



FIELD-Support LWA Award

Quarterly Report

**The Financial Integration, Economic Leveraging, Broad-Based Dissemination
Leader with Associates
Cooperative Agreement No. EEM-A-00-06-00001-00**

April 1 - June 30, 2007

Submitted By:



Academy for Educational Development
Connecting People > Creating Change

Academy for Educational Development
1825 Connecticut Avenue, NW
Washington, DC 2009

Background

FIELD-Support is a Leader with Associates Award (cooperative agreement) between the office of Microenterprise Development in USAID (EGAT/PR/MD) and the Academy for Educational Development (AED), along with the latter's consortium of 9 core partners and 17 resource organizations. The AED team consists of leading NGO development organizations with proven track records in reducing poverty and promoting sustained, equitable growth through microenterprise development, microfinance, value chain development, institutional and human capacity-building, and the promotion of other market-based approaches.

FIELD-Support encompasses both a core leader award and a mechanism for USAID missions to issue associate awards. The purpose of the leader award is to advance the frontiers of practical knowledge in relation to microfinance, microenterprise development, and sustainable rural livelihoods, working in close collaboration with the MD office, USAID missions, and the community of development practitioners. The leader award implements activities that seed innovation, demonstrate better practices, document results, and disseminate findings that will advance the global state-of-the-practice.

Activities implemented under FIELD-Support include work at every level of the economy, from the regulatory environment, business value chains, to financial service providers, to promote economic growth, and improve the financial security of poor households and businesses by strengthening financial and business support systems and their ability to access those systems.

The FIELD-Support Management Team at AED is pleased to present this quarterly report highlighting the LWA developments and accomplishments for the quarter ending June 30, 2007.

1. Leader Activities

During the reporting period, the AED/FIELD-Support team continued to provide management, administration, and coordination oversight and support to leader, associate, and pilot activities being implemented under the LWA. These included monitoring pilot project activities, reviewing and processing payments, and ensuring contractual and financial compliance. FIELD-Support management provided senior level oversight for all the leader and associate activities, contributing to their technical design, implementation, and ensuring quality. Other team members coordinated day-to-day communications with the core team and resource organizations and assisted with the administration of this complex contractual mechanism.

The AED/FIELD-Support team held regular weekly staff meetings to discuss pilot and associate award activities, contractual issues, as well as topics related to the overall coordination with partners. These meetings also serve as venue for reviewing the lessons learned on project management, discussing areas for improvement, and adjusting and adapting various approaches under the LWA.

The program held its second Partners Meeting of 2007 on April 20. The agenda included discussion of the newly developed Guidelines for Participation and LOE Allocation on Associate Awards, announcement of the forthcoming request for new pilot concepts, pilot and associate

project updates, discussion of the FIELD-Support Outreach Strategy, presentation and discussion of the Knowledge Management Strategy, and discussion of SEEP FIELD Day.

AED/FIELD-Support refined the process of inviting pilot concepts, and on April 25, announced a new round of FIELD-Support LWA pilots by issuing a Request for Concepts (RFC) to LWA Core organizations. The RFC provided details on the process, selection criteria, and illustrative themes and topics for the new round of pilots and encouraged the core partners to include resource organizations in the next round of pilot concepts that are to be developed. Partners were also invited to participate in the concept proposal review team.

By the deadline of May 11, sixteen pilot concepts were received and reviewed by a committee consisting of AED, WOCCU, SAVE, AFE, and FINCA. There were many good ideas and it was no easy task narrowing down which ones would move forward for discussion with USAID and further refinement. The process included both a scoring of the concepts by the reviewers as well as a meeting where the various pros and cons of each concept were discussed. After this was completed, the notes from the meeting were reviewed and compared to the scoring. Through this process a list of the six concepts that best fit the criteria that was included in the RFC that was sent to all core partners was developed. The six that were selected for discussion with USAID were:

