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# UGANDA INDOOR RESIDUAL SPRAYING (IRS) PROJECT QUARTERLY PERFORMANCE REPORT JANUARY 1<sup>ST</sup> THROUGH MARCH 31<sup>ST</sup>, 2010



April 2010

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*In collaboration with:*  
Communication for Development Foundation Uganda (CDFU) ■

# UGANDA INDOOR RESIDUAL SPRAYING (IRS) PROJECT QUARTERLY PERFORMANCE REPORT

## **DISCLAIMER**

The author's 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

<b>Abt</b>	Abt Associates, Inc
<b>BCC</b>	Behavior Change Communication
<b>CDC</b>	Center for Disease Control
<b>CDFU</b>	Communications for Development Foundation Uganda
<b>COOPERS</b>	Coopers Uganda Limited
<b>COTR</b>	Contracting Officer's Technical Representative
<b>DDHS</b>	District Director of Health Services
<b>DDT</b>	Dichloro-Diphenyl-Trichloroethane
<b>DHE</b>	District Health Educator
<b>DHO</b>	District Health Officer
<b>DHT</b>	District Health Team
<b>FAQ</b>	Frequently Asked Questions
<b>GIS</b>	Geographic Information System
<b>GoU</b>	Government of Uganda
<b>GPS</b>	Global Positioning System
<b>HHS</b>	U.S. Department of Health and Human Services
<b>IEC</b>	Information, Education and Communication
<b>IEE</b>	Initial Environmental Examination
<b>IR</b>	Intermediate Result
<b>IRS</b>	Indoor Residual Spraying
<b>LC</b>	Local Council
<b>M&amp;E</b>	Monitoring and Evaluation
<b>MOH</b>	Ministry of Health
<b>MOU</b>	Memoranda of Understanding
<b>NEMA</b>	National Environment Management Authority
<b>NMCP</b>	National Malaria Control Program
<b>PMI</b>	Presidential Malaria Initiative
<b>PMP</b>	Performance Management Plan
<b>PSC</b>	Pyrethrum Spray Collections
<b>SEA</b>	Supplementary Environmental Assessment
<b>TA</b>	Technical Assistance
<b>TOT</b>	Training of trainers
<b>USAID</b>	U.S. Agency for International Development
<b>WHO</b>	World Health Organization
<b>VCD</b>	Vector Control Division

## Executive Summary

This report presents the Uganda Indoor Residual Spraying (IRS) Project's progress in the quarter starting January 1<sup>st</sup> to March 31<sup>st</sup> 2010. The report outlines the key project activities and achievements, the challenges and constraints faced, lessons learned, and recommendations for future implementation.

### Background

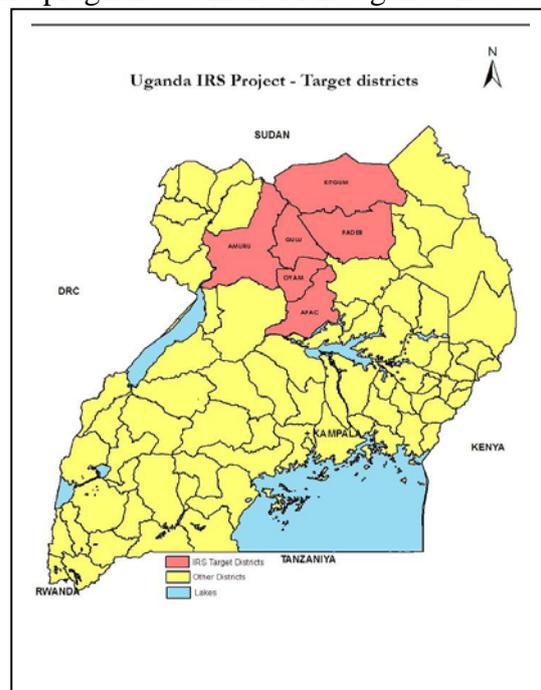
The purpose of the Uganda IRS Project is to achieve the Presidential Malaria Initiative (PMI) Uganda targets in indoor residual spraying. In particular, the Uganda IRS Project contributes to IR.8.1: Effective use of social sector services through three main objectives:

- Implementation of a high quality IRS program
- Conducting comprehensive monitoring and evaluation of the IRS program
- Developing the national capacity to conduct IRS.

