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EVALUATION, RESEARCH AND COMMUNICATION (ERC)

Quarterly Report (July 1, 2013 – September 30, 2013)

October 2013

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Evaluation, Research and Communication (ERC)

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DISCLAIMER

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 AND ABBREVIATIONS

CFS	Committee on World Food Security
CO	Contracts Officer
COP	Chief of Party
COR	Contracting Officer's Representative
CSO	Civil Society Organization
DOCS	Development Outreach & Community Specialist
DCHA	Democracy, Conflict, and Humanitarian
EEA	Ethiopia Economics Association
ERC	Evaluation, Research, and Communication project
IE	Impact Evaluation
IQC	Indefinite Quantity Contract
KMTSS	Knowledge Management and Technical Support Services Project
LSLA	Large Scale Land Acquisition
LTD	Land Tenure and Property Rights Division
LTPR	Land Tenure and Property Rights
MSI	Management Systems International
REDD+	Reducing Emissions from Deforestation and Forest Degradation
STARR	Strengthening Tenure and Resource Rights
USAID	United States Agency for International Development
USIP	United States Institute for Peace
USG	United States Government

I.0 INTRODUCTION AND BACKGROUND

The Evaluation, Research and Communication Task Order (ERC) provides a five-year opportunity to create, expand and communicate lessons learned and state-of-the-art evidence for making land tenure and property rights (LTPR) a cross-cutting theme across USAID programs and those of USAID partners and other practitioners. The ERC contract (Task Order # AID-OAA-TO-13-00019), is implemented by Cloudburst Consulting Group, Inc. (Cloudburst) under the USAID Strengthening Tenure and Resource Rights (STARR) Indefinite Quantity Contract.

The purpose of ERC is to create, expand, and communicate the results of evidence-based knowledge around best land tenure and property rights practices in order to enhance internal USAID and external U.S. government (USG) learning, guide program design and implementation, and make the most effective use of limited development resources to accomplish key USG development objectives, including expanding economic growth, improving food security and agricultural productivity, limiting conflict, empowering women, addressing global climate change and improving natural resource management. ERC supports achievement of USAID's Climate Change and Development Strategy under Strategic Objective 1 Intermediate Result 1.2 that includes "ensuring the rights and engagement of local and indigenous communities" in conjunction with a focus on improving tools and capacity for land-use planning to reduce deforestation. ERC also supports biodiversity conservation through collection and dissemination of evidence-based knowledge on how secure land tenure and property rights can incentivize sustainable land use and protection of valuable ecosystems including the forest, water and wildlife within them. ERC employs a multidisciplinary approach that aligns with USAID Forward principles of learning and evidence-based programming as well as gender equality and female empowerment.

ERC includes five task areas:

- Impact evaluation, including conducting evaluation of LTPR activities and components and supporting enhanced impact evaluation capacity of USAID staff
- Research, focusing on providing rigorous evidence for LTPR theory of change and testing development hypotheses as well as innovative approaches
- Communications of LTPR-related messages, information and knowledge to raise awareness and advance cost-effective LTPR programming in USAID and other implementing organizations
- Training of USAID staff and partners in LTPR principles and programming approaches
- Conducting pilot activities of promising innovative approaches in LTPR

The duration of this task order is five years, commencing in May 2013. It is supervised by USAID's Land Tenure and Property Rights (LTPR) Division.

2.0 EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

This quarterly report covers July 1 – September 30, 2013. During this period, the ERC team focused on planning, developing and implementing activities in support of the project’s goals of generating evidenced-based knowledge through research and evaluations; communicating lessons learned, best practices and USAID thought leadership; training and capacity building among USAID and USG staff and partners to identify and address LTPR-related issues; and piloting innovative approaches to strengthen LTPR. Highlights of the quarter include:

Task 1: Evaluations

ERC staff – Cloudburst’s Daniel Monchuk and MSI’s David Callihan - conducted a scoping mission to Ethiopia to inform the design and strategy of the impact evaluation (IE) of USAID land certification programs in Ethiopia, which is currently being developed and will be carried out next year. This scoping mission also provided assistance on project design and implementation to the recently launched Land and Rural Development (LAND) program.

