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## Rift Valley Local Empowerment for Peace (LEAP II)

Third Quarterly Report  
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## **LIST OF ACRONYMS AND ABBREVIATIONS**

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CEWARN	Conflict Early Warning and Response Mechanism
CD	Country Director
DC	District Commissioner
DPC	District Peace Committee
EWS	Early Warning Systems
ICC	International Criminal Court
IGA	Income Generation Activity
LEAP	Local Empowerment for Peace Program
LINCS	Localizing Institutional Capacity in Sudan
M&E	Monitoring and Evaluation
NSC	National Steering Committee on Peace-building and Conflict Management
PC	Program Coordinator
PIA	Participatory Impact Assessment
PM	Program Manager
PO	Program Officer
YSHG	Youth Self Help Group
USAID	United States Agency for International Development

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## **EXECUTIVE SUMMARY**

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The Local Empowerment for Peace Program II reached 1,979 direct beneficiaries in this quarter. This number includes 300 people who participated in the 9 district leaders' forums, 1,529 people who attended the 25 community reconciliation dialogue forums and 150 youth who benefited from the core leadership, consensus building and life skills training. Mercy Corps continued to support peace actors and building structures in all eight districts and with the capacity gained, both Eldoret East and Kericho West DPCs successfully organized 2 public peace educational awareness campaigns. DPCs successfully resolved 3 disputes involving land (Keiyo), insecurity (Eldoret West) and ethnic conflict (Wareng). In this reporting quarter Mercy Corps had two of its staff participate in the USAID organized environmental compliance training.

In the fourth quarter, we will continue strengthening the DPCs by engaging them in various activities, especially the community reconciliation dialogue forums and joint economic projects implementation that will be running in all 8 districts. We also expect to conduct a second round of conflict management and consensus building training. District leaders' forums will run throughout the next quarter in all the districts. Up to 20 participants per district will attend training on the National Early Warning System after talks between Mercy Corps and the National Steering Committee on Peace-building and Conflict Management are successfully concluded. Mercy Corps will convene one open, quarterly stakeholder meeting and one multi-district and provincial leaders' forum. We will have four participants in each proposed project site/cluster trained in community project monitoring. Continuing our capacity building for Youth Self-Help Groups and local partners, there will be a core training of members of Youth Self-Help Groups. Cash for Work and Income Generating Activities project planning and implementation will commence.

## I. PROGRAM OVERVIEW

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Following Kenya's disputed presidential elections in December 2007 that triggered an explosion of violence, killing more than 1,500 and displacing over 600,000 people, Mercy Corps together with Wareng Peace Development Initiative (Eldoret), Kericho Youth Centre (Kericho) and Peace Development Forum (Nakuru/Molo), is implementing a two-year Local Empowerment for Peace program (LEAP II) to build on the successes in LEAP I, which was implemented from January 2009 to July 2010. LEAP's overarching goal is to strengthen the ability of local, district, and provincial structures to address the causes of post-election violence and promote sustainable peace and reconciliation. Mercy Corps is supporting this goal by pursuing three related objectives: 1) strengthen sustainable mechanisms for conflict mitigation and reconciliation; 2) support community dialogues and implement joint development projects that build bridges among divided communities and demonstrate tangible benefits to coexistence; and 3) support youth integration and address a key cause of violence through youth leadership training, small-scale cash-for-work community reconstruction projects, and income-generation activities.

In the last quarter, we have been able to engage both district leaders and communities in dialogues that provide space to discuss district or community challenges and possible solutions to the identified problems. With the three supported local partners, the youth have been mobilized and some have been trained in leadership skills, team building, group dynamics and general project management skills in readiness to carry on projects aimed at addressing causes of violence among the youth. We are implementing LEAP II in eight districts: Eldoret West, Eldoret East, Wareng, Nandi North, Keiyo, Kericho West, Kericho East, and Nakuru/Molo.

