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LIVELIHOODS INTEGRATION UNIT (LIU) QUARTERLY REPORT

APRIL 1- JUNE 30, 2007

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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), within the national Early Warning Department of the DPPA. This unit is committed to the goal of capacity building, with an objective of handing over its core functions to the DPPA within three years. The LIU will achieve this through: ongoing training; developing training materials; 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 will employ specific strategies to ensure that its core functions are transferred to the DPPA/EWD within three years, including maximizing participation of the DPPA in project activities, standardization of approach, and information sharing and exchange of ideas between government staff at all levels. Every aspect of the LIU will be designed and implemented with an emphasis on capacity development. Building and maintaining partnerships will be a crucial determinant of the LIU's success, so the LIU approach will focus on maximizing communication, collaboration and coordination with the DPPA/EWD and other key stakeholders.

The LIU's third quarterly report covers the project's activities from April 1st through June 30th 2007. Eight baselines have been completed in Amhara and bullet profiles drafted. Fieldwork is in process in another 6 livelihood zones. Training continues to underpin all the activities of the LIU including: Phase II baseline training in Amhara, Woreda training in Tigray, Baseline Analysis Facilitators Training, Seasonal Assessment TOT, Seasonal Assessment training, Setting up the IS. The emphasis on training is beginning to show results with more of the training now being done by nationals (a combination of LIU consultants; federal DPPA & regional DP&FS staff (including interns); and WFP staff). Training materials continue to be upgraded and developed. Other organizations who have participated in LIU supported training in the last quarter include: UNOCHA, WFP, UNICEF, FAO, ACF, Bahir Dar University, BOARD, ORDA, SC-UK, GOAL. An M&E tracker (excel database) now enables the LIU to keep comprehensive list of people trained.

This quarter considerable effort has been made to introduce the methodology and data outputs to more people, encouraging a greater understanding and use of both the baseline profiles and database. In addition the LIU is looking at other ways of packaging HEA data to increase its accessibility. For example, the SNNPR baseline data has been packaged into a tabular form to aid importation into other databases/Arcview and a third LIU newsletter on thresholds and the contribution of the data to non-food needs assessments has been developed. This is an area the unit hopes to focus on more in the coming months – particularly

Key outputs from the third quarter:

Baseline Outputs

- Amhara zoning completed
- Baseline fieldwork for 8 LZs in Amhara completed

Training

- Amhara phase II baseline training completed and fieldwork on-going
- Baseline Analysis Facilitators training initiated
- Woreda training in Tigray
- Belg seasonal assessment TOT
- Belg seasonal assessment training in Tigray and SNNPR
- Setting up the Integrated Spreadsheet

Presentations – on approach, outputs, uses to:

- DPPA commissioner and department heads
- Information Meeting: Policy directives & Legislative Reformulation Policy
- USAID & partners; WFP; FAO and ATF members; AAU; IFPRI.

Other

- LIU Steering Committee Minutes circulated
- LIU Information Sheet No.3 circulated
- Internship program initiated with 3 interns from Tigray supporting the work in Amhara.
- M&E tracker established including list of people trained to date
- SNNPR baseline data tabulated to aid importation into other databases and mapping software.

in relation to the use of such data in monitoring, verification assessments and non-food needs assessments.

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. Approval of the final document is pending with USAID.

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 sustainably integrating 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.

Accomplishments this quarter:

Activity 2: Design and workplanning

The design document and first annual workplan was finalized in the second quarter and submitted to USAID and is pending approval. A section on LIU linkages with the regions has been drafted and approved as an annex to the design document by the LIU SC at the May 8, 2007 steering committee meeting.

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

The development of an institutionalized and sustainable system for training is a core element underpinning the LIU project. The emphasis throughout the project will be on the development of sustainable, replicable, transparent methods of training with a strong emphasis on maintaining quality and providing appropriate certification to acknowledge trainee achievements. The approach will focus on learning through doing and building skills through a series of graduated trainings tailored to the needs of staff at different levels.

Accomplishments this quarter:

Activity 1: Organizing Regular Capacity Building/Training.

