Draft Template and guidelines for 6-month project progress update

Project Number	109972
Project Title	Improving Dietary and Health Data for Decision-Making in Agriculture and Nutrition Actions in Africa
Reporting period	September 1, 2018-February 28, 2019

1. Project summary

Provide a description of the goal and key objectives of the project. This information should come from the proposal and your grant agreement and be summarized in a few sentences and 3 to 4 bullet points depending on project objectives.

The objectives of this reporting period are related to project setup. This includes the following:

- Convening of inception meeting for primary partners and stakeholders, with a report of meeting
- Preparation of a detailed workplan
- Execution of collaboration research agreement between FANRPAN and ILRI
- Identifying and contracting a mobile application development firm
- Securing ethics approval from ILRI's Research Ethics Board and national research review boards
- Development of alpha version of the smartphone application

2. Progress towards Results/ Outcomes (up to a <u>maximum of 10</u> bullet points)

Refer to the expected outcomes in the proposal and show concrete progress made to achieve <u>both research outcomes and development outcomes</u>.

Identify the most significant and exciting results/outcomes/activities/products/events for the reporting period. This section is what you wish to highlight to IDRC senior management about this project. Focus on as many exciting results/activities/events/products as possible.

- *Include strong, quantifiable data that demonstrates the change that has occurred as a result of the project (E.g.: productivity increase on income gains. If you want to use proportions or percentages, please do provide a baseline on which to assess the percentage e.g.: "farmer income increased by 10%" - please establish baseline: "from $100 to $110 per month")*

- *For qualitative results (e.g. how the project informed policy), please provide specifics.*

Although projects may not have many "results" until year 2 of implementation, try to highlight the most interesting achievements of the project, not just a list of activities or milestones. E.g. instead of saying "inception workshop completed", demonstrate that the project has the appropriate mechanisms in place to produce robust results, that local policy makers were present at the meeting, and showed strong interest in the project, that the gender strategy will help achieve that specific outcome etc. Here is the section on exciting achievements you want to communicate! Milestones will be commented on in the table in the Annex.

- *Highlight any key international event/ communications/ presentations activity made by the project during this period.*
- *Remember that this section should contain only useful and relevant information unique to your project. IDRC Senior Management may use that information to communicate about this project, be selective.*
- *Ensure to include <u>up to date</u> information.*

- The inception workshop took place in Nairobi 1-2 November 2018. It was attended by project primary partners and multiple stakeholders and was deemed a success. See Inception Workshop Report attached.
- Collaboration research agreement between FANRPAN and ILRI was signed February 2019, a month later than planned.
- Contract between FANRPAN and MangoLogic (https://www.mangologic.com/), a mobile application development firm, was signed in February 2019.
- Work on development of alpha version of the application has started
- ILRI presented the project at the Ministry of Health's Technical Working Group on Nutrition Research in Kenya, a first and necessary step to receiving ethics approval for nutrition research in Kenya.

3. Challenges encountered/ Actions taken

Identify and analyze 2 - 3 key challenges faced by the project team. Describe the action taken by the project to address each one of them.

- Contracting between FANRPAN and ILRI was executed February 2019, which was two months later than planned. This delayed disbursement of initial funds to ILRI. Partners continued to work on some aspects of the project in good faith.
- While Concern Worldwide initially seemed like a good implementing partner, after some discussions and long delays, this partnership was abandoned. We lost some time in this exercise but this will not limit progress as the implementing partner would be needed much later after developing the alpha version of the application. We are now back to searching for a new implementing partner.

4. Strategic priorities for the next 6 months

Confirm your planned activities for the next 6 months, be selective, this is not the place for an updated workplan, but to get a quick understanding of the 2 - 4 main priorities of the project for the next period.

- Identify an implementing partner
- Submit a proposal for ethics approval
- Build the data collection application and pilot it.
- Procure smart phones for participating households

5. Key numbers to be used for infographics

Those are cumulative numbers since the beginning of the project, please update only if the numbers have changed from the previous reporting period.

Number of farmers (women/men)	0
Number of innovations/solutions	0
Number of Masters and PhD students	0
Number of publications	0
Other key numbers	0

ANNEX: Progress towards milestones

List the milestones given in your grant agreement for this reporting period and refer to the hard evidence in attached annexes (as needed). If applicable, explain why any are not achieved and how the project will readjust. Also include details on any unfinished milestones from the previous reporting period that were completed during this reporting period.

Milestone	Achievement (in %)	Evidence/Indicator	Comment
Inception meeting for primary partners and stakeholders convened for common visioning	100	Inception meeting report, with detailed workplan	
Collaborative research agreement between FANRPAN and ILRI, with detailed management structures and procedures, executed	100	Signed contract between FANRPAN and ILRI	Contract signed two months behind schedule
Nutrition-targeted project taking place in Kenya with which to partner for Phase 1 identified	50		Months 1 – 12
Ethics approval secured from ILRI's Research Ethics Board (IREC) and relevant national research review boards	20	Signed approvals from review boards	Months 1 – 12; Approval from Ministry of Health's Technical Working Group on Nutrition Research in Kenya secured. Ethical approval requires that we first identify the intervention

Smartphone application development firm identified and contracted	100	Contract between FARNPAN and application development firm executed	
Hardware required for pilot purchased	20	Hardware delivered and invoices and receipts submitted	Months 1 – 12; We are testing various phones with the software, after which we will procure the most suitable ones for participating households
Pre-pilot and iterated data collection protocols and the application developed	0	Alpha and Beta version of the data collection tool developed Field report on pre-pilot and improvements to the platform included in 1st Technical Interim Report	Months 1 – 12; We are just starting the development.
Relevance of the application shared with potential users (within the pilot country and beyond)	0	Letters of interest from key potential users (e.g. research and development organizations) and governments	Months 1 – 12; Application not yet developed.