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LIVELIHOODS & FOOD SECURITY
TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE

Quarterly Report

FY 2013 Q4

August 1, 2013 – September 30, 2013



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Acronyms and Abbreviations

AA	Associate Award
ARP	Adherence and Retention Project
ART	Antiretroviral Therapy
ASPIRES	Accelerating Strategies for Practical Innovation & Research in Economic Strengthening
ASSIST	Applying Science to Strengthen and Improve Systems
CARE	CARE International
CLA	Collaborating, Learning and Adapting
CSO	Civil Society Organization
DAI	Development Alternatives, Inc.
DRC	The Democratic Republic of the Congo
ES	Economic Strengthening
ES4VP	Economic Strengthening for the Very Poor
ES/L/FS	Economic Strengthening, Livelihoods and Food Security
FANTA-3	Food and Nutrition Technical Assistance III
FIELD-Support	Financial Integration, Economic Leveraging, Broad-Based Dissemination
FtF	Feed the Future
GHI	Global Health Initiative
HES	Household Economic Strengthening
HDDS	Household Dietary Diversity Score
HHS	Household Hunger Scale
HQ	Headquarters
IP	Implementing Partner
KDMD	Knowledge-Driven Microenterprise Development
KM	Knowledge Management
LIFT I	Livelihoods and Food Security Technical Assistance
LIFT II	Livelihoods and Food Security Technical Assistance II
LOP	Life of the Project
LWA	Leader with Associates
MAHFP	Months of Adequate Household Food Provisioning
MEASURE	MEASURE Evaluation
M&E	Monitoring and Evaluation
MSH	Management Sciences for Health
MOH	Ministry of Health (Lesotho)
MOHSS	Ministry of Health and Social Services (Namibia)
MOSD	Ministry of Social Development (Lesotho)
NACS	Nutrition Assessment, Counseling and Support
NCST	Nutrition Care, Support and Treatment (Malawi)
OHA	USAID Office of HIV and AIDS
ONA	Organizational Network Analysis
OVC	Orphans and Vulnerable Children
PAT	Poverty Assessment Tool
PEPFAR	President's Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief
PHFS	Partnership for HIV-Free Survival
PLHIV	People Living with HIV
PMP	Performance Monitoring Plan
PMTCT	Prevention of Mother-to-Child Transmission
PPI	Progress out of Poverty Index
PPL	USAID Bureau for Policy, Planning and Learning
STEP UP	Strengthening the Economic Potential of the Ultra Poor
TA	Technical Assistance
TDY	Temporary Duty Assignment

USAID	United States Agency for International Development
USDA	United States Department of Agriculture
USG	United States Government
WV	World Vision

I. Introduction

The Livelihoods and Food Security Technical Assistance II (LIFT II) project was initiated by the U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID) Office of HIV and AIDS (OHA) under Cooperative Agreement No. AID-OAA-LA-13-00006. LIFT II was launched August 1, 2013 as a five-year associate award (AA) under the Financial Integration, Economic Leveraging, Broad-Based Dissemination and Support (FIELD-Support) Leaders with Associates (LWA). LIFT II is managed and led by FHI 360 and implemented with support from CARE International (CARE) and World Vision (WV). This report presents the startup phase of LIFT II covering the period of August 1, 2013 – September 30, 2013 as required under Section A5 Reporting and Evaluation of the agreement.

II. Background

In recent years, the President's Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief (PEPFAR) has demonstrated great leadership in integrating economic strengthening (ES) into the continuum of HIV care and support as well as HIV-prevention programming. Globally, the incidence of new HIV infections continues to decline, and antiretroviral therapy (ART) has become more widely available, prolonging life for people living with HIV (PLHIV) and greatly decreasing AIDS-related mortality. The advancement in ART provision has had powerful positive impacts on extending and improving the quality of life for PLHIV, but at the same time has created more pressures for governments and communities with already scarce resources to provide ongoing care and support. More work remains to address the impact of the continuing pandemic on people's livelihoods and food security, especially in countries with both high HIV prevalence and high rates of malnutrition. Particularly in Africa, PLHIV face a constant challenge in their pursuit of food, nutritional and economic security. Therefore, LIFT II will continue to foster a systemic and market-driven approach that connects PLHIV to economic strengthening, livelihoods and food security (ES/L/FS) services at the community level, in order to improve their overall food, nutritional and economic security and strengthen adherence and retention in care.

