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Report on Activities Supported by Pact through funding from USAID
THE ADVANCE PROJECT -- QUARTERLY PROGRESS REPORT

October – December 2006

Submitted by Pact Nigeria

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ZEROING IN ON CORRUPTION

IPC COST OF CORRUPTION

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**MILITARY:
Fatal Dose Of Graft**

By Edwards Shepherd

Almost eight years after vacating the palatial Government Houses for barracks on May 29, 1999, the Nigeria's military is still gasping for life in the bear hug of corruption that plagued it during a prolonged stay in power. The corruption's deadly sting has eaten deep into the capability of the Nigeria's military, calling into question its reputation as sub-Saharan Africa's most potent military machine.

Testifying before the Senate's public hearing before the end of his tenure as the 4th Republic's first Defence Minister, Lt. General Theophilus Danjuma, lamented the crippling effects of corruption on the future of Nigeria's military. "It is only in Nigeria that the amount of funds paid out as pensions could be equated with the amount of salaries to the serving military personnel," the retired general expressed deep concern on February 19, 2002 at a Senate's public hearing on Military Pensions in Abuja. Danjuma's concern was that even "the little money meant for the payment of benefits is frittered away into the pockets of a very few that feed fat on the system, but do not deserve it."

The stealing of pension is just a tip of iceberg of the deepening rot in the military that ruled Nigeria for the most part of its post-colonial era. In July 1999, barely three months after the generals handed over power to elected leaders, the Air Force shocked the public when it put on sale almost the entire aircraft in its fleet. The aircraft that were either unserviceable or obsolete include the MiG15, 17 and 21s, Jaguars, G-222 transport, MB BO-105 helicopters and Dornier 127s. Later in July 2000, an American

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Quote

"Our politicians are essentially a conglomerates of people who have come together to loot the treasury,"

-Prof. Gabriel Olesanya, the Nigeria's ex-Ambassador to France at the Baptist Boys High School (BBHS), Lagos, Students' Thanksgiving Luncheon held on September 24, 2006.

GUIDE

Awolowo On Graft

Late Obafemi Awolowo, shortly after the 1983 Elections in which he contested as a Presidential candidate, expressed the belief that corruption that was endemic in Nigeria could be minimized and not wiped out

How To Tame Corruption

As a top Army General during the Babangida military regime, reputed for institutionalizing graft in Nigeria's public sector, Major General Obaschankle Ishwala Williams (rtd) is regarded a saint. Very outspoken against the regime's evil agenda.

Contract Scandal

More disturbing aspect of the Abubakar dispensation was the rush to deplete the foreign reserve in the last five months in office

Survey on Corruption Reporting

THE ADVANCE PROJECT
QUARTERLY PROGRESS REPORT
October – December 2006

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PACT/ADVANCE QUARTERLY REPORT -- FIRST QUARTER OF FY 2007

October – December 2006

ACTIVITY SUMMARY	
Implementing Partner:	Pact, Inc.
Activity Name: (ADVANCE) Project	Advocacy, Awareness, and Civic Empowerment
Activity Objective:	<p>Strengthened civil society organization (CSO) capacity for effective program and financial management</p> <p>Increased CSO capacity for effective advocacy for key policy reforms such as budget transparency, access to information, and judicial oversight</p> <p>Strengthened public-private (CSO) partnerships to fight corruption through public oversight agencies and initiatives</p> <p>.</p>
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, Chief of Party</u> Submission Date: <u>February 1, 2007</u>
	Name and Title

NARRATIVE REPORT

I. Background and Overview

The ADVANCE project has three program objectives.

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

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

Objective THREE: Strengthened public-private (CSO) partnerships to fight corruption through public oversight agencies and initiatives (Pact Anti-Corruption Initiative (ACI))

Pact/ADVANCE regrouped in the wake of a required programmatic shift and a leadership change and successfully overcame immediate threats to the future viability of the ADVANCE program. Reflective exercises both between Pact and ADVANCE partners and within Pact helped to take stock of early achievements and chart a path towards even greater, more effective anti-corruption advocacy. Accelerated momentum during this quarter was clearly in evidence through a highly motivated, ADVANCE-supported civil society whose increasingly skilled advocacy approaches have put Nigerian government officials on notice that transparency and accountability advocates are armed with new ammunition to zero in on Nigerian corruption.

As election related tensions rose, Pact/ADVANCE partners gained new appreciation for the valuable role their active participation in the electoral process can play in advancing the cause of free and fair elections. They thus ably rose to the challenge to re-channel advocacy efforts towards mainstreaming anti-corruption and anti-trafficking issues into the election discourse.

Despite “party primary fever” and the upsurge of both political and criminal violence towards the end of the reporting period, civil society advocates steered distracted legislators towards a major legislative victory – the passage in both Houses of the Assembly of the Freedom of Information Bill, which if signed into law, will be only the third of its kind in Africa!

Finally, as with the previous reporting period, active mobilization efforts by Pact/ADVANCE partners not only brought more anti-corruption converts into the Pact/ADVANCE network, but also contributed substantially towards deepening the understanding of corruption and its consequences and towards increasing citizen power to hold government to account.

II. Quarter Progress

The October – December 2006 reporting period emphasized on-going mentoring and oversight of program implementation by 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 13. Subgrants Issued and Effectively Managed¹

Indicator 14. Project-Level Planning and Timely Reporting²

During the reporting period, an additional sum of \$165,270.78 was disbursed/advanced to five of the six initial partner CSOs (PWYP, WOTCLEF, IPC, MRA and CISLAC) for program implementation³, bringing the total disbursements to initial partners made from the inception of the ADVANCE program through the first quarter of Fiscal Year 2007 to \$510,989.34 (up from \$392, 118.56).

A seventh CSO partner was added to the ADVANCE grant portfolio during this period – Justice, Development and Peace Commission (JDPC) /Alliance for Credible Elections (ACE) to monitor the 2007 Elections Voter Registration process and ancillary activities. This came shortly after Pact was asked to reprogram to accommodate election activities. This grant filled a significant gap given that no other organization in the country had committed to mounting a large-scale voter registration monitoring campaign. The new sub-grantee received initial disbursements totaling \$46,400, bringing total disbursements made to all 7 partners to \$557,389.34 by the end of the first quarter of FY07, (up from \$392,118.56). Of this amount, the sub-grantees have expended and retired the sum of \$472,399.76 (up from \$122, 066.63 in the last quarter). This shows an increase of \$350,333.13 in our sub-grantees' burn rate (excluding in-kinds).

In-kind grants/consultancies were made amounting to \$184, 408.39 (in terms of actual expenditures based on the retirements made by sub-grantees of their previous in-kinds subgrants / consultancies). This brings the cumulative total of actual expenditures for in-kind/consultancies to \$291,641.62 (up from \$237,103.13) as of the end of Quarter I of FY 07. Therefore, the grand total expenditures based on retirements of subgrants including in-kinds stood at \$764,041.38 (up from \$176,605.12 in the last quarter) showing an increase of \$587,436.26 in our sub-grantees' burn rate in subgrants including in-kinds. Table 1 below provides a summary of current sub-grant recipients including in-kinds and disbursements made as of December 31st, 2006.