The goal of PMI is to reduce malaria-related mortality by 50% by the end of 2010 in the following vulnerable groups: children under five and pregnant women. PMI/Uganda has a five-year strategic plan and an annual malaria operational plan for Uganda which guides current implementation and scale-up of activities. IRS is the largest component of the malaria operational plan and is the cornerstone of the PMI/Uganda program.

The Uganda IRS program activities are being carried out with full collaboration of the Uganda National Malaria Control Program (NMCP) and cover six priority districts: Apac, Amuru, Gulu, Oyam, Pader and Kitgum.

Abt Associates, Inc. (Abt) as prime contractor of this program, manages and directs all technical component activities in support of IRS planning, procurement, implementation, monitoring, and capacity building. In addition to Abt, the project is also supported by Communications for Development Foundation Uganda (CDFU), a subcontractor which provides expertise and support for Information, Education and Communication (IEC) and Behavior Change Communication (BCC) activities in support of IRS program campaigns and population sensitization under the direction of Abt technical staff.



### Project Activities/Achievements

The project activities in this quarter focused on the four districts of Oyam, Apac, Amuru and Gulu. Spraying in Oyam began on 23<sup>rd</sup> February 2010, while Apac spraying began on 9<sup>th</sup> March and spraying in Oyam and Apac was concluded by March 31<sup>st</sup> 2010 with Apac mop-up activities extending to April 8<sup>th</sup> 2010. In Amuru, spray activities were launched on March 15<sup>th</sup> 2010 and an introductory meeting, micro-planning and TOT were conducted in Gulu in preparation for spraying.

## Planning Activities

The project Work plan and Budget for the period of January – September 2010 was approved by USAID/PMI during this quarter. In addition, the PMP was revised following the UMEMS “Managing for Results training workshop for USAID/Uganda Implementing partners” held February 8<sup>th</sup> – 12<sup>th</sup> 2010. The Branding & Marking Plan to USAID/PMI was also approved.

## Activities by Intermediate Result

### 1.1. Result 1: High-Quality IRS Program Implemented

**Strategy:** Planning, management and implementation of indoor residual spraying in collaboration with key stakeholders.

#### Result 1 Indicators:

Indicator	FY 10 Target	Quarter 2 Actual
Number of spray personnel trained to deliver IRS in target districts	5,500	2,989
Number of IRS print materials disseminated	15,000	19,209
Number of community meetings held	94	47
Number of radio spots aired	3,200	690
Number of radio talk shows conducted	120	23
Number of community members sensitized on IRS	3,290	1,745
Number of districts sprayed	6	2
Number of households sprayed with IRS	1,546,618	262,164

#### Accomplishments this quarter:

##### *Procurement and Logistics*

A needs assessment was carried out to determine the logistics required for the spray round in Oyam, Apac, Amuru and Gulu. Necessary commodities were procured and distributed to the operational centers at the sub-county and parish level from where activities were coordinated, including a total of 248,000 Alpha cypermethrin insecticide sachets. Before the distribution of the newly purchased commodities, it was ensured that all insecticide balances in the stores were completely used up. Spray pumps that were previously used in Kitgum and Pader districts were serviced and repaired for use in Amuru and Gulu districts.

##### *IEC/BCC*

The IEC/BCC activities were carried out by project partner CDFU. District sensitization meetings were held in the four districts as follows: Oyam on 19<sup>th</sup> Jan, 2010, Apac on 21<sup>st</sup> Jan, 2010, Amuru on 24<sup>th</sup> Feb, 2010 and Gulu on



*DHE facilitating a sensitization meeting at the 4th Division Barracks in Gulu district*

26<sup>th</sup> Feb, 2010. Sub-county meetings, community mobilization through film shows and drive through talk shows, radio spots, radio programmes and IEC materials distribution were also conducted. The table below gives the details of the IEC/BCC activities carried out.