1. Expanding Sharia Compliant Microfinance Services (FINCA/IRIS/WWB)
2. Market Intelligence and Neutral Broker Services for Subsistence Farmers in Boliva (SAVE/WV)
3. Integrating Small Farmers into Productive Value Chains through Contract Farming (AFE/TNS)
4. Microfinance Energy Links Project (ACCION/SEEP)
5. Getting to Scale in Housing Microfinance (ACCION/SEEP)
6. Agricultural Lending in Kyrgyzstan (FINCA/ACDI)

After discussion with USAID the following four were approved for full proposal development:

1. Integrating Small Farmers into Productive Value Chains through Contract Farming (AFE/TNS)
2. Market Intelligence and Neutral Broker Services for Subsistence Farmers in Boliva (SAVE/WV)
3. Expanding Sharia Compliant Microfinance Services (FINCA/IRIS/WWB)
4. Microfinance Energy Links Project (ACCION/SEEP)

In addition to the Partner's Meeting, the FIELD-Support team also held routine meetings with many of the partners to discuss organization specific issues. During the quarter, the team met with WOCCU, FINCA, IRIS, ACDI-VOCA, ACCION, MEDA, SEEP and SAVE, among others. These meetings served the purpose of improving coordination and collaboration across the FIELD-Support LWA, addressing management and contractual issues, and discussing the pilot projects that partners were implementing.

On May 16, FIELD-Support management team met with representatives of the International Real Property Foundation (Ms. Sylvia Luchini and Mr. Norm Flynn) to explore a possibility of some joint work in the area of property rights in developing countries and solicit their interest as a resource organization on the FIELD-Support LWA in joint work in this area.

AED/FIELD-Support also held meetings with several international organizations involved in microfinance and microenterprise development. In particular, FIELD-Support sat down with Claudia Schaerer of La Incubadora, a Paraguayan microfinance organization that works with the USAID Mission in Asuncion

The FIELD-Support team continued to work closely with the USAID/MD office to advance the goals and objectives of the project. During the quarter ending June 30th, the team held five meetings with the project CTO. Topics covered during these meetings included the FIELD-Support 2007 Workplan, reporting requirements, upcoming associate awards, the project's knowledge management strategy, and performance management plans. In addition to USAID/MD, FIELD-Support received a proposal from USAID/Cambodia to develop a small Leader-funded activity that would support enhance donor coordination on value chain work in Cambodia through the delivery of a donor workshop and learning event in September 2007.

The AED/FIELD-Support team members also participated in various industry-wide events related to FIELD-Support areas of expertise, including AMAP-sponsored Breakfast Series and After Hours events and workshops.

On April 12, AED/FIELD-Support hosted a brownbag for AED staff on Reintegration of Ex-combatants: A Peacebuilding and Economic Development Strategy, presented by Megan Greeley, who is a Program Associate for FIELD-Support ARIES and SMART Associate Awards. Megan is currently also pursuing a Master's degree at the Institute for Conflict Analysis and Resolution at George Mason University. This event included an interactive discussion on lessons learned in Sierra Leone, Burundi, Liberia, DRC, and Bosnia and a discussion on how future reintegration programs could be more successful by incorporating an integrative economic development and peacebuilding strategy which could potentially transform ex-combatants into positive leaders and active participants in community development.

On May 1, AED/FIELD-Support hosted a brownbag for AED staff on the importance of education in successful microfinance. The brownbag featured noted experts Dr. Monique Cohen, President of Microfinance Opportunities and Ms. Kathleen Stack, Vice President of Freedom from Hunger, who shared their experience with the first global financial education curriculum specifically for low income households in developing countries. Both Microfinance Opportunities and Freedom from Hunger are resource organizations on the FIELD-Support program.

2. Pilot Activities

Implementation continued on the eight pilot activities approved in 2006 and 2007. A brief review of each pilot activity can be found below.

