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RESPOND – EMERGING PANDEMIC THREATS PROGRAM

QUARTERLY REPORT: APRIL 1, 2010 – JUNE 30, 2010

31 JULY 2010

This publication was produced for review by the United States Agency for International Development. It was prepared by DAI.

RESPOND

QUARTERLY REPORT: APRIL 2010 – JUNE 2010

Program Title: RESPOND – Emerging Pandemic Threats Program

Sponsoring USAID Office: GH/HIDN/API

Cooperative Agreement: GHN-A-00-09-00015-00

Award Recipient: DAI

Date of Publication: 31 July 2010

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

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ACRONYMS

AFENET	Africa Field Epidemiology Network
AFRO	WHO – Regional Office for Africa
AMVC	Association des Médecins Vétérinaires du Congo
CARG	Conseil Agricole et Rural de Gestion
CARPE	Central African Regional Program for the Environment
CDC	Center for Diseases Control and Prevention
CERDAS	Center for the Coordination and Documentation of Social Science Research in Africa
CLD	Centre for Local Development
CIRAD	French Agricultural Research Centre for International Development
COGE	Comités de Gestion autour des Points d’Eau
COSA	Committees de Santes
CSR	Corporate Social Responsibility
CTB	Belgian Technical Corporation
CTPH	Conservation through Public Health
CVL	Central Veterinary Laboratory
DFID	UK’s Department for International Development
DRC	Democratic Republic of Congo
EPT	Emerging Pandemic Threats Program
ERAIFT	Ecole Régionale Post Universitaire d’Aménagement et de Gestion Intégrés des Forêts et Territoires Tropicaux
FAO	Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations
FE(L)TP	Field Epidemiology (Laboratory) Training Program
FETP-V	Field Epidemiology Training Program – Veterinary Component
GHI	Global Health Institute
GVFI	Global Viral Forecasting Initiative
HIPS	Health Initiative for the Private Sector Program

IBAR	Inter-African Bureau for Animal Resources
ICCN	Congolese Institute for the Conservation of Nature
ICT	Information Communication and Technology
ILRI	International Livestock Research Institute
IMA	International Medical Assistance
IMG	International Medical Group
INCEF	International Conservation and Education Fund
INRB	National Biomedical Research Institute
IPIECA	International Petroleum Industry Environmental Conservation Association
ISTM	Institut Supérieur des Techniques Médicales
JHSPH	Johns Hopkins School of Public Health
KCCL	Kasese Cobalt Company Limited
LMI	Lower Mekong Initiative
M&E	Monitoring and Evaluation
MAAIF	Ministry of Agriculture, Animal Industry and Fisheries
MoH	Ugandan Ministry of Health
MSF	Medecins sans Frontieres
OHA	One Health Alliance
PBG	Programme de Bonne Gouvernance
PENAPH	Participatory Epidemiology Network for Animal and Public Health
PEPFAR	US President's Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief
PI	Principle Investigator
PMP	Performance Monitoring Planning
PPE	Personal Protective Equipment
QENP	Queen Elizabeth National Park
QER	Quarterly Effort Report
RENES	National Network for Epidemiology Surveillance
RUFORUM	Regional University Forum
SANRU	Santé Rurale

SEA	Southeast Asia
SPINAP	Support Programme to Integrated National Action Plans
TAMIS	Technical and Management Information Systems
TFM	Tenke Fungurume Mining
TL2	Tshuapa-Lomami-Lualaba
UMN	University of Minnesota
UNDP	United Nations Development Programme
UNIKIN	University of Kinshasa
UNILU	University of Lubumbashi
UPN	Université Pédagogique Nationale
UWA	Uganda Wildlife Authority
WCS	Wildlife Conservation Society
WHO	World Health Organization
WILD	Wildlife Investigation and Livestock Disease
WWF	World Wildlife Fund

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

RESPOND is a five-year USAID-funded project awarded on September 30, 2009. As part of a larger USAID investment, RESPOND is one of four projects in the Emerging Pandemic Threats (EPT) program designed to work collaboratively among stakeholders to build surveillance and outbreak response capacity. This is the third Quarterly Progress Report covering the period of April 1, 2010 – June 30, 2010. This report highlights significant operational activities, strategic outreach, and program management from the third quarter.

In the headquarters office of RESPOND a key theme was defining roles and responsibilities between partners. Two key documents that resulted from these efforts included the RESPOND Grants Manual and the *Skills and Knowledge Building* strategy to document the partner agreements reached about capacity building and skills and knowledge building approaches.

For field activities, this quarter was extremely busy with the establishment of hub offices in Kinshasa (West Congo Hub), Kampala (East Congo Hub) and Bangkok (SE Asia Hub). At the same time as these offices were being established, teams from UMN, Tufts, TRG, E&E and DAI worked with the teams on the ground in Kinshasa and Kampala to organize an extensive „discovery’ phase to fully understand the full range of local partners responding to disease outbreaks and build a comprehensive understanding of the types and levels of training available in each country. Considerable attention was placed on many programmatic and introductory meetings that were required to build a collaborative program maximizing resources and avoiding unnecessary duplication of activities.

Moving forward, a key activity in the final quarter of Year 1 of RESPOND will be the development of the Year 2 Work Plan. The process to develop the work plan will be the culmination of the discovery phase conducted in each hub with stakeholders meetings driving the identification of priority activities. Since the SE Asia office was opened only in the final weeks of June, many activities in this region will be „placeholders’ as the discovery phase continues through the end of August. In East and West Congo some initial activities will also be carried out with the Global Health Institute being conducted in August and some initial outbreak activities beginning in both regions.

Third Quarter Highlights:

- Established three regional hub offices
- Employed and trained local staff including operations training, field deployment coordination and organizational development team meetings;
- Engaged government offices at the ministry and district levels in introductory meetings in DRC and Uganda – Ministry of Health, Ministry of Agriculture, District Veterinary Offices, etc.;
- Published the *Skills and Knowledge Building* strategy to document the partner agreements reached about capacity building and skills and knowledge building approaches.
- Outreach to manage collaborative relationships and begin programmatic discussions with new and existing stakeholders;
- Launched the RESPOND Portal, an innovative open-source communications tool with in-person and online training available for 120 registered users;
- Completed the final draft of the RESPOND Grants Manual

CHAPTER I: SUMMARY OF PROJECT ACTIVITIES

In the April – June, 2010 quarter, the RESPOND project deployed start-up teams to establish regional offices in the East and West Congo Basin areas and Southeast Asia, launched a global communications platform, and made significant progress in developing a Grants Manual and procedures for monitoring and evaluation. This chapter describes these activities in further detail. Key achievements in strategy development, outreach, and program management are also addressed.

WEST CONGO TECHNICAL AND ADMINISTRATIVE OPERATIONS UNDERWAY FOLLOWING START-UP TEAM DEPLOYMENT

In April 2010, the RESPOND start-up team arrived in Kinshasa, DRC to open the West Congo Basin office. With start-up support from the RESPOND Deputy Director, the refurbishment and furnishing of the DRC’s Kinshasa office was completed in less than three weeks, allowing the Regional Manager and the support and technical staff to relocate and settle in very quickly.

In setting up the West Congo Basin office, the RESPOND team found that Kinshasa lacks considerably in infrastructure and does not have much capacity to readily provide much IT equipment in-country. As a result, the team worked to import IT equipment from the United States and hand carried critical servers necessary to communicate with project headquarters. Since Kinshasa is largely a cash-based economy, where large cash transactions are common and the US dollar and the local currency, *Francs Congolais*, are used interchangeably and at varying exchange rates, the team faced initial payment challenges. Within this context, the RESPOND team established strict guidelines for the movement of and transactions in cash.

During the quarter, a security review was conducted by the DAI Global Security Manager for RESPOND and other DAI projects operating in DRC. Strict recommendations regarding property, assets, and staff management were shared with the RESPOND team following the review. One of the key recommendations was the placement of a full-time security support in DRC, deemed critical as the number of LTTA staff and dependents is expected to rise. The associated cost of this security support will be shared among the existing DAI projects operating out of Kinshasa.

