

Advocacy, Awareness, and Civic Empowerment
THE ADVANCE PROJECT

QUARTERLY PROGRESS REPORT

July-September 2006

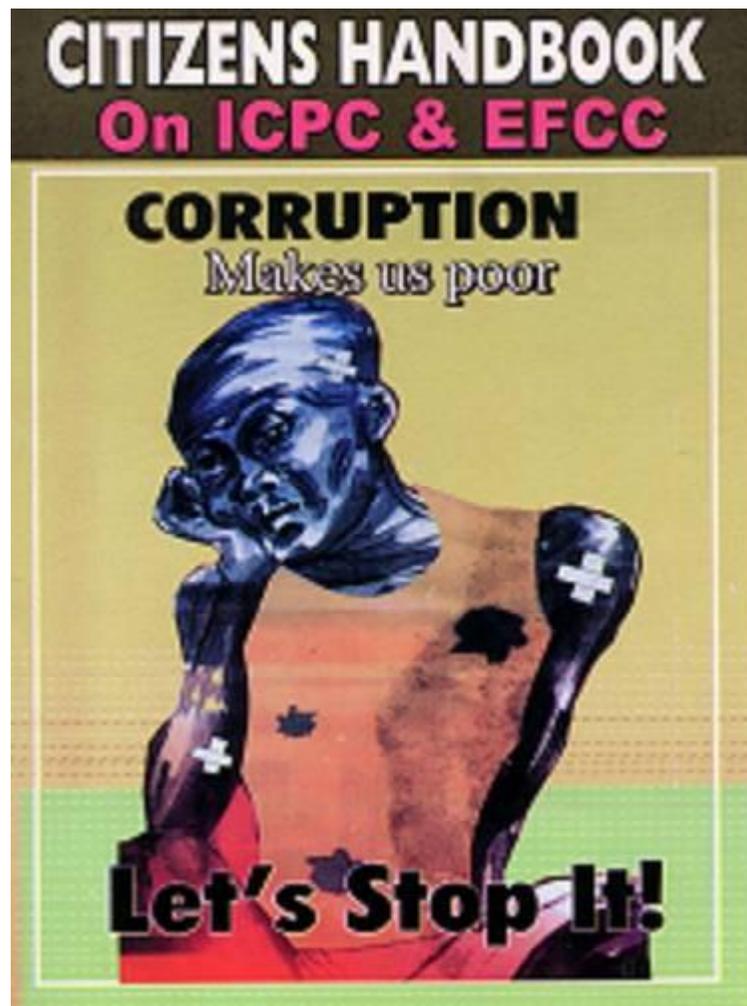
Submitted

by

Pact Nigeria

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

***MODELS OF PRE-PASSAGE ADVOCACY AND
AWARENESS CREATION***



USAID/Nigeria QUARTERLY REPORT

July-September 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 September 30, 2007
Current Pipeline Amount:	\$1,754,200.47 (Of which Unliquidated Obligations is \$773,359.47)
Accrued Expenditures this Quarter:	\$624,313.62
Activity Cumulative Accrued Expenditures to Date:	1,662,647.09
Estimated Expenditures Next Quarter:	\$291,436.45
Report Submitted by:	<u>Eve Thompson, Interim Chief of Party</u> Submission Date: <u>November 17, 2006</u> Name and Title

NARRATIVE REPORT

I. Background and Overview

The ADVANCE project has three program objectives.

- 1. Objective ONE: Strengthened civil society organization (CSO) capacity for effective program and financial management**
- 2. Objective TWO: Increased CSO capacity for effective advocacy for key policy reforms such as budget transparency, access to information, and judicial oversight.**
- 3. Objective THREE: Strengthened public-private (CSO) partnerships to fight corruption through public oversight agencies and initiatives (Pact Anti-Corruption Initiative (ACI))**

During the reporting period, Pact Nigeria's ADVANCE and ACI programs registered substantial achievements under each objective against a dynamic landscape of challenges and opportunities. In particular, Pact Nigeria and ADVANCE/ACI Partners consolidated gains made in the third quarter despite environmental and internal threats to organizational and program stability posed during the fourth quarter.

Rising incidents of political assassinations, a spate of politically motivated impeachment proceedings, and mounting anticipation related to the upcoming elections proved particularly distracting to Nigerian legislators, the principal targets of the Pact ADVANCE/ACI legislative advocacy program. Similarly, USAID-Pact relationship strains, USAID's decision to reprogram ADVANCE/ACI activities and a planned Pact Nigeria leadership change all created heightened levels of uncertainty among ADVANCE staff and partners.

