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**ADVANCE PROJECT
QUARTERLY PROGRESS REPORT
January – March 2008
Submitted by Pact Nigeria
Cooperative Agreement #620-A-00-05-00096-00**

List of Acronyms

AAIN	Action Aid International Nigeria
AAN	AIDS Alliance Nigeria
ABGREMO	Akpabuyo Bakassi Green Movement
ACE	Alliance for Credible Elections
ADVANCE	Advocacy, Awareness and Civic Empowerment Project
CASS	Centre for Advanced Social Sciences
CBI	Convention on Business Integrity
CBO	Community Based Organization
CDA	Centre for Development Action
CDD	Centre for Democracy and Development
CIRDDOC	Civil Resource Development and Documentation Centre
CISHAN	Civil Society for HIV/AIDS in Nigeria
CISLAC	Civil Society Legislative Advocacy Centre
CITAD	Centre for Information Technology and Development
CP	Concerned Professionals
CPPC	Centre for Public-Private Cooperation
CSO	Civil Society Organization
EFCC	Economic and Financial Crimes Commission
EITI	Extractive Industries Transparency Initiative
ERA	Environmental Rights Action/Friends of the Earth
ERC	Electoral Reform Committee
ERN	Electoral Reform Network
FOI	Freedom of Information
FOMWAN	Federation of Muslim Women Associations of Nigeria
GON	Government of Nigeria
IPC	International Press Centre
ICTN	Institute of Chartered Trustees of Nigeria.
JDPC	Justice Development and Peace Commission
JONAPWD	Joint National Organization of People with Disabilities
LGA	Local Government Area
MRA	Media Rights Agenda
MULAC	Muslim League for Accountability
NASS	National Assembly
NDI	National Democratic Institute
NEEDS	National Economic Empowerment and Development Strategy
NEITI	Nigeria Extractive Industries Transparency Initiative
NGO	Non-Governmental Organization
PWD	People with disabilities
PWYP	Publish What You Pay
SEEDS	State Economic Empowerment and Development Strategy
USAID	United States Agency for International Development
WANGONeT	West Africa NGO Network
WOTCLEF	Women Trafficking and Child Labor Eradication Foundation
YPI	Young Peoples Initiative
ZCC	Zero Corruption Coalition

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I. BACKGROUND AND OVERVIEW

A. Activity Summary

Implementing Partner: Pact, Inc.
Activity Name: Advocacy, Awareness, and Civic Empowerment (ADVANCE) Project
Activity Objectives: Strengthened civil society organization (CSO) capacity for effective program and financial management Increased CSO capacity for effective advocacy for key policy reforms such as budget transparency, access to information, and judicial oversight 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: \$8,000,000.00
Obligations to date: \$5,973,848.00
Current Pipeline Amount: \$1,379,031.48, of which \$460,036.08 is already obligated to sub grantees and therefore not available for any purpose; leaving an Effective Pipeline Amount of \$918,995.40
Accrued Expenditures this Quarter: \$514,652.57
Activity Cumulative Accrued Expenditures to Date: \$4,594,817.00
Estimated Expenditures Next Quarter: \$521,937.00
Report Submitted by: Dan Spealman, Pact Nigeria Country Rep

B. Summary of Outputs

Primary capacity building and grants/program management accomplishments this period included the following:

- Supported existing partner CSOs through fund disbursements, oversight and mentoring
- Developed new subgrants to CSO partners for engaging the Presidential Electoral Reform Committee
- Revised the FY 08 budget
- Prepared the inputs to the Mission's Operational Plan
- The new Country Representative/Chief of Party officially joined the project
- Pre-award assessments for CSO partners were conducted
- A financial training for CSO partners was conducted
- Began the recruitment process for the positions of MER officer and capacity building officer

This quarter was a period of consolidation and renewal for the ADVANCE project. In terms of staffing, with the arrival of new Country Representative/ Chief of Party Dan Spealman at the end of January, the most important of the existing staff vacancies were filled. Also during this quarter, preparations such as advertisements and review of resumes were carried out to fill two important program positions for capacity building, as well as monitoring and evaluation (the latter of these positions was already filled as of the time of this writing). On the financial and administrative side, the departure of the Senior Finance and Admin Officer led to a period of review this quarter to determine if existing staff could be promoted to handle those duties (and of this writing, those promotions had taken place).

In terms of subgrants management, the staff reviewed and worked with subgrantees to revise multiple proposals, conducted pre-award assessments on multiple partners, issued several new subgrants, conducted a financial management training for all partners, and continued mentoring and oversight of partners' program implementation. Pact Nigeria also began a period of review and revision on subgrants management processes, along with other processes this quarter – updating subgrant and modification templates, implementing cost-share tracking procedures, as well as beginning the process of further upgrading Pact Nigeria's overall financial and management systems. This quarter, Pact Nigeria also revised and resubmitted its FY 08 budget, and prepared and submitted its contribution to the Mission's Operational Plan.

Partner program highlights included the following:

- ActionAid trainings in Port Harcourt and Lagos on budget advocacy for 46 CSOs working in the specialized key sectors of education, agriculture and HIV/AIDS
- JDPC and AIDS Alliance conducted a day-long retreat for 16 CSO members on the Lagos State SEEDS document.
- CISHAN held the Civil Society, Legislative and Media Forum, which brought together 32 representatives of civil society groups, government officials and the media.
- MULAC held a consultative workshop that brought together 82 Islamic organization members to discuss issues regarding electoral reforms from an Islamic perspective.
- JONAPWD held a multi-day consultative workshop with 51 member organizations of the network to articulate electoral reform issues from a PWD perspective.

- ABGREMO conducted a NEITI perception survey in two states and developed, printed and distributed 500 copies of the abridged version of NEITI Act.
- ABGREMO also proposed legislation for the establishment of a State Commission for Oil Revenue Management and Development in Akwa Ibom and Cross River states and followed-up with advocacy visits that identified legislative champions.
- CASS organized six dissemination workshops in the Senatorial Districts of Bayelsa and Rivers States to disseminate the findings from the NEITI perception surveys they conducted in the two states.
- ERA held a training on the NEITI in response to the low knowledge of the initiative that was gathered from their perception survey conducted in Edo and Delta states.

C. Recent Programmatic Context

Almost one year after the Presidential election in Nigeria, the Presidential Election Petitions Tribunal ruled that Umaru Yar'Adua was the duly elected President and gave him a clean bill of health. This decision has largely been seen as a political one and has been received with mixed reactions. This election was widely reported by international and local observers as not being free and fair. There was also some added drama when President Yar'Adua within a week of the Tribunal's ruling, relied on the powers conferred on him by Section 231(1) of the 1999 constitution and sought the Senate's confirmation of Justice James Ogeyi Ogebe as Justice of the Supreme court. This action drew the ire of many opposition parties, who claimed that this was an inducement to influence the decision of the Ogebe-headed Tribunal. The President has defended his action by saying that Justice Ogebe's promotion had been in the pipeline for sometime now.

Despite what has been regarded by many as a disappointing decision by the Presidential Elections Petitions Tribunal, the Judiciary has been showing some activism and independence. In recent weeks, Electoral Tribunals across the nation have overturned a series of victories at legislative and state levels. These include the election of the Senate President. In the quarter under review, eight governors' elections have been nullified and they have headed for the appeal court. The judiciary has been praised for instilling hope in Nigerians.

