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**Associate Cooperative Agreement No. GHH-A-00-09-00007-00**



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Livelihood & Food Security  
Technical Assistance

**Quarterly Report #7**  
**FY2011, 3<sup>rd</sup> Quarter**  
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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 Activities

### **1.1. Promising Practices Linking Livelihood Interventions and Clinical HIV Services**

LIFT is undertaking a research activity in Ethiopia to identify promising practices and challenges in linking livelihood interventions and clinical HIV services and to determine whether the impact of livelihood programs can be measured in the referral system. The findings of this research are expected to be available by September 2011.

During this reporting period, LIFT also held several discussions with USAID to begin planning the implementation of a Nutrition Assessment Counseling and Support (NACS) referral system, where LIFT would play a role in conducting research, developing models, and providing assistance with the implementation, monitoring and refinement of NACS referral systems. Finally, LIFT engaged in discussions with FANTA-2 to conduct an assessment of opportunities for implementing similar referral systems in Namibia.

### **1.2. MicroLinks Wiki**

LIFT has been invited to contribute to the development of a MicroLinks Wiki related to Vulnerable Populations. Technical Specialist Ben Rinehart has provided input into the Food Security component of the value chains wiki, reviewing initial outlines and drafts and offering narrative contributions.

## 2. Country-specific

### **2.1. DRC**

At the request of USAID/DRC, LIFT and FANTA-2 developed the scope of work for a joint assessment to take place in July 2011. Objectives include: (1) reviewing existing nutrition, food security and economic strengthening activities in the DRC targeting HIV-affected populations, linking to HIV services, or operating in areas of high HIV prevalence, (2) identifying opportunities to strengthen programming; and (3) preparing a scope of work with PEPFAR/DRC detailing future food security, nutrition and HIV technical assistance activities, to be implemented using PEPFAR resources.

### **2.2. Ethiopia**

LIFT and USAID/PEPFAR finalized the 2010 assessment report and began planning for a dissemination workshop with USAID implementing partners to be held in Addis Ababa in August 2011.

### **2.3. Kenya**

Ben Rinehart, Clint Curtis and Gareth Evans met with Ruth Tiampati (USAID Kenya/Health) to discuss potential LIFT activities in Kenya. These activities would include several activities related to NACS linkages: mapping existing services to determine which partners are involved where and with what kinds of programs; developing a strategy to bring services where they are needed and ensuring that referral systems have appropriate links to viable services for clients; identifying possible coordinating institutions to support; identifying service providers for referral systems; determining the

roles of the district development boards and where key decisions are being made. Specific follow-up activities will be defined after Plus Up funding is secured.

#### **2.4. Nigeria**

Following up on its scoping mission to Nigeria in February 2011, LIFT continued to consult with USAID Nigeria to clarify its scope for providing technical assistance to PEPFAR partners. During discussions, USAID identified priority partners for technical assistance. LIFT reached out to these partners and began preliminary discussions about each partner's objectives, capacity and proposed approaches to economic strengthening. The most in-depth discussions took place with MSH, on their Community Based Support Project for Orphans and Vulnerable Children (CUBS) project which is being implemented with Africare. LIFT informally assessed their proposed program with input from USAID in Washington and Nigeria, with the intention of following up more closely with MSH on the next trip to Nigeria. During the visit, LIFT also contacted Save the Children-UK, Hope Worldwide and CRS to discuss potential technical assistance needs and support.

LIFT has planned a second visit to Nigeria in July 2011. The purpose of this visit will be to meet individually with select partners to discuss their programs in greater detail to explore potential support that LIFT could provide; meet with USAID to clarify criteria for providing assistance to select partners and to discuss modalities for delivering assistance; and to provide a two-day training in economic strengthening for PEPFAR partners who are implementing or plan to implement these activities.

