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Livelihood & Food Security
Technical Assistance

Quarterly Report #4
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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. Consultation for Development of a Joint Global Framework for Action and Monitoring and Evaluation Guidance for Nutrition and HIV Activities

From July 29-30, 2010, LIFT M&E Expert consultant, Gary Woller, and LIFT Program Director, Margie Brand, attended the *Consultation for Development of a Joint Global Framework for Action and Monitoring and Evaluation Guidance for Nutrition and HIV Activities* and *Consultation on Harmonized Global Indicators for Monitoring and Evaluating Nutrition and HIV Activities* in Washington, D.C. with AOTR Timothy Quick and Amie Heap. Other participants included representatives from USAID/OHA, WHO, NIH, the PEPFAR Food and Nutrition TWG, MEASURE Evaluation, and FANTA-2.

1.2. M&E Resource Group (MERG) Proposed Indicator Development

Building on discussion at the M&E Consultation Meeting in July, LIFT M&E Expert consultant, Gary Woller, with support from LIFT Senior Specialist, Kirsten Weeks, and others in the AED LIFT team, continued to work with USAID, FANTA-2, and JSI's MEASURE Evaluation project on defining and revising indicators for monitoring food security and HIV linkages, with the intention of submitting these indicators to the United Nations' HIV Monitoring and Evaluation Reference Group (MERG) later in the year.

1.3. PEPFAR Regional Meeting on NACS in HIV Services

From September 14-17, 2010, LIFT Program Director, Margie Brand, and LIFT Senior Specialist, Kirsten Weeks, participated in the *PEPFAR Regional Meeting on Nutrition Assessment Counseling and Support in HIV: Strategies, Tools, and Progress in Integrating Nutrition into HIV Programming*, which took place in Jinja, Uganda. The primary purpose of this meeting was to share country experiences and lessons learned in the implementation of nutrition assessment, counseling and support (NACS) within clinical and community health services. Margie Brand co-facilitated a breakout session at the meeting, "Innovations of linking NACS with livelihood programming," with Fanice Komen of AMPATH, Kenya.

1.4. Food for Peace Integration with PEPFAR

LIFT has started contributing to discussions around improving the integration of PEPFAR funding with Title II Food Aid Programs. Participation in these discussion has helped lay the groundwork for potential LIFT assistance to USG county programs in operationalizing this integration. Sarah Sandison and Judy Kenowati of USAID have been the primary contacts at USAID for this activity with discussions still in an initial phase.

1.5. Livelihoods and Food Security Conceptual Framework

Throughout the quarter, LIFT partners continued work on a livelihood and food security conceptual framework that can be used to understand and explain the interaction between economic strengthening and food security. LIFT M&E Expert consultant, Gary Woller, has been spearheading the Conceptual Framework development, with input from a range of LIFT stakeholders, including Save the Children and CARE. A draft framework narrative has been developed and circulated for comments to stakeholders including the participants at the Regional Meeting on NACS in HIV Services and AIDSTAR-II (Cardno Emerging Markets Group). Currently, the framework is undergoing revision based on stakeholder comments.

1.6 Economic Strengthening for Food Security Platform

LIFT continued work on the Economic Strengthening for Food Security (ESFS) Platform, a web-based platform for LIFT and related projects to share knowledge and learning around integrating economic strengthening and food security interventions for improved household well-being. The AED team coordinated the development of a proposed layout, primary content areas and graphic design for the site and sought feedback and input from various stakeholders, including Save the Children and CARE.

1.7 Resource Library

Under Save the Children's leadership, LIFT has continued to develop and expand its Resource Library by incorporating several new key documents identified by research staff and partners, as well as colleagues in the field. Over 150 documents are currently categorized, and Save the Children is actively seeking recommended documents/studies/case studies from peer organizations.

1.8 Additional Global Outputs

LIFT further refined and developed the concept paper for USAID/OHA, "Strengthening NACS Wraparound Services Targeting Livelihoods and Food Security" that was submitted last quarter for consideration for Plus-up funds. The concept describes an activity across three East African countries to demonstrate how to create effective linkages between clinic-based NACS programs and livelihood support services. In this quarter, LIFT refined the narrative, expanded the budget, and developed slides on the concept for OHA.