¹ Indicator 9 is not a PMP indicator.

² Indicator 10 is not a PMP indicator.

³ The fifth partner, ActionAid International Nigeria 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.

Following the resignation of the former Chief of Party for Pact Nigeria Ahmed Mohammed, Pact Nigeria Program Coordinator for Capacity Building and Grants Management was engaged by Pact headquarters to serve as the Acting Chief of Party (with support from Pact Headquarters, the Pact Regional Support Unit and the erstwhile Senior Technical Adviser for Pact Nigeria –Prof. Victor Adetula) pending the arrival of the new Interim Chief of Party, Eve Thompson, who arrived October 20th, 2006.

Some reprogramming occurred in the project based on directives from USAID Nigeria to integrate election-related activities into the ADVANCE program in recognition of the key role Nigerian Civil Society should play in strengthening the integrity of the electoral process. To accommodate the new programmatic focus, all existing sub-grantees were requested to incorporate election programming into their existing projects. This followed their participation in Pact Nigeria’s Annual Stakeholders’ Review Evaluation Meeting, held in Kaduna, October 18 -20, 2006. Because of the need to shift gears immediately, given the six month preparatory time for elections, many of the sub-grantees’ program activities for this quarter were election-related.

The first Pact Nigeria Annual Staff Retreat was held at Jos, December 14-16, 2006. The retreat enabled Pact Nigeria staff to reflect critically on both program and administrative issues within the context of ADVANCE goals and objectives and to map out strategies for consolidation and growth.

Apart from the elections program, Pact Nigeria was also able to effectively manage additional demands from USAID Nigeria on the new Operational Plan for FY 07. The draft FY 07 Operational Plan was prepared and submitted to USAID Nigeria at the required time. The ADVANCE Results Framework, FY 07 budget and the Pact Nigeria ADVANCE organizational structure were also reviewed and amended in accordance with the new FY 07 Operational Plan and the documents submitted along with the new work plan to USAID Nigeria by the end of December, 2006. Pact also agreed to serve as a test case as part of USAID mission-wide efforts to comply with the new operational framework.

During this reporting period, the program activities of CSO partners were continuously and closely monitored to ensure inclusion and implementation of elections reprogramming according to the “mainstreaming” approach agreed to by partners and other stakeholders at the Kaduna meeting. There was also effort to ensure that partner activities involved CSOs representing marginalized groups.

The Pact/ADVANCE quarterly reporting style and format were altered to enhance the effectiveness of reporting. In an effort to also improve the timeliness of reporting, Pact has revised sub-grantee quarterly report submission dates from the 15th to 05th of due months and notified sub-grantees accordingly. It is hoped that this will ensure that Pact Nigeria will be afforded adequate time to prepare ADVANCE quarterly reports for timely submission to USAID.

TABLE 1. Summary of Status of ADVANCE Sub-grants (Disbursements from Obligated Amount) as at End of Quarter I, FY 07 (October - December 2006)

Recipient	Time Frame	Project Title	Focus	Amount			
				Amount Obligated		Disbursement to Date	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	114,191.01	95,808.99
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	64,083.97	56,852.83
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	66,221.07	38,314.47
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	61,855.51	23,144.49
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	61,363.40	98,649.10
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
Justice, Development & Peace Commission (JDPC)/Alliance for Credible Elections (ACE)	01 November – 31 st December, 2006	Voter Registration Monitoring in 15 states across all the 6 Geo-Political Zones of Nigeria	Voter Registration and Oversight of INEC	58,000	7,424,000	46,400 (but 48,881.25 actually expended)	11,600 (for de-obligation because project has ended)
Total Obligated Sub-grants				1,019,301.84	131,558,635.60	557,389.34	415,512.80 (out of which 11,600 for de-obligation because one of the projects has ended)
	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	\$330,938.77	42,360,162.56	\$291,641.62 Expended	N/A

TABLE 2. Summary of Status of ADVANCE Sub-grants (Disbursements and Actual Expenditures) as at End of Quarter I, FY 07 (October - December 2006)

Recipient	Time Frame	Project Title	Focus	Advances/Disbursements, Actual Expenditures and Project Status					
				Obligated Amount	Advances to Date (\$)		Expenditures on Advances to Date (\$)		Project Status
					\$	Advances	Balance on Approved Amt	Expenditures	
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	114,191.01	95,808.99	71,548.45	42,642.56	Open
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	64,083.97	56,852.83	41,715.60	22,368.37	Open
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	66,221.07	38,314.47	45,752.21	20,468.86	Open
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	61,855.51	23,144.49	49,389.86	12,465.65	Open
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	61,363.40	98,649.10	50,873.01	10,490.39	Open
ActionAid Int. Nigeria	August 15, 2006 – Feb 22,2010	CSO Budget Monitoring & Tracking	National & Focal State	280,817	189,674.38	91,142.62	164,239.38	25,435	Open
Justice, Development &	01 November – 31 st December, 2006	Voter Registration Monitoring in 15	Voter Registration and Oversight of INEC	58,000	46,400	11,600	48,881.25	(2,481.25)	Completed

Peace Commission (JDPC)/Alliance for Credible Elections (ACE)		states across all the 6 Geo-Political Zones of Nigeria							
Total				1,019,301.84	557,389.34	415,512.80 (out of which 11,600 for de-obligation because one of the projects has ended)	472,399.76	131,389.58	
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	\$330,938.77 Advanced			\$291,641.62 Expended		

B. Programmatic Results

During the reporting period under review, significant progress was made under each of the key ADVANCE program objectives. Programmatic results are enumerated below:

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

Indicator 4. Organizational capacity assessment Index⁴

1. IMPROVED ORGANIZATIONAL CAPACITY

On-going mentoring of partner CSOs on program implementation and management continued during this period which included monthly financial and quarterly program reporting support. Partners made regular visits to Pact offices to seek both financial management and program management advice. Pact staff made 2 formal visits to partner offices to formally review partner progress on financial and program management, especially in light of the election related program shifts. In future, Pact will put a system in place to document even informal advice and information-seeking visits to Pact offices so that more specificity on the frequency of instances of capacity-building through consulting can be included in future quarterly reports. Additionally, a framework for a new Pact/ADVANCE Capacity-Building, plan including CSO Organizational Capacity-Building has been produced in order to ensure a more systematic approach to capacity-building.

Pact/ADVANCE partners were also called upon to make oral presentations on the progress of their work in meetings with the USAID Mission Director and the US Ambassador. This provided the opportunity for both Pact staff as well as USAID and Embassy staff personnel to provide feedback on partner work.

In addition, many Pact/ADVANCE partners and other CSO representatives used the Pact/ADVANCE resource center during this period.

