

AFRICA CENTRES OF EXCELLENCE PROJECT

UPDATE ON ACE PROJECT - 12 AUGUST 2014

Progress on implementation plan

Please see progress table attached. Substantial progress has taken place. We are now in the third round of the review and have approved 1 so far; and others are close to the passing the goal line. In particular on the implementation plan reviews:

- a. Virtual reviews of the ACE **STEM** implementation plans: all STEM plans have gone through two reviews with written feedback provided to the third version of the plans on-going. At this stage, 3 are ready for approval in the coming week and at least half of the STEM implementation plans close to approval.
- b. Face-to-face meetings took place in July in Abuja with Nigerian **Agriculture** ACEs; virtual review of University of Ghana Agriculture ACE and site visit to University of Lomé. Feedback from these meetings has been provided. The ACEs are submitting third version of the plans.
- c. Virtual reviews of **Health** implementation plans were completed; and a health expert is currently on the road helping to hopefully finalize a number of the health Implementation plans. We greatly appreciate the time and effort that the ACE teams have put into the implementation plans. We believe that this detailed, realistic and carefully thought out plan with a focus on the objectives and results is critical to the project's success. We attach 2 examples of the ACE implementation plans. We are grateful for the commitment of our expert panel revising and guiding the ACEs. Besides the reviews and assistances from our expert panel, Bank team and AAU, we will in the coming week provide some guidance on the Learning Environment DLIs (Infrastructure and equipment).

We have yet to receive the first partnership agreement for review. We hope that these are in the making and can understand that it can take time to agree to these.

Progress on fiduciary manuals

We have received fiduciary manuals from only 13 ACEs. We have provided comments on the majority of these. This is an area where both ACEs and the Bank team need to prioritize. Further, in a couple of cases AAU is helping with consultants to develop the manuals. We will also put together examples of manuals and share as examples.

Progress on country level preparations/effectiveness conditions.

There is a bit slow but at least steady progress. 6 ½ Grant Agreements are now signed (we await Cameroon's counter signature any day now). There could be more progress with establishing the National Review Committees. I attach the examples, including the recently approved Senegal one. Only one performance contract, Burkina Faso, has been prepared and approved (see example). In the coming week, AAU will share the revised regional operations manual for each country's endorsement. When sharing, we will highlight the key aspects and sections. For Ghana and Nigeria, parliamentary approval is necessary which unfortunately risks delaying the first disbursement. In both countries, the approval is done in batches of WB projects. Lastly, for the first disbursement, each country member in the Steering Committee must endorse the letter of intent to the project's regional objectives. We propose that the final text for this letter of intent is agreed at the next Steering Committee meeting on August 18.

AAU progress. AAU has now met the effectiveness conditions and the grant should be declared effective within the coming week. As you saw, a project officer, Enyonam Norgbey, has been added to the team. AAU has been organizing the IP reviews. The ACE website has been designed, and you should by now hopefully have responded to the evaluation of the May workshop and questionnaire on ACE. Otherwise, the link is here:

English

English part 1 = <https://www.surveymonkey.com/s/SCZ2WX6>

English part 2 = <https://www.surveymonkey.com/s/STGFG9B>

French

French part 1 = <https://www.surveymonkey.com/s/5GH5TMT>

French part 2 = <https://www.surveymonkey.com/s/565BLVJ>

French part 3 = <https://www.surveymonkey.com/s/K8L5NBNB>

Next steps:

- **Each ACE team:** progress on the implementation plan, manuals, and partnership agreement with AAU and WB help
- **Each Focal points:** Country level effectiveness conditions, (performance contract, national review committee, endorsement of the regional operational manual, review of) with AAU and WB help
- Next Steering Committee meeting: August 18 in Lomé (only Steering Committee members, not ACEs)
- Audio / video meeting for Francophone ACEs September 10 and for Anglophone ACEs September 11.
- National Review meeting during October
- Next ACE workshop with all ACEs: November 17-20 in Cameroon

Results aimed at by June 30, 2015:

All 8 countries and 19 ACEs effective and have received their first disbursement

Key Performance Indicator	Goal for June 30, 2015
No. of national and regional students enrolled in new specialized short-term courses, and Master and PhD programs	4,100
No. of regional students enrolled in new specialized short-term courses, and Master and PhD programs	2,250
No. of internationally accredited education programs	5
No. of students and faculty with at least 1 month internship in companies or institutions relevant to their field.	1,700
Amount of externally generated revenue by the ACEs.	\$2,000,000

Disbursements: \$30 million

2 ACEs meetings with at least 15 ACEs present

It looks difficult, but hopefully feasible...

