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ADVANCING THE BLUE REVOLUTION INITIATIVE

QUARTERLY REPORT 9: JULY - SEPTEMBER 2009

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DISCLAIMER

The authors' views expressed in this publication do not necessarily reflect the views of the United States Agency for International Development or the United States Government.

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PREFACE

The United States Agency for International Development (USAID), through its Washington D.C.-based Bureaus for the Middle East (ME) and for Africa (AFR), and through its Office of Middle East Programs (OMEP) housed in USAID/Egypt, has contracted Development Alternatives, Inc. (DAI) to implement a task order called Advancing the Blue Revolution Initiative (ABRI) under the Water Indefinite Quantity Contract II. The effective dates of the contract are May 1, 2007 through April 30, 2010. ABRI is headquartered at DAI's offices in Bethesda, Maryland; it engages technical expertise and subcontractors throughout the Middle East and increasingly in Africa.

DAI submits progress reports three weeks after the close of each quarter providing details on the status of implementation activities. The reports include a discussion of operational problems and policy constraints encountered; proposed solutions; subsequent work plan modifications; and a schedule of activities for the upcoming quarter. DAI provides updates on project finances and expenditure of personnel level of effort directly to USAID and separate from the quarterly reports.

More detailed information on ABRI is available in other reports for readers who may not be familiar with the project. These reports are available from our project offices and USAID.

Peter Reiss
Chief of Party
USAID/Advancing the Blue Revolution Initiative
Development Alternatives, Inc.
October 20, 2009
Bethesda, Maryland, USA

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ACRONYMS AND ABBREVIATIONS

ACWUA	Arab Countries Water Utilities Association
ADWEA	Abu Dhabi Water and Electricity Authority
AFD	African Development Bank
AFR	Bureau for Africa
AFWA	African Water Association
AFESD	Arab Fund for Economic and Social Development
AmCham	American Chamber of Commerce
AMCOW	Africa Ministers Council on Water
ANE	Bureau for Asia and the Near East
AUB	American University of Beirut
AWCA	Arab Water Council
AWWA	American Water Works Association
BOT	Build Operate Transfer
BRI	Blue Revolution Initiative
CEDARE	Center for Environment and Development for the Arab Region and Europe
CPWC	Cooperative Programme on Water and Climate
CTO	Cognizant Technical Officer
DCA	Development Credit Authority
DSI	Devlet Su Isleri or State Water Works
EQI	Environmental Quality International
EGAT	USAID Bureau for Economic Growth, Agriculture, and Trade
ESCWA	Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia (United Nations)
ETIC	Euphrates-Tigris Initiative for Cooperation
EUWI-FWG	European Union Water Initiative – Finance Working Group
EWAP	Evian Water Action Plan
GAP	Greater Anatolia Project
GDA	Global Development Alliance
GDP	Gross Domestic Product
GIS	Geographic Information Systems
GOE	Government of Egypt
GTZ	Gesellschaft fuer Technische Zusammenarbeit
GWA	Gender and Water Alliance
GWC	Global Water Challenge
HIP	USAID Hygiene Improvement Project
ICT	Information and Communication Technology
ICARDA	International Center for Agricultural Research in the Dry Areas
IDARA	Instituting Water Demand Management in Jordan Program (USAID)
IFC	International Finance Corporation
IJC	International Joint Commission of the United States
IP3	Institute for Public-Private Partnerships
IWA	International Water Association
IUCN	International Union for Conservation of Nature
JEWEL	Jordan Education for Water and Environmental Leadership
JUST	Jordan University for Science and Technology
MDG	Millennium Development Goal
MENA	Middle East and North Africa

MOU	Memorandum of Understanding
NWSC	National Water and Sewage Corporation
NWRA	National Water Resources Authority (Yemen)
O&M	Operation and Maintenance
OES	Bureau of Oceans and International Environmental and Scientific Affairs
O/MEA	Office of Middle East Affairs
OMEPA	USAID Office of Middle East Programs
ONEP	Office National de l'Eau Potable (Morocco)
ORMVAH	Office Régional de Mise en Valeur Agricole du Haouz (Morocco)
PMP	Performance Monitoring Plan
PWRF	Philippines Water Revolving Fund Program (USAID)
RAED	Arab Network for Environment and Development
RITSEC	Regional Information Technology and Software Engineering Center
SEEP	Small Enterprise Education Promotion Network
SIDA	Swedish International Development Agency
SIWI	Stockholm International Water Institute
UNDP	United Nations Development Programme
UNESCO	United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization
UNESCO-IHE	UNESCO – International Water Education Institute
UNISDR	United Nations International Strategy on Disaster Reduction
UNU	United Nations University
WASH	Water Hygiene and Sanitation
WBCSD	World Business Council on Sustainable Development
WEF	Water Environment Federation
WEF	World Economic Forum
WIN	Water Integrity Network
WOPs	Water Operator Partnerships
WUA	Water User Association
WWC	World Water Council
WWF	World Wildlife Fund
WWW	World Water Week

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Advancing the Blue Revolution Initiative (ABRI) addresses some of the most challenging water issues in the Middle East and Africa: the lack of access by the poor to improved water and sanitation services, inefficient and nonproductive water use, and transboundary river basin management. USAID manages and funds this contract through its Bureaus for the Middle East¹ and for Africa (AFR), and through its Office for Middle East Programs (OMEPE) housed in USAID/Egypt. The period of implementation is three years from May 2007 through April 2010. Development Alternatives, Inc. (DAI) serves as the prime contractor on the program. DAI implements the program with personnel based in Bethesda, Maryland and through the engagement of technical expertise and subcontractors throughout the Middle East and Africa.