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

Indicator 2. Citizen Input reflected in Targeted Policies⁵

⁴ This report is part of a transitional phase and reports on old indicators and new indicators identified in Pact Nigeria's new operational plan. The old indicators are still reflected in the main text, while the new indicators are reflected in footnotes. This will be reversed in the next quarterly report. Indicator 1 of the old indicators now corresponds to Indicator 3 in the new Operational Plan: *Number of CSOs using USG assistance to improve internal organizational capacity.*

⁵ In light with the previous footnote, these indicators correspond to Indicators 1 (*Number of USG assisted CSOs that engage in advocacy and watchdog functions*) 2 (*Number of CSOs using USG assistance to promote political participation*) 4 (*Number of CSO advocacy campaigns assisted by USG*) 5 (*Number of people who have completed USG assisted Civic Education programs*) and 6 (*Women-focused CSOs supported by USG*)

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*

Indicator 9: *Increased Citizens Awareness and Understanding of Campaign Issues and Electoral Processes⁶*

Indicator 10: *Number of events engaging people and political parties on elections issues*

Indicator 11: *Number of publications and reports produced and distributed on electoral processes and issues*

Indicator 12: *Number of Political Contestants briefed on Issues*

Issue Briefings for Political Contestants

2. CITIZEN INPUT ON TARGETED POLICIES & INFORMATION MADE AVAILABLE

The ADVANCE project continued to focus on eight target policies that promote broad legal reforms. The policies are reflected in specific legislation pending before the National Assembly or recently signed into law. They are enumerated immediately below. Activity reports on each follow thereafter.

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 (*See Objective 3*)
8. Re-Enactment of the Independent Corrupt Practices and Other Related Crimes (ICPC) Bill (*See objective 3*)

a) Freedom of Information (FOI)

ADVANCE partner, Media Rights Agenda (MRA) intensified lobbying and advocacy activities targeted at the leadership and individual members of the Senate, which led to the unanimous passage of the FOI bill in November. All the recommendations of MRA/FOIC were adopted in the version passed by the Senate.

Ahead of the Senate debates leading to the passage of the FOI bill by that chamber of the Assembly, MRA continued its text messaging campaign to encourage Senate action on and passage of the FOI bill. The campaign also included a round of vigorous text messaging to pressure the Senate president and Speaker of the House to assemble and convene the Conference Committee to harmonize the House and Senate versions of the bill. Following the appointment of Senators to the Conference Committee, Media Rights Agenda also sent

assistance to engage in advocacy or promote democratic participation) of the FY07 Operational Plan. There will be more to report on re: 5 & 6 in the next quarter.

⁶ Indicators 9-12 of old indicators have been added as a result of the incorporation of a new programmatic focus on elections.

text messages urging the Committee to accelerate the harmonization process in light of the imminent changing of the guard at both Assembly and Presidential levels.

Once Conference Committee members were named, MRA/FOIC moved quickly to hold meetings with key members, particularly Senator Victor Ndoma-Egba (SAN), who has been designated to serve as Chairman of the Conference Committee. Meetings were also held with influential members of the House of Representatives to ensure that the Speaker expedited action on the appointment to the Conference Committee of House members who are favorably disposed and well versed on the Bill. The meeting provided an opportunity for MRA to indicate their preferences for Conference Committee membership. Although House Conference Committee members were yet to be named at the end of the period under review, they were expected to be named shortly thereafter and all indications were that most of those slated for the Committee are supporters of the Bill.

MRA produced a 30-minute audio-visual educational message on the Freedom of Information Bill for television and radio. The message seeks to explain the key features of the Bill and its provisions, to inform listeners/views on advocacy efforts to date and to highlight various potential benefits of future FOI guarantees. The message, when aired, is expected to generate further public awareness on the Bill and is intended to reach a broad section of the Nigerian populace in the six geo-political zones.

b) FISCAL RESPONSIBILITY

Pact/Advance partner, the Civil Society Legislative Advocacy Center (CISLAC) documented the outcomes of its previous engagements on the Bill in two publications entitled *The Civil Society/Mass Media Intervention* and *Civil Society/Legislature Nexus on the Fiscal Responsibility Bill*. Four-thousand copies of each publication were distributed to relevant Committees of the National Assembly, the Federal Ministry of Finance, the Central Bank of Nigeria, international and local NGOs and the media.

Recognizing the role the media plays in agenda-setting and awareness creation, CISLAC, along with three other CSOs, visited the Daily Trust and Leadership newspapers to further promote support for the FRB. During these visits, CISLAC shared CSOs' position on the bills. The CSO position was subsequently carried in editions of these newspapers.

The *Legislative Dialogue* (LD) is a monthly publication of CISLAC, which serves as an advocacy tool focused on issues of good governance in the legislative context. In its October edition, LD highlights the importance of the FRB and reports on its current status. More than 1,500 copies of the newsletter were printed and circulated to all members of the Senate and House of Representatives, key officers and some relevant committees of the National Assembly, funding agencies, international and local NGOs, and relevant government agencies. The overwhelming positive response to the newsletter is proof of its important role as a tool for sustaining impetus and support for the Bill.

c) PUBLIC PROCUREMENT

Pact partner, CISLAC organized a Civil Society – Legislative Strategic Session on the Public Procurement Bill (PPB) for 33 participants drawn from CSOs, National Assembly, budget

monitoring groups, the Price Intelligence Unit (BMPIU) and the media. The objective of the session was to re-awaken the consciousness of members of the Senate, especially on the need to hasten the passage of the Bill and give civil society the opportunity to review the version passed by the House of Representatives. The outcome of the session was the publication of positions taken by civil society by major National Dailies including ThisDay, Daily Trust, Leadership, Daily Independent and the Nation.

CISLAC has also been providing technical support to the Senate Committee on Establishment and Public Services on the PPB. In particular, CISLAC has been working closely with the staff and consultants of the aforementioned Committees to ensure clarity and more importantly, to increase the likelihood that their recommendations will be incorporated into the final Senate version of the Bill.

d) TRAFFICKING-IN-PERSONS LAW ENFORCEMENT AND ADMINISTRATION ACT

Pact/ADVANCE partner, WOTCLEF, during the review period, conducted additional training programs involving newly deployed youth corps members. Following the training, this new crop of youth corps members was integrated into the WOTCLEF Community Development Service (CDS) groups to undertake weekly awareness creation campaigns to mobilize community action against trafficking in persons. The campaigns are also targeted at encouraging public engagement in enforcing the Act in key source and destination communities. For the youth corps members, involvement in this activity forms part of their weekly compulsory community development service functions.

