

Quarterly Report

Vulnerability and Risk Reduction Through a Community-Based System for Flood Monitoring and Forecasting (Cooperative Agreement No. 367-A-00-02-00224-00)

APS: Enhanced Disaster Preparedness in South Asia: Through Community-Based and Regional Approaches

Submitted by RTi, 23 August 2003

Introduction

This project is contracted by USAID to the Colorado-based company Riverside Technology, inc. along with Bangladesh-based partners Center for Environment and Geographic Information Services (CEGIS) and the Bangladesh Disaster Preparedness Centre (BDPC). The project is known in short as the *Community Flood Information System*, or CFIS. The Agreement, dated 28 September 2002, requires quarterly reports submitted for the duration of the project.

1.5.2c(1) Comparison of actual accomplishments with goals established for the period

Please reference Appendix 1. This table follows the exact format of the Work Plan, provided in earlier communications and most recently provided in the Inception Report on 25 July 2003, Appendix 1: Work Plan for Years 1 and 2. A brief status is provided for each project task including the accomplishments relative to the goals and deliverables specified in the Work Plan.

As described in the table, there are delays in certain tasks, and certain deliverables are not as complete as intended. However, these constraints do not compromise the overall project goals or the delivery schedule for major project deliverables.

1.5.2c(3) Other pertinent information including the status of finances and expenditures...

Finances and project expenditures are on target at this time. No cost overruns are foreseen.

Subcontracts with Bangladesh-based subcontractors CEGIS and BDPC have been executed and work is generally proceeding on schedule as described in Appendix 1 (attached). However, invoices from these subcontractors to RTi have not been submitted on a routine basis. RTi is conducting a dialog with the subcontractors to establish a regular billing process.

1.5.2d Notification, 1.5.2d(2) Favorable developments

The CFIS project has developed a strong relationship with the CIDA-funded project, Environmental Information Monitoring Network (EMIN). The EMIN project began in earnest in June 2003 and is being conducted by Radarsat International of Vancouver, BC, Canada. The Bangladesh-based organization CEGIS, a partner in this CFIS project, is the primary local partner for the EMIN project. Also, Riverside Technology, inc. has been subcontracted to provide an advisory role to the EMIN project. An EMIN project kickoff meeting for RSI and RTi was held in Vancouver on 18-19 August 2003. Both CEGIS and RTi have been involved in the design and formulation of the EMIN project. The EMIN project was described in the CFIS Inception Report (Section 5.5.2) and cooperation with EMIN was anticipated to be important to the CFIS project. As described on the project website (<http://emin2.ictdevgroup.com/EminEnb/home.do>), EMIN aims to improve water and natural resource management in Bangladesh by linking national and local water resource organizations. The EMIN project provides a medium for co-management of water resources and helps mitigate poverty by improving understanding of the complex relationships between water resources, flooding and erosion management.

Specific cooperation to date includes the provision of four Radarsat images for use in the CFIS project and sharing of field data and findings from national and local level needs assessments. Although this cooperation is not expected to accelerate of time schedules or allow more deliverables of CFIS, a continued close cooperation with EMIN is expected to enhance the quality of CFIS activities and deliverables, and vice versa.

Other Work Products

Following is a summary of work products and other relevant materials completed by CFIS to date.

Table 1: Name

Description	Status	Status of Distribution
Inception Report including work plan, July 2003	Deliverable	Distributed to USAID on 28 July 2003
Beel Topography Report	CEGIS field report, internal	Available from RTi on request (2.5 MB)
Establishing a Hydrological Monitoring Network for the CFIS Study Area	CEGIS field report, internal	-Available from RTi on request (0.5 MB) -Distributed Michael Ernst 23 August 2003
Power Point presentation, RTi to USAID/OFDA Washington, December 2003	RTi presentation, internal	Available from RTi on request (1.6 MB)
Power Point presentation, RTi to FFWC/Dhaka, May 2003	RTi presentation, internal	Available from RTi on request (2.9 MB)
FFWC/Dhaka Meeting Notes of RTi, CEGIS and EMIN, May 2003	RTi and CEGIS notes, internal	-Available from RTi on request (0.05 MB) -Distributed Michael Ernst 23 August 2003

Appendix 1. Status of Activities in Year 1&2 Work Plan, Quarterly Report, August 2003

