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Education Program Phase III

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Fourth Quarterly Report
Covering the period
July 1 – September 30, 2009

Submitted to:
USAID/Djibouti Education Team

Submitted by:
Academy for Educational Development

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I. INTRODUCTION

The Projet AIDE fourth quarterly report covers activities for the period July 1–September 30, 2009 and presents accomplishments under each of the project’s three components, challenges, and continued dialogue with USAID and MENESUP partners. This normally would have been the last period for this phase of the project, however, AED requested and was granted a two month no cost extension until November 30, 2009.

This period is the less active one in Djibouti in general as this is the period of vacation for almost all Djiboutians. It is the hottest season and most of people take this opportunity to leave the country. It is particularly difficult for *Projet AIDE* as the schools are closed and the staff on vacation so that it is almost impossible to do any activity. Instead it is an ideal moment to plan for the activities to be implemented at the beginning of the school year

Ken Rhodes, The Deputy Director for AED’s education programs in Africa came to visit *Projet AIDE* during this period to review progress to date on the PMP and to design the follow on program in response to the RFA. He was fortunate enough to meet with the General Secretary and the Executive Secretary of MENESUP but also with all the focal points and other financial partners of MENESUP. These meetings provided very useful ideas and input for the new project design and also helped to clarify some issues on current program implementation.

Barnabe Diarra was appointed interim COP in August with the departure of Alpha Diallo who has joined USAID as the new GDO. The interim COP continued holding his regular meetings with the Executive Secretary as well as other education officials to keep them informed of project activities and solicit feedback. The COP and the two Senior Advisors (Chantal Lelong for Teacher Education and Hassane Diallo for EMIS) attended numerous meetings including the GTE (Donors’ Education Technical Group meetings), USAID/MENESUP meetings and the biweekly USAID/education IP meetings.

The analytic summary below provides a snapshot overview of key activities during this period. More details on each of these activities are provided in the following section.

II. ANALYTIC SUMMARY

The following provides a quick snapshot of the major activities and accomplishments during this period.

- **Finalization of the document on the national policy of teachers training:** The first draft of the national policy for teachers training elaborated with the collaboration of CFPEN and the *Projet AIDE* consultant, Susan Schulman, was reviewed by the regional inspectors.
- **Workshops on producing the national teacher education plan for 2009 and the two year plan for 2009-11:** With the collaboration of CFPEN, *Projet AIDE* supported a workshop on September 30, 09 to present the results of the

evaluation of the 08-09 training plan and the possible orientations to consider when elaborating the training plan for 2009-2011.

- **Maintenance of Teacher Resource Centers:** The TRCs of 4 districts have been visited by a technician of CIRADE to fix the computers .
- **Finalization of the training on FQEL /FASE:** The training of School Directors and PTA members from the last two circumscriptions of Djibouti-ville (Djibouti 3 and 4) was held in the first half of July..
- **Finalization of the statistical yearbook:** The 2009 Annuaire Statistique was finalized and over 100 copies printed and distributed to key members of the Ministry.
- **Workshop to present the result of the 2008-2009 data collection:** The month of September was utilized to prepare a presentation of the 2008-09 EMIS data for a workshop on October 1, 2009.

Review of data collection material and launching of the data collection for the new school year: The data collection forms were revised and distributed to key personnel in preparation for the data collection for the new school year 2009-10.

- **Planning of the community mobilization activities for the new school year:** With the collaboration of the MENESUP *Service du Partenariat*, *Projet AIDE* worked on planning the activities to be implemented in 2009-2010.
- **Out-of-School Youth support:** *Projet AIDE* worked with counterparts at the Professional Education office of MENESUP to monitor and support finalization of the training in computer maintenance for 30 women (at Balabala) and the training in driving for 50 youth.
- **Meetings with MENESUP and USAID:** *Projet AIDE* continued maintaining regular contact with USAID through biweekly US-funded Education Implementing Partner meetings, as well as with MENESUP through a biweekly meeting held by the Chief Party (COP) with the Executive Secretary and through the Education Partners Group meetings.