2. Country-specific

2.1 Ethiopia

Last quarter, the USAID/Ethiopia PEPFAR office requested that LIFT provide technical assistance in designing and implementing an independent external review and assessment of economic strengthening activities (ES) within the Ethiopia PEPFAR HIV/AIDS portfolio. LIFT undertook assessment activities in the current quarter, comprised of a desk review in July and August that provided background for the livelihood, food security, and HIV/AIDS context in Ethiopia as well as identifying key areas of investigation and key contacts; and a field assessment in August and September that built on the desk review in assessing livelihood strengthening activities in the USAID/Ethiopia HIV/AIDS portfolio.

The desk review was conducted by consultants Ben Fowler, Joan Hall, and Scott Arche (contracted through LIFT partner, AFE) with support from the LIFT team. Ms. Hall and Mr. Arche, along with James Dempsey, Raya Abagodu, Tassew Woldehanna, Chalachew Tiruneh (a logistics consultant contracted through AED), and Lisa Parrott from Save the Children, comprised the team for the field assessment.

The Ethiopia field assessment methodology consisted of interviewing USAID Mission representatives, implementing partners (international, national, and community-based organizations) with PEPFAR funding, and beneficiaries. Focus groups with beneficiaries were also conducted, and visits to beneficiaries' activities, such as income-generating activities (IGAs) and urban gardens, also occurred. Prior to interviews, the Ethiopia team developed tools for conducting interviews and assessing field activities. Finally, the Ethiopia team reviewed project documents shared by implementing partners. LIFT will deliver the final assessment report and a debriefing and strategy development meeting with the USAID Mission and implementing partners next quarter.

2.2. Swaziland

In August, Natalie Kruse-Levy of PEPFAR/Swaziland reached out to Tim Quick about working with LIFT in Swaziland. Subsequently, the LIFT team corresponded and held conference calls with Ms. Kruse-Levy to determine the timeframe and needs for a small assessment activity that will feed into the design of larger, ongoing implementation projects in economic strengthening and food security for HIV/AIDS-affected household and households with OVC.

By the end of the quarter, LIFT and PEPFAR/Swaziland had begun negotiating a scope of work for the TA assignment and identified the timeframe for the activity as late November – early December 2010. LIFT also began identifying a team of international and local consultants with relevant skill sets and availability.

2.3. Nigeria

The LIFT team reached out to Lungi Okoko and Philomena Irene in the USAID/Nigeria Mission to follow up on discussions from the previous quarter about LIFT technical assistance provision in Nigeria. The team scheduled a discussion with the Mission early in the first quarter of FY 2011.

2.4. Namibia

LIFT continued work on incorporating stakeholder feedback into and refining the presentation of the final Namibia *Livelihoods and Food Security Assessment Report*. Plans for next quarter include furthering discussion of potential follow-on activities with the USAID Namibia Mission.

2.5. Malawi

LIFT Program Director, Margie Brand, and LIFT Senior Specialist, Kirsten Weeks, met with Violet Orchardson from the USAID/Malawi Mission at the *PEPFAR Regional Meeting on Nutrition Assessment Counseling and Support in HIV/AIDS* in Uganda to follow up on previous conversations about potential LIFT TA provision to USAID/Malawi. LIFT worked on drafting a SOW for this proposed TA, began initial document identification for the desk review, and connected with the Mission to set up a meeting for early in the next quarter.

2.6. Kenya

LIFT reached out to the USAID/Kenya Mission after the *PEPFAR Regional Meeting on Nutrition Assessment Counseling and Support in HIV/AIDS* to follow up on potential LIFT TA provision opportunities in Kenya.

3. Operational

3.1. Communications and Outreach

- LIFT designed and produced a brochure and poster describing LIFT's global leadership and country-level technical assistance and support services, with input from stakeholders, including USAID/OHA. The poster and brochure have been used to promote LIFT at a variety of events, notably the Food for Peace Conference held in Washington, DC from July 14-15, where LIFT organized an exhibition stand, the African Growth and Opportunity Act Conference in Washington, DC from July 29-August 3, and the *PEPFAR Regional Meeting on Nutrition Assessment Counseling and Support in HIV/AIDS* in Uganda.
- The project continued to work on developing a dedicated web presence for LIFT, which will be housed on the ESFS website.
- A presentation on LIFT was made by Save the Children's LIFT representatives to the *Save the Children International HIV and AIDS Global Initiative Team* in Sopron, Hungary on July 12, to inform global technical advisors regarding the opportunities available under LIFT and the activities conducted to date. The session was attended by 45 members of Save the Children's staff and collaborators.

