



USAID
FROM THE AMERICAN PEOPLE



**BUILDING
CAPACITY
WORLDWIDE**

**ADVANCE PROJECT
QUARTERLY PROGRESS REPORT
April – June 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
AKSOPADEC Akwa Ibom State Oil Producing Area Development Commission
APBN Association of Professional Bodies in Nigeria
BAAT Budget Analysis and Advocacy Training
CAC Corporate Affairs Commission
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
CIBN Chartered Institute of Bankers, Nigeria
CIRDDOC Civil Resource Development and Documentation Centre
CiSHAN Civil Society for HIV/AIDS in Nigeria
CISLAC Civil Society Legislative Advocacy Centre
CITN Chartered Institute of Taxation of Nigeria
CPPC Centre for Public-Private Cooperation
CROSOPADEC Cross River State Oil Producing Area Development Commission
CSO Civil Society Organization
DESOPADEC Delta State Oil Producing Area Development Commission
EFA Education for All
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
FGD Focus Group Discussion
FOI Freedom of Information
FOMWAN Federation of Muslim Women Associations of Nigeria
GON Government of Nigeria
ICAN Institute of Chartered Accountants of Nigeria
ICCN Institute of Chartered Chemists of Nigeria
ICTN Institute of Chartered Trustees of Nigeria.
IEC Information, Education and Communication
IMCON Institute of Management Consultants of Nigeria
IPAN Institute of Public Analysts of Nigeria
IPC International Press Centre
IT Information Technology
JDPC Justice Development and Peace Commission
JONAPWD Joint National Association of Persons with Disabilities
LASEEDS Lagos State Economic Empowerment and Development Strategy
LGA Local Government Area
MRA Media Rights Agenda

MULAC Muslim League for Accountability
NASS National Assembly
NBA Nigerian Bar Association
NDDC Niger Delta Development Commission
NEEDS National Economic Empowerment and Development Strategy
NEITI Nigeria Extractive Industries Transparency Initiative
NGO Non-Governmental Organization
NLC Nigeria Labor Congress
NOA National Orientation Agency
NPWP National Procurement Watch Platform
OSOPADEC Ondo State Oil Producing Area Development Commission
PMAN Performing Musicians Association of Nigeria
PWD People with disabilities
PWYP Publish What You Pay
RESNet Regional Support Network
SEEDS State Economic Empowerment and Development Strategy
TIN Transparency in Nigeria
USAID United States Agency for International Development
WANGONeT West Africa NGO Network
YPI Young Peoples Initiative
ZCC Zero Corruption Coalition

TABLE OF CONTENTS

I. BACKGROUND AND OVERVIEW	1
A. Activity Summary	1
B. Summary of Outputs	2
C. Recent Programmatic Context.....	3
II. QUARTER PROGRESS.....	8
A. Program Management.....	8
Staff Changes	8
Regional/HQ Support.....	8
General Portfolio Management.....	9
Subgrant Finances	10
Subgrant Summary Table	12
B. Programmatic Results.....	15
Objective 1: Strengthened civil society organization (CSO) capacity for effective program and financial management.....	15
Objective 2: Increased CSO capacity for effective advocacy for key policy reforms and civic participation, including in electoral processes.....	19
Objective 3: Strengthened public-private (CSO) partnerships to fight corruption through public oversight agencies and initiatives	25
C. Problems and Opportunities	29
Partner and Programmatic Challenges and Problems	29
Administration and Management Challenges.....	30
Partner and Programmatic Opportunities	30
Administration and Management Opportunities	31
D. Activity Changes and Explanations.....	31
E. Success Stories.....	32
CSOs Form Watchdog Group on Public Procurement.....	32
Government Commitment	33
Wide Press Coverage for Budget Work.....	33
III. HIGHLIGHTS OF PLANS FOR NEXT QUARTER	34
A. Partner Activities	34
B. Subgrants	34
C. Program management	34

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 Effective Pipeline Amount: \$299,922 (Calculation based on a formal pipeline of \$1,379,031.48, of which \$687,491 is already obligated to subgrantees and therefore not available for any purpose)
Accrued Expenditures this Quarter: \$391,617
Activity Cumulative Accrued Expenditures to Date: \$4,986,434
Estimated Expenditures Next Quarter: \$585,774
Report Submitted by: Dan Spealman, Pact Nigeria Country Rep

B. Summary of Outputs

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

- Supported existing partner CSOs through fund disbursements, oversight and mentoring.
- Developed 6 new subgrants to CSO partners for engaging the Presidential Electoral Reform Committee and the NEITI process.
- Processed subgrants modifications for no-cost extensions for some CSO partners.
- One pre-award assessment for a CSO partner was conducted.
- Baseline of advocacy capacity and organizational capacity indices for 4 CSO partners compiled.
- A week-long Monitoring, Evaluation and Reporting (MER) training for all of Pact's CSO partners was conducted.
- Completed the recruitment process for the position of Program Officer, Capacity Building, as well as the introduction of the new Monitoring, Evaluation and Reporting officer.
- Successful preparation and follow-up to recommendations from USAID financial review. Began the recruitment process for the position of Accountant.
- Reintroduce the quarterly ADVANCE newsletter and distributed it to partners

This quarter saw the culmination of a number of efforts, including Pact's recruitment and its monitoring and evaluation workshop. In terms of staffing, we completed the recruitment interviews to fill the position for Program Officer, Capacity Building (as of this writing the position has already been filled) and the staff person will be assuming duty in August. In addition, the new Monitoring, Evaluation and Reporting Officer started work this quarter. On the financial and administrative side, Pact completed its trial new staffing pattern that was put in place after the departure of the Senior Finance and Administration Officer and determined that restructuring and promotion of the existing staff, plus the addition of an accountant next quarter, will be sufficient to effectively handle the duties of the Finance and Administrative unit. A job announcement for the vacant position of Accountant, which resulted from the promotion of the then Accountant was made and several applications have so far been received (as of this writing, interviews of short-listed candidates have commenced).

In terms of subgrants management, the staff as usual reviewed and worked with sub-grantees to revise 6 proposals, conducted a pre-award assessment on a partner, issued 6 new subgrants, conducted a monitoring, evaluation and reporting training for all partners, reviewed and revised partners' quarterly reporting templates, developed milestones for the PMP (FOI, NEITI Act, National and State budget engagement, and advocacy to the Electoral Reform Committee). Pact also continued

mentoring and oversight of partners' program implementation. We also granted no-cost extensions to 3 partners whose sub-grants have ended but who still had outstanding activities. We continued our review of the subgrants management processes, worked on closing out outstanding subgrants, and continued the tracking of cost share contributions of CSO partners.

The quarter Pact also participated in a financial review of the ADVANCE program by USAID Nigeria. The result of the review was positive, although there were some areas that needed improvement and appreciable progress has already being made this quarter in addressing them. These include restructuring of the finance and administration unit, closing out advances, subgrant reconciliation, updating the inventory list, enhancing IT security, and tweaking our accounting processes, among work on other aspects of Pact Nigeria's overall financial and management systems.

Program outputs

- ActionAid ADVANCE team's Dissemination workshop on May 13, 2008 in Abuja, bringing together 45 participants comprising legislators from target states, other Pact ADVANCE partner CSOs and government officials.
- ActionAid ADVANCE Budget Analysis and Advocacy Training (BAAT) in Kaduna, May 19 - 26, 2008 for 19 stakeholder organizations drawn from Civil Society, the Media, the Academia and government agencies.
- ABGREMO's CSOs/Media Interactive forum on NEITI Act, 2007 and the Draft Bills to set up (CROSOPADEC and AKSOPADEC).
- ABGREMO's Study tours with State legislators.
- ABGREMO's awareness creation and sensitization about the NEITI.
- ACE's Stakeholder Consultative meetings on Electoral Reform.
- CASS' Local Government Enlightenment forums on the NEITI in 30 LGAs in Rivers and Bayelsa states.
- CIRDDOC's Media Roundtable on Budget.
- CIRDDOC's radio phone-in discussion program on government spending and policies on education at Rhythm FM Port Harcourt, 23rd April.
- CiSHAN's Civil Society/Legislative and media Forum on the budget process.
- ERA published and distributed 500 copies of a newsletter to deepen citizens' appreciation of the NEITI process.
- PPDC's 2-day capacity building workshop on the "Role of CSOs in the Implementation of the Public Procurement Act 2007" 2nd and 3rd June.

C. Recent Programmatic Context

Although money politics, misappropriation, mismanagement and corruption continue to impact negatively on the polity, many more Nigerians are insisting that issues of public finance and budget accountability should now be pursued with more vigor. Social critics insist that decisions as to who gets what portion of the budget must be put in the public domain. Thanks to the numerous capacity building efforts of civil society groups, the media, some public office holders as well as the

debate promoted in the media by the ADVANCE project and others, many more Nigerian have started participating in the discourse about budget and budgeting.

In the last two months, the media have been awash with exposés on the looting of the public treasury. Many serving and past public office holders have been summoned to give account of their financial stewardship. However, one major stumbling block in all these is that in spite of the emergent shocking revelations, not much is heard about sanctions for well publicized offences. This probably accounts for the continued misappropriation of funds at the state and local government levels.

