

JUN 22 1987

NOTICE OF MEETING

TO: See Distribution
FROM: AFR/PD, Carol Peasley *CP*
MEETING: Famine Early Warning System PID

ECPR

DATE: 6/23/87
TIME: 2:00 p.m.
PLACE: Rm 3676 NS

AGENDA

Review of Subject PID
Chairperson: AA/AFR, Alexander R. Love

A copy of the Assessment will be forwarded to members of the Project Committee and others upon request, when it is completed.

Attachment: PID

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Project Committee Members:

AFR/PD/SWAP:NMckay	AFR/EA:SMintz
AFR/PD/CCWA:JHradsky	AFR/SWA:EAmundson
AFR/PD/EA:TLOfgren	AFR/DP/PAB:HMerrill
AFR/TR/PRO:DReilly	AFR/OEO:BFriedline
AFR/TR/ARD:ABurgett	OFDA:JTaft
AFR/TR:WTrayfors	GC/AFR:PJohnson
AFR/TR/PRO:Jolsson	S&T/FNR:CPaul
FVA/PPE:PRader	

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ECPR
PID Issues Paper
June 23, 1987, 2:00 p.m.
Room 3676, N.S.

Country: Africa Regional
Project Name and Number: Famine Early Warning Systems
(698-0466)
LOP Funding: \$10,000,000
FY 88 Funding: \$2,000,000
Authorization Venue: A.I.D./W

Description: The purpose of this project to implement an apolitical, cost effective and credible early warning system with accurate and timely information on populations at risk due to food shortages through two components. One provides information and analysis (i.e. warnings) to A.I.D. decision makers in Washington and the field; the second facilitates the development of early warning systems in African national governments. As other early warning systems become more credible, the FEWS will rely more on networking with these other systems, thereby reducing the need for FEWS to generate early warning data. As national systems are able to handle more interventions, the A.I.D. in-house system can be reduced and refocused on only larger scale interventions.

A.I.D. assistance, estimated at \$10 million over a five year period, will finance the provision of technical assistance, training, computer hardware, computer software, communications facilities, acquisition of data sets and special studies over the FY 1988 to 1992 timeframe.

Issues:

1. Users of FEWS

Discussion: The formal mandate of FEWS was to provide famine-related information to U.S. Government decision-makers. In the most recent famine, these decision-makers included Congress, OMB, the State Department, the DCC (including USDA and Department of Treasury), A/AID, PPC, AFR/W, affected USAID's, FVA and OFDA. These U.S. Government decision-makers worked with other donors as well as the host countries to marshall resources for famine relief. To make decisions and take actions, FEWS must be integrated with Mission perspectives and host country perspectives as well as other reliable early warning systems.

Recommendation: Since the users of the data will dictate the kinds of information gathered as well as how this information is analyzed and presented, the first step in defining FEWS is to determine the primary users and their respective data needs. FEWS is needed by A.I.D. decision-makers including A/AID, AFR, FVA, the OFDA and PPC. FEWS also provides support services to A.I.D. missions and is supported by A.I.D. missions, thus, it is necessary to consider the missions a major user. With the longer term goal of facilitating the development of early warning systems in African national governments and with responses to famine-threatening situations invariably involving host governments, these secondary users must be considered in the design of the new project.

2. Objectives of the Project

Discussion: Factors determining the objectives of FEWS include not only the identification of the users of this information system but also:

A) The cost versus the benefit of information generated may limit what can be accomplished through this activity. Should this geographically-based information system be a purely FEWS activity or broadened to include information gathering associated with more traditional development concerns?

B) Although no system can be designed which will always detect famine potential, the objective of FEWS is a systematic analysis which will provide early warning for a potential problem. The PID recommends a "tiered approach" to famine early warning which is more cost-effective and more efficient to minimize unnecessary data collection and analysis particularly when there is no emergency.

Recommendation: The Project Committee agrees with the PID recommendation that the Project Paper examine the feasibility of developing a GIS which serves a range of A.I.D. projects in Africa, and which maintains close links with non-A.I.D. GIS programs. Also, the project design should examine the countries where FEWS should be implemented; the need for "continuity," of the project; factors which will help to define the parameters of this project; the overlap and complementarity of other early warning systems; the system of inputs and outputs which satisfies A.I.D. needs; and the "tiered approach." The PP should provide for periodic re-evaluation to assure the system is flexible enough to adapt to needed changes.

3. A.I.D. Management

Discussion: The Project Committee discussed the appropriate "home" for FEWS -- AFR/TR, AFR/OEO or a new office in the AFR Bureau. The question was also raised whether this activity should be integrated into natural resource management efforts or other emergency operations efforts? In-house, FEWS will be designed to provide warnings to A.I.D. decision makers through this yet to be identified A.I.D. organizational niche. This issue cannot be resolved by the Project Committee.

Recommendation: After earlier issues are resolved, the Project Committee recommends that the AA/AFR decide how this project is to be integrated with the efforts of AFR/OEO, AFR/TR, OFDA, FVA and other A.I.D. early warning and disaster mitigation efforts including where the project is to be managed.

4. Project Design Schedule

Discussion: The earliest this new project will be authorized is the early fall 1987. We are extending the Tulane and Price, Williams contracts now. However, these contracts could expire before the new project is authorized. Further, the Project Committee agreed that the PID does not clearly explain how outputs will be achieved.

Recommendation: The Project Committee should review the scope of work for the Project Paper to assure the project's design is clarified and that unresolved issues are fully described in the scope of work. Also, the Project Committee work very closely with the project design team reviewing the project at various stages of development during the intensive review process. The proposed schedule for the project design follows:

June 30	PIO/T to M/SER/OP for project design contract
July 20	Mobilization of the PP Team
Sept 15	Draft Project Paper completed
Sept 30	Final Project Paper completed
Oct 15	Project Paper Authorized

5. Utility of FEWS Data

Discussion: The draft Assessment found that some users of FEWS currently judge the data as sometimes "questionable and possibly irrelevant." During the issues meeting there was considerable discussion about the validity and credibility of the existing FEWS data system. Both OFDA and FVA noted they must work with the A.I.D. missions in implementing their programs. When FEWS data is different than that provided by the A.I.D. missions, these AID/W decision-makers rely on the

USAID data rather than FEWS. It was agreed that: A) difficulties to date are due in part to the lack of data available to the host governments and the lack of the capability of the host governments to generate and analyze data; B) the goal and purpose of the existing FEWS were never clearly stated, so the data gathering and analysis may not have been optimally directed; and C) data is sometimes not presented in time to be useful.

Recommendation: The the users of FEWS and the objectives be clearly articulated in the project design process to avoid these difficulties in the future.

AFR/PD/SWAP:NMMcKay:06/22/87:4114M