Having crossed off the "mandate" question, the executive has started becoming more assertive. In an unprecedented development, the President leaned on the Health Ministers to resign over graft charges by the Economic and Financial Crimes Commission (EFCC). These Ministers and several senior officials of the Ministry are accused of awarding contracts for the sum of N300 million without following due process in the last few days of 2007 and partaking in the sharing of the proceeds of the contracts. Aside from graft charges by EFCC, the President has requested that the Federal Civil Service Commission sanction civil servants in the Ministry of Health for their roles in disobeying his directive late last year stopping all further award or execution of new contracts. This practice is widely known in the sector as "ware-housing."

The National Assembly has not been left behind in this new assertiveness, stepping up its oversight role. The House of Representatives Committee on Power has been holding widely publicized ground-breaking probes that have uncovered serious evidence of fraud and corruption in the country's power sector. The misdeeds were said to have occurred between 1999 and last year, during the eight-year rule of President Olusegun Obasanjo, while millions of Nigerian enterprises were burdened with crushing weight of operational costs and

unpredictable losses resulting from near total breakdown of the electric power infrastructure. CSOs are demanding that the findings of this well-televised probe be passed on to anti-graft agencies with the power to sanction the culprits so that definite follow-up punitive actions should be taken.

Unfortunately, this new assertiveness in regards to investigation of past deeds has not yet been directed towards important legislation and budgeted issues, as both the FOI bill and this year's budget remain outstanding. Civil Society Organizations (CSOs) have been waiting for months now, expecting that the budget would be passed at the start of the year so they could start engaging with the process. However, as of the end of the quarter, the Legislature and the Presidency were still pointing fingers as to why the passage of the budget continued to be delayed. Nigeria's House of Representatives and the opposition went so far as to accuse the President of going against the provisions of the nation's Fiscal Responsibility Act. At the state level, budget engagement has also been similarly frustrated. In two cases, partners were preparing to participate in the state budget hearing when the state government went on to pass the budget without providing adequate space for CSOs working in the state to make their contributions. Undeterred by this, the CSOs have continued to lobby and advocate for increased collaboration between government and CSOs working on these issues.

II. QUARTER PROGRESS

A. Program Management

Staff Changes

The quarter started with two important positions for the program open, namely the Chief of Party/ Country Rep and Program Officer for Capacity Building. While the vacancy in the important COP position was filled this quarter with the arrival of Dan Spealman at the end of January, unfortunately, two other staff members of Pact Nigeria decided to take on new opportunities with other organizations and disengaged from Pact: Lawrence Ogwuche, the Senior Finance and Administrative Officer and Aisha Momoh, the Monitoring and Evaluation Officer, leaving three openings that the program made significant strides in filling by the end of the quarter. These vacancies posed a number of challenges but Pact Nigeria was able to effectively overcome them.

In regards to the position of Senior Finance and Administrative Officer, Pact decided, based on the recommendation of the departing employee to spend the quarter without filling that position in order to determine if the existing staff was able to take on additional responsibilities and leadership roles. The staff members all performed admirably in their new roles and gave credence to the idea that, although Pact will still need to hire additional staff in the finance and administrative office, the existing staff was up to filling the role of the departing senior staff member. (Though the period of review did not end until after the quarter was finished, the existing Accountant and Administrative Assistant were promoted to Finance Officer and Administrative Officer, respectively, as of this writing. Preparations are already underway for hiring a new accountant in the next quarter.)

Job descriptions for the positions of MER Officer and Program Officer, Capacity Building and Knowledge Sharing were reviewed and updated, and job announcements for the two positions were made public through the Pact Nigeria website, through list-serves, and through networks and partners such as MEMS. By the end of the quarter, over 30 applications were received and the process of reviewing those applications, checking references and conducting

interviews had begun. (As of this writing, the MER Officer has been hired and interviews are being scheduled for the Program Officer position.)

Regional/HQ Support

Pact Headquarters and its Regional Office in Nairobi continued their usual support to Pact Nigeria through information sharing and advice on relevant issues that enhanced the management of the ADVANCE program. In addition, Pact Headquarters sponsored back to back global workshops in corporate community engagement and organizational development. These workshops, held at HQ expense and attended by the Pact Nigeria Country Representative, allowed for the sharing of best practices within Pact on these areas, which will have direct impact on the improvement of ADVANCE implementation. Furthermore, the Regional Office is also contributing in the preparation for Pact Nigeria's partner training on Monitoring and Evaluation scheduled for next quarter. Two M&E staff members from the Regional Office will be joining the Pact Nigeria team in conducting the training.

General Portfolio Management

The ADVANCE subgrant portfolio increased this quarter with the signing of three new subgrants – bringing our portfolio to a cumulative total of twenty-nine subprojects. Of the three new subprojects, two will engage with the Presidential Electoral Reforms Committee (ERC) to present the concerns and recommendations of marginalized populations represented by the Muslim League for Accountability (MULAC), Kaduna, and the Joint National Association of People with Disability (JONAPWD). The third subproject will raise awareness of the NEITI process and is being implemented by the Zero Corruption Coalition (ZCC). For all of these partners, this is their second subgrant under the ADVANCE program.

While Pact Nigeria's cumulative portfolio now stands at twenty-nine, the ongoing subgrants as of this quarter stood at twelve. Although we added three subgrants to the existing ten, the subgrant for IPC was completed during the quarter. Thus, the twelve partners that will continue implementation of their ongoing projects are AAIN, CIRDDOC, JDPC, CASS, CISHAN, ZCC, AAN, ABGREMO, ERA, WANGONeT, MULAC and JONAPWD. The last five of those subgrants listed were expected to close this quarter, but had to be extended at no additional cost because the subgrantees had not quite finished their activities or were awaiting input from other partners.

During this reporting period, Pact continued to closely monitor the program activities of all CSO partners to ensure quality control in their program implementation. This included attendance and input at the following partner activities by members of the ADVANCE staff:

- JONAPWD's Stakeholders' Forum on articulating the issues of people with disabilities to the Electoral Reform Committee (ERC). This event was held in Abeokuta Ogun State on January 28 and 29, 2008.
- MULAC's Stakeholders' Forum on articulating the issues of Islamic groups to the ERC. This event was held in Kaduna, Kaduna State on February 03, 2008.
- ActionAid's HIV/AIDS and Agriculture Budget Analysis and Monitoring Training held in Lagos, Lagos State on March 10 - 13, 2008.
- ABGREMO's Review of Survey Findings on the NEITI Perception Survey conducted in Cross River and Akwa Ibom States. This event was held in Calabar, Cross River State on March 28 and 29, 2008.

Pact Nigeria also began a thorough review this quarter of its subgrants management processes. Staff members are currently reviewing the procedures from top to bottom in order to streamline review, improve tracking systems, resolve outstanding issues, update standards, and improve the timeliness and quality of partner reporting. These upgrades will continue into next quarter, and as of this report, the steps taken included the following:

- Updated the subgrant and modification templates with some improved language and revised mandatory standard provisions
- Reinforced subgrantee cost-share tracking procedures, and verified significant cost-share this quarter.
- Began close-out and de-obligation procedures for some subgrantees whose finalization had been outstanding for too long.
- Updated tracking procedures for quarterly reporting and followed-up via phone, e-mail and in person meetings with subgrantees whose programmatic and financial reports were overdue.