This report presents the status of implementation for Quarter 9, the period of July through September, 2009. The report follows the broad outline stated in the contract. It details the status of implementation activities, problems encountered, and proposed solutions and work plan modifications, schedule of activities for the next quarter, and performance per planned targets. As appropriate, each of those main sections is divided in terms of the five major ABRI tasks and respective activities:

- Task 1: Promote Transboundary Water Cooperation to Improve Water Security
- Task 2: Improve Water Resources Management
- Task 3: Improve Water Supply and Sanitation Services
- Task 4: Overarching Program Support
- Task 5: Program Management

Major actions and achievements during the past quarter include the following:

- **Tigris-Euphrates Regional Track 2 Collaboration.** Two team meetings were convened in Ankara to review available data and work out the necessary steps to accomplish the tasks under this activity. In Task 2 (Data Inventory), the three riparian teams of experts established an inventory for Turkey, Syria, and Iraq consisting of data on hydraulic structures, socio-economic conditions, health care, education, bibliography and technical terms. Under Task 3 (Data Harmonization), a framework for harmonization was developed and tentatively agreed upon in addition to producing nine maps for the Tigris-Euphrates region in GIS format. Under Task 5 (Clearinghouse), a website domain was reserved and principles for the representation of the compiled data were discussed. A seminar was organized in Stockholm during the World Water Week where some of the activity results were presented. Also, results from the activity were presented in a conference in Beirut convened by the International Basin Organization.
- **Identify Opportunities for Improved Aquifer Management in Yemen.** Over the course of four months, the ABRI team has worked closely with experts of the National Water Resources Authority (NWRA) to develop a database that is compatible with NWRA'S main database, the National Water Resources Information System (NWRIS). The new database was created in Microsoft Access 2003 and includes a component that

¹ When ABRI began, the Bureau for the Middle East was part of what was the Bureau for Asia and the Near East (ANE). The abbreviation ANE is used frequently in program documents.

stores and coordinates all monitoring parameters for Wadi Buwaysh and Wadi Fuwwah. New monitoring parameters can easily be added without changing the structure of the database. Water related data originating from other authorities have been added as well as data resulting from specific field studies, such as data on rainfall, climate, and ground water. Files of the newly created data base (more than 30 Mb) have been delivered to NWRA. The well and spring inventory survey of Wadi Buwaysh and Wadi Fuwwah in Hadhramout Government is being conducted in accordance with NWRA's guidelines. For tabulation and analysis, all data collected from the well inventory survey was entered into the database using the Microsoft Access database program adopted by NWRA. The final report of Wadi Buwaysh has been completed while work continues on the finalization of the report of Wadi Fuwwah. The work on the final task, groundwater modeling, is also ongoing and is expected to be completed in one month's time.

- **Commercialization through Water Users Associations.** Based on the input from the workshops in prior quarters, the ABRI team developed detailed business plans for the selected WUAs in Egypt and Morocco. The business plans are in Arabic and summarized the vision, mission, objectives, SWOT, marketing problems/solutions, risk mitigation and partnership approach with specific stakeholder groups. The final step is to share the business plan results with the stakeholder groups. This will be done in Morocco and possibly Egypt, the latter depending on fund availability.
- **Support the Arab Countries Water Utilities Association (ACWUA).** Representatives of ACWUA, ABRI, GTZ, and IWA met in The Hague in July to discuss the business plan and focus on knowledge management and communications for ACWUA. ACWUA celebrated its official launch in Amman, Jordan in July. ABRI's support has focused on working through the five-year business plan with ACWUA leadership, writing grant proposals for support of Technical Working Groups that were submitted to SIDA and UN-Habitat, sponsoring ACWUA's Secretary General to attend World Water Week and present at the WOPs panel and develop a sponsorship package for ACWUA's upcoming Non-Revenue Water conference in Rabat, Morocco on January 20-21, 2010.
- **Utility Twinings in the Middle East and Africa.** The basic strategy of the utility twinings in the Middle East and Africa is to improve the performance of water and sanitation operators by facilitating partnerships that produce more systematic knowledge exchange. Water Operator Partnerships, (WOPs) are based on the premise that direct collaboration among operators at regional, sub-regional and national levels promotes "learning by doing" and spreads best practices. In the Middle East, ABRI initiated a productive dialogue with the National Office of Drinking Water of Morocco (ONEP) regarding support for a WOP. ONEP suggested that ABRI could support a relationship with The National Office of Water & Sanitation of Burkina Faso (ONEA) and requested assistance in implementing a series of training courses with ONEA. ABRI is collecting final USAID approvals for this request before moving ahead with implementation. In Africa, ABRI met with officials from the Southern Sudan Urban Water Corporation and with USAID to discuss the possibility of a twining with Uganda's National Water & Sewerage Corporation (NWSC), which had agreed in principal. USAID/Sudan pledged its best efforts to continue the WOP at the conclusion of the ABRI funding. The parties hope to conclude a written Memorandum of Understanding, which was cleared in draft, during the Second Africa Water Week in Johannesburg in November 2009.
- **Future Water Leaders Program.** USAID has decided to close the Future Water Leadership program and reallocate the funds to other higher priority activities. Should

this program be reopened, USAID will be able to leverage ABRI's positive progress to date in securing LEAD International, UNESCO-IHE and IUCN as partners for future programming.

