

Advocacy, Awareness, and Civic Empowerment THE ADVANCE PROJECT



QUARTERLY PROGRESS REPORT April – June 2006

Submitted
by
Pact

Cooperative Agreement #620-A-00-05-00096-00

USAID/Nigeria QUARTERLY REPORT

April-June 2006 Quarterly Progress Report

<i>ACTIVITY SUMMARY</i>	
Implementing Partner:	Pact, Inc.
Activity Name:	Advocacy, Awareness, and Civic Empowerment (ADVANCE) Project
Activity Objective:	<ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Strengthened civil society organization (CSO) capacity for effective program and financial management2. Increased CSO capacity for effective advocacy for key policy reforms such as budget transparency, access to information, and judicial oversight3. Strengthened public-private (CSO) partnerships to fight corruption through public oversight agencies and initiatives
USAID/Nigeria SO:	SO11: Strengthened Foundations for Democratic Governance
Life of Activity (start and end dates):	May 23, 2005 through May 22, 2010
Total Estimated Contract/Agreement Amount:	\$8,000,000
Obligations to date:	\$3,416,848 through May 22, 2007
Current Pipeline Amount:	\$6,930,736 (\$2,347,584 against the obligated amount)
Accrued Expenditures this Quarter:	\$165,816
Activity Cumulative Accrued Expenditures to Date:	\$1,069,264
Estimated Expenditures Next Quarter:	\$385,000
Report Submitted by: <u>Maisha Strozier, Chief of Party</u> Name and Title	Submission Date: <u>August 21, 2006</u>

NARRATIVE REPORT

I. Background

The ADVANCE project has three objectives.

Objective I: Strengthened civil society organization (CSO) capacity for effective program and financial management

With six major subgrants and in-kind funding mechanisms in place (MRA, IPC, PWYP, WOTCLEF, ZCC, and CISLAC) up and running at the beginning of reporting period, Pact was able to focus on start-up of both the organizational and advocacy capacity building components of the project. The organizational capacity building program has four major elements:

- 1) Pre-award planning and assessment of organizational and technical capacity, and where needed, support in building systems to meet sub-grant requirements
- 2) Sub-granting at levels that ensure impact on national level and key state-level policies and programs related to corruption, transparent and accountable governance, budget performance, and trafficking in persons.
- 3) Organizational and advocacy capacity self assessments and customized capacity building programs for CSO partners.
- 4) Ongoing technical and organizational development support including formal workshops and mentoring programs in both programmatic and administrative/financial management

With pre-award planning and assessments completed and subgrant agreements in place in Quarter II, Pact focused its Quarter III activities on the organizational assessments and ongoing technical support for the six major partners. Additionally, with the six major partnerships established to address key national-level policy objectives, Pact was able to move forward with a solicitation to bring on board five new partners under a Small Grants program to complement the work of major partners.

Objective II: Increased CSO capacity for effective advocacy for key policy reforms such as budget transparency, access to information, and judicial oversight.

The ADVANCE project continued to focus on eight target policies that reflect broad policy reforms expected under Objective II. The policies are reflected in specific legislation current before the National Assembly or recently signed into law.