Sensitization campaigns discouraging trafficking were carried out weekly by means of rallies, talk shops and dramatizations at schools, orphanages, market places, bus-stops and religious institutions. House-to-house campaigns were embarked upon to re-orient parents and families on the on the ills of child abuse, child labor and child neglect. Road rallies were also carried on major roads to create more awareness. The general response was encouraging and mainly receptive. Through these media, about 10,614 persons were reached personally in this quarter alone with Anti-trafficking messages. A key accomplishment of these campaigns was the ability to marshal school students to participate in road rallies alongside the youth corps members.

WOTCLEF representatives also made an advocacy visit to the National Union of Road Transport Workers at Kwarnar Dawaki Motor Park in Dawakin Kudu L.G.A in Kano State, where members of the union were oriented on the activities of traffickers and were also challenged on the use of young boys as bus conductors. These lobbying efforts were so successful that a decision was taken to establish a WOTCLEF club at the park to facilitate effective collaboration between the WOTCLEF and the NURTW as key stakeholders in the fight against trafficking.

A notable achievement is the ricocheting effect the intervention is creating in various localities. The economic empowerment/skills acquisition training programs carried out in Osun State during the last quarter to keep children and youth occupied and less vulnerable to traffickers were replicated in Cross River State this quarter. This was an excellent

illustration of the importance WOTCLEF places on the adoption of best practices which have emerged from previous experiences. Anecdotally, one of the participants at the training has, with the skills gained, embarked on a commercial venture producing beads – a welcome by-product of the increased structured activity for children and youth.

Jingles and radio ads and discussions continued during this quarter and once again, based on listener estimates, about 13,100,000 people (the total number of people who receive radio broadcasts in the three states) continued to be reached with the anti-trafficking message.

The project has also succeeded in galvanizing support from virtually all walks of life as evidenced by another anecdote involving a youth corper who, because of passion and enthusiasm inspired by his participation in the WOTCLEF anti-trafficking crusade, took it upon himself to produce stickers promoting anti-trafficking using his personal funds.

A simplified guide to the Act is still to be finalized. A draft is currently undergoing review/revision and a finalized version will be produced and distributed next quarter.

3. POLICY ADVOCACY: CSO USE OF MEDIA FOR ADVOCACY STRENGTHENING

The following are examples of CSO use of the media to strengthen their advocacy campaigns:

- Pact/ADVANCE partner, the International Press Center (IPC) began publication of a monthly newsletter entitled *Cost of Corruption* whose cover graces the front cover of this report. This publication simplifies corruption issues for the average reader and highlights, in layman's terms, the consequences of corruption and its impact on public welfare.
- The Pact/ADVANCE funded Justice Development and Peace Center/Alliance for Credible Election (JDPC/ACE) Alliance organized a press conference which highlighted the flaws in the voter registration process based on their observation. ACE which is a broad coalition of election advocacy groups including the Transition Monitoring Group (TMG), placed advertorials in national dailies to publicize the results of the Pact/ADVANCE-funded Voter Registration monitoring exercise.
- Media campaigns aired by WOTCLEF consisting of radio jingles and discussions continued to feature in all project states, and have aired, cumulatively, 125 times alongside other media of Anti-Trafficking activities, including a no cost television interview of the Calabar WOTCLEF CDS group at the Cross River Broadcasting Corporation.
- Pact itself made extensive use of the media to publicize the launch of its Stick to the Issues Campaign described in more detail below. Two television appearances, radio slots and news features appearing in several dailies were used to educate the public on the importance of issue-based campaigning and voting.

- While there was media coverage for most of the Pact/ADVANCE budget related events, the Civil Society-Government forum attracted the most media coverage. ActionAID's strategic inclusion of high profile participants guaranteed coverage by major television stations, namely, The National Television Authority and AIT.

4. ADVOCACY CAPACITY STRENGTHENED

A framework for Pact Nigeria's capacity-building plan, including one for CSO Advocacy Capacity-Building, was produced and will be implemented over the course of FY07 to introduce more systematic approaches to capacity-building efforts undertaken by ADVANCE thus far.

One key feature of the plan, already underway is the development of a knowledge network and an integrated system of knowledge acquisition and sharing. In particular, following a stakeholder meeting recommendation to improve external communication and disseminate information on ADVANCE activities that adds value to advocacy efforts, Pact Nigeria immediately moved to put a knowledge acquisition and dissemination system in place.

In November, the Pact Nigeria website and the system for website maintenance were revised to ensure that the contents are relevant and updated regularly to meet the information needs of ADVANCE partners and other stakeholders. Hitherto, the website was dormant without much information about partners' activities. The website now serves as an important knowledge resource for all Pact/ADVANCE stakeholders.

Also, a monthly e-newsletter, *ADVANCE VOICES* was launched to better capture and disseminate information about the giant strides that have been made by ADVANCE partners in policy advocacy and reforms. Partners' success stories, information on partner publications, capacity-building news and activity updates are also featured. In addition to being posted on the website, the newsletter is disseminated via the new Pact Nigeria list-serve and through CSO coalition list-serves and is thus available on a demand-only basis in keeping with the new emphasis of USAID to minimize supply driven publication dissemination. The first newsletter (the December issue) which was produced during this period is featured on the newly revised website at www.pactnigeria.org.

A new position, Programme Coordinator, Knowledge Resources & Capacity-Building was created during this period to ensure that the momentum created by these various initiatives to improve communications can be sustained. It is hoped that the position will facilitate knowledge-building and management within Pact/ADVANCE and partner organisations and achieve better coordination among partner activities. Moreover, the link of communications to capacity-building will help to maximize the utility of information technology as a capacity-building tool.

5. ELECTION ADVOCACY: INCREASING CITIZEN AWARENESS, ENGAGEMENT OF POLITICAL CONTESTANTS AND REPORTS AND PUBLICATIONS

Inspired by the “issues mainstreaming” concept which emerged from the Kaduna meeting, Pact sought to create an issues mainstreaming and advocacy platform for its partners through the National Launch of the “Stick to the Issues” Campaign (STIC) coordinated by Pact/ADVANCE in partnership with Zero Corruption Coalition (ZCC).

The event was designed to highlight the importance of issue accountability in the campaign environment and persuade government, political parties, media and the electorate of the need for contestants for political office to abandon ethnic and regional politics and instead, remain focused on important social issues such as anti-corruption, poverty alleviation and human rights as they launch election campaigns across the country.

The two-day event featured three back-to-back trainings for participating CSOs held on the first day; and a strategy session and formal launch ceremony held on the second day. Trainers, including one from the US-based League of Women Voters (LWV), one from International Partner, the National Democratic Institute (NDI) and one from a Pact/ADVANCE partner, the International Press Center (IPC) conducted simultaneous sessions on Organizing Political Debates/Challenging Political Parties on the Issues; Use of Media to Highlight the Issues and Ensure Issue Focused Campaigns; and Voter Education and Outreach. At the strategy session, participants had the opportunity to explore strategies for sustaining the STIC campaign throughout the campaign period. The launch ceremony which featured speeches by the US Ambassador, the USAID Mission Director and an Independent National Electoral Commission Commissioner, also inspired the 170 member audience with a lively dramatic performance on issue accountability highlighting the tendency of Nigerian politicians to avoid the issues in favor of reliance on “grandfatherism”, and the bribing of voters to attain political office. A discussion panel featuring prominent Nigerian scholars and the LWV representative as keynote rounded out the event.