3.2. Project Administration and Support

- LIFT set up a Basecamp site (an online project management tool) to facilitate communication and collaboration between LIFT partners and consultants while conducting technical assistance activities.
- LIFT issued the following contracts in the quarter:
 - LIFT/CARE Subaward fully executed
 - LIFT/AFE Subaward Modification 1 fully executed, for work in Ethiopia.
 - Personal Services Contractor Agreement to Chalachew Tiruneh, for work in Ethiopia.
 - Personal Services Contractor Agreement to Raya Abagodu, for work in Ethiopia.
 - Personal Services Contractor Agreement to Tassew Woldehanna, for work in Ethiopia.
 - Personal Services Contractor Agreement to Joan Hall, for work in Ethiopia.
 - Personal Services Contractor Agreement to James Dempsey, for work in Ethiopia.
 - Personal Services Contractor Agreement to Ben Fowler, for work in Ethiopia.

3.3. Learning Opportunities

- LIFT Program Officer, Jennine Carmichael, and Program Associate, Lam Huynh, attended a presentation on “Empowering Better Care: Report on Economic Strengthening for OVC Caregivers in Uganda,” which dealt with the economic strengthening component of a larger OVC-focused project in Uganda. The project is implemented by the Salvation Army World Service Organization (SAWSO), and uses the WORTH model of village savings and loan (VSL) associations for the ES component. The learning from this meeting has potential implications for LIFT recommendations about linking ES activities with activities supporting HIV-affected households.
- LIFT Livelihood and Food Security Specialist, Ben Rinehart, attended a presentation titled “Poverty, Agriculture and Nutrition: Conceptual Linkages and Operational Implications” by Per Pinstrup-Anderson, addressing the linkages among food systems, food security, nutrition and poverty.
- LIFT Senior Specialist, Kirsten Weeks, attended “Implementing Country-Led Agricultural Development: Updates on CAADP and Feed the Future”, hosted by the Partnership to Cut Hunger and Poverty in Africa.
- LIFT Program Director, Margie Brand, and LIFT Senior Specialist, Kirsten Weeks, attended workshops and presentations at the *PEPFAR Regional Meeting on Nutrition Assessment Counseling and Support in HIV/AIDS* in Uganda.

3.4. Staffing

- The AED/LIFT team welcomed Kirsten Weeks, Senior Specialist, and Benjamin Rinehart, Livelihood and Food Security Specialist, as new full-time employees.
- Save the Children initiated a candidate search for an employee dedicated to LIFT.

3.5. Deliverables

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

- Quarterly Report #3 (FY2010, Quarter 3)
- Quarterly Accruals Report
- Materials supporting and further developing the PEPFAR Plus-Up Funds Concept Paper submitted in the prior quarter.
- Proposed budget realignment.

SUCSESSES

- LIFT successfully completed the desk review and field work components of the Ethiopia technical assistance activity.
- LIFT made key contributions to meetings in the sector through active engagement in the M&E Consultation Meeting and the USAID Regional Meeting on Nutrition Assessment Counseling and Support in HIV.
- The LIFT Livelihood and Food Security Framework will be considered for adoption/adaptation by the informal USAID working group on household economic security.
- LIFT continues to explore technical assistance activities with a number of USAID Missions and CDC, hence continuing to grow the portfolio of technical assistance provided through LIFT.

CHALLENGES

- CARE is experiencing transition within the LIFT team as Leah Berkowitz will be transitioning to a new role within CARE and will be unable to be the project lead on LIFT. CARE is currently recruiting for Ms. Berkowitz's replacement and already has several promising candidates.
- The increasing need for rapid responses to activities under LIFT has resulted in challenges in communications among LIFT partners. To address this, in the next quarter, LIFT partners will revisit communication protocols and expectations. Both CARE and Save the Children are working to increase their staff capacity on LIFT in order to position themselves more strongly to meet the demand for LIFT services.
- The Ethiopia assessment posed challenges in terms of Mission communication and relationships, resulting in last minute changes to the team and to assessment plans that complicated field logistics substantially. Nevertheless, LIFT worked closely with the mission to clarify expectations and accommodate reasonable requests, given the constraints of timeframe, budget, and the scope of work.

KEY LEARNING

- The Ethiopia field assessment team identified several learning points around conducting field-based technical assistance trips. The LIFT team is incorporating this feedback into tools such as checklists and consultant scopes of work, and is researching technologies to support remote collaboration.
- Early LIFT field work has affirmed the need for technical assistance in sustainable, market-oriented economic strengthening activities connected to improved food security and health outcomes for HIV/AIDS-affected populations.

PLANS FOR THE NEXT QUARTER

1. Global

- Finalize and launch the Economic Strengthening for Food Security website, incorporating a dedicated section for LIFT project information and the Resource Library, among other features.