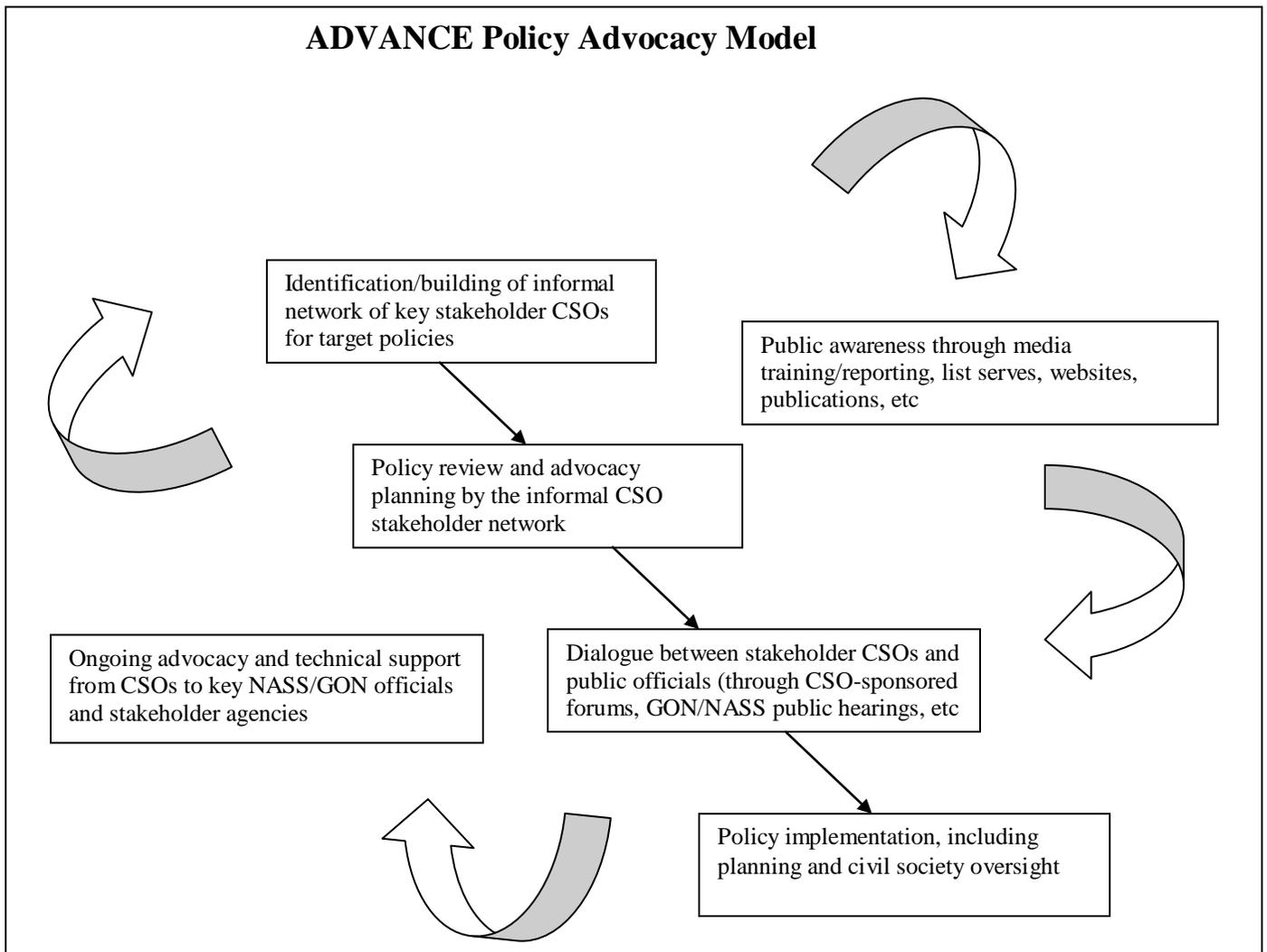
1. Freedom of Information Bill
2. Fiscal Responsibility Bill
3. Public Procurement Bill
4. Trafficking-in-Persons Law Enforcement and Administration Act
5. NEITI Bill
6. Annual Federal Appropriations Bills

Two new target policies were added as CSO partner activities got underway during the reporting period.

7. Amended Economic and Financial Crimes Commission (EFCC) Bill
8. Re-Enactment of the Independent Corrupt Practices and Other Related Crimes (ICPC) Bill

Additionally, ADVANCE has continued to work with the National Orientation Agency (NOA) on planning for a revitalization of the country's civic education program. Though not yet elevated to the level of a target policy within the ADVANCE project Objective II, Pact will likely include more activities in its Year II Workplan to reflect the increasing importance of civic education in Nigeria's efforts to address issues of transparent and accountable governance.

An emerging model of engagement between key civil society stakeholder groups and policy-makers at national level has been effective in achieving a number of important milestones in moving target policies through the legislative process. The model is described below.



Objective III: Strengthened public-private (CSO) partnerships to fight corruption through public oversight agencies and initiatives

Pact anticipates continued focus on the following GON initiatives, with new activities added as new initiatives emerge under the country's anti-corruption program.

- 1) Nigerian Extractive Industries Transparency Initiative (NEITI) – Civic engagement in developing the NEITI process; civic input and advocacy for passage of an NEITI bill; oversight of the current audit of the oil industry and development of an ongoing process that can be replicated in the non-oil sectors
- 2) Oversight and public awareness/engagement of the Economic and Financial Crimes Commission (EFCC)
- 3) Oversight and public awareness/engagement of the Independent Corrupt Practices and other Related Crimes Commission (ICPC)

Although a partnership was established with the Publish What You Pay Campaign on the NEITI process early in the ADVANCE project, the very slow progress on meaningful engagement since June 2005 has led Pact to support other groups through in-kind support and direct subgrants. The Campaign is taking steps to address leadership issues and to strengthen the Steering Committee's commitment and involvement in the NEITI process; however, these steps have been slow and tentative. Campaign member organizations such as the Civil Society Centre for Legislative Action (CISLAC) will continue to be supported to coordinate advocacy and public awareness. And Pact is in discussions with Institute of Chartered Accountants of Nigeria (ICAN) and its affiliate groups regarding engagement in the oil industry audit process.