Task No.	Task	Output	Task	Output	Output	August 2003 Quarterly Report
			Begin	Draft	Final	Status
1	Needs assessment, preparation, inception phase					
1.1	State of flood forecasting and monitoring in floodplains	Chapter in inception report	Nov02	Mar03	Apr03	Chapter 2 of the Inception Report, State of Flood Forecasting and Monitoring in Floodplains, was included in Inception Report on 25 July 2003. All subjects were adequately addressed.
1.2	Assess needs of agencies; networking	Chapter in inception report	Dec02	Mar03	Apr03	Chapter 3, Needs Assessment, was included in Inception Report on 25 July 2003. Needs of the organizations listed were addressed in the report. However, the depth of the assessment of needs was not as extensive as intended. These needs are continuing to be addressed during latter 2003 under this CFIS project and also by the same team under the CIDA-funded Environmental Monitoring Information Network (EMIN). See more re: cooperation with EMIN below. Additional information re agency needs will be provided.
1.3	Study area selection	Chapter in inception report	Nov02	Feb03	Mar03	Chapter 4 of the Inception Report, Study Area, was included in Inception Report on 25 July 2003. All subjects were adequately addressed. The study area has since been finalized as described in the Inception Report.
1.4	Community needs assessment	Chapter in inception report	Jan03	Mar03	Apr03	Chapter 3, Needs Assessment, included in Inception Report on 25 July 2003 contained Section 3.3 Local Organization. Needs of the organizations listed were addressed in the report. The depth of assessment is adequate at this stage of the project. Community needs are being address in more depth under Task 3.1, described below.
1.5	Finalize inception report and work plan	Inception report and work plan	Nov02	15Apr 03	May03	Inception Report delivered on 25 July 2003 included needs assessment and work plan.
2	Operational System					
2.1	Develop database	GIS and attribute database of study area; chapter in operational system report	Feb03	Jun03	Aug03	Database has been completed in draft. Additional work is underway to refine the digital elevation model (DEM). The entire database is expected to be finalized by October, 2003 including draft report chapter. A great deal of effort has been expended by CEGIS to establish a monitoring program in the study area including survey of about 15 field gauges, as described in a separately provided report.
2.2	Arrange source of SAR images	Arrangement for SAR image acquisition	Dec02		Mar03	Source for SAR images has been secured from the CIDA-funded EMIN project. The following images have been acquired for 2003 and are being used by the project: 28may, 21jun, 15jul, 15aug. More are planned for acquisition during Sep and Oct, as well as year 2004 and 2005. Image for 8aug was not acquired due to emergency acquisition by Radarsat International for a higher priority project.

2.3	Develop technical methods	Chapter in operational system report	Mar03	Sep03	Nov03	Methods have been under development since May, 2003 using 1998 data and since June, 2003 using current (2003) data. Design of an operational system will likely be delayed until early 2004. This delay should not impact overall project objectives or key deliverables.
2.4	Flood monitoring, simulation and prediction module(s)	Semi-automated processing module(s); chapter in operational system report	May03	May04	Nov04	Activities began as scheduled in May 2003.
2.5	Flood assessment module	Semi-automated flood assessment module(s); chapter in operational system report	Jun03	Jul04	Dec04	Activities began as scheduled in June 2003.
2.6	Operational system extracting flood information	Pilot operational flood information system; chapter in operational system report	Jun03	Oct04	Dec04	Activities began as scheduled in June 2003.
2.7	Monitoring of system performance	Draft monitoring report	Jun04	Oct04	Dec04	No activity.
2.8	Report on Operational System	Report on operational system	Jun04	Oct04	Dec04	No activity.
3	Flood mitigation at community level					
3.1	Community site selection and needs assessment	Chapter in community mitigation report	Mar03	Sep03	Oct03	Activities began early, in January 2003, with field reconnaissance. Community site selection has been finalized. Community needs are being assessed in close cooperation with EMIN project, which began in earnest in June 2003. Field work is active and is on-going.
3.2	Baseline survey target communities	Chapter in community mitigation report	May03	Oct03	Nov03	Activities began in July, 2003 with design of baseline survey. Survey is being conducted during August and September, 2003.
3.3	Communication and dissemination design	Chapter in community mitigation report	Nov03	Jan04	Mar04	No activity.
3.4	Mitigation design	Chapter in community mitigation report	Jan04	Jun04	Aug04	No activity.
3.5	Monitoring design	Chapter in community mitigation report	Jan04	Jun04	Aug04	No activity.
3.6	Report on Community Mitigation	Interim report: community mitigation	Apr04	Jul04	Dec04	No activity.

4	Replicate System					
4.1	Strategy for replication	Brief report: replication strategy	Apr04	Jul04	Sep04	No activity.
5	Workshops and Key Meetings					
5.1	Initial planning	Preliminary work plan, focus on Year 1 and 2	Oct02	Nov02	Dec02	Completed as planned.
5.2	Detailed planning and implementation in USA	Detailed workplan, input to inception report; implementation of specific components	Jan03	Feb03	Mar03	Completed as planned.
5.3	Various workshops, conferences, meetings	2 brief presentations at conferences or workshops; meeting notes			Sep04	Presentation of CFIS project was given in CFAB workshop in January 2003.
5.4	Inception, Workshop 1	Workshop materials and brief proceedings	---	---	May03	Project Manager Tim Martin traveled to Bangladesh during May 2003 to work with the project team to finalize the work plan and inception report. In consultation with USAID/D, the team decided that rather than a formal inception workshop an intensive meeting with the primary government provider of flood information, the FFWC, would be more appropriate and productive. Furthermore, that presentation of needs assessments and work plans would be more productive after more progress had been made. The FFWC meeting included a Power Point presentation by Martin of the overall CFIS plan with emphasis on the technical approach of flood inundation monitoring and communication to local level. Also participating were team members from the EMIN project. Discussion in the meeting also focused on cooperation between CFIS and EMIN and FFWC. Meeting notes are provided in a separate document.
5.5	Workshop 2	Workshop materials and brief proceedings	---	---	Sep04	No activity.
5.6	Workshop 3	Workshop materials and brief proceedings	---	---	Sep04	No activity.