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LIVELIHOODS INTEGRATION UNIT (LIU) QUARTERLY REPORT

OCTOBER 1 – DECEMBER 31, 2009 & JANUARY 1 – MARCH 31, 2010

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

Introduction and Background.

USAID is supporting the establishment of a Livelihoods Integration Unit (LIU), now housed within the Ethiopia Ministry of Agriculture, Disaster Risk Management and Food Security Sector (DRMFSS). The LIU has been working over the past three and half years towards its goal of capacity building through ongoing training and development of training materials as well as towards establishing a nation-wide comparable set of regional livelihoods baselines; integrating these baselines into the existing early warning system; and gaining general agreement around national standards for livelihoods-based early warning and emergency food and non-food assessment. The LIU has and will continue to employ specific strategies to ensure that its core functions are transferred to the Government of Ethiopia. These strategies include maximizing participation of Government personnel in project activities, standardization of approach and information sharing and exchange of ideas between staff at all levels. Every aspect of the LIU is designed and implemented with an emphasis on capacity development. Building and maintaining partnerships is a crucial determinant of the LIU's success, so the LIU approach continues to focus on maximizing communication, collaboration and coordination with the regional DRM&FS offices, federal DRMFSS staff and other key stakeholders.

USAID initially provided funding to the LIU for a three-year period. The contract was extended for a fourth year in order to continue certain core LIU functions. These activities focus on support to the twice-annual seasonal assessments, continued capacity building at both regional and federal levels and work towards National Livelihood Databases and dissemination of LIU information products. One of the major changes to the LIU during this extension phase has been the transition of duties from the COP to the LIU's Capacity Building Coordinator, who has taken over the management of day-to-day activities and serves as the primary technical point person for the LIU. This quarterly report covers the project's activities for FY 2010 Quarter 1: October 1st - December 31st 2009, and FY 2010 Quarter 2: January 1st - March 31st, 2010. Major activities undertaken during these quarters include baseline training and fieldwork for subzones in the Amhara region, support to the Meher seasonal assessment, further development of livelihoods information products such as woreda posters and the Livelihoods Atlas for Ethiopia, and the quarterly LIU steering committee meeting.

Key Outputs from FY 10 Q1:

Training

Baseline Training in the Amhara Region
Seasonal Assessment Training of Trainers
Seasonal Assessment Training
Amhara LIAS Training

Information Products

Woreda posters produced and delivered

Coordination

LIU Steering Committee Quarterly Meeting

Key Outputs from FY 10 Q2:

Training

Amhara Outcome Analysis Training
Amhara Livelihood Zone verification for belg

SNNPR Baseline Review

Information Products

Livelihoods Atlas draft circulated

Coordination

LIU Steering Committee Quarterly Meeting

Meeting

Objective 1a: Evaluation of Livelihoods Projects (KRA 1.1)

The objective of the livelihoods program evaluation was to review the successes of the pilot project in the SNNPR and to identify areas which require further strengthening and focus in the future; provide guidance on the expansion of the livelihoods-based needs assessment system to other regions within Ethiopia. This has been completed, and key findings incorporated into the LIU work. USAID has accepted the LIU SNNPR Pilot evaluation as final.

Objective 1b: LIU Design and Workplanning (KRA 1.1)

The LIU design document presents an overview of the life of the unit and outlines LIU strategies for sustainable integration of livelihoods analysis into the government's needs assessment methodology. The design lays out the staffing pattern for the LIU and defines roles and SOWs for team members and stakeholders.

Design and workplanning. The LIU's year four work plan was developed in consultation with the DRMFSS and other stakeholders including FEWSNET, SC-UK, & WFP in September 2009. The extension year 4 work plan was presented to the LIU steering committee in November 2009 and has been approved by USAID.

