

DIME-GAFSP Collaboration: Work Plan for Fiscal Year 2013

Summary: This work-plan provides an overview of the planned impact evaluation activities **DIME** will lead on GASFP projects during the Fiscal Year 2013 (FY12, ending June 30 2013). This work plan and attached budget take into account the projected activities for the six selected projects.

The total anticipated disbursement (including commitments for data collection) for this FY is: USD \$2,616,173. (See attached budget.)

Work-Plan

A. Overall Program Activities

The vast majority of the activities in FY 2013 will be country-specific, and will be discussed in separate sections below. In most places, this will consist of finalizing evaluation design, conducting a baseline survey, and writing a baseline report.

Initially, DIME had envisioned doing one joint concept review for all evaluations in FY 2013. However, after giving this some more thoughts DIME will now organize separate concept note reviews for each country. This allows more participation by the regions, gives opportunity for more careful scrutiny of each design, and also warrants more flexibility to accommodate the various project timetables.

One overarching product will be a joint baseline report, aggregating data on GAFSP indicators for all countries. A first version will be available in FY 2013, and an updated version will be produced in FY 2014 when further baselines are completed and analyzed.¹

B. Country Activities

Overview

Country-specific activities planned for FY2013 vary across the portfolio, with some core activities in the following areas:

1. **Staffing:** In FY12 four field coordinators (in Rwanda, Mongolia, Bangladesh and Haiti) started work, and candidates have been identified for the other three countries to begin work in FY 2013. Additionally, occasional research assistance will be needed throughout FY13 to assist with survey management, data cleaning and analysis, to ensure timely delivery of findings to our clients.
2. **Concept Notes:** In FY12, three concept notes were drafted (Rwanda, Haiti, and Bangladesh), and will be reviewed in early FY13. The rest of the concept notes are under development and are planned to be reviewed in late FY13.
3. **Missions:** In FY12, the first follow-up missions took place in Haiti, Rwanda, Mongolia, and Bangladesh. In FY13, DIME missions will also visit Niger and Nepal. In all countries, missions composed of DIME staff and, where appropriate, external lead investigators will continue to

¹ Given the growing nature of the portfolio, this report will be updated on an iterative basis as new projects are added and go to baseline and midline.

support the implementation of all ongoing evaluations, with additional analytical support in the field around the baseline surveys.

4. **Baseline Survey:** We expect to complete baselines for the entire current portfolio in FY13. The general steps in baseline implementation are:
 - Developing the TOR
 - Procuring a survey firm
 - Developing questionnaire
 - Overseeing the data collection
 - Cleaning the data

The field coordinators provide day-to-day supervision of the data collection and ensure the quality of the firms' work. The data collection process is overseen and quality is ensured upstream and downstream by DIME, in addition to constant interaction with the field coordinators.

5. **Baseline Report:** After each baseline survey is completed a baseline report will be produced, outlining the main results and their implications for the implementation of the project, as well as monitoring key indicators for the line ministry. The baseline report will also present the descriptive statistics of key household and community characteristics by treatment status and check that they are, on average, statistically equivalent across treatment and control groups. This analysis will shed light as to the adequacy of the counterfactual used to establish the impact of the interventions of interest. The baseline report will be shared with the TTL and presented to the country teams during a subsequent mission. In addition, a separate baseline brief will be prepared for GAFSP, focusing on food security and income data.

Activities by Country

Below is a more detailed work-program for each of the six GAFSP projects that are working with DIME to implement a rigorous impact evaluation. This portfolio is managed and implemented by Florence Kondylis (TTL for GAFSP-DIME, head of **aadapt**), Daniel Stein (Economist) and Maria Jones (Research Analyst).

BANGLADESH: Integrated Agricultural Productivity Program (IAPP)

DIME is working on this evaluation with Mushfiq Mobarak, associate professor at Yale University and a research affiliate at Innovations for Poverty Action (IPA, an NGO focusing on impact evaluation). Working with the IAPP team, we developed an evaluation plan which focuses on measuring the fisheries and crop technology adoption components of the project. An additional component of the evaluation explores how to best leverage the use of demonstration plots to promote technology adoption. A field coordinator (Cindy Sobieski) has been hired and began work in July 2012.