Subgrant Finances

It should first be noted that during this reporting period, Pact Nigeria followed-up with some of the partner CSOs with completed projects to track and report their agreed cost share (which also helped to commence the process of closeout of their projects). In addition, Pact staff trained partners in cost share accounting and the importance of properly reporting match – following up with mentoring and pressing for delivery of those reports. With this effort, Pact was able to begin to report on the cost share that has been incurred to date on the program and has identified a total of **\$201,062.43** as of this quarter, almost half of the required cost share for the life of the program.

During the reporting period, an additional sum of **\$235,513.71** (up from \$98,493.84 reported last quarter) was advanced to four (AAIN, AAN, ABGREMO and CASS) of the existing CSO partners for electoral reform, budget monitoring/advocacy and oil revenue transparency/ NEITI activities. In addition, the sum of **\$57,859.08** was obligated for the 3 new subgrants issued this quarter from which **\$16,467.74** was disbursed to them as initial advancement for the implementation of their projects. Thus, the cumulative total disbursements/advances so far made for all subgrants at the end of this quarter stood at **\$1,735,100.21** (up from \$1,483,118.76 in the previous quarter and excluding consultancies/ in-kind subgrants). Of that amount, the subgrantees have expended and retired/ liquidated a total of **\$1,440,149.79** to date (up from the \$1,074,837.65 reported in the last quarter, and excluding consultancies/ in-kind subgrants).

Also this quarter, expenditures incurred on consultancies/ in-kind subgrants increased to **\$433,066.30** (up from the \$358,133.25 reported in the previous quarter). This includes the JONAPWD in-kind subgrant, for which a total of **\$9,198.64** has been expended/ liquidated as payments for the services provided under the subgrant during this reporting period.

Therefore, the cumulative grand total of expenditures at the end of this quarter, based on retirements/ liquidations of subgrants *including* expenses from in-kind support and consultancies stood at **\$1,878,892.49** (up from \$1,507,903.95 in last quarter). Table 1 below provides a summary of current subgrant recipients (including those receiving in-kind support) along with each subaward's obligated amount, advances/ disbursements, expenditures and balances as of the end of this quarter, March 31st 2008.

Subgrant Summary Table

TABLE 1: Summary of Status of ADVANCE Subgrants and Consultancies (Advances and Actual Expenditures, Including Balance) as at End of Quarter 2, FY 08 (1st Jan – Mar 30th, 2008)

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 Obligated Amt	Expenditures	Balance Due (Grantee)/ Pact	
PWYP	30 March 2006 to 31 March, 2007 & extended to May 31, 2007	Publish What You Pay Campaign in Nigeria	Awareness and advocacy around the NEITI and ongoing oil industry audit process	210,000.00	121,995.03	88,004.97	118,412.72	3,582.31	Terminated
MRA	30 March 2006 to 31 March, 2007 extended to May & later to July 31, 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	120,783.57	153.23	124,389.49	(3,605.92)	Completed
IPC	30 March 2006 to 31 March, 2007 & extended to September 30 th , 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	100,670.60	3,864.94	114,958.86	(14,288.26)	Completed
WOTCLEF	30 March 2006 to 31 March, 2007 & extended to June 30, 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.	85,000.00	84,262.80	737.20	78,224.71	6,038.09	Completed
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	156,739.57	3,272.93	166,786.41	(10,046.84)	Completed
Action Aid Int'l Nig	August 15, 2006 – Feb 22, 2010	CSO Budget Monitoring & Tracking	National & Focal State	616,142.42	500,200.90	115,941.52	407,888.83	92,312.07	On-going
JDPC/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	58,000.00	46,400.00	11,600.00	46,770.90	(370.90)	Completed
CITAD	01 Feb – 30 May 2007	Voter Education Program	Civic Education (Elections) including training of CBOs on voter education; distribution of voter education materials; voter education advocacy visits to traditional rulers and religious leaders; and conduct of voter education forums at grassroots level in 15 Local Government Areas (LGAs) of Kano, Jigawa and Bauchi States in the northern part of Nigeria	29,725.78	27,789.91	1,935.87	28,157.34	(367.43)	Completed
MULAC	Feb 08 – April 30 2007	Right to Vote	Civic Education (Elections) including public awareness lectures for Islamiyya & Conventional schools; Seminar for Imams & Muslim clerics plus public enlightenment & education on the right to vote in 5 States (Kaduna, Kano, Katsina, Sokoto and Niger) in the Northern part of Nigeria	18,510.94	18,573.21	(62.27)	14,018.80	4,554.41	Completed
ACE	March 01 – June 31 st 2007 & extended to July 31, 2007	INEC Oversight and Stakeholder Advocacy. However, project scope increased to include National Peoples' Tribunal on 2007 Elections	Civic Education (Elections) including tracking & reporting of election s activities in some national dailies; advocacy visits to some stakeholders; conduct of town hall meetings with road transport unions & okada riders associations; & production & airing radio jingles in North Central zone of Nigeria	128,223.13	106,136.02	22,087.11	101,880.86	4,255.16	Completed
FOMWAN	March 08 – April 30, 2007	Voter Sensitization for Increased Participation & Protection of Mandate at Mosques, Churches, & Market Arenas	Civic Education (Elections) including advocacy visits to state media; road shows on voter education; and radio dialogues in 5 Targeted States (Kogi, Nassarawa, Kano, Niger and Kwara) in the northern part of Nigeria	62,089.84	62,153.37	(63.53)	62,192.76	(39.39)	Complete