- **Fostering Partnerships.** ABRI's partnership team has continued outreach to donors and the private sector to solicit funds for ABRI activities. Specifically, the Dutch embassy in Syria confirmed its commitment to fund Syrian participation in ETIC activities at \$15,000 and the Regional Information Technology and Software Engineering Center (RITSEC) has pledged \$5,000 in sponsorship of the national climate change workshop led by RAED. ABRI has put together marketing materials and sponsorship packages for RAED and ACWUA to assist in soliciting sponsorships for the organizations' respective conferences. In addition to financial contributions, the team has secured in-kind contributions from its strategic partner IWA to support both the RAED climate change workshop and ACWUA non-revenue water conference with regards to speakers and private sector targets to engage in order to build a stronger multi-stakeholder alliance and best practice sharing on these topics in the region.
- **Africa WASH Trainings.** ABRI has continued its work with USAID/Washington to implement Water Sanitation and Hygiene (WASH) training courses for USAID/Mission staff in Africa. Following two very successful trainings in Dakar, Senegal and Maputo, Mozambique, a third and final training will be held in Nairobi, Kenya October 16-30, 2009. Activities during the current reporting period consisted of preparatory work for the training, including one trip by Jeremy Hagger to Nairobi to finalize logistics and site visits planned to EcoTact and the Water & Sanitation for the Urban Poor (WSUP) program outside of Naivasha.
- **USAID Programming Guidelines Manual.** A team of water, sanitation, and hygiene experts from ABRI and the Hygiene Improvement Project (HIP) continued their efforts during the period to develop a manual for USAID missions to design new programs in water, sanitation, and hygiene. The team identified more than 60 interventions that can be used as a foundation for program construction. The team is working closely with USAID, most especially Carl Mitchell and Marc Andreini on the design.
- **G8 Support.** The G8 regard involvement in water supply and sanitation activities as essential to the core development agenda and central to all eight of the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs). In particular, the G8 support Target 10 of MDG 7 which aims to, by 2015, halve the number of people without sustainable access to improved water supply and sanitation. At the 2003 Summit in Evian-les-Bains (France) the G8 launched the Evian Water Action Plan (EWAP) to raise water issues to the highest level of political attention. In Hokkaido, Japan in 2008, the G8 formed a Water Expert group to review the EWAP and proposed to focus the EWAP on Sub Saharan Africa (SSA). The mechanism and strategy for this focus is yet to be determined.
- **International Outreach.** ABRI's partnership team participated in the Stockholm World Water Week, August 16-22, 2009 and successfully enhanced USAID's brand and presence at this leading international conference through the following key activities: 1) convened and sponsored two half-day seminars: "Unpacking the Business Case for Microfinance for Water and Sanitation" and "Impact of Collaboration in the Tigris-Euphrates Region"; 2) executed the press event for the launch of the USAID Water Finance website (www.waterfinancesite.org) funded by the Development Credit Authority (DCA); 3) managed the USAID booth securing prime foot traffic location; 4) facilitated

and setup meetings with various donors and partner organizations for USAID's Africa Bureau and DCA representatives including European Union Water Initiative Finance Working Group (EUWI-FWG), GTZ, African Water Association, South Africa Ministry (next chair of AMCOW), Water Integrity Network (WIN), and the Women for Water Partnership, among others. A key output of the microfinance seminar, in addition to educating the audience, was that new partnerships were fostered and developed among the organizations participating on the expert panel.

- **Morocco Wastewater Reuse for Agriculture.** During the reporting period, ABRI finalized and translated the reports into English that resulted from the pilot project study of wastewater reuse for agriculture in Meknes. The pilot study was implemented after ABRI received a request for technical services from USAID/Morocco to assist the Government of Morocco in identifying and assessing options for wastewater reuse for agriculture in the Meknes region. ABRI then established the design of an innovative pilot project in close partnership with water agencies involved in Meknes to evaluate options for reusing wastewater in agriculture. The final reports will be submitted to USAID through the Development Experience Clearinghouse in the next quarter.

1. STATUS OF IMPLEMENTATION ACTIVITIES

TASK 1: PROMOTE TRANSBOUNDARY WATER COOPERATION TO IMPROVE WATER SECURITY

Activity 1.1: Design a Track 2 Shared Initiative by Riparian Experts on the Tigris-Euphrates

Activity Manager: Faisal Rifai (DAI)

Task 2 (Data Inventory):

One of the major Task 2 efforts during the reporting period consisted of the three riparian teams of experts compiling publicly available data from various sources and establishing a data inventory. The experts identified the types of available data in each country and listed and cataloged them in detail with cross-references. The data inventory was established for the administrative boundaries where the Euphrates and Tigris Rivers pass. The region consists of 11 governorates in Turkey, four governorates in Syria and 18 governorates in Iraq. More specifically, the inventory consisted of:

- Agriculture-Irrigation and drainage projects: areas/types of crops, irrigation systems, efficiency, maps and photographs
- Hydraulic structures: dams, barrages, regulators, main canals and lakes under operation, location maps and photographs
- Climatic parameters (monthly average values): temperature, precipitation, wind speed and directions, humidity, evaporation, and radiation hour
- Land use
- Social and human data: population (male, female, pyramid)
- Education: universities, schools, and illiteracy
- Healthcare: hospitals, doctors, nurses
- Economic data: production, yield, main industries, GDP
- Pesticides and fertilizers: types and quantities
- Bibliography: Arabic, Turkish and English
- Technical terms in Arabic, Turkish and English

Task 3 (Data Harmonization):

The framework for data harmonization (Task 3) was tentatively agreed upon among the experts involved in the activity. It was decided that common data will be presented in thematic classification and on the governorate basis. The data format will be produced as Microsoft Word 2003 and Excel files.

Nine thematic maps for the Tigris-Euphrates region were produced in GIS format. The possibility of producing much of the compiled data in GIS format was considered.

Task 4 (Capacity Building):

Organizing a training course was considered based on the available resources.

Task 5 (Clearinghouse):

A domain for a website has been reserved in the name of www.etic-org.net and principles for the representation of the compiled data were discussed.