Despite these problems, Pact ADVANCE/ACI partners, now fully operational, leveraged resources and expertise to take full advantage of new opportunities during this period producing an exciting and diverse portfolio of advocacy strategies calculated to achieve results.

The cumulative effect of Pact ADVANCE/ACI efforts was thus nothing short of transformative, turning ordinary Nigerians into passionate advocates and peripheral preoccupations into national imperatives. In the process, new ground was broken and new models of pre-passage legislative advocacy and awareness creation emerged.

II. Quarter Progress

The July-September 2006 reporting period emphasized on-going mentoring and overseeing partner program implementation with both sub-grantee and in-kind partners all of whose activities were in full swing.

A. Program Management

Indicators 1. Civil Society Organizations (CSOs) representing marginalized group(s) engaging with government

Indicator 9. Subgrants Issued and Effectively Managed¹

Indicator 10. Project-Level Planning and Timely Reporting²

During the reporting period, an additional total sum of **\$65,737.11** was disbursed to three (WOTCLEF, IPC and PWYP) of the existing four partner CSOs for program implementation.³ This brings total disbursements made to the first 4 grantees selected to date to **\$163,381.68** (from \$97,644.57). Two new partners were added to the ADVANCE grant portfolio during this period – Civil Society Legislative Advocacy Center (CISLAC) and Action Aid International (AAIN). The latter, AAIN, was brought on as ADVANCE’s principal technical budget advocacy implementing partner and will continue as a partner for the duration of the ADVANCE Program. As such, they have been integrated into the ADVANCE management structure and team through regular participation in Pact management team meetings.⁴

Together, the two new grantees received initial disbursements totaling **\$228,736.88**. Thus, by the end of the 4th quarter of FY06, the total disbursements so far made to all six partners stood at **\$392,118.56**. Equally, some in-kind grants/consultancies were made amounting to **\$182,564.64** to AAIN, and CISLAC (before the signing of their sub-grants agreement) and also to the International Press Center (IPC) and the Zero Corruption Coalition (ZCC). This brings the cumulative total of actual expenditure for in-kind/consultancies to **\$237,103.13** (from \$54,538.49) as at end of quarter four. Table 1 below provides a summary of current sub-grant recipients and disbursements made as of September 30th.

Given the change of technical partners, a Modification of the ADVANCE Cooperative Agreement with USAID was signed. Pact also received approval from USAID of the revised definitions and targets in the ADVANCE PMP.

The Chief of Party for Pact Nigeria stepped down at the end of the quarter. By then, plans were already in place to bring on an Interim Chief of Party by the middle of October. After extensive discussions between USAID and the leadership of Pact from both Pact Headquarters and Pact Regional Support Unit, by the end of the 4th quarter, Pact had already begun to put in place a strategy for enhancing ADVANCE program implementation approaches with respect to sub-grantee support and capacity-building, monitoring and evaluation and reporting.

¹ Indicator 9 is not a PMP indicator.

² Indicator 10 is not a PMP indicator.

³ The fourth partner, Media Rights Agenda did not request a draw-down this quarter as they were still making use of funds disbursed in the last quarter by the end of this quarter.

⁴ Pact is working to finalize the NICRA for AAIN and expects to do so in the first quarter of FY07.

During this reporting period, the program activities of CSO partners were closely monitored to ensure inclusion of and broad representation among marginalized groups, especially women, youth and Northern-based Moslem communities. Review of reports to reflect progress on Indicator 1 are on-going as were efforts to remind partners regularly of the need to actively create spaces for the participation of these groups.