Recipient	Time Frame	Project Title	Focus	Advances/Disbursements, Actual Expenditures and Project Status					Project Status
				Obligated Amount	Advances to Date (\$)		Expenditures on Advances to Date (\$)		
				\$	Advances	Balance on Obligated Amt	Expenditures	Balance Due (Grantee)/Pact	
JONAPWD	March 05 – 31, 2007	Disabled Engaging the Politicians & INEC for 2007 Elections	Civic Education (Elections) for Disabled Persons representatives across the country including advocacy visit to INEC Headquarters, stakeholders' meeting/training, and interactive sessions with politicians	21,812.11	19,519.99	2,292.12	19,519.99	-	Complete
ZCC	Feb 28 – May 31, 2007 & extended to July 31, 2007	Engaging the Processes of EFCC Amendment Act in Nigeria	Citizen Participation and Oversight including National summit on the passage of EFCC amendment Act; advocacy visits to chairman of Good Governance group in the House of Representatives & to the House ad-hoc committee; and press conference.	35,234.38	34,482.42	751.96	18,558.31	15,924.11	Completed
AAN	May 01 2007 – April 30, 2008	Strengthening Capacity of CSOs in HIV Budget Tracking & Improving Transparency in Resource Allocation for Effective Service Delivery in the Prevention & Treatment of HIV in Lagos State	Civic Participation and Oversight- HIV/AIDS Budget Tracking & Oversight	49,880.06	46,192.22	3,687.84	27,431.82	18,760.40	open
CIRDDOC	May 01 2007 – April 30, 2008	Enabling CSOs to Monitor Government Spending on Education in Rivers State	Civic Participation and Oversight- Primary Education Budget Tracking & Oversight	49,326.17	30,045.10	19,281.07	20,067.31	9,977.79	On-going
JDFC, Ijebu-Ode	May 01 2007 – April 30, 2008	Enhancing CS Capacity to Engage the Public Budget Process through the Drawing of Shadow Budgets in Lagos State	Civic Participation and Oversight- Education & Agriculture Budget Tracking & Oversight	49,994.57	27,319.25	22,675.32	28,387.53	(1,068.28)	On-going
CISHAN	May 01 2007 – April 30, 2008	Enhancing Capacity of CSOs in HIV/AIDS Budget Tracking & Monitoring of Allocation of Resource & expenditures for attaining MDG in HIV/AIDS in Kano & Rivers States	Civic Participation and Oversight- HIV/AIDS Budget Tracking & Oversight	49,946.27	30,611.87	19,334.40	22,140.58	8,471.29	On-going
ERA	September 19,2007- March 18 th 2008	Local Empowerment and good governance in Edo/Delta states, South south Zone of Nigeria		35,433.07	20,803.50	14,629.57	-	20,803.50	On-going
CASS	September 19,2007- September 18 th 2008	Oil revenue transparency and civic oversight of the NEITI process in Rivers/Bayelsa states, as well as national perception survey in some targeted states in the remaining 5 geopolitical zones in Nigeria.		86,526.69	52,466.31	34,060.38	24,999.99	27,466.32	On-going
ABGREMO	September 19,2007- March 18 th 2008	Legislative Advocacy & Capacity Building for CSOs on oil revenue transparency in Akwa Ibom and Cross river state		33,064.96	29,765.08	3,299.88	8,053.90	21,711.18	On-going
WANGONeT	September 19,2007- December 18 th 2008	Capacity Building for CSOs on oil Revenue Transparency and Civic oversight of the NEITI process in Nigeria		27,136.22	18,706.98	8,429.24	-	18,706.98	On-going
ZCC	February 01 2008 – June 30 2008	Production of citizens guide to information and process of NEITI as well as engaging government of Nigeria on NEITI audit report		48,096.58	7,362.77	40,733.81	-	7,362.77	Open
MULAC	January 24 2008 – March 31 2008	Promoting Muslim Participation in Electoral reform process in Nigeria		9,762.50	9,104.97	657.53	7,308.68	1,796.29	Open
Total				2,089,390.53	1,672,085.44	417,305.09	1,440,149.79	231,935.65	

In-Kind Subgrants and Consultancies

Recipient	Time Frame	Project Title	Focus	Obligated Amount	Expensed Amount	Obligation Balance	Status
CISLAC, ZCC and AAIN (in-kind)	In-kind/Consultancy; ongoing pre-award support	Inception – March 07	Legislative advocacy on the Fiscal Responsibility Bill, NEITI Bill, EFCC and ICPC oversight; Budget monitoring and advocacy	313,967.68	310,182.37	3,785.31	Complete
ZCC	6 Nov – 8 Dec. 06	National Stick to the Issues Launch	Civic Education (Elections); national launch of stick to the	2,406.25	2,312.50	93.75	Complete
ZCC	Feb 08 – April 30, 2007	Regional Stick to the Issues Launch	Civic Education (Elections); regional launch of stick to the	70,034.77	38,971.83	31,062.94	Complete
ICTN	March 20 – April 11, 2007	Democratic Right to Vote Credible Candidates into political positions	Civic Education (Elections) sensitization/training of CSOs on democratic rights, production and airing of radio jingles	18,410.55	20,614.54	(2,203.99)	Complete
CP	March 19 – April 15, 2007	Improving Citizen's Participation in the 2007 Elections	Civic Education (Elections) through gubernatorial debates in the 3 states of Lagos, Kano and Anambra States.	18,279.02	16,122.85	2,156.17	Complete
CDD	March 19 – May 31, 2007	Policy dialogue on institutionalizing mechanisms to address violence against women in public life	Civic Education (Elections) including panel discussion with women candidates, civil society organizations and INEC	18,364.84	8,812.51	9,552.33	Complete
CDA	March 19 – June 30, 2007	Facilitating A Mainstream Youth Agenda In The 2007 Electoral Process	Civic Education (Elections) including regional and National Consultative workshops High-profile media	17,960.74	14,242.59	3,718.15	Complete
YPI	March 26 – April 30, 2007	Nigeria Youth Colloquium on 2007 Elections	Civic Education (Elections) through a Two-day National	18,359.38	18,284.87	74.51	Complete
JONAPWD	January 23 - Feb 29 2008	Budget information on electoral reforms and disability issues		9,979.64	9,198.64	781.00	Open
Total				487,762.87	438,742.70	49,020.17	

B. Programmatic Results

The ADVANCE program has three primary 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 and civic participation, including in electoral processes

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

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

Objective 1: Strengthened civil society organization (CSO) capacity for effective program and financial management

Pact/ADVANCE continued to provide technical assistance to all partners, some of which have on-going projects this quarter. The partners were assisted through interventions consisting of project proposal refinement and mentoring of existing partner CSOs on program implementation and management, monitoring and evaluation, monthly financial reporting, and weekly and quarterly program reporting.

Organizational Capacity and Pre-Award Assessments

This quarter, the ADVANCE Program Coordinator for Capacity Assessments and the Pact Accountant conducted organizational capacity assessments along with pre-award assessments for two potential partner CSOs: the Nigeria Bar Association (NBA), Lagos and the Convention on Business Integrity (CBI), Lagos. Pre-award assessment results are detailed further below, while the organizational capacity index will be reported next quarter when the subgrant for these organizations will be signed.

The purpose of the pre-award assessments was to determine the extent of technical, managerial and financial capacity that each of these organizations currently have in order to effectively carry out their proposed project, while at the same time meeting the programmatic and financial reporting requirements of Pact and USAID. NBA's assessment was held in NBA's office, Lagos on March 5th and 6th while CBI's was held in the CBI Office, Lagos on March 11th and 12th. At these organizations, Pact staff met with Directors, Administrative Officers, Program Officers, Accountants, Chief Operating Officers and Grant Administrators and thoroughly reviewed the systems in place. The results of the assessments determined that, with capacity building support from Pact, both organization meet minimum requirements to qualify for the Pact subgrants expected to be awarded to these organizations next quarter.

During each of these assessments, the Pact staff also mentored each potential partner in areas such as improving their profile, governance and leadership (including the organization's constitution, structure, relevant policies and procedures), human resource management, technical/ program management and financial management. Representatives of each of the

organizations at the assessment expressed their appreciation of the learning that took place throughout the process, and also expressed their willingness to put all of the Pact team's recommendations into action.

Financial Training

In February, Pact Nigeria conducted a two-day financial training for sixteen individuals representing fifteen existing and future partners. The purpose of the training was to enhance the capacity of the partners' finance officers and accountants, improve their financial reporting, strengthen their organizations' financial and administrative systems, and introduce them to relevant policies and procedures of USAID. Among the topics covered were advances and liquidations, accounting practices, cost-share, internal controls, inventory and property management, standard Pact reporting forms, and USAID cost principles. Pact staff put in considerable time in preparation of the training to enhance the training materials, presentations and exercises in order to increase interactivity with and absorption by the participants.

By the end of the training the participants were able to demonstrate enhanced capacity through successful completion of a practicum exercise (though the real evidence of success will become evident as the program continues and the subgrantees demonstrate better management of funds). Evaluations of the training were almost universally positive, with most indicating that from their point of view, the training's objectives were met, and with 100% of respondents indicating that the facilitators did a very good job and that presentations/ explanations were clear.