STTA support to Congo Basin

In order to efficiently use the time and expertise of STTA and clearly identify the allocation of responsibilities and expected deliverables, an STTA coordination tool was developed. A key feature of this tool is the assignment of a field staff person to each STTA, allowing for better coordination of contributions to program development. During the initial phase of discovery, several STTA experts visited the Congo Basin, including:

- Dr. David Elkins, Project Director
- Dr. Felicia Nutter, Senior Technical Officer
- Dr. Douglas Hatch, Senior Epidemiology Officer
- Dr. Sally Lahm, Outbreak Response Advisor
- Leslie Zucker, MS, Training Manager
- Dr. John Deen, UMN Co-Director
- Dr. Robyn Alders, Tufts Co-Director
- Louise Flynn, MPH, Public Health Specialist
- Dr. Katey Pelican, UMN Co-Director
- Dr. Ben Hickler, Gender Specialist
- Dr. Cheryl Robertson, West Congo Technical Lead, UMN



April 18 – 24

DAI personnel had been in Kinshasa from late March and so the West Congo Regional Office was looking good by the time I arrived... We worked on scheduling meetings, refining the semi-structured interview methodology and setting up for the USAID meeting to be held on 29 & 30 April. I was pleased to welcome Dr Diafuka Saila-Ngita, the Long-Term Technical Advisor (LTTA; hired via Tufts), and Dr Serge Tchuenteu Nzietchueng, the Academic and Professional Development Advisor (starting on a 30 day consultancy with Tufts and then moving to a full-time appointment via UMN) to Kinshasa during the last week of April. Diafuka was trained as a veterinarian in the DRC and gained qualifications in Public Health in the US. Serge is from Cameroon, trained as a veterinarian in Algiers and completed postgraduate training in Tropical Veterinary Medicine in France. It goes without saying that their excellent command of the French language and professional experience are great assets to the office.

April 29 – May 2

I arrived back in Kinshasa in time to participate in the second day of the USAID meeting that was open to a wider audience. The meeting provided an excellent opportunity to learn of the broad range of emerging infectious disease activities already underway in the DRC. The presentations have been posted on the RESPOND portal.

May 3 – 9

For the past week I've been in Kampala and arrived just in time to join in the initial round of meetings with in-country partners. The meetings are designed to provide an overview of who is doing what, and to identify synergies and gaps. Both Deans from the Makerere University School of Public Health (SPH) and Faculty of Veterinary Medicine spoke highly of their past interactions with Tufts University. Dr William Bazeyo (Dean, SPH) mentioned that his past interactions with Dr Jeff Griffiths and others from Tufts had been very positive and that his willingness to engage with RESPOND was based on the knowledge that the project contained people with whom he was sure he could work.

An EPT meeting was held in April bringing together all USG and non-USG stakeholders for the launch of the program. The two-day meeting was very successful in introducing the EPT and RESPOND program to key stakeholders in DRC including USG agencies, international organizations, NGOs, and local government ministries. Immediately following the official EPT launch, the DRC discovery phase began with a workshop of fifteen people from different faculties of the University of Kinshasa (medicine, sciences, and biology). This meeting provided an opportunity to assess institutional capacity, identify needs and formulate recommendations in order to contribute to RESPOND project activities.

In mid-June, RESPOND's West Congo office provided technical and financial assistance for the preparation of a workshop aimed at identifying the key areas for capacity building in animal health and the implementation of the One Health concept. Sponsored by the Association des Médecins Vétérinaires du Congo (AMVC), the workshop entitled "Reform in animal health sector and new perspectives for veterinarian profession," provided an opportunity for critical discussion on how to improve veterinary training, the need for academic and in-service applied training, improving professional development and leadership in field surveillance and epidemiology, and how to ensure that the One Health approach is implemented at all levels of training. This workshop was funded by the Belgian Technical Cooperation (CTB). RESPOND contributed by facilitating the participation of twelve veterinarians from provinces outside of Kinshasa, and helping the organizing committee in the development and implementation of the workshop agenda.

During the six weeks of discovery in the DRC the following key issues became apparent:

- DRC is a vast country, with infrastructure (roads, communication) representing the biggest challenge to timely and effective surveillance, investigation and outbreak response.
- Key sectors involved in the control of zoonotic diseases (i.e. health, veterinary and wildlife) are all working in a vertical manner, with few or no connections to each other. The inter-sectoral

commission set in place during the avian influenza emergency was never formalized through sustainable support from the government and donors. The Ministry of Health instead created its own mechanism for surveillance and outbreak response that engages donors and technical partners but ignores other sectors. Leadership is a very sensitive and complicated matter in DRC, mainly driven by the level of resources allocated to the sectors.

- There is high variability in institutional capacity between the human, animal, and environment health sectors, with the animal health sector being the weakest. The Ministry of Agriculture has no clear strategy or resources to support this sector. There was some initial financial support for veterinary and animal health projects, but the activities were not continued following the projects' completion.
- The wildlife sector largely involves international NGOs and, except for two sites where ICCN is monitoring migratory birds, there are no epidemio-surveillance activities implemented. The NGOs involved in conservation programs in DRC and at the regional level such as the CARPE program have demonstrated their interest in collaboration with RESPOND and would like for their outreach staff to be trained as first responders.
- A number of platforms are in place at the community or provincial level, initiated by different sectors (CARG by the agricultural sector, CODESA by the health sector, and CODEV by the rural development sector). While these structures currently are not connected, they could be utilized as One Health platforms.
- All actors representing DRC's educational sector (Ministry of Education, universities and training institutions) have shown a real interest in collaborating with RESPOND, recognizing that this is the first project that is targeting a critical public health issue and new fields of expertise. The educational sector in DRC is institutionally complex, with many players competing at multiple levels and in a highly charged political environment.
- Attracting qualified professionals to work in remote areas despite economic and social limitations is a challenge in the DRC. There is no concerted effort to recruit recent university graduates for work in these areas. As professionals leave their positions to attain higher degrees, they are often replaced in their jobs with no clear career path following completion of their degrees. A physician in charge of a health zone, for example, will be replaced in his position as he pursues an 18-month degree at the Kinshasa School of Public Health. Following graduation, it will be difficult for the government ministry to either reinstate him in his former position or offer him a new position.
- DRC is geographically situated in a very strategic location in the Central Africa region. The country, however, has not leveraged its location to attain the visibility and tangible action needed at the regional level to benefit its academic institutions, though some of them are members of regional platforms (Health Alliance, SACIDS etc.).

In the next quarter, the West Congo technical team will engage in a comprehensive curriculum review for Veterinary Technicians schools to introduce One Health approach and core competencies.

START-UP TEAM DEPLOYED TO EAST CONGO BASIN OFFICE TO LAUNCH ADMINISTRATIVE AND TECHNICAL OPERATIONS

In April 2010, a start-up team arrived in Kampala, Uganda to open the RESPOND East Congo Basin office. The project's start-up team established permanent office space on 29 May and fully staffed all administrative positions by 1 June.

As a fully operating office, Kampala's RESPOND team immediately began pursuing technical activities. Early on in the discovery phase starting in May, the RESPOND East Congo team found partners and networks on the ground ready to begin work with RESPOND. While setting up the field office in Kampala, the East Congo team maintained momentum following the USAID launch of the EPT program by meeting and continuing to develop relationships with previously identified stakeholders and meeting with new potential partners. Efforts during the quarter focused on information gathering on the knowledge, skills base and capacity of institutions involved in a One Health approach to outbreak response including government ministries, academic institutions, non-governmental and intergovernmental organizations and private industry. The team also worked to meet organizations on the ground identified to respond to an emergent pandemic threat. STTA technical experts supported Regional Manager, Ella Hoxha, in organizing meetings with stakeholders and meeting to discuss RESPOND objectives, vision and a regional implementation strategy.