## II. PROGRAM PROGRESS

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### A. Cumulative Progress Overview

Indicator	Overall target by end of program	This quarter	Cumulative	% to date
<b><i>Goal: Strengthen the ability of local structures to address causes of post-election violence and promote sustainable peace and reconciliation in the Rift Valley province</i></b>				
# of people reached through completed USG supported community based reconciliation	3,500	1,979	2,979	85%
<b>Objective 1: Strengthen sustainable mechanisms for conflict mitigation and reconciliation</b>				
1.1a # of conflict assessment reports/maps	5	0	6	120%
1.2a # of peace-building structures established or strengthened with USG assistance that engaged conflict-affected citizens in peace and/reconciliation processes <b>(Indicator no. 188)</b>	8	8	8	100%

Indicator	Overall target by end of program	This quarter	Cumulative	% to date
1.2b # Number of public fora/educational events to teach public about peace process.	20 by Feb. 2011, 40 by EoP	2	14	35%
1.2c % change in survey respondents reporting “strong” local mechanisms for conflict mitigation, peace and reconciliation	75%	0%	0%	0%
1.3a # of people trained in conflict mitigation/resolution skills with USG assistance <b>(Indicator no. 106)</b>	300	0	251 <sup>1</sup>	84%
1.3b # of disputes resolved by program participants.	32	3	23	72%
1.4a # of USG-supported facilitated events geared toward strengthening understanding among conflict-affected groups <b>(Indicator no. 110)</b>	32	9	13	41%
1.4b # of people attending USG assisted facilitated events that are geared toward strengthening understanding among conflict-affected groups. <b>(Indicator no. 111)</b>	240	300	458	191%
1.5a # of USG programs supporting a conflict and/or fragility early warning system and/or response mechanism <b>(Indicator no. 107)</b>	8	0	0	0%
1.6a % increase in level of interaction among district and regional forum participants	25%	0%	0%	0%
<b>Objective 2: Sponsor community dialogues and implement joint development projects that build bridges among divided communities and demonstrate tangible benefits to cooperation.</b>				
2.1a # of USG-supported facilitated events geared toward strengthening understanding among conflict-affected groups. <b>(Indicator no. 110)</b>	80	25	42	53%

<sup>1</sup> One conflict assessment report and one conflict map were developed for each district for the three districts assessed (Nandi North, Keiyo South and Keiyo North). This made a total of six against five planned (120% achieved). The nine districts against eight planned (113%) each have one DPC undergoing restructuring and strengthening. 251 out of the targeted 300 people (84%) have been trained in conflict mitigation/resolution skills with USG assistance.

Indicator	Overall target by end of program	This quarter	Cumulative	% to date
2.1b # of people attending USG-assisted facilitated events geared towards strengthening understanding and mitigating conflict between groups <b>(Indicator no. 111)</b>	2,400	1,529	2,120	88%
2.2a # of joint reconstruction projects implemented that benefit conflict-affected communities	20 by end of year 1, 64 by end of program	0	0	0%
2.2b % change of survey respondents reporting increased engagement in joint activities with members from other communities	50%	0	0	0%
2.3a # of joint monitoring teams established	64	0	0	0%
<b>Objective 3: Support youth integration and address a key cause of violence through youth leadership training and income generation activities</b>				
3.1a % change in local partners and YSHGs in overall organizational capacity score through six key areas of organizational capacity	Baseline + 1 pt; overall and in each area	0%	0%	0%
3.1b % change in amount raised in contributions to support partner and YSHG activities.	Baseline + 40%	0	0	0%
3.2a # of young people who complete leadership, consensus building and economic skills building training	480	150	150	31%
3.2b % change of young people who report using skills to address a challenge in their lives	75%	0%	0%	0%
3.3a # of Cash for Work sites where 'connector' (re) construction projects have been implemented	40	0	0	0%
3.3a # of youth who participate in Cash for Work projects that bring young people together across ethnic lines	600	0	0	0%
3.3b % change in young people who feel they are making a positive contribution to their community	75%	0%	0%	0%
3.4a # of income generating projects implemented	40	0	0	0%