Nevertheless, it is important to acknowledge all the work being done in the area of increasing people's participation in the budget document and process. The ADVANCE project has continued to build capacity, network and partner with stakeholders to raise awareness about issues of transparency in the expenditure of public funds. For instance, Civil Society input into the budget process has been institutionalized through the ADVANCE annual budget CSO/Government Budget forum. ActionAid Nigeria, the National Orientation Agency (NOA) and the Office of the Special Assistant to the President on the Millennium Developmental Goals (MDGs) have evolved a collaborative initiative, which provides space for Ministries, Departments and Parastatals/Agencies to give account of their expenditure of the Debt Relief Gains (DGRs). And all these definitely constitute clear milestones that have not come easy. Therefore, it would be correct to say that the environment is gradually being made conducive for the involvement of marginalized, excluded and vulnerable groups to begin to engage with duty bearers in the budget process. It is also clear that the media's capacity has been built to the extent that they now engage knowledgeable with the relevant issues. Also, it is no longer a taboo to question government expenditure.

As has been a recurring feature over the years, passage of the budget for the fiscal year 2008 both at the Federal and state levels suffered prolonged delay and the ADVANCE project monitored the debate on the cause of the delay (most often, the impasse between Assembly men and Mr. President) The ADVANCE project took a lead in the analysis of the various sectoral budgets and in producing the final press release by ActionAid Nigeria, which captured CSOs' reaction to the final budget output.

This quarter, both Houses of the National Assembly have continued to focus on holding Public Hearings on some past activities of government agencies and parastatals. Aside from the House of Representatives' popular power sector probe, the Senate Committee on the Federal Capital Territory examined Abuja land allocations and revocations. Currently, there is an enquiry into the mismanagement of the ₦19.5 billion aviation intervention fund, etc. There have been hints by the Senate spokesperson of more of these public hearings in the offing. These probes have already exposed the corruption involving past government functionaries, for instance the Safe Tower rehabilitation contract which could have been fully executed at the cost of approximately ₦1 billion was inflated by ₦5.5 billion. There has also

been the case of mindless looting of over \$10 billion in power sector funds. Nigerians, while being appreciative of the probes, are beginning to question their usefulness. The Senate President, David Mark, has given a hint of what Nigerians should expect from the investigations, by saying that “This is not a probe (referring to the aviation probe) to indict or send anybody to jail.” As if to confirm that the probes are an exercise in futility, the National Economic Council last month, appointed three principal characters, who supervised the rot in the power sector, to a committee that will monitor investments in that sector. They are Ondo State governor, Dr. Olusegun Agagu; Cross River State governor, Liyel Imoke.

The probes are also said to be cost intensive and reducing the productivity of the NASS. For instance the proposed probe of the oil sector by an ad-hoc committee of the House of Representatives would cost about ₦273 million. The money is to cover consultancy charges, operational cost of the secretariat, publicity, and a capacity building retreat for members. Each member of the panel is also expected to go home with ₦20,000 per day for the 90 days the investigation will last. Last May, the Speaker of the House of Representatives, Mr. Dimeji Bankole, admitted that they had not done well in lawmaking. The previous legislative session, Bankole observed, passed 35 bills within one year of inauguration. The incumbent legislators could only boast of passing 11 out of 65 pending bills by the time they were one year in office.

In a unanimous decision, the Senate has confirmed the appointment of Mrs. Farida Waziri as the new Chairperson of EFCC, replacing the former Chairman of the Commission, Mallam Nuhu Ribadu. This finally lay to rest the controversy that greeted her nomination by the president. The controversy hinged on three core issues: 1) whether Waziri had indeed resumed office prior to Senate confirmation, as was speculated; 2) whether or not she stood surety for former Benue Governor, Senator George Akume on his misappropriation charges and 3) whether or not the position of chairman of the Commission was vacant. The Senate reported all these as being resolved after investigations. Following the confirmation of her appointment, Mrs. Waziri has promised to sustain the tempo of work at the agency and also to dig deeper into the neglected private sector. The Commission has so far begun with a clampdown on the key actors in the controversial Police Equipment Foundation scandal and lately, has affected the arrest of two former ministers of aviation, Dr. Babalola Borishade and Chief Femi Fani-Kayode alongside former Director General of Nigeria Airspace Management Agency (NAMA), Mr. Rowland Iyayi over an alleged financial impropriety in the aviation sub-sector. There are however, concerns that the new Chairperson may water down the fight on corruption because of some unsubstantiated allegations of her alliances with some objectionable power brokers. CSOs like ZCC have been monitoring the operations of the Commission and are engaging with the Commission on what its agenda should be. One agenda item they are pushing is the setting up of systems and processes to strengthen the Commission.

In response to CSOs agitation for the review of the legal framework of the anti-graft agency, the Senate has begun the process of reviewing provisions of the Economic and Financial Crimes Commission (Establishment) Act, 2004. If the review sails through, the powers to remove the chairman of the commission before the expiration of his/her tenure, will no longer be an exclusive preserve of the executive. Specifically, the Senate seeks to amend section 3 (2) of the Act, which reads,

“A member of the commission may at any time be removed by the President for inability to discharge the functions of his office (whether arising from infirmity of mind or body or any other cause).”

It has been argued that the proposed amendment will better position the agency to serve without paying slavish allegiance to the powers that be, when the members of the commission know that the security of their tenure is not subject to the whims and caprices of an individual.

The Freedom of information bill suffered some setback this quarter as the House of Representatives “shot down” the bill when it came up for Third Reading. The proposition raised that it be considered in the Committee of the Whole House was overwhelmingly rejected by the Members. Stakeholders all over the country have criticized the House of Representatives for this action and have said that it contradicts the spirit of probity, which their public hearings have been upholding. The opposition to the bill seems to be coming from new Members who make up 80% of the House. The Members have the perception that the bill if passed into law will do them harm, as it will be used by the media as a weapon to probe into the private affairs of individuals. The House leadership, which seems to be committed to the passage of the bill has advised advocates to engage in one-on-one advocacy with the opposing members in order to sort out areas of contention in the bill. This, it advised, should happen before the bill is listed again, in order for it not to be “killed”. The resistance of the House is especially troubling, given the support shown for the bill in the higher chamber. The Leadership of the Senate seems dedicated to the FOI bill and has made several public commitments to ensuring its passage. The Senate has just concluded its well publicized and well attended public hearing on the bill. The Bill is at the stage of Second hearing in the Senate.

In order to douse the tension in the Niger Delta, the President Umaru Musa Yar’adua has proposed yet another Summit on the Niger Delta region’s unresolved grievances. This Summit is expected to provide his administration with a synthesis of grievances and solutions. The proposed Summit is already engrossed in an unnecessary controversy regarding who chairs or coordinates it. The proposal to have Professor Ibrahim A. Gambari, the United Nations (UN) Under Secretary for Political Affairs as Chair of the Summit has been rejected by people of the region because of the role he purportedly played during the hanging of late activist Ken Saro Wiwa. There have previously been similar summits that have produced a comprehensive Niger Delta Region Master Plan and an implementing statutory agency; the Niger Delta Development Commission – NDDC (on ground) regarding the lingering Niger Delta conundrum.

Some people welcome the idea of the summit in order to bring lasting peace, security and development to the region. They also welcome the camaraderie and solidarity that will come out of such a summit. In the long run, the outcomes of such a summit that brings together all local, regional, national and international stakeholders in search of solutions to the implementation of the Niger Delta Master Plan and related issues will ensure justice, fairness and equity for the long deprived region and its good people. Some other people think that over the past 50 years or so, and particularly in the immediate past eight years (1999-2007), the overall physical, social and economic development problems and challenges facing the people of the Niger Delta region of Nigeria have been “over diagnosed” and that solutions have been proffered to each and every problem found. The Niger Delta problems are well known and similarly, the solutions to the problems are equally well known. What is lacking is the political will as well as the institutional capacity to implement the solutions. According to the critics, the proposed summit boils down to unnecessary waste of public funds for the sole purposes of massaging the egos of some so-called leaders of the region. CSOs have however begun to set agenda for the summit, urging it to address the central issues of transparency and accountability regarding the use of the multi-billion naira transformative programs and projects encapsulated in the Niger Delta Master Plan.

II. QUARTER PROGRESS

A. Program Management

Staff Changes

Pact started the quarter by interviewing final candidates to fill the position of Monitoring, Evaluation and Reporting (MER) Officer, one of which was hired for the post. The successful candidate was Austin Udechukwu, who assumed duty immediately. Equally, interviews for the position of Program Officer, Capacity Building and Knowledge Sharing were completed by the end of the quarter and one of the candidates, Ebele Achor, was hired to fill the position. Ebele will be assuming duty next quarter.

With regards to the position of Senior Finance and Administrative Officer, the experiment to determine if the existing staff would be able to take on additional responsibilities and leadership roles was successfully completed by the end of previous quarter and the existing staff members all performed admirably in their new roles. That gave credence to the idea that the existing staff was capable of filling the vacuum created by the departing senior staff member, even though Pact will still need to hire an additional accountant for the unit. Thus, the quarter began with the promotion of existing Accountant and Administrative Assistant to Finance Officer and Administrative Officer, respectively. Equally, the existing Secretary/Receptionist, who has been handling the functions of finance assistant effectively, was promoted to Finance and Administrative Assistant. A vacancy announcement for the position of Accountant was made public through the Pact Nigeria website, and listserv and several applications have so far been received (and as of this writing, interviews of short-listed candidates have commenced), hopefully, the position will be filled next quarter.

It is important to note that the Program Coordinator for Anticorruption Advocacy indicated her plan to disengage from the service of Pact early next quarter but Pact took a proactive step and quickly recruited a replacement at the end of this quarter to fill the position of the outgoing staff. The new staff will be assuming duty early next quarter before the departure of the incumbent to create an overlap for on the job training and mentoring of the new staff.