III. ACHIEVEMENTS

A. DECENTRALIZED TEACHER TRAINING

1. Development of a national Teacher Training Policy

Susan Schuman's consultancy, March 28 through April 7 had to make an analysis of the training of teachers at the national and regional level and propose to MENESUP a national training policy. This document was produced at the end of the consultancy and has been reviewed by the inspectors as well as *Projet AIDE's* COP and the coordinator of decentralized teacher training component. The comments and improvements made by the reviewers have been sent back to Susan to finalize the document. The director of CFPN and his deputy decided to resubmit to the inspectors and pedagogical advisors for a final review. Unfortunately because of the period of year end exams in the school and the closure of the classes, they have not been able to work on it. It is expected that after the review organized by MENESUP they will continue to develop the document.

2. Increased Use of Teacher Resource Centers

An important event during this reporting period was been the workshop organized in September to prepare the national training plan covering the period of 2009 to 2011. 30 people were invited to this workshop including 14 inspectors, 4 pedagogical advisors and 2 directors. The deputy director for AED's education programs in Africa participated in the opening ceremony.

The workshop started with the presentation of the results of the trainings planned for the past school year next the director of CFPEN presented the vision of the national training plan for the 2 years to come taking in consideration the staff, the infrastructures and the content of the trainings. Finally the participants were divided in small groups to work on their training plan at the national and local level.

The participants had the opportunity to express themselves on the strengths and weaknesses of the past year's experience and at the end they agreed on the 72 hours of training for each teacher every year as suggested by the FQEL, the level of feasibility of these trainings, the period to be used during vacations to organize trainings and finally the utilization of TRC more frequently as venue for the trainings.

Regarding the content of the trainings it has been decided with regard to the orientations stated in the "document bilan" to continue working on the following areas for the 3 years to come: Pursue the training in reading (in French) at the basic education level (grades 1-5), math and writing for grades 4 and 5 and History, Geo and science for the same level. The inspectors for the middle and secondary schools who attended the workshop requested that such a training plan be elaborated for them.

The last activity of the workshop consisted in drafting the content of the different trainings (cahiers de charge). Each category of training has been put under the responsibility of an inspector who will make sure the training material is finalized and returned on time to the coordinator of the training

3. Increased Use of Information Technology for Teacher Training

Training in the use of computers and camera to produce films was part of the 2008-2009 training plan. These training activities were targeting a few managers, school directors and pedagogical advisors. Due to the illness of the assigned IFESH volunteer during the second quarter, training activities were delayed. Activities have been postponed several times to accommodate people's schedules but no training has yet taken place. The agreement at the end was to schedule these trainings in the new national training plan covering the period of 2009-2011

As the IFESH volunteer and his local counterpart of CIRADE had made an assessment in the TRCs and the missing material had been identified and available at the office, this period of vacation was a good opportunity to visit the TRCs and make the necessary repairs. Below is the list of material identified during the assessment

| N° | Type of Equipment | Quantity |
|-----------|--------------------------------|-----------------|
| 1 | ELITE 600VA Surge Regulators | 40 |
| 2 | WIFI Router | 2 |
| 3 | WIFI Access Points | 4 |
| 4 | WIFI Card | 10 |
| 5 | Internet Switch | 3 |
| 6 | Trousse à outils informatiques | 5 |
| 7 | French-Arabic Keyboards | 40 |
| 8 | Mouse | 40 |

During the month of September the teacher education advisor Chantal and Mouhyadine from CIRAD visited the TRC to facilitate the maintenance of the computers and the network connections.

In Obock and Tadjourah, Mouhyadine implemented the following actions: He cleaned the computers, installed of UPS and mouses installed and update of antivirus, and verified the wiring and connection of the network. The reason why TRCs were not connected was that there was not a special connection for them set up by the PTT separate from the parent institution they were housed at. MENESUP is not ready to embark in another contract to give access to internet to the TRCs if it is possible to

extend the connection devoted from the regional inspectors to the TRCs. This issue will need to be discussed with the Secretary General and be resolved over the last two months of this project or in the first months of the next phase of EQUIP2 Djibouti.

In Ali Sabieh and Dikhil the materials for installation was handed over to the TRC since in Dikhil they did not have the network connection and in Ali Sabieh they already have a person responsible for the computer maintenance.