Table 1: IEC/BCC

District	District Leaders Sensitization Meetings	Sub-county Leaders Sensitization meetings		Community mobilization	Film shows	Drive through talk shows	Radio spots	Radio talk shows	IEC materials distribution	
		No. of Meetings	Participants						Participants	Community Leaflets
Apac	53	15	560	11,350	9	75	200	7	2,700	1,450
Oyam	70	8	298	5,130	4	40	200	7	2,000	1,000
Gulu	97	16	603	12,350	7	64	140	5	4,859	1,450
Amuru	54	8	284	9,750	4	42	150	5	4,750	1,000
<b>Total</b>	<b>274</b>	<b>47</b>	<b>1,745</b>	<b>38,588</b>	<b>24</b>	<b>221</b>	<b>690</b>	<b>23</b>	<b>14,309</b>	<b>4,900</b>

### Spraying Operations

#### Introductory Meetings

Introductory meetings were held in the four districts with the district leaders as follows: Oyam on January 5<sup>th</sup> 2010, Apac on January 6<sup>th</sup> 2010, Amuru and Gulu during the week of February 8<sup>th</sup>-12<sup>th</sup> 2010. The Uganda IRS Project staff was joined by Ministry of Health (MOH) officials at these meetings. A total of 42 district leaders participated in the meetings in the four districts.

District	No. of Participants
Amuru	8
Apac	18
Gulu	7
Oyam	9
<b>Total</b>	<b>42</b>

#### Micro-planning

The micro planning meetings for Oyam and Apac were held on January 13<sup>th</sup> and 18<sup>th</sup> 2010, respectively. The facilitation of the planning meetings was conducted by Abt, CDFU and MOH, and participants from the districts included District Health Teams (DHTs) and supervisors. The micro planning meetings for Amuru and Gulu were held on February 16<sup>th</sup> and 23<sup>rd</sup> 2010 respectively, and were also facilitated by Abt and officials from MOH. During these meetings, a new performance monitoring plan of the IRS exercise was introduced to the participants. The monitoring plan was approved with the full cooperation of the district representatives who agreed to efficiently carry on the IRS program, and as a result, the monitoring plan was rolled out in the four districts.

District	No. of Participants
Amuru	23
Apac	27
Gulu	45
Oyam	22
<b>Total</b>	<b>117</b>

#### Training of Trainers (TOT)

TOTs were carried out in the four districts as follows: in Oyam from January 14<sup>th</sup> – 16<sup>th</sup> 2010, Apac from January 19<sup>th</sup> – 21<sup>st</sup> 2010, Amuru from February 17<sup>th</sup> – 19<sup>th</sup> 2010 and Gulu from February 24<sup>th</sup> – 26<sup>th</sup> 2010. The sessions were facilitated by staff from Abt, CDFU and MOH. Participants from the districts included team leaders, supervisors and DHTs. The overall

District	No. of Participants
Amuru	85
Apac	122
Gulu	135
Oyam	103
<b>Total</b>	<b>445</b>

purpose of the training was to build the capacity of the districts by equipping key stakeholders with skills to efficiently carry on the IRS program. The training included hands on experiences as demonstrated in the photos below:



Richard Onen -Abt National Field Coordinator, demonstrating spraying techniques during the TOT in Oyam & Apac



Data Management: demonstrated their understanding by filling in the data cards

### Recruitment and Training for Spray Teams

Spray personnel were selected on the basis of their current work in health activities or involvement in other community activities. The spray personnel include supervisors, team leaders, spray operators, wash persons, and storekeepers. Members of Village Health Teams (VHTs) were targeted as their status within the community would assist in community level acceptance of IRS and facilitate successful implementation. Literacy and numeracy were key prerequisites for recruitment.

Training of spray personnel on IRS-related topics was conducted by individuals trained in the TOT in accordance to WHO protocols and guidelines; trainees had to demonstrate proficiency during the practical sessions. IRS spray personnel were trained to conduct safe and effective IRS with Alpha-Cypermethrin insecticide in Oyam, Apac, Amuru and Gulu districts.

Two sets of trainings were conducted: a three-day refresher training for returning spray personnel and a six-day training in IRS for the newly recruited spray personnel. The trainings were conducted by a team of supervisors, DHTs and team leaders. Spray operators were taught basic skills associated with IRS, including basic spraying techniques, team management, environmental compliance and safety, and data management.

Spray personnel were also examined by the MOH Medical Officer to determine if they were physically able to participate in the spray program. All female spray personnel were further tested for pregnancy and those who tested positive were replaced with other spray operators.