Activities related to oversight of EFCC and ICPC are now underway with the Zero Corruption Coalition (ZCC) after delays related to efforts to establish subgrant relationships with ZCC and a number of organizations including Transparency in Nigeria and the Nigerian Bar Association.

II. Quarter Progress

The April-June 2006 reporting period focused on consolidation of program management while stepping up program activities to meet ADVANCE objectives.

Program Management

With all key personnel in place, the ADVANCE project was able to move forward with a number of critical program management activities:

1. **ADVANCE Performance Monitoring Plan.** Pact worked with MEMS, Pact's Regional Support Network (RESNET) in Nairobi, and USAID to incorporate revised indicators and definitions, and establish quarterly and annual (FY '07) targets.

2. **Sub-Recipient Award for ActionAid International Nigeria (AAIN).** USAID gave provisional approval of ActionAid's proposal, workplan, and budget as the technical lead on budget monitoring and advocacy for the ADVANCE project. The sub-recipient award is set to begin August 15, 2006 covering four years and totaling \$1, 249, 598.
3. **Modification #1 for the ADVANCE Cooperative Agreement.** Modification reflects changes in program management, including ActionAid agreement, realigning of the ADVANCE budget, ADVANCE Marking Plan, and number of key personnel positions.
4. **Solicitation for the ADVANCE Small Grants Program.** Pact carried out an open solicitation for proposal for the ADVANCE Small Grants Program. Over 200 proposals were received, from which five organizations were selected. The selected organizations included four groups that will focus on state-level budget monitoring and advocacy – CIRDDOC (Rivers); JDPC (Lagos); CISGHAN (Abuja); Aids Alliance (Lagos). The fifth organization selected was CITAD. Based in Kano, CITAD will focus on the unique TiP awareness and advocacy issues under Islam/Shari'a. The pre-award assessments, USAID concurrence and finalization of the proposals/agreement will be completed by the end of August and start-up set for September. Grants range from \$40 - \$60,000 dollars.
5. **Grants Management.** During the reporting period, a total sum of \$89,648.36 was disbursed directly to three CSO partners -- MRA, IPC and WOTCLEF for the implementation of their quarterly work plans. Additionally, Pact disbursed \$96,476.36 to PWYP, CISLAC, and ZCC as in-kind support. In-kind support will be converted to direct subgrants as issues identified in the pre-award assessments are clarified. Table1 provides a summary of current sub-grants recipients and disbursements made this quarter

Table 1: Summary of Status of ADVANCE Subgrants – Quarter III, FY 06 (April – June 2006)

Recipient	Time Frame	Project Title	Focus	Amount			
				Amount Approved		Disbursement	Balance
				\$	=N=		
PWYP	30 March 2006 to 31 March, 2007	Publish What You Pay Campaign in Nigeria	Awareness and advocacy around the NEITI and ongoing oil industry audit process	210,000	26, 880,000	N/A	210,000
MRA	30 March 2006 to 31 March, 2007	Advocacy on Freedom of Information Bill	Freedom of Information Bill (Legislative /Executive advocacy for the final stages of passage/implementation planning	120,936.80	N15, 479,910	41,497.27	79,439.53
IPC	30 March 2006 to 31 March, 2007	Media Strengthening for Reporting on Corruption and Policy Reform	Media audit and capacity building for increased effectiveness of CSOs in using the media for awareness on anti-corruption, trafficking, & budget monitoring	104,535.54	N13, 380, 549.60	20,886.26	83,649.28
WOTCLEF	30 March 2006 to 31 March, 2007	Public Awareness and Advocacy on Trafficking in Women and Children (Kano, Osun and Cross River States)	Increased awareness, public support and advocacy for more effective policies and enforcement of anti-trafficking laws.	85,000	N11, 968,000	27,264.83	57,735.17
Total Sub-grants				520,472. 34	67,708,459.60	89,648.36	430,823.98
CISLAC, ZCC, PWYP	In-kind; ongoing pre-award support	N/A	Legislative advocacy on the Fiscal Responsibility Bill; Procurement Bill, NEITI Bill; EFCC and ICPC oversight; Budget monitoring and advocacy	\$96,476.36	12,541,926.80	\$96,476.36	N/A

Programmatic Results

During the reporting period, the ADVANCE project carried out capacity-building, advocacy and awareness activities that contributed to project and Mission objectives. The highlights are described below.