Objective 2: National and Regional Staff Training (KRA 2.1)

One of the main aims of the LIU is to develop an institutionalized and sustainable system for training. The approach is to progressively hand over responsibility for training from international to national staff. This will continue through the implementation of the LIU trainee certification system developed in the project's first year, coupled with the continuation of the LIU internship program. Training is largely focused on deepening the ability of DRMFSS staff at regional and federal levels to use livelihoods baselines for seasonal assessments and other types of analysis. Greater comfort and familiarity with HEA based analysis will be fostered particularly through continued support to seasonal assessment trainings.

Activity 1: Baseline trainings for Amhara subzone fieldwork. The baseline training included five days of classroom training that was facilitated by government counterparts from regional and federal levels. A total of nineteen individuals participated in this classroom training that took place in Q 1 that includes participation in classroom training, baseline fieldwork and analysis.

Activity 2: Increased national experts and internships. The objective of the USAID/LIU internship program is to develop the skills of a core group to international standards through providing opportunities for HEA trained staff to continue developing their skills in training (baseline, outcome analysis, seasonal assessment); fieldwork; baseline analysis; and use of the spreadsheets and tools by providing further opportunities as trainers/capacity builders/mentors. Interns gain further expertise in HEA while working outside of their normal duty station and usual work activities. Together with government counterparts, the LIU has continued to expand participation of federal and regional staff in its internship program, while reducing the involvement of consultants in favor of experienced interns. During this quarter, eight internship assignments were completed. LIU interns facilitated baseline classroom training and seasonal assessment training of trainers. Additionally, through the support of the LIU and the LIU internship program, the DRMFSS took the lead in preparation of seasonal assessment materials for the 2009 Meher assessment. This is an important milestone, as up until now the LIU and partners including OCHA and WFP have prepared the seasonal assessment materials.

Internships completed in FY 10, Q 1 (October-December 2009)

Name	Region	Dates ¹	Assignment
Keralem Salilih	Amhara	November 9 - 13, 2009	Facilitated 5 day Amhara baseline training in Bahir Dar
		Nov 14-Dec. 26, 2009	Lead baseline field team in Amhara Region and analysis
Desalegn Yenesew	Amhara	November 9 - 13, 2009	Facilitated 5 day Amhara baseline training in Bahir Dar
Seifu Sisay	Federal	November 9 - 13, 2009	Facilitated 5 day Amhara baseline training in Bahir Dar
		Nov 14-Dec. 26, 2009	Lead baseline field team in Amhara Region and analysis

Zinet Ahmed	Federal	Nov 17-19, 2009	Facilitated 3 days Seasonal Assessment ToT in Addis Ababa
Issa Hassen	Amhara	Nov 18-20, 2009	Preparation of Meher 2009 Seasonal Assessment materials
Alemu Nurgi	Oromiya	Nov 18-20, 2009	Preparation of Meher 2009 Seasonal Assessment materials
Getahun Argaw	SNNPR	Nov 18-20, 2009	Preparation of Meher 2009 Seasonal Assessment materials
Ayalew Yimer	Federal	Dec. 21-26, 2009	Facilitated the Amhara Baseline Analysis
Alem Teklu	Tigray	Nov 18-20, 2009	Preparation of Meher 2009 Seasonal Assessment materials

Internships completed in FY 10 Q 2 (January-March 2010)

Name	Region	Dates ¹	Assignment
Zinet Ahmed	Federal	8-11 Feb 2010	Co-facilitated the Outcome Analysis training in Debrezeit
Kerealem Salilih	Amhara	Feb 15- Mar 1, 2010	Participated in a team for belg LZ verification in Amhara
Hussien Ahmed	Amhara	Feb 15- Mar 1, 2010	Participated in a team for belg LZ verification in Amhara
Engdawork Minas	Federal	Feb 14- Mar 2, 2010	Participated in a team for belg LZ verification in Amhara

Activity 3: Seasonal Assessment Trainings. Support to the 2009 Meher seasonal assessment included a training of trainers for the seasonal assessment training. The training of trainers (ToT) was facilitated by an LIU intern from federal level DRMFSS and WFP. The training prepared sixteen (16) facilitators with the skills, knowledge and materials needed to successfully carry out the seasonal assessment training. The ToT included participants from federal and regional level government, UN agencies, USAID and NGOs who then went on to train forty-two (42) participants on how to carry out HEA based seasonal assessments.