As a result of this strong stakeholder engagement, the East Congo team identified its first target activity, the Global Health Institute (GHI) being developed by the Makerere University School of Public Health and already involving two RESPOND partners, the University of Minnesota and Tufts University. The GHI is a two-week intensive program comprised of four core courses (Zoonotic Diseases, Global Public Health Systems, Participatory Epidemiology and Applied Biostatistics) and a wildlife field excursion for global health, public health and veterinary health professionals from the United States, Uganda and neighboring East African countries. The program presents a wonderful learning opportunity for students and junior faculty to develop their professional and academic skills by integrating a One Health approach that focuses on the impact of globalization on health, and strategies that support a healthy and productive global workforce. RESPOND recognized this opportunity as an immediate “win-win” to promote One Health, strengthen established relationships (individually and across institutions), build new relationships supporting curriculum co-development across academic institutions, and leverage an existing platform already shifting towards a One Health paradigm. RESPOND's role comes on many different levels: co-funder and co-coordinator with Makerere University School of Public Health and University of Minnesota; now a local partner in the creation, support and implementation of One Health principals, and thus this is a pilot for those activities in Uganda. RESPOND staff will participate in every aspect of the GHI including logistical planning and teaching. With support from RESPOND this partnership represents a strategic platform with partners from the University of Minnesota, Tufts University and Makerere School of Public Health. Those directly benefitting will be the students and junior faculty from Uganda, Health Alliance countries (Uganda, Kenya, Rwanda, DRC, Ethiopia, Tanzania and Sudan) and University of Minnesota. The Ugandan government, non-governmental organizations and public will benefit from the ancillary events.



RESPOND Support for Global Health Institute and Health Alliance Engagement in Uganda

Following start-up, the RESPOND East Congo office in Kampala quickly developed a partnership with the Global Health Institute (GHI) and began to explore opportunities to work with the USAID-supported Health Alliance.

GHI launched a two-week institute comprised of four courses, as well as a wildlife excursion, with support from the RESPOND East Congo office. Co-hosted by the University of Minnesota and the Makerere School of Public Health, the Global Health Institute will serve as the flagship event to kick off the One Health Alliance and university twinning activities in coming quarter.

The courses present an important learning opportunity for global health, public health, and veterinary health professionals from the U.S., Uganda, and neighboring East African countries.

The Health Alliance represents an opportunity for the RESPOND project to strengthen existing masters level programs which promote the One Health paradigm, as well as expand the network to new schools and One Health disciplines.

In the coming months, the RESPOND team will continue to support the efforts of the Global Health Institute and will explore areas for future collaboration with the Health Alliance.

A major partner identified at the outset of the RESPOND project was the USAID-supported African Field Epidemiology Network (AFENET), due to their recognized leadership promoting the One Health paradigm throughout Africa and strength in developing graduates from Field Epidemiology Field Training Programs (FETP) throughout the region. During this quarter RESPOND met with AFENET representatives, both at the East Congo regional office in Kampala and at the global office near Washington D.C., to identify, develop and move forward on activities supporting shared program goals and objectives. In the next quarter and Y2, RESPOND will to support several AFENET FETP trainees and work towards adding a veterinary component to proven effective FETP programs. This partnership between RESPOND and AFENET again represents a “win-win” scenario supportive of the One Health paradigm, where RESPOND benefits from AFENET’s experience and strong existing programs, and AFENET benefits through access to increased resources, much larger networking opportunities connecting to the global stage, and a novel opportunity unique to EPT and RESPOND, which combines the vast resources of two major U.S. universities, their faculties, exposure to new levels of subject matter expertise and existing One Health related curriculums. RESPOND’s role with AFENET is directly related to RESPOND objectives one and two, to develop training programs and curriculums (like FETPs) which utilize the One Health approach and to promote partnerships and collaborative One Health efforts to address zoonotic disease outbreak response capacity building. RESPOND fully expects to continue working closely with AFENET both regionally and at the global office to move towards a shared

vision of strengthened public health systems in Africa and around the world.

Two additional prospects RESPOND East Congo has engaged and is excited to pursue are the HEALTH Alliance and Regional University Forum (RUFORUM). The HEALTH Alliance has been supported by USAID and represents an existing network of schools of public health and masters level programs from across Central and East Africa. RESPOND’s role with the Alliance would be to explore and strengthen existing masters level programs which promote the One Health paradigm, as well as strengthening and expanding the network to new schools and One Health disciplines. A recognized challenge with existing programs is that graduates tend to be employed in non-governmental organizations, with no clearly established career paths for those



interested in public service, a gap RESPOND can work towards filling. The beneficiaries of such a partnership would be students and faculty from participating countries and schools, along with the governments and publics they ultimately serve. RUFORUM represents a strong existing network of agriculture universities with a recent change in focus to a One Health approach and developing sustainable training programs which can support One Health professionals. RESPOND's role with RUFORUM will be to strengthen a One Health approach within the masters programs they support, and strive to develop and promote sustainable programs which will leverage the existing network with the ultimate result of increased zoonotic disease outbreak response capacity and a stronger public health system. The beneficiaries of this partnership and these activities will be individual graduates and indirectly but importantly the governments and publics they serve.

During the four week discovery phase in Uganda the following key issues have emerged:

- EPT-related diseases are a high priority for ministries and universities. Although they are already working in a One Health consistent manner, the approach to multi-sectoral and inter-ministerial collaboration could be strengthened. Ministries and universities are willing to work with RESPOND and EPT partners to identify priorities, as well as gaps where RESPOND could help to develop solutions.
- Capacity building in outbreak response is a priority for both animal and human health/disease. All institutions and Ministries are interested in working carefully and collaborating with RESPOND, as well as with international health agencies.
- There is high-level interest in providing better support at the district-level for outbreak response capacity building and the strengthening of continuing education programs, mentoring programs, and community education.
- A number of the priorities identified for the District Veterinary Offices correspond to RESPOND goals. Currently, the District Veterinary Offices only coordinate with the national-level offices and lack decision making and diagnostic capabilities. These offices very rarely coordinate with the health officers or wildlife veterinarians, but all expressed interest in the RESPOND project's concept and are in support of the One Health approach.
- As with the District Veterinary Offices, a number of the priorities for the Uganda Wildlife Authority field representatives correspond to RESPOND goals. The Uganda Wildlife Authority has veterinarians, field rangers and wardens, all of whom are in need of further training in epidemiology and wildlife disease control and response.
- District-level entities are interested in further training in the following areas: 1) Epidemiology and field diagnostics for field veterinarians, 2) Continuing education for laboratory technicians, and 3) First assessment and response for front line staff. There is also a strong interest for training in wildlife handling, outbreak response, and the wildlife/livestock/human interface for wildlife and livestock veterinarians.
- Implementing RESPOND in a One Health-consistent manner will require partnerships at the governmental, university, NGO, private sector, and international health agency levels. District- and community-level implementation of the One Health approach will require focusing on the national needs and prioritizing accordingly together with key ministries.

Many NGOs work at the district or community level provide training and assistance in an independent manner. Coordination with the numerous donor-funded projects in a consistent manner will require an extra project effort to utilize the existing efforts and create synergies.

In the first quarter of implementation, the East Congo team is proud to have successfully engaged many key One Health partners in Uganda and to have secured their regular participation in a RESPOND Stakeholder’s One Health Working Group. Core partners include representation from the Ugandan Ministry of Health, Ministry of Agriculture, Animal Industry and Forestry, the Uganda Wildlife Authority, Makerere School of Public Health, the HEALTH Alliance, Makerere Faculty of Veterinary Medicine, AFENET, Conservation through Public Health (CTPH), the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, as well as other EPT partners (PREDICT). This group meets regularly to synthesize their vision of the One Health, discuss strategic planning options with RESPOND for training and capacity building in zoonotic disease epidemiology, surveillance and outbreak response, as well as detailed discussions regarding the realities of implementing these projects on the ground. This group represents the first major success in stakeholder engagement and partnership development for RESPOND and will serve as a model for the program as it expands regionally.

RESPOND SOUTHEAST ASIA OFFICE LAUNCH AND PERSONNEL MOBILIZATION

In early May, RESPOND mobilized a team of start-up specialists to Bangkok, Thailand to begin start up for the Southeast Asia (SEA) office. During mobilization, staff experienced unusual setbacks due to civil strife in the capital but managed to identify and hire local staff, secured an office space, signed a lease and issued a competitive quotation process for the build-out of the office. The official EPT launch will commence early in the next quarter in collaboration with the US State Department’s Lower Mekong Initiative (LMI). Immediately following the technical launch, the discovery phase will begin and inform work planning activities and objectives for the second year.