Meetings and Events:

- National teams in Iraq, Syria, and Turkey held several meetings in their home countries and discussed the compilation of data and the design of future work.
- The Activity Manager convened meetings in Aleppo with the Syrian team and two team coordination meetings in Ankara July 4-7, 2009 and September 30-October 3, 2009. During the meetings, the teams discussed the progress of the ongoing effort, made several decisions relevant to Tasks 2, 3, and 5 and planned for next steps.
- The Activity Manager met on July 6, 2009 with the Director of the Middle East Technical University in Ankara in the presence of Dr. Aysegul Kibaroglu, the Turkish Country Coordinator of the activity and discussed prospects for signing an MOU with ETIC.
- A seminar in Stockholm's World Water Week was held in collaboration with UNDP on August 20, 2009 for presenting the ETIC/ABRI Activity facilitated by the Activity Manager. Four experts from Iraq, Syria, and Turkey presented activity results. The agenda of the seminar also included presentations by UNESCO, IJC, and UNDP.
- The Activity Manager participated in a seminar in Stockholm on August 15, 2009 with representatives from Lebanon, Jordan, and Palestine where he presented the Euphrates Tigris Initiative for Cooperation and the ETIC/ABRI activity and proposed starting a similar initiative for the Jordan River Basin.

Proposed for the coming period:

- Complete the gaps in some country data to match the common data structure for the three countries.
- Finalize a common standard on a searchable website and framework for the harmonization.
- Finalize the production of Tigris-Euphrates multi-layer maps.
- Facilitate collaboration among the different countries involved by accommodating differences in language: prepare a list in three languages of all major locations (town, cities, governorates, mountains, rivers, dams, hydraulic structures, etc.) with correct spellings and pronunciations.
- Use data to complete the GIS project in the Tigris-Euphrates region.
- Produce multi-layered map in three languages for the dams in the Tigris-Euphrates region in GIS format and a longitudinal profile for the rivers showing water levels.
- Each Country Coordinators will prepare a 5,000 word report giving background information on their respective countries.
- The Iraqi team will provide data and documents that became available to them on Iraq which could not be obtained for Syria or Turkey. This data will be stored in the clearinghouse with a view to match it for Syria and Turkey in the future.

TASK 2: IMPROVE WATER RESOURCES MANAGEMENT

Activity 2.2: Identify Opportunities for Improved Aquifer Management in Yemen

Activity Manager: Ali Farhan (HydroYemen).

To obtain authenticated and updated information on groundwater occurrence of Wadi Buwaysh and Wadi Fuwwah, as well as quality and utilization, a comprehensive well inventory was undertaken as a part of the scope of the study. In addition to the well inventory, a corresponding inventory was also conducted for springs to include information about spring location and the quality and quantity of water available from them. The main findings from the inventory have been analyzed, the results were discussed with NWRA's representatives, and a soft copy of the database file was submitted to them. The final report of Wadi Buwaysh has been completed while work continues to finalize the report of Wadi Fuwwah. Work on the final task, groundwater modeling, is ongoing.

Proposed for the coming period:

Work on the final task, groundwater modeling, was started in July of 2009. This task will assess aquifer opportunities for actions in the two wadis of Hadramout/Yemen. Work will include updating the estimates on annual recharge and discharge, making predictions for groundwater table changes, assessing the general flow direction of groundwater, and examining the possibility of interference of groundwater aquifer layers both horizontally and vertically. The activity deliverables will be submitted by the end of November.

Activity 2.3: Integrate Irrigation Water User Participation into the Latest Commercialization and Private Sector Management Thinking

Activity Members: Amer Jabarin (ECO Consult) and Ouïam Lahlou (DAI Consultant).

Egypt: Following the second stakeholders' workshop that was held in Kafer El-Sheikh April 27-28, 2009 and several brainstorming sessions held during the month of June at the Extension Services office, the ABRI team, in full cooperation with the other stakeholders, produced a detailed business plan for the two selected Water User Associations (WUAs), Al-Bayda and Um Henish. As a result of the high similarity in the structure and activities implemented by the two selected WUAs, the ABRI team produced a single business plan for the two associations. The plan was prepared in Arabic and was based on the business model that was prepared by the team last February. The chosen business model represented a general outline of the transactions needed for a WUA to generate income and make a profit.

The main components of the business plans developed with and for the WUAs in Arabic are:

- Introduction
- Description of ABRI activities in Egypt
- Business planning approach
- Results of the second stakeholders' workshop and how they were used in developing the business plan
- Proposed business model for Al-Bayda and Um Henish consisting of:
 - Descriptions of the WUAs

- Vision of the WUA
- Mission of the WUA
- Current activities of the association
- Short- and long-term objectives
- Strengths, Weaknesses, Opportunities and Threats (SWOT) Analysis
- Risk Mitigation
- Major marketing problems and solutions to overcome these
- Relationships with other stakeholders and partners:
 - Irrigation Advisory Services (IAS)
 - GTZ (German Technical Assistance in Egypt)
 - Extension Services in Kafer El-Sheikh
 - Alexandria Businessmen Association (ABA)
 - Croplife International
 - Other WUAs in Kafer El-Sheikh and other governorates
- Economic assessment for changing current cropping patterns

Morocco: As in the case of Egypt, following the stakeholders' workshop that was held in Marrakech from May 12-13, 2009 and attended by more than 50 participants from the WUAs and other stakeholders, the ABRI team held several meetings with WUA members and stakeholders from the L'Office Régional de Mise en Valeur Agricole du Haouz (ORMVAH), Extension Department, Croplife International, Agribusiness Project (a USAID funded project), Drip Irrigation Association, and participants from the local community. The main purpose of those meetings was to investigate future collaboration and partnerships between the WUAs and these stakeholder groups.

Following these multi-stakeholder meetings, the team organized brainstorming sessions in the Tamellalt region in El-Haouz (Marrakech) for the two WUAs, El Fath and Soultania, and other stakeholders to establish the main components of the business plan.