TABLE 1. Summary of Status of ADVANCE Sub-grants – Quarter IV, FY 06 (July – September 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	29,709.37	180290.63
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	41,486.47	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	52,170.29	52,365.25
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	40,015.55	44,984.45
CISLAC	Sept 20 2006 – August 30, 2007	Strengthening Civil Society Engagement of the Legislative Process through Targeted Policies	Legislative Advocacy & Tracking of Targeted Bills at NASS	160,012.50	20,481,600	39,062.50	120,950
ActionAid Int. Nigeria	August 15, 2006 – Feb 22,2010	CSO Budget Monitoring & Tracking	National & Focal State	280,817	35,944,576	189,674.38	91,142.62
Total Sub-grants				961,301.84	124,134,635.60	392,118.56	569,183.28
Explanation of AAIN as Higher Level Technical Partner							
ActionAid Int. Nigeria	August 15, 2006 – Feb 22,2010	CSO Budget Monitoring & Tracking	National & Focal State	1,249,547 but 280,817 obligated through Feb. 22, 2007		189,674.38	91,142.62
In-Kind Sub-grants and Consultancy							
CISLAC, ZCC, IPC and AAIN	In-kind/Consultancy; ongoing pre-award support	N/A	Legislative advocacy on the Fiscal Responsibility Bill; NEITI Bill; EFCC and ICPC oversight; Budget monitoring and advocacy	\$328,532.52	42,052,162.56	\$237,103.13 Expended	N/A

Significant progress was made under each of the key ADVANCE program objectives and are enumerated below:

B. Programmatic Results

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

Indicator 4. Organizational capacity assessment Index

Indicator 5. Number of CSOs/members trained (disaggregated by gender)

In QIV Pact continued with the six major partnerships established in QII and finalized in QIII to address key national-level policy objectives. In particular, Pact contributed substantially to the building of organizational capacity of both existing and potential partners. In particular, Pact actively mentored existing partners through providing comprehensive feedback on Monthly Financial and Quarterly Program reports submitted by them.

Pact continued servicing these existing CSO partners by making additional disbursements amounting to \$65,737.11 for their on-going projects. It also conducted the pre-award assessments of four CSOs selected for budget monitoring and advocacy at the state level. The CSOs are Justice, Development and Peace Centre (JDPC), Aids Alliance Nigeria, CIRDDOC and CiSNHAN.⁵

Notwithstanding the failure to follow through on the new proposed partnerships because of the request by USAID to shift program focus, Pact mentored these new potential grantees through the Pact Nigeria pre-award assessment process in which it provided feedback on managerial and financial structures.

After having nurtured the fledgling CISLAC through initiating the partnership with a consultant arrangement, Pact signed a sub-grant agreement with the organization for the period from September 20, 2006 through August 30, 2007. The agreement, worth \$160,012.50, focuses activities on Legislative Advocacy and Tracking of Targeted Bills at the National Assembly. This was a true capacity-building success story which is further elaborated in the “Success Stories” section below.

Another major achievement was the signing of a sub-grant agreement worth \$1,249,547 with ActionAid International Nigeria which immediately began implementing budget advocacy capacity-building programs. The duration of the project is from August 15, 2006 through February 22, 2010. The sum of \$280,817 was obligated through February 22, 2007.

⁵ Pact Nigeria was on the verge of finalizing agreements with these 4 partners when at the end of the quarter it was asked by USAID to refocus its efforts on election work. This led to a decision to withdraw commitments as to these 4 new grants.

Pact Nigeria, with input from Pact Regional Office in Kenya reviewed the Organizational Capacity Assessment (OCA) tools (used for the self assessment of the first six partner CSOs in quarter three) and produced a revised assessment tool with definitions and validation process for both Organizational and Advocacy Capacity assessment. The new assessment tools were approved by USAID Nigeria in mid-September 2006. Pact Nigeria used the new assessment tools towards the end of September to conduct a quick reassessment of four out of the six partners earlier assessed and also an initial assessment of three potential new partners selected for state budget work. As Table 2 below shows, through the assessments, the average baseline for organizational capacity was established for some of the active partners. Specific activities planned and progress made is as follows:

Table 2: Organizational Capacity Index – Baseline at September, 2006

Partner CSOs	Average Index Score
Media Rights Agenda (MRA), Lagos	1.75
International Press Centre (IPC), Lagos	1.89
Women Trafficking and Child Labor Eradication Foundation (WOTCLEF), Abuja	2.16
African Network on Environmental and Economic Justice (ANEEJ) for Publish What You Pay Campaign Nigeria (PWYP)	1.68
Civil Society Legislative Advocacy Centre (CISLAC), Abuja)	1.5
Total Average Index Scores for Partners	8.98
Overall Average Index Score Baseline	1.80
Common Capacity Gaps Identified	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ <i>Governance:</i> Constitution needs review; lack of strategic plan by most; lack of updated membership/staff list; meetings not regularly held as scheduled; lack of adequate documentation of minutes of various meetings (management, board etc); board members seem not to fully know their roles and responsibilities. ○ <i>Operational and Management Systems:</i> Absence of some relevant policies and procedures by most; and weak project management including monitoring, evaluation and reporting. ○ <i>Human Resource:</i> Absence of human resource development and management plan as well as recruitment policies and procedures by most ○ <i>Financial Resources:</i> Absence of standard financial/accounting policies and procedures manual, resource mobilization plan, overall annual operational budget by most. 	

