

**Interim Quarterly Report
October 1 – December 30, 2005
Advocacy, Awareness, and Civic Empowerment (ADVANCE) Project**

This report is prepared specifically for the USAID/Nigeria Portfolio Review scheduled for late February 2006. It provides summary information in the following areas:

- 1) Update on issues identified in the early October 2005 portfolio review
- 2) Narrative briefs on key activities for October 1 – December 31, 2005
(*updating the Semi-Annual Report submitted for May 23 – September 30, 2005*)
- 3) Performance Indicator Summary Table for October 1 – December 31, 2005
- 4) Pipeline/Burn Rate Table as of December 31, 2005
- 5) Planned Activities/Projected Expenditures Table for January-June 2006

The next ADVANCE Semi-Annual Report is due to USAID by April 30, 2006. The report will cover the period October 1, 2005 through March 31, 2006.

1. Update on Issues Identified in the Early October 2005 Portfolio Review

There were three key issues identified in the review.

- **Complete the hiring of key personnel.** Two of the five key personnel in the ADVANCE program description accepted positions with other organizations after the cooperative agreement was signed in late May 2005. After an extensive recruitment process, the ADVANCE project is now fully staff with all five key personnel on board.
- **Submit the Performance Monitoring Plan.** Pact submitted the first PMP in October 2005 after several weeks of meetings/workshops with USAID and MEMS staff to determine both mission-level and ADVANCE-specific PMP indicators. Pact submitted revised PMPs in November, December, January, and most recently on February 16th. Over this review period, Pact has incorporated five mission-level indicators.
- **Submit the Workplan.** Pact submitted the third draft of the workplan on February 17th incorporating adjustments requested by USAID and the many changes in the results framework/PMP.
- **Select an Agreement-Level Partner as Technical Lead on Budget Monitoring.** In early October 2005, Idasa and Pact mutually agreed to end their partnership on the ADVANCE project. Idasa was originally intended to serve as the technical lead on Budget Monitoring and possibly right-to-know and access-to-information components of the project. In November-December, Pact reviewed work/capacity of several possible partners – both local and international organizations. Discussions with ActionAid International Nigeria began in late December, with proposal development and review of agreement terms starting in January. The agreement is now pending finalization of the proposal/budget (anticipated by the end of February) and formal USAID approval. USAID has already reviewed the

selection process and proposed sub-recipient agreement. ADVANCE with use Media Rights Agenda, a local organization with a strong advocacy history to press freedom and access to public information as the technical lead on the Freedom of Information (FOI) bill and other right-to-know advocacy.

2. Narrative Briefs on Key Activities for October 1 – December 31, 2005

- Continuation of support for civic society engagement of the NEITI process

NEITI Civil Society Capacity Building “Roadshow”- North West Zone- October 2005. A total of 11 CSOs represented by 25 members (11 women and 14 men) participated in the second of six scheduled roadshows organized to increased civil society understanding and engagement in the NEITI process. The ADVANCE project’s objective in Kaduna was to broaden the coalition of organizations engaging the process, both geographically and in terms of perspective. The CSOs supported included PWYP (Katsina, Kaduna, Kano, Zamfara, Jigawa, Kebbi, Port Harcourt, Edo, etc), Democratic Action Group (DAG) Kano, Global Grassroots Initiative (GGI) Katsina, WENON Sokoto, KEWEPa Kebbi, AHIP Jigawa, FOMWAN (Abuja, Kano and Katsina) and MULAC (Kaduna, and Jigawa).

NEITI Civil Society Capacity Building “Roadshow”- South West Zone- December 2005. Supported participation of 19 organizations (36 men and 11 women). The major objective of ADVANCE support was to bring to the coalition more labour unions and non-oil sector advocacy groups from states with substantial extractive industries activities.

Engagement/Support to National Assembly through Public Hearings and Consultations with the House Committee. Largely through coalition member CISLAC, the PWYP campaign provided technical input into the review of the legislation, and tracked the bill through the House Committee, the first and second readings in December and eventual passage on January 19th. The bill had been dormant since its introduction in February 2005.

The NEITI-Civil Society Memorandum of Understanding Finalized. After consultations to resolve some minor issues, the draft MOU cleared the NSWG without substantive objections from civil society groups or the secretariat. The signing was scheduled to coincide with the 2nd Anniversary of the NEITI in mid-February 2006.

- Subgranting

Provided over \$30, 000 in subgrant (in-kind) support to the Publish What You Pay Campaign. After several months of trying to arrange a pre-award assessment of the PWYP secretariat (ANEIJ), the assessment was carried out in December. ANEIJ failed to meet the minimum requirements for direct or (continued) in-kind subgrant support. ANEIJ is presently addressing these issues and Pact hopes to sign a long term subgrant agreement in early March.

Facilitated Planning Meeting/Proposal Writing Workshop with Media Rights Agenda (MRA). MRA is the key local organization coordinating advocacy around the Freedom of Information bill at this critical point in the legislative process. The bill was passed by the Senate in October 2005, but there is strong opposition by the Presidency and security elements to approval in its current form. Support to MRA will go beyond the FOI bill to include other right-to-know/access-to-information advocacy and oversight.

Concluded Solicitation and Selection Process for Media Strengthening and Advocacy Activities. Pact selected the International Press Centre (IPC) to increase effective reporting of ADVANCE focus issues by major media houses. ADVANCE will complement and build upon IPC's work in these areas under other donor-funded projects. The work will include: a media audit to provide baseline information and inform advocacy/training of reporters/editors; training of reporters/editors on anti-corruption initiatives and budget processes; training of CSOs on engaging media on focus issues; "cost-of-corruption" media campaign.