The sessions resulted in constructing a business plan similar in format to the plans developed in Egypt described above with the partnership section including ORMVAH, Extension Services in El-Haouz, Drip Irrigation Companies Association (AMIAG), Croplife International, olive processing firm (SOPROLIVES) and other WUAs in El-Haouz

Proposed for the coming period:

Egypt: The ABRI team will coordinate efforts with the WUAs and partners in Kafer-El-Sheikh to explore the possibility of holding a final workshop in Egypt in December, 2009 or January, 2010 similar to the one that will be held in Morocco in November. The team will capitalize on the experiences gained in Morocco and the team may follow the same approach and format adopted there.

Morocco: In full collaboration with the USAID mission in Rabat, the ABRI team will hold a final workshop in Rabat on November 12, 2009. The team has already started preparing for the workshop by contacting and inviting potential participants. The main themes on the workshop's agenda include the following:

- ABRI review of activities in the region and specifically in Morocco
- The business plan approach and the gender issues tackled by ABRI
- Interaction among the WUA stakeholders:

- Green Morocco Plan: What about the WUAs?
- Water resources in Morocco
- El Fath WUA and Soutlania WUA presentations (ORMVAH)
- Drip irrigation association (AMIAG)
- Croplife International presentation
- SOPROLIVES aggregation experience in Tamellalt
- General discussions, conclusions, and recommendations session

The workshop is expected to be held under the patronage of the Undersecretary of Agriculture. Representatives from other ministries and institutions will also be invited.

TASK 3: IMPROVE WATER SUPPLY AND SANITATION SERVICES

Activity 3.1: Support the Arab Countries Water Utilities Association

Activity Manager: Peter Reiss (DAI)

- A meeting in The Hague on Business Planning for ACWUA was organized and facilitated by IWA on the 21st – 23rd of July. It included international experts working in similar associations along with Communications and Knowledge Management experts, the ACWUA Secretary General, GTZ Advisor, ABRI Chief of Party and Business Planning Lead Expert. ABRI fully covered the participation of ACWUA's Secretary General (logistics and travel), in addition to providing the project's Lead Expert on the expansion of the association's business plan.
- ACWUA held its launch ceremony on July 30. The ceremony was held in Amman, Jordan and was attended by members of ACWUA's Board of Directors (BoD), private sector, representatives from funding agencies such as GTZ, USAID, and AFD, as well as Jordanian and Arab officials, including the Jordanian Minister of Water and Irrigation. For the purpose of the launching ceremony, ABRI supported the association in several areas:
 - The ABRI business planning expert, Philip Giantris, presented the outline of the existing business plan to the BoD and attended the BoD meeting that took place the next day in order to acquire some of the necessary inputs for the preparation of ACWUA's expanded five-year business plan.
 - ABRI financially covered the participation of the attending ACWUA BoD members.
 - The ABRI team provided technical support to ACWUA for the launching ceremony by preparing the launching event presentation that was then given to the audience by ACWUA's Secretary General, Eng. Khashman.
 - The business planning activity proceeded throughout the quarter and included working sessions led by the ABRI business planning expert, Philip Giantris, with ACWUA's Secretary General, and members of ABRI's Technical Assistance Team (Raed Daoud, and Koussai Quteishat). The first draft of the association's vision, mission statement and strategic goals was articulated.
 - Following the launch event, ACWUA sought out and was approached by several donor agencies who offered support to the association in the form of funds or grants targeted to

support specific activities such as the Technical Working Groups (TWGs). The ABRI Technical Support Team prepared two technical and financial proposals on behalf of the association for the support of two TWGs, which were then submitted to SIDA. Another proposal was also prepared to be submitted to UN-HABITAT for the implementation of WOPs located in the region in association with ACWUA.

- ABRI fully supported the participation of ACWUA Secretary General at the World Water Week in Stockholm in August 2009 and facilitated meetings there between ACWUA, IWA, RAED and other potential partners.

Proposed for the coming period:

- ACWUA plans to participate in the upcoming RAED climate change workshop on Oct 31-Nov 1, 2009 to be held in Cairo, Egypt. ABRI will support the participation of ACWUA in these events and provide technical assistance to ACWUA's Secretary General in preparing his presentations for the events.
- Engage the ABRI business planning team and short term communications and knowledge management consultants with the ACWUA appointed program director to finalize the expanded business plan, including communications and knowledge management strategies. It is worth mentioning at this stage that the appointment of a program director has not yet happened at the Association, but is expected to happen in November of 2009.
- Provide support to ACWUA's technical working groups (scopes of work, approach and communication plan), contingent on their formation.
- Utilities Questionnaire – Profiling ACWUA Member Utilities. Since the written questionnaire did not solicit any feedback, ABRI has offered to help design and conduct a phone survey targeting ACWUA members and prospective members to help define the appropriate product and service offerings for the business planning process.
- Non-Revenue Water Conference – ABRI is collaborating with GTZ and ONEP to solicit sponsorships and exhibitors for the January conference which has the purpose of building ACWUA's brand and membership offering in the region.

Activity 3.2: Support the Egypt Regulatory Agency

Activity Manager: Peter Reiss (DAI)

There were no implementation efforts during the period.

Proposed for the coming period:

The Chief of Party will meet with Mohamed El Alfy, director of the Egyptian Water Regulatory Agency, to discuss how best to use the remaining funding in the activity.

Activity 3.4: Develop a Utility Twinning Relationship in the Middle East

Activity Manager: Peter Reiss (DAI)

In the Middle East, ABRI initiated a productive dialogue with the National Office of Drinking Water of Morocco (ONEP) regarding support for a WOP. ONEP suggested that ABRI could support a relationship with The National Office of Water & Sanitation of Burkina Faso (ONEA) and requested assistance in implementing a series of training courses with ONEA. ABRI is collecting final USAID approvals for this request before moving ahead with implementation.