Projet AIDE has also ordered equipment for a micro lab for CFPEN. This material will be used for the production of teaching material (production of CDs). Lesson models will be filmed and used during training sessions. The handing over should be done in October

4. Expanded Training Resource Center Services

During this reporting period, *Projet AIDE* has purchased the books and cases for the “maquettes pedagogiques” or teacher training kits to help pedagogic advisors visit schools with organized kits. The kits, composed of teaching material, training records, newspapers, educational films, novels, administrative documents has been delivered and ready to be handed over. The draft “lettre de cadrage” proposed by Mahamoud Farah in his consultancy report has been reviewed by the teacher education advisor and submitted to MENESUP for approval. The “lettre de cadrage” define the roles and responsibility of all the stakeholders as well as the route to be undertaken by each kit in the five districts.

B. IMPROVED EDUCATION SYSTEMS

1. Finalization of the training on FQEL /FASE:

School Directors and PTA members from the last two circumscriptions of Djibouti-ville (Djibouti 3 and 4) were held in the first half of July to teach them how to use the FQEL tool to analyze how their schools were meeting FQEL indicators. Contrary to the trainings held in the rural districts where there was very good participation of Directors and PTAs, in Djibouti ville the participation was good for the directors but very low for the PTAs. 14 of 15 directors participated while only 5 of 15 PTAs invited were present. During the 3 days the participants have reviewed the different indicators to better understand them before using them to make an assessment of their school needs and draft their action plan for the improvement of their school. At the end of the training, the results of the evaluation (school assessment) and the action plan of the different schools were collected and brought to the “service de la planification” to be registered. This data base can serve for the evaluations to come,

2. Finalization of the statistical yearbook: The 2009 Annuaire Statistique draft copy were distributed to the to key members of the Ministry to collect their inputs. The different contributions/improvement have been inserted in the document and finalized. 100 hard copies and 100 CD have been printed and are available for the use of MENESUP

3. Workshop to present the result of the 2008-2009 data collection: The month of September was utilized to prepare a presentation of the 2008-09 EMIS data for a workshop on October 1, 2009. The 2008-2009 Annuaire has been reviewed to extract

some graphics of data to be used as a power point presentation for the workshop by a team of the 'Service de la planification'. The list of participants has been prepared and invitations sent out by the MENESUP. Besides USAID, other financial partners of MENESUP including UNICEF and AFD were invited to this important event

4. Review of data collection material and launching of the data collection for the new school year:

The service de la planification was using a data collection sheet called "fiche point de la rentree" that was used to collect information on the schools at the beginning of the school year. This document, which is different from the main data collection tool, was reviewed to include more detail and make it suitable for the private schools. For the first time in Djibouti this tool was utilized in the private school.

1. Sustained Community Participation

This period (June to September) is not a very active one in Djibouti because of the vacation and also because most Djiboutians leave the country to go to cooler places in the summer time. Still *Projet AIDE* has continued working closely with the Service du partenariat to plan for the community mobilization activities to be implemented during the next school year. The MENESUP staff who will participate in the designing of the training module for the School directors and PTAs have been identified as well as the participants to the training. As MENESUP has distributed the legal framework to inspectors to be disseminated in all schools, the training will consist in explaining the document to school directors and community representatives in order to assure a smooth start of the collaboration between PTAs and school administration in one hand, and to make sure that the representatives of the community are elected, and are prepared to have their official recognition and to reorganize elections as it should be stated in their internal regulations

Projet AIDE has also continued working on the proposals submitted by the 10 pilot schools to finalize them and submit to the General Secretary of MENESUP. As the 10 projects, according to the agreements have to be funded by AFD, during his September visit to Djibouti, Ken Rhodes discussed with the representative of AFD and the Secretary General at MENESUP on the next steps to have these projects funded and the possible collaboration between the two agencies on the community mobilization matters in the future. One of the priorities seem to be the signature of the MOU that had been drafted and submitted for signature by the General Secretary and the COP of *Projet AIDE*. Mr. Rhodes will work with the COP to follow up with AFD and the Ministry to put forth an appropriate proposal by AED to implement these activities using AFD funds.