Discussions with Transparency in Nigeria (TIN) regarding Refocusing/Strengthening the Country's Key "Watchdog" Organization. After many meetings, Pact secured tentative agreement on three key issues TIN will focus on under ADVANCE: oversight and transparency in the privatization, process, continued support of NEITI (with emphasis on the non-oil sector); advocacy on passage/implementation of the Fiscal Responsibility and Procurement bills. ADVANCE with support TIN's February 22-23 national planning meeting and continued efforts to revitalize the organization.

Continued Negotiations with CSO Partners on Focus and Expectations. Meetings continued with CDD, WOTCLEF, CISLAC and other organizations already approved in the program description. As many organizations are receiving support from several sources and are engaged in meeting other program expectations, it has not been easy to finalize agreements.

3. Summary Performance Indicator Report

IR 11.1 Increased Civic Awareness, Advocacy, and Empowerment		
Indicator(s)	Results during reporting period	Targets for FY 2006
2. Citizen input reflected in targeted reforms	<i>Freedom of Information Bill</i> 1 milestone achieved during the reporting period (<i>CSO partner/coalition advocacy strategy developed</i>)	<i>8 milestones targeted</i> 1. Bill advocacy network membership increases by 50 percent (<i>1 pt</i>) 2. CSO partner gains approval for Senate/House advisor. (<i>1 pt</i>) 3. CSO partner/coalition advocacy strategy developed (<i>1pt</i>) 4. CSO partner meet President/Advisor to discuss bill. (<i>1 pt</i>) 5. CSO partner and coalition meets security/intelligence groups to discuss the bill. (1 pt) 6. Amended bill re-introduced at house/senate level reflects CSO partner input. (<i>1pt</i>) 7. First reading, second reading and <u>passage</u> of bill in the Senate (<i>1 pt possible</i>) 8. Bill signed into law (<i>1 pt</i>) 9. Implementation plans drafted with substantive input by CSO partners (<i>1pt</i>)
	<i>Nigeria Extractive Industries Transparency Initiative Bill</i> 1 milestone achieved during reporting period. (<i>First reading, second reading, and passage of bill in the House</i>)	<i>7 Milestones targeted</i> 1. Bill advocacy network membership increases by 50 percent (1 pt) 2. First reading, second reading, and passage of bill in the House. (3 pts)) 3. First reading, second reading and passage of bill in the Senate (1 pt) 4. The CSSC develops a strategic advocacy plan (1 pt) 5. The CSSC gains representation at NEITI meetings (Formal invitations by NEITI Secretariat, attendance records) (1 pt) 6. MOU between civil society stakeholders (including CSSC) and the NEITI Secretariat signed (Copy of MOU) (1 pt)
3. Stages in targeted CSO participation in the Nigeria Extractive Industries Transparency Initiative (NEITI)	See Indicator 2.	See Indicator 2.
Sub IR 11.1.1 Increased Civil Society Capacity for Effective Advocacy		
6. Number of CSOs/members trained (disaggregated by gender)	Anti-corruption support/training NEITI North West Civil Society Capacity Building Road Show (Kaduna) CSOs trained-11 (PWYP members and other organizations) Male Participants=14 Female Participants=11 NEITI South West Zone Civil Society Capacity Building Road Show (Lagos) CSOs trained-19 (PWYP members and other organizations) Male Participants=36 Female Participants=11	CSOs Trained – 12 Male Participants=275 Female Participants=175

4. Pipeline/Burn Rate Table as of December 31, 2005

Five Year Budget May 23, 2005 – May 22, 2010	Expenditures through December 2005	Pipeline	Monthly Burn Rate through December 2005	Original Projected Monthly Burn Rate	Current Projected Monthly Burn Rate
\$8,000,000	\$479,759.95	\$7,520,240.05	\$68,537	\$133, 333	\$150,943.40

Note. ADVANCE has a two-year allocation is \$3,416,848 for May 23, 2005 through May 22, 2007. Of the total, \$1,000,000 is funded through the Anti-Corruption Initiative (ACI).

5. Planned Activities/Projected Expenditures Table for January-June 2006

January	February	March	April	May	June
\$27,2000	\$120,000	\$130,000	\$185,000	\$150,000	\$180,000
Brought new staff on board. Negotiations with ActionAid	Planning meetings with TIN and Anti-trafficking network; Budget Workshop; First Subgrant distribution/costs for ActionAid (Total Year I Grant \$300,000); Finalizing of large awards to major partners continues Follow-up budget advocacy support to sector specific groups (FAN, CISHAN, CSACEFA, etc)	Sub-grants come on line with PWYP (\$150,000), WOTCLEF (\$75,000), CISLAC (\$50,000), International Press Centre (\$100,000) CDD (\$75,000) Note: subgrant amounts reflect year I awards	Organizational Capacity Assessments and Capacity Building Plan Designs for CSO Partners; Smaller subgrants to (FAN, CISHAN, CSACEFA, etc) com online ongoing CSO partner activities; project monitoring and capacity building	Issuance of four smaller subgrants (Nigerian Bar Association, MULAC, etc. (\$200,000) ongoing CSO partner activities; project monitoring and capacity building	Implementation of capacity building program. ongoing CSO partner activities; project monitoring and capacity building