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

Indicator 2. Citizen Input reflected in Targeted Policies

Indicator 3. Advocacy capacity index of targeted CSOs (to analyze policy documents for advocacy)

Indicator 5. Number of CSOs/members trained (disaggregated by gender)

Indicator 6. Selected policy and advocacy information available

Indicator 8. Civil society participation in budgetary processes

As with the Organizational Capacity Assessment Program, Pact similarly advanced its Advocacy Capacity Assessment Program further by establishing baselines for the

Advocacy Capacity Index based on an approved definition and approach for the first set of CSO partners. Pact also finalized and received approval of a new assessment tool which was then used for quick assessments of four of its initial sub-grantees and four new potential CSO partners.⁶ Table 3 below shows the outcome of the baseline establishment process.

Table 3: Advocacy Capacity Index – Baseline at September 2006

Partner CSOs	Average Index Score
Media Rights Agenda (MRA), Lagos	2.98
International Press Centre (IPC), Lagos	1.44
Women Trafficking and Child Labor Eradication Foundation (WOTCLEF), Abuja	1.99
Civil Society Legislative Advocacy Centre (CISLAC), Abuja)	2.44
Total Average Index Scores for Partners	8.88
Overall Average Index Score Baseline	2.22
Common Capacity Gaps Identified	
<i>Majority of the CSO partners are weak in the areas of collecting information and input on the issues from stakeholders; formulation of alternative viable policy position on issues; getting and allocation of (financial) resources for advocacy on the issues; building of cohesive coalition /lose networks for joint cooperative efforts; taking of appropriate actions at the right time to influence policy makers; engaging the media and also taking appropriate follow up actions/monitoring & evaluation</i>	

The ADVANCE project continued to focus on eight target policies that reflect broad policy reforms expected under Objective III. The policies are reflected in specific legislation pending 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
7. Amended Economic and Financial Crimes Commission (EFCC) Bill
8. Re-Enactment of the Independent Corrupt Practices and Other Related Crimes (ICPC) Bill

FOI

Media Rights Agenda (MRA)/Freedom of Information Coalition(FOIC) continued coalition strengthening and public awareness on the FOI Bill, by holding regional awareness and advocacy workshops in 3 different regional zones. One of the three workshops yielded a particularly innovative approach to advocacy featuring a “walk day” to rally support for the Bill through which funds were raised for further advocacy and which received substantial media coverage.

⁶ While approval of the assessment tool was sought and ultimately obtained delay in obtaining the approval led to a postponement of the review and finalization of Action Plans with CSO partners which has now been set for the first quarter of 2007.

The widespread use of text-messaging in Nigeria was leveraged to support and mobilize an advocacy campaign to strengthen the language of the Bill which was targeted towards members of the National Assembly's Ad Hoc Committee on the Freedom of Information Bill. Committee members received hundreds of text messages through the coordination of MRA. The text message campaign was complimented by strategically coordinated lobbying meetings with key Senate Committee members and by MRA lobbyists even seeking support from the Chairman of the Economic and Financial Crimes Commission lend his support.

So powerful was the strength of this campaign and so effective were the innovations of its campaign strategies that MRA is now widely credited with transforming the issue of Freedom of Information into *a national one*.

FISCAL RESPONSIBILITY

Pact partner CISLAC used its highly participatory advocacy strategy to mobilize 32 new anti-corruption advocates drawn from women groups, youth groups, Islamic North, media and the private sector to voice their positions on pending fiscal responsibility legislation at the public hearing. A key accomplishment was the inclusion of the civil society position on the Bill presented by the CISLAC network at the hearing into the legislative record. Highlights of the position paper were also reported in the media. In particular, support was given to three journalists to attend the hearing, and write features on the FRB. CISLAC also published an informative monograph on the Bill and began circulating it widely during this period.

PUBLIC PROCUREMENT

Pact partner CISLAC actively lobbied key Senators to ensure retention of civil society's recommendations in the Bill. Civil Society through CISLAC further demanded the holding of a public hearing on the Bill.