Task 2: Research

The research subtasks on large-scale land acquisitions (LSLA) and Reducing Emissions from Deforestation and Forest Degradation (REDD+) are still in the design phase. Research activities adjusted in focus from desk and literature review activities towards developing a research agenda involving identification of sites of interest and designing and implementing a methodology to collect data in a highly rigorous and structured manner to inform key research questions. We have begun reaching out to Missions and implementing partners to identify sites for implementing the research agenda.

Task 3: Communications

The three major communications activities for the quarter were a month-long Land Matters campaign, the development of the Global Donor Land Governance Program Database and Map, and a beta version of a STARR Document Approval Tracking System (DATS). Through ERC, USAID sponsored Devex’s Land Matters campaign. The campaign provided an opportunity to promote USAID’s research, projects, and thought leadership in land tenure and property rights to a broader audience focused on economic development, gender, governance, and other topics.

This quarter, ERC finalized the development of the new Land Governance Program Database and Map, a USAID-led data collection and visualization project to bring together information on the land and resource governance programs from 12 different donors and development agencies. Lastly, ERC launched the beta version of DATS, a web-based project management tool.

Task 4: Training

ERC and LTD staff worked to prepare for the LTPR Issues and Best Practices training, which will provide up to 40 USG foreign assistance practitioners training that strengthens their knowledge and skills in addressing LTPR challenges in their portfolios. We developed a training agenda, which includes

learning objectives, course structure, and module topics for the training and we selected appropriate technical experts to lead each module.

ERC staff also worked closely with LTD in preparation for USAID's participation in the 40th session of the UN Committee on World Food Security (CFS) - one of the most important events of the year for USAID to influence ideas and practice in land and resource governance and to share lessons learned and best practices in addressing LTPR issues, particularly in regard to implementing the Voluntary Guidelines (VGs).

Task 5: Pilots

ERC and LTD staff developed a work plan for mobile technology pilot project, which provides a roadmap for initiating an integrated pilot project that tests innovative data collection methods and low-cost, readily available technology to document property rights.

Management

The ERC Year 1 work plan was approved during this quarter. Cloudburst also continued to finalize key personnel and supporting staff. Lauren Kuritz took over as Communications Specialist and assumed leadership of Task 3: Communications. Jeremy Green took over leadership of Task 4: Training. A graduate student, Rahul Menon, was brought on as a consultant to support ERC research activities. Recruitment activities are ongoing for an International Operations and Finance Manager, an Evaluation Specialist, a Task 5 Project Manager, and a Junior Analyst to primarily support Task 3. We hope to fill all of these positions in the next quarter.

3.0 PROJECT ACTIVITIES

Task I - Impact Evaluation

Subtask I.A: Evaluation of Land Certification Programs in Ethiopia

During the quarter, ERC continued activities pursuant to conducting an impact evaluation (IE) of USAID land certification programs in Ethiopia: - Ethiopia Strengthening Land Tenure and Administration Program (ELTAP) (2005-2008) and the Ethiopia Land Administration Program (ELAP) (2008-2012). In September, ERC conducted a scoping mission to Ethiopia with meetings facilitated by USAID/Ethiopia and LTD, which allowed the ERC team to move the IE agenda forward.

The scoping mission also provided the opportunity for ERC staff to work with the recently launched Land and Rural Development (LAND) program. To design and implement as rigorous an impact evaluation design as possible, ERC held discussions with LTD, Mission staff, and the LAND implementing team to discuss the process for designing and implementing an impact evaluation and the implications for incorporating elements of the impact evaluation design into the work plan for rolling out LAND activities. As part of the scoping trip, the ERC team was also actively collecting information and meeting with key stakeholders in order to conduct an impact evaluation of USAID supported 2nd level land certification programs. These activities included securing access to key data and documents and meetings with key stakeholders including the ELTAP and ELAP program implementer (TetraTech/ARD), the firm collecting the original ELTAP and ELAP baseline data (Ethiopia Economics Association), and a number of key government and non-government agencies (Ministry of Agriculture, Ethiopia Mapping Agency, FEWNET, and Central Statistics Agency.)

