

THE ALCHEMY PROJECT

YEAR 3 REPORT
2003 – 2004

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This abbreviated report on our activities for Year 3, is intended to accompany the ‘Final Report’ that describes all our accomplishments for three years and places these activities in the wider context of the Alchemy Project.

Our third year activities are reported according to the ‘Objectives for Year 3’ as stated in our Strategic Plan & Operational Report (September 2003), which were grouped under Field Programs, Research & Evaluation and Policy Development.

1. Field Programs:

Stated Objective 1 (Funding):

- “We will provide a third or second year of funding to our existing partners, increasing their allotments if funds permit, but not start any new programs. We will continue to disburse small amounts of seed funds, if opportunities arise.”

Results for Year 3 (as of November 2004):

Although we had not intended to begin funding new partners, when funds became available (as result of unexpected program closing in Tanzania (CORD) and a new donor), we used them to support highly recommended programs.

By the end of our third year, we had:

- 9 active field programs (with NGOs), of which 3 were new (ALDEF Kenya, UWESO, Uganda and CORD Zambia).
- disbursed scholarship funds to the FMSP at Wits University (Johannesburg), and one MAHA scholarship (at Tufts), and continued funding for the Pole Institute to pursue livelihoods research.

In Year 3, funds disbursed to all these field programs totaled some **\$116,200**. We supported more than **2,526** beneficiaries. Of these, some **423** received individual loans (for small businesses) ranging in size from \$50 - \$1,000. Capital equipment and support for larger income generating programs enabled us to benefit at least another **600**, although the exact number is difficult to quantify. Some **1500** received training supplies, and **3** received scholarships. (Results are shown in Table 1)

Stated Objective 2 (Technical Assistance):

- “Support for NGO partners: As a follow-up to our first workshop in Boston, we plan to hold a field workshop in Maputo in March 2004, to bring our field partners together to share experiences and lessons learned. We expect to develop a training module for field personnel seeking to implement cash and credit-based livelihood support programs.

Results as of November 2004:

In Year 3 we will have held two **workshops**:

- Maputo, February 2004, “Lesson Learned from Livelihood Interventions in Conflict-Affected Areas,” February 19-20, 2004, Maputo, Mozambique;
- Lusaka, December, 2004: “Linking Refugee Income Generating and Microcredit Projects Across Borders.” December 1-3, 2004, Lusaka, Zambia

The Maputo workshop was well attended. All of our field partners were represented (except those in eastern Congo (Pole and associates), who were prevented by visa problems), UNHCR sent staff from both its regional HQ (South Africa) and from Maputo, and other interested individuals including consultants and UEM academics also attended. Discussion over two days was lively and inclusive. Our partners made presentations about their programs, and shared experiences and lessons learned. The Workshop Report was written by a UEM graduate student and translated into Portuguese.

One outcome of the workshop was a set of **recommended program options**, incorporated into a ‘**Lessons Learned**’ paper, written by Karen Jacobsen with extensive input by members of our consortium. This paper is available on our website¹ and has been disseminated to our consortium. It will be included on the Alchemy CD which also contains bibliographic materials relating to microfinance and income support for displaced livelihoods, as well as the Programming Toolkit (see below). These materials are also disseminated through our website.

The program options are accompanied by a **training module**, which explains how microfinance and other income support programs and practices can be adapted for refugee programs. The training module was tested at the FIFC Summer School in Montreal in September 2004, and will be refined further next year, in collaboration with ARC.

The Lusaka workshop will review lessons learned, especially from our new partners and those who were unable to attend the Maputo one. We will also explore ideas and experience about programs that seek to link microcredit or other income support activities across borders, i.e. when refugees and IDPs repatriate. Our partner ARC Sierra Leone will make a presentation on their experience linking returnees from the Guinea camps to Sierra Leone.

Output from the Lusaka workshop will be a Workshop Report and new material incorporated into our program options and the training module, which will be revised in Year 4.

2. Research & Evaluation:

Our goals for Year 3 were to extend and develop our field data set from earlier years. We sought to develop a workable field instrument that could be adapted both to establish a baseline and for other impact evaluation purposes.

Stated Objective: (pilot testing of research instrument):

- “In October 2003, a colleague will conduct a site visit to our CORD program in the camps in Zambia. (Loren Landau is a researcher based at Wits University in Johannesburg and collaborating on our research projects there and in Maputo).”

¹ See Karen Jacobsen, “Microfinance in protracted refugee situations: Lessons from the Alchemy Project” Feinstein International Famine Center, 2004. www.famine.tufts.edu

Results as of November 2004:

We commissioned three external consultants to test our evaluation instruments:

- Loren Landau, from Wits University, Johannesburg, conducted an evaluation of the CORD Tanzania program in January 2004.
- Nathalie Gahunga, a Rwandan citizen and Research Associate at Fletcher, evaluated our program in Goma and Masisi, in February 2004;
- Ton de Klerk, was commissioned by ARC Guinea and the AP to evaluate the ARC Guinea program at Nzerekore, in April 2004.

Their reports are part of our 2004 output.

Stated Objectives (site visits and finalization of the Evaluation Instrument)

- “We will again place interns in as many field programs as possible during the summer of 2004, to conduct research and evaluation. The management team intends to make field visits to Kenya, Sudan and Eastern Congo. “
- “Over the past year we have made good progress in designing an instrument to be used to evaluate income support programs of the type we are pioneering with Alchemy. By the summer of 2004, when we are ready to conduct our year-end evaluation, we intend to have this instrument refined and ready to be used. We intend to make this instrument available to other programs beside our own, and to encourage its use widely.”