*Table below summarizes the number of participants trained per district*

District	No. of Participants	Male	Female
Amuru	481	403	78
Apac	761	709	52
Gulu	692	545	147
Oyam	610	585	25
<b>Total</b>	<b>2544</b>	<b>2242</b>	<b>302</b>

### Storekeepers Training

Storekeepers' trainings were held in Oyam and Apac districts from February 11<sup>th</sup> -12<sup>th</sup> 2010 and Amuru and Gulu districts on March 18<sup>th</sup>.

Table below summarizes the number of participants per district

District	Number of Participants	Male	Female	New Recruits	Old Spray Personnel
Oyam	16	13	3	10	6
Apac	41	41	0	13	28
Amuru	31	29	2	17	14
Gulu	18	14	4	11	7
Total	106	97	9	51	55

### Launch of Spraying

Spray activities commenced in Oyam on February 23rd 2010, in Apac on March 9th 2010, in Amuru on March 15th 2010. Oyam and Apac concluded their spraying activities by March 31<sup>st</sup>, 2010 with Apac mop-up activities extending to April 8th 2010. The delay in Apac district was mainly due to interference from district leaders who occasionally interrupted spraying activities. The wrap-up of spraying in Amuru is ongoing with an anticipated completion date of May 14th 2010. A total of 262,730 households were identified in Apac and Oyam of which 262,164 households were sprayed (99.8% coverage). The total population identified was 755,795 of which 754,256 (99.8%) were protected after IRS.

Summary of Households Data in Apac and Oyam

District	Target	Total Found	Fully Sprayed	Partly Sprayed	Total Sprayed	Not Sprayed	Coverage (%)
Apac	111,534	151,182	146,497	4,682	151,179	3	99.9
Oyam	101,908	111,548	106,986	3,999	110,985	563	99.5
Total	213,442	262,730	253,483	8,681	262,164	566	99.8

Summary of Population Data in Apac and Oyam

District	Total Population	Population Protected	< 5yrs Protected	Pregnant women Protected
Apac	439,707	439,702	85,521	10,573
Oyam	316,088	314,554	61,191	9,467
Total	755,795	754,256	146,712	20,040

Summary of IRS Output Indicators for Apac and Oyam

Indicator	Q2 Actual
No. of districts sprayed	2
Total households	262,730
Households fully sprayed	253,483
Households partly sprayed	8,681

Total households fully and partly sprayed	262,164
Households not sprayed	566
% of households fully or partly sprayed	99.8%
% of households not sprayed at all	0.2%
Total population	755,795
Total population protected	754,256
% of population protected	99.8%
No. of children under five protected	146,712
No. of pregnant women protected	20,040
<b>Other household data</b>	
No. of mosquito nets found	217,584
No. of children under 5 sleeping under a net	91,066
No of insecticide sachets used	137,259
No of households sprayed per sachets	1.95
Average number of households sprayed per spray operator	5.6

## 1.2. Result 2: Comprehensive Monitoring and Evaluation of the IRS Program Performed

**Strategy:** Ensure appropriate program activity monitoring, environmental compliance and monitoring, and vector surveillance.

### Result 2 Indicators:

Indicator	FY 10 Target	Quarter 2 Actual
Annual work plan developed and approved	1	0
IRS progress reports prepared and submitted	17	4
Number of district level digital maps prepared	12	8
Number of inspections done by supervisors per spray round	1,000	235
IEEs and/or SEAs completed as required	1	1
Percentage of washing bays and soak pits inspected	90%	95.9%
Number of entomological surveys conducted	16	6
Number of susceptibility tests conducted	6	4
Number of wall bioassay tests conducted	210	0
Number of PSCs carried out	1080	180

### Accomplishments this quarter:

#### *Environmental Assessment and Compliance*

##### *Soak Pits*

Environmental compliance activities were carried out in collaboration with district environmental officers in Oyam, Apac, Amuru and Gulu districts. One hundred and thirteen

soak pits and bath shelter locations were identified, the facilities were constructed and then reviewed. New soak pits were constructed in the districts which previously used DDT.

#### *Storage Sites (stores)*

IRS soak pits were located adjacent to suitable IRS storage sites. A total number of 113 stores were inspected and approved for use during soak pit site identification. All stores have been provided free of charge by the district authorities. Notably, while the vast majority of the stores were provided by district authorities, two stores in Oyam were provided by individuals in the community as a sign of their support for the program. Nine (41%) storage sites in Gulu were repaired by the project to make them suitable as IRS storage locations. The overall care of storage sites was satisfactory, with the exception of weak record keeping in some locations.