Strategic Objective Performance Results

SO 11: Strengthened Foundation for Democratic Governance

Increased activities during the quarter aimed at broadening participation in national-level advocacy on target policies expanded the number of *CSOs representing marginalized groups(s) engaging with government (S11.2)* under the ADVANCE project. In Quarter III, Pact established a baseline of 53 marginalized groups receiving direct support or actively participating in supported coalitions such as PWYP Campaign, Zero Corruption Coalition (ZCC), and the Freedom of Information Coalition (FOIC). Pact anticipates that this number will increase in FY '07 as NEITI and anti-corruption activities related to ICPC and EFCC oversight expand.

IR 11.1: Intermediate Result: Increased civic awareness, advocacy, and empowerment

Civic Input Reflected in Target Policies (Indicator 2)

The major focus of ADVANCE activities under IR 11.1 continues to be civic engagement of policy-makers on eight policies/bills designed to increase transparency and accountability of government.

1) **The Freedom of Information (FOI) Bill.** Over the past seven years since its introduction, the FOI Bill has gained tremendous popularity with Nigerians. Media Rights Agenda and the FOI Coalition have continued its long partnership with USAID under the ADVANCE project. During the quarter, the Coalition engaged in awareness creation, coalition building and direct advocacy to the National Assembly. The Ad Hoc House-Senate Conference Committee was very active during the quarter, holding an interactive session with government security and intelligence agencies on April 26 to consider input that was not solicited during the Senate Public hearing last year. Many sources in the NASS and within the Presidency project passage of an amended version of the Bill and signature by the President sometime in August or September.

Progress during the quarter included:

- MRA/FOIC increased awareness on the Bill and strengthened membership/commitment of the Coalition by holding three regional awareness and advocacy workshops in Makurdi (May 30th), Calabar (June 19th), and Enugu (June 29th).
- MRA/FOIC completed research and developed case studies on how FOI laws in other countries have effectively addressed security and intelligence

concerns. This information is being used for advocacy with key agencies and stakeholder groups blocking the legislation.

- MRA/FOIC completed a review of the relevant portions of the Federal Civil Service Rules as the first step in the engagement with the Bureau for Public Service Reforms on implementation.
- MRA/FOIC carried out a text messaging campaign directed at members of the Ad Hoc House-Senate Conference Committee to encourage a speedy passage of a bill that retains the principles and character of openness and citizens' right-to-know.
- MRA/FOIC carried out advocacy meetings with key Senators, including the Committee Chair, to clarify provisions on security and administration, and to push for the passage of the Bill. MRA staff, accompanied by other members of the FOI Coalition, held a meeting with the Chairman of the Senate Ad hoc Committee on the Freedom of Information Bill, Senator Victor Ndoma-Egba, on Thursday, April 13, 2006 and again on Thursday, May 4, 2006. On Wednesday, April 26, 2006, MRA delivered a position papers/research memorandum to Senator Ndoma-Egba.
- MRA/FOIC hired two new staff to maintain website and other communications with members and the general public during this 'final push' for the FOI bill under the current administration and National Assembly before the 2007 elections.

2) Public Procurement Bill. The Bill remained at the Committee level in both the House and the Senate, having gone through the second readings earlier this year. The Committee on Budget Monitoring and Price Intelligence in the House of Representatives held a Public Hearing April 26 – 27, which was well attended by a cross section of stakeholders. The Senate Committee held a Public Hearing on the Bill in early 2006. The progress of the Bill has been slow, but most observers expect passage by one or both Houses before the end of September 2006. The Civil Society Legislative Advocacy Center (CISLAC) is supported by ADVANCE to coordinate advocacy by a loose network of about 20 CSOs.

Progress during the quarter included:

- Supported CSO network submitted a memorandum to the House of Representatives Committee on Budget Monitoring and Price Intelligence at April 26-27 Public Hearing. The memorandum contained recommendations on the Bill. A member of the network also addressed the Committee and presented advocacy points.
- Network members conducted advocacy visits to the National Assembly, Media Houses and political parties April 19 and 20. The two-day advocacy campaign included the Deputy Chairman of the House Committee on Budget Monitoring and Price Intelligence, the National Secretariats of the All Nigerian People's Party (ANPP) and the Alliance for Democracy (AD), offices of Leadership Newspapers, Media Trust Communication, and the headquarters of the Nigerian Television Authority (NTA). Officials of the political parties committed to advancing the recommendations to their

Representatives in the National Assembly and to include public procurement principles in their 2007 platforms. All the Media Houses visited publicized the advocacy visits and the Leadership Newspaper and Daily Trust wrote feature articles on the Bill.