Results as of November 2004:

We placed **9 interns** in 8 program/research sites:

Summer 2004 Interns	
FCC, Maputo (Naohiko Omata) World Relief, Nampula (Anna Mecagni) JRS, Johannesburg (Josephine Lukoma) JRS, Kinshasa (Joy-Dee Davis)	ARC, Sierra Leone (Elizabeth Buckius) UWESO, Uganda (Jane Kembabazi and Huria Ogbamichael) Aldef, Kenya (Maitri Morarji) CORD, Zambia (Sarah Titus)

AP management field visits, 2004	
February 2004	Maputo: FCC and workshop
July 2004	Dublin: DCI (Irish government donor) UK: CORD headquarters Zambia: CORD Lusaka and Nyangweshi and Mayukwayukwa Johannesburg: JRS South Africa
December 2004	Lusaka: workshop

Working with our consultants and agency partners, we developed and tested an instrument for data collection on program impact and displaced livelihoods. By May 2004, the instrument was ready, and our interns were trained in Boston to use it to

conduct our baseline survey. From June –August 2004, our interns carried out the survey in seven research sites: CORD Zambia, UWESO Uganda, JRS South Africa, FCC Maputo and World Relief Mozambique, ARC Sierra Leone, and ALDEF, Kenya. Conflict in the eastern Congo in June prevented two interns from going to our program sites there (they were re-assigned to other sites).

The interns entered the interview data in Excel spreadsheets and sent these together with the raw data (filled out questionnaires) to Alchemy headquarters in Boston. There the data were checked, cleaned, and assembled into data sets, then converted to SPSS for analysis.

At each research site, the data and the data collection process were explained to our Alchemy partners, and where requested, staff members were trained in data entry and management, as part of the M&E system. All the processed data are available to our Alchemy partners and to other researchers upon request and agreement with the AP.

Stated Objective (related livelihoods research)

- “We will continue our refugee livelihoods research in the field, adding Maputo to our urban refugees’ project begun last year in Johannesburg (collaboration with Wits and UEM universities). In Goma, the Pole Institute will continue research on IDPs and conflict zones.”

Results as of November 2004:

Through the FMSP at Wits University, Johannesburg, we worked with a graduate student at UEM Maputo to conduct research on urban refugees in Maputo. Her thesis was completed in November 2004. In Goma, we continued funding for the Pole Institute and sent an external consultant (see above).

3. Policy Development:

Stated Objective:

- “This year we intend to make a strong advocacy push with donor governments and organizations, both to disseminate lessons learned, and to encourage further funding for some of our projects.”

Results as of November 2004:

Working through one of our donors, DCI (Development Corporation of Ireland), we have made contact and engaged in discussions with ILO Geneva to work together next year. We have also engaged with IOM through their Zambia program, with an eye to taking the cross-border program (Angola) forward. We have worked with UNHCR, particularly in S.Africa, Mozambique and Zambia, and are co-sponsoring our Lusaka workshop with them.

**Table 1: Alchemy Programs,
Year 3 (September 2003- December 2004)**

International NGOs

Partner (headquarters)	Country Program	Alchemy funded programs	Year 3 Grant	Year 3 Total est. beneficiaries
Jesuit Refugee Service (US)	DRC – Kinshasa and Lubumbashi	Funds were used to buy land for cultivation and equipment, such as sewing machines and ovens; purchase agricultural supplies (seeds, tools and fertilizers) and support a truck	\$10,000	470
	South Africa – Johannesburg	Small business microcredit program provided funds towards business loan capital for urban refugees in the Johannesburg area	\$14,000	43
American Refugee Committee (US)	Guinea	Business literacy, training and microcredit programs	\$10,000	1500
	Sierra Leone	Funds used to expand ARC's existing microcredit program	\$10,000	85
World Relief (US)	Mozambique - FCC (Fundo de Crédito Comunitário)	Refugee Animal Husbandry – Chicken Coop project	\$14,200	70
CORD (UK)	Zambia	Provide livestock and microcredit to refugees in camps	\$10,000	185

National/Local NGOS

Partner (h/quarters)	Range of Activities	Alchemy funded program	Year 3 Grant	Year 3 Total est. beneficiaries
COOPEC (Goma, DRC)	This is the oldest cooperative society in the Goma region. It began in 1980 and presently has 2410 members. Its objective is to assist low income earners by mobilizing their savings and providing credit.	Provide Microcredit loans to urban IDPs	\$6,000	20
UWESO (Uganda)	UWESO is an organization headed by President Museveni's wife, and enjoying an excellent reputation for effectiveness and appropriate responses to Uganda's problems. Their program in the northern area works with IDPs	Rotating microcredit and savings program	\$12,000	90
ALDEF (Kenya)	ALDEF is a small community based organization working on projects related primarily to water and sanitation	Organizing IDP women of Wajir into milk groups for training in milk hygiene and micro credit	\$10,000	60

Scholarships

Institution	Purpose	Year 3 Grant	Year 3 Total Beneficiaries
MAHA, Tufts University, Medford, USA	Scholarships for MAHA students	\$15,000	1
Wits University, Johannesburg, South Africa	Scholarships for African refugees	\$5,000	2