



AMERICAN INSTITUTES FOR RESEARCH®

**ASSISTANCE TO BASIC EDUCATION/LINKAGES
IN EDUCATION AND HEALTH (ABE/LINK)**

CONTRACT No.: EDH-I-00-05-00025-00

QUARTERLY REPORT

FY 2006, QUARTER 1 (OCTOBER 1, 2005 – DECEMBER 31, 2005)

SUBMITTED TO:

UNITED STATES AGENCY FOR INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT

JANUARY 15, 2006

SUBMITTED BY:

**AMERICAN INSTITUTES FOR
RESEARCH**

I. Purpose and Goals

The Assistance to Basic Education (ABE)/Linkages in Education and Health is an Indefinite Quality Contract (IQC) designed to provide technical assistance and services in support of cross-sector linkages between education and health. ABE/LINK is focused on expanding access to quality basic education and promoting linkages in education and health by increasing the use of key child health and nutrition interventions, increasing use of improved, effective and sustainable responses to reduce HIV transmission and to mitigate the impact of the HIV/AIDS pandemic, increasing use of effective interventions to reduce the threat of infectious diseases of major public health importance. The ABE/LINK scope of work promotes assistance for cross-sector linkages between the agency's basic education, health and social sector programs worldwide.

Through ABE/LINK, the American Institutes for Research will provide USAID Missions, the EGAT Bureau, other USAID Bureaus and operating units with services that support basic education, linkages in education and health, and administration and management systems.

II. Summary

As no task orders were released for ABE/LINK during Quarter 1, the AIR focused its efforts on contractual and administrative issues. Subcontracts were negotiated and signed, internal procedures were discussed, and the development of a field grants manual was undertaken. In addition, AIR project staff were brought on board and meetings took place to orient AIR and its subcontractors to scope and requirements of the ABE/LINK IQC.

III. Major Activities

1. Task Orders

- No task orders were received during the period.

2. Contract Management & Administration

Staffing

- AIR's project director, Joseph Lombardo, was on board as of the day the contract was signed. The project assistant, Kerstin Tebbe, started on November 1, 2005.

Contractual issues

- All but two of AIR's nine subcontracts for ABE/LINK were signed by the end of the quarter. The two subcontracts that are still under negotiation should be signed by the end of January 2006.

Meetings

- AIR held a meeting with its subcontractors in October 2005 to discuss contractual terms and orient them to how requests for proposals and task order implementation would be managed.
- AIR's ABE/LINK project director and other organizational representatives attended USAID's kick-off meeting for ABE in early November 2005.
- AIR held an additional meeting in December with ABE subcontractors, which featured a presentation by Rebecca Adams, the ABE/LINK CTO.

Contract tools

- Substantial progress was made in drafting AIR's grants field manual, as required under the contract. AIR does not anticipate any problems in submitting the grants manual to USAID by end of January, as per the terms of the IQC Section F.10.13.