- Finalize the LIFT Workplan for Year 2.
- Continue to develop the Livelihood and Food Security Conceptual Framework, incorporating feedback from key stakeholders, and expanding on the linkages between livelihoods and food security and other relevant technical areas.
- Continue to explore opportunities for collaboration with AIDSTAR-II.
- LIFT has been in discussions regarding possible collaboration opportunities with the Food Economy Group (FEG), which has been on the leading edge of livelihoods-based food security information systems, policy analysis and complex-process facilitation services for over a decade, contributing to the efforts of a broad range of decision makers in the humanitarian and development community. The LIFT team sees potential for collaboration with FEG in the planned activities in Swaziland and Nigeria.
- CARE will recruit a new lead for LIFT activities, potentially at a higher level of effort than previously envisaged, in recognition of LIFT's growing needs and CARE's need to be more consistently available and responsive to LIFT priorities.
- LIFT will further expand its pool of high-quality consultants for both global and field-based technical assistance provision.

2. Country-specific

- Assist USAID/Ethiopia in conducting a post-assessment strategic planning and implementing partner workshop.
- Conduct the Swaziland technical assistance activity.
- Continue planning for long-term technical assistance provision with USAID/Nigeria. Finalize the SOW for and conduct an initial field-based TA activity as part of an overall TA plan.
- LIFT is discussing conducting an outreach visit to Malawi in conjunction with another field-based technical activity. LIFT will continue to work with USAID staff in Malawi to develop a plan for technical assistance activities.
- Continue outreach and discussions around TA needs with USAID/Kenya.
- Finalize follow-up plans with USAID/Namibia.
- Begin discussing potential TA activities with USAID/Zambia.

ATTACHMENTS

LIFT Meeting Log - FY10 Q4

Connecting and Collaborating

Date	Topic	Attendees
7/1/2010	LIFT Meeting with USAID interns	Clinton Sears (USAID/OHA), Ashley Blocker (USAID/OHA), Margie Brand (AED/LIFT), Jennine Carmichael (AED/LIFT), Clint Curtis (AED/LIFT)
7/1/2010	LIFT Meeting with USAID	Sarah Sandison (USAID/GH), Margie Brand (AED/LIFT)
7/7/2010	LIFT/FANTA-2 Meeting	Tony Castleman (AED/FANTA-2), Gilles Bergeron (AED/FANTA-2), Margie Brand (AED/LIFT), Jennine Carmichael (AED/LIFT), Clint Curtis (AED/LIFT), Lam Huynh (AED/LIFT)
7/8/2010	Ethiopia Assessment Call	Jackie Flewelling (AFE), Joan Hall (LIFT Cons.), Lisa Parrott (Save), Margie Brand (AED/LIFT), Jennine Carmichael (AED/LIFT), Lam Huynh (AED/LIFT)
7/8/2010	Ethiopia Assessment Call	Ben Fowler (LIFT Cons.), Margie Brand (AED/LIFT), Jennine Carmichael (AED/LIFT), Lam Huynh (AED/LIFT)
7/9/2010	Ethiopia Assessment Call	Jim Dempsey (LIFT Cons.), Margie Brand (AED/LIFT)
7/13/2010	AIDSTAR-2 After Action Review Call	Margie Brand (AED/LIFT)
7/21/2010	Ethiopia Desk Research Call	Joan Hall (LIFT Cons.), Scott Arche (AFE Cons.), Margie Brand (AED/LIFT), Jennine Carmichael (AED/LIFT)
7/28/2010 – 7/29/2010	PAHO M&E Consultation	Tim Quick (USAID/OHA), Amie Heap (USAID/OHA), Gary Woller (LIFT Cons.), Margie Brand (AED/LIFT), and other participants
8/5/2010	Technical One-Pagers Meeting	Tula Michaelides (AED/GHPN), Margie Brand (AED/LIFT), Jennine Carmichael (AED/LIFT)
8/5/2010	USG HES Working Group with LIFT Framework Meeting	Tim Quick (USAID/OHA), Amie Heap (USAID/OHA), Margie Brand (AED/LIFT)
8/10/2010	USAID/Ethiopia Meeting	Tsegaye Tilahun (USAID/Ethiopia), Margie Brand (AED/LIFT), Jennine Carmichael (AED/LIFT), Lam Huynh (AED/LIFT)
8/11/2010	Ethiopia Field Assessment Call	Ben Fowler (LIFT Cons.), Jim Dempsey (LIFT Cons.), Joan Hall (LIFT Cons.), Margie Brand (AED/LIFT), Lam Huynh (AED/LIFT)
8/16/2010	Ethiopia Field Assessment Call	Raya Abagodu (LIFT Cons.), Lam Huynh (AED/LIFT)
8/18/2010	Contracts Meeting	Ross Douthard (AED/Contracts), Margie Brand (AED/LIFT)
8/26/2010	Ethiopia Field Assessment Call	Ben Fowler (LIFT Cons.), Jim Dempsey (LIFT Cons.), Margie Brand (AED/LIFT), Lam Huynh (AED/LIFT)
8/27/2010	Ethiopia Field Assessment Call	Ben Fowler (LIFT Cons.), Jim Dempsey (LIFT Cons.), Lisa Parrott (Save), Margie Brand (AED/LIFT)
8/30/2010	Ethiopia Assessment Call	Jason Wolfe (USAID/EGAT), Ben Fowler (LIFT Cons.), Jim Dempsey (LIFT Cons.), Lisa Parrott (Save), Scott Arche (AFE Cons.), Margie Brand (AED/LIFT), Lam Huynh (AED/LIFT)
8/31/2010	Swaziland Assessment Meeting	Natalie Kruse-Levy (USAID/Swaziland), Margie

