PROGRESS REPORT

Project Title: Capacity building and groundwater resources exploration for emergency situation to combat drought in the Horn of Africa

Target Country or Region: South Africa

Budget code: 513-RAF-2017

Contract numbers:

Funding sources: Flemish Funds in Trust, FUST

Total Budget approved: 396,000 USD

Reporting Period: January 2012 to June 2012

Executing Agency: UNESCO Addis

Implementing partners: RTI, USGS

Project starting date: 2 January 2012

Project completion date: 31 December 2013

Responsible Sector: SC/HYD

Name of Person completing Report: Mr. Alexandros Makarigakis

1. Summary and Background

The worst drought in 60 years in the Horn of Africa has sparked a severe food crisis. More than 10 million people are now affected in drought-stricken areas of Djibouti, Ethiopia, Kenya, Somalia and Uganda and the situation is deteriorating. Two consecutive poor rainy seasons have resulted in one of the driest years since 1950/51 in many pastoral zones (OCHA, 2011). Food prices have risen substantially in the region, pushing many moderately poor households over the edge. According to the UN, 12.4 million people in the region are in desperate need of food aid. In some areas of Ethiopia and Eritrea up to 75 per cent of crops have been lost.

This proposal consists of an immediate assessment of groundwater resources for the emergency situation aimed at improving access to drinking water for the most vulnerable populations in the current humanitarian crisis and sustainably support drought monitoring and preparedness in the medium to long-term. It is a continuation of the FRIEND NILE project focusing on the urgent problem in the Upper countries of the Nile basin particularly in Ethiopia and Kenya and established networks like GWADI and ISARM IGAD will be contributing to its implementation.

The identification, assessment and development of groundwater resources that are of low vulnerability to drought and that can be used in emergency situations is therefore of crucial importance, both for immediate emergency relief and for long-term drought preparedness.

Immediate short-term activities to be carried out as part of the emergency relief to vulnerable populations in target areas in Somalia, Ethiopia, and Kenya include:

1. Rapid assessment of existing knowledge and capacities in the drought affected region, including identification of local/regional experts, gap analysis of data and information;
2. Advanced survey: Remote sensing investigation of groundwater in target areas and complementary targeted field survey;
3. Training of trainers, water managers and well drillers on the developed tools

The current proposal addresses the rapid assessment of existing knowledge and capacities in the drought affected region, as an indispensable basis for the development of emergency groundwater resources. This includes the identification of local/regional experts, analysis of existing data and information and a gap analysis and collection of missing data and information required to successfully execute the activities. The latter will be accomplished by conducting a remote sensing exercise for a limited geographical scope. Finally a training component will establish the sustainability of the activity by involving local Universities and Governmental Institutions.

1. Description of project activities undertaken during the reporting period

Contacts were made with the Governments of Ethiopia, Kenya and Somalia as well as with IGAD to prioritize the geographical scope of the exercise; the consultation process involved other key stakeholders in order to review existing information and the complementarity of the exercise with other current initiatives.

The area of Upper Fafem Valley and of Kakuma (Turkana Region) were selected by the Governments of Ethiopia and Kenya respectively. A national project officer was identified and hired for the duration of the project. An international project officer was initially hired to help setting the project up.

Inception workshops for the Ethiopian component and for the Regional initiative were launched in April 2012.

An Open International Competition (OIC) was launched in order to identify and contract a consultant who will run a rapid groundwater assessment in the identified area of Ethiopia utilizing remote sensing technology. The consultant was identified (Radar Technologies International, RTI) and a contract was put in place in May 2012.

The assessment of existing information has been completed and a roaster of experts of the Somali Region in Ethiopia has been drafted.

1. Difficulties and Problems encountered and measures taken, any changes in implementation.

No major difficulties were faced during the implementation of the project.

1. Project Results achieved during the reporting period
   1. The geographical scope of the project was defined via national and regional consultations (Kenya, Ethiopia, IGAD Region). The area of Upper Fafem Valley and of Kakuma (Turkana Region) were selected by the Governments of Ethiopia and Kenya respectively
   2. The Project management team is in place
   3. An inception workshop took place in April 2012 at Jijiga, Ethiopia and work has commenced in the compilation and digitization of existing information. The database is expected in September 2012.
   4. A consultant, RTI, was identified and contracted using an OIC bid
   5. Work on the groundwater survey for the identified geographical scope for Ethiopia has commenced. First results are expected in September 2012.
2. Lessons learned and Sustainability

Early discussions with ADM/PRO resulted in finalizing the OIC bid the procurement in a much faster and appropriate pace than it would take normally.

UNESCO has taken a lead in coordinating work of other donors in the Somali Regional State of Ethiopia. Utilizing the funds availed by the Government of Flanders of Belgium as a way to attract other donors has resulted in DFID contributing $80,000 for the baseline information and USAID will be financing the initiative with $700,000 (via USGS as UNESCO cannot receive funds from USAID).

1. Evaluation recommendations when applicable
2. Visibility: describe any visibility action implemented during the reporting period
3. Work plan for the following period (please complete the attached table and when applicable add an eventual budget revision)

IX. Annexes (publications , reports and other project outputs, when applicable)