A number of capacity building/training sessions were conducted in this quarter. This quarter saw a significant increase in the amount of technical support provided by the federal DPPA, Tigray DPP&FSB, and the SNNPR DPP&FSB. As capacity is created amongst government staff and local consultants, the need for international consultants to carry out HEA core training has lessened.

| Summary of key training activities (April – June, 2007)¹ | | | | |
|--|--|--|--|-------------------------------|
| Date | Type of training | Participants | Facilitators | Number of participants |
| Apr 11-15, 2007 | Amhara phase I baseline training | Federal DPPA, Amhara DP & FS, ORDA, WFP | LIU: Haile Kiros Desta, Zerihun Mekuira, Kahsay W/Slase, Tigray DP&FS: Alem Teklu, DPPA: Mesfin Abegaz, Tarekegn Aga | 16 |
| May 14-18, 2007 | Tigray Woreda Training for Seasonal Analysis | Tigray regional and woreda level officials | DPPA: Hussein Awol, Tigray DP&FS: Alem Tekle, Hadera G/Selassie | 13 |
| May 21-25, 2007 | Baseline Analysis Facilitator's Training | Federal DPPA, USAID | LIU: Waddington Chinogwenya | 3 |
| May 29-June 1, 2006 | Amhara phase II baseline training | Federal DPPA, Amhara DP & FS, Amhara zonal level, Bahir Dar University, WFP, UNOCHA, FAO | LIU: Waddington Chinogwenya, Haile Kiros Desta Tigray DP&FS: Solomon Alemu, | 20 |
| May 29-June 1, 2007 | Seasonal Assessment TOT | Federal DPPA, Tigray DP&FS, SNNPR DP&FS, WFP, UNOCHA | LIU: Alex King | 13 |
| June 25-27, 2007 | Seasonal assessment training - Belg SNNPR | Federal DPPA, SNNPR DP&FS, WFP, UNICEF, GOAL, USAID | LIU: Zerihun Mekuria, DPPA: Terekegn Aga Tigray DP&FS: Alem Tekle & Hadera G/selassie | 5-10 to be confirmed |
| June 27-29, 2007 | Seasonal assessment training - Belg Tigray | Federal DPPA, TIGRAY DP&FS, WFP, USAID | DPPA: Mesfin Abegaz SNNPR DP&FS: Fessiha Haile, Johannes Gebeyehu. WFP: Teshome Desalegn | 15-20 to be confirmed |

In phase I and phase II fieldwork in Amhara, an additional 4 co-team leaders have been trained including three from DPPA and one from the Amhara region. Other people identified as potential co-team leaders were not available for phase II fieldwork in Amhara due to other commitments linked to university studies on-going or being initiated.

The internship program has also been initiated (see below for details) and three interns from Tigray have supported various aspects of the baseline training in Amhara.

| Name | Region | Dates | Assignment |
|---------------|---------------|---------------------|---|
| Alem Teklu | Tigray | April 11-15 2007 | Facilitation of Amhara phase I baseline training |
| Solomon Alemu | Tigray | May 29-June 3, 2007 | Facilitation of Amhara phase II baseline training |
| Hadera Haile | Tigray | June 4-July 9, 2007 | Teamleader for Amhara phase II baseline data collection |

In total, to date:

- 222 people have participated in LIU training (for details see table on the next page).
- 87 government staff has been trained (of which 6 were female) in some aspect of the livelihood work.
- 8 people have been certified as team leaders/trainers.

¹ This exclude training on existing software, which is described under Objective 3b – Activity 5.

- 44 people have completed the baseline training, fieldwork in two livelihood zones and analysis. Those in Amhara will receive their certificates on completion of the baseline work towards the end of 2007.

Quarterly Progress towards achievement of milestones

- An additional 2 people have reached certification level as Field Team Leaders and Trainers for baseline/fieldwork.
- 16 people have completed the baseline training, fieldwork and analysis in Amhara and are ready to be certified.
- 13 people have completed woreda training in Tigray (livelihoods monitoring team members trained).
- 20-30 have completed seasonal assessment training in Tigray and SNNPR (this was completed at the end of June and the LIU is waiting for the final figures).

Activity 2: Identification of training needs and development of training plan, including certification of trainees.

Feedback from the SNNPR Meher 2006 seasonal assessment training; Tigray phase II evaluation in March 2007 and the informal feedback received on Amhara phase I baseline training and field work (see Appendix) have led to further clarification of training requirements and the subsequent development of the content of the training materials. Feedback has suggested the need to make the training as practical as possible, and to provide further training of trainers' courses to specifically develop people's presentation and training skills as well as providing them with the opportunity to review presentation materials. This has resulted in seasonal assessment TOT being run before the Belg seasonal assessment to enable DPPA & DP&FS staff (Tigray/SNNPR) to run the seasonal assessment training. Additional TOTs are planned in the coming phase.

An excel database of people trained with technical support from the LIU has been developed. This lists the name, organization, and type of training each person has completed. There are plans to share this with the DPPA & WFP in the coming quarter. Discussions have also been held with WFP to look at collaboration in future over training (see appendix for summary of meeting).