



Development *Alternatives*, Inc.



Urban Agriculture Program for HIV Affected Children and Women (UAPHAW), Ethiopia Annual Progress Report (Urban Nutrition Program for HIV/AIDS-affected Women and Children)

Reporting period
From 01 October, 2005 To
30 September, 2006



Gabon Road
House No.400
Kebele 02/03
Kirkos Sub city

P.O. Box 123584,
Addis Ababa.

Jendayi Frazier (Assistant Secretary of State, 7th from right) visits to the vegetable gardens and discussing with women and orphan beneficiaries in Addis Ababa.

Contact address
Tesfaye Getachew
Chief of Party
Development Alternative Inc.
Ethiopia UAPHACW Project



Agricultural Extension officers' in training session



Agricultural Extension officers' training on the installation of micro drip irrigation equipment

Phone: 251-011-4165724
Mobile: 251-091-145 3394
Fax: 251-011-416-9120

E-mail: Tesfaye_Getachew@dai.com

PEPFAR Ethiopia In-Country Reporting System (IRS)

Annual Report

Reporting Period

10/1/05 – 9/30/06

5736	Urban Nutrition Program for HIV/AIDS-affected Women and Children	Program Area
		OVC

Activity

Prime Partner

Development Alternatives , Inc. (DAI)

I. COP Activity Description

The Urban Nutrition Program for HIV Affected Women and Children became part of the PEPFAR funding in January 2006. Prior to this, the program was funded from the USAID Agricultural Office for 18 Months, to improve nutritional status and income level of HIV/AIDS-affected women and their households.

At its inception, the purpose of the program was to develop a nutrition and income support program for low-income women, affected and infected by HIV/AIDS, in selected urban areas of Addis Ababa & Bahir Dar. The program is supporting the establishment of low cost, low labor, intensive urban gardening systems to these beneficiaries. Combined with appropriate training, organization and market linkages, urban gardening systems generate food for household consumption and improve household nutrition in addition to providing surplus for income generation. The program introduces simple micro irrigation and gardening technologies that reduce labor, water and land requirements, which are the main limiting factors for gardening. The drip irrigation system is a low cost, low-labor intensive technology, which has been found to compensate for shortfalls in labor productivity in HIV affected households. It increases crop yields per area, consumes less time, energy and water. The drip irrigation systems use 50% less water and labor of normal gardens, allowing the young, sick and elderly to participate. The beneficiaries receive the drip irrigation kits, training in gardening and how to use and maintain the kits and are eventually linked to the markets.

The program works through a network of NGOs that are already on the ground running programs in the target areas with the target population. Partner NGOs in Addis Ababa, Amhara, Oromia and SNNPR are listed in the annex-1

To date substantial progress has been made towards the achievements of the original program objectives. By the end of COP05, 4,882 households benefited from producing food and obtaining income through the urban gardens. DAI has also been extremely successful in working with sub-city administrations in Addis Ababa, Bahir Dar, Gonder, Dessie, Adama and

Awassa towns to secure urban wasteland areas for vegetable production by program beneficiaries.

In COP06, DAI continued to implement the gardening activities focusing on working with its implementing partners to target households with HIV/AIDS-affected orphans and vulnerable children, with particular emphasis to female and orphan-headed households, recognizing the increased vulnerability of these groups. This activity works towards the achievement of the PEPFAR Ethiopia OVC objectives.

Activities performed in this period include providing of sub grants to implementing NGOs, train NGO extension officers on gardening techniques, and closely supervise the field level implementation of the gardening activities. OVC beneficiaries are identified on the basis of the PEPFAR Ethiopia guidance. Linkages are assured with ongoing PEPFAR Ethiopia OVC programs through maintaining and extending technical and community outreach partner networks. Links have been established with local companies that supply drip irrigation equipments to ensure sustainable local supply.

DAI has established partnerships with 21 partner NGOs in Addis Ababa, Amhara, Adama and Awassa. These partners have successful HIV/AIDS care programs and networks, and/or successful agricultural development programs in the target communities. The extension of the program enabled partnerships to mature and to build on the lessons learned in the initial phase. DAI identified sub-grantee NGOs with adequate experiences in each new urban areas for project implementation.

Advocacy work with kebeles and other local government officials, private land owners continued to access to and use of urban land for gardening.

DAI works with other PEPFAR Ethiopia partners working in the fields of OVC care and support, ART and PMTCT to improve referral linkages for OVC headed HHs between the partners.