TRAFFICKING-IN-PERSONS LAW ENFORCEMENT AND ADMINISTRATION ACT

Pact partner WOTCLEF completed trainings and deployment of Youth Corp members to carry out weekly awareness creation campaigns to mobilize community action against trafficking in persons and public engagement in enforcing the Act in key source and destination communities in three states.

The weekly rallies and sensitization campaigns on anti-trafficking (including seminars, drama presentations, etc.) that resulted from the initial trainings were undertaken in each of the states at various religious institutions, schools, market places and motor parks. Through active mobilization work by WOTCLEF, about 93,619 Nigerians, men, women, youth and children, were reached personally with Anti-trafficking messages. Advocacy visits were made to Traditional Rulers, Government Officials including LGA Chairmen and District Heads and religious leaders to solicit their support in fighting human trafficking. All officials visited expressed strong appreciation, pledged support to the program and even demonstrated it through in kind contributions.

The state level /grass root approach has yielded tremendous results especially by targeting the specific communities from which victims of trafficking usually emanate. A major achievement has been the establishment of WOTCLEF clubs in various secondary schools and religious institutions and the active mobilization of students and youth to undertake peer education and support of their contemporaries who so often are targets of trafficking practices. Peer education on trafficking has proven to be a particularly effective mode of spreading the message.

Media campaigns were also carried out to sensitize people on the alarmingly high incidents of trafficking and the various initiatives to combat it, including the anti-trafficking legal framework. Jingles and discussions were aired via electronic media and feature articles were developed. In three states, alone, over 13,100,000 people are estimated to have been reached with anti-trafficking messages through these media.

NEITI (Reported under Objective 3)

ANNUAL FEDERAL APPROPRIATIONS BILLS

Four new partners were selected from a small grants solicitation to conduct monitoring of various aspects of annual appropriation bills in three states.⁷

Pact Technical Partner, Actionaid conducted a sensitization workshop for the media on the 2006 and 2007 budgets. Thirty journalists representing print and electronic media took part in the workshop. An immediate outcome of the workshop was increased reporting of budget issues by the media.

AMENDED ECONOMIC AND FINANCIAL CRIMES COMMISSION (EFCC) BILL & RE-ENACTMENT OF THE INDEPENDENT CORRUPT PRACTICES AND OTHER RELATED CRIMES (ICPC) BILL (Reported under Objective 3)

CSO USE OF MEDIA FOR ADVOCACY STRENGTHENING

Pact partner, International Press Center, shared the findings of their media audit on corruption reporting with nine editors of Key Nigerian Newspapers by organizing a two days interface with Newsroom managers. The Editors made inputs into a draft Guideline for Journalists on Corruption reporting.

IPC developed a training design for training journalists on effective corruption reporting. The training content for the course of the training focused on corruption reporting and budget reporting as it relates to corruption.

IPC also developed a training design on CSOs' effective engagement of the media for advocacy and oversight functions. The module looked at strategies for Effective

⁷ These grants were cancelled at the end of the quarter as a result of the agreement reached with USAID to shift its program focus to elections.

Engagement of the Media by CSOs and the relevance of branding to Advocacy and Oversight by the Media.

IPC also held training for 14 CSOs including Pact's partners, on Effective Engagement of the mass media by CSOs for advocacy and oversight functions. The training built the capacity of the CSOs on constructive engagement of the mass media as an effective tool for advocacy and oversight.

IPC held a training of trainers for 20 journalists from key national media houses from September 21 -22 on effective corruption reporting. The training targeted journalists at line editor level and was designed to build a cadre of trainers in-house for all participating media houses. It imparted practical reporting skills to the participants to ensure quality reporting on corruption, with an emphasis on the cost of corruption. The program trained 20 journalists from 13 national print media houses.

In addition, training was conducted by WOTCLEFF for journalists from three states to increase their understanding of and capacity to report on issues around trafficking in persons. Media campaigns consisting of radio jingles and discussions, aired 69 times alongside media coverage of Anti Trafficking activities.