Activity 4: Provide trainings to strengthen skills of livelihoods analysts within the DRMFSS. In FY 2010, Q 2, support and training on using the LIAS was provided as part of the LIU's support to the Meher seasonal assessment. This including further instruction on how to use the LIAS in conjunction with other data sources to cross-check and triangulate results from the seasonal assessment. Training on outcome analysis was provided in February to 10 DRMFSS staff both in the regions and at federal, and 6 from WFP. An intern from the Federal DRMFSS and a man from WFP facilitated the training increasing the number of individuals who are able to use the baseline data to carryout scenario analysis.

Activity 5: Ensure training on existing software occurs at appropriate levels and develop a system for fully communicating/transferring these data and results. In FY 10, Q 1, the seasonal assessment TOT equipped future trainers with skills necessary to use and manipulate the LIAS—and is a training that also includes strengthening of Excel skills. In preparation for the Meher assessment, the LIU worked with DRMFSS staff to update the LIAS- accounting for splitting and merging woredas as well as updating the population data. Government officials are better equipped with HEA analytical skills and have engaged in technical debate as part of the seasonal assessment. Trained HEA technicians are also making efforts to present the HEA approach to more senior people in government.

Summary of key training activities FY 10, Q 1 (October 1 – December 31, 2009)				
Date	Type of training	Participants	Facilitators	Number of participants
November 9 - 13, 2009	Amhara Baseline Training	From the Federal DRMFSS (4) and (15)Regional FSPCDPO (food security programme coordination and disaster prevention office.	Keralem Salilih, Seifu Sisay, Desalegn Yenesew	19

November 17-19, 2009	Seasonal Assessment ToT	Oromiya, SNNPR, Tigray, Amhara, DRMFS, WFP, UN-OCHA, USAID	Zinet Ahmed (DRMFSS) , Alemtehay Alemu (WFP), and ZM (LIU)	15
November 23-24, 2009	Seasonal Assessment Training	SA field team members drawn from the federal and Regional government offices, NGOs, International organizations and NGOs	<u>Those who participated the SA TOT</u>	Tigray:9 Oromiya: 12 Amhara: 12, SNNPR: 9 Total: 42

Objective 3a: Conduct baseline livelihood assessments (KRA 1.2a)

A key objective of the LIU is the full integration of livelihoods-based analysis into the national early warning system, with a view to strengthening the DPPA's ability to anticipate and manage shocks.

Activity 1: Conduct zoning and baseline fieldwork for potential livelihood zone and subzones. In Q 1, fieldwork was carried out in two subzones (TZA and ABB LZs) identified by the Amhara region. The fieldwork was done over the course of 5 weeks and was carried out by fieldwork participants from federal and regional levels. The fieldwork for these subzones was completed in response to initiatives taken by Amhara to build on current livelihoods work by fine-tuning the baselines that have been done to date by the Amhara region together with the LIU.

Activity 2: Produce livelihood zone, woreda, and regional level reports. In Q1, livelihood zone profiles were produced as a result of the baseline fieldwork in Amhara. Livelihood zone profiles have been completed for the Oromiya region. Woreda level reports have been completed for the Amhara region.

Activity 3: Produce livelihood zone woreda posters. In Q1, posters have been completed, printed and distributed to woredas in SNNPR, Tigray, Amhara and East and Central Oromiya.

