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The U.S. Government's Global Hunger & Food Security Initiative

MONTHLY REPORT #3

FEBRUARY 2016

**FEED THE FUTURE TANZANIA
LAND TENURE ASSISTANCE (LTA)**

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INTRODUCTION

DAI commenced in-country start up activities, while continuing to develop home office administrative and financial management systems. Start up commenced 4th January. The acting COP arrived on 11th January.

To date, early reports for December and January have been submitted mid-month. For ease of synchronising project activities with monthly project cycles, reports hereinafter will be submitted at month end. This report covers the period of activity for February.

The next monthly report will therefore be submitted at end March and will cover all activities in the month of March 2016.

PROJECT START UP ACTIVITIES

KEY PERSONNEL

Chief of Party Clive English has remained on site in Iringa throughout the period. He has been supported by the Acting Finance and Operations Manager, Rada Culibrk who arrived in Tanzania on 5th February. She is scheduled to remain in Tanzania into April when it is anticipated all National administrative staff will be in place. Key administration staff are awaiting approval from USAID before they can commence work.

The Land Administration Manager is scheduled to commence work full time on 1st March. A staff schedule has been prepared for the remainder of the technical staff. This is presented in the first Inception Draft.

SUBCONTRACTORS, RESOURCE PARTNERS AND STAKEHOLDERS

DAI and subcontractor Land Equity International have held further discussions about the best staffing pattern and profiles for LEI long term and short term experts and field staff. A profile has now been developed and presented in the 1st Draft Inception Report. Staff are now being consulted on the timing of their inputs and their availability. The key change is to move away from a heavy commitment to long term senior specialists to a more balanced staffing profile to address field support requirements. This is now being costed and will be provided in the 2nd draft of the Inception Report.

START UP – PROGRAM AND MANAGEMENT

COP completed a first draft of the Inception Report on 25th February. This was not quite complete and additional material is being prepared for inclusion. This activity has dominated most of the middle month of February up to and including 25th February.

Not all of the required contents of the inception report were completed. Work is ongoing on a stakeholder analysis and communications plan, completion of the M&E plan, public outreach methods, gender and vulnerable groups and sustainability planning. These items will be submitted with the second draft early in March. Because of these omissions, the first draft will be of limited circulation. However, given the changes to the programme the opinion of the COR will be sought on the current contents and direction of the report. As at month end, no comments had been received from USAID.

A work plan has been completed and included in the Inception Report. This is full tasked and resource requirements identified. The ambition is for as early a start in the field as possible when the final village selections are completed.

Links have been established with existing NGO field support staff and District Land Staff currently engaged on completion of the last of the MAST field trials.

Other key activities and tasks completed in this period include:

- Completion of a stand-alone needs assessment report for MAST following technical reviews with the District – resulting from the input of Dr Richard Baldwin. This will be submitted for review after the inception report has been concluded.
- Initial meetings with the Regional Administrative Secretary and key regional staff to discuss the programme and the way forward. These meetings proved to be very successful and good relations and contacts have been established.
- Attendance at the USAID Partners meeting in Morogoro on 9-10th February – this enabled good networks to be established with other USAID funded projects.
- Meetings with the Kilombero Irrigation Project Land Tenure Specialist in Morogoro to discuss key technical issues and exchange information.
- Attendance at the Kilombero Irrigation Project Stakeholder meeting in Morogoro on 11th February.
- Attendance at the DFID LTRSP project launch in Dar es Salaam, 18th February. This programme has similar attributes to the LTA programme and will be working in two districts.
- Meeting held with USAID representative in Iringa.
- Following cancellation of Option 1 Villages in Kilombero District, as stated in the contract, a dialogue has now commenced with Iringa District Land Office on selection of villages for field operations. A meeting is planned for March.

START UP – FINANCE, ADMINISTRATION AND OPERATIONS

DAI continues to work through the start up process. Key activities and tasks completed in this period include:

- Short term start up team (Start Up Specialist, Program Manager/Acting COP, Associate, Recruiter) received USAID approvals, mobilized to Tanzania and completed scope of work and deliverables by end January
- Project office location in Iringa was identified. Since then this has now been furnished and is ready for occupation in early March pending internet connection.
- COP housing now located and was occupied on 13th February.
- Bank accounts are now established and functioning
- Local employment agreements finalized
- Recruitment for local staff (finance, administration, operations) complete and awaiting USAID approval
- Field operating and finance systems under development
- Interim transport arrangements have been identified and will be implemented.

KEY ISSUES

There are two outstanding issues to be resolved at the technical level. The first is the village selections to replace the 26 option 1 villages in Kilombero valley that were cancelled by the Ministry in early

February. A dialogue has commenced with District to select villages in Iringa District. The LTA expects to develop a revised list in cooperation with the local authorities before the end of March.

The second issue pertains to the copyright issues that currently govern access to and use of MAST. Clarifications on the copyright issue have been sought by DAI LTA but not yet received. The current issue is whether the copyright (both RMSI and Cloudburst) will restrict the LTA from progressing MAST development work and extending its use.

Through its inception investigations and needs assessment the DAI LTA has determined that MAST, and related procedures, in their current form cannot be scaled up without modification/improvement and streamlining. A number of options are being considered by DAI to find a way forward should access to MAST not be clarified. These will be presented in March, depending on the outcome of the visit by the Cloudburst consultant in early March. As it currently stands the DAI LTA IT specialist is expected to arrive in Iringa on 17th March. It remains unclear whether access and use of MAST will be granted to the project.

PLAN AND CALENDAR FOR MARCH 2016

Planned Activity	Location	Expected Dates
Inception Report 2 nd draft to be completed	Iringa,	February 1 – 10 th March
Meetings with key stakeholders at the local level	Iringa and Mbeya	Ongoing through March
Field observation/research at the last MAST pilot site, Iringa District Administration	Iringa District	March 8 th – 13 th
Monthly Report #3 submitted for February	n/a	March 7 th all future monthly reports to be submitted at month end.
Ongoing discussion – meetings with District on village selections	Iringa District	Ongoing through March – deadline for selection end March.
Field visits to selected villages	Iringa District	Ongoing through March – as required
Field visit to Mbeya District and the Zoanl Office	Mbeya	TBD
Short term expert Alex Solovov to visit Iringa to conduct MAST software assessment.	Iringa	19 th March – 1 st April
Solutions to the MAST access/copyright issue will continue to be sought.	Iringa/Washington	Ongoing through March