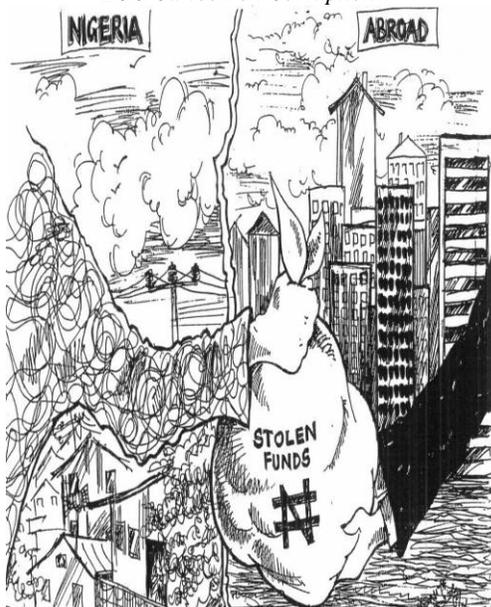
Objective THREE: Strengthened public-private (CSO) partnerships to fight corruption through public oversight agencies and initiatives

Pact's Anti-Corruption Program (ACI)

Indicator 7. Civil society-GON partnership to implement the Nigeria Extractive Industries Transparency Initiative (NEITI)

AMENDED ECONOMIC AND FINANCIAL CRIMES COMMISSION (EFCC) BILL & RE-ENACTMENT OF THE INDEPENDENT CORRUPT PRACTICES AND OTHER RELATED CRIMES (ICPC) BILL

ZCC Cartoon on Corruption



While there has been basic awareness among the populace about the existence of the EFCC and ICPC as anti-corruption agencies, there was an astounding level of misunderstanding about their mandate and focus. To respond to the need for popular education in this area, Pact partner, Zero Corruption Coalition, designed and produced a handbook entitled 'Citizens Handbook on EFCC and ICPC to create more public awareness on the two agencies and their processes. This reader-friendly handbook has information on the mandate, focus and scope of the activities of ICPC and EFCC and samples of complaint petitions. Five-thousand copies of the handbook were produced and 3,700 already disseminated to media houses (print and electronic), CSOs and resource centers of some government agencies across the country. The handbook was launched on the 27th of September 2006 in Abuja and the launch was well attended by media houses, legislators, and CSOs. The launch has been replicated at all the six zones. Anecdotal reports from the EFCC are that with the production and dissemination of the handbook, more members of the public are engaging the Commission in a more structured manner, with clarity on their procedures.

NIGERIAN EXTRACTIVE INDUSTRIES TRANSPARENCY INITIATIVE (NEITI)

PACT facilitated the active involvement of 51 members of the Publish What You Pay (PWYP) coalition in the NEITI Secretariat's South East public awareness "Road Shows" in Enugu on August 24 - 25. PWYP took part in deliberations on expanding the interpretations of the NEITI to include solid minerals, produced and disseminated promotional items which carried advocacy messages on the Audit Report and the NEITI Bill. The significant impact of these efforts was increased support for the Campaign through the collection of 80 additional signatures on the petition supporting the passage of the NEITI Bill and the addition of at least 16 new institutional members of PWYP.

A major achievement was the reporting in five national print media outlets of dialogues on the Bill organized by CISLAC commenting on the status and key provisions of the Bill. These reports helped raise public awareness of the Bill and publicize CSOs' position on the Bill.

Members of the PWYP Steering Committee met with the Senate Committee on Establishments and Public Services to present their position on the NEITI Bill and push for the inclusion of these positions in the Committee's final report.

III. Problems and Opportunities

Challenges/Problems

The ADVANCE project faced the following challenges during this reporting period:

Administration and Management Challenges

- Pact Nigeria recognized the need to improve approaches to relationship management with its principal funder USAID and to reporting on its performance, particularly in the area of ensuring consistency and congruence with USAID's perception and understanding of performance and financial status.
- The leadership transition prompted by the recognition of the need for stepped up relationship management also created uncertainty and some instability among Pact Staff and partners.
- The upheaval to the ADVANCE program caused by USAID's decision to involve Pact and its partners in elections work similarly created uncertainty and instability and also disrupted plans to make 4 new small grant awards.
- The late submission of quarterly reports including appropriate supporting documents by the partner CSOs prevents Pact's timely submission of its own report to USAID Nigeria but Pact will try to improve system in future.

Partner & Programmatic Challenges

- PWYP was the only one out of the 6 current grantees that continues to have leadership problems of its own and this has prevented substantial disbursements to this partner for going forward with program implementation. Moreover, Pact

ADVANCE has pressed the coalition coordinator to move quickly to resolve critical issues such as the restructuring of the organization to better reflect its status as a coalition as opposed to a project owned by one organization, ANEEJ.⁸ Currently ANEEJ is the only signatory and administrator of the PWYP bank account and does not account to the Coalition membership on how funds are spent. It is hoped that an Annual General Meeting planned for the first quarter of FY 07 will substantially advance the resolution of this issue.