Objective 2: Increased CSO capacity for effective advocacy for key policy reforms and civic participation, including in electoral processes

This objective includes information on progress this quarter in regards to Pact and partner activities around legislative advocacy, budget advocacy and electoral reform advocacy.

Advocacy Capacity Assessment

As noted above, Pact staff conducted organizational capacity and pre-award assessments for two partners, NBA and CBI, in February. Part of this assessment was devoted specifically to advocacy capacity and was designed to establish baseline information for Pact Nigeria to conduct advocacy capacity strengthening interventions. The results of the baseline assessment will be reported next quarter when the subgrants of these organizations will be signed. During the assessment, both organizations gratefully acknowledged the uniqueness of Pact's assessment approach, which is designed to be participatory in a way that allows them to learn some key advocacy concepts as part of the process. The partners were introduced to some of the key tools for effective advocacy, ranging from issue identification through monitoring of implementation of the successful policy change.

Civil Society Participation in Budgetary Processes

ActionAid

ActionAid's major activity this quarter was a pair of four-day trainings in Port Harcourt and Lagos on budget advocacy for CSOs working in the specialized key sectors of education, agriculture and HIV/AIDS. The training reached a total of 46 CSO members, including 7

from ADVANCE partner organizations CIRDDOC, AIDS Alliance, JDPC and CISHAN. The training focused on human rights provisions, international bench marks in the various sectors, good governance, public finance analysis, economic literacy and people-centered budget advocacy. The training empowered the CSOs to more effectively carry out budget advocacy and, indeed, concluded with the practical step of the development of workplans to that effect. The success of the workshop went beyond the enhanced capacity of the participants; it also generated media attention, garnered the commitment of a state assembly focal person in each state, and launched networks of CSOs in each state dedicated to putting into action the training they received. Further details of this success are included below in the success stories section.

ActionAid followed-up the training by providing mentoring to CIRDDOC, AIDS Alliance and JDPC – advising them on how best to put their new skills into action by accompanying them on their visits to lobby representatives of the various state assemblies. Mentoring activities this quarter also included technical support to JDPC and AIDS Alliance for the planning and implementation of their Lagos State SEEDS retreat, as well as to CISHAN for its legislative/media forum on the 2008 budget.

ActionAid also further increased its own capacity as a leader in Nigeria on budget advocacy issues by attending international conferences and trainings designed to share best practices that ActionAid can then bring back to its partners in country. One ActionAid ADVANCE staff member participated in the Economic Literacy, Budget Accountability for Governance Training in India, while another attended the Economic and Social Rights Training in South Africa. Of note is the fact that these trips were largely paid for via cost-share sources.

Finally this quarter, ActionAid carried out its own direct advocacy work on key budget issues via the media, the distribution of publications, and direct lobbying of legislators. They visited several media outlets, including the National Television Authority, private television station AIT, the Federal Radio Corporation, the News Agency of Nigeria, the Guardian, the Vanguard and the Punch – advocating for more coverage over budget issues and sharing analysis on those budget issues relating to education, HIV/AIDS, gender, agriculture and water resources management. Though these visits did not immediately generate coverage by the end of the quarter, as of this writing, several of the outlets have covered the issue, and this will be detailed in the next report. ActionAid also distributed over 300 copies of its budget analysis to federal and state assembly representatives, CSOs and the media. Distribution of this information was accompanied-up by lobbying efforts, and visits to the legislatures of Rivers and Lagos states also secured the commitment of two State Assembly members to support CSO engagement in budget issues.

CIRDDOC

CIRDDOC participated this quarter in the Rivers State Education Summit in Port Harcourt, which aimed at developing a blue-print for education in the state and brought together multiple stakeholders in the education sector, the governor and deputy governor of the state and state government officials. Stakeholders in attendance included Education Secretaries of the LGAs, the Science Teachers Association of the state, the National Association of Proprietors of Private Schools, and other CSOs. CIRDDOC mobilized three of its CSO partners on the budget tracking committee to participate in the summit. In addition to the Governor's presentation, the summit also featured submission of memoranda by the stakeholders and interactive session towards addressing the problems of education in the state. The challenges for education in the state raised by the participants include management

of education by non-professionals, late (and nonexistent) payment of salaries, hiring of unqualified personnel, poor salary structure, non-availability and poor management of baseline data on education, decay of public schools, little or no involvement of CSOs in school management and poor service delivery by the Ministry. However, the participants also offered workable solutions to the identified challenges, including increasing budget allocation to conform with local and international targets, efficient data management systems, and finally, involving civil society in education planning and management by creating a civil society desk in the ministry. At its conclusion, the summit developed a communiqué that included much of this input.

CIRDOCC continued its advocacy work by participating in the Rivers State budget hearing at which the Governor presented the 2008 appropriation bill to the State House of Assembly, and by conducting an lobbying visit with a representative of the Speaker of the State House of Assembly designed to build partnerships and increase the access of civil society to the legislative components of the budget process. The advocacy team was comprised of representatives from CIRDDOC Nigeria, ActionAid Nigeria and other partner organizations and was able to successfully deliver their concerns and receive a pledge of support and cooperation.

CIRDOCC also reached out this quarter by widely sharing information. It engaged a consultant to develop a budget policy brief entitled “Making the 2008 Budget Work for Education in Rivers State.” The paper analyzed the Rivers State budget for the years 2005 – 2008, especially in regards to the education sector, and made recommendations on improving that sector’s allocation. CIRDOCC was also able to publish a feature article in Business Day entitled “Raising the Stakes for Budget Tracking in Rivers State,” which increased public awareness on the Rivers State budget and called for citizen participation in its refinement.

JDPC and AAN

JDPC and AIDS Alliance conducted multiple activities in tandem this quarter. Their primary activity was a day-long retreat for 16 CSO members on the Lagos State SEEDS document. The workshop enhanced the capacity of CSOs to engage with the government, especially in regards to budget-related policies such as the SEEDS. The more they understood about the SEEDS document and its relation to the sectors with which they were concerned (namely HIV/AIDS, education and agriculture), the more enthusiasm they developed for working on issues of state allocation. This enthusiasm led to the constitution of a JDPC-facilitated network of NGOs working in budget monitoring, which will serve as a means information sharing and coordination for budget related work.

The nascent network took the first practical steps toward action at the workshop by identifying gaps within the document, with special concern over the fact that the document lacked strategies for practical implementation and indicators for measurement of success. The participants then collated their concerns and inputs for use in future advocacy efforts. They then identified appropriate means of advocacy and planned strategically for the implementation of those activities.

JDPC and AAN also worked together to undertake a lobbying visit to the Chairman of the Lagos State House Committee on Health to advocate for a more open budgeting process. Though this was a small part of their overall advocacy efforts, and more follow-up on modalities of cooperation is needed, the groups were able to garner a commitment for greater

openness on the part of the government and for deeper engagement with civil society that reaches out to communities beyond the capital.

CISHAN

This quarter, CISHAN focused on a single activity, the Civil Society, Legislative and Media Forum, which brought together 32 representatives of civil society groups, government officials and the media for a one day interactive event. In order to develop a shared commitment among the three groups to work together to develop people-centered budgets in the future. While CSOs described the importance of civil society engagement in the process and tracking fund allocation, representatives from the Assembly provided key insight into their institution's inner workings, especially in regards to the budget process. The workshop was able to successfully develop a network of organizations and government allies committed to ensuring transparency in the use of public funds.