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 democracy and governance (DG) as well as in monitoring, evaluation and reporting (MER). The DG workshop was attended by the Pact Nigeria Deputy Country Representative and the Program Coordinator for Anticorruption Advocacy while the MER workshop was

attended by the Pact Nigeria newly recruited MER Officer. Equally, there was a country program peer review among three DG country programs, namely; Nigeria, Kenya and Zimbabwe, held in Kenya and attended by the Pact Nigeria Country Representative, the Deputy Country Representative and the Program Coordinator for Anticorruption Advocacy. These workshops and the DG country program review, held at HQ expense, 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 also contributed in the preparation and implementation for Pact Nigeria's partner training on Monitoring and Evaluation, which was held this quarter. Two MER specialists from the Regional Office worked closely with the Pact Nigeria team in preparing for the training and they finally traveled to Nigeria at the Regional Office expense to join the team for the implementation of the training.

General Portfolio Management

The ADVANCE subgrant portfolio increased this quarter with the signing of six new subgrants (including one in-kind) - bringing our portfolio to a cumulative total of thirty-five subprojects. Of the six new subprojects, two will engage with the Presidential Electoral Reforms Committee (ERC) to present the concerns and recommendations of marginalized populations represented by the Federation of Muslim Women's Association of Nigeria (FOMWAN), Abuja, Alliance for Credible Elections (ACE), Abuja, as well as the concerns and recommendations of the legal professionals represented by the Nigerian Bar Association (NBA), Lagos. The fourth subproject with the Public-Private Development Centre (PPDC), will raise awareness on the implementation of the Public Procurement Act (PPA,) including engaging with the Bureau for Public Procurement Act, which is the Federal Government implementing agency. The fifth subproject is focused on the NEITI audit process and is being implemented by the Centre for Public-Private Cooperation (CPPC), Ibadan while the sixth subproject with the Civil Society Legislative Centre (CISLAC), also deals with NEITI but with focus on raising awareness and strengthening the capacity of relevant National Assembly (NASS) committees. For three of these partners (CISLAC, FOMWAN and ACE), this is their second subgrant while for the remaining three (NBA, PPDC and CPPC), this is their first subgrant under the ADVANCE program.

While Pact Nigeria's cumulative portfolio now stands at thirty-five, the ongoing subgrants as of this quarter stood at seventeen. Although we added six subgrants to the existing eleven, the subgrants for MULAC and ABGREMO, were completed during the quarter. Thus, the fifteen partners that will continue implementation of their ongoing projects are AAIN, CIRDDOC, JDPC, CASS, CISHAN, AAN, ERA, CPPC, FOMWAN, CISLAC, ACE, PPDC, WANGONeT, NBA and ZCC, The last three of those subgrants listed were expected to close this quarter, but had to be extended at no additional cost because the sub-grantees 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:

- ActionAid Nigeria's Dissemination workshop for state budget CSO partners on sharing the progress being made and challenges in the implementation of their projects. This event was held in Abuja, FCT on May 13, 2008.
- ActionAid Nigeria's Budget Analysis and Advocacy Training for CSOs. This event was held in Kaduna, Kaduna State from May 19 - 25, 2008.
- PPDC's Capacity Building workshop on the Role of Stakeholders in the Implementation of the Public Procurement Act (PPA). This was held in Abuja from June 02 - 03, 2008.

Pact Nigeria also continued in this quarter the thorough review it began the previous quarter of its subgrants management processes. These upgrades will continue into next quarter, and as of this report, the steps taken include the following:

- Reinforced sub-grantee cost-share tracking procedures, and verified also some cost-share input this quarter.
- More close-out de-obligation letters and subgrants modifications sent to some of the sub-grantees whose finalization had been outstanding for long.
- Sub-grantees trained on the updated tracking procedures and templates for quarterly reporting and followed-up via phone, email and in person meetings with sub-grantees whose programmatic and financial reports were overdue.

Pact Nigeria also engaged with the Federal Government of Nigeria by attending the National Orientation Agency (NOA)'s Civic Education program meeting which was held on June 19, 2008 at NOA's office, Abuja. During the meeting, the current components (school empowerment and out of school/community empowerment) of the program and modalities for launching the civic education program including the civic education textbooks produced for primary one and junior secondary school one were discussed.

Subgrant Finances

It should first be noted that during this reporting period, Pact Nigeria continued to follow-up with some of the partner CSOs with completed projects to mentor/train them, and also track and report their agreed cost share as well as press for the delivery of those reports. With this effort, Pact was able to realize and identify additional cost share of **\$5,503.18**, this brings to a total of **\$206,565.61** (up from \$201,062.43 reported last quarter) on the cost share that has been incurred to date on the program as of this quarter.

During the reporting period, an additional sum of **\$98,383.47** was advanced to four of the existing CSO partners (AAIN, CASS, ERA and ACE) for electoral reform, budget monitoring/advocacy and oil revenue transparency/NEITI activities. In addition, the sum of **\$135,548.93** was obligated for the five new standard subgrants

issued this quarter but no disbursement was made on them yet. Procurement of \$13,470.35 was made on the one in-kind subgrant for initial implementation of the project. Thus, the cumulative total disbursements/advances so far made for all subgrants at the end of this quarter stood at **\$1,833,483.88** (up from \$1,735,100.21) in the previous quarter and excluding consultancies/in-kind subgrants). Of that amount, the sub-grantees have expended and retired/ liquidated a total of **\$1,596,988.37** to date (up from \$1,440,149.79 reported in the last quarter, and excluding consultancies/in-kind subgrants). Also this quarter, as part of our improvements in subgrants management, we have separated subproject consultancies from in-kind subgrants rather than merging the two together as in the previous quarters. Thus based on this separation and reconciliation, the estimated expenditures on consultancies to date stood at **\$271,763.80** while actual expenditure incurred stood at **\$216,929.52**. As per in-kind subgrants, total estimated/obligated amount to date stood at **\$191,535.52** but total procurement for the services provided under the subgrants to date stood at **\$191,568.24**, leaving a negative balance of **\$32.72** due to foreign exchange differences. This includes the PPDC, JONAPWD and CISLAC in-kind subgrants. 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 **\$2,005,486.13** (up from \$1,878,892.49 in last quarter). Table 1 below provides a summary of current subgrant recipients (including those receiving in-kind support) along with each sub-award's obligated amount, advances/ disbursements, expenditures and balances as of the end of this quarter, June 30th 2008.

Subgrant Summary Table

TABLE 1: Summary of Status of ADVANCE Sub-grants and Consultancy (Advances and Actual Expenditures including Balance) as at End of Quarter II, FY 08 (1 st April – June 30 th , 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	
PWYP	30 March 2006 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	103,035.66	18,959.37	Terminated and closeout process commenced
MRA	30 March 2006 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	124,559.48	(3,775.92)	Completed
IPC	30 March 2006 to September 30 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	100,393.82	276.78	Completed
WOTCLEF	30 March 2006 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	80,484.28	3,778.52	Completed and closeout process commenced
CISLAC	20 September 2006 to 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	157,987.52	(1,247.96)	Completed and closeout process commenced
Action Aid Int'l Nig	15 August 2006 to February 22, 2010	CSO Budget Monitoring & Tracking	Budget Process National & Focal State	616,142.42	500,200.90	115,941.52	446,216.87	53,984.03	On-going
JDFC/ACE	01 November to 31 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 and closeout process commenced
CITAD	01 February 2007 to 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	29,725.78	27,789.91	1,935.87	27,952.88	(162.97)	Completed
MULAC	01 February 2008 – 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	18,510.94	18,573.21	(62.27)	14,018.80	4,554.41	Completed
ACE	01 March 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	128,223.13	106,136.02	22,087.11	101,880.86	4,255.16	Completed
FOMWAN	08 March – 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, Nasarawa, Kano, Niger and Kwara) in the northern part of Nigeria	62,089.84	62,153.37	(63.53)	62,192.76	(39.39)	Completed
JONAPWD	05 to 31 March 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	17,399.22	4,412.89	19,159.99	(1,760.77)	Completed