- Public perception of the EFCC is quite low, with many people accusing it of selective prosecution. This may affect willingness to access this institution and report corrupt acts.
- On-going political volatility at the state and national levels caused the delay of movement on several pieces of legislation being followed by ADVANCE partners.
- Media decision-makers, i.e. editors have been largely absent from media sensitization initiatives. This needs to be addressed in future programming.

Opportunities

Administration and Management Opportunities

- While it is important to acknowledge the excellent work and dedication of the outgoing Pact Country Representative, the leadership transition also presents an opportunity to improve relations with USAID and USAID perceptions of Pact Nigeria's management of the ADVANCE program. An initial assessment of the situation concluded that the perception of poor performance was more attributable to the underreporting of successes and achievements than a lack of commitment on the part of Pact's singularly dedicated and dynamic staff.

Partner and Programmatic Opportunities

- Despite the potential for lack of confidence in the EFCC noted under "Challenges", the launch of the Fix Nigeria Initiative by the Commission, also presents a unique opportunity for CSOs to engage the Commission.
- By the end of the 4th quarter of FY06, all signs indicated the likely passage of the majority of the bills targeted by the ADVANCE Project including Freedom of Information, Fiscal Responsibility, Public Procurement and NEITI). This presented an opportunity for Pact Partners to anticipate and plan post-passage implementation monitoring programs.
- In addition to the possibility of improving the leadership challenges in the PWYP Campaign, the emergence of the Open Society Initiative of West Africa as another source of funding for PWYP has helped to create leverage for pressuring the leadership of ANEEJ to become more participatory and transparent in a manner more befitting of an anti-corruption advocacy organization.

⁸ Despite strong pressure from USAID to maintain a relationship with this grantee, the continued lack of transparency and reports of the disintegration of the coalition due to increasing levels of mistrust, will require a critical review of the prudence of maintaining this partnership

IV. Activity Changes

During the reporting period, certain activities not achieved were either postponed for environmental reasons or dropped for strategic reasons or in recognition that earlier expectations for the potential to undertake such activities were not realistic. These changes are reflected in the attached annotated work plan.

Success Stories

Now that the grant program is fully operational, already, several impressive achievements have been registered including the following:

ANTI-TRAFFICKING CAMPAIGN PRODUCES NEW ADVOCATES

The anti-trafficking awareness campaign staged by Pact partner WOTCLEF stimulated both resource mobilization and increased enforcement actions including the following:



Wotclef Rally Against Trafficking in Persons

- Due to the effectiveness of awareness creation activities and the recognition that poverty is a major cause of Trafficking, His Majesty, Kabiyesi the Elegboro of Ijebu-Jesa of Osun State donated farmland to the WOTCLEF project to be used to train secondary school students in the community to farm and be economically empowered so that they are not susceptible to trafficking, and permitted the use of the town hall as a workshop venue.
- Again in recognition of the link between poverty and trafficking highlighted by the WOTCLEF campaign, funds were also raised independently of the ADVANCE program for the organization of a skills acquisition training program for the children in Osun State. To complement these efforts, the Kabiyesi of Oriade contributed the Town Hall for use by the Project Implementation Committee. The Olosu of Osu also organized for a Computer Training Centre, at no cost during the skill acquisition programme in August for the Secondary School students in Atakumosa West Local Govt. Area of Osun State.
- As a result of heightened awareness on this issue created by WOTCLEF, there are increased reports of citizens taking it upon themselves to enforce the Act such as reports of good Samaritans taking lost children to the police station as well as that of market women redirecting their children away from activities which make them vulnerable to being snatched for trafficking purposes.