LIFT II will strengthen and expand activities initiated under LIFT I by systematically linking nutrition assessment, counseling and support (NACS) clients with community services in new contexts and in at least 13 countries over the life of the project (LOP). To fulfill its technical assistance (TA) mandate, LIFT II is specifically designed to provide evidence-based, gender-sensitive programming to improve household ES/L/FS support as a component of a continuum of nutrition and health care and support for vulnerable individuals and families. In order to achieve this goal, LIFT II provides TA to meet four key objectives:

- 1) Improved access to ES/L/FS services for clinical health and NACS clients and families, through referrals and community support services
- 2) Strengthened community services that provide ES/L/FS support as a component of a continuum of care for families
- 3) Expanded evidence base for ES/L/FS programming impacts on health and nutrition, particularly with regard to retention in care, replicability, implementation at scale, cost-effectiveness and sustainability
- 4) Provision of global technical leadership and strategic support to improve the quality of ES/L/FS programs and activities that support PEPFAR, Global Health Initiative (GHI) and Feed the Future (FtF) investments

III. Global Activity

Progress

Startup programming:

- Issued subagreements to implementing partners CARE and WV.
- Established costing codes for initial stages of the LIFT II Rollout Model.
- Established costing method for PEPFAR Expenditure Analysis Reporting in the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC), Malawi, Namibia, Nigeria, Tanzania and Zambia.
- Discussed potential research topics with MEASURE Evaluation (MEASURE) and currently pending a final decision on topics.
- Mobilized Leland Fellow to Malawi.

LIFT II retreat:

LIFT II conducted a full day staff retreat which covered the following areas: partner interactions, information sharing across countries, team building activities, LIFT II rollout model review, systems and procedures and LIFT II's team structure.

LIFT II partners' retreat:

LIFT II conducted a half day Partners' Retreat with FHI 360, CARE and WV. The retreat covered: over view of what to expect under the agreement, data management approach, engagement process (global and country), and communication and knowledge sharing.

Technical notes:

The project team continued its work documenting the rollout process through technical notes. The Diagnostic Tool Note was revised to incorporate the diagnostic tool testing from Malawi. The Approach to Livelihoods Brochure was updated during this quarter. Additional technical notes will be worked on during the next quarter.

OHA Collaborative Meeting:

LIFT II participated in the OHA collaborative meeting for nutrition partners on August 20.

Technical contributions – collaboration:

LIFT II worked with the Knowledge-Driven Microenterprise Development (KDMD) project in August 2013 to provide inputs into the synthesis document expanding on contributions made by the LIFT I project in the July 2013 during the online consultation focused on experiences of Collaborating, Learning and Adapting (CLA) in action hosted by the USAID Learning Lab website and sponsored by USAID's Bureau of Policy, Planning and Learning (PPL). This interest sparked further discussions with the OHA collaborative around building on these for a technical note or notes in the future. LIFT II anticipates engaging further in Q2 and Q3 with the other partners and USAID to refine these further into technical notes or briefs documenting the collective experiences and programmatic benefits to CLA and operating under this model in coordination with USAID.

Economic Strengthening for the Very Poor (ES4VP):

LIFT II also continued working with the Strengthening the Economic Potential of the Ultra Poor (STEP UP) to enhance the ES4VP website in preparation for the SEEP 2013 Annual Conference.

LIFT II project website:

LIFT II began adapting project resources hosted on the site from LIFT I to LIFT II and continued to update the site with reports of initial country-specific startup programming.