I. Accomplishments

1. Mobilization

1.1 Program expansion and Regional offices establishment

In its second phase, the urban agriculture program for HIV affected women and children, expanded to Awassa and Adama towns. The program is also expanded to Gonder and Dessie areas in Amhara region. To facilitate the inception of the program in the new areas, DAI's experiences in the previous areas were presented to the municipal authorities in the new

areas. The municipalities were impressed with previous achievements and became keen to accommodate the gardening program in their areas. ?

1.2 Staff Recruitment

Two Supervisory Trainers were recruited for Adama and Awassa sites to train implementing NGO extension officers and to serve as area offices in Adama and Awassa. As the program in Amhara region is also expanded to Gonder and Dessie, one additional supervisory trainer was recruited to oversee the program implementation in Gonder and Dessie from Bahir Dar

Four office assistants, one for each of the offices (Addis Ababa, Bahir Dar, Adama and Awassa), were recruited.

1.3 Procurement

1.3.1 Drip-irrigation kits

In the first phase of the project, both drip kits and water containers were imported from abroad and a substantial amount of time was lost in long and cumbersome importation processes.

To overcome this problem, the project assessed the local market to explore the possibility of procuring the drip kit systems locally and identify local suppliers.

Bruh Tesfa Plastic industry and ROTO Plc were identified as drip kit and water tank suppliers respectively. These companies have so far supplied a total of 3,780 drip irrigation equipment. Local procurement not only fast track the process of obtaining and distributing drip kits to project beneficiaries but also creates a sustainable supply of kits to cater for the demand that is being created by the by the project long after its completion date.

Eighteen (18) pieces of grow bags (small woven sacks) were also purchased. These are used for growing vegetables by beneficiaries who do not have plot of land to establish gardens. On average twelve bags make one garden.

1.4 Program sensitization workshop

Various sensitization workshops were organized in each of the new program areas (Awassa, Adama, Gonder and Dessie) to create awareness about the program among municipality officials and potential implementing partner NGOs in respective areas. Program achievements in Addis Ababa and Bahir Dar as well as lessons learned in these areas were presented. The workshops enabled the participants to understand what the program is intending do and the targeted group of beneficiaries. The workshop participants welcomed the program in their respective areas and made a commitment to support its implementation.

2. Establishment of networks

2.1 PEPFAR partners

NGO's working under PEPFAR funding , such as Family Health International, Save the Children US, Intra-health International are expected to work in a health network model to address HIV/AIDS

issues on Prevention, Care and Treatment. DAI is working within the PEPFAR health network model as one of the palliative care providers. DAI gardening program is playing a critical role of improving the nutrition and income levels of beneficiaries.

2.2 Implementing Partners

The program has made strong linkage with 21 local partner NGOs (see annex I) All of the NGOs have OVC and women focused programs.

2.3. Government & Technical partners

DAI is working in close collaboration with municipalities and technical partners in all the project implementation areas. Municipalities, being government bodies are responsible for providing land for gardens and also take part in beneficiary identification through their kebeles. Agriculture and health departments are technical partners and come in during training of beneficiaries in their respective expertise areas. They also provide facilities for beneficiary training. Agriculture universities and research centers also are partners in providing proven technologies for the gardening. Other USAID grantee NGOs like Family Health International, and Linkages Project are technical partners and provide training in the areas of home based care, impact of HIV/AIDS, and nutrition.

3. Issuing of Sub-Grants (see annex-II)

Once the implementing NGO is identified, a grant is issued in order to enable the NGO to start the gardening program. Two separate grants are provided, financial and in-kind grants

3.1. Financial grants

Financial grants are provided to cover the operational costs of the NGOs to run the gardens. The amount of the grant is determined based on the number of beneficiaries that the NGO is targeting. Currently, the financial grant amount is \$25 per beneficiary.

In this reporting period, 21 implementing NGOs were provided with 55,178.41

USD (482,811.06 Eth. Birr). The financial grants are distributed to the NGOs on quarterly basis as quarterly financial reports are received from the NGOs. The financial management systems are often monitored by the project finance manager and accountant to check compliance with the regulations of DAI finance management systems.

3.2. In kind Grants

Irrigation equipment is provided to the NGOs as in-kind grants. In this reporting period, 21 in-kind grants (irrigation equipments worth 156,776.50 USD, (1,362,158.90 Eth. Birr) were disbursed to 21 implementing NGOs. The NGOs in turn distribute the irrigation equipment to beneficiaries.

4. Training

4.1 Extension Officers

Extension officers' trainings were conducted in Addis Ababa, Bahir Dar, Adama and Awassa. Twenty-two extension officers coming from 21 NGOs in Addis Ababa, Awassa, Adama, Bahir Dar, Gonder and Dessie were trained on vegetable gardening and drip irrigation techniques, farm record keeping and nutrition.