Proposed for the coming period:

Once the award is made, ABRI will determine if this activity is still worth pursuing.

Activity 3.4: Develop a Twinning Relationship in Africa

Activity personnel: Jeremy Hagger (DAI)

ABRI traveled to Sudan and met with officials from the Southern Sudan Urban Water Corporation and with USAID to discuss the possibility of a twinning with Uganda's National Water & Sewerage Corporation (NWSC). Later ABRI discussed this with NWSC and achieved agreement in principal. USAID/Sudan pledged its best efforts to continue the WOP at the conclusion of the ABRI funding.

Proposed for the coming period:

The twinning activities will continue in 2009 with addition meetings in Africa. The parties hope to conclude a written Memorandum of Understanding, which was cleared in draft, during the Second Africa Water Week in Johannesburg in November 2009.

TASK 4: OVERARCHING PROGRAM SUPPORT

Activity 4.1: Future Water Leaders Program

Activity Manager: Manar Fayyad (DAI Consultant)

As follow-on to the water leadership training market analysis, ABRI met with LEAD International, provider of leadership training, and UNESCO-IHE, provider of water and sanitation training, in July. Discussions were fruitful and both organizations expressed interest to partner with ABRI on developing the two remaining modules for a leadership training program for water professionals. ABRI also met with IUCN and received an expression of interest to join the partner coalition working with the future water leader's curriculum. However, next steps to formalize any partnerships and develop a curriculum were cancelled as USAID decided to allocate the remaining funds (@\$200,000) against other higher priority activities within ABRI. The Future Water Leader fellows were informed of the decision in September.

Proposed for the coming period:

While the remaining modules will not be executed, ABRI will look for non-financial ways in which to support the continued education of the FWL fellows and provide them with leadership opportunities and exposure to critical issues facing water management in the region. For example, we will be inviting FWL fellows to attend the RAED Climate Change workshop in Cairo, Egypt (Oct 31-Nov1) and the Water User Association business planning workshop in Morocco.

Activity 4.2: Mobilize Private Sector and Foundation Involvement in ABRI Activities

Activity Managers: Kristina Kohler (Public-Private Partnership Specialist, DAI) and Nemat Guenena (Public-Private Partnership Specialist, EQI)

ETIC: ABRI obtained confirmation from the Dutch embassy in Cairo that the Dutch embassy in Syria was interested in providing a small amount funding of up to 10,000 Euros (US\$ 15,000) at a time for ETIC activities in which the Syrians are involved. ABRI informed the ETIC activity leader that a proposal should be submitted before the end of the year so that funds can be allocated accordingly.

ACWUA: ABRI has put together a sponsorship package for ACWUA's upcoming Non-Revenue Water conference to help attract private sector sponsors and exhibitors. ABRI is working closely with GTZ, ONEP and ACWUA leadership on the packaging, targeting and overall approach. The goal is to establish a platform (marketing materials, messaging, etc.) upon which to build ACWUA's sponsorship outreach capabilities for future conferences. As an input into the business planning process, ABRI's partnership team reached out to American Water Works Association (AWWA) to learn more about possible licensing or partner (discounted) pricing for AWWA training and publications. Interest exists to continue discussion toward a concrete partnership MoU once ACWUA is ready to engage.

RAED National Climate Change Workshop in Egypt: ABRI created a marketing brochure for the jointly sponsored "Arab Countries Adapting to Climate Change" program and developed a sponsorship package. In September, ABRI began its outreach efforts to promote the upcoming workshop and contacted select private sector players in Egypt and the region to provide funding

and expertise to the national workshop and local hotspot projects in the future. In that context, ABRI was instrumental in connecting RAED to the Regional Information Technology and Software Engineering Center (RITSEC), a non-profit regional organization based in Cairo founded by the UNDP and the Arab Fund for Economic and Social Development (AFESD). RITSEC is a leading organization in the field of information and communication technology (ICT), culture and the environment and has committed \$5,000 to sponsor the upcoming Cairo workshop. Additional sponsors are anticipated.

ABRI also was also instrumental in engaging IWA's support in reaching out to and securing Dr. Henk van Schaik, program coordinator for the Cooperative Programme on Water and Climate (CPWC), as international speaker for the workshop, as well as ACWUA's continued involvement. ACWUA has now tapped a Jordanian representative to manage the ACWUA climate change input until the relevant task force is established. This representative will serve as RAED's specific work partner for implementation thereby ensuring continued dialogue between the utilities and civil society climate change initiative. ABRI is also coordinating the participation and presentations of ACWUA in the national Climate Change workshop. With these activities, the partnership team is helping to bring the topic of water into the national and regional climate change discussion.

Proposed for the coming period:

ETIC Activity: Pending ETIC's proposal for next steps, ABRI will reach out to other donors to solicit post-ABRI support to the ETIC program, including UNDP, the Dutch, Norwegian and German aid agencies.

ACWUA: In coordination with ONEP, ACWUA, GTZ and DWA (the German Water and Wastewater Association contracted by GTZ), ABRI will finalize the sponsorship package (print and online) and support ACWUA by soliciting US sponsors for the upcoming Non-Revenue Water conference to be held in Rabat, Morocco, January 20-21, 2010. ABRI will also be meeting with Eng. Khaldon Khashman, Executive Director of ACWUA, to talk through their approach to building their private sector membership.

RAED Climate Change Workshop: ABRI will continue its outreach efforts on behalf of the "Arab Communities Adapting to Climate Change" program, support ACWUA's involvement in the program, and solicit sponsorship for the workshop. ABRI will also participate and present at the workshop which is being held on the premises of the Arab League Building in Cairo, Egypt, October 31 – November 1. Furthermore, ABRI will co-author a paper with International Water Association (IWA) and the United Nations International Strategy for Disaster Reduction (UNISDR) documenting the process for the African Water Association (AFWA) climate change congress in Kampala, March 2010.