		Brand (AED/LIFT)
9/3/2010	CARE and LIFT Meeting	Leah Berkowitz Nchaleberg (CARE), Nadia Babar (CARE), Margie Brand (AED/LIFT), Jennine Carmichael (AED/LIFT)
9/3/2010	Ethiopia Field Assessment Call	Ben Fowler (LIFT Cons.), Jim Dempsey (LIFT Cons.), Margie Brand (AED/LIFT)
9/8/2010	Ethiopia Field Assessment Call	Ben Fowler (LIFT Cons.), Jim Dempsey (LIFT Cons.), LIFT Team
9/14/10-9/17/10	Regional Meeting on Nutrition and HIV: Strategies, Tools and Progress in Integrating Nutrition into HIV Programming, Uganda	Tim Quick (USAID/OHA), Amie Heap (USAID/OHA), Margie Brand (AED/LIFT) Brand, Kirsten Weeks (AED/LIFT), and other participants
9/14/2010	Ethiopia Field Assessment Call	Ben Fowler (LIFT Cons.), Jim Dempsey (LIFT Cons.), Lam Huynh (AED/LIFT)
9/20/2010	Evaluation of Economic Strengthening for OVC: Using the WORTH Model in Uganda Presentation	Jason Wolfe (USAID/EGAT), Jennine Carmichael (AED/LIFT), Lam Huynh (AED/LIFT)
9/21/10-9/22/10	Strategic Enterprise Workshop	Benjamin Rinehart (AED/LIFT)
9/22/2010	Implementing Country-Led Agricultural Development: Updates on CAADP and Feed the Future Initiative	Kirsten Weeks (AED/LIFT)
9/23/2010	Smallholder Incomes & Food Security: Case Studies from Kenya & Honduras	Kirsten Weeks (AED/LIFT)
9/28/2010	M&E MERG Indicators Meeting	Tim Quick (USAID/OHA), Amie Heap (USAID/OHA), Gary Woller (LIFT Cons.), Tony Castleman (AED/FANTA-2), Serigne Diene (AED/FANTA-2), LIFT Team
9/29/2010	Nigeria Assessment Meeting	Philomena Irene (USAID/Nigeria), Lungi Okoko (USAID/Nigeria), Sarah Sandison (USAID/GH), Tim Quick (USAID/OHA), Amie Heap (USAID/OHA), LIFT Team
9/29/2010	LIFT Meeting	Tim Quick (USAID/OHA), Margie Brand (AED/LIFT)
9/29/2010	Nigeria Assessment Meeting	Parsa Sanjana (AED/COACH), Sarah Torrance (AED/COACH), Benjamin Rinehart (AED/LIFT), Lam Huynh (AED/LIFT)
<i>Key:</i>	<i>USAID/OHA: Tim Quick (USAID/OHA), Amie Heap (USAID/OHA)</i>	
	<i>LIFT Team: Margie Brand (AED/LIFT) Brand, Kirsten Weeks (AED/LIFT), Benjamin Rinehart (AED/LIFT), Jennine Carmichael (AED/LIFT), Clint Curtis (AED/LIFT), Lam Huynh (AED/LIFT)</i>	
	<i>Cons.: Consultant</i>	