Daniel Stein (DIME) visited Dhaka in June 2012 to work on the evaluation design, and Prof. Mobarak also visited in July 2012 to finalize the evaluation design. Maria Jones (DIME) visited Dhaka in August-September 2012 to launch the baseline survey.

MONGOLIA: Livestock and Agricultural Marketing Project

The DIME team travelled to Mongolia in February to discuss the IE design with the project team, and a field coordinator (Aaron Szott) started in Mongolia in June 2012. However, although DIME and the government team agreed on a design of the impact evaluation, political changes (an election in Mongolia in June) and rotation of key staff (the project has a new TTL and technical advisor) have significantly slowed the project implementation. Certain operational decisions by the project team are necessary before beginning the baseline survey, such as finalization of the selection of the project areas and the identification of herder groups which will receive project support. Based on current estimates, DIME conduct the baseline survey in Feb-Mar 2013.

	FY13											
	JUL	AUG	SEP	OCT	NOV	DEC	JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUN
Deliverables												
Concept Note Drafted												
Concept Note Reviewed												
Baseline Procurement												
Baseline Completed												
Baseline Report Completed												

NIGER : Water Mobilization Project to Enhance Food Security in Maradi, Tahoua and Zinder Regions (PMERSA-MTZ)

The DIME team is working with Jenny Aker, a professor at Tufts University on the evaluation in Niger. The first joint AfDB-DIME follow-up mission to Niger was attended by Daniel Stein (DIME), and was completed at the beginning of FY 2013. The Niger project is proceeding slowly, with most of the PIU staff being recently appointed. Recent security concerns in the Maradi region (project area and project team location) have prevented the DIME-GAFSP team from making progress in placing a field coordinator and starting field work preparations for the baseline. As a result, the team has suggested to place this IE on hold until further notice.

Until the security events hindered the work, the intervention sites had been decided and detailed feasibility studies where underway for the first half of FY13 for all project sites. Since these studies will guide beneficiary targeting, the baseline survey would only have started after their completion. DIME had identified a field coordinator who would have worked part-time starting in September 2012, and would have transitioned to full time once survey preparation had begun. This was expected to happen around January 2013.

	FY13												FY14
	JUL	AUG	SEP	OCT	NOV	DEC	JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUN	
First Phase Milestones / Deliverables													
First Follow-up Mission													
Field Coordinator Hired													
CN for IE drafted													
CN for IE reviewed													
Baseline Procurement													
Baseline Survey Completed													
Baseline Report													

RWANDA Land Husbandry, Water Harvesting, and Hillside Irrigation Project (LWH)

The DIME research team has carried out three visits to Rwanda to prepare the evaluation design and the baseline survey: a first mission in January 2012 (Florence Kondylis, Maria Jones and Daniel Stein), a second visit in May 2012 (Florence Kondylis and Maria Jones), and a third mission in September 2012 (Florence Kondylis and Maria Jones). The objective of the September mission was to pilot the farmer scorecards for the extension component, provide support to the rural finance evaluation, and present initial results from the baseline survey to the government team.

The Rwanda evaluation includes three main components: an overall impact evaluation of the LWH approach as well as two other evaluations designed to increase the impact of the LWH project in real time. (a rural finance component testing new saving products for farmers and an accountability tool to make private extension services work for farmers).

First, the LWH project is expanding the three new sites in FY 2013, and the research team is conducting an impact evaluation of the overall effect of the project in these sites, including the hillside development component. The baseline for this activity, financed with project funds, started in late FY12 and is finishing in early FY13. Since LWH is expanding over time, this means that more baselines may be done as the project moves into more areas in the future. DIME-GAFSP will finance a first round of follow-up data collection in FY13/14 that will be used both to assess the short-term impact of the overall LWH approach and the rural finance and extension components.

Second, the LWH team expressed the intent to test the effectiveness of different savings products in improving the ability for farmers to save for inputs. DIME is evaluating the effectiveness of two products: a savings account targeted for agricultural inputs, and a commitment savings account, where withdrawals are restricted to planting times. This evaluation began in late FY 2012, and the experiment and data gathering continue in early FY 2013. The main data collection will be through a household survey starting in March 2013.

The second experiment is an evaluation of feedback mechanisms for private extension services. MINAGRI has elected to move away from public provision of extension services on LWH sites onto a private model of service delivery. The LWH is working with One Acre Fund (an NGO) to provide their extension services and

