URBAN AGRICULTURE PROGRAM FOR HIV/AIDS AFFECTED WOMEN.

Project Implementation Report July 2004 - September 2005

Introduction

Since July 2004, DAI has been implementing the Urban Agriculture Program for HIV/AIDS affected women (UAPHAW). The purpose of the project is to improve the nutritional status and economic opportunities for low-income HIV/AIDS affected women in urban areas of Addis Ababa and Bahir Dar.

The objectives of the project are to:

1. Improve the nutritional status of HIV/AIDS affected families:
2. Improve income levels of these families through sales of surplus garden crops
3. Improve skills and alternative livelihoods.

The project is providing assistance in the establishment of low-cost, non-labour intensive household nutrition gardens to low-income HIV/AIDS infected and affected women and orphans and vulnerable children. It delivers a package of services to households through local project implementation partners (IPs). The package of services includes equipment and materials as well as training. The project gives small grants to IPs in terms of cash and drip irrigation systems. The cash grant is meant to partially support their costs associated with project implementation. The drip irrigation systems are distributed to beneficiaries who also receive training and assistance in establishing and managing the gardens. The project strategy hinges on participatory training and learning approaches, community-centered approaches and emphasizing the involvement of project staff, IPs, beneficiaries and relevant government departments at all stages. This structure is aimed at leveraging scarce training resources, as well as building local capacity to support and sustain this intervention over the long-term. These gardens require half the water of conventional bucket water methods so use half the labor for watering. Households spend only a maximum on one hour a day on the larger gardening systems, and even less for smaller systems. In addition returns on labor and capital for urban gardening are very high, as compared to most alternative occupations for Ethiopian women, and the drip irrigation technology used is better for the soil. Combined with appropriate training, organization, and market linkages, these urban gardening systems have proved to generate food for household consumption, as well as significant surplus for income generation.

The project has, to date, established partnerships with nine IPs in Addis Ababa and Bahir Dar that have successful HIV/AIDS care programs and networks, and/or successful urban agricultural and market development. The project has so far reached 3,350 households with beneficiary numbers of at least 14,000 served, and is expecting to reach additional 1,150 by the end of 2005.

The project is supported by USAID/Ethiopia and is implemented by DAI in partnership with ECI*Africa,* and Ethiopian-based NGOs that have successful HIV/AIDS care or agriculture development programs and networks.

Project Implementation Progress

Training: This follows a two-tier approach. A vegetable gardening toolkit was developed at the beginning of the project. It is basically a training manual covering the key components of the Household Nutrition Gardening Systems (HNGs) i.e. site selection; installation, use, repairs and maintenance; low-cost fertilization and crop protection. This was used to first train project staff who in turn trained partner based trainers. The partners are responsible for registering beneficiaries, train them and monitor the implementation then reports back to the project. The partner based trainers are NGO staff who serve as extension officer and work directly with beneficiaries. Once these are trained they go ahead and train their beneficiaries. HIV/AIDS training module has been included in the training package that is given to project staff, partner-based trainers and beneficiaries.

Hardware: The project has provided three types of household nutrition garden systems:

- The grow bag systems using 1 square meter of space, 10-12 woven bags makes a garden.
- 30 square meters drip kit systems and accompanying 80 liter water containers
- 100 square meters drip kit systems with accompanying 230 liter water containers

Beneficiaries have also been provided with nutritionally balanced seed packs containing of locally available crops. In order to ensure ownership beneficiaries have been requested to contribute towards preparation and fencing of their gardens using cheap but effective material. They are also responsible for crop production.

There was a delay in the procurement of drip kit irrigation systems due to import procedures hence the gardens were not established until January 2005.

Land availability: The project is targeting low-income urban household. Some households have adequate space for establishing the gardens. In this case the gardens have been established in the backyard of the benefiting household. Most of beneficiaries, however, live in rented accommodation and have no access to land for establishment of gardens on any size whatsoever. In this case the project has been able to negotiate with city and sub-city administration and secured unused land for utilization by beneficiaries. This arrangement seems to be working well and has enabled the project to reach a good number of beneficiaries. The project will continue advocacy work with respective authorities to ensure further access and long-time availability of land which is critical for sustainability of project activities.

Progress Reporting as per Performance Monitoring Plan

No.	Activities / Indicators	Unit	Total			
			Dec 04-March 05	Apr-Jun 05	Jul-Sept 05	Grand Total
1	General					
1.1	Number of Beneficiaries Registered	Number	856	1320	1173	3349
1.2	Number of Gardens Established	No. of Gardens	758	1418	1173	3349
	$100m^2$	"	176	314	248	738
	$30m^2$	"	279	515	228	1022
	Grow Bag		303	589	697	1589
1.3	Number of Drip kit Systems Installed	"	455	829	476	1760
	$100m^2$		176	314	248	738
	$30m^2$		279	515	228	1022
1.4	Number of Component returned & replaced	"	1	6	0	7
	$100m^2$ Drip kit System		0	3	0	3
	$30m^2$ Drip kit System		1	3	0	4
1.5	Number of People Benefiting	No. of People	3285	10529	12451	26265
	Within the household		2132	7971	7008	17111
	Outside the household		1153	2558	5443	9154
1.6	Field Day Participants	No. of People	320	329	740	1389
	Project Beneficiaries		250	225	500	975
	Potential Beneficiaries		50	57	150	257
	Local Authority and Other Representative		20	47	90	157
1.7	Number of OVC Served by Project	No. of OVC	70	1329	4876	6275
	Male		30	575	2348	2953
	Female		40	754	2528	3322
1.8	Number of Child headed households Participating in Project	No. of HHs	31	149	211	391
	Male		10	48	62	120
	Female		21	101	149	271
1.9	Number of Elderly headed households Participating in Project	No. of HHs	113	201	170	484
	Male		24	123	43	190
	Female		89	78	127	294
1.1	Number of Women headed households Participating in Project	No. of HHs	712	840	591	2143
1.11	Number of Men headed households		0	130	201	331
1.12	% of Gardens managed by women	% of HHs	93.93	59.23	50.38	67.847
1.13	% of women managing Gardens who make decision about spending income from garden	% of HHs	100	100	100	100