LAUNCH OF RESPOND PORTAL AND TRAINING

The role of information communication and technology (ICT) is critical when partners and offices spread around the world must work together to achieve the same objective. With four offices and partners working from a total of five project partners, RESPOND relies heavily on ICT to facilitate global communication, collaboration and implementation. In the April – June, 2010 quarter, the RESPOND Portal was launched. The Portal provides the RESPOND project with a much-needed global platform for communications, knowledge management and collaboration. Addressing concerns of the project partners, the portal increases transparency across the project and enhances opportunities for ongoing collaboration with all partners. Still under development, the “open-source” platform allows for

RESPOND PORTAL SITES

The RESPOND interactive Portal currently houses ten sites created to specifically address certain program components. The sites include:

- Administration Site
- Capacity Building Advisory Group
- External Communications and Outreach Group
- Monitoring and Evaluation
- Operations Site
- Project Leadership Team
- Skills and Knowledge Building Team
- Tufts University
- Wildlife Working Group
- Work Plan Development

quick and easy additional sites specific to the needs of the project. For example, we will likely launch thematic sites specific to the technical or geographic needs.

The RESPOND Portal currently has 120 registered and trained users navigating its ten sites for project information and communications. Every afternoon a “Portal Daily Digest” is sent to members with active hyperlinks to keep all RESPOND staff engaged in the robust discussions, creation of strategic documents and the most updated technical innovations around One Health. To further enhance the project’s ICT capabilities, RESPOND joined WebEx to enhance remote conferencing. Through WebEx, the RESPOND team can regularly access video conferencing, allowing users to share and edit documents in real-time.

GRANTS MANUAL

Developing the RESPOND Grants Manual was a priority for the team this quarter. Given the complexity of the management structure of RESPOND, it is imperative to have a Grants Manual that provides a regulatory framework for RESPOND staff to ensure consistent application of policies and procedures and USG regulation, transparency and a systemic approach to the administration of a global grants project. The Manual is the first of three manuals for the project. The second manual is the Implementation Manual which provides the step by step guidance how to use TAMIS to manage grants and the third manual is the Grantee Handbook, which provides basic information to potential applicants and grantees on RESPOND’s expectation in terms of applying for, managing and reporting on grants.

The challenge was to get all the partners to agree on one process that would also ensure their compliance with their own internal policies and procedures for grant making. RESPOND is now in the final stages of completing the Grants Manual.

MONITORING AND EVALUATION (M&E)

Over the last quarter, the M&E function was formalized for RESPOND, as a full-time M&E Manager was hired in May. In June, the M&E Manager and the M&E counterparts at Tufts and UMN met in Bethesda to establish the M&E team. The team discussed and agreed on goals, objectives, activities, protocol and expectations related to M&E for the RESPOND project. From a management perspective, much effort was then spent on setting up regular calls/meetings, establishing team communications and organizing documentation. In addition to this, the PMP was re-aligned with the Y1 work plan, enhanced with more detail, and expanded to include a few additional indicators (e.g., relevant EPT program indicators.) Finally, the new position description for the regional office M&E/Information Officer was created, with input from stakeholders in the HQ, regional offices and partners.

For the next quarter, in addition to supporting the Y2 work plan process, a Knowledge & Utilization Baseline Study will be conducted in the East and West Congo Basin offices, the recruiting effort for the regional M&E/Information Officer will occur in all three regional offices, TAMIS will be enhanced with the M&E indicators, M&E tool (twinning study, M&E curriculum/content, training material assessment, pre/post training skill assessment) development will occur, and a scorecard will be developed to highlight progress on all indicators.

STRATEGY DEVELOPMENT

In order to provide a coherent and consistent technical approach to achieving RESPOND’s objectives, working groups were established and draft strategic frameworks were created. The strategic frameworks serve two purposes – informing all stakeholders of our approach including common terminology, methods, and desired outcomes, and to clearly define roles and responsibilities among partner

organizations. The Skills and Knowledge Building Strategy was finalized and distributed to program partners early in this quarter, providing a foundation for common approaches and methodologies, identifying, in the most general terms, the language and skill building process for the project. Still under development and soon to be finalized in the next quarter include:

- Twinning Strategy
- Communications Strategy
- Core Competency Strategy

STRATEGIC OUTREACH

The discovery phase of the program required outreach to potential collaborators, members of the EPT program, and subject matter experts operating in hotspot regions. Considerable effort went into managing these relationships without raising any programmatic expectations. The full summary of outreach can be found in Appendix B.

PROGRAM MANAGEMENT

RESPOND's primary objective under this component is to establish a flexible management structure that will support the urgent requirements of this program, fully utilize partner resources, and adhere to USAID and DAI policies and procedures.

RESPOND HQ Team Mobilization / Development

Output	Status	% Complete	Comment
Recruitment of US office operations staff	In-process	95%	Hired additional program administrator, project assistant, partner operational staff; ongoing recruitment for ICT systems manager.
Train operations staff	In-process	95%	Ongoing operational and field deployment training including records management, finance, personnel, procurement, travel.

Operational Polices and Procedures

Output	Status	% Complete	Comment
Establish office administration policies and procedures	In-process	95%	Established travel, procurement, inventory, recruitment, publications, security, and finance modules. Prepared final drafts of Field Operations Manual.

Partner Mobilization / Development

Output	Status	% Complete	Comment
Recruitment of partner administrative staff	In-process	100%	Hired program administrators and recruiting for additional administrative support
Recruitment of long-term technical advisors for regional offices	In-process	100%	Hired East / West Congo Technical Leads and Training Managers for three regional offices

Information Communication and Technology Systems

Output	Status	% Complete	Comment
Technical and Management Information Systems (TAMIS) project management software customized for project Administration module	Completed	100%	Core project management components finalized to track financial data, travel authorizations, contacts, basic sub award management, field operations manual, procurement, and start-up planning. Support for minor changes expected over the life of the project
Technical and Management Information Systems (TAMIS) project management software customized for project Grants module	In-process	90%	Grants module created and ready for use pending final approval.
Technical and Management Information Systems (TAMIS) project management software customized for project Technical/M&E module	In-process	50%	Technical/M&E module will be built to reflect recently-approved PMP and Year 1 work plan; ICT STTA in next quarter will finalize this module
ICT systems evaluation and development	Completed	100%	Alfresco (RESPOND portal) customization and training design completed, with trainings rolled out to partner universities in the US

Prepare Annual Work Plan, Monitoring and Evaluation Plan, and Grants Manual

Output	Status	% Complete	Comment
Year 2 annual work plan including implementation plan	In-process	50%	In preparation and will be submitted to USAID 16 August 2010 for approval.
Monitoring and Evaluation Plan (PMP)	In-process	75%	The PMP is under development and aligned to RESPOND project objectives. This will be submitted to USAID 16 August 2010 for approval.

Roll-out of Regional Offices

Output	Status	% Complete	Comment
SEA regional hub office established in Bangkok	Completed	50%	Currently operating from a temporary office space until office build-out is complete on 1 September 2010.
Eastern Congo Basin regional hub office established in Kampala	Completed	100%	Permanent and fully functional office space as of 29 May with full administrative team in place by 1 June.
Western Congo Basin regional hub office established in Kinshasa	Completed	100%	Permanent and fully functional office space TBD as we are still waiting on arrival of IT equipment. However, the office is fully functional in all other capacities as of 1 June 2010.

Output	Status	% Complete	Comment
Expatriate recruitment	In-process	100%	Regional Manager and Deputies hired for DRC, Uganda and Thailand; ongoing partner mobilization and recruitment.