CSO Engagement in the Electoral Processes

The ADVANCE project supported CSO engagement during the April 2007 elections – promoting accountability and civic participation in the process. It was widely acknowledged that there was a clear need for major reforms in the electoral process, after the results of these elections. Therefore, the President set up a 22-person Electoral Reform Committee with a mandate to "make general and specific recommendations (including but not limited to constitutional and legislative provisions and/or amendments) to ensure a truly Independent Electoral Commission imbued with administrative and financial autonomy." Pact is supporting CSO engagement with this Committee to ensure that important civic groups are included in the Committee's final report. In the quarter under review, two CSOs from normally marginalized communities kick-started civic consultation on electoral reform. JONAPWD, representing persons with disabilities and MULAC, representing Islamic groups from the core north, consulted with their members this quarter to develop recommendations on electoral reform issues. ADVANCE has also concluded preparations to broaden these civil society consultations next quarter to include professional groups like the Nigerian Bar Association, Association of Professional Bodies of Nigeria, and the Performing Musicians Association of Nigeria.

MULAC

MULAC held a consultative workshop that brought together 82 of their Islamic organization members to discuss and articulate issues regarding electoral reforms from an Islamic perspective. This workshop provided a forum to articulate the ideas and experiences of the marginalized Islamic community on this issue, and to sensitize other Islamic groups/ scholars on the topic. The workshop developed a draft memo with recommendations for the ERC, and MULAC later met with influential Islamic scholars and presented the memo to them for their input. They made further suggestions which were incorporated into the memorandum to give it even stronger validation and legitimacy. The memorandum has been submitted to the ERC for inclusion in their final report. A follow-up advocacy visit will take place next quarter to consolidate this work.

JONAPWD

People living with disabilities are generally excluded from participating in political processes in Nigeria, and this was never more evident than in the 2007 general elections. JONAPWD, consistent with its mandate of increasing spaces for and ensuring the participation of PWD held a multi-day consultative workshop with 51 member organizations of the network to

articulate electoral reform issues from a PWD perspective. Their pace setting workshop identified disability gaps in the Nigeria electoral law and process, mapped out strategies for the inclusion of disability concerns in these areas, and produced a document that articulated a set of disability-sensitive electoral reform recommendations. This document was fine-tuned by a technical committee made up of key PWD organizations and other CSO representatives into a draft memo to be submitted to the Electoral Reform Committee next quarter. As members of the technical committee and participants in the workshop, ACE and ERN staff acted as resource persons and brought a wider CSO view into the process. Moreover, their participation was mutually beneficial as ERN and ACE were more sensitized to disability issues by the end of the process, and promised to make their own recommendations to the ERC disability friendly, further strengthening JONPAWD's position.

Objective 3: Strengthened public-private (CSO) partnerships to fight corruption through public oversight agencies and initiatives

Nigeria Extractive Industries Transparency Initiative

Pact has expanded its work this quarter in civic oversight of the NEITI process by adding a new partner, the Zero Corruption Coalition (ZCC) to the existing four partners. These partners are Environmental Rights Action (ERA), Centre for Advanced Social Centre (CASS), ABGREMO for Development, and West African NGO Network (WANGONeT¹). Most of the partners worked on national and state perception surveys to support more informed awareness-raising and systematic education at the grassroots. Further details of the activities carried out this quarter are detailed below.

ABGREMO

ABGREMO conducted a NEITI perception survey in two states this quarter (Akwa- Ibom and Cross River states), which focused on assessing the level of knowledge on this issue to aid more informed awareness-raising. ABGREMO collected data by distributing questionnaires to target groups for analysis. ABGREMO used the purposive sampling technique and selected 100 respondents from all of the Senatorial Districts in the two states – targeting community leaders, women, youth, state and LGA officials. This data will be analyzed and shared next quarter.

ABGREMO raised the awareness of critical stakeholders (legislators, CSOs and media houses) on the NEITI Process by developing, printing and distributing 500 copies of the abridged version of NEITI Act entitled, “What You Should Know about the NEITI Act.” This publication was delivered to legislators in the State Houses of Assembly, media houses, the State Ministry of Environment, tertiary institutions and professional groups. Members of the Houses of Assembly were especially pleased with this document, as they were not aware of the passage of the bill into law. The pamphlet provided an overview of the NEITI Act, including key objectives, functions of the secretariat, responsibilities of key agencies, and penalties for violating its provisions.

ABGREMO kick-started their campaign in promoting transparency, accountability and participation in oil revenue development and management through a proposed legislation for the establishment of a State Commission for Oil Revenue Management and Development in

¹ WANGONeT is the only partner that had no activities to report this quarter, as it is currently on-hold, awaiting the inputs of a new subgrantee that will be added next quarter.

Akwa Ibom and Cross River states by drafting the proposed legislations in consultation with relevant CSOs in the two states. Copies of these draft pieces of legislation have been submitted to the respective State Houses of Assembly, accompanied by follow up one-on-one advocacy visits to 28 influential Members of these houses. The visits resulted in commitments from two members of the Houses of Assembly who agreed to sponsor the bill. Also, to expose them to best practices and further strengthen their advocacy, two influential members of the Cross River State House of Assembly were taken on a study tour to the Imo State Oil Producing Areas Development Commission (ISOPADEC) and Imo State House of Assembly. An additional study tour is being arranged next quarter for some Members of the Akwa Ibom House of Assembly.

CASS

The Centre for Advanced Social Science (CASS) organized six dissemination workshops in the Senatorial Districts of Bayelsa and Rivers States to disseminate the findings from the NEITI perception surveys conducted in the two states. The 271 Participants included local council officials, representatives of civil society organizations, the media and selected participants from focus group discussions conducted during the survey as well as interested members of the public. Notable participants at the workshops were the Chairman and all of the Councilors of the Sagbama Local Government Area, Bayelsa State, and the Chairman of the Caretaker Committee of Ahoada East Local Government Area, Rivers State.

The findings revealed very low knowledge of the initiative. Some highlights of the findings are that 83% of the respondents had never heard of the NEITI; of the remaining 17% that had heard of the initiative, only 5% had deep knowledge of the NEITI. The findings of the survey were well received by the participants, who generally accepted the findings that majority of people in their states and local councils were ignorant about the Initiative and the Publish What You Pay (PWYP) campaign. They were of the view that the government has not done enough to bring information about the initiatives to the grassroots.

The workshops concluded successfully and received extensive media coverage. Reports were published in the Tide Newspapers and Niger Delta Standard, and also aired on NTA Port Harcourt and NTA Nationwide News. Participants accepted that they, as members of civil society, government and the media, all had roles to play in the popularization, implementation and enforcement of EITI and PWYP. Participants' dedication and ownership of the issue was demonstrated especially by some Local Government Councils who supported the program by subsidizing the cost of the hall rental.

The workshops also served as a forum to select prospective facilitators for the Local Government Enlightenment Forums that will take place next quarter to further raise awareness of the NETI and stimulate citizen interest and engagement in the process. CASS followed up the identification of these facilitators by organizing a capacity building workshop for 24 facilitators to prepare them for the forums planned for Bayelsa and Rivers State. The workshop equipped the facilitators with the relevant skills to conduct Enlightenment Forums in their respective LGAs, and also provided an opportunity for review and finalization of the training module proposed to be used in the forums.