3) Fiscal Responsibility Bill. Many reformists believe that the passage and implementation of a Fiscal Responsibility Bill (FRB) proposed in NEEDS is central to the sustained implementation of prudent fiscal policy, and to the reduction of the risks posed to macroeconomic stability by Nigeria's fiscal federalism. The Bill clarifies intergovernmental fiscal relations and the roles of the executive and the legislature in the budgetary process and sets out transparency requirements, sanctions for noncompliance, guidelines for budgetary practices, and a fiscal framework centered on an oil price-based rule.

CISLAC coordinated establishment of a loose network of NGOs currently engaging the federal government on budget and fiscal policy issues to ensure focused and timely input into NASS and ministry-level review of the FRB.

Progress during the reporting period included:

- On April 2, a Stakeholders' Forum on the Draft Fiscal Responsibility Bill was held in Abuja. The event was attended by 42 CSO representatives and included media and the private sector. The key outcome of the forum was the development of CSO advocacy positions presented at the National Assembly Roundtable on the Draft Fiscal Responsibility Bill. The April 4-5 Roundtable was attended by President Obasanjo and leaders of the National Assembly. The CSO position paper was presented at the Roundtable and CSOs supported by ADVANCE provided input at the technical sessions.
- CISLAC supported a Media Roundtable May 14-15 to strengthen the understanding and capacity of the media to report on the FRB. Over 60 journalists from all over the country attended the Roundtables.
- CISLAC coordinated a Civil Society-Legislative Dialogue on the FRB in Kaduna on June 2. The Dialogue was attended by members of both the House and the Senate, and the DG for the Debt Management Office.

As a result of these accomplishments, the National Assembly, the executive, and the private sector are now working more closely with CSOs on reviewing/revising the FRB. There has also been increased media coverage/visibility and better reporting on the Bill. Additionally, there is increased understanding of civil society's position on the FRB by the National Assembly and renewed interest in its passage. And finally, civil society input has increased understanding of the constitutional and administrative challenges implied in the current version before the two Houses.

4) Amended Economic and Financial Crimes Commission (EFCC) Bill and 5) Re-Enactment of the Independent Corrupt Practices and Related Crimes Commission (ICPC) Bill. The EFCC has a mandate to carry out economic and financial crimes investigations and prosecutions. While the public regards the Commission as a vibrant, active institution, there are serious questions regarding its

close ties to the current administration and the PDP; the legal implications of its authorities; and the impact of its actions on judicial processes in place to address crime and corruption.

The Amended EFCC Bill is in the House of Representatives where it has just moved beyond the first reading. The Drugs, Narcotic and Financial Crimes Committee is currently reviewing the Bill. Neither EFCC nor the public has shown much interest in the Bill and it is likely to expire with the term of the current members of the National Assembly. ADVANCE activities have focused primarily on raising awareness of the mandate and processes of this very powerful Commission. With increased understanding and interest on the part of the media, legislators, and the general public, this well-funded initiative could better serve the public's need to have government corruption addressed in a more transparent and accountable manner.

The ICPC is undergoing restructuring under the new leadership of Justice Aloyinka Ayoola. Recently, there have been consultations with a broad range of stakeholders on increasing the Commission's effectiveness and visibility. ICPC is still regarded as an underperforming anti-corruption initiative by most Nigerians.

The Re-enactment Bill was introduced following the Supreme Court decision that raised questions regarding the constitutionality of the Commission. The Bill was passed by the House of Representatives, and recently referred to the Senate Committee on Anti-Corruption for further clarifications after the first reading. There is relatively low public awareness of the Bill and consequently low engagement by CSOs. Many observers believe that this Executive Bill will be passed before the end of September and signed by the President. For this reason, ADVANCE support has focused on awareness creation and influencing content of the Re-enactment Bill.

The Zero Corruption Coalition is currently the ADVANCE project's principle partner on the engaging the EFCC and ICPC.

Progress during the quarter included:

- ZCC reviewed the mandates of the EFCC and ICPC in a two-day Roundtable May 2-3. Sixteen participants reviewed the legislation and early implementation of the ICPC and EFCC and develop an Action Plan for CSO engagement of the Commissions. The Action Plan and key issues related to the status of the Commissions were published in several dailies.
- ZCC finalized the draft of the *Citizen's Guide to ICPC and EFCC*. The Guide will be published in August 2006 and launched in September 2006.
- ZCC developed a position paper on the ICPC and EFCC Bills based on the outcome of the Legal Experts Meeting held June 4. The position paper focuses on the structure, operations, and impact of the two Commissions.
- ZCC increased awareness on the Commissions and the Bills by disseminating information on their list serve.