4.2 Contact Gardeners

In this program, training is provided in a cascading model. The extension officers are responsible for training contact (lead) gardeners who in turn play an active role in training other beneficiaries. In this reporting period, 376 contact gardeners received training on how to grow and manage vegetables, drip kit installation and record keeping. In addition to the lead gardeners, Medhanealem Orphans Destitute and Families Support Training Center of Bahirdar (one of the NGOs in Bahir Dar) trained 35 gardeners on nutrition (vegetable food preparation, preservation and on the nutritive value of vegetable crops).

5. Beneficiary identification

The program is targeting the most vulnerable groups in the society including, OVCs, HIV/AIDS affected women, OVCs and women headed households.

Basically beneficiary selection is the responsibility of implementing NGOs. However, to make it more easier kebele level administration is involved in the beneficiary selection as they know their kebele residents by house number. In this reporting period 4,622 beneficiaries are selected and established their gardens. The program has set forth beneficiary selection criteria to assist implementing NGOs with correct targeting of beneficiaries.

6. Distribution of HNG Systems

Table 1. Number of irrigation equipments and grow bags distributed to IPs.

HNG Systems	Addis Ababa	Amhara	Awassa	Adama	Sum
100m² drip kits	102	310	112	186	710
30m² drip kits	161	505	180	300	1,146
Grow Bags	3,348	9,360	2,000	3,540	18,248

10-15 grow bags form a garden

7. Technical Support

7.1 Establishing Demonstration Gardens

A total of 6 vegetable demonstration gardens were established in the new project areas : Awassa, Adama, Gonder and Dessie. These plots are used to train extension officers and contact (lead) gardeners. Municipality as well as other government officials are demonstrated on the potentials of urban gardening in order to get their support.

7.2 Soil fertility and Water Quality testing

Soil and water quality test was conducted for Addis Ababa, Bahir Dar, Awassa Adama project areas as there was no information on the quality of water and soil fertility status for vegetable growing within the urban settings.

The objectives of the test were to assess the suitability of urban/peri-urban soils and water to grow vegetables. The federal ministry of water resources, Water Works Design & Supervision Enterprise was contracted to do the analysis. The results of the analysis showed that the chemical characteristics of the soils are good for agricultural production except for few localities in Awassa that showed low soil fertility status. With regards to water the results showed the quality of water is within the WHO standards for drinking and other uses.

8. Monitoring and Supervision

8.1 Staff Meeting

The program staff met three times in Bahir Dar and Addis Ababa to assess program implementation status and benchmarking against the project annual plan. The outcomes of the meetings indicated program is on track and is meeting the planned targets.

8.2 Extension officers' progress monitoring meeting

All extension officers meet regularly at the DAI's office to share experiences, lessons learned and challenges faced at field level. Each extension officer presents the achievements of his/her organization in gardening activities.



Photo UAPHAW 2006 : Extension Officers' meeting on progress

8.3 Implementing and Technical Partners Meeting

Implementing partners and technical partners meet quarterly to evaluate the progress of gardening. In these meetings each implementing partner shares its experience in the field. Three such meetings were held as of January 2006.

After each meeting, the participants make field visits to observe the gardening activities and to talk to beneficiaries on progress. These meetings facilitates the implementation process as the NGO heads become aware of the progress and provide supports to the extension officers.

8.4 Visits

The Deputy Mission Director of USAID/Ethiopia and his group visited vegetable gardens in Addis Ababa in early July 2006. During the visit the Deputy Mission Director held conversations with beneficiaries and extension officers working on the gardens. Beneficiaries expressed that the benefits from the gardens are significant in terms of generation of food for the household consumption and income to invest on the other household needs.



Photo UAPHAW 2006 : Dr Kevin Rushing and his group visiting vegetable garden in Addis Ababa.

9. Out comes of the project

- Vegetables produced are used mostly for the household consumption which improved the frequency of vegetable consumption (2-3 days in a week). The income from the surplus vegetable production enable many families to send children to schools, better dressed, cover medication costs, reinvest on gardens and buy other household requirements.
- Many open areas in cities are now becoming vegetable gardens. Even those families that do not have space to grow vegetable are now able to grow vegetables using grow bags (small woven sacks);
- All biodegradable household wastes are now kept for composting to fertilize gardens. This plays role in cleaning cities and promotes organic vegetable production;
- Women and children developed skills on vegetable gardening and are able to run gardening with no/or minimum external technical support;
- Exposure of urban communities to vegetable growing techniques.
- Social linkages between people living with HIV/AIDS and OVCs, and other community members is improved as opportunities are created for these groups of people to come in contact with other community members in a way of selling vegetable crops, teaching other neighbours on vegetable growing and in discussions among the beneficiaries themselves. This played significant role in reducing stigma & discrimination and motivated other people to visit the home gardens and learn from it.
- People living with HIV/AIDS got an opportunity to teach their farm site peers & neighbor about the crises of HIV/AIDS.