Indicator	Overall target by end of program	This quarter	Cumulative	% to date
3.4a # of youth who participate in implementing income generating projects	200	0	0	0%
3.4b # of private sector mentors engaged	20	0	0	0%
3.4b % Youth Self-Help Group members achieving greater economic independence as a result of income generation activities	60%	0%	0%	0%
3.5a # of USG-assisted public information campaigns to support peaceful resolution of conflicts	8	0	0	0%

## B. Program Interventions

Local Empowerment for Peace (LEAP II) in Kenya's Rift Valley is building on Mercy Corps' USAID-funded Local Empowerment for Peace program (LEAP I), which was implemented in the larger Uasin Gishu and Kericho districts from January 2009 to July 2010. The two-year, \$1.7 million USAID-funded program expanded into Keiyo, Nandi, and Nakuru and now has operational field offices in Eldoret, Nakuru, and Kericho with three local partners. The community dialogues are identifying several truly innovative peacebuilding projects that are likely to make an important contribution to peace consolidation. Led by the local partners and guided by Mercy Corps, LEAP II is providing support for youth integration and addressing a key cause of conflict through youth leadership training and income generation activities. The program is organizing community dialogues and district leaders forums that provide space for locals to contribute to several critical drivers of peace – fostering open political dialogue, pacing up the reform agenda, providing skills for the management of land conflicts, access to justice, and reconciliation. It is strengthening the District Peace Committees and district peace secretariats' capacity, helping to make them important and influential actors in local conflict and peacebuilding issues and providing urgent support needed to help them fulfill their peacebuilding mandates. LEAP II is helping improve the strained relationships between various ethnic groups in Rift Valley, as well as between civil society and the government. It is also building the capacity of most local, and some national, actors involved in peacebuilding projects in the Rift Valley.

In March 2011, Mercy Corps Design Monitoring and Evaluation Technical Support Unit conducted with the LEAP II program team a *youth economic engagement and conflict study*. The objective of the study was to determine the extent to which youth participate in conflict and the correlation of their participation with incomes or livelihood earned. We expect the report to inform LEAP implementation and add fresh dimensions to the information we have from the LEAP II baseline survey.

**LEAP II Goal: Strengthen the ability of local structures to address causes of post-election violence and promote sustainable peace and reconciliation in the Rift Valley province**

***Objective 1: Strengthen sustainable mechanisms for conflict mitigation and reconciliation***

Summary of Objective 1 Results
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Three conflict assessments (Nandi, Keiyo, and Nakuru) and two stakeholder maps (Nandi and Keiyo) produced</li><li>• District Peace Committees established and/or strengthened.</li><li>• 32-40 district dialogue forums that brought groups together to discuss resolve joint problems.</li><li>• District leaders gain new leadership and consensus-building skills to resolve tensions</li><li>• Early warning and response systems established</li><li>• District and provincial leaders increase interaction through multi-district and regional forums.</li></ul>

**Activity 1.1 Conflict assessments and stakeholder mapping:**

As per the initial work plan, this activity was reported on in the first quarterly report.