Microenterprise Development in Fragile States – IRIS with Save the Children, CARE, and World Vision (October 2005 – September 2007)

The IRIS Center, working in partnership with CARE, Save the Children, and World Vision, continued work on developing *model guidelines* for sustainable microenterprise development work in fragile states. The project is focusing on finding practical ways to improve *local institutional arrangements* (“enabling environments”) as they impact enterprise development and the related areas of financial services and delivery of public services.

During the reporting period, IRIS and its partners continued the work of analyzing lessons from Mozambique, Angola, and Nepal and creating guidelines for a policy framework aimed at creating enabling environment for microenterprise development.

In Mozambique, IRIS and CARE have investigated options for addressing a problem that has arisen in large part from the country’s fragility, and which has a major impact on the financing and development of microenterprises – especially in rural areas. This is the protection of the inheritance rights of HIV/AIDS widows in their lands, homes, and personal property. IRIS and CARE conducted a review of background literature, and then visited Mozambique from March 3 to 11. The visit, by Patrick Meagher of IRIS and Lauren Hendricks, was coordinated by CARE staff. CARE’s Acting Country Director, Michelle Carter, provided important support and input. The team met with Mozambican and international NGOs working in these areas, with governmental officials and aid agencies, with local legal aid and women’s groups, and with groups of affected individuals.

The first draft report, presenting the problem, its impacts, and analysis of the legal and policy issues, as well as an outline of activities that can contribute to ongoing efforts to address the problem was produced in June and circulated for comments.

The Savings-Led Financial Services Working Group – CARE with SEEP Network (previously titled as Community Managed Savings and Loan Fund Working Group) (March 2006 – September 2007)

CARE, in collaboration with the SEEP Network and its members, has developed a set of industry standard performance management ratios for savings led financial service programs, such as CARE’s Village Savings and Loan program, the PACT Worth tool, the SHG movement in India, and Oxfam’s Saving for Change program. The tool includes detailed definitions of financial terms and explanations of how to prepare performance monitoring reports for such programs.

The pilot activity received a no-cost extension through September 30, 2007. The Pilot was delayed as CARE worked with a wide constituency of SEEP working group members to get consensus on and finalize the Performance Management ratios. CARE and the SEEP working group have finalized the Performance Management Ratios and are currently in the process of developing the related manual, which will include the full definition of each ratio, examples on its use and suggestions for how each ratio contribute to program management.

Integrating the Un-banked through Remittance-linked Product Development in Guatemala – WOCCU (March 2006 – January 2008)

WOCCU and the Federacion Nacional de Cooperativas de Ahorro y Credito (FENACOAC) are working with five federation members to design and market new products and encourage those who receive remittances to join credit unions. Project efforts center on two topics – convincing people to channel a portion of their funds into saving accounts and designing credit products for those who would consider taking a loan for housing, business, or other viable investment.

Together, WOCCU, FENACOAC, and the credit unions are developing easily-managed products that are attractive to remittance recipients. They are also upgrading the credit union management information system to track the rate at which non-members join credit unions and the types of services they use.

The pilot implementation schedule has experienced some delays owing to the fact that FENACOAC has been going through internal restructuring in the aftermath of two large-scale defaults in other areas of the financial sector, as well as changes in its senior management. WOCCU staff have been in touch with FENACOAC, which has acquired a new General Manager on June 1, 2007, who is committed to getting the program back on track.

On April 26, 2007, a workshop was held with the pilot credit unions and FENAOAC aimed at: (i) sharing the findings and the recommendations of the focus group sessions held earlier in the year; (ii) creating awareness about the need and importance of their participation and support for conducting the poverty assessment (PAT) survey.

Financing Water: Using Financial Systems to Improve Access to Irrigation and Markets in Rural Peru – CARE with ACDI/VOCA (October 2006 – May 2007)

This pilot project is designed to build and rehabilitate productive water systems using the microfinance institution EDYFICAR as the primary source of funding. CARE is using a value chain approach. The project includes not only the financing of water systems, but also development of linkages with markets so participants can maximize the value received from their increased productive capacity.

