

Urban Agriculture Program for HIV Affected Women

1st Quarterly Progress Report: FY 2004
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Prepared by Development Alternatives Inc./ECI Africa

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I. Introduction

The Urban Agriculture Program for HIV Affected Women (UAPHAW) is a USAID-funded 18-month program in Ethiopia initiated in June of 2004. The program is implemented by DAI in partnership with the DAI network company, ECIAfrica. The objective of the program is to introduce household nutrition gardens to improve the nutritional status and income of households in urban settings. The program targets low income urban women in Addis Ababa and the Amhara region who are affected by HIV/AIDS, including those receiving home based care or for whom commercial sex work is a part of household income. The program introduces low cost, low labor, intensive urban gardening systems to these beneficiaries. Combined with appropriate training, organization and market linkages, these 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 to reduce labor, water, and land requirements, which are the main limiting factors for food production.

The Program works through a network of Implementing Partners, NGOs that are already on the ground running programs in the target areas with the target population.

II. Progress on Program Activity

2.1. First TDY to Ethiopia by Senior Advisor and Technical Advisor

The senior advisor and the technical advisor traveled to Ethiopia from July 11 to 21 to initiate project implementation. They conducted recruitment, sought potential partners and held initial meetings to present the program, and found project office space.

The Project Manager/Chief of Party, Tesfaye Getachew, and the Project Assistant, Tirsit Sisay were recruited and introduced to DAI/ECIAfrica and the UAPHAW program. Briefing sessions were held with potential Technical Partners and Implementing Partners in Addis Ababa and Bahir Dar. In the consultative meetings, HAPCSO, ISAPSO, ENDA, Bio Farm, Amhara Development Association and Dawn of Hope were identified as Implementing Partners.

2.2. Establishment of Core Office

The Program Core Office is sub-leased from FHI Ethiopia, and is located at Wessen House, South Africa Street, House 175, in Addis Ababa. Office systems are in the process of being established. Internet access was established by sharing costs for FHI's high speed LAN line. Telephone lines have been installed.

2.3. Chief of Party, Local Staff Trainer and Project Assistant Introduction to USAID

The UAPHAW Chief of Party (COP) began work on 15 August, 2004 and the Project Assistant, began work on 1 August, 2004. The UAPHAW staff and Bronwyn Irwin (the Local Staff Trainer) were formally introduced to USAID/Ethiopia by the Technical Advisor (Don Greenberg) on August 20, 2004. During this meeting, there was a review of the logistical procurement process and the reporting requirements of USAID.

2.4. Program Implementation Plan

The first draft of the Program Implementation Plan was submitted to USAID/Ethiopia by DAI on 6 August, 2004. The draft was reviewed by USAID/Ethiopia and comments were presented at the introductory meeting on August 20, 2004. Based on the inputs from USAID/Ethiopia the final draft was prepared and submitted on 1 October, 2004.

2.5. Visit to LEAD Program in Zimbabwe and ECIAfrica in South Africa

The Chief of Party and the Local Staff Trainer traveled to Zimbabwe from 5 to 13 September, 2004 to learn from the experience of the Linkage for Economic Advancement of the Disadvantaged (LEAD) program. LEAD is a USAID program implemented by DAI in Zimbabwe that is implementing a similar household nutrition garden program. The visiting team met with senior staff of LEAD, who shared their experiences. The visit built the capacity of UAPHAW staff in appropriate grant management systems, monitoring and evaluation, project administration, and the technical aspects of the drip irrigation gardening system. The team visited household nutrition gardens of the LEAD beneficiaries in rural areas near Harare. The COP and the Local Staff Trainer heard from the beneficiaries that the drip irrigation system enabled poor rural households to produce vegetables for home consumption plus surplus for sale. The beneficiaries also commented on the efficiency of the system in regards to water conservation.

The COP and the Local Staff Trainer traveled to South Africa to meet with the ECIAfrica team and learn about ECIAfrica project management systems. The COP was introduced to senior staff at ECIAfrica and was briefed on the relevant ongoing activities of the different departments. The COP and the Local Staff Trainer gained experience in ECIAfrica human resource and financial management systems.

2.6. Establishment of Relationships with Implementing Partners (IPs) and Technical Partners (TPs).

Further discussions were held with IPs on program implementation modalities with regard to grant provision systems and activities of intervention. The IPs began program preparatory activities including: selecting beneficiaries, estimating how many of each type of kit would be distributed, arranging storage space for irrigation kits, and beginning the process of acquiring land from local authorities.

In depth meetings were held with potential Technical Partners and other Stakeholders, including the Addis Ababa city Department of Agriculture, Amhara Bureau of Micro-enterprise, Amhara Bureau of Agriculture, HAPCO (Amhara region), and the Amhara Bureau of Social Welfare. The TPs have already committed to providing technical support to program implementation in specific areas

The initial IPs for Addis Ababa include:

1. Environmental Development Action (ENDA) Ethiopia;
2. Integrated Services for Aids Prevention and Support Organization (ISAPSO);
3. Hiwot HIV/AIDS Prevention, Care and Support organization (HAPCSO); and
4. Bio Farm.

The consultative process with IPs has been expanded by introducing the IPs to the draft grant agreement document.

The initial TPs identified include Selam Technical College, the Linkage project and Department of Agriculture.

All of the TPs have relevant experiences in the technical aspects of either urban gardening, nutrition or others.

The roles and responsibilities of DAI/ECI Africa, and the IPs and TPs have been worked out and are clearly indicated in the implementation plan.

2.7. Procurement

Drip Irrigation Systems

An advertisement was drafted for the local press inviting suppliers to submit tenders for micro-drip irrigation kits. Seven completed tenders were received. A drip irrigation tender review committee meeting was held on September 2, 2004. Agritech Systems, a local supplier of Plastro irrigation systems, had the highest score and the most favorable terms and was selected as the supplier.

Purchase order agreements are being drafted for drip irrigation systems.

Water containers

Tender documents were prepared by the Senior Advisor for the larger drip irrigation system components.

2.8. Office Equipment and Vehicle Procurement

Proforma invoices were collected from three suppliers for the procurement of office equipment and two proforma invoices for vehicles. The process of obtaining VAT exemption and the duty free importation of equipment is underway.

Procurement will be effected as soon as the duty and VAT free privileges are secured. One laptop computer has been procured from South Africa and is configured to be compatible with the local LAN.

2.9. Establishment of Office Systems

With support from the home office and Local Staff Trainer, Bronwyn Irwin, the COP is in the process of establishing office systems that will ensure proper project management. These systems include account and financial management, grants management, and reporting systems.

2.10. Staff recruitment

Three supervisory trainers position have been advertised for both Addis Ababa and Bahir Dar operational areas. Recruitment will be done early next quarter.