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	
ZCC	28 Feb 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	25,182.84	9,299.58	Completed
AAN	01 May 2007 to July 31, 2008	Strengthening Capacity of CSOs in HIV Budget Tracking & Improving Transparency in Resource Allocation for Effective Service Delivery in the	Civic Participation and Oversight- HIV/AIDS Budget Tracking & Oversight	49,880.06	46,192.22	3,687.84	34,721.76	11,470.46	On-going
CIRDDOC	01 May 2007 to September 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
JDPC, Ijebu-Ode	01 May 2007 to 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)	Project period ended but will be granted No
CISHAN	01 May 2007 to July 31, 2008	Enhancing Capacity of CSOs in HIV/AIDS Budget Tracking & Monitoring of Allocation of Resource & expenditures for attaining MDG in	Civic Participation and Oversight- HIV/AIDS Budget Tracking & Oversight	49,946.27	30,611.87	19,334.40	28,093.27	2,518.60	On-going
ERA	19 September 2007 to August 12, 2008	Local Empowerment and good governance in Edo/Delta states, South south Zone of Nigeria	Civic Participation and Oversight NEITI process in Edo/Delta states	35,433.07	20,803.50	14,629.57	22,188.04	(1,384.54)	On-going
CASS	19 September 2007 to September 18 th	Oil revenue transparency and civic oversight of the NEITI process in Rivers/Bayelsa states, as well as national perception survey in some targeted	Civic Participation and Oversight in NEITI process Rivers and Bayelsa State as well as at National level	86,526.69	79,823.19	6,703.50	73,666.55	6,136.64	On-going
ABGREMO	19 September 2007 to May 30, 2008	Legislative Advocacy & Capacity Building for CSOs on oil revenue transparency in Akwa Ibom and Cross river state	Civic Participation and Oversight NEITI process in Akwa Ibom/Cross river states	33,064.96	29,765.08	3,299.88	8,053.90	21,711.18	Completed
WANGONET ***	19 September 2007 to December 18 th 2007	Capacity Building for CSOs on oil Revenue Transparency and Civic oversight of the NEITI process in Nigeria	Civic Participation and Oversight in NEITI process through training	27,136.22	18,706.98	8,429.24	17,142.94	1,564.04	Period ended, will be granted no cost extension
ZCC	01 February 2008 to September 30 2008	Production of Citizen's Guide to Information and Processes of the NEITI as well as Engaging the Government of	Civic Participation and Oversight in NEITI process through production and launch of Citizen Guide on NEITI and advocacy on the NEITI Audit.	48,096.58	7,362.77	40,733.81	5,668.38	1,694.39	On-going
MULAC	24 January 2008 to	Promoting muslim Participation in electoral reform	Civic Participation - Production of Memo and advocacy to the Presidential Electoral Reforms Committee	9,762.50	9,104.97	657.53	9,104.97	-	Completed
ACE	11 April 2008 to Jun	Consultation on Electoral reforms	Civic Participation - Production of Memo and advocacy to the Presidential Electoral Reforms Committee	30,787.67	29,367.52	1,420.15	-	29,367.52	On-going
Total				2,120,178.20	1,726,689.06	393,489.15	1,556,951.31	169,737.74	
Please Note that:									
1. Four new (standard) subgrants (CPPC, NBA, FOMWAN and CISLAC) were signed this quarter but they will be reflected in this matrix next quarter when the partners would have completed disbursement requirements									
2. The negative balances reflected against some partners was due to exchange rate differences									
3. *** = Subgrant period ended but still has outstanding activity, which is expecting input from CPPC's project just awarded. Will be granted No Cost extension next quarter									

Pact/ADVANCE In-Kind Sub-grants as at June 30, 2008						
Recipient	Time Frame	Project Title	Total estimated amount	Total Procurements	Balance on Obligated Amt	Status
CISLAC	Mar 29 to 26 Jun 2006	Legislative advocacy on the Fiscal Responsibility Bill;	83,068.75	88,683.35	(5,614.60)	Completed
CISLAC	Jun 23 to Aug 18 2006	Legislative advocacy on the Fiscal Responsibility Bill;	73,828.13	80,215.90	(6,387.77)	Completed
JONAPWD	Jan 23 to 29 Feb 2008	Mainstreaming Disability Concern in Electoral Reforms	9,979.16	9,198.64	780.52	Completed
PPDC	Apr 10 to 30 Jun 2008	PPDC Procurement Watch project	24,659.48	13,470.35	11,189.13	Project period
Total			191,535.52	191,568.24	(32.72)	
Please note that the negative balances are due to exchange rate differences.						

Pact /ADVANCE Subproject Consultancy as at June 30, 2008						
Recipient	Time Frame	Project Title	Total estimated amount	Total Procurements	Balance on Obligated	Status
Action Aid Nig	24 Jan to 15 May 2007	Budget monitoring and Advocacy	69,436.25	49,832.46	19,603.79	Closed
ZCC	4 Jun to 18 Aug 2006	EFCC and ICPC oversight	38,872.00	38,947.00	-75.00	Completed
ZCC	6 Nov to 8 Dec 2006	National Launch of STIC	2,046.25	2,312.50	-266.25	Completed
ZCC	8 Feb to 30 Apr 2007	Zonal Launch of STIC	70,034.77	49,964.19	20,070.58	Completed
ICTN	20 Mar to 11 Apr 2007	Democratic Right to Vote Credible Candidates into political positions	18,410.55	18,410.55	0.00	Completed
CP	19 Mar to Apr 15 2007	Improving Citizen's Participation in the 2007 Elections	18,279.02	16,122.85	2,156.17	Completed
CDD	19 March to May 31 2007	Policy dialogue on institutionalizing mechanisms to address violence	18,364.84	8,812.51	9,552.33	Completed
CDA	19 March to June 30 2007	Facilitating A Mainstream Youth Agenda In The 2007 Electoral Process	17,960.74	14,242.59	3,718.15	Completed
YPI	26 March to April 30 2007	Nigeria Youth Colloquium on 2007 Elections	18,359.38	18,284.87	74.50	Completed
Total			271,763.80	216,929.52	54,834.28	

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 whom 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. The main capacity building intervention this quarter was the Monitoring, Evaluation, Reporting and Learning workshop.

Organizational Capacity and Pre-Award Assessments

This quarter, the ADVANCE Program Coordinator for Capacity Assessments conducted organizational capacity assessments along with pre-award assessment for a partner CSO, Alliance for Credible Elections (ACE), Abuja. Pre-award assessment results and the baseline for the organizational capacity index for the capacity assessments conducted the previous quarter are detailed further below.

Although ACE had previously benefited from the ADVANCE program when it was a loose coalition, since it has changed to become a full coalition, it was necessary to carry out a new pre-award assessment for the second subgrant. The new assessment served to determine the extent of technical, managerial and financial capacity that ACE currently has in order to effectively carry out its proposed project, while at the same time meeting the programmatic and financial reporting requirements of Pact and USAID. ACE's assessment was held in ACE's office, Abuja on April 30 and May 09, 2008. Pact staff met with Secretary-General, Program Officer/ Administrative Officer, and Accountant and thoroughly reviewed the systems in place. The results of the assessments determined that, with capacity building support from Pact, the organization met minimum requirements to qualify for the Pact subgrant, which was later awarded to the organization this quarter. During the assessment, the Pact staff also mentored the partner in areas such as improving its 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 ACE 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.

The baseline for the Organizational Capacity Index was established for the four additional local partner CSOs. These partners are Centre for Public-Private Cooperation (CPPC), Ibadan; Nigerian Bar Association (NBA), Lagos; Alliance for Credible Elections (ACE), Abuja; and Zero Corruption Coalition (ZCC), Abuja. See table below.

Organizational Capacity Index - Baseline

Partner CSOs	Average Index Score
CPPC	1.57
NBA	2.13
ACE	2.06
ZCC	1.85
Overall Average Index Score Baseline	1.90
Common Capacity Gaps Identified	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ <i>Governance:</i> Constitution needs review by most (CPPC, ZCC, and ACE). All the partners need a review of their organograms; lack of strategic plan by ZCC and CPPC. NBA and ACE need improved strategic plan , and ACE needs a new one since the period for the current plan has almost ended. Meetings not regularly held as scheduled or no proper documentation of minutes of meetings by all (ZCC, CPPC, NBA and ACE). Two (ZCC and ACE) do not have CAC certificate of incorporation, but that is being processed, while the remaining two (NBA and CPPC) have CAC registration certificates. ▪ <i>Operational and Management Systems:</i> All of them do not have documented relevant operational policies and procedures, except their constitutions. However, NBA has a draft administrative policy and procedure, which is being reviewed. They all have fair project management experience including monitoring, evaluation and reporting, but they require capacity enhancement in these areas for improved performance. ▪ <i>Human Resource:</i> They have some rudimentary but undocumented personnel policies and procedures but they do not have documented human resource development and training plan. They require improved job descriptions and specifications for their key positions ▪ <i>Financial Resources:</i> Absence of documented standard financial/accounting policies and procedures manual by all, lack of documented resource mobilization plan by all, improved overall annual operational budget required by all; all of them prepare annual external audited account but they need to make it regular because most of them do not have the most current year’s audited account. Most of them do not use any accounting software but excel/spread sheet. 	

Monitoring and Evaluation Workshop

Pact Nigeria organized a Monitoring, Evaluation and Reporting (MER) training for its partners, to respond to the gaps identified in their MER capabilities. The objective of the training was to improve the proficiency of participants in monitoring, evaluation and reporting and support their efforts in overseeing MER for their own programs and for their grants with USAID/Pact and other donors. It was offered to all the past, present and potential recipients of Pact's assistance.

In both the planning and the implementation of the training program, Pact Nigeria drew substantially from the expertise of the Kenya-based Pact Africa Regional Support Network (RESNet), a region-based Pact think-tank that provides needs-based technical support to Pact Country offices on varying subject matters. Two MER specialists from RESNet, along with the Pact Nigeria team and other external resource persons facilitated the 5-day training, which spanned from the 26th to the 30th of May 2008, and led to the award of a certificate of participation to each participant who attained at least 75% attendance and participation. The training recorded a 92% turnout/representation by the organizations invited. Of a total of 26 organizations invited, only 2 were unrepresented at the training.