In March 2007 an evaluation team researched and designed a model for financing irrigation schemes in rural Peru. Based on the team’s evaluation report, several loan products have been designed during the reporting period. These can be found in the table below.

	Loan Product 1: Reservoir Loans	Loan Product 2: Hook up loans
Lender	Edyficar	Edyficar
Borrower	Irrigation associations	Individual farmers
Loan Size	Approx. \$2,000 (one reservoir)	Between \$500-\$1,000
Loan Term	2-3 years	2 years
Grace Period	3-6 months for construction	6 months for first harvest to come in

Repayment schedule	Principle and Interest monthly	Principle and interest every 6 months to coincide with harvest seasons
Special Terms	Every 6 months, based on successful repayment the IA would be eligible for the next loan for another reservoir	

CARE Peru continued working on developing irrigation associations and assisting farmers to develop business plans for application to Edyficar. The aim is to develop business plans that link into higher value chains.

Accomplishments to date include establishment of the guarantee fund with Edyficar and identification of communities where activities will be launched.

SOCIAL Performance Evaluation of two MFIs – ACCION International (October 2006 – September 2007)

Through this pilot activity, ACCION is applying the SOCIAL tool, a diagnostic to evaluate the success of the microfinance institution in fulfilling its social mission and contributing to broadly accepted social goals. The tool will be applied at two microfinance institutions, Uganda Microfinance Limited in Uganda and an affiliate of Unitus network in India.

The first draft of the social performance report (based on the social performance diagnostic of Unitus partner ASA-GV from January 29th - February 20th) has been finalized.

ACCION Staff Rekha Reddy (Washington DC) and Hema Bansal (Bangalore) will travel to Kampala, Uganda to conduct the 2nd SOCIAL evaluation during the week of July 27.

Social Performance Management (SPM) Working Group and SPM Map/State of the Practice Paper – SEEP Network (October 2006 – December 2007)

During this reporting period, the Social Performance Working Group focused its energy on preparing for a "write-shop" in July, the purpose of which is to create drafts of topical documents that will then be edited during July-August and then published as part of the map. Preparations for the write-shop centered on building a resource kit for write-shop participants to use, including full documents and reading notes summarizing these documents. Documents included in the write-shop resource kit spanned a range of topics relevant to the map, such as corporate social responsibility, costs and benefits of social performance monitoring, and the Global Reporting Initiative.

Poverty Assessment Tools Training - IRIS Center (September 2006 – December 2008)

The PAT Training pilot project aims to better equip recipients of USAID microenterprise funding to assess and report the extreme poverty status of their clients using country—specific poverty assessment tools.

In April 2007, the PAT team delivered a training in Phnom Penh, Cambodia for 21 participants. As with the previous trainings, the training modules focused on:

- an overview of the legislative mandates for the Poverty Assessment Tools and USAID’s reporting requirements;
- training in employing the country tools using one of three recommended survey methods, and incorporating gender considerations into the survey;
- developing a sampling plan and executing it, using the Epi Info program to input data and generate basic results;
- developing a realistic implementation plan that incorporates all these elements;
- understanding the responsibilities and necessary skills for each staff person involved in tool implementation;
- becoming familiar with the resources available through the povertytools.org website and PAT Help Desk.

Using feedback from the Cambodia and previous regional trainings, the PAT training team has been updating and revising the povertytools.org website. Improvements to the website during the reporting period include an updated training manual and FAQs based on lessons learned from the training classes and the Help Desk (as well as additional country tools developed under AMAP).

On June 18, 2007, the PAT Team met with Yvette Dennis and Don Sillers to discuss next steps for the project, including which countries will likely be prioritized for the next round of tool development, and what options will be considered for future training dissemination. IRIS will assess likely demand in each region, based on who received training in 2007 and where additional country tools are coming on line, and will recommend future sites for FY2008 regional trainings. Thus, additional trainings will occur during the next fiscal year, but the MD office is interested in expanding the dissemination options as additional country tools become certified and even more AID partners need to learn how to implement the PATs.