**Activity 1.2 Establish/strengthen District Peace Committees:**

In this quarter, Mercy Corps conducted negotiation and influence trainings for select DPC members from Eldoret West, Wareng and Eldoret East districts. Eldoret West district DPC successfully partnered with Rural Women Peace Link to organize an international women’s day event bringing together more than 200 women from five counties in Rift Valley. The DPCs resolved several disputes, including land in Keiyo, insecurity in Eldoret West and ethnic conflict in Wareng. Two districts (Kericho West and Eldoret East) were able to organize two separate public events in this quarter. The Kericho West DPC aided the local Kenya Football Federation Branch and Ministry of Youth and Sports to organize a sport for peace event at Sondu Township. Besides searching for talent, sports were used to unify the community during the event. Furthermore, the DPC has been invited by the Office of the District Commissioner to monitor the upcoming Kenya Police recruitment exercise on behalf of the residents of Kericho West District. All the DPCs continue to demonstrate ability to coordinate and lead community reconciliation dialogue forums efficiently. Through the community dialogues, the DPCs have managed to bring together different communities to discuss possible economic projects that would help rebuild relationships and enhance community cohesion. More than 40 applications for community reconstruction projects have so far been received by Mercy Corps through various DPCs.

**Activity 1.3 Conflict management and consensus-building training for district leaders:**

As per the initial work plan, this activity was reported in the first quarterly report.

**Activity 1.4 Dialogue forums for district leaders:**

During this reporting quarter 28 leaders drawn from both Molo and Nakuru districts held a dialogue in Nakuru district with the intention of forging partnerships and mechanisms to establish relationships within the district to address poverty, joblessness and unemployment among youth. The leaders were drawn from DPCs, government, politicians, youth and women organizations. Three dialogues were organized in Kericho East district with a total attendance of 125 leaders.

One dialogue brought together women leaders to discuss the role of women in peace building, while another had youth leaders to discuss youth challenges in the district. The third dialogue had a general agenda of looking at ways to ensure sustainable peace in the district. In Uasin Gishu, Nandi and Elgeyo Marakwet county districts, we conducted 5 forums in Nandi North (30 participants), Eldoret East (27 participants), West (33), Keiyo (27) and Wareng (30) making a total of 147 attendees. In Eldoret East, the forum brought together different district leaders including the area member of parliament Professor Margaret Kamar to discuss devolution and the opportunities available within the new constitutional dispensation. Eldoret West, Nandi North and Wareng districts forums had discussions around the role of women in peace building that confirmed women’s potential role in peace or conflict, considering their position as the unifying factor of a society. Keiyo district forum brought together elders and youth leaders to discuss how to bridge the youth-elders gap that has existed for a long time.

**Activity 1.5 Establish early warning systems with the DPC secretariats:**

Between 20-30 participants who will take part in the Early Warning Early Response training and system establishment in the eight districts have been identified by Mercy Corps, with the assistance of the offices of the district peace secretariats, district commissioners, offices of the regional commissioners, and members of the District Peace Committees. We have conducted meetings with the key stakeholders, including the NSC, CEWARN, and various CSOs to help establish a credible local system. Talks with NSC on the mode of training and connection with the national Early Warning System are complete. The trainings and eventual establishment of the system will start the first week of May. Reliable people of good character were selected to be part of the team, including youths, women, the provincial administration, religious representatives, the business community, civil society organizations and politicians.

**Activity 1.6 Multi-district and regional dialogue forums:**

This activity was pushed to the last month of year one to allow for preparation, including relationship building with community members who will be involved in the exchange visits. It is scheduled for reporting in the next quarter.

***Objective 2: Support community dialogues and implement joint development projects that build bridges among divided communities and demonstrate tangible benefits to coexistence***

Summary of Objective 2 Results
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 80 communities engaged through dialogues to promote reconciliation and identify projects for implementation</li> <li>• Implementation of 64 community and district projects that demonstrate tangible benefits to cooperation</li> <li>• Demonstration by community members of increased willingness to cooperate across conflict lines</li> <li>• Establishment of joint monitoring teams for all projects</li> </ul>

**Community dialogues to identify consensus-building and economic development projects**

**Activity 2.1 Communities participate in district:**

A total of 25 community reconciliation dialogues (17 in Eldoret, 1 in Nakuru, and 7 in Kericho) were held during this reporting period. District Peace Committees with skills acquired through

earlier trainings were able to bring their communities together in organized and well-moderated dialogues, with Mercy Corps providing guidelines. The dialogues produced joint community reconstruction projects intended to yield a *joint* benefit to divided communities and promote cohesion. More than 40 community reconciliation projects from different communities in all the districts have since been identified and agreed upon by various communities. Mercy Corps is in the process of screening the proposed projects for environmental impact and compliance before forwarding to USAID for approval.