The feedback from partners and attendees at the event has been overwhelming, showing the reverberating impact of the forum. Even before the end of the quarter, Pact received numerous favorable comments and inquiries on the Campaign, including the expression of intentions by various groups to organize issue accountability sessions in their areas. One such group, the recently formed Young Voters Initiative whose representatives attended the launch pledged to organize at least one event highlighting the need to “Stick to the Issues” in elections. As a result of the impressive role it played in the national launch, ADVANCE subgrantee, ZCC will organize regional launches to take the issue accountability message to all corners of Nigeria.

The STIC launch also provided a platform for the launch of one of the first election related publications funded by the Pact/ADVANCE program – a newsletter featuring a corruption score card which features a comparative analysis of two major parties’ stance on corruption issues.

ActionAid International Nigeria convened a series of stakeholder forums tagged “Count Down to 2007 Election” to provide an interactive base for civil society actors working towards free and fair 2007 elections to share field and programmatic experiences on their respective election work. Participants strategized on how to ensure credible elections and to entrench civil society voices in the elections processes. Through this process, civil society members were able to articulate a common stand on civil society approaches on elections and to proffer solutions to identified challenges within the electoral process.

The monthly forums brought together the Nigerian Labour Congress (NLC), Alliance for Credible Elections (ACE), the Transition Monitoring Group (TMG), the Muslim League for Accountability(MULAC), the Federation of Muslim Women Associations in Nigeria(FOMWAN), the Joint National of Persons with Disabilities and Nigerian Young Professionals amongst many other civil society, religious, ethnic and media groups. The objective of the forums was to solicit civil society views and concerns related to the 2007 general elections. Ultimately, the more than 60 CSOs in attendance at the meetings forged a platform to canvass for the inclusion of civil society voices in the current debates on free and fair elections in Nigeria.

Also during the period under review, Pact/ADVANCE supported the implementation of a Voter Registration Monitoring project through partnership with JDPC under the umbrella of ACE. Project implementation commenced with a Training of Trainers for CSO members to enhance their capacity to monitor the voter registration process. Participants at the training subsequently carried out step down trainings for field observers at the state levels. Following the training, observers were deployed in 15 states. Knowing that a properly compiled, renewed and updated voters register is crucial to free and fair election, the main focus of the observation was to assess the credibility of the exercise in terms of the extent to which it could be said to be fraud free, hitch free and manipulation free in order to restore the confidence of Nigerians in the electoral process towards 2007 general election.

A major activity of the partnership was the deployment of observers to 1757 units in 192 Local Government Areas including Abuja FCT and 15 States across the six geopolitical zones of the Federation, and the FCT. States covered include: Akwa Ibom, Anambra, Benue, Cross River, Edo, Ekiti, Enugu, FCT, Kaduna, Kano, Ogun, Oyo, Osun, Ondo, Lagos, and Rivers. Advocacy visits were also carried out by JDPC/ACE and CSO partners to INEC, Security agencies, State Assemblies and Eminent persons to put pressure on INEC and other government actors to conduct a credible voters’ registration exercise.

In keeping with the decision taken at Kaduna to focus the majority of Pact/ADVANCE partner election efforts on mainstreaming issues into the electoral process, WOTCLEF made advocacy and sensitization visits to political parties, INEC (National & State), the Commissioner for Local Government Authorities/Women Affairs, Chairmen and Councilors of LGAs, Traditional leaders, Women and Youth and opinion leaders in each of the project states to lobby for the inclusion of anti-trafficking policies in political party manifestoes. WOTCLEF also organized a Training of Trainers workshop for implementation officers on voters’ registration and the monitoring of electoral processes in each of the project states.

The trainers subsequently trained 145 youth corpsers on the same issue using previously developed manuals.

6. PARTICIPATION IN BUDGET PROCESSES

Pact/ADVANCE technical partner on budget processes, Action Aid International Nigeria (AAIN) was invited to serve as one of the leading witnesses at a NASS hearing on the 2007 budget. A key outcome was that as a result of their participation, their input on anti-retroviral drugs was incorporated into the health ministry budget.

In addition, this quarter featured the attainment of other key milestones in the Budget Advocacy component of the ADVANCE project. The Technical Capacity Assessment of State-level CSOs indicated that the project was set to implement a budget advocacy program at State level for the first time.⁷ Through the technical assessment process, representatives of these organizations had the opportunity to enhance their understanding of legal and institutional frameworks for budget advocacy and monitoring.

The ADVANCE Project is entrenching a culture of citizens' contribution into the draft Federal budget through the annual Civil Society Summit on the Draft Budget convened by AAIN. The latest summit brought together non-state actors from all parts of the country to whom experts presented various analyses of the draft 2007 Appropriation Bill. Based on input from the experts, participants developed strategies to influence the budget process. The result of this was the adoption of a Civil Society Position on the 2007 budget which was sent to the National Assembly.

Through the Summit, civil society organizations had the chance to access the Federal Budget for the first time. The forum also served as a capacity-building opportunity. A significant milestone attained during this period was the holding of the first ever Budget Analysis and Advocacy Training (BAAT) Program convened by the newly established Centre for Budget Policy and Advocacy at Action Aid. The workshop provided opportunities for participating civil society fellows to develop capacity in budget and policy analysis and in translating budget analysis results to advocacy issues. It equally equipped participants with the skills to analyze public budgets from various issue, sectoral and people-centered perspectives.

Another significant stride was made in the promotion of a mutually enhancing and cooperative CSO-Government relationship when AAIN partnered with the Office of the Senior Special Assistant to the President, Millennium Development Goals to organise the first Civil Society – Government Forum on Budget Implementation on the 9th and 10th of November 2006. The forum brought together 117 participants who were briefed by 4 line ministries (Health, Water Resources, Women Affairs and Agriculture) on the level of implementation of the 2006 Federal Budget. The 2006 Budget represents Nigeria's first attempt at more aggressively pursuing the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) through

⁷ As of the end of the quarter under review, it was unclear given the shift in programmatic focus whether Pact/ADVANCE would be able to go forward with the funding of these partners and funding these activities was thus put on hold until such time that there would be greater certainty that current funding levels would sustain this activity.

harnessing the Debt Relief Gains and applying them to addressing urgent social priorities. This session afforded CSO advocates the chance to pose probing questions on the status of various projects and to propose recommendations on project implementation.

During this last quarter, Pact/ADVANCE also supported the publication and distribution of *“Find the Money: A Guide to Monitoring Allocations to the Millennium Development Goals through the Debt Relief Gains,”* authored by AAIN and prepared as a guide for citizens to monitor budget implementation and the application debt relief gains. During this quarter, ActionAid International Nigeria distributed over 1,500 copies through various national networks, religious and civil society groups.