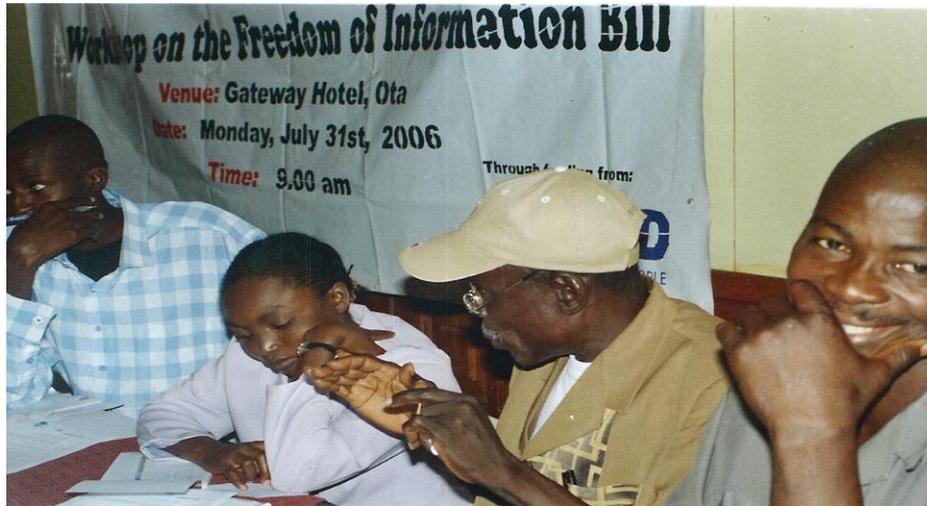
BUDGET TRAINING PRODUCES AWARD WINNING INVESTIGATIVE REPORT



Award winning article

ADVANCE sponsored budget analysis and advocacy training held in February 2006 spurred one of its participants, a journalist, into action when he immediately launched an investigation into the Ministry of Health's spending on HIV/AIDS programming. In the course of the investigation, he uncovered spending irregularities. The resulting investigative report which appeared during these reporting period earned two investigative journalism awards for the journalist.

NEW MODEL FOR COALITION-BUILDING EMERGES THROUGH FOI PROCESS



The innovative strategies used by the Media Rights Agenda to advance the Freedom of Information (FOI) Advocacy Campaign have earned the organization a highly favorable reputation as an effective coalition mobilizer. The organization is thus being encouraged to document these strategies in order to work with Pact ADVANCE in producing a best practices manual for coalition-building to meet advocacy goals.

NEW ADVOCATE EMERGES AS LEGISLATIVE ADVOCACY LEADER



Auwal Ibrahim “Rafsanjani” Musa (Center) presiding over a National Assembly-Civil Society forum on the Fiscal Responsibility Bill

One year ago, the Abuja-based Civil Society Legislative Advocacy Center struggled in the absence of resources and strategic technical support to make headway in getting civil society views and priorities onto the Nigerian legislative agenda. However, the drive, energy and technical competence of the CISLAC Executive Director and his unselfish commitment to broad civil society participation inspired Pact ADVANCE to initiate support through an organizational nurturing process which began initially with a series of confidence building consultancies in previous quarters. CISLAC graduated to full grantee status during this reporting period on the strength of its exceptional performance record which culminated in CISLAC being invited to participate on a strategic committee convened by the National Assembly to review the outcome of a public hearing on the Fiscal Responsibility Bill.

No other organization has demonstrated better coalition leadership in terms of its participatory approach to civil society coordination and mobilization and is now well positioned to serve as a leading resource for civil society advocacy organizations throughout Nigeria.

VI. Next Quarter

Activities planned for next quarter include the following:

Program Management and Capacity-Building

Advocacy Capacity and Organizational Capacity Indices

- Finalize draft workplan of partner CSOs
- Capacity building through mentoring

Sub-grants

- Quarterly Sub-grants disbursements to some partner CSOs
- Conduct of Pre-award assessment for new partners as the need arises

Program management

- Reallocation of duties among existing staff including the training and appointment of new Monitoring & Evaluation staff from existing staff complement (senior M&E expert to come and undertake training either in the end of the next quarter or the beginning of the following quarter)
- Overall improvement of Pact profile and services provided to grantees
- Revise approved ADVANCE results framework and PMP as a result of the inclusion of election work and a new USAID framework.
- Preparation of program reports

Subgrantee Activity

Because of the request late during the 4th quarter of FY06 to branch into election work, new partner workplans to reflect this change were still being finalized at the time of the writing of this report.

In general however, most partners were focused on how to mainstream their advocacy and awareness raising work on key anti-corruption and good governance issues into the election and campaign environment. Most of the election related activities proposed include the conducting of issue-based forums, issue briefing of political parties and the organization of local debates centered around governance and anti-corruption.

A detailed workplan for FY07 has been submitted to USAID and Pact is awaiting approval.