Objective 3b: Integrate livelihoods based needs assessment into regular monitoring system (KRA 1.2b)

Developing linkages between on-going monitoring and the baseline data is a core focus area for the LIU. The identification of key parameter during the baseline analysis will facilitate this process and be used not only in the seasonal assessments but also to identify focus indicators for monitoring. Scenario modeling during seasonal assessments will require that trainees have a good understanding of the existing excel based database and analysis process. Training will be required to ensure that key personnel can use these analysis tools. In addition to developing and providing training in use of the software, the LIU project will ensure that a system for fully communicating and transferring these data and results is in place.

Activity 1: Ensure training on seasonal analysis tools (scenario modeling) tools occurs at appropriate levels (a seasonal assessment pre-training on the LIAS b) training on LIAS (seasonal assimilation) Seasonal Mapping And Review Tool. In Q 1, a LIAS training was given during the SA assessment ToT and utilization is enhanced in the analysis of the Meher 09 SA data. In Q 2, a SMaRT tool training was planned in coordination with SC UK to take place in early April. The SMaRT tool is intended to be a link/interface between WFP LEAP tools and SMaRT so that the crop estimates can be read into the SMaRTs and livelihoods protection / survival deficits for populations estimated for populations in need

Activity 2: Incorporate and monitor key parameters into early warning monitoring system. Working with the DRMFSS, the LIU ensured the use of livelihoods baseline data (including key parameters) and tools such as the LIAS were used to carry out the 2009 Meher seasonal assessment. A number of achievements are happened in this regard. The key one is using the livelihood baseline data for the Mid meher assessments of 2009. Efforts are made to use the livelihood data for the project evaluation (Oxfam GB), Amhara PSNP impact evaluation (FSPCDPO commissioned consultancy), drought response survey (FAO commissioned consultancy), as an input for the woreda risk profile preparation, all in Q 1.

In Q 2, attempts made to use the livelihood baselines for the food assistance targeting guideline preparation through a WFP supported activity following the formulation of the new DRM policy. In addition, Oxfam Intermon used this in their project design for activities in the Oromiya Region. UNICEF is considering the use of livelihood zones for designing nutrition surveillances in the country.

Activity 3: Review livelihoods database storage design. No activities related to livelihoods database storage design were planned or completed this quarter. This is targeted for FY 10, Q 3.

Activity 4: Set-up LIAS excel database for storing baseline data and secondary data. No activities related to LIAS database storage design were planned or completed this quarter. The LIAS set up of the Western Oromiya, Benishangul gumuz and Gambella Regions is scheduled for completion in April 2010 during FY 10, Q 3.

Activity 5: Assist in the production of outputs of the seasonal assessments analysis results. The project provided support to the government for the mid-meher season analysis that included providing the training, tools and guidance necessary to carry out the analysis (and generate beneficiary numbers). The outputs of the HEA based assessment created discussion on the thresholds that are used to calculate livelihoods protection versus survival beneficiaries. Notably, the Tigray regional analysis was led by a member of the DRMFSS staff, representing the first time the government has taken on this role and lead the Tigray seasonal assessment analysis.

Activity 6: Using the LIAS for on-going monitoring specifically linked to updating the seasonal assessments. No activities related to on-going monitoring were planned or completed this quarter.

Objective 4: Non-food Needs Assessment Methodology (KRA 3.1)

Over the life of the project, the LIU will work with staff in relevant line ministries as their emergency units are established to demonstrate how the baseline data can be utilized to contribute to the identification of non-food needs, to highlight the relevant key parameters collected to date by the LIU of use to other sectors, and to look at ways of packaging the materials to facilitate usage/interpretation by other sectors for non-food programming. Using the existing baseline information for multi-sector needs and scenario analysis will be a key to developing the appropriate needs assessment methodologies when looking at non-food information. The LIU will demonstrate the potential of using the baselines for both emergency and non-emergency situations, looking at sector specific parameters related to water, health, livestock, agriculture, and nutrition. On the mid meher and meher SA analysis, attempts are

made to make an estimates of the cash deficits of the key non food components (agricultural inputs, non staple foods, health , water and education) using the deficit data from the LIAS and the disaggregation proportion of the major non food components. This was perceived as a useful substitute of the non food cash requirement when the government didn't take the numbers of the livelihood protection deficit for the preparation of the humanitarian requirement document.