Task I Activities Planned During the Next Quarter

Next quarter, ERC will continue to focus on activities pursuant to conducting an impact evaluation of USAID land certification programs in Ethiopia. This will include developing a detailed scope of work and budget for implementing the IE strategy in Ethiopia, including scopes of work and budgets for designing performance evaluation instruments, and conducting performance evaluations of a land administration system under ELTAP and ELAP. ERC will also focus on further processing of ELTAP and ELAP baseline data, having secured necessary documentation during the Ethiopia Mission trip. This will include completing a terms of reference for the collection of an additional round of household data from ELTAP program areas. We will also work on refining household survey instruments and supplement as needed to provide more complete coverage of perceptions of tenure security. ERC will also finalize details for follow-up data collection and contract with a local firm to conduct surveys and data collection activities.

Task 2 - Research

Activity under the research subtasks 2A (LSLA) and 2C (REDD+) is moving forward with an eye to conducting primary research. The approach is similar to that for undertaking a formal impact evaluation, and allows for implementing a methodology for collecting primary data and conducting research in a highly rigorous and structured manner to address key research questions program impacts.

Subtask 2.A: Alternative Land Tenure Arrangements in the Context of LSLA

ERC held discussions with LTD to develop a template and content for country-level summary of LSLA and Smallholder Agriculture Background Document and completed this for a select New Alliance country as a pilot exercise (Ghana). ERC also completed a Getting to Answers (G2A) template for question 4 of the key LSLA research questions on gender and engaging women with investors. We continued work cataloging relevant journal articles and research reports on the ERC drive and entering citation information on a shared citation database management system (Mendeley). A graduate student, Rahul Menon, was brought on as a consultant to support these research activities.

Subtask 2.C: Impact of REDD+ Projects on Tenure and Property Rights

ERC completed a concept note, which highlights the general research approach to REDD+ research, and prepared a REDD+ project intervention-LTPR classification matrix, which classifies components of the intervention 'bundles' typical of many REDD+ projects and identifies those LTPR interventions relevant to the research agenda. We also completed a site selection matrix and populated it with REDD+ project information and breakdowns of specific interventions and LTPR implications. ERC also continued work cataloging relevant journal articles and research papers and entering citation information on a shared citation database management system (Mendeley) as well as cataloging other REDD+ project-related documents and documentation and storing these on the ERC drive.

Subtask 2.D: Develop and Implement a Research Agenda

ERC activities under this sub-task are currently focused on designing and implementing an IE framework for the Ethiopia LAND program. To further that objective, ERC conducted a field visit to Dire Dawa, Ethiopia and held meetings with community and government leaders in Shinile and the CSA regional office in Dire Dawa and attended meetings with Ethiopia Economics Association (EEA) for preliminary discussion on conducting data collection and household surveys in pastoral areas. ERC also developed a work plan to integrate a formal IE experimental framework into the design of the LAND program and presented to USAID/Ethiopia. We also continued work cataloging LAND-related documents and organizing these in the ERC project drive for further analysis.

Task 2 Activities Planned During the Next Quarter

Next quarter, ERC research activities will focus on further development of the LSLA and REDD+ research subtasks as well as activities pursuant to impact evaluations of the Ethiopia LAND project, the Property Rights and Artisanal Diamond Development (PRADD) II project, and the Community Land Protection Program (CLPP) project in Liberia. Specific priorities include:

- **LSLA:** Development of site selection matrix, complete G2A templates for additional research questions, development of typology to classify LSLA and inform scope of research
- **REDD+:** In conjunction with LTD, contact selected USAID Missions and project proponents to gather additional information, fill gaps, and otherwise populate the site information matrix and

use this to identify prospective sites for further consideration and possible implementation of research and IE design

- **LAND:** Refine IE strategy and work plan based on feedback from USAID Ethiopia and LTD based on their discussions with LAND implementing team
- **PRADD II:** Develop a work plan and develop the design methodology to integrate formal IE experimental framework into the design of the PRADD II program
- **CLPP:** Issue a subcontract to University of Michigan to undertake an IE of the Namati CLPP project in Liberia

Task 3 - Communications

Lauren Kuritz was approved as the Public Communications Specialist and began leading Task 3. Communications in this quarter featured a more strategic approach, including working with partner organizations to highlight and promote USAID's research, projects, and thought leadership. Through ERC, USAID sponsored Devex's Land Matters campaign, which involved an intense communications push. Cloudburst announced the Junior Analyst position, and interviews were conducted. A candidate will be selected and begin work in the next quarter.