- Empowered women in productive role.

10. Lessons Learned

- The household nutrition garden project have the ability to produce results in short period and benefit the target group and this enables beneficiaries to continue by themselves;
- Mobilization of partners and GOV contributed towards good delivery of the project like exceeding targets ;
- Demonstrable results made the project an entry point for other partners;
- The beneficiaries themselves & the community learned that HIV affected women and children can work, produce food and can support themselves,

11. Indicators of project sustainability

- Skills developed by the beneficiaries enable them to run gardens;
- There is increased demand of quality vegetables in urban areas and the beneficiaries are already producing organic vegetables that can fetch good market;
- The durability & Effectiveness of the drip irrigation equipments provided to the beneficiaries;
- Accessibility of the vegetables to markets. As good quality vegetables are produced there is always a market as hotels, supermarkets and house holds are approaching the producers.
- Availability of production inputs (seed, seedlings, fert, etc.) enable gardeners to continue running gardens;
- The already established GO's & NGO's institutional set up (systems) for technical supervision help the producers to continue the gardening;

II. Constraints

- ✓ Water shortage,
- ✓ Most beneficiaries have no plots of land in their homestead,

III. Annual Data Quality Challenges

- ✓ Some IPs resist to record all required data and do not meet deadlines for report submission.
- ✓ Non – gardening background of implementing NGOs. It takes time to have have agricultural system in place to start the project.

IV. Major Activities in the Coming year

- Continue to provide sub grants to new and/or existing NGOs;
- Assess ways of market linkages for gardeners to enable them sale their surplus produce and generate income in a sustainable manner.
- Use different mechanisms to get reliable water sources like developing small wells for groups of gardeners and also assess the possibility of using simple water harvesting technologies, such as collecting roof water and store it to be used for gardening;
- Continue train NGO staff and beneficiaries on gardening techniques;
- Continue to strengthen linkages and networking with government offices and NGOs who work in the area of OVCs and women;
- Develop a comprehensive selection criteria for OVC beneficiaries based on the guidance provided by USAID
- Integrate poultry production with gardens so that beneficiary households can produce protein to complement vegetable diet.

VI. Activity PEPFAR Indicators

Indicator			Number of providers/caretakers trained in caring for OVC			
Target 06	YTD	Female				
N/A		Male				

Indicator			Number of OVC served by OVC programs				
Target 06	YTD		Oct to Dec 05	Jan. to Mar.06	Apr. to Jun 06	Jul. to Sep.06	Total
5,600	10,482	Female	255	500	1781	2500	6,409
		Male	170	100	303	800	

NB: The urban nutrition program is under PEPFAR funding as of January 2006

OVC Services

<u>No</u>	Core Program Areas	<u>No</u> Supported
Food and Nutrition Support		X
Economic Opportunity/Strengthening	HNG promotion	6,409

Table 2. Financial Achievements for the period 1 Jan to 30 Sept 06

	Jan 1/2006 – Sept 30/ 2006	
COP06 Funds, \$455,314	\$248,174.80	Cost incurred
	\$64,136.23	Committed costs
Total	\$312,311.03	

Obligations : The DAI Urban Nutrition Program for HIV/AIDS-affected Women and Children became part of the PEPFAR funding as of 1 January 2006 and the funds being used are those of COP06. The obligated amount for the project period (1January 06 to 30 Sept 07) is USD 699,999. This total amount is budgeted for two periods :

- 1 January 06 to 30 September 06 ----- \$ 455,314.00
 - 1 Oct 06 to 30 Sept 07-----\$ 244,685.00
- \$ 699,999