Improving design, implementation and current practices of economic strengthening interventions for AIDS affected households within the USG OVC program portfolio – SAVE with MEDA (March 2007 – September 2007)

This pilot focuses on assessing and analyzing the state of the economic strengthening (ES) practice supported by United States Government (USG) Orphans and Vulnerable Children (OVC) portfolios and support for ongoing practice.

In consultation with USAID’s Microenterprise Development office, a team representing microenterprise development, HIV/AIDS, youth livelihoods, microfinance, and assessment management with multi-level stakeholders was convened soon after the pilot launch. Save the

Children (SAVE) developed scopes of work for each of the team members and looked for alignment between their past experience, skills and the tasks required to undertake this assessment. Teams of two or three worked together in reviewing parts of the literature and doing an initial analysis. Five team members were present during the field work. Both SAVE and MEDA have taken key roles in developing the guidelines, with input from the other organizations.

During the reporting period, the team completed a literature review to better understand the entry points to economic strengthening initiatives for all caregivers, including widows, grandparents, or OVCs themselves. The analysis focused on key points which could provide a platform for developing field assessment tools.

The literature review analysis led to the development of tools for the field assessment. Along with a detailed SOW for the assessment mission, the tools provided a framework for field work in Kenya and Uganda in May 2007. The field assessment took place over three weeks with a number of non-governmental organizations and US Mission representatives. A set of field study tools was developed to initiate discussions with USAID missions, implementing partners and beneficiaries themselves.

The field study provided the team with a wealth of information and materials for rich case studies on OVC interventions. The team learned a great deal about the challenges the economic strengthening field faces in working with OVC populations, especially given the fact that it is a unique representation of cross-sectoral expertise in health, economic growth and safety nets, and social protection. The guidelines developed under this pilot will seek to provide clarity on economic strengthening and the expertise required to design quality services for OVCs and their caregivers. The focus audience for the guidelines will be USAID missions. The Microenterprise Development office will be asked to provide input on the outline and the draft guidelines themselves as they are available.

3. SEEP Program

Collaborative Learning Networks to Advance Microenterprise Development Knowledge and Practice – SEEP Network (October 2006 – September 2009)

The *Collaborative Learning Networks to Advance Microenterprise Development Knowledge and Practice* consists of two components:

- The Practitioner Learning Program (PLP); and
- The Implementation Grant Program (IGP) Learning Networks

Practitioner Learning Program (PLP)

During the reporting period, SEEP selected the themes for the first two iterations of its Practitioner Learning Program (PLP) through a participatory process of its members with guidance from USAID. "Youth Enterprise and Workforce Development" was chosen as the theme for the first PLP, which will be global in scope and will launch its Request for

Applications in early September 2007 with an activity period from December 2007 – December 2008. For this PLP, Fiona Macaulay, president and founder of Making Cents International, was selected as the program facilitator. The second PLP will launch its Request for Applications in early October; the theme of this PLP is "Strategic Alliances for HIV/AIDS Impacted Communities," and will focus on sub-Saharan Africa. SEEP selected co-facilitators Linda Jones and Pauline Achola, from SEEP member MEDA, to facilitate this program. In June, both PLPs began research and work for their concept papers.

IGP Learning Networks

The IGP programs are currently working on finalizing their work plans and learning agendas for year 1. While the Financial Services IGP is still working on finalizing their specific activities, the Enterprise Development IGP has narrowed down their learning agenda and will begin bi-monthly diaries and peer assist phone calls in August. The Enterprise Development IGP Learning Network Facilitator will use the grantees semi-annual reports, which includes their progress within the learning agenda, to identify common challenges and learning that can be shared amongst the network. The grantees were required to report on their experience with learning topic #1: Creating Win-Win Relationships.