The training was designed to build the capacity of participants by reinforcing their knowledge of the concepts of Monitoring, Evaluation and Reporting, and to introduce them to more recent thinking in that field. The training targeted basically those officers within Pact's partner organizations whose responsibility it is to monitor, evaluate and report on the ADVANCE project. This includes those organizations with current projects, those with completed projects and those that will soon sign their own sub-grant agreements with Pact. The training was held at the Sharon Ultimate hotel, in Area 3, Garki – Abuja from the 26th – 30th of May, 2008. Specifically, the training dealt with such issues as:

- Overview of principles and essential elements of MER Systems
- Identification of audiences & information needs
- Principles of results based MER
- Building a Results Framework - The 4 levels.
- Discussion on other conceptual Models and the role of assumptions
- Program Indicators (7 steps for selecting program indicators and using indicator criteria)
- Developing program indicators for a project
- Introduction to indicator protocols
- The F Process Indicators
- Review of ADVANCE Program Indicators
- Brief Introduction to Data Audits and Data Quality Assurance
- Monitoring Good Governance through international indices and accountability indices
- Monitoring Good Governance by tracking budget expenditure and public spending
- Monitoring your advocacy efforts to promote Good Governance (Clout, Constituency legitimacy, Coalition Effectiveness/ Advocacy Progression)
- Guidance for capturing success stories
- Introduction to reporting

- Review of reporting template/schedule

For the most part, the facilitators led the discussions on the various topics under consideration, and regularly sought inputs/contributions from the participants, taking time to clarify generally held but sometimes misguided views about MER concepts. The use of real-world situations as case studies also made the training sessions even more engaging. At intervals, the participants would break into small groups of 6 on the average to brainstorm on exercises in which everyone participated and a *rapporteur* reported back to the plenary. One very important output of the training was the development, during one of the break-away sessions, of milestones for tracking progress in selected GON policy reform frameworks that are of interest to the ADVANCE program. The groups were painstakingly designed to comprise those partner organizations doing some advocacy work built around one policy framework common to them all. In FY08, in line with our results-based management approach, our energies are being channeled towards supporting advocacy work aimed at building the requisite capacity and systems for effective monitoring of the implementation of the relevant bills passed into law and assented to in the twilight of the immediate past administration of Chief Olusegun Obasanjo. In that light, some of the groups had the challenge of developing post-passage (implementation) milestones to track whatever progress is being made. Groups developed milestones on the following topics:

- The NEITI
- Electoral reforms
- The Public Procurement Act
- FOI Bill Budget advocacy

Another major outcome of the training was the opportunity it afforded the participants to get more enlightened in the subject of MER, especially having designed/developed some of the MER tools themselves under the guidance and supervision of the facilitators.

Information and Communications Mentoring/Capacity Building

Additional capacity building was provided this quarter by the Pact /ADVANCE IT Consultant to some CSO partners as follows:

- Public and Private Development Center (PPDC) for their Advocacy visit to the Bureau of Public Procurement Office that was held on April 29, 2008. The support included setting up of presentation materials like the laptop computers projector and the stand for presentations made by the Civil Society group during the visit.
- PPDC for their 2-day workshop on the role of stakeholders in the Implementation of the Public Procurement Act, held at Bolton White hotel in Area 11 Garki, Abuja on June 02- 03.
- Zero Corruption Coalition (ZCC) on the production of the maiden edition of its newsletter "Accountability Monitor". This was done at Pact Nigeria office on June 25, 2008. The support included designing a template for the newsletter and how to use and manage the template and (as of this writing the newsletter) had been produced by ZCC.

- Production of the quarterly newsletter was restarted this quarter, and the Pact IT consultant worked with ActionAid to produce articles about the recent work of partners to disseminate best practices.

Financial Mentoring/Capacity Building

During this quarter, the Pact ADVANCE Financial Officer provided mentoring/on the job training to FOMWAN, MULAC, ERA, ABGREMO and CIRDDOC on financial reporting.

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

Advocacy Capacity Assessment

As noted above, Pact staff conducted organizational capacity and pre-award assessment for one partner, ACE, in April/May. 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. During the assessment, ACE 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 partner was introduced to some of the key tools for effective advocacy, ranging from issue identification through monitoring of implementation of successful policy change. The results of the baseline assessment of ACE and for the other partners conducted in the previous quarter are detailed in the table below.

Advocacy Capacity Index – Baseline

Partner CSOs	Average Index Score
CPPC	1.11
NBA	1.88
ACE	2.26
ZCC	2.53
Overall Average Index Score Baseline	1.95
Common Capacity Gaps Identified	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Issue is Timely and Significant:</i> There has been too much focus on so many issues at a time without the desired concentration for effective and meaningful results by most except ACE that focuses on credible election issues and is making some breakthroughs. • <i>CSO Collects Information and Inputs about the Issue:</i> Most of the partners if not all are weak in the area of effectively collecting information and input on the issues from stakeholders including gender and minority groups. • <i>CSO Formulates a Viable Policy Position on the Issue:</i> Except for ZCC and NBA with some demonstrable fair capacity in this area, the rest are weak. • <i>CSO obtains and /or allocates Resources for Advocacy on the Issue:</i> All the partners except NBA are weak in this area. • <i>CSO Builds Coalitions and Networks to Obtain Cooperative Efforts for joint Action on the Issue:</i> ZCC and ACE are fair in this area but the rest are weak because each of them 	

emerged/formed based on their respective issues.

- *CSO takes Action to influence Policy or Other Aspects of the issue:* Most of the partners are trying on this but they have very poor documentation of their actions.
- *CSO takes Follow up Actions, after Policy Decisions are made to foster Implementation and or to maintain Public Interest:* Majority (ZCC, ACE and NBA) appear to be doing fairly okay in this area.
- *Others Comments:* Capacity and experience of all the partners need to be improved on the entire advocacy process. Virtually all the partners have implemented advocacy activities in the past but not much documentation has been done.

Civil Society Participation in Budgetary Processes

During the quarter under review, Pact continued to support its CSO partners in the area of budget monitoring and tracking. These partners have, under the supervision of the Pact/ActionAid ADVANCE team, demonstrated determination and resilience in an effort to ensure that the message of transparency and accountability in budget implementation is ingrained in the social fiber of the communities in which they operate. Of particular importance is the work going on among partner CSOs who engage with state government and other stakeholders at the state level. Some level of success has been achieved through the efforts of these partners.

ActionAid

This quarter, ActionAid Nigeria held its Dissemination workshop, whose main objectives were to:

- Share program activities, especially lessons learned and challenges
- Get input from civil society, government, donor agencies as well as other stakeholders into present and future program activities.
- Re-channel such suggestions and recommendations into future programming.

The one-day workshop held on May 13, 2008 in Abuja and had in attendance legislators from target states, where advance partners work; the four implementing partners of the ADVANCE project working on budget issues (JDPC, CiSHAN, CIRDDOC and the AIDS Alliance); other civil society organizations (including representatives from CDD and JONAPWD); and some government officials. Also in attendance were representatives of donor agencies and implementing partners such as MEMS, who made inputs that helped to enrich workshop proceedings. Past program activities were discussed, land mark achievements and challenges were identified and results were distilled, while suggestions were made on the way forward.

During the Dissemination workshop, the ADVANCE project also shared its newest initiative: Economic Literacy and Accountability for Governance (ELBAG) and secured the commitment of other CSOs to take this further among their various constituencies. This initiative was informed by the realization that in a developing country like Nigeria, to make progress, there must be informed followership to complement visionary leadership.

During the quarter under review, ActionAid also held its second Budget Analysis and Advocacy Training (BAAT-2) in Kaduna between June 18th and June 26th, 2008. BAAT is the major flagship of the ActionAID program because it aims at building the capacity of civil society groups, especially those of core ADVANCE partners, government officials and the media to enable them engage more effectively and efficiently in public finance and budget work. The training featured lectures, group work, panel group discussions as well as field trip to give participants a hands-on experience on the link between good governance, people centered budgeting and poverty.

Before the BAAT, a call was sent out for interested participants to apply for scholarships to attend, and the response was overwhelming. About 50 participants responded to the application but only a total of 30 participants, two each from our four partners, AIDS Alliance, JDPC, CIRDDOC and CISHAN, representatives of CSOs working in our area of interest and target states, government officials and the media, could be accommodated due to financial constraints.

In realization of the important place of the media in budget advocacy, media representatives were also invited to the event to not only cover the opening and closing ceremonies but to have their capacity built so as to elicit their support, empower them to engage in a more informed reportage as well as provide them with background materials for future budget work.

Government officials were also invited to be part of the training. The ADVANCE project does not work in Kaduna but the town was chosen because of its centrality; therefore government officials were invited mainly to perform the official opening and closing ceremonies. However, a deputy director in the state's ministry of health, Malam Salihu, requested that a representative of his ministry, Malam Dauda Rabiou Anchau, stay behind for the training and acquire more knowledge about the budget process. At the end of the one week training, Malam Dauda had this to say about the training:

“The deliberations and proceedings here sit squarely on my table and what we do in my department. The training has equipped me and made me more grounded in issues of adequately budgeting to meet the health needs of the people of Kaduna State. I thank the organizers and of course USAID for providing the funds for the training and I promise to put all I have learnt into practice.”

Of special note is that at the end of the training, Mr. D. Sanda of the state's Ministry of Economic Planning invited civil society groups to come on board and partner with the state to ensure a more people centered and equitable budget regime. This is especially notable because one of the great challenges of the ADVANCE project has been building partnership with government officials and public office holders.

At the end of the training, the participants produced a communiqué, published by both print and electronic media houses. Participants also formed a coalition of CSOs working on public finance analysis and budget related issues. This is the fourth coalition of CSOs working on budget issues that has been formed under the auspices of the ADVANCE project. Coalitions

were also formed after the specialized trainings for key social sectors in Port Harcourt, Lagos and Kano on budget and budget related topics.

Finally, during the quarter ActionAID worked to build the capacities of other ADVANCE partners working on budget-related issues by assisting them with event planning and implementation. The ActionAid ADVANCE team assisted the Civil Society for HIV/AIDS in Nigeria (CISHAN) to hold its Media/CSO/Legislative forum on the 2008 budget, which provided space for representatives of both groups to forge a common ground on how to do budget work in the Islamic Northern state of Kano. ActionAID also assisted in facilitating a radio-phone in program organized by CIRDDOC. The event was part of a three-day Government/CSO forum, which brought government and civil society groups together to dialogue on best practices in funding education in Rivers state (in the heart of Nigeria's turbulent Niger/Delta region).