Table 3. Funding obligated amount in FY 04, 05 & 06 to Sub partners

No	Mechanism ID,609	Sub-Partner Name	DAI		
			Dollar Amount of FY04 Funding Obligated in FY 06 to Sub-Partners	Dollar Amount of FY05 Funding Obligated in FY 06 to Sub-Partners	Dollar Amount of FY06 Funding Obligated in FY 06 to Sub-Partners
	Addis Ababa				
1		Bio Economy Association	13,490.11		
2		ISAPSO	13773.67	18,938.98	
3		Common Vision for Development Association (CVDA)			13,975.07
4		Emmanuel Development Association (EDA)	13,399.32		14,830.42
5		Hiwot HIV/AIDS Prevention care and Support Organization (HAPCSO)	13,696.42		14,901.28
6		Progress Integrated Community Development Organization (PICDO)		12,088.74	15,968.06
7		PRO POOR			14,874.73
8		Social Welfare Development Association (SWDA)			14,873.46
9		Welfare for the Street Mothers and Children Organization (WeSMCO)	13,515.81	11,945.81	14,815.97
	Awassa				-
10		Common Vision for Development Association (CVDA)			14,061.59
11		Ethiopian Mulu Wongel Amagnoch Church Development Organization (EMWACDO)			14,092.05
	Adama				-
12		Family Guidance Association of Ethiopia (FGAE)			14,868.82
13		MEDAN ACTS ADAMA			14,868.45
14		Mekdem Ethiopia, PLWHAs Association			14,868.78
	Bahir Dar				-
15		Mekdem Ethiopia, PLWHAs Association		7,431.40	14,797.85

16		Dawn of Hope, PLWHAs Association	13850.05	13,604.95	14,793.23
17		Bahir Dar Medhanealem Orphans & Destitute Families Support & Training Center (BMODFSTC)		13,144.45	14,803.40
	Gondar				
18		BRIDGE TO ISRAEL			14,799.97
19		Organization for Social Services for AIDS (OSSA)			14,800.10
	Dessie				
20		Family Guidance Association of Ethiopia (FGAE)			14,786.75
21		Addis Hiwot PLWHAs & AIDS Orphans Rehabilitation & Reintegration Association.			7,471.66
22		Mekdem Ethiopia, PLWHAs Association			7,471.66
23		Netsebrak Reproductive Health and Social Development Organization			14,800.50
	Total		81,725.38	77,154.33	295,523.80

454,403.51

VII. Success/Hear Stories

Tsigie Roba (pictured below) is a successful gardener and wants to share her stories



Heart Story-Tsigie Robba, 35

"I was living in a plastic sheet with my five children for the last 10 years. Very fortunately I happened to be a beneficiary of the urban gardening (nutrition support) program brought by DAI/ECI. When they started to teach us about gardening, it was unimaginable for me to be able to produce food let alone the surplus. After successive training we started to grow vegetables seedlings, learned how to operate irrigation kits and how to prepare compost from household waste.

After nearly two months of establishing gardens, we started to eat the early maturing vegetables crops. This encouraged us to continue to work on the gardens. When all the vegetables matured our household consumption needs were satisfied and we started to sell the surplus.

Before I joined the gardening program I used to wash clothes to earn the daily subsistence for my family. Now the sale of vegetables has enabled me to change the plastic house to a small corrugated iron sheet roofed house. I thank GOD and the project for the opportunity to change my life. My children and I have now acquired life time skills and continue to work hard to satisfy our increasing household needs. I am proud of hosting many visitors to our gardens and always happy to witness the capacity of women, especially those affected by HIV/AIDS to help themselves even others"

Annex -1 List of Implementing Partners and their operational areas

No	Implementing partner	Operational Area
1	Hiwot HIV/AIDS Prevention care and Support Organization (HAPCSO)	Addis Ababa
2	Emmanuel Development Association (EDA)	Addis Ababa
3	Progress Integrated Community Development Organization (PICDO)	Addis Ababa
4	Pro Poor	Addis Ababa
5	Common Vision for Development Association (CVDA)	Addis Ababa, Awassa
6	Welfare for the Street Mothers and Children Organization (WeSMCO)	Addis Ababa
7	Social Welfare Development Association (SWDA)	Addis Ababa
8	Addis Hiwot PLWHAs & AIDS Orphans Rehabilitation & Reintegration Association.	Dessie
9	Family Guidance Association of Ethiopia (FGAE)	Dessie, Adama
10	Netsebrak Reproductive Health and Social Development Organization	Dessie
11	Organization for Social Services for AIDS (OSSA)	Gondar
12	Bridge to Israel in Ethiopia - Gonder Children's Village	Gonder
13	Mekdem Ethiopia, PLWHAs Association	Bahir Dar, Dessie and Adama
14	Bahir Dar Medhanealem Orphans & Destitute Families Support & Training Center (BMODFSTC)	Bahir Dar
15	Dawn of Hope (DOH)	Bahir Dar
16	Ethiopian Kale Hiwot Church, Medan ACTs Project	Adama
17	Ethiopian Mulu Wongel Amagnoch Church Development Organization (EMWACDO)	Awassa