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

Indicator 7. *Civil Society-GON partnership to implement the Nigeria Extractive Industries Transparency Initiative (NEITI) & anti corruption institution strengthening*

7. ADVOCACY ON THE IMPLEMENTATION OF NIGERIAN EXTRACTIVE INDUSTRIES TRANSPARENCY INTIATIVE (NEITI)

Pact Partner CISLAC, also a member of Publish What You Pay (PWYP) continued to monitor the review and revision of the NEITI bill. At the same time CISLAC representatives provided technical support to House and Senate Committee members on the Bill.

At a meeting convened in Lagos on 23-25 November, PWYP coalition members brainstormed on ways to ensure that the issue of revenue transparency becomes a main issue in forthcoming campaign electioneering. At a roundtable featuring panel discussions on revenue transparency and the relative obscurity of the issue in public discourse in the run-up to the 2007 elections, delegates produced concrete recommendations for promoting revenue transparency as a key 2007 elections issue. In particular, the following three strategies were highlighted:

- The need to initiate policy dialogue with politicians to ensure their understanding of the issues surrounding NEITI.
- The need to get politicians to commit to advocating for a government response to the Hart Group Audit report on oil revenues, emphasizing that oil revenues must benefit the people.
- The need to actively educate voters at grassroots level on revenue transparency and on the issue of political “imposition” and the need to vote on an informed basis as opposed to in response to politician “generosity” during election season.

During this period, Pact/ADVANCE contributed to the establishment of a PWYP advocacy office in Abuja. This move strategically places PWYP to play a more effective advocacy

role. Also, Pact/ADVANCE continued to support information dissemination through the PWYP list serve. The list serve is extremely active and features such useful information as:

- Updates on international EITI meetings
- Progress reports on the tracking of stolen funds
- Reports of Pact/ADVANCE activities such as the Stick to the Issues Campaign
- Notices of upcoming meetings

The PWYP annual general meeting which was slated to take place during this quarter was postponed until the second quarter. This meeting was eagerly awaited as it was expected to resolve some outstanding issues with regards to the PWYP Secretariat's own levels of transparency. Because of these continuing organizational challenges, Pact/ADVANCE elected to provide direct disbursements to the PWYP Secretariat on a **trial basis only**.

8. INSTITUTIONAL STRENGTHENING: ECONOMIC AND FINANCIAL CRIMES COMMISSION (EFCC) & THE INDEPENDENT CORRUPT PRACTICES AND OTHER RELATED CRIMES (ICPC)

ZCC continued the launch of the "Citizen's Guide to the EFCC and ICPC" at the six geo-political zones in the country to ensure a wider coverage and to enlighten citizens in the zones of the manual and its contents. This took place in six zones and they are Kano (North West), Lagos (South West), Calabar (South-South), Enugu (South East) Jos (North Central) and Maiduguri (North East). The launches provided the opportunity to distribute 6,000 copies of the manual which was intended reach grassroots citizens especially.

9. CIVIC EDUCATION PROGRAMMING ENHANCED

While Pact/ADVANCE had limited funding to provide specific support to the improvement of civic education programming in Nigeria, it continued to work closely with the National Orientation Agency (NOA) and to support a process in which stakeholders involved in the development of a new civic education curriculum for Nigeria were assembled to produce both a source document for civic education programming and a civic education curriculum. During this quarter, Pact/ADVANCE supported the development of the source document which represented a milestone in efforts to attain the ultimate goal of a new and improved Nigerian civic education curriculum.

The voter education programming that was initiated through the Stick to the Issues Campaign helped to launch a voter education aspect of civic education that will be in full swing during the 2nd Quarter of FY07 and will be reported on accordingly.

C. Problems and Opportunities

Challenges/Problems

CHALLENGES

1. New Program Focus

The reprogramming of election activities into the existing program as requested by USAID Nigeria proved a significant challenge especially during a period when many partner activities were focused on the annual budget and key pieces of transparency legislation. This reprogramming was also affected by limited availability of funds. Most partners had committed to undertaking other activities which made reprogramming difficult. Moreover, due to the accelerated spending rate during the last two quarters of FY06, it was unclear at the time of the shift how much would actually be available for election work. The program shift also prevented Pact/ADVANCE from moving forward in planned grants to 4 partners operating at state-level whose work was to focus on state-level budget monitoring.

2. Limited Movement on Bills

The various transparency and accountability bills targeted by partners for advocacy have not progressed at the rate envisaged. The National Assembly has been distracted by other important governance issues that have emerged as a result of the imminence of elections and the transfer of power.

3. On-going Political and Social Upheaval

In addition to causing the delay of movement on several pieces of legislation being followed by ADVANCE partners, lack of significant change in on-going political and social volatility at state and national levels has prevented Pact/ADVANCE from fully exploring opportunities to work with partners in the Niger Delta. For example, given the restrictions on movements of US citizens, the Pact Country Representative has not been able to participate in events in that region.

4. F-Process Uncertainty

The newly introduced USAID operational plan format created a high degree of uncertainty with regards to future reporting requirements.

5. Publish What You Pay

While sub-grantees have been performing extremely well, by the end of this quarter, concerns regarding the cohesion of the PWYP coalition and the level of transparency and accountability of the PWYP Secretariat remained. It was hoped that the Annual General Meeting scheduled for the next quarter would resolve the high degree of tension that exists among the most senior and experienced members of the coalition. Many such members have been alienated by the behavior of the Secretariat coordinator and his failure to follow through on commitments made at PWYP Steering Committee meetings. In particular, basic institutional reforms for which members have long advocated have gone unimplemented. Most notably, the National Coordinator of Publish What You Pay also serves as Executive Director of the host Secretariat which immediately raises suspicions about the integrity of the administrative and programmatic independence of the Coalition. Thus, the challenges for next quarter will be to:

- Support efforts to ensure a positive outcome of the AGM
- Closely monitor the administration of funds disbursed on a trial basis
- Strongly encourage the appointment of a program coordinator for the Coalition who acts independently of the Secretariat hosting institution

- Support efforts to attract alienated coalition members back to active participation in PWYP

OPPORTUNITIES

1. Administration and Management Opportunities

Several opportunities have emerged as a result of changes which took place during this period including the following:

- With the closer integration of ActionAid ADVANCE staff into program administration due to recent staff redeployment, it is expected that the resultant information sharing and learning will bring better cohesion and effectiveness to the program.
- The deployment of a Pact staff member to a full time position as Monitoring and Evaluation Coordinator should result in better and more timely reporting to USAID, improved documentation of success stories and better responsiveness to donor requirements.
- With notable improvements in the Pact Nigeria and USAID Nigeria partnership/relationship, some opportunities are envisaged in the near future for more effective implementation of the ADVANCE program.