CIRDDOC

CIRDDOC continued its work on education in Rivers State in Nigeria's Niger Delta by holding a radio phone-in discussion program on 23rd April at Rhythm FM Port Harcourt, Rivers State. The 45-minute event did not only raise people's consciousness on government spending and policies on education, but also ensured wider dissemination of budget information and the state of education in Rivers state. The panel of experts (two males and one female) in education and budget responded to questions and concerns from the listeners, many of whom were uninformed on these important issues. The topics discussed included local and international policies (EFA, MDGs, etc) on education, as well as the need for synergy among stakeholders, CSOs, lawmakers and government agencies in the design and implementation of government programs particularly in education sector.

Also, this quarter, CIRDDOC held the Civil Society – Government Forum on the Implementation of Education Budget in Rivers State. CSOs, including the media and government representatives from the education ministry came together on the 24th of April in a bid to foster civil society/government partnership for people-centered budgeting in Rivers State. The one-day participatory event, attracted 23 participants (18 Males, 5 Females) featured two paper presentations, discussions and the drafting and adopting of a communiqué.

Papers were delivered on 'Using the Budget as a Tool for Improving People's Lives' and 'Making the 2008 Budget Work for Education in Rivers State'. The presentations sought to provoke and awaken civil society and government to their roles and responsibilities in achieving a people-centered budget geared towards improving the lives of the citizenry, to raise pertinent questions, and highlight elements of good governance and ways in which government could use the budget to alleviate poverty.

Finally, a media sensitization workshop on financing of education in Rivers State was organized on the 25th of April for media practitioners and some selected civil society organizations to disseminate the education budget of Rivers State. The meeting, which attracted 23 participants (15 males & 8 females) featured addresses, goodwill messages, paper presentations, discussions and interventions, and the drafting and adopting of communiqué. Papers were delivered on the 'Role of the Media in Improving the Budget

Process’ by Augusta Akparanta-Emenogu of AAN and ‘Making the 2008 Budget Work for Education in Rivers State’ by Obiora Okoli of African Institute for Applied Economics. The meeting not only reminded the media of their responsibilities and functions in improving the budgetary process, but also equipped them with the basic skills and information to engage the process from the media perspectives. The workshop further identified areas for increased focus and emphasized the need for increased media focus on the budget.

AAN

As part of FY08 Q3 activities, the AAN/ADVANCE project organized a one day forum to review the implementation of the sub - project: *“Strengthening the Capacity of CSOs in HIV Budget Tracking and Improving Transparency in Resource Allocation for Effective Service Delivery in the Prevention and Treatment of HIV in Lagos State”*. The program took place in Lagos State on Wednesday June 18th, 2008. The goal of the event was to; review the progress made in achieving the overall objective of the project, success achieved and challenges in the process of implementing the project. It is also aimed to get the views and recommendation of civil society organizations on how to effectively address some of the challenges in carrying out budget work in Lagos State, especially in regards to partnering with government agencies. Thirty-seven participants drawn from civil society groups, the media, and some selected line Ministries participated in the event. Papers were presented, wide-ranging experiences shared among the various key actors and questions/answers fielded. The meeting wrapped up by discussing next steps for better engagement with communities, CSOs and the Government in budget work.

Some of the results of the forum included the following:

- Identification of some key steps in engaging with the government, especially taking key example from other civil society organizations doing budget work in Lagos State.
- Discussion of best practices in engagement with policy makers through their communities; (Community Development Associations, Market associations etc) and promoting grassroots participation in the budgetary process by educating the communities through the various community associations.
- Contacts of heads of ministries Finance, Budget and Economic planning were made available by some CSO representatives who had personal contacts with the heads of these ministries, to create space for further engagement.
- A work plan for engaging the executive and the legislators on the Lagos state economic empowerment strategy was drawn up.
- The civil society network on the budget and good governance was further strengthened.

CISHAN

Realizing the importance of building partnership between civil society organizations and key stakeholders to ensure that a consensus position on the budget process in Kano state is reached, Civil Society for HIV/AIDS in Nigeria (CiSHAN) organized a forum, which brought together CSOs, government officials and members of the Kano State house of assembly to deliberate on issues of budgeting and budgetary process. The forum included

presentations from seasoned resource persons and from staff of both the Kano state house of assembly and the ministry of planning.

One legislator, Alhaji Maje, who participated at the forum, shared with other participants the process of passing the budget in the Kano State House of Assembly. This information enabled participants to identify the most suitable time to intervene. Other stakeholders also discussed challenges they found in working on the budget. Common solutions were proffered to such issues as dearth of budget information. Some government officials present at the forum pledged to thenceforth assist CSO groups to access relevant budget information they might stand in need of.

CiSHAN also designed a newsletter and IEC materials which are intended to carry information about the project and which were targeted at their project partners in both Kano and Rivers States respectively. In the coming quarter, these will be distributed to other stakeholders in the States such as SACA, ministries of Health, Finance, Budget and planning, the Kano and Rivers States Houses of Assembly and the general public. These publications include articles on budgeting, Fiscal transparency and focus on the role of the civil society in the budgetary process.

CSO Engagement in the Electoral Processes

In the quarter under review, ADVANCE continued its support of strategic constituencies' consultations on electoral reform in order to ensure broad civic inputs into the final report of the ERC. The consultations this quarter were focused on two powerful mass based CSOs (the Association of Professional Bodies of Nigeria and the Performing Musicians Association of Nigeria) that are often left out of mainstream CSO activities. Meanwhile constituencies which met earlier (MULAC and JONAPWD) have submitted their recommendations to ERC and are monitoring to ensure inclusion in the ERC's final report. The NBA and FOMWAN will hold their consultations in the next quarter.

ACE

The Alliance for Credible Elections (ACE) in collaboration with the Performing Musicians Association of Nigeria (PMAN) organized a consultative workshop for members of PMAN drawn from Lagos and six states of the federation. The workshop enlarged their understanding of electoral process and resulted in the drawing up of recommendations that will be forwarded to the PMAN secretariat as part of the content in the memorandum to be presented by PMAN to the ERC. Their input will also be harmonized into the general ACE memo that will be submitted to the ERC and the National Assembly. Some of the recommendations made were focused on strengthening INEC and ensuring its independence, criminalization of electoral fraud, and proportional representation targeting the inclusion of marginalized groups.

PMAN is an important constituency because musicians relate easily with the youths and can serve as convenient vessels for the education and mobilization of that constituency. It was also an opportunity for PMAN to reflect on its role in ensuring credible elections in Nigeria. As a result of this reflection, the musicians pledged to use their music as a vehicle for mobilization of the society especially the grassroots towards campaigning for credible

elections. They also pledged to unite and form a coalition that campaigns against electoral fraud.

ACE also organized a workshop to dwell on the subject of elections and electoral reforms in the country in partnership with the Association of Professional Bodies in Nigeria (APBN) for its members. The workshop was attended by President of APBN, the Secretary General of the association and other affiliate members of the association such as CITN, ICAN, IPAN, IMCON, CIBN, and ICCN all from across the country. The Association of Professional bodies is the umbrella body of all the 24 registered professional bodies in Nigeria. The professional body association has played very crucial roles in the past and there was a need for it to make conscious intervention in the on- going electoral reform process. The meeting broadened the understanding the APBN members had on electoral process in the country, and enabled APBN initiate internal discussion on the development of their framework for electoral interventions.

It was noted that the association offers a platform for inter-disciplinary interactions among its members and provides opportunity for liaising with government and organized private sector with a view of contributing to the process of policy making in the country. After critical reflections the organizations noted that the role of APBN towards credible elections in the country should essentially be that of advocacy and constructive commentary; education and enlightenment; agenda setting; networking and forging credible alliances. The opinions of the membership with regards to electoral processes within Nigeria were taken to draw up recommendations that will be forward through the association to the Electoral Reform Committee. The recommendations will also be incorporated into the main body of ACE's memo to the ERC. Some of these were focused on the composition and funding of INEC, accreditation of monitors, speedy resolution of electoral disputes, and appropriate mode of elections.

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

Nigeria Extractive Industries Transparency Initiative

In this quarter, Pact ADVANCE CSO partners ABGREMO, ZCC, CASS, and ERA continued the effort at pushing forward the agenda for a fully operational oil revenue transparency regime.

ABGREMO

In furtherance of its objective of ensuring the establishments of Oil Producing Area Development Commissions in Akwa Ibom and Cross River states modeled after the Delta and Ondo States Commissions, ABGREMO succeeded in getting a member of the Cross River state House of Assembly to be part of a study tour of Delta and Ondo States Oil Producing Areas Development Commissions (DESOPADEC and OSOPADEC) alongside 5 CSOs from Akwa Ibom state. The visit was aimed at providing opportunity to understudy the two Commissions and to learn best practices on legislative advocacy for the proposed

bills. The visits afforded the team members an opportunity to familiarize themselves with operations of the Commissions, get first hand information on their experiences and key lessons learned, and garner strategies for advocacy. As a result of the Study tour, the legislator from Cross River State is now Championing the cause of the Bill for a law seeking to establish the Cross River state Oil Producing Area Development Commission, and the 5 CSOs from Akwa Ibom state have formed a loose coalition with ABGREMO for the passage of a similar bill in Akwa Abom state. Also the visit afforded ABGREMO enough insight to fine-tune the drafts bills for the states and create useful alliances with staff of the two commissions.