- ZCC carried out a text-message campaign to members of the Committee on Anti-corruption in both the House and Senate on the need for a Public Hearing on both the EFCC and the ICPC Bills.

6) Trafficking-in-Persons Law Enforcement and Administration Act. Since establishing a subgrant agreement with Pact in late March 2006, the Women’s Trafficking and Child Labour Eradication Foundation (WOTCLEF) has moved quickly to train National Youth Service Corps members in three states – Cross Rivers, Osun, and Kano – to begin work on awareness and public engagement in enforcing the Act. The Act was passed and signed into law in December 2005. There is very low awareness of the Act among media, CSO groups, law enforcement, schools, other public institutions and the general public.

Progress during the quarter included:

- WOTCLEF held orientation/training meetings for four project officers from each of the three focus states and establish state-level Project Implementation Committees.
- WOTCLEF completed trainings and posting of Youth Corp members to carry out awareness creation campaigns in key source and destination communities

Advocacy Capacity Index (Indicator 3) and Organizational Capacity Index (Indicator 4)

Pact conducted the first round of facilitated Organizational Capacity Self Assessments in May and June. The objectives of the planning and training activities were to: 1) customize organizational and advocacy capacity index tools to the Nigeria context; 2) train Pact Nigeria Staff and national consultants on OCA/ACA approaches and tools; 3) develop baseline information on the organizational / advocacy capacities of CSOs partners; 4) develop capacity building action plans to address priority capacity issues of each CSO partner.

Progress during the quarter included:

- 1) **Recruitment and Training of Nigerian Consultants.** Pact identified and trained seven Nigerian consultants in the Pact organizational and advocacy capacity assessment approach. Two “master” trainers were selected from the group to serve as lead capacity building consultants over the life of the ADVANCE project. The other five consultants will be called upon as needed to facilitate trainings and provide other assistance to the project.
- 2) **Two-Day Orientation on OCA and ACA Approach and Tools.** The orientation included USAID and IP representatives, representatives from the six CSO partners, and seven Nigerian consultations.
- 3) **Three-Day Training for Pact Staff and Consultants on OCA/ACA Facilitation.** Participants trained in use the tools, facilitation techniques, scoring, and action plan development.
- 4) **Six Facilitated Organizational and Advocacy Self-Assessments Conducted and Action Plans Developed.** Assessments, reviews, and action planning were conducted for six partners – PWYP/ANEEJ, FOIC/MRA, CISLAC, WOTCLEF, IPC, and ZCC. Though it is common that CSOs score themselves higher than objective assessments, the scores for ADVANCE partners were even higher than expected. The self-assessment

scores and resulting action plans will be used along with validated assessment data to develop more realistic understanding, expectations, and capacity building programs for each CSO partner.

- 5) **Revision/Customizing of the OCA/ACA Tools and Approach for ADVANCE objectives and USAID Data Quality Requirements.** In consultation with Pact's Regional Support Network (RESNET) in Nairobi and with input from MEMS, the ADVANCE project adapted its facilitated self-assessment approach and tools to include a data validation process that should meet USAID's data quality requirements

Selected Policy and Advocacy Information Available (Indicator 6)

During the reporting period, ADVANCE continued its support of two areas critical to effective civic engagement on policy/reforms – media and civic education.

Progress during the reporting period included:

1. **Media Strengthening for Anti-Corruption and Policy Reporting**
 - The International Press Centre (IPC) completed an audit of the past year of media reporting from nine (9) dailies on corruption and budget processes. IPC also held focus group discussions with editors and reporters of the major dailies, as well as readers. The findings are being used to develop reporting guidance, provide training to media houses, and to strengthen capacity of CSO partners to engage media effectively
2. **Civic Education – Roles and Responsibilities of Government and Civil Society**
 - Pact assisted the National Orientation Agency in developing a plan for drafting a core civic education manual as part of the country's effort to revitalize civic education in the schools and broader society. The plan calls for additional ADVANCE support for consultants to draft the manual and for review and dissemination of the core manual scheduled for Q1, FY '07.

IR. 11.2 Increased Effectiveness of Target Institutions

Under IR 11.2 the ADVANCE project's current focus is on institutions engaged in two areas key with national-level implications for transparency and accountability – the extractive industries and budget processes and performance at the federal level and in three focus states.