Associate Awards under Implementation

Agriculture, Rural Investment and Enterprise Strengthening Program USAID/Afghanistan (September 2006 – September 2009)

AED and its implementing partners - ACDI/VOCA, the World Council on Credit Unions, FINCA, Microfinance Investment Support Facility for Afghanistan (MISFA) and ShoreBank International - continue to expand access to financial services in the four regions of Afghanistan and to create a strong private sector foundation for a sustainable financial system capable of providing a range of financial services to rural areas.

During the reported period, ARIES issued over 26,000 loans to 20,000 borrowers, increasing the total outstanding loan portfolio to US\$8.2 million. ACDI-VOCA's Afghanistan Rural Finance Center began lending operations by disbursing its first loan worth US\$100,000 to an internet service provider offering services throughout the country. WOCCU established a new Investment and Finance Cooperative (IFC) point of service in Jawzjan Province and to date has disbursed more than US\$362,000 to 800 clients through four IFCs. FINCA opened another new microfinance branch in Kunduz Province and disbursed more than US\$3.8 million in loans to 21,000 clients during the quarter through FINCA's existing and newly established branches in the north, east, and western provinces. FINCA also began pilot implementation of a new Management Information System at its three branches in Kabul to foster efficient branch operations and produce reliable and accurate data to make financial and program management decisions. MISFA and BRAC, a microfinance institution from Bangladesh, signed an agreement to disburse US\$3.2 million to micro entrepreneurs through 31 BRAC branches in the provinces of Faryab, Kunduz, Takhar, Badakhshan, Ghazni, Laghman, and Badghis. With assistance from Shorebank International, MISFA also signed a Memorandum of Understanding with the

Afghanistan Rural Microfinance Program to provide technical assistance for initiating SME lending activities in Badakhshan Province.

In April 2007, ARIES facilitated the Agriculture Credit discussion panel with speakers from different regions of Afghanistan at the Agriculture Fair sponsored by USAID's Accelerated Sustainable Agriculture Program in Kabul. Throughout the reported period, the ARIES field staff continued to coordinate ARIES activities in all regions of the country from Kabul and through visits by the ARIES COP to Kandahar, Herat, and Jalalabad.

During the next quarter, the first group of SME loans totaling US\$1.15 million will be disbursed through the bank partners Afghanistan International Bank, First Microfinance Bank, and Afghanistan Rural Microfinance Bank. A credit guarantee facility in the amount of US\$2 million is also expected to be finalized with the Bank Alfalah. ACIDI-VOCA's ARFC will on-lend US\$8.3 million, FINCA will disburse US\$3.5 million and open four new branches, WOCCU will open two new IFCs and on-lend US\$400,000 through its established IFCs, and MISFA will disburse US\$6.7 million in microfinance loans.

Small- and Microfinance Assistance for Recovery and Transition (SMART) (September 2006 – September 2008)

The Small and Microfinance Assistance for Recovery and Transition (SMART) program is a two-year activity designed to preserve the microfinance institutional infrastructure in the West Bank and Gaza and assist microfinance intermediaries develop and adopt effective strategies and management practices during the present emergency in order to lay the foundation for a transition to sustainable growth.

This was a challenging quarter for SMART as the program had to work within a rapidly changing and complex implementation environment. The shift in political power in the Gaza strip may have, as yet unknown, impact on the program's work in the territory. Nonetheless, SMART continued its impressive work in achieving positive results to preserve and support the microfinance infrastructure in West Bank and Gaza.

During the past quarter, SMART completed negotiations for its first two large operational and technical assistance grants with CHF and UNRWA. CHF received a US\$ 1,655,856 grant to support their Access to Credit Project (ACP). By the end of the quarter, they disbursed 82 new loans for a total value of \$342,200 (average loan size disbursed: \$4,173). ACP estimated that these loans benefited 410 individuals and generated 9,816 person days of employment in the construction sector. UNRWA received a US\$ 967,490 grant to support their Microfinance and Microenterprise Department. By the end of the reporting period, UNRWA MMD disbursed a total of 191 loans in the Northern West Bank (Tulkarem and Nablus) at a value of \$ 149,434 (average loan size disbursed: \$ 782) with a 100% repayment rate.