#### **2.5. South Africa**

LIFT met with Nerisa Pilime (USAID South Africa/Health) to discuss potential LIFT activities related to PEPFAR OVC programs in South Africa. This support could include a desk review using existing data or identifying data sources; a review of the OVC program portfolio; identifying measurable food security and nutrition outcomes, including dietary quality; meeting with USAID's OVC team and potential partners in the Government of South Africa (Department of Social Development); identifying challenges in SA OVC programming (e.g. identification systems); and developing ideas on how appropriate food and nutrition be assured for OVC (given restrictions in programming). Since South Africa is not a focus country, it is unclear how this work would be funded.

#### **2.6. Swaziland**

LIFT finalized the draft Swaziland 2010 assessment report.

### **3. Operational**

#### **3.1. Communications and Outreach**

USAID and LIFT met on multiple occasions in May and June to discuss the increased focus on linking economic strengthening, food security and livelihoods programs with NACS services, and the use of Plus-Up funds to fund new LIFT activities in this area.

#### **3.2. Learning Opportunities**

- On April 7, 2011, LIFT Senior Program Associate Clint Curtis attended the Feed the Future Seminar - Integrating Natural Resource Management and Climate Change to Achieve Feed the Future Objectives - Series Event #2.
- On April 15, 2011, LIFT Technical Specialist Ben Rinehart attended a CGAP conference on "Pathways out of Poverty".

- On April 20, 2011, LIFT Senior Program Associate Clint Curtis attended the Feed the Future Seminar - Integrating Natural Resource Management and Climate Change to Achieve Feed the Future Objectives, Series Event #3.
- On April 28, 2011, LIFT Technical Specialist Ben Rinehart and Program Associate Lam Huynh attended the Breakfast Series - Assessing the Business Environment of Value Chains: A Case Study of Tanzania.
- On May 10, 2011, LIFT Senior Program Associate Clint Curtis attended the event - Linking Maternal and Child Health to Agriculture and Food Security.

### 3.3. Staffing

- LIFT partner Save the Children hired a Senior Livelihoods Specialist, Gareth Evans, to work 100% on LIFT.
- LIFT Senior Specialist Kirsten Weeks resigned from her position with the LIFT Project in April 2011.
- LIFT Program Associate Lam Huynh resigned from his position with the LIFT Project in May 2011.
- LIFT Program Director Margie Brand went on maternity leave as of March and resigned from her position with the LIFT Project in June 2011.

### 3.4. Deliverables

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

- Quarterly Report #6 (FY2011, Quarter 2)
- Quarterly Accruals Report

## SUCSESSES

- LIFT participated in the SEEP / Health and Microenterprise Development (HAMED) working group planning meeting held at AED.
- LIFT conducted an e-consultation with the SEEP Poverty Outreach Working Group (POWG).

## CHALLENGES

- LIFT partner CARE is going through a re-organization, and certain staff members associated with the LIFT project are no longer available to support the LIFT project.
- AED's suspension continued during this period of performance.

## KEY LEARNING

- Engaging with different actors, such as CRS and the SEEP working groups, has provided a deeper understanding of potential interventions for LIFT to help strengthen the sector and expand collaboration with external stakeholders. Potential interventions under discussion include participant targeting, market assessments for vocational skills, and household level economic indicators.

## **PLANS FOR THE NEXT QUARTER**

### **1. Global**

LIFT will be restructuring its staffing plan, as a result of recent staff resignations.

### **2. Country-specific**

#### **2.1. Ethiopia**

LIFT will conduct a 2-day dissemination workshop to discuss the findings of the 2010 LIFT Ethiopia Assessment with PEPFAR partners and select Government of Ethiopia institutions.

#### **2.2. Nigeria**

LIFT will conduct a 10-day TDY in Nigeria to conduct an economic strengthening training workshop for PEPFAR partners, consult directly with select partners on technical assistance needs, and meet with the Philomena Irene, USAID Nigeria's Senior Program Manager for OVC, and the new OVC Program Manager, Sola Onifade to clarify expectations for LIFT follow-on support.

#### **2.3. DRC**

LIFT and FANTA-2 will conduct a joint assessment to explore technical assistance options to support existing or planned food security, nutrition, and HIV activities and recommendations for new programs in the DRC.