These awareness-raising activities are follow-up actions on the findings of the perception survey that revealed a huge knowledge gap of the process by the citizenry. This low knowledge has far reaching implications because the whole essence of the NEITI is to make extractive industry information, formerly shrouded in secrecy, open to public scrutiny in

order to promote accountability. So it is essential that citizens know of and follow the implementation process of the initiative.

ERA

ERA organized a training on the NEITI in response to the low knowledge of the initiative that was gathered from their perception survey conducted in Edo and Delta states. The 28 training participants were made up of heads of communities, CSOs, media houses and government institutions who responded to the questionnaires from the six senatorial districts of the targeted states. The participants were carefully selected from respondents who were in a position to share this information with a wider audience under their influence. The training gave an overview of the NEITI, contextualizing for participants how it was useful in their different areas of programming and highlighting the best ways to mainstream it into their work. The participants are now expected to hold step down trainings and also mainstream this information into their current work. The survey findings were also shared in this forum. The participants were happy to be involved in the workshop; indeed, since most of them had participated in the research, they saw themselves as part of the solution and were enthused about the practice and the possibility of using the process to promote development.

ZCC

To facilitate the process of the production of a Citizen's guide on the NEITI initiative, ZCC identified and engaged the services of two NEITI expert resource persons to develop a citizen's guide on the NEITI. There were two separate meetings with each consultant to brief them on what they were expected to do and the amount of time they had to execute the job. The resource persons have started the process of collating materials to develop the NEITI guide. They are working closely with the NEITI Secretariat and relevant NGOs like the Publish What You Pay Campaign. This process of collation of data for the Citizen's Guide, which is meant to simplify and create more awareness on the NEITI process, was the only activity planned for the quarter. The bulk of ZCC's activities, which include the guide printing and national launch, will be held next quarter.

Other Anti-Corruption Efforts

Pact collaborated with the NDI Legislative Strengthening team on its anti-corruption workshop for Members and staff of the National Assembly. The event had a wide representation, including 8 Members, 17 NASS staff, and 7 persons from Civil Society Organizations. The program was facilitated by NDI, with input from Pact, who provided four resource persons drawn from its implementing partners, namely ZCC, CASS and ABGREMO. The meeting generated a list of recommended legislative actions and mechanisms to strengthen the current anti-corruption reform efforts, and extract commitments from participants on implementation.

C. Problems and Opportunities

Partner and Programmatic Challenges and Problems

- The NASS has been focused on its budget face off with the executive. This impasse has slowed the progress of the FOI bill.
- The tight budget approved for FY 08 continues to limit Pact's ability to positively respond to new emerging developments issues in the electoral reform process and fight against corruption in the country.

- The delay by some partners in sending satisfactory financial reports in turn delayed disbursements of their funds, which also in turn affected the implementation of some of their planned activities. Pact is proactively taking steps to improve its subgrantee reporting tracking systems, to engage more with tardy subgrantees, and to reinforce the importance of timely reporting.
- Similarly, the delay by some partners in sending satisfactory program reports with sufficient supporting documents created great pressure on program staff to ensure that Pact Nigeria's quarterly report was delivered on time to USAID Nigeria. Again, Pact is proactively improving its subgrantee reporting processes.
- Delay in passing the budget at both Federal and some states also delayed engagement with the document, which will include analyzing the budget and monitoring implementation.
- Secrecy and reluctance by legislators to release budget documents and share content resulted in repeated advocacy visits and sensitization of government officials on the need for increased participation in and transparency of the budget process

Administration and Management Challenges and Problems

- As described above, while one important staff position, Country Rep, was filled this quarter, three other vacancies were not yet filled as of the end of the quarter: Senior Finance and Admin Officer, Program Officer for Capacity Building and MER Officer. Other staff members rose to the challenge of filling these gaps, however, and all reports were delivered and finances were kept in order. Though some of Pact's capacity building activities were on hold this quarter, staff members were still able to conduct a financial training, provide ongoing mentoring for partners, conduct capacity assessments, and prepare for next quarter's MER training. Nonetheless, these positions will be filled by next quarter, and most of the required preparatory work for hiring these individuals has been accomplished (indeed, as of the time of this writing, two of the three positions are now filled).

Partner and Programmatic Opportunities

- The Presidential Electoral Reform Committee (ERC) remains a great opportunity and unique platform for CSOs to engage in electoral reform in the country. In addition, the extension of the deadline by the ERC for submission of memos to the committee is also an opportunity for more engagement of the ERC by the CSOs on their issues.
- The recent nullification by Election Petition Tribunals of many state and national level elections provides the right impetus for advocacy on electoral reform issues.
- ADVANCE is expanding its partnership base, and this expanded base will ensure capacity building for a wider section of Nigerian CSOs.
- The recent appointment of Dr. Assisi Asobie as the Chair of the NEITI NSWG enhances deeper collaboration between CSOs and the body.
- CSOs can cash in on the renewed vigor shown by the Legislature and build their capacity for effective oversight.
- Pact and its partners continue to be inundated by the requests of important CSOs who would like to be able to participate in the program.

Administration and Management Opportunities

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- The staff vacancies described above have provided opportunities for other staff members to take on new responsibilities, learn more about their peers' roles, and immerse themselves to a greater degree in our partners' activities. Current finance and administrative staff especially demonstrated the capacity to take on more senior roles (and of the time of this writing have been promoted).

D. Activity Changes and Explanations

Most activities took place as planned this quarter. Changes in planned activities are described below:

- Some of the subgrants planned for this quarter could not be made because of delay by the potential partners to respond to the issues raised on their proposals. These include the subgrants planned for PPDC on civil society oversight of the implementation of the Public Procurement Act; CPPC on the implementation of NEITI; ACE, NBA and FOMWAN on input into the electoral reform process; and CBI on a perception survey of the three federal government anticorruption agencies (EFCC, ICPC and CCB). However most of these partners were able to make a great deal of progress in responding to the comments made by Pact on their respective proposals as of the end of this quarter. Thus, barring any further unforeseen delays, their subgrants should be awarded next quarter.
- The presentation of the draft bill to the Akwa Ibom House of Assembly and legislative advocacy at both Akwa Ibom and Cross River Houses of Assembly could not take place this quarter because the Assembly was too engaged with the budget. It has been postponed until next quarter.
- In the absence of Pact's Capacity Building Officer, this quarter's newsletter was meant to be written by ActionAid's acting representative on the ADVANCE program. However, this turned out to be too high an expectation, as it was unreasonable to expect her to do her own job within the organization, fill in for the ActionAid ADVANCE coordinator, *and* take on the additional responsibility of the newsletter. This will be resumed next quarter.
- A number of budget advocacy partners, namely CIRDDOC, CISHAN, AAN and JDPC were to have concluded their projects in April, but delays in a few outstanding project activities this quarter will necessitate no-cost extensions for these partners next. This delay was primarily due to the late passage of budgets at both the federal and state levels, as well as some reporting issues that delayed the release of funds to the subgrantees. However, as of the time of this writing, most of the delayed activities had already taken place. The delayed activities were the following: CSO budget forum for AIDS Alliance; legislative advocacy workshop for CISHAN; state-level CSO/Govt as well as CSO/media forums on the 2008 budget for CIRDDOC; and local government budget hearings for JDPC.
- The monitoring, evaluation and reporting workshop for partners scheduled to be held this quarter was delayed until May of next quarter in order to accommodate the schedule of the regional staff that will be facilitating the workshop, as well as the new Pact MER officer who will be coming on board next quarter.