2	**Training**					
2.1	Number of Contact Gardeners Trained	Number	**147**	**148**	**79**	**374**
2.2	Number of Beneficiaries Trained	"	**781**	**1433**	**761**	**2975**
2.3	Total No. of persons trained in providing palliative care for HIV-infected individuals	No. of people	**76**	**92**	**227**	**395**
2.4	Number of providers / caretakers trained in caring for OVC	No. of people	**44**	**128**	**227**	**399**
3	**Production**					
3.1	Quantity of Vegetables produced	**Kg**/bunches	**47360**	**44,367.00**	**96075**	**187,802.00**
4	**Utilization**					
4.1	Quantity of Vegetables from HNG consumed	**Kg**/bunches of vegetable	**30784**	**24,483**	**53,297**	**108563**
4.2	Frequency of Vegetable consumption	**day**/week		**1**	**2**	**1.50**
4.3	Frequency of protein(meat,egg,fish) consumption	day**/week**		**1**	**1**	**1.000**
4.4	% of households that consume vegetables every day	% of HH	**0**	**24.125**	**41.875**	**33**
4.5	Quantity of HNG Vegetables sold	**Kg**/bunches	**14208**	**15480**	**30244**	**59932**
4.6	Quantity of Vegetables traded or given away	**Kg**/bunches	**2321**	**4208**	**10,796**	**17325.00**
4.7	Quantity of Vegetables spoiled	**Kg**/bunches	**47**	**196.3**	**1738.5**	**1981.8**
5	**Household Nutrition Garden Income**					
5.1	Average household Income from sale of Vegetables	**ETB/month**/household	**60**	**33.4**	**33.75**	**42.38**
5.2	% of households that report food purchase as one of the three the main expenditures with HNG income	% of households	**0**	**63.25**	**57.2**	**60.225**
5.3	Household expenditure on food items	Birr/week/mon.	**87.5**	**63.25**	**69.4**	**73.38**
5.4	% of households that report medical expenses as one of the three the main expenditures with HNG income	% of households	**0**	**20**	**21.3**	**20.65**
5.5	% of hh where medical attention was sought in the last medical crisis	% of households	**26**	**37**	**31**	**31.33**
5.6	% of households that report school expenses as one of the three the main expenditures with HNG income	% of households	**0**	**12.5**	**25.75**	**19.13**
5.7	Household expenditure on school expenses	**Birr/mon**.	**0**	**15.33**	**15.33**	**15.33**
5.8	% of children in school per beneficiary household	% of children/ household	**0**	**35**	**35**	**35**
5.9	% of households that report purchasing assets as one of the three the main expenditures with HNG income	% of households	**0**	**1**	**1.5**	**1.25**
5.10	% of households that increased expenditure on asset purchase in the last 12 months	% of households	**0**	**1**	**1**	**1**
5.11	% of households that report reinvesting in the garden as one of the three the main expenditures with HNG income	% of households	**0**	**27**	**39.5**	**33.25**

5.12	% of households that increased expenditure on HNG inputs in the last 12 months	% of households	0	40	50	45
6	**HIV/AIDS Behavior Change**					
6.1	% of respondents who report using a condom every time they had sexual intercourse in the previous year	% of people	0	10	36.12	23.06
6.2	% of people who report using at least one strategy to reduce HIV risk in the past two month	% of people	0	40	58	49

Challenges

1. The grant issuance program under AMAP IQC was halted for more that six month due to reasons beyond project's control. This lead to delays in reaching the targeted number of beneficiaries as per work plan.
2. The services of the Implementing Partner based extension officer are spread too thinly. In some cases Extension officer to beneficiary ratio is 1:400. There is a need to emphasize on training of contact gardeners.
3. Operational costs are increasing – fencing materials very expensive.

Lessons Learned.

1. Targeting HIV/AIDS infected and affected people to grow their own gardens and sell the surplus produce, not only empowers those affected and promotes positive living, but also demonstrates that they can help themselves, that they can have skills and capacity to work, and that they are highly motivated.
2. Through their participation, HIV/AIDS affected individuals prove that they are capable of productively contributing to their households and communities, dispelling the myth that they are not able to work, reducing stigma, and empowering themselves.
3. In areas with poor soil types, household gardens are more feasible than communal ones. It is easy to improve depleted soils at household level than in communal areas.
4. Incorporation of grow bags (woven plastic bags) that are affordable and readily available has enabled the project to reach more beneficiaries and areas where land is very limited.
5. There is a felt need to include animal component into the HNG such as small ruminants and poultry.