ABGREMO held two validation workshops in Akwa Ibom and Cross River States to get stakeholders to critique the draft report of their findings of the 2 states NEITI Perception Survey. The Cross River State meeting was attended by 18 persons, while the one for Akwa Ibom state was attended by 22 persons who were mostly representatives of respondent groups in the surveys. A draft report of findings of the NEITI perception survey was presented to the participants in the 2 workshops and inputs collated from the participants were used to fine tune the final survey report. It resulted in ownership of the survey report by the groups sampled and more support from diverse groups to step down the NEITI in these states.

Also this quarter, ABGREMO sensitized and raised awareness on the NEITI Act by distributing 2000 copies of the simplified version of NEITI Act titled: 'What You should Know about the NEITI Act' to CSOs, government agencies, and CBOs in Cross River and Akwa Ibom States. There has been so much public interest in the process as result of the distribution of this simplified version of the Act and people have demanded that more copies be produced.

ABGREMO sensitized 28 journalists and 39 CSOs on the provisions of the NEITI Act and the proposed bills for the establishment of Oil Producing Area Development Commissions for Akwa Ibom and Cross River states by holding media/CSO interaction forums in Akwa Ibom and Cross River States respectively. At the forums, the NEITI Act and the draft bills were extensively discussed and the role that the media could play to promote these policies was identified. Most of the media outfits present at both forums confessed that they were only taking an in-depth look at the NEITI Act for the first time and committed to being part of the advocacy for transparency and accountability in the extractive industries' revenue management.

After its joint interaction with media and CSO, ABGREMO held a broader forum for 50 Stakeholders to further broadly present the NEITI Act and the proposed bills on the Oil Producing Area Development Commissions for Akwa Ibom and Cross River states. The forum sensitized stakeholders on these policies and further inputs to the draft bills were collated. A loose network was also formed for advocacy on the passage of Oil Producing Area Development Commissions for Akwa Ibom and Cross River states. The forums discussed extensively the role that stakeholders could play to enhance participation in the process. More stakeholders expressed their support for the proposed Bills and promised to engage in monitoring the NEITI process. A Volunteers/Task Team was formed to carry out

the advocacy and lobbying for the passage of the bill beyond the lifespan of the ABGREMO/ADVANCE project. Strategies for legislative advocacy were also agreed upon.

Staff members of ABGREMO provided technical support to the Cross River State House of Assembly when they sat through four different meetings with House legal draftsman and the Secretary of the House committee on Petroleum and Solid Minerals and made inputs into the various provisions of the draft Cross River State Oil Producing Development Commission bill. ABGREMO also shared with them a copy of their draft bill and 83% of the content was adopted. The bill will be presented next quarter.

CASS

During the quarter under review, CASS organized Enlightenment Forums in 30 local government areas in Bayelsa and Rivers States. The Forums were aimed at enlightening the public on the objectives of the NEITI and sensitizing them on their roles in the implementation of the program. Facilitators trained by CASS during the capacity building workshops which held in the last quarter organized the enlightenment forums. Each facilitator was mobilized with funds to invite participants, publicize the event, and conduct the enlightenment forum. In addition, a monitor from CASS participated in each enlightenment forum and was tasked with producing an independent assessment of the Forum. Participants at the forums included community leaders, youth leaders, women leaders, local council officials, representatives of civil society organizations and the media, as well as religious leaders. The Forum attracted some distinguished participants in some local government areas. For instance, Hon. T. K. Ogoriba, Member of the National Stakeholder Working Group (NSWG) representing the South South Zone participated in the Forum organized in Kolokuma Opokuma LGA, Bayelsa State. In most of the Forums, the facilitator made the main presentation which included an introduction on the international and national context of the EITI and PWYP, the objectives, criteria and principles of the EITI, the NEITI Act and stakeholders of the NEITI process.

In all 30 LGAs where the Enlightenment Forums were organized, there were indications that participants welcomed the EITI and PWYP even though most of them admitted they were hearing about the initiatives for the first time. A recurring concern in virtually all the Forums was a lack of the requisite political will to implement the policies. Participants were encouraged to use the platforms of women's organizations, youth associations, community development associations, and elders' councils among others to organize Town Hall Meetings where elected representatives, government officials and representatives of extractive industries would be invited to provide information on revenues from extractive industries.

The Centre for Advanced Social Science (CASS) also organized methodology workshops for Research Assistants in the North West, South East and South West zones. The workshops were aimed at introducing the research assistants to the objectives of the National Perception Surveys on the NEITI and equipping them with the relevant skills to administer questionnaires. A total of 32 research assistants were trained on basic social surveys and on how to administer the questionnaires for the national perception surveys on the NEITI. The workshops were successful, as research assistants expressed satisfaction in the content and

method of training. 25 copies of the questionnaires were distributed to the Research Assistants for administration. Reports from Zonal Coordinators on the good performance of research assistants in the survey indicate that the objectives of the methodology workshop were attained.

Finally this quarter, CASS conducted National Perception Surveys on the EITI and PWYP in four geo-political zones during the period in review. The surveys included the administration of questionnaires in two local government areas and organization of focus group discussions in each of the sampled states. Research assistants administered the questionnaires under the supervision of the zonal coordinator while the CASS Researcher conducted the Focus Group Discussions with the support of the Zonal Coordinator. A total of 800 questionnaires were administered in eight states representing the 4 geo-political zones. A total of 10 Focus group discussions were conducted in the states sampled for the survey. The FGDs for the North East, North West and South East zones were organized in the respective state capitals sampled for study. In the South west, FGDs were organized at local council levels. The data gathered from the survey is still being analyzed. However, reports on the FGDs transcripts so far submitted indicate that most of the participants claimed they had never heard about the NEITI. It also showed that while people were generally aware of the sources of government revenue, they were not satisfied with the way public revenues were being collected and also felt government was not involving the people in public budget making and implementation processes. The reports also indicate that the FGDs served as a forum for disseminating information on the aims and objectives of the extractive industries transparency initiative.

ERA

ERA produced and published 500 copies of a newsletter titled “Environmental Impact” that focused on understanding the NEITI process to enhance community ownership. It contextualized the abstract NEITI concept for community people. Important contents include highlights of the NEITI Act, and articles on using the NEITI process to advocate for accountability and good governance.

ZCC

ZCC held two review meetings with the consultant contracted to produce the Citizen’s Guide to the NEITI during which the manual was edited extensively in order to achieve its objectives. Some contents and structural reviews were made, and new materials inserted include highlights of the solid Minerals Act. The meetings provided an opportunity for the consultants to have a better understanding on how and what to look out for while reviewing the manual. The citizens Guide will be produced next quarter and launched nationally in Abuja.

Other Anti-Corruption Efforts

PPDC

PPDC seized the opportunity of the Bureau for Public Procurement’s CSO sensitization workshop to carry out advocacy to the Bureau to remind it of the key sections of the Public

Procurement Act (PPA) that mandate CSO participation in specific ways. PPDC had previously contacted the Bureau for an advocacy visit and the Bureau informed them (PPDC) of the upcoming workshop, it was then agreed that the two events be merged for greater impact. PPDC took the lead in identifying CSOs to be invited to the workshop by the Bureau and also supported 19 CSOs out of the 30 present at the workshop to attend. PPDC in its presentation at the meeting emphasized section 19 of the PPA, which intends observation and reporting on the entire procurement process by CSOs and also outlined its ADVANCE supported project that intends to achieve that. They strongly made a case for a CSO coalition that provides effective civic oversight of the process. As a result of this presentation, the Director General of the Bureau promised to always create space for CSOs on all their procurement monitoring exercises and CSOs present also were sensitized on what their role in the process should be. A key result was that a network called the National Procurement Watch Platform was formed by CSOs present. This network will ensure a coordinated CSO engagement of the process, and an interim steering committee was set up. It was agreed that membership will be expanded to include wider CSOs with specialized skills relevant to the process like professional associations. A communiqué issued from this workshop was published on page 23 of the Thisday Newspaper of May 9, 2008.

PPDC also held a 2-day Capacity Building Workshop on the “Role of CSOs in the implementation of the Public Procurement Act 2007” that was attended by 37 CSOs from all over the country and some staff of BPP. Sessions at the workshop included an overview of the PPA; linkages between access to information and the Public Procurement Framework and also identifying opportunities for CSOs in the framework. The program helped strengthen the capacity of Civil Society to carry out its legal mandate of observing the public procurement framework. The program also strengthened the alliance between CSOs and other non state actors towards the implementation of PPA. The participants’ evaluation sheets when analyzed reflected that the workshop was a success as 60% participants stated they had insight of the PPA for the first time, and 88% said the training improved their knowledge of the provisions of the Act by demystifying the Act, and improving their capacity to monitor its implementation.

PPDC also took the opportunity of the workshop to hold a meeting of the National Procurement Watch Platform that discussed key issues like its mission, objectives and strategy. Seven CSOs who were not previously members joined the Coalition and an interim Steering committee was also set up to steer the affairs of the coalition.

C. Problems and Opportunities

Partner and Programmatic Challenges and Problems

- Security situation in the Niger Delta region of the country makes close monitoring of events challenging;
- The projects of NEITI partners have ended or will soon come to an end with little hope of further support because of inadequacy of funds;
- The tight budget approved for FY 08 continued to limit Pact’s ability to positively respond to emerging development issues in the electoral reform process (particularly the zonal public hearings) and the fight against corruption in the country.