Subtask 3.A: Manage, Update and Refine LTPR website

Document Approval Tracking System (DATS):

In August, ERC began a one-month beta testing phase of DATS, a new web-based project management system hosted on the USAID Land Tenure and Property Rights Portal. When fully developed, this system will streamline the submission, tracking, approval and dispensation of reports and other contract deliverables for projects under the STARR IQC. The purpose of the beta testing was to test the system with an active project and collect feedback from users. Feedback will be used to inform the next round of system enhancements prior to launching the system for other STARR projects. The beta testing phase concluded on September 23, 2013. User feedback was collected throughout the beta testing phase and a user survey was administered at the end of the one-month test period. Additional feedback was collected after a demonstration of the system for staff of the Tenure and Global Climate Change (TGCC) project implemented by Tetra Tech. A consolidated feedback report and list of recommended enhancements was submitted to LTD. Implementation of the enhancements selected by LTD will be completed during the next quarter.

Portal Maintenance and Enhancements:

ERC continued to maintain and enhance the content, layout and organization of the USAID Land Tenure and Property Rights Portal this quarter. Specific activities included:

Adding New Content

- Created a new events page on the portal for a PRADD brown bag with links to presentations and related research at the request of Mr. Fella
- Posted new Economic Growth issue brief
- Posted new Pastoral Land Rights issue brief
- Added Dr. Myers' picture to the staff page

Posting Revised Content

- Posted revised Climate Change, Gender, Customary Tenure, REDD+, and Conflict issue briefs
- Posted documents to STARR Partner Portal and Public Portal upon request

Highlighting Existing Content

- Created new spotlights for Economic Growth, Food Security, Tajikistan and Central African Republic

Improving Content Organization

- Moved Bolivia from the active to completed projects sections after the Mission closed
- Revised the links page on the portal to display Research and Other Resources first

Subtask 3.B: Develop LTPR Products for Public Consumption

Urban Tenure Issue Brief:

One first year deliverable of ERC is to produce an issue brief on urban tenure. The brief was timed to coordinate with the expected launch of USAID's Sustainable Urban Service Delivery Policy in mid-October. In order to meet the deadline, ERC developed an outline of the brief while recruiting an expert author. USAID referenced the work of Geoffrey Payne, and given his experience and the short turnaround time, ERC secured him to author the brief under a fixed price contract. Mr. Payne completed the first draft on September 16, 2013, in accordance with his purchase order. The draft was reviewed by four of Cloudburst's experienced land tenure colleagues and LTD, then detailed feedback was provided to Mr. Payne. The brief will be finalized in the next quarter.

Devex Land Matters Campaign:

In September, USAID co-sponsored (through ERC) Devex's month-long Land Matters campaign. The purpose of the campaign was to build knowledge around land as an integral part of development. This campaign sought to reach a broader audience focused on economic development, gender, governance, and other topics. The goal was to communicate why and how land and property rights are a timely issue in today's development landscape. Highlights included:

- Authored an op-ed, published under USAID/USG leadership: Eric Postel, assistant administrator and Tjada McKenna, Feed the Future's deputy coordinator for development, in support of USAID's sponsorship of the first week's theme, Land Matters for Food Security. This op-ed was re-posted by USAID as an IMPACT Blog. The op-ed was the most read IMPACT blog of the week (September 9-13) and was featured as a 'recommend read' by Foreign Policy.
- An interview with Gregory Myers on understanding food security and land grabs. This interview created a public relations challenge when it was originally posted under the title 'Land Grabs Increase Food Security?' Devex agreed to change the title and ERC developed a mini-public relations campaign to clarify and correct the misinformation in the article.
- Coordinated with Devex to plan an in-person event featuring Dr. Myers and other LTPR experts. This included creating talking points for Dr. Myers and helping him prepare for the interview; identifying problems with the technology and format in a previous event and negotiating with Devex for format changes; and recommending an agenda, content and participants for the event.
- Created a spotlight for USAID's E3 intranet site to highlight the Division's work and encourage others in USAID's E3 Bureau to become more engaged in LTPR.