2. Partner and Programmatic Opportunities

Several opportunities emerged programmatically including:

- Pact now participates in weekly briefings on elections presented to the US Ambassador and also in periodic meetings of CEPPS partners. This enables better coordination among USAID affiliated International Partners working on elections.
- The involvement of existing partners in elections has created new opportunities for them to inject their advocacy positions into the election campaign environment.
- The upcoming PWYP AGM will hopefully provide the opportunity to resolve such issues as how to institutionalize and strengthen the Campaign; the length of tenure for coalition steering committee members and other officials; the production of a Code of Conduct, the role of the Secretariat and a clearly defined criteria for PWYP coalition membership.
- Following the Ministry of Solid Minerals' opening up the space for formal mining operations in Nigeria, the interpretation and administration of EITI can be further deepened in this area, thereby creating more opportunities for CSO engagement particularly to ensure that the hazards resulting from oil exploration in Nigeria are not repeated in the mining industry.
- The ADVANCE Budget Advocacy project has received support and endorsements from Government, gains from which will be consolidated over the next quarter and beyond.
- Opportunities to begin work at the State level emerged with the capacity assessment conducted with potential state-level budget monitoring partners. It is hoped that once funding levels issues are clarified, this aspect of the ADVANCE project can move forward swiftly.
- Significant interaction with the leadership of the leading disability rights advocacy group in Nigeria as a result of their participation in several Pact/ADVANCE

sponsored programs has raised the prospect of developing a project on disability budgeting and an election related project on mainstreaming disability rights issues into the elections.

- Three-way discussions held towards the end of the quarter among Pact, Zero Corruption Coalition and an independent filmmaker raised prospects for the possibility of developing an EITI/Anti-corruption docu-drama in keeping with plans to develop such material as part of anti-corruption work.

D. Activity Changes & Explanations

The major activity change of this quarter involved the requirement by USAID to reprogram some of the ADVANCE funding to support election activities. Activities that were dropped as a result of this requirement are listed in the detailed table which appears below along with activity changes that were triggered by other issues arising. Some of the activities brought **into** the program as a result of the election related change include:

- The Stick to the Issues program
- ZCC’s election score card newsletter
- ActionAid’s monthly round table on elections
- WOTCLEF’s political party briefings
- ACE’s voter registration process
- PWYP’s roundtable on mainstreaming issues in elections
- Pact participation in CEPPS meetings and Ambassador briefings

The other major driver of activity changes were changes determined by actions or lack thereof by the legislature or Executive Branch. Activity changes are thus listed in more detail below:

Category of Activity Change	Activity Cancelled or Postponed	Specific Reason for Change	Follow up (if any)
<i>Cancelled or postponed due to election reprogramming</i>	All ICPC & EFCC related activity to be undertaken by ZCC (except launch of guide)	Funds not available because of election reprogramming	May revisit it in future
	CSO Capacity-building work	Because of uncertainty around election changes and pipeline	Will resume in Q2
	IPC newspaper inserts on the cost of corruption	Elections reprogramming	Newsletter serves same purpose so newspaper inserts cancelled
	Training of	Elections	Will try to revisit if

Category of Activity Change	Activity Cancelled or Postponed	Specific Reason for Change	Follow up (if any)
	Journalists on Budget reporting	reprogramming	funding allows
<i>Delayed due to failure to enact or late passage of legislation</i>	Technical assistance to harmonization committees on FOI	Late passage of the bill by the Senate	To be taken up in Q2
	Advocacy at Executive level	Late passage of the bill by the Senate	To be taken up in Q2
	Simplified version and/or popularization activities of FOI, FRB and PPB	No enactment	Depends on enactment
	Development of score card and assessment of GON agency capacity to implement	No enactment	Depends on enactment
	Review of Right to Know and Whistleblower laws	No enactment of FOI	Depends on enactment of FOI
<i>Activities held in earlier quarter</i>	Small stakeholder Forum on FRB	Held in September	N/A
	Participation in NASS hearing on FRB	Held in September	N/A
<i>Postponed until future quarters because makes more sense</i>	Weekly press statements on FRB status	Starts in February	Taken up in Q2
	EITI Audit report related activities	The Audit report was only released in December	Taken up in Q2
<i>Other Reasons</i>	Work with civil servants on FOI not done	Civil Service Bureau on Reforms not predisposed to collaboration	Cancelled
	Participation in PPB hearing	Hearing not held	Depends if NASS calls hearing
	Participation in hearing on EITI	Hearing cancelled at last minute	Depends if NASS calls hearing
	Simplified Guide on TIP not yet released	Difficulty in finding professionals to undertake meaningful	Taken up in Q2

Category of Activity Change	Activity Cancelled or Postponed	Specific Reason for Change	Follow up (if any)
		simplification	
	EITI-related media work	PWYP management problems	Taken up in Q2
	Civil Education Draft Manual	Decision taken to produce source book first	Taken up in Q2
	Regular reports on party access to media during elections	Insufficient elections funding	Cancelled
	Participation in IRI campaign schools	Short notice on schools	Cancelled for next quarter also since IRI has cancelled this activity

E. Success Stories

Activities under the ADVANCE project have continued to yield tremendous results and impact, key among which are the following:

FOI SENATE BILL PASSED AND CIVIL SOCIETY'S POSITIONS BROADLY ADOPTED

A resounding victory for civil society during this period was the passage of the Freedom of Information Bill in the Senate. Most notably, Pact/ADVANCE partner MRA which was the author of the bill passed by the House at the end of 2005 successfully argued in favor of deleting the 4 provisions introduced into the Bill by the Senate Committee that placed greater restrictions on access to information, including Section 2(2) which required that an applicant requesting information from any public institution must first demonstrate specific interest in the information requested before access is granted. MRA argued that the provision would defeat the essence of the law, which is to make information more freely available to the general public. This clause and three others were deleted from the Committee's report before it was submitted and eventually passed. This represents a major milestone in the evolution of the cooperative relationship between civil society and the Nigerian National Assembly.