(Photos (L to R): DRC RESPOND project office main area; main office)

CHALLENGES AND RESOLUTION

Update on Resolution of Issues

Issue	Resolution Update
US procurement of IT equipment for Southeast Asia Regional Office determined not to be feasible due to expenses related to importation.	Based on expenses related to import IT equipment, RESPOND decided to procure locally. Support from DAI's Office of Information Management and Technology traveled to Bangkok to identify acceptable vendors and gather quotes for local procurement.
Change in Kampala customs regulations that could have kept IT equipment shipment in customs for an extended period of time.	The RESPOND team worked with the DAI Office of Procurement and Office of Information Management and Technology to rapidly send the shipment out in time to clear Kampala customs before the new regulation took effect.
IT equipment shipment to Kinshasa and clearance through customs, which historically has taken up to 9 months.	RESPOND requested assistance from USAID to minimize time spent in customs. High-priority equipment was hand-carried.
Kinshasa being primarily a cash economy meant that a large amount of cash was required for start-up creating challenges in maintaining safety and security.	RESPOND was able to arrange an agreement with another project, the DFID-funded Programme de Bonne Gouvernance (PBG), to receive money through their wire transfers before RESPOND's accounts were set up. RESPOND reimbursed the money received from PBG.
Payment of advances at Tufts University	Resolved with assistance from Tufts Central Administration
Lack of compatibility between Tufts and RESPOND effort reporting	Established procedure for review of Tufts Quarterly Effort Reports (QERs) by PI, Sponsored Accounts
Collaboration between East and West Congo technical teams	Ad hoc Skype conferences to enable Tufts personnel in Kinshasa, Kampala and the US to get to know each other and discuss general technical issues

New Problems Encountered and Proposed Solutions

Issue	Solution
There are a certain number and multi-leveled higher learning institutions dealing with human health and animal health present in DRC, and particularly in Kinshasa (UNIKIN, UPN, ISTM etc.). These institutions	RESPOND will make credible effort to ensure collaboration and avoid duplication. RESPOND will also explore other potential actors in the

have no connection to each other, and seem even to compete against each other.	region that can respond to the skills building strategy at regional level.
Most of mechanisms and platforms set up for previous health surveillance and responses were punctual, designed for short term implementation and did not program any sustainability plan. The institutionalization of these mechanisms and structure will be one of the main challenges that all technical partners with national institutions have to face.	RESPOND will make credible effort to ensure collaboration and avoid duplication. RESPOND will work with donors and implementing agents to plan and implement activities that capitalize on existing platforms and capacities.
In DRC, transportation and communication beyond major population centers is limited, difficult, and expensive. Cell phone towers do not cover beyond larger population centers. Information flow often requires travel by foot, bicycle, motorcycle, pirogue, etc., in order to report to proper authorities. Security remains a concern in major parts of DRC. Planning and implementing outbreak response can be an expensive undertaking, especially in a vast country like DRC.	RESPOND will conduct a comprehensive cost analysis of the cost implication of the program, key for planning a long term outbreak response.
DRC does not use a fixed exchange rate between vendors. Since all transactions occur in cash, multiple exchange rates are used over the course of one day when dealing with multiple vendors.	A proposed solution is in process for accounting for multiple exchange rates in a one-day period but has not yet been internally approved. This is not yet resolved.
Additional ICT support needed to streamline information and standardize ICT procedures across offices and with all partners.	RESPOND in process of recruiting a full-time ICT support staff.
Incomplete match between RESPOND administrative needs and Tufts administrative procedures.	Proposal for International Administrative Excellence Initiative discussed at Tufts Provost's Retreat
Balancing the presence of technical and training staff in Discovery meetings to ensure training methodologies are incorporated when discussing technical response to outbreaks.	Regional Training Managers will be included in all instructional design activities.

CHAPTER II: ANTICIPATED ACTIVITIES / PLAN FOR THE NEXT QUARTER

The RESPOND team anticipates the following technical, strategic and operational activities will occur during the next quarter:

Activity	Comment
Technical	
Preparation and submission of the Year 2 work plan	Activities will be developed to include all RESPOND project objectives and will be consistent with the lines of work concept as required by USAID. The work plan will be the priority activity for all RESPOND partners and STTAs, who will be expected to contribute. The process will engage the team with various stakeholders and technical short term assistance from partners.
Continuation of One Health and University Twinning approaches	The Global Health Institute (GHI), supported by Makerere University and University of Minnesota School of Public Health, will serve as the flagship event to kick off One Health and university twinning activities for the quarter.
Eastern Congo Regional Stakeholder Engagement	Eastern Congo office will continue to meet with local and regional stakeholders in the government, academic, non-profit, international government, and private sectors to engage them in planning and implementing One Health activities consistent with RESPOND objectives. This activity will be supported by all office personnel and STTAs.
West Congo Regional Stakeholder workshop	The meeting will bring together key government and other national and international stakeholders to further explore the parameters of one health and the application to introduce and promote the concept of One Health and its core values, principles and approach to emerging and re-emerging diseases, field epidemiology particularly outbreak investigation and response. This will be held in early September.
UMN ongoing support in administration of Global Health Institute (GHI) and Health Alliance meeting	
Finalize desktop assessment for Southeast Asia region with faculty from Tufts (J. Lindenmayer) the University of Minnesota (A. Ziegler) and short-term technical assistance consultant from Tufts (I. Willyanto)	This desktop assessment will be a critical guide to the Southeast Asia discovery phase scheduled for mid-July.
Tufts to travel to Southeast Asia (Thailand and Vietnam) for initial meetings with appropriate staff from government, universities, NGOs and the private sector	Discovery phase with key local and international stakeholders.
Strategic	
Global Health Institute (GHI)	This strategic partnership between Makerere University School of Public Health, University of Minnesota School of Public Health, and Tufts University will be the official One Health launch in the Eastern Congo with students participating from across the region and the United

Activity	Comment
	States.
Health Alliance Meeting	During the GHI, Health Alliance member deans from 7 schools of public health will meet to discuss needs and opportunities for further engagement with RESPOND. Possible areas of collaboration include: expanding membership, One Health curriculum development, coordination across schools of medicine, public health, and veterinary medicine.
World Rabies Day	28 September 2010 – A series of concurrent public awareness campaign in East and West Congo to increase awareness of rabies transmission, prevention and control.
AFENET and Health Alliance Sub Award Activities	RESPOND will work closely with both organizations to support their development as flagship platforms in the region. Activities consistent with our One Health objectives will be designed to provide
Operational	
Partner visit to UMN and Tufts for a presentation on TAMIS and to discuss the three project manuals.	
Complete Grants Manual, Implementation Manual and Grantee Handbook.	Expected to be finalized 31 July 2010
Clarify roles and responsibilities of monitoring grantee activities between UMN/Tufts and the RESPOND regional offices.	Agreement expected by 31 July 2010
Conduct field training in Grants Management and review three project Manuals in Kampala, Kinshasa and Bangkok offices.	RESPOND Senior Grants Manager to conduct visit in early July
Operations training for all field offices to include the following topics: TAMIS use and application, travel process and regulations, financial reporting and management, human resources and staff management, records management, procurement management and recruitment.	Estimated travel schedule: Kinshasa in August, 2010 Kampala in August, 2010 Bangkok in September, 2010
Implement records management system in all offices	To be completed in July, 2010
Roll out of RESPOND Field Operations Manual to field offices	To be completed in July, 2010
Complete IT installation and setup, Recruitment of Grants Manager, and Recruitment of Monitoring and Evaluation Officer in Kinshasa office	To be completed in July-August, 2010
Recruit Grants Manager and Monitoring and Evaluation Officer in Kampala	To be completed in July-August, 2010
Finalize recruitment of Project Accountant, Grants Manager, Monitoring and Evaluation Officer, Travel and Logistics Coordinator, Drivers; Build out and move in to permanent office space; Complete IT installation and setup of permanent office space; Finalize procurement of IT equipment, service and ISP.	To be completed in August-September, 2010
Prepare field operations trainings for field teams.	To be completed in July, 2010
In TAMIS, complete full customization of the Monitoring & Evaluation/Results module, full customization of the Technical/Activities module for partners and all open field offices, and in-person training of partners and field staff for the new modules.	To be completed in September, 2010