Activity 4.3: Support the Annual Water for the Poor Act Report to Congress

Activity Manager: Kristina Kohler (DAI)

200 glue-bound copies of the final report for 2009 were delivered to the US State Department on Monday, July 20, 2009.

Proposed for the coming period:

This activity is completed.

Activity 4.4: WASH Training Sessions for USAID Missions in Africa

Activity Manager: Kathy Alison (Training Resources Group)

The ABRI team, in close collaboration with USAID technical trainers Carl Mitchell, Heather Skilling, Merri Weinger, and Sharon Murray amongst others, has designed and implemented two successful and well-received WASH trainings for Africa-based USAID mission staff over the past year (in Maputo, Mozambique and Dakar, Senegal). The purpose of this training is to better orient mission staff to the various aspects of WASH to help them effectively program activities that respond to these important issues.

Course Objectives: By the end of the course, USAID staff is able to:

- Describe why the WASH sector is important for USAID;
- Discuss and apply institutional and legal requirements to USAID programming in the WASH sector;
- Examine proven interventions in Water, Sanitation, and Hygiene that are available to accomplish WASH objectives;
- Plan how to apply USAID resources and programming mechanisms to address challenges and comply with regulations in the WASH sector – leading to effective and responsive WASH programming.

Kenya Training Course (October 26-20, 2009): ABRI and the USAID technical trainers have spent the past quarter preparing for the next WASH training course, scheduled to be held in Nairobi, Kenya October 26-30, 2009. The WASH Training team first reflected back on the results and feedback from the most recent training in Dakar and suggested changes to improve the course. Following this exercise, assignments were given to each team member along with tracking lists to keep the team organized and focused. Since then, the team has been working closely to identify and register participants, arrange logistical matters, finalize the training content, develop binders for the trainers and participants to use during the training, and began ordering the necessary supplies.

Additionally, Jeremy Hagger, Deputy Chief of Party of ABRI, traveled to Nairobi in mid-September to organize the site visit to Water and Sanitation for the Urban Poor (WSUP) and EcoTact project sites in Naivasha and to finalize various logistics. The site visit consists of two components: the first being to the WSUP project and the second to see a stand of IkoToilets developed by EcoTact. The preparatory trip resulted in many valuable insights and the finalization of important details as well as identified items for further discussion with the larger WASH training group.

For the coming period:

The training course will take place the last week of October in Nairobi, Kenya as planned.

Activity 4.5: USAID Programming Guidelines Manual

Activity Manager: Peter Reiss (ABRI COP)

A seven-person team of water, sanitation, and hygiene experts from ABRI, its partners and the Hygiene Improvement Project (HIP) continued their efforts during the period to develop a manual for USAID missions to design new programs in water, sanitation, and hygiene. The team identified more than 60 interventions that can be used as a foundation for program construction. The team is working closely with USAID, most especially Carl Mitchell, Heather Skilling, Sharon Murray, Merri Weinger and Marc Andreini on the design.

Proposed for the coming period:

A second complete draft of the manual with annexes was submitted to USAID on October 16, 2009.

Activity 4.6: Support G8 and WSH Millennium Development Goals (MDGs)

Activity Manager: Rita Klees (DAI)

Aaron Salzburg (State/OES) and Jim Franckiewicz (USAID) requested that ABRI provide the services of Rita Klees to assistance in the preparation of the draft EWAP Progress Report and the draft concept note for the G8 Africa Water Supply and Sanitation Partnership.

The draft EWAP report was completed previously (2nd quarter).

The draft concept note for a potential G8 Partnership for Water Supply and Sanitation in SSA was submitted July 10, 2009 to USAID (Carl Mitchell), reviewed, and discussed with the USAID and State Water team August 11, 2009. USAID requested some revisions to the draft concept paper and noted that further discussions amongst the G8 partners would occur during World Water Week August 16-20, 2009; and the G20 Summit in September, 2009.

Proposed for the coming period:

The next steps for the draft concept note will be to incorporate USAID comments and results of discussions noted above.

Activity 4.7: Showcase USAID and ABRI in International Venues

Activity Managers: Kristina Kohler and Nemat Guenena

World Water Week: In addition to managing the USAID booth and press event to launch the Water Finance Website (www.waterfinancesite.org), convening various meetings for USAID Africa Bureau and DCA representatives, co-sponsoring a joint seminar with IWA and UN-Habitat on Water Operator Partnerships (WOPs), ABRI successfully convened two half-day seminars on the following topics: "Impact of Collaboration in the Tigris-Euphrates Region" and "Unpacking the Business Case for Microfinance for Water and Sanitation". Both seminars were well attended with about 40 participants at the ETIC seminar and 100 at the microfinance seminar.