Other 3rd quarter highlights for the SMART Program include executing a simplified grant with ANERA's Gaza Women's Loan Fund Program for a value of \$31,000 to support a final attempt to clean-up the program's small portfolio and strengthen its management and governance, as well

as negotiating an innovative guarantee mechanism with Alrafah Microfinance Bank (AMB) totaling US\$595,000 to help the new bank expand its outreach and increase its portfolio.

Development Communication (DevCom)
(September 2006 – September 2007)

The DevCom associate award under the FIELD-Support LWA builds upon and helps validate original assumptions and document the work previously begun in Morocco and Kenya within the framework of the *Agriculture Partnerships for Productivity and Prosperity (AP³) Project*. AP³ is a global demonstration project supported by USAID that is designed to improve rural livelihoods by increasing the scale and impact of agriculture development programs.

The DevCom project works to finalize demonstration activities with an emphasis on innovative, comprehensive, and integrated system/value chain approaches that will lead to sustainable environmental protection and economic growth with poverty reduction through increased productivity in the agricultural sector.

Activities Completed during the quarter ending June 30, 2007 included:

A. Monitor and Evaluate System Relationships along the Dairy Enriched Feed Value Chain in Kenya

The M&E final plan and instruments were developed collaboratively by the AED and Kenya teams with Karabi Acharya taking the lead. During March and April the Kenya team conducted a survey with 57 organizations and 21 farmers and entered the data into an excel file. They also conducted around 20 in-depth interviews with opinion leaders/key informants in each sector.

In May – June, this data was inserted into UCINET for analysis. The draft report will be completed in July as planned.

B. Workshop on the Lessons Learned Best Practices from the AP³ Demonstration Sites: Academy Hall was reserved for September 13 for this event.

C. The Communication Initiative: The Communication Initiative has completed their tasks and deliverables this quarter as per their contract.

D. Develop and Refine a SCALE/Value Chain Evaluation Methodology and Tool

The FIELD-Support LWA contracted Dr. Elizabeth Dunn of Impact LLC, to supply technical expertise in the area of value chain monitoring and evaluation (M&E) to the AED-led Global Sustainable Tourism Activity (GSTA) in Ecuador. Under this task, Ms. Dunn reviewed the Whole-System-in-the-Room report that was developed by the GSTA team in Ecuador, participated in a June 12th teleconference on the GSTA M&E activities, and provided follow-on input in the development of the GSTA-Ecuador monitoring and evaluation plan.

5. Knowledge Management

5.1 AED/FIELD-Support Knowledge Management:

FIELD-Support LWA Knowledge Management Specialist Christian Pennotti spent his first months on the team defining effective and efficient ways for managing the knowledge generated in the FIELD-Support LWA. He focused on working closely with the FIELD-Support Partners to determine learning to be shared, using the knowledge shared as a vehicle to market the LWA as a mechanism, and integrating the learning shared with learning generated from other MD mechanisms, events and resources. In June, Christian worked on launching Voices from the Field podcast series and Note from the Field series, which featured the Bangladesh Health Sector Study as its first story. The draft Branding Strategy & Marking Plan was scheduled to be finalized and submitted for USAID's review early in the fourth quarter of 2007.

Planning and scheduling for a major FIELD-Support event, Microfinance and the Mosque was completed during the quarter. Invitations were sent out, at prior to the event over 60 people had RSVP'd indicating that they planned to attend. This event, hosted by AED and with presentations by FINCA's Afghanistan country director, the World Bank, and Sonabel, asjdl, was scheduled to occur the first week of July.