APPENDIX

Appendix A: Strategic Outreach

APPENDIX A: STRATEGIC OUTREACH

Contact	Date	Outreach	Objective
Society of Petroleum Engineers Health, Safety, and Environment Conference	12-14 April	Ecology & Environment, Inc. Meeting	Met with Health and Corporate Social Responsibility officers of oil and gas companies to introduce the RESPOND project. Made contacts with multiple oil and gas companies who are conducting CSR projects in RESPOND priority countries.
Health Committee of International Petroleum Industry Environmental Conservation Association (IPIECA)	15 April	Ecology & Environment, Inc. Meeting	Introduced RESPOND project and initiated discussion of how Oil and Gas companies could begin getting involved in reporting emerging diseases.
Ms. Dafna Tapiero, IFC	16 April	Ecology & Environment, Inc. Meeting	Introductory meeting with Ms. Tapiero of IFC in which she suggested RESPOND team attendance at the Community Investment conference conducted at IFC in June.
Francois Philippart, Acting Country Director of PACT DRC	Week of 2 May	Ecology & Environment, Inc. Meeting in West Congo Office	Met to discuss PACT projects in DRC, specifically those associated with Tenke Fungurume and artisanal miners.
Dr. Ir. Alain Gallez, Attaché de la Coopération at the Belgian Embassy	Week of 2 May	Ecology & Environment, Inc. Meeting in West Congo Office	Meeting provided an opportunity to learn about ongoing projects in DRC.
Richard Robinson, Social Program Manager at Tenke Fungurume Mining (Freeport McMoRan)	3 May	West Congo Office in Kinshasa	RESPOND team met with the Social Program Manager from TFM, which is the largest mining company in DRC. The company described its existing social development programs, which do include health programs.
Makerere School of Public Health (including their ICT Unit)	4 May	East Congo Office in Kampala	Discussion focused on objectives and goals of the RESPOND project and the Makerere School of Public Health, as well as strategies for working together. Agreed to explore 1) competency and training needs of personnel at the community and district levels; 2) development of new methodologies to penetrate currently inaccessible/underserved areas (possibly through mobile communication); 3) current capacity for diagnostic testing and interpretation, and 4) continuing education and leadership training for One Health professionals.
John Flynn, Program Director of USAID Central African Regional Program for the Environment (CARPE)	4 May	West Congo Office in Kinshasa	Met with CARPE Director to learn about CARPE efforts to support conditions and practices that reduce deforestation and loss of biological diversity in the region by increasing local, regional and national level natural resource management.
DRC Ministry of Agriculture	4 May 10 May	West Congo Office in Kinshasa	RESPOND team discussed the recent transition of veterinary health care for animal production to the private sector with the Secretary General and Division of Animal Production and Health; gained an understanding of the National Network for Epidemiology surveillance (RENES), which was

Contact	Date	Outreach	Objective
			established for animal health but is not currently support by a legal framework or ongoing funding. Also learned more about the Conseil Agricole et Rural de Gestion (CARG), a consultation body at the territory level. MoA expressed interest in continued education for veterinarians and noted only one ongoing animal health program, funded by the EU through IBAR (SPINAP).
Congolese Institute for the Conservation of Nature (ICCN)	4 May 26 May	West Congo Office in Kinshasa	Introductory meetings with the Director General, Deputy Director General and National Parks Director. ICCN covers 9 national parks, 61 other protected areas with 8 veterinarians and 5 administrative staff, but has is limited by significant physical resource constraints.
Ugandan Ministry of Health (MoH)	5 May	East Congo Office in Kampala	Introductory meeting with RESPOND staff and Dr. Koboyo to discuss public health capacity and outbreak response. MoH expressed strong interest to collaborate in One Health activities and outbreak response capacity building.
Makerere University School of Veterinary Medicine	5 May	East Congo Office in Kampala	Follow-up meeting with Dean Kabasa in which the school expressed a strong interest to work with RESPOND on EPT capacity building initiatives. Dean Kabasa provided a list of other groups to contact.
Wildlife Conservation Society, DRC and Republic of Congo	5 May 10 May 24 June	West Congo Office in Kinshasa	RESPOND staff met with Director General and team from Republic of Congo as well as DRC Country Representative. WCS completed construction of a wildlife health lab within the existing central public health lab. WCS will soon begin a biodiversity assessment for Zenaga mine and will incorporate wildlife disease surveillance (PREDICT activity) over time in the Republic of Congo. In DRC, focus is on 7 sites in Ituri landscape and Orientale and Katanga provinces, with interventions focused on biodiversity conservation through inventory, monitoring, patrolling, research, and community-based management in support to ICCN. WCS employs conservation agents who interact with communities and wildlife and is interested in training their rangers on active surveillance.
Dr. Raymond Lumbuenamo, National Director; Christine Tam, Director of Conservation; Marguerite Nzuzi, Project Manager; Dr. Didier Mazongo Leko Mondende, Project Coordinator at World Wildlife Fund DRC	6 May	West Congo Office in Kinshasa	Project Coordinator from Fund described their community, population, and public health program as part of USAID CARPE work they do. The Fund is developing a plan for surveillance of wildlife, livestock, and humans, as well as a rapid response program.
International Conservation and Education Fund (INCEF), Republic of Congo	6 May	West Congo Office in Kinshasa	INCEF Managing Director described their approach focusing on the use of locally produced and disseminated video as an educational tool to foster improvement of the health and well-being of human and wildlife populations.
Conservation through Public Health	7 May	East Congo Office in Kampala	Introduced RESPOND and EPT to the organization and learned about opportunities for public-private partnerships.
AFENET (African Field Epidemiology Network)	7 May	East Congo Office in Kampala	Introductory meeting of RESPOND staff with AFENET senior leadership, following initial introductions at the USAID-sponsored EPT road show in April. AFENET

Contact	Date	Outreach	Objective
			expressed interest in continuing education, mentoring programs, and providing technical support to older FETPs as well as newer programs in Tanzania and Rwanda. Discussed possibility of leveraging AFENET resources to coordinate with other countries in region (e.g. FETP-Kenya) in response to outbreaks and epidemics.
DRC Ministry of Primary, Secondary and Professional Education	7 May	West Congo Office in Kinshasa	Discussed opportunities for collaboration with the General Secretary and Director of Reform and Innovation while the Ministry beings educational reform. The reform committee provided information on veterinary assistance and forestry schools (names, locations, types of training etc.).
National Biomedical Research Institute (INRB)	7 May	West Congo Office in Kinshasa	Introductory meeting with the Deputy Director and PREDICT team (GVFI/PREDICT office located within INRB). INRB has lab capable of rt-PCT, used to confirm monkeypox diagnosis, but discussed need to strengthen biosafety. INRB not aware of Central African FE(L)TP program but interested in participating. Currently collaborates with CVL on trypanosomiasis and monkeypox.
Central Veterinary Laboratory (CVL)	7 May	West Congo Office in Kinshasa	CVL Assistant Director described work in diagnostic testing, vaccine production and food safety, as well as collaboration with INRB on trypanosomiasis, and monkeypox. CVL vets work in all provinces as Provincial Inspectors, but there are no vets below that level. CVL also not aware of Central African FE(L)TP.
International Livestock Research Institute (ILRI); Based in Nairobi, Kenya but meeting conducted in Kampala	8 May	East Congo Office in Kampala	Met to informally exchange information on project plans and express a willingness to collaborate. Discovered ILRI coordinated the establishment of the Participatory Epidemiology Network for Animal and Public Health (PENAPH) and has links to CDC, FEPT-Uganda and AFENET. ILRI has trained trainers in participatory disease surveillance in several countries.
University of Kinshasa (UNIKIN)	8 May 17 May	West Congo Office in Kinshasa	Meeting held to introduce Dean and Vice Dean of the Faculty of Medicine on 8 May. A follow-up workshop organized on 17 May with 15 people from medicine, sciences, and biology faculties of the University of Kinshasa. Main recommendations from the workshop include: 1) Start development of modules and introduce new core competencies of One Health; 2) Establish school of veterinary public health; 3) Develop diversified partnership for UNIKIN; and 4) Set up a coordination mechanism for One Health in UNIKIN.
Kinshasa School of Public Health	8 May 27 May	West Congo Office in Kinshasa	Met with Director of School of Public Health for introductory and follow-up meetings. Learned the school was created in 1984 with USAID support to train senior staff of the ministry and at "Zones de Santé," primarily targeting professionals in the field. School delivers Masters degree after 18 months of training, with financial support coming mainly from USAID through annual scholarships provided to 35 students. School is member of Health Alliance; good platform for exchange and harmonization of courses, degrees and participation of RESPOND activities.
Dr. Davy Louvouzeo, representative of Mediciens d'Afrique in Brazzaville,	Week of 9 May	Ecology & Environment, Inc. Meeting in	Held introductory meeting to introduce RESPOND project.