Civil Society – GON Partnership to Implement the NEITI (Indicator 7)

The current version of the NEITI Bill passed by the House of Representatives in January 2006 included little of the input from civil society reflected in the draft introduced in the House in February 2005. Many observers attribute this to failure of civil society to monitor and provide ongoing advocacy and technical guidance to key members of the House and Senate. Quarter III saw renewed interest in civic engagement as the international community and key public officials expressed concern that civic input has been weak. It is expected that the Senate will hold public hearings in August and September and that the Bill will pass and be signed into law by the end of September.

In June, the President made several bold moves to re-focus key Ministries. Among the changes was Oby Ezekwesili, Minister of Solid Mineral, the lead Ministry on the NEITI process. Though Ezekwesili retained her Chair of the NEITI, her duties as the new Minister of Education will soon require full attention. Pact anticipates that the strong collaboration with the NEITI Secretariat will continue under the new Minister.

In 2005, the Federal Government and Oil firms began an audit reconciliation exercise to resolve discrepancies in the five-year (1999 – 2004) oil industry operational audit carried out by the British auditing firm, the Hart Group. The audit is a critical element of the Nigerian Extractive Industries Transparency Initiative (NEITI). The findings were released in April 2006 and the reconciliation exercise is scheduled to be completed by the end of August 2006.

The Publish What You Pay Coalition (PWYP) has been the major partner on engaging the processes of the NEITI, though the partnership has never gone beyond in-kind support for specific activities. During the reporting period, ADVANCE began to work more closely with CISLAC legislative advocacy on the NEITI Bill. This new partnership has delivered impressive results that have mobilized and expanded public and stakeholder interest beyond the oil producing states and interests.

Progress during the quarter included:

- The NEITI Secretariat carried out the fourth of six planned public awareness “Road Shows”. The North Central Region Road Show was held in Abuja April 11-12. ADVANCE provided funding and logistical support for a high-level roundtable to encourage dialogue among stakeholder groups in the North Central zone on the NEITI. PACT supported 22 CSOs’ participation in the Road Show, including evening pre- and post-strategy meetings. The CSOs developed advocacy strategies for the Road Show and an Action Plan for the engagement of the process within the North Central Zone.
- Membership of the PWYP Coalition was broadened with recruitment of about fifty new members, largely from the North Central Zone Road Show. The Memberships now stands at 120 CSOs.
- The Steering Committee of the PWYP Campaign has met three times during the reporting period to address longstanding leadership issues and to strategize on the way forward for the Campaign.
- PWYP stepped up NEITI information dissemination with the start of its weekly news reports and other updates on its list serve.
- CISLAC coordinated a one-day CSO Strategic Planning Session on the NEITI Bill June 29. More than 60 CSOs from across the country took a critical look at the version of the NEITI Bill presently before the Senate of the National Assembly and developed a position paper with recommendations by CSOs on strengthening the Bill.

- Pact and the NEITI Secretariat jointly supported a CSO – Legislative Dialogue on the NEITI Bill on June 30. Coordinated by CISLAC, the dialogue was attended by CSOs, Senators and Consultants from Committee on Establishment and Public Services, House of Representatives Members from Committee on Petroleum, and media organizations. CSOs presented their position paper on the Bill to members of the Committees who made commitments to consider the recommendations in their review and revision of the current bill.

Civil Society Engagement in Budgetary Processes (Indicator 8)

As noted, Pact and ActionAid continued to move the agreement-level partnership forward during the reporting period. The consultancy agreement begun in February to provide technical training and support to CSO on monitoring and advocating on the 2006 federal budget was formally closed out in June. The final program, financial reports, and other deliverables are due in early July.

Key progress on budget monitoring and advocacy during the reporting period include:

- Completion of a CSO Mapping exercise on advocacy groups and institutions engaged in budget performance monitoring and advocacy
- Completion of the draft CSO Guide to Monitoring Budget Performance on the MDGs
- CSO engagement and input for the Midterm Expenditure Strategy exercise
- Selection of four state-level partners on budget performance monitoring in three focus states -- Lagos, Abuja , and Rivers. Activities to start in September.