Activity 1: Present livelihoods atlas for Ethiopia at federal launch workshop. During Q 2, a nearly completed Atlas of Ethiopian Livelihoods was circulated for comment and feedback by USAID and DRMFS. Planning for regional and federal rollout to orient users to the Atlas also begin. Roll out is scheduled to take place between May-June during Q 3.

Activity 2: Facilitate regional level workshops presenting the livelihoods atlas. No activities related to the regional level livelihoods atlas workshops were planned or completed this quarter. See above.

Objective 5: National Livelihood Assessment Methodology Coordination (KRA 3.2)

The LIU will act as a focal point for the on-going dialogue about methodology, process, implementation and decision-maker needs, and will aim to ensure a convergence of best practices and the ultimate codification of standards

Activity 1: Coordinate/promote standardized approaches and guidelines for livelihoods based early warning initiatives in close cooperation with other sections within the EWD, EWWG, and members of the LIU SC. Members of the LIU Steering Committee met during this quarter to discuss the project's achievements and outputs during the previous quarter as well as ongoing and planned activities. Representatives from each region and the federal level were able to participate in the meeting, which was held in Addis Ababa. The meeting provided a forum for the regions to share their experiences and progress with one another. The LIU will continue to organize steering committee meetings on a quarterly basis.

The LIU Capacity Building Coordinator participated in, and contributed to a number of meetings including the DRM technical working group, methodology sub group, agriculture task force, EW weekly meeting, and the risk financing working group. The below is a summary of these coordination efforts.

Name	Organization	Issue
Amnesh	WFP	Discussion and data review for using HEA for the sampling and other use of the vulnerability profile
Demeke	SCUK	Reviewed Livelihood maps of Amhara, SNNPR and Tigray
Dr Bayu	ACF	Used LIU data for the world bank drought response survey
Mulugeta Emeny and Mekanu	Consultant	Used Amhara region woreda profiles for the PSNP impact assessment
Buzz Sharp	IFPRI Livelihood Advisor; Horn, East and Central Livelihood Advisor	Used Ethiopia Shape file for poverty Mapping
Frederic	From ACF	How to use maps for EW with GIS and satellite information on bio mass
Kay	Consultant	Using LIU information for the WFP targeting assignment
HRF meeting	FAO/OCHA	Use of the livelihood information for the HRF funding request of group highland

Fikre and El Ham DRM technical Working group Meeting	UNICEF DRMFSS	Using livelihood zoning for the nutrition surveillance Monthly meeting for January on different Agenda Items
DRM National conferenc	UN conference center	The 3rd annual conference on the disaster risk management
With IGAD consultants	IGAD	Discuss on how the HEA is contributing for the DRM and could be rolled out in the Region
World Bank	presentation	Presentation on the thresholds issue
USAID Oxfam Intermon		Participate on the livelihood and survival protection thresholds Use the HEA baselines for programme design in the West Arsi zone
Judith Sanford	Private by World Bank	PSNP graduation consultancy
Saimen	Private by World Bank	DRM efforts review and assessment
WFP Moges	Consultant by WFP and WB	Food assistance targeting workshop DRM efforts review and assessment

In addition presentations have been made to the following organizations:

- * World Bank – PSNP donor group on the HEA overview and issues about the survival and LP thresholds – in March
- * USAID-Alex presented the issues of the survival and LP thresholds for partners from donor agencies.
- * CARE-The use of the HEA livelihood baselines for the design, monitoring and evaluation of projects aiming to address chronic food insecurity.
- * DRMFSS-in EWRD (EW and Response Directorate), weekly meeting on the progress of the LIU activities.