Lesotho:

LIFT II and FANTA coordinated a joint TDY to support the implementation of the Partnership for HIV-Free Survival (PHFS) initiative and NACS in Lesotho. LIFT II and FANTA met with the Ministry of Health (MOH) and Ministry of Social Development (MOSD) to discuss its current plans to establish a learning site in Mofale Hoek and discussed their current plans to work together and pilot test a conditional cash transfers to promote better immunization for children. The MOSD also requested support from LIFT II to carry out a Household Economic Strengthening (HES) workshop for its leadership cadre which is currently planned for December 2013.

During this trip LIFT II and FANTA traveled to Mofale Hoek, one of the three selected NACS districts in the country, with Ms. Lisemelo from the MOH and Ms. Seipati from Management Systems for Health (MSH). The visit included only one health clinic in the district which primarily provides NACS services to children under five.

Prior to this TDY LIFT II worked with MSH, its bilateral partner on the ground, to draft an integrated work plan which was updated based on meetings held on the ground. Commitments were made by each of the two partners (LIFT II and MSH) to cover operational costs resulting from the implementation of this plan. LIFT will be primarily contributing to the development of an organization network analysis (ONA), set up of a referral system, and upgrading of economic strengthening services while MSH will provide support in the data gathering for the situational analysis, implementation of the diagnostic tool they current have in place, and provide all of the necessary operational support and cover all other direct cost related to upcoming activities and trainings planned by the projects.

IV. The Democratic of the Congo Activity

Progress

Initial discussions were held with CARE/DRC to address the transfer of LIFT II programming and know-how from FHI 360 to CARE/DRC, who will now serve as lead implementing partner (IP) in the country. Consultations related to the pending subagreement between FHI 360 and CARE/DRC; staffing structure on the ground and other start up related topics were discussed.

V. Malawi Activity

Progress

Activities in Malawi continued based on the momentum built under LIFT I. Initial activities during the startup phase included the testing of the diagnostic tool and continued engagement with both the Balaka Civil Society Organization (CSO) Network, and key local government officials in Balaka, notably the Director of Planning and Development.

Data Collection in Balaka:

LIFT II conducted 312 interviews with clients at three Nutrition Care, Support and Treatment (NCST) facilities: Balaka District Hospital, Kalembo Health Centre, and DREAM (Andiamo Health Centre). LIFT II's survey collected data using two poverty assessment tools: the Progress out of Poverty Index (PPI) and a custom-made LIFT II tool based on the PPI and Poverty Assessment Tool (PAT). LIFT II also collected data using three food security assessment tools (the Household Hunger Scale [HHS]; Household Dietary Diversity Score [HDDS]; and the Months of Adequate Household Food Provisioning [MAHFP]). The data collection process ended with a series of debrief interviews with the data collectors at FHI 360/Malawi offices on August 26 to gather data on their perceptions of the tools' utility and ability to facilitate referrals. Data analysis is still continuing and will be reported in the next quarter.

Meetings with Referral Network Partners in Balaka:

On August 19, LIFT II met with Simplex Chidhyola, executive director of the Chinasi Foundation and current chairperson of the Balaka CSO Network. LIFT II received important updates concerning the new CSO executive committee as well as the CSO's decision to draft a strategy document and a constitution built on the strategy document. In order to continue the momentum around building a referral system, LIFT II offered to create a draft one-year work plan to be shared later that week. On August 23, LIFT II met with the secretary of Balaka CSO Network to share the draft work plan.

VI. Nigeria Activity

Progress

Initial work planning discussions were held with USAID/Nigeria to determine appropriate programming under LIFT II. At the request of USAID/Nigeria a call will be held in October to continue discussions and finalize programming activities.