### **Activity 2.2 Implement community consensus-building and economic development projects:**

From the 43 community dialogues already conducted, a total of 40 community consensus building and economic development projects have so far been identified. By choosing dialogue and consensus building as one of their peacebuilding and sustainable development commitments, the interactions and discussions that have taken place continue to add an important strategic dimension to relations among different interest and ethnic groups in the project districts. The discussions and types of projects being proposed have also helped Mercy Corps gauge people's concerns and development needs at the local and county levels.

### **Activity 2.3 joint monitoring and reporting teams:**

Plans for the training of community project monitoring and reporting teams is complete, and we have developed a list of 4 participants per proposed community economic project/cluster areas. Community project-monitoring training is expected to kick off in the next quarter. We are also in the process of identifying an external trainer who will help in the training.

### ***Objective 3: Support youth integration and address a key cause of conflict through youth leadership training and income generation activities***

#### **Summary of Objective 3 Results**

- Organizational capacity of local youth association and youth self-help groups strengthened
- Acquisition of new skills by young people to help them earn an income and address daily challenges
- Youth implementation of up to 40 cash-for-work activities that promote community development
- Sense among youth that they are making a positive contribution to their communities
- Youth identification and implementation of up to 40 income-generating activities
- Support of private sector mentors for youth entrepreneurs
- Youth-produced success stories published or aired on local media.

### **Activity 3.1 Organizational capacity building for youth partner and youth self-help groups:**

We conducted capacity assessments of all three local partners<sup>2</sup> as part of Mercy Corps' start-up efforts to help its local partners become stronger, more sustainable, and better able to serve their

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<sup>2</sup> Wareng Youth Development and Peace Initiative for Eldoret districts, Kericho Youth Centre for Kericho districts and Peace Development Forum for Molo/Nakuru district

communities. We used a focus group discussion methodology with LINCS<sup>3</sup> assessment guide and involved partner staff members and volunteers who work in various functional and critical areas such as management, administration, finance, logistics and programming. The LINCS approach is broadly organized in three clusters: organizational resources, organizational performance, and organizational sustainability. The draft assessment report indicated that all three organizations are generally at the foundational stage of organizational development; Mercy Corps plans in the coming quarter to start its capacity building program using LINCS capacity building guide since all local partners are now fully on board and busy undertaking program activities. We will be building the organizations' capacity in the areas of resource management including finances, administration, performance, programming and sustainability.

### **Activity 3.2 Core training for youth self-help group leaders:**

The core training of youth self-help groups was undertaken in all the 8 districts. Each district had 30 youths making a total of 240 representatives from various youth groups. Leadership, consensus building, project development and team building skills were the technical aspects passed on to the participants. It is expected that the youth development coordinators will continue to make follow-ups with the trained youths in their youth groups to see how skills gained are being applied. The training also provided the leaders with program implementations skills

### **Activity 3.3 Youth-led cash-for-work initiatives:**

All the 40 projects have been identified and environmental review forms completed and forwarded to USAID for final review and approval. We hope to begin implementation of these projects in late April 2011.

### **Activity 3.4 Youth develop income-generating projects with the support of local private sector mentors:**

As per the work plan, activity 3.4 is not scheduled for this reporting period.

### **Activities 3.5 Youth produce success stories in collaboration with local journalists:**

As per the work plan, activity 3.5 is not scheduled for this reporting period.