5.2 Partners' Knowledge Management Activities:

IRIS Center, in collaboration with World Vision, co-hosted a National Conference on Microfinance in Angola on June 14-15, 2007. The conference was jointly organized with WV Angola's microfinance partner the Bank of Credit and Finance (BPC) and with Banco Sol. Attended by over 100 key decision makers from the banking, public and private sectors, the conference had the objective of further developing the microfinance sector in Angola. This included analysis of constraints for the national expansion of the sector; exchange of experiences by practitioners to promote best practices; reflecting on the needs for regulating microfinance institutions; the need for a microfinance forum that brings together all the major actors in the sector and the encouragement of strategic public/private sector alliances.

The IRIS/PAT team has begun working with AED Knowledge Management Specialist Christian Pennotti to investigate e-learning options for the next project year. The next quarter will see the continued updating of the website in response to user needs. The PAT training team will also continue to investigate e-learning options and make a decision regarding the best strategy for incorporating this learning technique into the PAT training project to complement the regional trainings and web-based materials.

ACCION has released three new publications in the last trimester: Getting to Scale in Housing MF (May 2007); Cracking the Capital Markets II (May 2007); and The Banco Compartamos IPO (June 2007). All are available free of charge in English and Spanish at www.accion.org/pubs. ACCION has also been actively participating in industry-wide initiatives related to FIELD-support areas of expertise, such as the social performance working group for investors. ACCION designed the survey that this working group applied to a target group of 100 investors. ACCION

has assisted in the creation of a report on these results that was presented at a broader Social Performance working group meeting held at CGAP’s offices in June.

As a follow on to the publication of “Transforming Microfinance Institutions: Providing Full Financial Services to the Poor,” ACCION International, in conjunction with the MicroFinance Network, has initiated a Transformation Learning Group to provide a forum for sharing and discussing key issues related to transformation among its members. Using funding from the LWA Field Grant, Victoria White, co-author of the publication, serves as lead and moderator for this Learning Group. The Transformation Learning Group conducted has conducted two additional sessions over the last month. The first was held on May 24, 2007, on the topic of Legal Transformation. For this session, we invited Deborah Burand, Deborah Burand, Executive Vice President, Grameen Foundation, to be the guest speaker. The session was attended by various MFN members and moderated by Victoria White. The second was held on June 6, 2007 on the topic of Ownership and Governance, with a particular focus on how best to align NGO incentives (management, board, staff) to the transformation agenda. The guest speaker for this session was Alex Silva, with again Victoria White moderating input from participating MFN members.

On May 17, 2007, David Grace, WOCCU Vice President Association Services, participated in an After Hours presentation organized by DAI and AED. Mr. Grace shared WOCCU’s experience and involvement in remittances over the past years by presenting the IRNET program developed with credit unions in the USA and a network of credit unions in recipient countries. WOCCU also participated in the compilation of “Voices from the Field” podcast, which profiled WOCCU’s work with remittances in Guatemala. The podcast was posted on USAID Microenterprise Development MicroLinks website on June 6.

6. FIELD-Support Team Staffing

The overall program staffing pattern can be found in the table below.

Position	Function	Incumbent
Director	Provide overall direction and leadership for the LWA and partner relations. Drive mission outreach and new award development. Coordinate all LWA functions with USAID.	Paul Bundick
Deputy Director	Manage day to day operations including proposal production, partner meetings, contracts, financial reporting, monitoring and evaluation as well as USAID reporting.	Nick Wedeman
Microenterprise Specialist	Provide technical and management support to field-based associate awards and pilots as well as intellectual input into the learning agenda. Work closely with Director on the outreach and communications functions.	Tim Nourse
Knowledge Management Specialist	Develop and manage the KMC function including organizing learning events, publications and communicating results, key findings and new products.	Christian Pennotti
Finance Manager	Provide monthly financial reports to USAID and provide financial management for pilots and associate awards in the field.	Bob Steiner
Program Associates	Provide operations management and support for overall leader award, partners and associate awards.	Rada Lankina Megan Greeley