CIVIL SOCIETY AND NIGERIAN GOVERNMENT FORGE NEW PARTNERSHIP ON BUDGET TRANSPARENCY – LEADS TO CSO VIEW REFLECTED IN BUDGET

The ADVANCE technical partner on budget advocacy, ActionAid International Nigeria, recently blazed an exciting new trail by partnering with the Office of the Senior Special Assistant to the President on the MDGs to organize the maiden Civil Society-Government Forum on the Implementation of the Budget. The forum is a watershed in the history of civil society – government relationship in Nigeria. For the first time, civil society has been afforded a formal platform from which to hold government to account on national budget implementation and government representatives willingly cooperated by providing implementation updates and by responding to questions. This event has thus laid a solid foundation for improved government transparency and accountability on Nigerian government project implementation. The event brought together more than 100 civil society organizations and featured the Minister of Finance, Mrs Nenadi Usman as the keynote speaker. Presentations on the status implementation reports were also made by

representatives of the ministries of Health, Agriculture, Water Resources and Women Affairs. The co-convenor of the forum, Senior Special Assistant to the President on the MDGs, Mrs Amina Ibrahim also provided an overview of MDG centered budget implementation from the government's perspective. ***On the strength of this new relationship, the Health Ministry has adopted civil society input in its submission for the national budget.***

A NEW FORCE FOR BUDGET AND POLICY ANALYSIS CAPACITY-BUILDING

A key objective of the ADVANCE/ActionAid partnership is to build and strengthen the capacity of civil society actors in Nigeria to analyze budgets and policies for effective advocacy. To ensure the sustainability of on-going efforts to build such capacity, ActionAid through Pact/ADVANCE launched the Centre for Budget and Policy Advocacy and with it, a Budget Advocacy and Analysis Training (BAAT) program which held its inaugural session during this quarter. The training was a resounding success, as evidenced in the participants' comments, some of which are presented below:



The BAAT Program is indeed an experience that will propel me and my Network towards delivering on our Governance and Budget work. The capacity gained was enormous from budget to policy analysis. The fact that we are able to develop policies on various sectors and analyse national and state economic policies was a tremendous amount of knowledge. – Ayo Adebuseye, Program Coordinator, Nigerian Network of Non-Governmental Organisations (NNGO)



The training was all encompassing. My capacity has been built in General Governance and Budget Advocacy. I am now able to analyse both budget and economic policies with a view to identifying how they respond to social issues like health and HIV/AIDS. This I will be applying to CISHAN and its members nationwide. – Yinka Akibu, Program Officer (Public Finance Analysis, Civil Society on HIV/AIDS in Nigeria, CISHAN)⁸

⁸ CISHAN is one of the 4 organizations that were slated to received funding to undertake budget monitoring at state level.

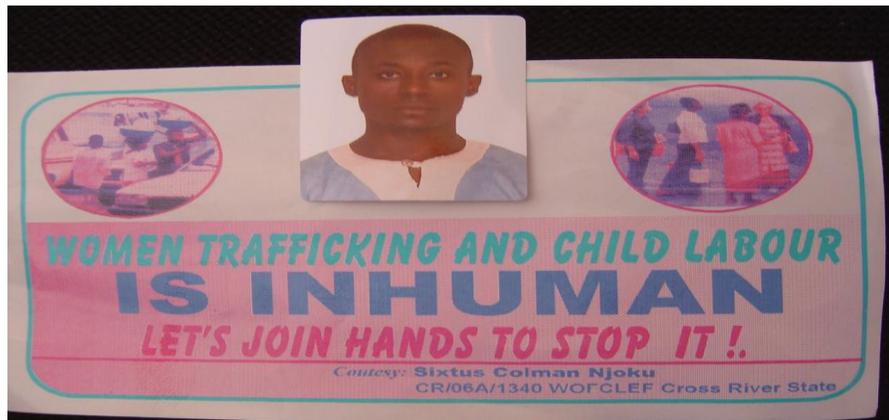


I have always viewed public budgets and policy issues from a distance due to their technical nature. [The] BAAT program has changed this notion[for me] and has built my capacity not only to appreciate budgets but to analyse both budgets and policies. In addition, I am now able to analyse budgets from gender perspectives. – Chinelo Ugochukwu, Program/Research Officer, Women Advocates Research and Documentation Centre, WARD-C

Most notably, as a result of the training, the Niger Delta Budget Monitoring Group (NDEBUMOG) whose National Coordinator was amongst the Fellows at the training has already fixed March and April 2007 to step down the training to its members and government officials in the States of the Niger Delta. Moreover, the advent of the Institute and BAAT is an extremely important milestone towards ensuring that advocacy capacity-building remains as a permanent fixture in the Nigerian advocacy landscape.

ANTI-TRAFFICKING CAMPAIGN PRODUCES NEW ADVOCATES

A youth corper in Cross River State, in a bid to further popularize the message against trafficking in persons produced stickers out of his personal allowance to promote the cause.



Njoku Sixtus Colman Odirichi & the promotional material he produced

F. Summary of Work and Activity Outcomes

GRANTS & PROGRAM MANAGEMENT AND PARTNER CAPACITY-BUILDING

- **Election advocate partner added to the grants portfolio**
- **Anti-corruption Advocates refocused on elections and increasingly enthusiastic about elections involvement**
- **Major acceleration of burn rate**
- **Two major recommendations from Stakeholder meetings implemented**
 - **Elections mainstreaming by partners**
 - **New knowledge dissemination system implemented at Pact/ADVANCE (i.e. new website and newsletter which are already being widely disseminated and accessed).**

PROGRAM IMPLEMENTATION

- 1. Senate version of FOI bill passed due to substantial pressure by Pact/ADVANCE supported advocates**
- 2. AAIN participation at NASS Budget Hearing resulted in incorporation of CSO input into GON Health Ministry Budget**
- 3. Greater awareness of all bills among legislators and citizens**
- 4. Greater media interest in all bills**
- 5. Greater technical competency within legislature on FOI, FRB and PPB**
- 6. More people were moved to action on anti-trafficking including individual citizens spending own funds to spread the message of anti-trafficking**
- 7. WOTCLEF efforts to engage youth in more productive activity produced at least 1 new youth-led commercial venture**
- 8. Platform created by STIC inspired others to spread message of issue accountability (reports received of planned follow-ups not covered by Pact/ADVANCE)**
- 9. Pact/ADVANCE supported voter registration monitoring highlighted need for CSO advocacy and involvement earlier in the electoral process and pressured INEC to be more transparent at an earlier stage in the process. The voter registration process was ultimately extended even beyond Pact/ADVANCE supported monitoring in significant part, due to pressure from Pact/ADVANCE supported CSOs.**

10. The CSO – Government Dialogue on the 2007 Budget established a major new cooperative platform for government and civil society to interact on budget matters.

III. Highlights of Plans for Next Quarter

As Pact/ADVANCE seeks to deepen capacity built in previous quarters, it is now poised to take activities to a new level of engagement with plans for the next quarter that include the following highlights.

1. NEITI Audit Report Review, Analysis and Popularization (PWYP)
2. Regional Launches of Stick to the Issues (ZCC)
3. Town Hall Meetings on Revenue Transparency in Elections Campaigns (PWYP)
4. EITI Documentary Development for Public Awareness Raising (PWYP through ZCC with Pact)
5. Political Party Briefings on transparency legislation (CISLAC)
6. CITAD, MULAC, FOMWAN and ACE Voter education emphasizing issue accountability
7. Civil Society Government Forum on Budget implementation
8. Training on Protecting Peoples Mandate for 2007 Elections.
9. National Conference on Political Manifestoes and Accountability in Nigeria
10. ActionAid Policy Dialogue Series
11. State Partner State level Budget monitoring begins (CISHAN, Aids Alliance, JDPC and CIRDOCC)
12. Capacity building and training of Pact/ADVANCE CSO partners