#### *Use of Personal Protective Equipment (PPE)*

The use and maintenance of the PPE by the IRS teams in the field followed standard procedures.

#### *Triple Rinsing Process and Bathing of the IRS Teams*

The IRS teams conducted triple rinsing and, in most of the IRS coordination centers, the teams bathed on site after work.

#### *IRS Waste Materials*

The IRS waste materials from Oyam and Apac are being verified and collected in preparation for final disposal. The project has consulted with Gulu Hospital for use of their incineration facility.

#### *Environmental Compliance Inspections*

A total of 48 environmental compliance inspections were conducted this quarter on an average of 16 inspections per month. The overall percentage of washing bay and soak pit sites inspected was 95.9% with 41/41 (100%) inspected in Oyam, 18/18 (100%) in Apac, 28/32 (87.5%) in Amuru and 6/6 (100%) of all new soak pits constructed by March 2010.

#### *Entomological Monitoring*

Between January and March 2010, Abt carried out three entomological monitoring activities, listed below, in all four districts; these were carried out parallel to IRS activities. This work was carried out by the vector control teams from the MOH and DVCO of the respective districts under the close guidance of the Senior Entomologist for the National Malaria Control Program (NMCP), Mr. Michael Okia.

1. PRE-IRS Pyrethrum Spray Collections (PSC) - February 2010  
APAC - OYAM
2. POST-IRS Pyrethrum Spray Collections (PSC) - March 2010  
APAC - OYAM
3. PRE-IRS Pyrethrum Spray Collections (PSC) - March 2010  
AMURU – GULU

Results from the activities are shown below:

#### **PRE-IRS Pyrethrum Spray Collections (PSC) (Summary of Results) - February 2010** **Apac District (12 houses in each sub county)**

Sub county	An. Gambiae		An. funestus		Culex		Other	
	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F
Ibuje	0	0	91	99	04	02	0	0
Aboke	2	9	56	36	6	10	1	37
Aduke	4	32	2	11	29	29	1	2

**Oyam District (12 houses in each sub county)**

Sub county	An. gambiae		An. funestus		Culex		Other	
	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F
Aber	2	2	25	59	6	13	2	0
Minakulu	47	94	3	11	10	15	0	0
Otwal	2	21	8	14	24	41	0	0

**POST-IRS Pyrethrum Spray Collections (PSC) (Summary of Results) - March 2010**

**Apac District (12 houses in each sub county)**

Sub county	An. gambiae		An. funestus		Culex		Other	
	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F
Ibuje	27	40	02	22	0	0	0	0
Aboke	7	10	0	0	1	2	0	0
Aduke	1	3	0	0	1	4	0	0

**Oyam District (12 houses in each sub county)**

Sub county	An. gambiae		An. funestus		Culex		Other	
	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F
Aber	2	7	0	0	1	2	0	0
Minakulu	2	20	0	0	0	4	0	0
Otwal	9	40	0	1	1	0	0	0

**PRE-IRS Pyrethrum Spray Collections (PSC) (Summary of Results) - March 2010**

**Amuru District (12 houses in each sub county)**

Sub county	An. gambiae		An. funestus		Culex		Other	
	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F
Pabbo	22	50	00	04	02	05	00	00
Awak	245	171	58	147	33	40	00	00
Amuru	11	44	05	27	33	40	00	00

**Gulu District (12 houses in each sub county)**

Sub county	An. gambiae		An. funestus		Culex		Other	
	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F
Patiko	02	35	01	01	00	00	00	01
Paicho	132	212	07	18	00	00	00	01
Bobi	11	39	00	11	00	00	00	01

There was a significant reduction in Anopheles Funestus in Apac and Oyam areas after IRS activities, however Anopheles Gambiae populations went up. Anopheles Funestes is the

most common vector species in areas such as Apac and Oyam as these districts include swampy areas, which are the most preferred breeding sites of *Anopheles funestus*. The increase in *Anopheles Gambiae* may be due to the change in their resistance level, competition between two vector species, poor quality of spraying, and or a change in the resting and feeding behavior of vectors. However, since the data is not adequate to make a definite conclusion about the cause of the persistent *Anopheles Gambiae* population, the project decided to conduct additional studies among this population. Presently the quality of IRS, using vector mosquitoes, cannot be tested as the project is not equipped to get a susceptible vector population; this will be only possible after establishing an insectary. The project is also in the process of expanding its entomological monitoring activities by using more techniques that will be targeted towards figuring out the behavioral changes of vectors in the project area.