- The delay by some partners in turning in satisfactory financial reports with adequate supporting documents in turn delayed disbursements of their funds, which also in turn affected the implementation of some of their planned activities. But nonetheless, Pact is proactively taking more steps to improve its sub-grantee reporting tracking systems, to engage more with these sub-grantees, and to reinforce the importance of timely reporting.
- Similarly, the delay by some partners in sending satisfactory program reports with sufficient supporting documents continued to heighten pressure on program staff to ensure that Pact Nigeria's quarterly reports are delivered on time to USAID Nigeria. Again, Pact is still proactively improving its sub-grantee reporting processes.
- Inconsistency in policy enunciation by the Nigerian Government concerning some of its high policy documents, the NEEDS and (the SEEDS at the state level) caused some delays in ActionAid's training until the situation is clearer.
- Port Harcourt, the capital city of Rivers state in the Niger-Delta presents peculiar challenges in programming, especially since the budget partner covering the region (CIRDDOC) for reasons that may not be unconnected with the volatility of the state, is not based in that state.
- The delay of one partner, JDPC, to satisfactorily address financial audit queries stalled its programming for the quarter.
- Legislative advocacy has proved to be challenging in terms of funds and time devoted to it. This is largely attributable to lack of political will for budget work

Administration and Management Challenges

- As described above, while the finance unit was restructured and existing officers promoted to effectively cover the vacuum created by the departure of the Senior Finance and Administration Officer, one other vacancy (Accountant) was not yet filled as of the end of the quarter but arrangements are underway to get the recruitment done early next quarter.
- On the program side, although the position of Program Officer for Capacity Building was filled as at the end of the quarter, the Officer will be assuming duty next quarter. So this created a challenge of moving on fully with Pact's capacity building activities but staff members were still able to conduct MER training, provide ongoing mentoring for partners, and conduct capacity assessment.
- The notification of disengagement from the service of Pact early next quarter by the Program Coordinator for Anti-corruption in order to pursue postgraduate degree abroad raised a challenge to Pact. But Pact has been able to promptly seek a replacement for the position. The replacement was made by the end of this quarter and staff will be assuming duty early next quarter in order to have an overlap with the outgoing staff for necessary mentoring.

Partner and Programmatic Opportunities

- ADVANCE support of partners like JONAPWD, CISLAC and YPI have provided visibility for the organizations work and attracted support for these organizations from other USAID Implementing Partners;

- The NEITI perception surveys conducted by the ADVANCE partners have provided Pact with key insights on how to more strategically support civic engagement of the process in future;
- ADVANCE has mainstreamed APBN and PMAN into CSOs activities opening up a whole new world of collaborations with them, broadening our CSO base;
- PPDC's newly created National Procurement Watch Platform provides a coordinated civic front of the process and is an ideal platform to partner with on future procurement work;
- The Niger Delta Summit proposed by the Yar'adua administration is a good platform to raise issues on NEITI.
- Ongoing probe of modality for release and use of funds by the Nigerian National Assembly has given impetus to the attainment of a more conducive environment for budget work.
- ActionAid's new Alliance with the Federal Budget Office also provides an opportunity for future collaboration between ADVANCE and that office, especially in terms of sourcing and obtaining information and clarification on pertinent issues.

Administration and Management Opportunities

- The restructuring and staff promotions described above have provided opportunities for the affected staff to assume full responsibility of their new senior roles and adequately immerse themselves to a greater degree in our partners' activities.
- The financial review conducted by USAID Nigeria provided Pact with positive feedback on its systems generally, but also the opportunity to identify a number of areas that need some improvement. Pact has already made most of these improvements at the time of this writing.
- The three country program peer review (including Pact Nigeria) on DG that was supported and conducted by Pact Africa Regional Office provided the ADVANCE program with some enhanced learning and best practice that will positively impact on the implementation of the program.

D. Activity Changes and Explanations

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

- Two of the subgrants planned for this quarter could not be made because of delay by the potential partners in submitting their proposals. These include the subgrants planned for NOA on civic education, and MRA on legislative advocacy on the passage of FOI bill. It is hoped that the partners will be able to send their proposals next quarter for review and possible awards.
- The much anticipated closeout of some of the completed projects could not happen due to delay in response from some partners on de-obligate modification and reconciliations.
- ActionAid/ADVANCE faced a lot of running battles in planning its training on Nigeria's high policy documents: the National Economic Empowerment and Development Strategy (NEEDS) and the state and local government equivalents, the

SEEDS, LEEDS. This training was therefore moved from the third to the fourth Quarter. One of the challenges of working on some of Nigeria's high level policy documents has to do with insistency in government policies. In Nigeria, successive administrations often have little or no regard for policies formulated by past administrations. Most often than not, they simply scrap them. In the case of our planned training on NEEDS and SEEDS, because the present administration had come out with its seven point agenda, it became unclear how this would affect the NEEDS, SEEDS AND LEEDS documents, which were in the process of being moved on to a second stage (NEEDS II, SEEDS II).

- Also, the Civil Society/ Government forum usually held jointly by AIDS Alliance and JDPC is still on hold because JDPC is undergoing a financial audit query and AIDS Alliance is left all by itself to work out how best to move the process forward.
- As for CIRDDOC, their legislative advocacy in Port Harcourt, Nigeria's Niger Delta region was stalled because the legislators traveled to Austria for almost one month and are just currently settling for legislative duties.

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:

CSOs Form Watchdog Group on Public Procurement

PPDC strategically used the Bureau for Public Procurement's CSO sensitization workshop to mobilize interested CSOs to form the National Procurement Watch Platform (NPWP) that is targeted at providing the much needed strong and coordinated CSO oversight of the implementation of the public procurement platform. It was a victory for Civil Society when the Public Procurement Act was passed with Section 19 mandating NGOs and professional bodies' observation of the public procurement process. CSOs like CISLAC and PPDC had advocated that this clause be provided in the Act to give CSOs officially recognized space for effective engagement. A year after this law was passed there has been a remarkable lack of effective CSO engagement of the process. This platform now fills that gap and has already re-energized and broadened CSO participation of the process. The platform has 24 members that include TIN, MRA, CDD, Catholic Secretariat of Nigeria, NLC, JDPC and Movement against Corruption.

This platform has been recognized by the Bureau as the co-coordinating organ of CSO activities on public procurement. Discussions are already being held on how to further strengthen this collaboration, and also to agree on joint activities to sustain CSO monitoring of public procurement. The BPP now invites and consults the Platform on all policy issues involving stakeholder participation. Today the Bureau, unlike in the past, is beginning to seek CSO inputs and contributions and is also putting necessary activities in place to ensure that CSOs and other stakeholders play their roles in the procurement process. The platform pressured the BPP to draw formal rules to institutionalize CSO exercise of its observation powers. BPP has now drawn up a Code of Conduct for Monitors of Public Procurement and

a Standardized Checklist for Reporting of Procurement into which the Coalition made inputs.

Government Commitment

In Kaduna State, in part due to continued work there since ActionAid's budget training back in 2006, government officials, newly sensitized government officials declared their intention to partner with CSOs doing budget work. Three officials of the state government attended and participated actively in ActionAid ADVANCE's Second Edition of the budget training. Mr. D. Sanda, who was at the maiden edition of the budget training, not only invited CSOs to come and partner with the state government in their budget work but also made a commitment that the state government would henceforth make efforts to work with CSOs and incorporate their views in budget formulation. He also pledged to work with CSOs on budget monitoring. Other government officials from the state's health ministry, Malam Salihu A. Hunkuyi, and Dauda Rabiou Anchau, were so elated at the usefulness of the training to their work that they promptly resolved that instead of just attending the opening ceremony, one of them should actively participate and later step down the training to other staff. ActionAid is working hard to formalize the policy of integrating CSOs into government budget work, and these early commitments will assist the project in attaining one of the key milestones in budget work.

Wide Press Coverage for Budget Work

ActionAid's budget training was extensively covered by the media. The National Television Authority of Nigeria (NTA) covered proceedings from the training while the nation's News Agency of Nigeria not only sent two of its staff to be trained but published and syndicated stories from the training. The national Radio, Federal Radio Corporation of Nigeria also aired stories from the training. The stories were further translated into local Hausa Language for wider coverage and impact. The New Nigerian Newspaper devoted more than a full page in one of its editions and another some portion of a page in another edition. This was no mean feat considering that a full page advertisement costs over N200,000.

III. HIGHLIGHTS OF PLANS FOR NEXT QUARTER

A. Partner Activities

- Training on NEEDS/SEEDS/LEEDS
- Publication and Dissemination of information from NEEDS/SEEDS Training.
- Budget monitoring and tracking activities for ActionAid and partners.
- Review of partner activities
- Legislative Advocacy to enhance education budget work in Rivers State
- Media and Legislative Advocacy in Kano State.
- CSO/ Government forum on Budget 2009 in the Health/HIV sectors in Lagos State.
- National Perception survey on the NEITI Act
- Dissemination of education policy brief
- Advocacy visits
- Environmental Parliament on the Nigerian Extractive Industries Transparency Initiative process.
- CSO stakeholders' review meeting on the NEITI audit report
- National Launch of Citizens' Manual On NEITI
- CSO-Review Meeting on the NEITI Act with Energy Reporters
- Consultative Forum with NBA and FOMWAN Members on Electoral Reform
- CSO NEITI Needs Assessment Audit Validation Workshop
- Environmental Parliament on the Nigerian Extractive Industries Transparency Initiative process for Asaba, Delta state
- Briefing workshop with NASS Relevant Committees on the NEITI

B. Subgrants

- Review and finalization of expected project proposals on FOI bill and civic education for possible subgrants awards.
- Pre-award assessment for new partner as the need arises.
- Close-out and de-obligation of some of the completed subgrants.

C. Program management

- Recruitment to fill vacant position.
- Continuation of newsletter distribution, website maintenance and listserv 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: Accountant, (and Program Coordinator for Anti-corruption Advocacy as well as Program Officer for Capacity Building that were hired in previous quarter)