## **III. Constraints and Challenges**

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- As part of its efforts at rebuilding broken relationships in Rift Valley, Mercy Corps is working to bring together the particular identities of different ethnic groups in the province into a cohesive national composite that emphasizes the country's unity as well as diversity. Several members of the national and local leaderships, however, continue to view diversity and identity as a basis for often win-lose competition over political or government office and national resources, as opposed to providing a basis for greater national strength and cohesion, and win-win competition. As a result, and especially as the date of the appearance of the six post election violence suspects at the International

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<sup>3</sup> Mercy Corps developed local institutions' capacity assessment and building tool used in Sudan's Localizing Institutional Capacity program

Criminal Court approached, the fraying of social and political cohesion led to ethnic tensions, as two of the six suspects and their political followers in an attempt to win public sympathy, pursued a mission of divide and hate, camouflaged as prayers, including inciting conflicts. These “prayers” helped mobilize supporters along partisan lines, as well as intimidate opponents. We are therefore still faced with a key challenge of transforming the attitudes of leaders of state and local communities towards alternative methods of winning political support. A related challenge is building a strong and critical mass of individuals that can stand up to these inciters and say no to violence for greater social cohesion at the local level, so that the population is less susceptible towards incitement to violence by these political speculators.

- Most DPCs face a lot of influence and manipulation by the sitting DCs who act as patrons and many times we have seen some members of DPCs especially those who hold different opinions face the wrath of DCs. For instance, DCs have gone ahead to expel some members they think don't conform to his or her way of doing things with some DPCs like the Molo DPC getting disbanded all together. This has led to program delays as we have had to wait for house cleaning.
- With the political temperatures rising and pointing at 2012 elections, campaigns and the The Hague process, we have had to work extra hard to counter political negative influence that threatens inter ethnic peace among people we are working with.

#### **IV. Lessons Learned**

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- LEAPs close collaboration with Internews and Internews trained journalist in following positive developments and reporting on “bright spots and positive efforts in rebuilding relationships” is proving to be a great impetus in achieving LEAP program objectives. The bringing together of reporters, editors and publishers of the print and broadcast media into a sustained common effort to develop “conflict-sensitive” reporting practices, adopt and implement together a code of conduct on reporting, and to find creative ways to highlighting incidents such as those of LEAP dialogues and reconciliation as opposed to those of violence, while reporting dispassionately and factually on the latter has helped in improving peace gains while playing down petty differences that have in the past created unnecessary tension and even violence.
- The 2007/2008 post election violence in Rift Valley, as well as the pursuit of win-lose ethnic-based politics in Kenya, has led to deep wounds and grievances among groups and communities. Recently, the summoning of the six post election suspects to the ICC heightened some of these divisions. While LEAP's efforts to reconcile the public are bearing fruits, a wider national process is needed in order to achieve a lasting healing of past wounds. The engagement of civil society and youth by LEAP has proved critical to achieving this end. The challenge is to harness the energies of as many civic groups and of young persons as possible to develop and implement a sustained national outreach campaign aimed at fostering reconciliation, even as LEAP's local efforts towards dialogue and inter-community reconciliation move ahead. LEAP's positive engagement of youth in these efforts continue to make them less susceptible towards mobilization towards political violence, especially during periods of politically charged moments like the recent Ocampo Six countrywide “prayer” campaigns.

- The District Peace Committees are likely to be accepted if their interaction with all key sectors and the public is maintained. Through intense interactions and close collaboration with government sectors and local communities the DPCs have managed to win the trust of both the community and the government. Their role in monitoring government functions such as the recent recruitment of police officers and being used as the community mobilizing agents for governments and NGOs is a good sign of their growing influence in the community.