The Land Matters campaign featured six themes: Land Matters for Food Security; Land Matters for Women; Land Matters for the Environment; Land Matters for Economic Development; Land Matters for Conflict Resolution; and Land Matters Transparency. For each of the six themes, ERC:

- Developed social media toolkits for STARR partners, USAID communication staff and Mission Development Outreach & Community Specialists (DOCS). In turn, each of these partners used Twitter to promote USAID's LTPR work.
- Collected approximately 15 of USAID's Must-Read documents, videos, etc. for posting on the Devex site and for each, wrote promotional text (with keywords) and tweets by each member of LTD.
- Monitored Twitter hashtag #landmatters and created tweets for LTD to further the discussion and respond to other handles.

- Wrote and posted commentaries on the LTPR portal that link to Devex and further educate users that were referred by the Devex site or Twitter.

These efforts resulted in significant increases in traffic to the USAID Land Tenure portal as well as greater coverage of land tenure-related issues on social media. Some of the highlights included:

- A monthly record and two single day records in traffic to USAID's Land Tenure and Property Rights portal
- A 42% increase in new visitors to the portal compared to the previous month and 17% increase in returning visitors
- The official @USAID Twitter handle tweeted on land tenure and property rights issues 29 times, including the top tweet of the week (September 9-13)

The partnership with Devex presented a few challenges and lessons learned. Devex provides sophisticated technology platforms and has a large membership base, but does not have a staff of issue experts on land tenure and property rights. This resulted in a lack of message clarity from the start of the campaign and led to some misinformation. ERC responded quickly by recommending a response strategy to correct the misinformation and was asked by LTD to take the lead on working directly with Devex on messaging for the remainder of the campaign. Devex offered to create promotional text for all "must-read" documents, but in order to control the message, ERC wrote the text instead, prioritizing the USAID brand and LTPR keywords.

The final event of the campaign, a videotaped panel, will take place in the next quarter.

Land Governance Program Database and Map:

Through ERC, USAID has helped lead a global effort to enhance donor coordination and communication in the land and resource governance sector. Working with the Global Donor Working Group on Land, a newly formed group of bi-lateral and multi-lateral donors and development agencies, ERC led a data collection and visualization project that gathered information on the land and resource governance programs from the development agencies from Austria, Belgium, Denmark, Germany, the European Commission, France, the Netherlands, Sweden, Switzerland, and the United Kingdom, as well as the Millennium Challenge Corporation (MCC), the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), and the World Bank. This project was undertaken as part of an ongoing effort to enhance donor communication and coordination, improve transparency, and support the Voluntary Guidelines.

This quarter, ERC worked with the Global Donor Platform, the secretariat of the Global Donor Working Group on Land, to create a secure online database for all donor-funded land governance programs which allows each donor to upload and manage their own program data. ERC developed and tested this LAMP (Linux Apache MySQL PHP)-based database, then transferred the hosting of the database to the Global Donor Platform in September. ERC also worked with members of the Global Donor Working Group on Land to provide log-in credentials and instructions for using the database to representatives from each participating donor country's delegation. The first round of data collection was completed on September 30, resulting in 581 programs in 92 counties with a total value of \$2.6 billion.

ERC created an interactive mapping tool that clearly displays information in the database. The map was developed by ERC using Mapbox and CartoDB software and was transferred to the Global Donor Platform in October. Both the database and map were presented at the Global Donor Working Group meeting in Rome on October 11 via video presentation.