Vector susceptibility tests were conducted in all four districts for Alpha-Cypermethrin using WHO papers with findings of 100% vector susceptibility. DDT, Bendiocarb and Pirimiphos Methyl papers were also used and it was found that Bendiocarb is also effective with 100% mortality. Two teams from the MOH, including the district vector control officers participated in these studies.

#### *Supplemental Environmental Assessment (SEA)*

A SEA for Carbamates and Organophosphates (OPs) was carried out in February, 2010 led by an Environmental Specialist from Abt Associates' US office. The final SEA was submitted to USAID for approval.

#### *DDT re-export*

After several communications between USAID, MOH and the project, the MOH has given the approval to re-export the remaining and expired DDT stock to a suitable incineration facility for safe and proper disposal. A facility in South Africa has been identified, and the project is negotiating transport to South Africa.

#### *Monitoring and Evaluation*

Data clerks for all four districts were identified and trained on data entry in the IRS database. Office space for the data clerks in Apac and Oyam districts was provided by the districts at the respective district headquarters. The offices were furnished with computers installed with the IRS database software.

#### *Surveillance Data*

An initial meeting with the USAID-funded Northern Uganda Malaria AIDS and Tuberculosis project (NUMAT) was comprised of the Malaria Program Manager and Chief of Party (COP) from NUMAT and the COP, Deputy COP, and National Field Coordinator from the Uganda IRS project team. The meeting was held to establish a form of collaboration with NUMAT on data collected for specific indicators; this data will be used towards the baseline survey on malaria prevalence within the districts where IRS is being conducted. A follow-up meeting was held with NUMAT and IRS project staff to agree upon and initiate collaboration on the collection of baseline data. NUMAT laboratory site locations were shared with the IRS project and it was agreed that NUMAT would also share, with the Uganda IRS project, previous reports and indicator data.

*PMP Revision*

Following the Uganda Monitoring and Evaluation Management Services (UMEMS) “Managing for Results” training workshop for USAID/Uganda Implementing partners held February 8<sup>th</sup> – 12<sup>th</sup> 2010, the project’s Project Management Plan (PMP) was revised to reflect USAID requirements and included a work plan matrix. The project’s graphical results framework goal and some indicator targets were revised so they could fit USAID’s strategic results framework for malaria. The PMP was then resubmitted to the COTR, as required, for re-approval.

**1.3. Result 3: National Capacity for Conducting IRS Developed**

**Strategy:** Improve the technical skills and capability of NMCP/MOH (national and district level) and other relevant government bodies including National Environment Management Authority (NEMA).

**Result 3 Indicators:**

<b>Indicator</b>	<b>FY 10 Target</b>	<b>Quarter 2 Actual</b>
IRS training module developed	0	0
Number of IRS and entomological monitoring plans developed and implemented	2	0
Number of national and district staff conducting the in-service training	0	0
Number of students trained in IRS	0	0

**Accomplishments this Quarter**

*Establishment of Insectary*

Initially, the project planned to develop a field insectary in the project’s Gulu office however, in the interest of developing a more sustainable facility, other options in Gulu, with regards to housing the field insectary, were explored. Gulu University was targeted as a logical location for the insectary, and initial discussions were held between project staff, the Senior Entomologist from the MOH, and the Dean, Faculty of Science from the University.

Despite the University’s willingness to collaborate on this venture, the project found that they do not currently have any suitable building or physical space for an insectary. Discussions were then held with the project’s COTR about the possibility of the project supporting construction/rehabilitation of a permanent structure at the university. This is currently being discussed within USAID/Uganda. Since the Vector Division of the Ministry of Health has recently been supported by external resources to develop a new insectary in Kampala, the project is focused on the development of an insectary in the Gulu area to better support IRS field activities in Northern Uganda.

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## Project Management and Administration

The project has experienced two major challenges in this quarter. The first challenge was with one of the subcontractors, Cooper Uganda, which withdrew from the implementation of this project without prior notice which led to a disruption in the management of the logistics and logistical tracking. The second challenge was the dismissal of the Logistics Officer in Gulu after he failed to cope with his work ethics.