#### **V. Planned activities for next period of three months, April – June 2011**

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In the fourth quarter, we will continue strengthening the DPCs by engaging them in various activities especially the community reconciliation dialogue forums that will be running in all the eight districts. We expect to take a second round of the conflict management and consensus building training in April. District leaders' forums will run throughout the next quarter in all the districts. Starting April, up to 30 participants per district will attend training on the National Early Warning System after talks between Mercy Corps and NSC are concluded. Mercy Corps will convene one open quarterly stakeholder meeting and one multi district and provincial leaders forum in June 2011. Community reconciliation dialogues activities will continue throughout the next quarter with planning for the start of its major output, district reconstruction projects, scheduled for April. In April and May 2011, four participants in each proposed project site/cluster will be trained in community project monitoring. Mercy Corps' local partner capacity-building sessions for all the three partners will be held throughout the quarter. There will be a core training of members of youth self-help groups in the months of April and May as implementation of Cash for work projects continue through the 3 months. We expect to start our planning and actual implementation of IGAs projects in the month of May 2011.

Activity (Person responsible)	2011		
	April	May	June
<b>Program start up</b>			
Hiring of program staff (CD)			
Conduct external midterm program evaluation (CD, PM, M&E and external evaluator)			
Semi-annual progress reports, (CD)			
<b>Goal 1: Build and strengthen local mechanisms for conflict mitigation and reconciliation</b>			
1.1 Baseline, conflict assessment and mapping, Nandi, Keiyo, Nakuru (CD, conflict specialist)			
1.2 Establishment and support District Peace Committees, Nandi and Keiyo (CD, PM, PC)			
1.3 Conflict management and consensus building training for district leaders (PM, PCs, POs)			
1.4 Conduct 32-40 district dialogue forums (PCs, POs)			
1.5 Establishment of early warning systems (PCs, POs, DPCs)			
1.6 Multi-district and provincial leaders regional forums (PM, PCs, POs, DPCs)			
1.7 Quarterly open meetings for local stakeholders (PM, DPCs)			
<b>Goal 2: Support community dialogues and implement joint development projects that build bridges among divided communities for peaceful co-existence</b>			
2.1 40/80 community reconciliation dialogue implementation (PCs, POs, DPCs)			
2.2 20/64 district reconstruction projects implementation (POs, POs, DPCs)			
2.3 Establishment and training of joint monitoring teams (PM, M&E, PCs, DPCs)			
<b>Goal 3: Support youth integration and address a key cause of violence through youth leadership training, small scale cash-for-work community reconstruction projects and IGA's</b>			
3.1 Organizational capacity building for youth partner and youth self-help groups (PM, PCs)			
3.2 Core training for youth self-help group leaders (PC, PO, local partner/youth groups)			
3.3 20/40 rapid response cash-for-work youth community reconstruction projects (PCs, YDC)			
3.4 Identification and implementation of 20/40 IGA's specialist, private sector, PM, PCs)			
3.5 Production of eight youth success stories (PM, M&E, PCs, local journalists, PC, YDCs)			

### ***Goal 1: Build and strengthen local mechanisms for conflict mitigation and reconciliation***

#### **Activity 1.2: Establishment and support of District Peace Committees**

We will continue to work with all the eight DPCs throughout next quarter. We plan to undertake more capacity building trainings with select members to improve their skills for community conflict transformation. We will also incorporate some of them in the community project monitoring and early warning system teams.

#### **Activity 1.3: Conflict management and Consensus building for district leaders**

We will continue to train district leaders in basic peace building skills in the month of April. As we focus more on district and provincial leadership, we will also supplement these basic skills with more advanced consensus building and negotiation tools that can help district leaders begin to address more complex issues. Mercy Corps will draw on its cadre of 30 local trainers for this task. As we have done in this reporting quarter, we will continue to draw on our global network of conflict management and negotiation experts to provide intensive training to district leaders.

#### **Activity 1.4: 32-40 district dialogue forums for district leaders**

We will continue to bring district leaders together on specific district topics of concern for peace and development. This will run through out next quarter in each of the eight districts. As it has happened before, we will try and bring together an average of 30-40 influential religious,

political, traditional, business, women, youth and civil society representatives at the district level. A well-informed moderator contracted by Mercy Corps would guide the issue of discussion and lead participants in forging everlasting solutions to the district challenges.