Below are some highlights from the microfinance seminar:

- The expert panel of seven speakers from various stakeholder groups was co-moderated by John Wasielewski, Director of Development Credit, USAID and Rachel Cardone, Program Officer, Gates Foundation.
- The expert panel featured Dr Halidou Koanda/CREPA, Dr. Babar Kabir/BRAC, Dr. Rich Thorsten/Water.org, Mr. Valentin Post/WASTE, Mr. Antti Inkinen/Finnish Embassy in Addis Ababa, Dr. Erin Mote/CHF International, and Mr. Mark van Doesburgh and Mr. Anthony Randazzo/Triple Jump.
- A lively discussion explored the various perspectives of whether microfinance is a viable, sustainable solution for providing affordable financing to the poor for water and sanitation services, and if yes, what the supporting enabling environment requirements must be. The discussion also explored what is required to catalyze investment in the sector, what role donors and the private sector should play to reach scale, and when grants are required versus microcredit to ensure the poor do not go into further debt.
- In addition to educating the broader SIWI audience on the opportunities of microfinance for water and sanitation, the seminar also resulted in generating new partnerships among the panelists as well as attendees, which will have a direct impact on the ground for the poor over the next few years.
 - Water.org will serve as a partner to CHF International and Triple Jump as they vet MFIs who can benefit from funding and capacity support.
 - CHF International and Water.org will also be partnering in a number of other areas such as a \$13 million WASH bid in Ghana and another program in Haiti
 - CHF International and WASTE will be partnering in India to explore ways to augment the FINISH program, focusing on urban areas and leveraging the water.org urban program in India. These activities will seek to leverage a \$6 million global program with the Gates Foundation.
 - CHF International and the Finnish Embassy are exploring how they can partner in Ethiopia in order to bring the Finnish Embassy's Community Development Fund model to the Somali-area.
 - CHF International and Triple Jump are exploring targets in which to leverage their funds and MFI contacts.
 - Triple Jump connected with World Vision's wat/san specialist who expressed interest in promoting wat/san microfinance among their MFIs.
 - Triple Jump shared that the International Finance Corporation expressed interest in funding their Water Fund once it is launched. (Note: SNS-REALL is providing the seed funding for the Water Fund and also for the WASTE program).

American Chamber of Commerce Regional Workshop: After being invited to co-design a water workshop over one year ago, ABRI has tried multiple times to get a concrete commitment from the MENA American Chamber of Commerce (AmCham) in Amman, Jordan in order to move forward with planning their 2-day regional conference on the topic of "The Business Opportunity of Water". Since AmCham has repeatedly missed deadlines and changed dates and the content of the workshop, ABRI has decided to disengage in supporting AmCham's regional conference at this moment.

Proposed for the coming period:

African Water Association (AfWA) 15th Congress: ABRI will work with IWA and RAED to draft a document outlining the climate change workshop process. This paper will be presented by

RAED in the IWA-convened “Partnerships for Climate Change and Water Issues in the Middle East and North Africa” workshop at the AfWA congress in March 2010.

Activity 4.8: Develop a Strategy for Wastewater Reuse in Morocco

Activity Manager: Said Ouattar (DAI)

With the program complete, ABRI now has finalized four reports documenting the activity in both English and French, which will be submitted to the USAID Development Experience Clearinghouse to ensure their accessibility to a broad audience.

Proposed for the coming period:

In the next quarter, the reports will be submitted to the Development Experience Clearinghouse.

TASK 5. PROGRAM MANAGEMENT

ABRI received an additional \$820,000 obligation (\$410,000 each from the AFR and ANE regional bureaus), which effectively brings ABRI to its contract ceiling.

Additionally, ABRI welcomed a new team member, Alison Bishop, who has assumed the Project Coordinator position from Hilary Langer.

Proposed for the coming period:

The ABRI team will continue to oversee ongoing activities.

2. OPERATIONAL PROBLEMS AND SOLUTIONS

The following operation problems and solutions are noted for the last period:

- With the end of ABRI approaching, the project team has undertaken the development of a tracking system to ensure that the project does not overspend its funding. However, considering the somewhat complicated nature of the project's financials (funding from three separate sources), this has taken longer than expected, which was further compounded by changes in project management staff. With a more stable team in place, ABRI expects to finalize and implement the tracking system in the next quarter.
- In May 2009, ABRI submitted a realigned budget for approval and has not yet received confirmation of its approval. However, we understand that the Contracting Office is reviewing and will provide feedback or an approval depending on the results of the review.

ANNEX: ABRI PUBLICATIONS TO DATE

1. Projet Pilot: Réutilisation des Eaux Usées Traitées en Agriculture à Meknès, Maroc. Rapport 1: Diagnostic et Analyse de la Situation Actuelle: Janvier/Avril, 2009.
2. Pilto Project : Reuse of Treated Wastewater in Agriculture in Meknès, Morocco. Report 2 : Soil, Land Use and Irrigation Network Mapping : January/April 2009.
3. Projet Pilot: Réutilisation des Eaux Usées Traitées en Agriculture à Meknès, Maroc. Rapport 3 : Design du System d'irrigation et Cadre Institutionnel : Jan/May 2009.
4. Projet Pilot: Réutilisation des Eaux Usées Traitées en Agriculture à Meknès, Maroc. Rapport 4 : Guidelines pour la Réutilisation des Eaux Usées Traitées : Jan/May 2009.
5. ABRI Quarterly Report: April – June, 2009
6. Training Report, Future Water Leaders Module 2. January 2009.
7. Training Report, Future Water Leaders Module 1. October 2008.
8. ABRI Quarterly Report 4: April – June 2008. August 2008
9. ABR Year Two Workplan. July 2008
10. Mapping of Alliance and Partnership Opportunities and Implementation Plan. June 2008
11. Water User Associations in the Middle East: Drivers for Commercialization and Improved Water Management? June 2008
12. Quarterly Report 3: January – March 2008. April 2008.
13. Future Water Leaders Program Announcement and Application. April 2008.
14. ABRI Co-investment Strategy. March 2008.
15. Water User Associations in the Middle East: Preliminary Findings and Next Steps. March 2008.
16. ABRI Quarterly Report 2: October – December 2007. January 2008.
17. Assessing Transboundary and Domestic Aquifer Opportunities for Joint Action in Yemen, Jordan, and Saudi Arabia. January 2008.
18. ABRI Quarterly Report 1: May – September 2007. November 2007.
19. Bujagali Dam Environmental Mitigation Assessment. August 2007.
20. ABRI Year One Workplan. June 2007.