VII. Tanzania Activity

Progress

LIFT II worked with USAID/Tanzania, FHI 360's Food and Nutrition Technical Assistance III (FANTA-3) project and DAI's IMARISHA project on preparations for an upcoming TDY (which will be reported in the next quarterly report) planned for September 28, 2013–October 5, 2013. It is expected that during this trip the LIFT II team will follow up on recommendations from the rapid appraisal conducted under LIFT I in July 2013 including the finalization of the region as well as selection of specific early learning sites for LIFT II to operationalize and rollout its approach to facilitating ES/L/FS service linkages through NACS.

VIII. Namibia Activity

Progress:

LIFT II worked with USAID/Namibia, FANTA-3 and Project Hope's Adherence and Retention Project (ARP) to develop a LIFT II/Namibia work plan. During this process LIFT II and ARP discussed possible support in scaling up LIFT II activities in the six regions where ARP is active in Namibia.

The ONA, diagnostic tool, and processes related to each were finalized for use in Namibia. The field testing of the diagnostic tool will be carried out next quarter and will also be shared with the Ministry of Health and Social Services (MOHSS), FANTA-3 and other program implementers so they can be used to understand client poverty and food security throughout the country. The ONA tool will also be adapted and simplified for use by other interested communities to support improved linkages among service providers.

IX. Zambia Activity

Progress:

LIFT II worked with OHA and FANTA-3 team to prepare for the ZAMNACS launch meeting in Kitwe district to be held October 9-10, 2013.

X. Problems and Proposed Solutions

During the initial project startup period LIFT II did not run into any major challenges.

Important to note, that although LIFT had envisioned to undertake a portfolio review of the orphans and vulnerable children (OVC) portfolio of USAID Mozambique and future programming a decision was made by the Mission to allocate these resources to the Accelerating Strategies for Practical Innovation & Research in Economic Strengthening (ASPIRES) project, recently set in place.

XI. Upcoming Activities (including dates)

Please see the attached Annex 2: FY 2014, Quarter 1 Implementation Plan for the listing of upcoming activities.

XII. Documentation of Best Practices for Scale Up

Currently LIFT II does not have documentation of best practices for scale up due to the brevity of the current reporting period, which mainly covered project startup activities.

XIII. Staffing

LIFT II will have staff both at headquarters (HQ) and in our country offices. The FHI 360 HQ team (title, name and start date) engaged during this reporting period includes:

- **Project Director**, Jacqueline Bass (August 1, 2013)
- **Monitoring & Evaluation (M&E) Specialist**, Clinton Sears (August 1, 2013)
- **Program Manager**, Laura Muzart (August 1, 2013)
- **Food Security and Livelihoods Specialist**, Meaghan Murphy (August 1, 2013)
- **Health Specialist**, Mandy Swann (August 1, 2013)
- **LIFT/Namibia Project Manager**, Samuel Mayintoi (August 16, 2013)
- **Economic Strengthening Specialist**, Sarah Mattingly (August 1, 2013)
- **Finance Manager**, Mary Choong (August 1, 2013)
- **Program Officer**, Cheryl Tam (August 16, 2013)
- **CHC Leland Fellow**, Zachary Andersson (September 25, 2013)
- **Gender Staff Pool**, Eugene Katz and Andrea Bertone

Recruitment efforts continued for the LIFT II Technical Director and the CARE Regional Technical Advisor.

Annex 1. LIFT II Success Story



Assessing and Addressing Clients' Needs in Malawi



Photo credit: Clinton Sears/FHI 360

A LIFT II data collector walks a client through the diagnostic tool outside of Kalembo Health Centre. In total, the tool was administered with 312 clients across the three health facilities

The Livelihoods and Food Security Technical Assistance II (LIFT II) project was launched in 2013 by USAID as a follow on to the LIFT project (2009-2013). LIFT II's primary goal is to build the continuum of care for people living with HIV and other vulnerable households by increasing their access to high quality, context appropriate, market-led economic strengthening, livelihoods and food security opportunities to improve their economic resilience and lead to better health. LIFT II is implemented by three core partners—[FHI 360](#), [CARE](#) and [World Vision](#).