### Accomplishments this quarter:

#### *Human resources*

During this quarter, the office assistant for the Gulu office was recruited. In addition, three new positions were created in the approved work plan through September 2010 which included two additional field coordinators and one additional driver – all to be based in the Gulu office. Recruitment was carried out for the three new positions, candidates were identified and the positions were filled.

A staff retreat took place between January 7th- 9th at the Lake Victoria Serena Hotel. The primary purpose of the retreat was to share the project's goals and objectives and reinforce team work spirit through team-building activities. In addition to all Abt staff, key representatives from project partners Coopers and CDFU were present.

#### *Procurement of goods and services*

During this quarter, the following goods and services were procured:

1. Four desktop computers for the Gulu office to replace old machines which were determined to be in too poor a condition to merit upgrading.
2. One A3 color inkjet printer for the printing of maps and other large documents.
3. A new 4x4 double cab pickup to support staff in the Gulu office, and a request for another vehicle was submitted to USAID for approval.
4. Additional office furniture, office desks and bookshelves for both the Kampala and Gulu sites.
5. Thirty-three tons of Alpha-Cypermethrin insecticide for the spray rounds in Oyam, Apac, Amuru and Gulu.

#### *IT/Maintenance of Offices*

1. An Ethernet LAN, two fixed telephone lines and an internet connection were installed in the Gulu office.
2. Two IT specialists from the Abt home office visited the Kampala and Gulu offices to install and configure IT equipment, including a main project server.
3. Signposts for Gulu and Kampala offices were installed at the respective offices.
4. The Kampala office was equipped with an inverter system, providing backup power which should allow work to continue uninterrupted for up to 8 hours.

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## Reporting Requirements

The Uganda IRS Project developed and submitted the following program documentation as contractually obligated:

1. January 2010 and February 2010 Monthly Reports
2. Kitgum and Pader End of Spraying Report

### 3. Project Quarter 1 Report (Oct – Dec 2009)

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#### **Successful interventions/ Innovative Approaches**

Spraying at the parish level was piloted in the last quarter within a few sub-counties. This quarter, the spraying at parish level was scaled up to cover the whole district of Oyam. Spray operators in Oyam used bicycles as a means of transportation which has proved to be a cost effective approach. Data collection and reporting from the field to the data entry point is a challenge that has derailed timely data reporting that is needed to ensure informed decision making. To improve the timeliness of reporting, two motorcycles per district were introduced to collect data daily from the field and deliver to the data entry point. This data collection system has proved to be effective and efficient.

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#### **Challenges/Constraints**

1. Some district leaders in Apac and Oyam districts interrupted the spraying activities with demands that their allowances/stipends be paid up front. This disrupted and slowed down the spraying activities.
2. Unexpected rain in Apac, Amuru and Oyam districts disrupted the spraying. During the rainy season, house wares cannot be put outdoors to allow for spraying and most community members leave their houses for agricultural activities, leaving the spray operators with no access to targeted households.
3. Supervision across the entire district has remained a challenge. The health assistants who are the supervisors are distracted by other duties and are therefore not available to carry out the supervision properly. Some health assistants have been found to be incompetent. A proposal to improve supervision in the upcoming spray rounds has been drafted.
4. Data collection from the field to the data entry point has been slow, delaying timely data for informed decision making. However, motorcycles collecting data on a daily basis from the field to the data entry point were introduced in the middle of the spray round to curb this delay.
5. Logistical trucking is still a challenge.

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#### **Lessons Learned and Recommendations**

1. The district officials are yet to take adequate ownership of IRS activities, and demonstrate full participation and involvement.
2. The project needs to engage the services of a consultant to establish a robust logistics system to enable the project track flow and use of goods and supplies in a timely and efficient manner.

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#### **Planned Activities for the next Quarter**

1. Conclusion of spraying for Gulu and Amuru
2. Spraying of Kitgum and Pader is planned for the next quarter and will include:
  - Rapid needs assessment of both districts
  - Introductory meetings with the districts administration

- Procurement of supplies including insecticides and spray pumps
- Training of health officers in handling of insecticides
- Micro-planning with the district health office
- Training of Trainer (TOT)
- Sensitization of political leaders and heads of department
- Entomological studies
- Environmental compliance inspection
- Logistical supplies to the sub-counties/parishes
- Training of spray operators
- Actual spraying