Strategic Communications:

Communications planning was delayed this quarter due to the Devex Land Matters campaign. However, ERC identified opportunities to communicate more strategically, focus more narrowly on specific messages, and highlight LTD's thought leadership. ERC wrote a commentary published under Dr. Myers' name to highlight his appearance at Global Washington with Tim Hanstad on July 30, 2013. The commentary generated a lot of buzz on Twitter and was read 1,448 times – about 4 times the average number of reads. Guest commentaries written for the LTPR portal by Landesa and DAI generated promotional tweets and links from partner sites, which drove higher than usual traffic to the portal. ERC will replicate this strategy in the future and provide LTPR portal guest commentary guidelines to STARR partners at next quarter's STARR partner meeting.

This quarter, ERC acquired permission to tweet through USAID's Agency twitter handles, @USAIDEnviro and @USAIDEcon. These handles have over 300 followers each. Through a strategy of using the Agency handles to retweet LTD staff handles, ERC expects to increase twitter and portal views and followers. Ms. Kuritz provided Dr. Myers an initial communication plan for reaching more of LTD's intended audience, sharing priority messages, and combating misinformation. Communication style, frequency and goals have been shifting in this direction and discussions will continue next quarter as a formal communication strategy is developed.

ERC provided recommendations for launching and promoting the recently finalized PRRG tools. An initial review of the tools found them to be too dense to offer to Missions without further guidance, so this will be factored into a concept note on Task 3.D Tools in Year One.

Support for LTD Outreach:

ERC worked with LTD staff to research and prepare materials for external public communications and internal Agency communications. Mr. Green conducted a literature review on the financialization of land in preparations for Ms. Stickler's participation as a panelist in a symposium on contested landscapes at Cornell University. Mr. Green also worked with Mr. Fella to conduct literature reviews on land and conflict in Tanzania and land and conflict in Sierra Leone for internal communications with those respective Missions.

ERC also provided a variety of direct support to the Division, including coordinating logistics and scheduling, drafting documents, taking notes at meetings, and other tasks as assigned.

Ongoing Communications Activities:

A total of 20 commentaries were posted during the quarter (see table below). In addition to drafting original commentaries and editing commentaries written by Division staff, the ERC communications team worked with STARR partners Landesa and DAI to produce guest commentaries for the first time this quarter. During the quarter, ERC produced and posted 243 tweets for Division staff, which promoted commentaries, research products and USAID thought leadership.

This quarter, ERC staff also rewrote a draft FrontLines article on Afghanistan to fit the infrastructure theme for November (The earlier Defense and Development Coordination theme was replaced with a different theme)

COMMENTARIES POSTED

July 1 –September 30 2013

Date	Commentary Title
1-Jul	Exploring Opportunities to Strengthen Property Rights through Crowd Sourced Data Collection
8-Jul	Third-party Certification: Protecting Indigenous Rights and Forests
9-Jul	Property Taxes Can Encourage Government Transparency and Efficient Land Use
24-Jul	Wildlife Conservation Requires a Shift in Incentives
25-Jul	Feed the Future Progress Report Highlights Success of Updated Land Rights in Tajikistan
29-Jul	USAID Guiding Kimberley Process in Improving Members' Artisanal Mining Sectors
1-Aug	Participatory Mapping of Kenyan Slums Improves Tenure Security
5-Aug	Global Donor Working Group on Land Officially Launched
6-Aug	World Bank Highlights Land Governance as Key to African Development
8-Aug	USAID and the Government of Ethiopia launch the Land Administration to Nurture Development (LAND) Program
9-Aug	India Targeting Rural Land Insecurity with State-Level Programs and New National Bill
14-Aug	Global Farms Race: Opportunity to Improve Land Governance
19-Aug	In Sub-Saharan Africa, Time to Legally Recognize Customary Land Rights
26-Aug	USAID Supports Legal Analysis of Libya's Draft Law on Property Restitution and Compensation
4-Sept	New Alliance Ties Food Security to Improved Land Governance
5-Sept	USAID Building Knowledge Around Land Rights and Food Security
16-Sept	No-Take Fishing Zones Can Protect Fish Populations & Empower Local Communities
20-Sept	Economic Growth Depends on Secure Land Tenure
23-Sept	Burmese Farmers Organizing to Reduce Conflict Over Land
25-Sept	Annual World Bank Conference on Land and Poverty Announced