Contact	Date	Outreach	Objective
Republic of Congo		West Congo Office	
Drs. John and Terese Hart, co-Directors of Tshuapa-Lomami-Lualaba (TL2) Conservation and Research Project	Week of 9 May	Ecology & Environment, Inc. Meeting in West Congo Office	Held introductory meeting to introduce RESPOND project.
Professor Bruno Lapika Dimomfu, Department Chair and Director of CERDAS at University of Kinshasa Department of Anthropology	Week of 9 May	Ecology & Environment, Inc. Meeting in West Congo Office	Held introductory meeting to introduce RESPOND project.
Francoise van de Ven, representative from Federation des Industries du Bois	Week of 9 May	Ecology & Environment, Inc. Meeting in West Congo Office	Held introductory meeting to introduce RESPOND project.
Dr. Lowe Eric, Medical Coordinator of Kasese Cobalt Company Limited (KCCL)	Week of 9 May	Ecology & Environment, Inc. Meeting in East Congo Office	Discussed KCCL health and CSR projects and identified possible areas of collaboration through USAID HIPS.
Larry Streshley of International Medical Assistance (IMA)	Week of 9 May	Ecology & Environment, Inc. Meeting in East Congo Office	Held introductory meeting to discuss IMA's projects in DRC. Possible areas for collaboration at Tenke Fungumure and other locations in DRC.
Robert Ddamulira, Oil and Gas Project Manager at the World Wildlife Fund – Uganda	Week of 9 May	Ecology & Environment, Inc. Meeting in East Congo Office	Gained understanding of the potential environmental problems associated with oil and gas development in Uganda.
Dr. Olivier Cassar, Scientist in Unit of Epidemiology and Physiopathology of Oncogenic Viruses at the Institut Pasteur	Week of 9 May	Ecology & Environment, Inc. Meeting in West Congo Office	Held introductory meeting to introduce RESPOND project.
Dr. Andrew Sekitoleko, Director of Clinical Services at the International Hospital Kampala	Week of 9 May	Ecology & Environment, Inc. Meeting in East Congo Office	Held introductory meeting to discuss private sector involvement in health care during outbreak response.
Barbara Addy, Chief of Party of USAID Health Initiative for the Private Sector (HIPS) Program	10 May	East Congo Office in Kampala	Gained understanding of USAID HIPS program, which currently works with over 70 companies to upgrade clinics and train professionals. HIPS expressed interest in collaborating with RESPOND.
Santé Rurale (SANRU) AXxes Project	10 May	West Congo Office in Kinshasa	Met with SANRU Project Director to learn more about their extensive experience in strengthening DRC health-system, with basic health work in 80 health zones. Discussion referenced that any training programs must work with MoH to develop training curricula and train trainers and that Community Relays are important people for getting info to the village level. AXxes project trained 13,000 Community Relays in 2 years.
Abdul B. Byakagaba of	11 May	East Congo	Discussed Heritage Oil's approach to Corporate

Contact	Date	Outreach	Objective
Heritage Oil		Office in Kampala	Social Responsibility through education and safe water programs.
Makerere University School of Veterinary Medicine	11 May	East Congo Office in Kampala	Follow-up meeting with Dean Kabasa to discuss technical aspects of program, strategies and the development of the work plan.
DRC Ministry of Public Health	12 May 17 May	West Congo Office in Kinshasa	Introduced to Secretary General and directorates known as Planning Unit, Nurse Training Coordination, and Diseases Surveillance and Response. Gained better understanding of various surveillance, outbreak investigation and response mechanisms as well as of MoH partners and programs. MoH indicated that "Plan National du Développement Sanitaire" and "Stratégie de Renforcement du Système de Santé" documents are available. Participation in Surveillance Unit weekly meetings encouraged.
DRC Ministry of Higher and University Education	12 May	West Congo Office in Kinshasa	Minister and Chief of Staff discussed reform and coordination of higher education on veterinarian training, supporting the creation of Veterinary Faculty UNIKIN. Ministry is open to collaboration with RESPOND.
Alok Kala, Chief Marketing Manager at Tororo Cement Limited	12 May	East Congo Office in Kampala	Gauged interest of Tororo Cement Limited in working with the RESPOND project. Learned that Tororo currently engaged in USAID HIPS program and would be interested to work with RESPOND project.
Uganda Wildlife Authority (UWA)	12 May	East Congo Office in Kampala	Met to introduce RESPOND team to UWA. Learned that UWA conducts wildlife-training programs that focus on practical skills for veterinarians, field rangers, and wardens. Their field sites include wildlife farms, zoos and national parks. RESPOND team learned about training programs for the Ministry of Agriculture, private veterinarians and district-level animal control personnel in wildlife capture and carcass management.
Makerere School of Health Sciences	12 May	East Congo Office in Kampala	Met with the Dean of Makerere School of Health and Nursing department head to discuss capacity building through faculty and professional development. The School of Health expressed strong interest in training and curriculum co-development to empower nurses to respond to and report disease outbreak.
Patrick Nalere, Heifer International Uganda	12 May	East Congo Office in Kampala	Discussed potential for public-private partnerships.
Nahya Nkinzi, CSR Advisor at Tullow Oil	13 May	East Congo Office in Kampala	Tullow Oil expressed interest in working with RESPOND project for a high-impact program.
Dominion Oil	13 May	East Congo Office in Kampala	Discussed Dominion Oil's current approach to Corporate Social Responsibility and found they are currently working through USAID HIPS program. Any future CSR will likely only fall under HIPS.
RUFORUM	13 May	East Congo Office in Kampala	RESPOND team learned that RUFORUM network and regional cooperative approach could facilitate the development of a regional learning platform to engage a wide range of regional universities in an applied approach linking policy objectives in the region. RUFORUM's e-learning initiative could be linked with RESPOND partners as the project develops e-learning tools for the region.
Andreas Deuble, Head of	13 May	East Congo	Discussed MSF's operations and response to multiple

Contact	Date	Outreach	Objective
Mission at Medecins sans Frontieres MSF-France Uganda		Office in Kampala	outbreaks in Uganda over the last 10 years. When outbreaks occur, MSF deploys when asked by MoH to intervene. MSF also conducts trainings in case management for health professionals and has developed a case management profile for diseases common in Uganda. A division of MSF called EPICENTRE conducts epidemiological training and is currently researching malaria and TB. MSF has ongoing HIV/AIDS prevention programs in northwest Uganda.
University of Lubumbashi	13 May	West Congo Office in Kinshasa	Introductory meeting with the Chancellor and the Dean of Faculty of Veterinary Medicine UNILU is reviewing its curricula by 2012; the university will offer a Ph.D. degree in nursing. Students from technical medical schools will not be required to take an additional year to be admitted into the program.
International Medical Group (IMG)	14 May	East Congo Office in Kampala	Introductory meeting and information discovery for RESPOND staff to discuss synergies with IMG. IMG has a well-organized and funded human health network including government and NGOs throughout Uganda. IMG has a robust continuing education program that integrates training of nurses and doctors that could represent testing ground for RESPOND-developed education/training. Discussion focused on need for posters that clearly lay out reporting structures for reportable diseases and on need to further develop and disseminate case management guidelines. IMG is interest in SMS-based reporting mechanism to disseminate disease information region-wide.
Representatives from Agricultural Research Centre for International Development (CIRAD)	17 May	Meeting at CIRAD office in Montpellier, France	Met with CIRAD to understand and assess opportunities for collaboration in the areas of infectious disease control and outbreak response. The CIRAD 5-year plan includes a strong component on animal health and emerging infectious disease. The center has been working with a multi-disciplinary team to address these issues for a number of years.
Masaka District Veterinary Office	18 May	East Congo Office in Kampala	Introduced RESPOND project to Masaka District Veterinary Office. Masaka district has a variety of EPT-related issues. Rabies is a big problem in the District. Identified Epi and health / population health management as huge gap, noting examples of bird and swine flu. Also very lacking in the most basic PPE.
Mbarara District Veterinary Office	18 May	East Congo Office in Kampala	Introduced RESPOND project to Mbarara District Veterinary Office. The Following needs were identified: 1) laboratory materials and training; 2) refresher courses for in-service/mid-career vets (indicated opportunities are few and far between); and 3) vaccines and vaccine storage especially at the sub-county level where refrigeration/electricity are not available.
Bushenyi District Veterinary Office	19 May	East Congo Office in Kampala	Introduced RESPOND project to Bushenyi District Veterinary Office. Following issues identified: 1) Inefficient disease reporting systems (human and animal); 2) Lack of passive disease surveillance in animal populations (slaughter surveillance); and 3) No clear communications strategy for reporting