Activity 2: Contribute to national guidelines that define common standards for regular monitoring including seasonal assessments. The LIU is planning to consolidate feedback and technical solutions provided to the LIU during the DRMFSS-led, post seasonal methodological de-briefings, but this has not yet taken place or been organized by the DRMFSS.

Activity 3: Forum to discuss livelihood baselines in SNNPR. In Q 2, the LIU facilitated a forum with senior regional and zonal partners in SNNPR to address how changes, such as shifts in the type of crops grown or sold, can be reasonably addressed in the LIAS without the need for additional baseline fieldwork. Regional officials in SNNPR were briefed on the how changes to the baselines can be addressed versus when baselines will need to be updated. Twenty (28) people from Federal , Regional, Zonal and Special woreda government, WFP, USAID, FAO participated in this workshop. 14 livelihood zones have been identified through this workshop for revisions of baselines. A report on this workshop has been furnished to USAID.

Activity 4: Coordination with other potential users of the data (eg PSNP, development agencies). The LIU continues to coordinate with actors at the federal and regional levels to

demonstrate how the HEA analytical framework could be used to assist with programming (eg project identification, targeting, timing of intervention, monitoring of assets, income/expenditure) through the Livelihoods Atlas rollout process and other opportunities as appropriate.

Other key activities that took place in FY 10, Q 2: Belg dependant livelihood zones in North and South wello of Amhara Region were reviewed to establish appropriate monitoring tools. A team of five people including one from the LIU, DRMFSS and FEWS NET and 2 from FSPCDPO conducted this field verification. The updated information will be used in the upcoming belg Seasonal Assessment.

Program Management and Operations.

The LIU project management strategy is oriented to achieving the contract results while also allowing for maximum flexibility to meet the needs of USAID the DRMFSS at federal and regional levels as they evolve. The team will use a highly collaboratively approach with USAID, the DRMFSS, the LIU Steering Committee, and other partners. The management strategy places an emphasize on what is necessary to continue advocating the use of the HEA approach in Ethiopia beyond year four, with a focus of handing over select LIU functions to those agencies and HEA implementing partners that will continue the work. The LIU works toward the continual strengthening of DRMFSS-LIU-USAID communications, monitoring and evaluation through the steering committee, and continued timely financial and technical reporting.

Activity 1: Communications. The LIU has continued to foster a close working relationship with the Early Warning Department through regular contact, both formal and informal with department members. Meetings with the head of the EW&RD, the LIU focal point and LIU Technical Coordinator have continued on a regular basis.

Activity 2: Technical and Financial Reporting. The LIU completed and submitted the project's Third Annual Report (covering October 1, 2008 to September 30, 2009) that included the project's Twelfth Quarterly Report. Additionally, the LIU submitted monthly reports of local expenditures to the FEG home office. These monthly financial reports are used to update financial projections and in the preparation of monthly invoices to USAID.

Activity 3: Monitoring and Evaluation. The LIU PMP document has been approved by USAID. The LIU maintains and monitoring and evaluation tracker that keeps detailed information on the project's progress towards its goals.

Financial Report

The following expenditures have been incurred under the LIU contract:

Contract value:	\$ 4,514,629
Expenditures for FY 2010, Q 1: October 1- December 31, 2009:	\$ 94,414
Cumulative expenditures to date, as of December 31, 2009:	\$ 4,123,935
Contract Funds Remaining:	\$ 390,364
Funds currently obligated, as of December 31, 2009:	\$ 4,514,629

Obligated funds remaining:	\$ 390,364
Expenditures FY 2010 Q 2: January- March 31, 2010:	\$ 118,524
Cumulative expenditures to date, as of March 31, 2010:	\$ 4,265,356
Contract Funds Remaining:	\$ 249,273
Funds currently obligated, as of March 31, 2010:	\$ 4,514,629
Obligated funds remaining:	\$ 249,273