III. Problems and Opportunities

A number of opportunities for high-profile activities and successes on legislative advocacy are likely in Quarter IV

- Pact anticipates significant opportunities for broad awareness and dissemination activities with the passage of the FOI and NEITI Bills in September or QI, FY 07. All signs indicate passage of the bills in August or September. Discussions are already underway with the NEITI Secretariat for a national dissemination workshop and implementation planning meetings. And MRA is prepared to begin implementation activities on the FOI bill within the next month as well.
- Similarly the Fiscal Responsibility and Public Procurement Bills will likely be signed into law by the end of September, presenting opportunities for ADVANCE and REFORMS to bring civil society and government together on implementation planning

Major challenges to the ADVANCE project include:

- Limited public interest and engagement of the EFCC and ICPC processes. The public remains skeptical of these initiatives and many observers believe that a change in leadership will lead to major changes in the government's approach and

investment in these efforts. Additionally, the EFCC is well funded and has resources and structures to engage civil society directly. While ZCC would like to coordinate civic oversight activities independent of the EFCC to maintain credibility, limited support by ADVANCE and other donors may lead to closer ties to EFCC's outreach program. Pact has not identified another group with a track record or commitment to oversight EFCC and ICPC.

- The leadership challenge in the PWYP Campaign is likely to continue. Although Pact has shifted its strategy to include much more productive partnerships with CISLAC and other stakeholder groups, support of a strong central coordinating structure for NEITI-related activities would be easier to manage. Pact has supported steering commitment meetings and facilitated PWYP meetings with its international coordinators, as well as donors. The status of the Campaign will be clearer following the Annual General Meeting scheduled for late August.

IV. Activity Changes

Pact is eager to move forward in discussions with USAID and the ABA on coordination of anti-trafficking activities. There is also a need for USAID to work with Pact on state-level program focus and coordination with the REFORMS project before ADVANCE commitments and activities are too far along. Pact would like to incorporate changes related to these issues in its FY 07 Annual Workplan due to USAID September 1, 2006.

V. Success Stories

Pact anticipates end-of-year success stories on the FOI and NEITI Bill passage and is preparing cases studies and success stories based on USAID formatting and content guidelines.

VI. Next Quarter (July –September 2006) Results and Related Tasks

Program Management

- Completion of pre-award assessments, signing of agreements and start-up of activities for five new CSO partners for budget monitoring and anti-trafficking
- Signing and start-up of activities under the sub-recipient award for ActionAid
- Signing of Modification #1 of the ADVANCE Cooperative Agreement
- Approval from USAID of the revised definitions and targets in the ADVANCE PMP
- Baselines for the Advocacy and Organizational Capacity Indices based on an approved definition and approach.
- Submission of a draft FY '07 workplan by September 1 and USAID approval by September 30.

Program Activities

Citizen Input in Target Policies

FOI Bill, Public Procurement Bill, Fiscal Responsibility Bill

- Continued monitoring and advocacy to NASS and other key officials
- Continued discussion around broad awareness, dissemination, and implementation in anticipation of bill passage

TiP Law Enforcement and Administration Act

- Drafting of a simplified version of the Act
- Translation of the Act into the three major languages

EFCC and ICPC

- Launch of the *Citizen's Guide to the EFCC and ICPC* in September.
- Continued advocacy for public hearings and citizen input into the amended bills.

Sub IR 11.1.1 Increased Civil Society Capacity for Effective Advocacy

Organizational and Advocacy Capacity Indices

- Carry out quick assessments using the new approved definitions and validation process.
- Review and finalize Action Plans with CSO partners
- In September, complete assessments for the five new CSO partners

Selected Policy and Advocacy Information Available

Media

- Publication of a handbook on Budget Monitoring and Corruption Reporting for journalists
- Training of journalists on corruption reporting
- Running of model columns to give journalists practical examples of result oriented stories on corruption and give the reader basic knowledge of the cost of corruption
- Publication of the *Cost of Corruption*, an expanded form of the *Index on Corruption* that will simplify issues of corruption for the average reader.
- *Launching of Cost of Corruption Online*. This online version of *Cost of Corruption* will give current information on corruption issues in Nigeria and take global views as well.

Civic Education

- Draft core manual for civic education disseminated for review/comments/revision

IR 11.2: Increased Effectiveness of Target Institutions

Civil Society-GON partnership to implement the NEITI

- Continued monitoring and advocacy to NASS and other key officials
- Continued discussion around broad awareness, dissemination, and implementation in anticipation of bill passage
- CSO partners will review, draft comments and recommendations, and disseminate advocacy points in response to the final Audit reports on the oil sector

Civil Society Engagement in Budgetary Processes

- CSO partners will monitor budget performance for the 2006 federal budget using the Midterm Expenditure Strategy Report for the 2006.
- Partners will review the President's 2007 proposed budget in September and make early comments/input.
- Dissemination/training of CSO partners using the *Guide to the MDGs*