Contact	Date	Outreach	Objective
			disease (district may sometimes be bypassed).
Médecins d'Afrique, Republic of Congo and DRC	19 May	West Congo Office in Kinshasa	Discussed program experience in emergency, development, nutrition and food, security, and health promotion/education. Currently collaborates with CDC Atlanta in training and setting up "sentinel sites." Médecins d'Afrique has experience in setting up community health centers, working with COGE, COSA, and "health relays."
Kasese District Veterinary Office	20 May	East Congo Office in Kampala	Introduced RESPOND project to Kasese District Veterinary Office. Need to increase mobility and training for and in outbreak investigation, response, and diagnostic capabilities.
UWA Veterinarian in Queen Elizabeth National Park (QENP)	20 May	East Congo Office in Kampala	Introduced RESPOND project to QENP Veterinarian, with the following needs identified: 1) Acquire mobile veterinary ambulance with at least some diagnostic testing capabilities; 2) Place additional veterinarians in the larger national parks; 3) Develop a disease response team – not necessarily veterinarians but trained veterinary assistants/rangers; 4) Improve capacity for wildlife species diagnostics – currently most basic diagnostics such as cytology and bacteriology are not possible; 5) Establish community-level training for front line workers at the interface of human/livestock/wildlife; 6) Increase animal disease diagnostics and reporting capacity at the district level. RESPOND team may find UWA database useful for development of syndromic surveillance system.
Food and Agriculture Organization, DRC	20 May	West Congo Office in Kinshasa	Held introductory meeting with Country Representative and his team. FAO recently undertook an assessment on animal health in DRC through Crisis Management Center and recommended some activities involving epidemicsurveillance network. No real intervention for now, with funding pending. FAO would be interested in collaborating to institutionalize surveillance and respond mechanisms.
Ministry of Agriculture, Animal Industry and Fisheries (MAAIF)	21 May	East Congo Office in Kampala	MAAIF described cold chain transport of samples to national lab and communications from and to district, sub-county, national and international veterinary and animal health authorities. Noted that One Health/cross-sectoral/multi-disciplinary approach not currently in use.
ERAIFT (Ecole Régionale Post Universitaire d'Aménagement et de Gestion Intégrés des Forêts et Territoires Tropicaux)	21 May	West Congo Office in Kinshasa	Met with Program Assistant to discuss ERAIFT, a regional school created 11 years ago and funded by UNDP, UNESCO, EU, and ECOFAC. School has faculty from several countries, including DRC, Belgium, Canada, and US, and collaborates with the University of Maryland and NASA for satellite imagery.
Director of Communication for Development at UNICEF	23 May	East Congo Office in Kampala	RESPOND team discussed possible avenues for collaboration. UNICEF already has many activities and relationships in place at the community level in Uganda, so there are many possibilities for collaboration with RESPOND.
Straight Talk Foundation	23 May	East Congo Office in Kampala	Introduced RESPOND project and EPT to Straight Talk Foundation and learned about their communication capabilities with the local communities. It was agreed that there are several opportunities for collaboration and assistance for

Contact	Date	Outreach	Objective
			mass communication, in particular for World Rabies day in late September.
Dr. Gilbert Burnham, Professor of International Health, Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health	26 May	Meeting at DAI	Met to receive background information on the One Health Alliance (OHA). Dr Burnham provided an overview of JHSPH and Tulane University initiatives with schools of public health in the East Africa region.
Center for Disease Control, DRC	27 May	West Congo Office in Kinshasa	Discussed CDC work in treatment, capacity building of labs, and information management in 5 provinces, with focus on HIV/AIDS surveillance (funded by PEPFAR), flu, and monkeypox with the COP and his assistant. CDC intervenes on FELTP in DRC, Gabon, Cameroon, and Central African Republic.
Association des Médecins Vétérinaires du Congo (AMVC)	31 May 5 June 18-20 June	West Congo Office in Kinshasa	RESPOND team learned about work of AMVC, a non-profit organization promoting the veterinarian profession, in introductory meetings then followed-up with meeting on 5 June with veterinarian/animal health professionals. From 18-20 June, AMVC organized a workshop to debate issues regarding the veterinary profession in Congo. RESPOND provided financial support to the workshop. AMVC could play a role in epidemiological data/information gathering and delivery of veterinary services in the future.
DRC Ministry of Rural Development	1 June	West Congo Office in Kinshasa	Introductory meeting with the Secretary General. Gained a better understanding of Ministry's role in promoting decentralization and coordinating rural development. The Ministry promotes different platforms at multiple levels (CARG, CLD etc.).
African Wildlife Foundation, DRC	7 June	West Congo Office in Kinshasa	The Deputy Director explained they're part of the consortium that implements USAID CARPE in DRC at the Maringa-Lopori-Wamba landscape. The Foundation has no expertise on surveillance and needs to be trained, but did play a key role in mobilizing actors through platforms such as COSA, CARG etc.
David Mukanga, AFENET	15 June	Meeting at DAI	Follow up meeting to introduce Dr. Mukanga to the RESPOND grant process.
Dr. Allard Blom, Managing Director of the Central Africa Program of the World Wildlife Fund-US	16 June	Ecology & Environment, Inc. Meeting Washington, DC	Held introductory meeting to introduce RESPOND project.
World Health Organization, DRC	18 June	West Congo Office in Kinshasa	Introductory meeting with Country Representative. Learned that WHO has developed country strategy for 2008-2013 and is currently funding the majority of surveillance and outbreak response activities.
Federation of Red Cross/Red Crescent Societies, DRC	18 June	West Congo Office in Kinshasa	Country Representative described work in all 11 provinces with thousands of volunteers who are well trained, integrated in health clusters, and ready to mobilize when needed. Volunteers have expertise in community mobilization and communications tools developed and tested by the Red Cross to achieve their own objectives and targets. The Red Cross approach could serve as a model to RESPOND programming.
Lisa Steel, Senior Administrator of the Central Africa Program of the World Wildlife Fund-US	18 June	Ecology & Environment, Inc. Meeting Washington,	Held introductory meeting to introduce RESPOND project.

Contact	Date	Outreach	Objective
		DC	
Dr. Emmanuel Lampaert of Médecins Sans Frontières Belgique (MSF), DRC	21 June	West Congo Office in Kinshasa	Discussed MSF work in DRC since 1995. Group began as emergency project in response to Ebola outbreak, but has since expanded scope and works in 3 provinces with offices in Kinshasa, Kisangani, and Lubumbashi. Plans in place to intensify intervention in Equateur province. MSF participates in “passive” surveillance and data monitoring with MoH.
Terri Lukas, Senior Program Officer of the People, Health, and Environment Project at the World Wildlife Fund-US	24 June	Ecology & Environment, Inc. Meeting Washington, DC	Held introductory meeting to introduce RESPOND project.
Joseph Koslowski and Hadrien Vanthomme of the Smithsonian Institution Department of Conservation Education and Development	30 June	Ecology & Environment, Inc. Meeting Washington, DC	Met to discuss research design for wildlife monitoring project in Gabon