting	Maury Mendenhall (USAID/GHFP), Jason Wolfe (USAID/EGAT), Amie Heap (USAID/OHA), Margie Brand (AED/LIFT)
1/30/2010	CARE and LIFT Meeting in Kenya	Leah Berkowitz (CARE), Margie Brand (AED/LIFT)
1/30/2010	CARDNO and LIFT Meeting	Maury Mendenhall (USAID/GHFP), Beatrice Nyamwenge (USIAD/Kampala), Jason Wolfe (USAID/EGAT), Michael Reeves (CARDNO), Victoria Francis (CARDNO), Margie Brand (AED/LIFT)
2/3/2010	Namibia Assessment Agenda Meeting	Ochi Ibe (USAID/Namibia), Silke Felton (USAID/Windhoek), Margie Brand (AED/LIFT)
2/3/2010, 2/11/2010, 2/17/2010, 2/19/2010, 2/20/2010, 2/25/2010, 3/8/2010,	Namibia Assessment Meetings	Kathy McCaston (CARE Cons.), Henri van der Land (AFE Cons.), Frank Lusby (AFE), Leah Berkowitz (CARE), Ben Fowler (LIFT Cons.), Nelson Prada (Pact), Margie Brand (AED/LIFT), Jennine Carmichael (AED/LIFT)
2/16/2010	FANTA-2 and LIFT Meeting	Tony Castleman (AED/FANTA-2), LIFT Team
2/18/2010	FANTA-2 Indicators Debrief for GHFSI	Tim Quick (USAID/OHA), Amie Heap (USAID/OHA), FANTA-2, Margie Brand (AED/LIFT)
2/18/2010	USAID/OHA Monthly Plans Meeting	Tim Quick (USAID/OHA), Amie Heap (USAID/OHA), Margie Brand (AED/LIFT)
2/25/10 -2/26/10	Partnership to End Hunger and Poverty in Africa Forum	Jennine Carmichael (AED/LIFT), Clint Curtis (AED/LIFT), Lam Huynh (AED/LIFT)
2/26/2010	USAID/OHA Meeting	Tim Quick (USAID/OHA), Amie Heap (USAID/OHA), Margie Brand (AED/LIFT), Jennine Carmichael (AED/LIFT), Clint Curtis (AED/LIFT)
3/2/2010	SAVE and LIFT Meeting	Lisa Parrott (SAVE), Margie Brand (AED/LIFT)
3/4/2010	Namibia USAID Meeting	Ochi Ibe (USAID/Namibia), Tim Quick (USAID/OHA), Amie Heap (USAID/OHA), LIFT Team
3/17/2010	FANTA-2 and LIFT Collaboration Meeting	Gilles Bergeron (AED/FANTA-2), Tony Castleman (AED/FANTA-2), LIFT Team
3/18/10-3/19/10	WFP Roundtable Meeting	Tim Quick (USAID/OHA), Amie Heap (USAID/OHA), Margie Brand (AED/LIFT)
3/22/2010	Livelihood & Food Security Resource Library Meeting	Thierry van Bastelaer (SAVE), Lisa Parrott (SAVE), Diana Alhindawi (SAVE), LIFT Team
3/24/2010	IFPRI and LIFT Possible Collaboration Meeting	Rahul Rawat (IFPRI), LIFT Team
3/26/2010	Partners Meeting Strategy Call	Lisa Parrott (SAVE), Leah Berkowitz (CARE), Ben Fowler (LIFT Cons.), LIFT Team
3/29/2010	USAID Partners Strategy Meeting	USAID/OHA, LIFT Team
3/31/2010	IFPRI/RENEWAL and LIFT Possible Collaboration Meeting	Scott Drimie (IFPRI), Margie Brand (AED/LIFT)
Key:	<i>USAID/OHA: Tim Quick, Amie Heap</i> <i>LIFT Team: Margie Brand, Jennine Carmichael, Clint Curtis, Lam Huynh</i> <i>Cons.: Consultant</i>	