Disclaimer: This success story is made possible by the generous support of the American people through the United States Agency for International Development (USAID). The contents are the responsibility of FHI 360 and do not necessarily reflect the views of USAID or the United States government.

Of Malawi's 15.8 million people, approximately 53 percent live below the national poverty line and nearly 11 percent are living with HIV and AIDS. In Malawi and other countries, FHI 360's Livelihoods and Food Security Technical Assistance II (LIFT II) project is improving the ability of at-risk households — particularly those affected by HIV and AIDS — to access adequate and appropriate food and services that benefit the entire household. LIFT focuses on building referral networks that link clients in nutrition or care and treatment services to community-based economic strengthening opportunities. The result is a more holistic approach to helping those who are most vulnerable.

In many countries, a complex web of local, national and international partners offers a dizzying array of services. So developing a process for strategically and systematically linking people to multiple services in different sectors is not without challenges. Among these is the ability to determine exactly which services would most benefit individual clients and what organizations or programs are best suited to provide them.

To address this issue, LIFT II created a diagnostic tool in Balaka, Malawi that providers can use to screen clients, determine which services available in the area may be most appropriate for them, and make appropriate referrals. As part of the development process, LIFT II compared two existing poverty assessment tools and three existing food security tools. A team of six trained data collectors administered the tools to 312 clients in three health facilities in the district. Clients' answers were compared across the tools to determine the value and accuracy of the data generated. Then, LIFT II staff interviewed the data collectors to learn about their experience using the tools and their ability to make referrals.

The best, most complementary poverty assessment and food security tools were merged to create one seamless diagnostic tool. With a series of short, easily understood questions, the diagnostic tool will help providers assess clients' level of vulnerability. For example, do clients need direct offers of



Photo credit: FHI 360
LIFT II's M&E Specialist, Clinton Sears, with the full team of data collectors in Balaka, Malawi.

food or cash just to meet their basic needs? Or, perhaps their clients are poor but relatively stable and need help developing job skills or finding employment to reach and maintain a healthy standard of living. Maybe they have some economic stability but need legal advice or training in financial literacy to protect the assets they do have and build a financial safety net. The ability for providers to collect information about such closely linked areas of need—poverty and food security—with one easy-to-use tool will improve the usefulness of their referrals and, ultimately, the well-being of their clients.

Annex 2. LIFT II FY 2014 Q1 Implementation Plan

Livelihoods and Food Security Technical Assistance Project II (LIFT II)					
CA No. AID-OAA-LA-13-00006					
O - ongoing, M- monthly, C - completed, TBD - to be determined	August 1, 2013 - December 31, 2013				
	FY 2013 Q 4		FY 2014 Q 1		
	August	September	October	November	December
Global Activity					
Building the evidence base for NACS-ES/L/FS linkages Activities					
Optimize referral networks activities					O
Disseminate global learning from LIFT II country programming					O
Monitoring and Evaluation System					
Develop global database template for rollout				15-Nov	O
Monitor research/learning data collection in use					M
Conduct data analysis			M	M	M
Global Standards, Policies and State of Practice in ES/L/FS Activities					
Define knowledge gaps and assess priorities across the ES/L/FS areas for strategic investment and action research		O	O	O	O
Enhance website on economic strengthening for the very poor (ES4VP)		M	M	Nov 4-7	M
Participate in key global technical working groups	O	O	O	O	O
Participate in OHA collaborative meetings to ensure quality and appropriate ES/L/FS technical inputs to NACS and related global strategies from USAID and OHA TA partner projects				11//12	
Conduct technical trainings and produce guidelines for quality assurance of ES/L/FS services in line with global good practice and current approaches	O	O	O	O	O
Make technical contributions through strategic global and regional workshops and conferences			16-Oct	6-Nov	
Disseminate LIFT II technical resource and advances through multimedia channels including LIFT II's project website	M	M	M	M	M
Respond to ongoing mission requests for LIFT II TA and support					
Lesotho					
Develop LIFT II work plan and PMP		C			
Conduct a situational analysis				TBD	
Conduct household economic strengthening (HES) 101 training for the Ministry of Social Development				25-Nov	
Conduct and in-depth HES training				11/26-11/29	