#### **Activity 1.5: Establishment of early warning systems with the DPC secretariat**

Mercy Corps has identified community members to be trained in the Early Warning Systems from each district. We have agreed with the NSC and CEWARN to each provide a trainer to help with transfer of knowledge and skills to this team. The trainings will take place beginning the first week of May.

#### **1.6 Multi-district and provincial leaders' regional forums**

In June, Mercy Corps will convene one multi-district forum that brings together influential multi-ethnic and multi-political leadership from the eight Rift Valley districts and Wajir district. This forum is meant to promote community reconciliation, through the exchange of ideas and experiences.

#### **Activity 1.7: Quarterly open meetings for local stakeholders**

To help gain community acceptance and track community dispute information, one stakeholder meeting will be held per district, or when possible a combination of districts, in June. The forum will also be used to discuss peace building experiences by different players.

#### ***Goal 2: Support community dialogues and implement joint development projects that build bridges among divided communities for peaceful co-existence***

#### **Activity 2.1: 40/80 community reconciliation dialogues implementation**

This activity is ongoing and will remain so throughout the next reporting quarter. In the next quarter, however, Mercy Corps will ensure that only needy community cluster areas that have not received any such dialogues are considered. This will include communities that still have the highest levels of tensions or still experience common conflicts. During the dialogues, we will identify and plan consensus-building and joint economic development projects for the second round.

#### **Activity 2.2: 20/64 district reconciliation projects implemented**

This activity is an output of activity 2.1 and is meant to strengthen communities' joint work and address livelihood challenges that remain one of the causes of community conflicts. Starting in April, we will vet all the received applications and conduct environmental review of all the projects. The reports will then be forwarded to USAID for approvals before implementation.

#### **Activity 2.3: establishment and training of joint monitoring teams**

Starting April and after consultation with the district peace secretariats and community members, Mercy Corps will train a select group of community members in community project monitoring in readiness for the implementation of community reconciliation projects. The participants are drawn from the proposed community joint projects or cluster areas.

***Goal 3: Support youth integration and address a key cause of violence through youth leadership training, small-scale cash-for-work community reconstruction projects and income-generation activities***

**Activity 3.1: Organizational capacity building for youth partner and youth self-help groups**

Based on the organizational assessment reports and findings, Mercy Corps will start its organizational capacity building program with the three local partners in April. The activity will run approximately three months.

**Activity 3.2: Core training for youth self-help group leaders**

In the months of April and May, Mercy Corps and our youth partners will continue to host a series of training sessions for selected youth self-help group leaders in all the districts. Young people will participate in an initial leadership and consensus-building workshop to be facilitated preferably by an organizational development expert. In addition, the districts' prominent business owners and chambers of commerce structures will help inculcate in the youth relevant entrepreneurial skills. This would prepare the ground for optimal implementation of youth project activities including IGAs.

**Activity 3.3: 20/40 Rapid response youth-led cash-for-work community reconstruction projects**

The proposed 40 cash-for-work projects underwent the initial USAID environmental review. After the final approval, implementation of the projects will start in April and run through the entire next quarter until each district has five projects implemented. The local partners are prepared to successfully implement, monitor and evaluate these activities with close supervision from Mercy Corps.

**Activity 3.4: Identification and implementation of 20/40 IGA's**

By May, Mercy Corps will have compiled a list of youth group representatives from all the districts to undergo entrepreneurship training. A market development specialist will partner with local business mentors, producers, farmers, traders, merchants and other small business owners to train and mentor the youth in market analysis, business planning and management. This activity will be closely coordinated with the Yes Youth Can! Rift Valley program that started in March 2011.

**VI. List of sub-grants**

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1. Wareng Youth Development and Peace Initiative – Eldoret East, Eldoret West, Wareng, Nandi North and Keiyo
  2. Kericho Youth Centre – Kericho East and Kericho West
  3. Peace Development Forum - Nakuru/Molo
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