E. Success Stories

Activities under the ADVANCE project have continued to yield impressive results, which in many cases have had transformative impact. Some examples of success include the following:

Greater Impact from Training

ADVANCE's two trainings this quarter in budget advocacy have gone beyond simply the impact of more informed participants. ActionAid's quality design and implementation of the trainings also helped garner champions within the government, reach out to a broader audience through the media, build up the capacity of partner organizations to conduct trainings of their own, and enhanced networking and partnership among participating NGOs.

One government official in particular, Lakehinde G.P.O of the Lagos State Action Committee on HIV and AIDS, has been identified as an ally. According to him, the training was, "an eye opener. We have collected materials...which I will use to engage with other government officials. I regard this as a graduate school, which has provided me with an insight into problems and challenges in budget work. Having acquired knowledge at this event, I will just have to scale up my intervention and we on government side will have to work more closely together with CSOs to make the required changes." Other officials from the Rivers State Health Ministry, Education Ministry, and the Office of the Special Assistant to the Governor on Millennium Development Goals also committed to greater involvement with the assembled CSOs.



Mrs. Obilor Emilia, community mobilization officer HIV/AIDS program representing Rivers State Ministry of Health pledging to support CSO/Government Budget work in the Health and HIV sector. Next to her is Mrs. Joy Nwamaka, HIV/AIDS desk office, representing the Permanent Secretary, Ministry of Education, who also committed to supporting the process.

The trainings were also able to reach a broader audience through strategic engagement with the media. The Guardian published the Rivers State Education Official's commitment to

involve CSOs more in the budget process after the Education Editor from the News Agency of Nigeria attended the Port Harcourt training. Business Day also had a report on the Port Harcourt training, while This Day had a report on the Lagos training, including an interview with Pact Nigeria Deputy Country Director, Mr. Ahmed Mohammed, who participated in the event.

ActionAid also worked to build confidence and capacity in the other four budget advocacy partners by helping them to handle some of the presentations and facilitate some group work sessions at the trainings. For example, at the Lagos training, two staff members from AIDS Alliance facilitated the group work on HIV/AIDS, with assistance and guidance from ADVANCE. At the same training, the partner from JDPC facilitated the session on agriculture. After a debriefing session, they were able to anchor the group work, which identified gaps in the sub-sectors as well as proffered solutions to identified changes. By actively involving these Partners in trainings, ADVANCE is able to help ensure that they will be able to replicate the trainings with others for a broader impact.

Perhaps most importantly in terms of ongoing action and momentum, at the end of the trainings, CSOs working on the various sectors of education, health and HIV/AIDS decided to form coalitions to work on the budget in both Rivers and Lagos States. These new partners and networks will be essential to the success of future advocacy efforts.

Implementing Partner Collaboration

Pact continued this quarter to collaborate with other USAID implementing partners, which continued to demonstrate the importance of such joint, complementary work. As described above, Pact collaborated with NDI to help organize civil society participation and input for NDI's anti-corruption workshop for Members and staff of the National Assembly. From NDI's point of view, this provided the government participants with key information from a civil society point of view. For Pact's partners, although the meeting was focused on legislative action, it provided a unique opportunity for them to engage directly with legislators and their staff – emphasizing strong civil society support for continued reform, detailing civil society positions and views, and garnering important relationships for future engagement.

III. HIGHLIGHTS OF PLANS FOR NEXT QUARTER

A. Partner Activities

- Electoral Reform Consultative meetings with Nigerian Bar Association, Association of Professional Bodies of Nigeria, and the Performing Musicians Association of Nigeria and Federation of Muslim Women organization in Nigeria (FOMWAN).
- National Launch of Citizen's Guide on the NEITI.
- NEITI Enlightenment Forums in Bayelsa and Edo State.
- CSO-Review Meeting on the NEITI Act with Energy Reporters,
- CSO/Public Sector Procurement capacity building workshop
- CSO stakeholder review meeting on NEITI 1999 – 2004 Oil & Gas Audit Report
- CSO/legislative budget forum held by AIDS Alliance
- CSO/ministerial/media forum on SEEDS by AIDS Alliance

- Publishing of best practices in CSO budget tracking activities in Lagos State by AIDS Alliance
- Legislative advocacy workshop carried out by CISHAN
- Forums for CSO/Executive, CSO/Legislature and CSO/media on the 2008 budget held by CIRDDOC
- Local government budget hearings by JDPC
- CSO-Legislative forum on the budget by JDPC
- Dissemination workshop and media advocacy to highlight activities today by ActionAid
- Second round of budget advocacy and analysis training for CSOs to be held by ActionAid
- NEEDS and SEEDS trainings to be carried out by ActionAid

B. Subgrants

- Finalization of 6 new project proposals and subgrants
- Pre-award assessment for new partners as the need arises
- Close-out and de-obligation of most of the completed subgrants
- Further refinement of Pact's subgrant management procedures

C. Program management

- Recruitment to fill 3 vacant positions
- Continuation of newsletter distribution, website maintenance and list-serve facilitation.
- Develop further the intellectual capital of Pact/ADVANCE through the identification and formal documentation of partner best practice
- Hire, orient and train three new Pact staff: MER Officer, Accountant and Program Officer for Capacity Building.

IV. QUANTITATIVE INDICATOR DATA

#	Ind. Reference #	Indicator	Collection	Target for FY 08	Quarter Result	Cummulative Result FY 08	Comments
1		Civil Society Organizations (CSOs) representing marginalized group(s) engaging with government	Annually	N/A	N/A	5	Result is interim, as this is a quarterly report for an indicator reported annually.
2	S11.1.1	Citizen Input Reflected in Target Policies	Quarterly	N/A	N/A	N/A	Cannot report since milestones have not yet been set for targeted policies
3	GJD 4.1.1	Number of Civil Society Organizations using USG assistance to promote political participation	Quarterly	20	11	11	
4	GJD 4.1.3	Number of CSO advocacy campaigns supported by USG	Quarterly	60	8	17	
5	GJD 4.1.5	Number of People who Have Completed USG Assisted Civic Education Programs	Quarterly	2000	428	802	
6	GJD 4.1.8	Number of USG Assisted Civil Society Organizations that engage in advocacy and watchdog functions	Quarterly	30	11	11	
7	S11.1.2	Advocacy Capacity Index	Annually	N/A	N/A	N/A	This is an indicator that is reported annually.

8		Number of People Trained (Disaggregated by Gender)	Quarterly	OD M:105 F:45 T:150 AC M:174 F:76 T:250	OD M:6 F:9 T:15 AC M:414 F:110 T:524	OD M:109 F:72 T:181 AC M:453 F:256 T:709	
9		Selected Policy and Advocacy Information Available	Quarterly	100%	83%	N/A	Breakdown: Electoral Act: 50% Budget Information: 100% NEITI Act: 100%
10		Organizational Capacity Index	Annually	N/A	N/A	N/A	This is an indicator that is reported annually.
11		Civil Society Participation in Budgetary Processes	Quarterly	20	5	5	
12	S11.2.1	Civil Society-GON partnership to implement the NEITI	Quarterly	N/A	N/A	N/A	Cannot report since milestones have not yet been set for targeted policies
13	GJD 4.1.2	Number of Civil Society Organizations using USG assistance to improve internal organizational capacity	Annually	N/A	N/A	N/A	This is an indicator that is reported annually.