O - ongoing, M- monthly, C - completed, TBD - to be determined	FY 2013 Q 4		FY 2014 Q 1		
	August	September	October	November	December
Democratic Republic of Congo Activity (Tier 1)					
Develop LIFT II work plan and PMP			X	15-Nov	
Conduct ONA stakeholder meeting and disseminate ES/L/FS service directory				18-Nov	
Engage the private sector				O	O
Adapt the Client Diagnostic Tool					TBD
Malawi Activity (Tier 1)					
Test LIFT's diagnostic tool in Balaka District	C				
Develop work plan with Balaka CSO network	X	X	X	TBD	
Finalize referral tools				O	O
Develop and test referral database				O	O
Provide TA to the referral network and facilitate organization/group	O	O	O	O	O
Provide support to the referral network	O	O	O	O	O
Nigeria Activity (Tier 1)					
Develop LIFT II work plan and PMP			X	15-Nov	
Tanzania Activity (Tier 1)					
Develop LIFT II work plan and PMP		□		O	TBD
Finalize early learning sites			C		
Develop a joint approach to supporting NACS continuum of care in early learning sites			O	O	O
Engage regional and local authorities			O		
Conduct a situational analysis				X	TBD
M & E/documentation of learning/action research					O
Namibia Activity (Tier 2)					
Develop LIFT II work plan and PMP			Draft 10/30	TBD	
Finalize the LIFT diagnostic tool			X	X	
Conduct an ONA			O	O	O
Dissemination of ES/L/FS government services landscape guide			X	X	TBD
Identify and select private-sector actors to participate in and/or support the ES/L/FS referral network			O	O	O
Liaise with host government counterparts			O	O	O
M & E/documentation of learning/action research					O
Zambia Activity (Tier 2)					
Conduct high-level TDY and strategic planning meeting			10/9-10/10		
Develop LIFT II work plan and PMP				X	TBD

Annex 3. LIFT II Deliverables

Contractual Deliverables and Technical Products submitted:

- LIFT II Startup Plan (submitted August 14, 2013, approved October 9, 2013)

Additionally, the project produced multiple program deliverables:

- OHA TDY reports. – Malawi, Namibia, Lesotho and Tanzania

Annex 4. LIFT II Travel

During this period, project staff took the following trips under LIFT II:

- 1) Clinton Sears to Lilongwe, Malawi, August 11-August 27, 2013

Purpose of Travel: To begin implementation of the diagnostic tool including training of data collectors, tool testing in Balaka District and debrief.

- 2) Mandy Swann to Windhoek, Namibia, August 31-September 7, 2013

Purpose of Travel: To participate in an integrated work planning session to help develop the LIFT II Year 1 work plan for Namibia as well as work with the local LIFT II staff person to identify office space and to prepare for the upcoming ONA planned for October 2013.

- 3) Jacqueline Bass to Maseru, Lesotho, September 8-13, 2013

Purpose of Travel: To engage with local partners in country and begin work plan development for LIFT II in Lesotho.

- 4) Meaghan Murphy to Dar es Salaam, Tanzania, September 28-October 5, 2013

Purpose of Travel: To participate in LIFT II Tanzania-specific work plan and PMP development in coordination with USAID, FANTA and IMARISHA as well as to follow up on recruitment for a local LIFT II staff person and finalizing site selection.

- 5) Mandy Swann to Dar es Salaam, Tanzania, September 28-October 5, 2013

Purpose of Travel: To participate in LIFT II Tanzania-specific work plan and PMP development in coordination with USAID, FANTA and IMARISHA as well as to follow up on recruitment for a local LIFT II staff person and finalizing site selection.