During this quarter *Projet AIDE* also provided technical support to the Gender Cell of MENESUP. The Gender Cell has worked with *Projet AIDE* staff and the local consultant to organize the registration of the messages from 8 women of a fringe of middle-class women having succeeded in life through school. These testimonies are to be used as radio spots that will be aired in 3 local languages. This activity was subject to delays as each step had to be reviewed and approved by the line minister. At the end of September the registrations were completed and approved by CRIPEN.

Role models: This activity was devised as a means of promoting positive role models for young girls and their parents to learn about. It is part of Projet AIDE's strategy to encourage more parents to send and retain their girls in school. The activity consists of testimonies of a sample of middle-class women who have succeeded in life through school. The idea is after putting together radio spots that describe these women and have them present, the women will be selected to become mentors, to guide and regularly talk with girls in remote villages to teach them about the importance of enrolling and staying in school, and the power of education as a change factor to better their lives. Along with the consultant the Gender Cell has planned in early September for these "sensibilisations de proximit " that will take place in November

Radio spots: The radio messages will be brief and to the point, and will highlight the role of education as a social platform. The spots will be made in the districts. Rural areas have been targeted as they are where the problem of girls schooling is the most acute. Also, messages will be delivered by people in the community who are known and respected to ensure that they will be taken seriously and make an impact on listeners.

C. INCREASED EQUALITY OF OPPORTUNITIES FOR OUT-OF-SCHOOL YOUTH

1. Develop and Expand Public-Private Partnerships for Internship and Market Skills Training

To follow up on out-of-school youth training for drivers' licenses B to operate heavy machinery, the training of a first group of 25 candidates was launched and carried out during this quarter. A total of 23 participants successfully completed the training program. 19 were granted a license B. In October, candidates will test to obtain drivers' licenses E (truck driving). A second group of 25 participants will start training in early July.

Projet AIDE is currently in discussion with a company in need of drivers with licenses E. While the actual training program is continuing, *Projet AIDE* will facilitate the communication between this company and the heavy machinery drivers trained last year who are currently working at the port as daily laborers through the ministry of employment. *Projet AIDE* is also discussing with "Centre de Formation des Femmes de Balbala" and private sector actors in the area of IT to find, if not a job opportunity, at least an internship opportunity for the 30 women who completed the training. Yet one of them will continue at Filgafoire and another one may be recruited by "Salt investment".

2. Increased Out-of-School Youth Access and Improved Quality of Existing NGOs and Government Vocational Programs

The training of the 30 girls on continued normally. After one month spent at the "Centre de Formation des femmes de Balbala" they have moved to "Filgafoire for the practical part of the training. They have been practicing the followings: Identifying the different pieces of a computer,, assembling a computer, diagnosing and solving problems on a computer including network connection problem. The beneficiaries have demonstrated

a lot of interest for this training. Despite the great heat they have continued coming regularly to the trainings.

The training of the drivers has continued as despite some delays due to the fact that some many of the inspectors in charge of submitting the driving test to the candidates were on vacation and also because another financial partner had enrolled other beneficiaries for the same kind of program, making the waiting list of candidates for the driving permit very long. At the end of September 23 of the 23 participants including 7 girls of the first group and 3 of the 27 of the second group had completed their training awarded with the driving permit "B". It is expected that by the end of October they will all succeed in their exams. Projet AIDE has agreed with the training center to identify the best candidates of the two groups to pursue the training to gain the driving permit "C" and "E".

IV. CHALLENGES

No major challenges were identified during this reporting period.

V. PLANNED ACTIVITIES FOR NEXT REPORTING PERIOD

Projet AIDE plans to accomplish the following activities during the final two months of this phase of Projet AIDE from October 1 to November 30, 2009:

- Provide support to the MENESUP Gender Cell in conducting role model activities*
- Provide equipment for CFPEN micro lab;
- Provide pedagogical materials for the Arta TRC library;
- Provide training in ACCESS and ED*ASSIST;
- Complete training for 25 out of school youth in driving

*Note Projet AIDE will make every effort to find cost savings in order to print at least some of the gender role model calendars