Status tables

	Revised IP	FM manual	Procurement manual	Procurement plan	1 st Partnership agreement	Misc.
Benin						
Uni d'Abomey-Calavi WB/AAU comments	18/6 24/6 21/7	ACE planning to send this week	ACE planning to send this week	ACE planning to send this week		Audit due
Burkina Faso						
2IE WB/AAU comments WB/AAU/Comments provided	4/6 23/6 7/7 (approved-except DLI 2.8)	4/6	4/6 18/6 (approved)	4/6 18/6 (approved)		
Cameroon						
Uni de Yaounde I WB/AAU comments	18/6 23/6 15/7 4/8	ACE planning to send this week	ACE planning to send this week			
Ghana						
KNUST WB/AAU comments	31/5 23/6 15/7	31/5	31/5 30/7	31/5 30/7		
WACCI - UoG WB/AAU comments	30/5 24/6 18/7	30/5	30/5 18/6	31/5 30/7		

	Revised IP	FM manual	Procurement manual	Procurement plan	1st Partnership agreement	Misc.
Cell Bio in infectious Pathogens - UoG WB/AAU comments	30/5 24/6	30/5	30/5 18/6			
Nigeria						
OAU WB/AAU comments	30/5 24/6 15/7	30/5	30/5	30/5		Safeguards Fiduciary
Amadu Bello WB/AAU comments	30/5 19/6 13/7					
Redeemers WB/AAU comments	30/5 23/6	27/6				
AUST WB/AAU comments	31/5 24/6	26/6 WB Sent	31/5			
Uni of Benin WB/AAU comments	2/6 Ready	3/6	3/6			
Uni of Port Harcourt WB/AAU comments	4/6 24/6 18/7	26/6 WB Sent				
Benue State WB/AAU comments	22/5 Ready 27/7					Safeguards Fiduciary
Uni of Jos WB/AAU comments	Ready	6/13 WB Sent	6/13	6/13		
Uni of Bayero WB/AAU comments	6/13 6/30	Received WB Sent 2 Rec. 1/8				Safeguards Fiduciary

	Revised IP	FM manual	Procurement manual	Procurement plan	1st Partnership agreement	Misc.
	New comments ready					
Uni of Abeokuta WB/AAU comments	6/15 6/30	Received WB Sent				
Senegal						
UCAD WB/AAU comments	19/6 Visit on-going					
UGB WB/AAU comments	2/6 24/6 7/8	12/6	12/6			Safeguards Fiduciary
Togo						
Universite de Lome WB/AAU comments	4/6 Sent	Audit received				

	Financing Agreement signed	Performance Contract	National Review Committee	Endorsement of Regional Operations Manual	Legal Opinion	Parliamentary /Cabinet / PM approval	Misc
Benin	Signed		?			Parliament	
Burkina Faso	Signed	12/6 WB Cleared 23/6	?			Cabinet	Review infrastructure DLIs and EEP
Cameroon	Signed by WB		?			PM authorized signing	
Gambia	Signed	Not applicable	Established		Received	?	
Ghana	Awaiting authorization		Established			Awaiting Cabi. and Parli. approval	
Nigeria	Awaiting parliament	draft	Established			Parliament	Fiduciary
Senegal	Signed		Established				
Togo	Signed		Established			Not applicable	
AAU	Signed	Not applicable	Not applicable	Completed	Received	Not applicable	Ready for effectiveness
WB	Ready	Model developed	Examples shared	Completed	Received	Board approved	