Task 3 Activities Planned During the Next Quarter

- Hire a Jr. Analyst
- Resume Strategic Communications Planning Process
- Complete Urban Tenure Brief
- Promote final Devex Land Matters event, a filmed panel interview featuring Dr. Myers
- Plan to author an op-ed to be published under USAID Administrator Raj Shah's name to call for inclusion of land tenure and property rights in the post-2015 development agenda
- Complete existing portal enhancements
- Review portal and recommend additional enhancements
- Implement selected DATS enhancements and launch DATS for other STARR projects

Task 4 -Training

During the quarter, Jeremy Green took over management responsibilities for Task 4. ERC training activities this quarter focused on two priorities: 1) preparing for the Land Tenure and Property Rights Issues and Best Practices training and 2) preparing for USAID's participation in the 40th session of the UN Committee on World Food Security (CFS).

Subtask 4.A: Develop LTPR Training Materials and Modules

During the quarter, ERC and LTD staff worked to develop an appropriate structure and curriculum for the LTPR Issues and Best Practices training, which will provide up to 40 USG foreign assistance practitioners training that strengthens their knowledge and skills in addressing LTPR challenges in their portfolios. In September, ERC convened a training planning session with LTD staff to develop appropriate modules and course structure for the training. Based on this session, ERC is developing new training materials and modules, including a new module on understanding what mechanisms, earmarks and resources are available and how to access them. ERC is also developing ongoing 'bridge-to-post' activities that will give participants the opportunity to examine specific countries of interest throughout the training through the lens of the issues covered in each module.

Subtask 4.B: Conduct One Washington, DC and One Regional LTPR Training per Year

Throughout the quarter, ERC made preparations for the Land Tenure and Property Rights Issues and Best Practices training, scheduled for November 13-15, 2013. ERC developed a training agenda, which included learning objectives, course structure, and module topics for the training and we selected appropriate technical experts to lead each module. ERC also worked with LTD to begin advertising the training via USAID University and the USAID Land Tenure and Property Rights Portal. Starting in October, ERC staff began tracking and registering participants for the training.

Due to issues related to the federal government shut down in October, LTD decided to postpone the November training. The training will now be held in February 2014.

Subtask 4.C: Develop and Conduct Online or Other LTPR Training Course Offerings

This quarter, ERC worked with Michigan Technological University (MTU) to develop a concept note and preliminary budget for a three-credit, graduate level university-based distance learning LTPR. We will continue to explore this as an option during Year 2 of ERC.

Subtask 4.D: Support LTPR Conferences/Events

ERC worked closely with Dr. Myers to support preparations for the 40th session of the UN Committee on World Food Security by coordinating logistics and scheduling meetings; drafting documents and talking points; and assisting with other conference preparation tasks as assigned. Prior to the government shutdown, Mr. Green was to accompany Dr. Myers to Rome to provide additional support during this important event.

Task 4 Activities Planned During the Next Quarter

- Develop a training course evaluation process
- Track and register participants for February LTPR training
- Coordinate with presenters to prepare course materials for fall LTPR training

- Deliver fall LTPR training
- Conduct pre and post training evaluations
- Further develop the concept of a distance learning LTPR course hosted by MTU

Task 5 - Implementation of Pilot Activities

During this quarter ERC continued to lay the groundwork for a pilot project that will test the use of mobile technology and innovative data collection methods to strengthen tenure security. This quarter, ERC conducted background research and a literature review, and worked with a highly-respected subject matter expert, Robin McLaren, to help draft a detailed work plan for this pilot project.

Subtask 5.A Pilot project: using mobile technologies and crowdsourcing to inform land administration systems

ERC activities included:

- Submitted mobile pilot project annotated bibliography
- Submitted mobile pilot background concept paper
- Submitted mobile pilot draft budget and technical work plan, drafted by Mr. McLaren

Task 5 Activities Planned During the Next Quarter

ERC will submit a revised pilot work plan, budget and adjusted schedule for the pilot project next quarter. We also hope to finalize the selection of a pilot site next quarter with the goal of beginning field work in early 2014. To achieve this, we will produce an options analysis of technology platform costs, resources and constraints and contact with appropriate individuals and institutions.

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