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Rift Valley Local Empowerment for Peace (LEAP II)

Fourth Quarterly Report
April 1 – June 30, 2011

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		Start Date	July 4, 2010
		End Date	July 3, 2012
		Report Date	April 1, 2011 to June 30, 2011
		Total Award	\$ 1,700,000

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LIST OF ACRONYMS AND ABBREVIATIONS

CEWARN	Conflict Early Warning and Response Mechanism
CD	Country Director
CSOs	Civil Society Organizations
DC	District Commissioner
DNH	Do No Harm
DPC	District Peace Committee
EWS	Early Warning Systems
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
OCA	Organizational Capacity Assessment
PC	Program Coordinator
PIA	Participatory Impact Assessment
PM	Program Manager
PO	Program Officer
YSHG	Youth Self Help Group
YYC RV	Yes Youth Can! Rift Valley
USAID	United States Agency for International Development

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

LEAP II reached 1,385 people directly this quarter, achieving a cumulative 4,364 at end of year one. Of these, 2,000 or 46% were women. Creating a critical mass of young people that can influence key factors for peace took center stage during this reporting quarter. We have in the last three months identified and trained 242 young individuals from 100 organized youth groups.

Our aim has been to achieve two kinds of change among our youth. The first is **relational** – to establish the right kinds of relationships to enable peace. The second is **structural** – helping build and strengthen effective, accountable youth organizations (meaning either managed by, or held to account by, young people) to help sustain peace. If young people establish healthy relationships with each other across ethnic lines, and together they hold institutions accountable, we will build capacity to deal with grievances without violence.

Our community dialogues continued to offer safe spaces for discussions of difficult issues facing most post-conflict Rift Valley communities; 442 people participated in dialogues this quarter. The focus has slowly shifted from what in the past has been a sense of mutual blame between the groups to shared grief over the tragedy that had befallen their communities. Common grounds continue to be discovered through sharing experiences of loss. But side by side with the stories of tragedy, are coming several quite dramatic stories of cross-ethnic rescue efforts during PEV, raising the question: How can we use such stories to encourage more people to become active bystanders? Not to risk their lives, but to act before conditions descend to violence?

We also trained early warning and response teams. The teams include a multiplicity of actors, local community leaders, members of DPCs, local provincial administration, police, line ministries and civil society representatives. This activity focuses on ensuring local communities' preparedness and resilience.

A total of 182 (109 men and 73 women) leaders from political, business, youth, cultural and government departments, participated in six district leaders forums this quarter. To date, our 19 forums have convened 640 leaders. Depending on the forum theme, representatives from respective government departments were invited to explain their policy and positions on how to build and consolidate peace. By convening leaders from diverse interests and backgrounds, we have learned shared principles and values that support these leaders' and our own activities' abilities to transcend divisions. As the Eldoret East Member of Parliament put it at one of the forums, "The ultimate challenge of conflict prevention/resolution is about values-based leadership at every level of the community and at every level of society. The question of whether a leader contributes to conflict or helps to prevent it depends on the value policies and operating guidelines of the leader and the way his/her followers and colleagues accept, interpret and implement these. Corporate, political and civic leaders are needed to help shape these values and guiding principles and to provide the incentives and frameworks in which their respective stakeholders must live and operate."

I. PROGRAM OVERVIEW

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.

II. PROGRAM PROGRESS

A. Cumulative Progress Overview

Indicator	Overall target by end of program	This quarter	Cumulative	% to date
<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>				
# of people reached through completed USG supported community based reconciliation	3,500	1,385	4,364	125%
Objective 1: Strengthen sustainable mechanisms for conflict mitigation and reconciliation				
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 (Indicator no. 188)	8	8	8	100%
1.2b # of public fora/educational events to teach public about peace process.	20 by Feb. 2011, 40 by EoP	3	17	43%
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 (Indicator no. 106)	300	32	283	94%

Indicator	Overall target by end of program	This quarter	Cumulative	% to date
1.3b # of disputes resolved by program participants.	32	0	23	72%
1.4a # of USG-supported facilitated events geared toward strengthening understanding among conflict-affected groups (Indicator no. 110)	32	6	19	59%
1.4b # of people attending USG assisted facilitated events that are geared toward strengthening understanding among conflict-affected groups. (Indicator no. 111)	240	182	640	267%
1.5a # of USG programs supporting a conflict and/or fragility early warning system and/or response mechanism (Indicator no. 107)	8	7	7	88%
1.6a % increase in level of interaction among district and regional forum participants	25%	0%	0%	0%
Objective 2: Sponsor community dialogues and implement joint development projects that build bridges among divided communities and demonstrate tangible benefits to cooperation.				
2.1a # of USG-supported facilitated events geared toward strengthening understanding among conflict-affected groups. (Indicator no. 110)	80	12	54	68%
2.1b # of people attending USG-assisted facilitated events geared towards strengthening understanding and mitigating conflict between groups (Indicator no. 111)	2,400	755	2,875	120%
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	29	29	45%

Indicator	Overall target by end of program	This quarter	Cumulative	% to date
Objective 3: Support youth integration and address a key cause of violence through youth leadership training and income generation activities				
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	242	392	82%
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	5	5	13%
3.3a # of youth who participate in Cash-for-work projects that bring young people together across ethnic lines	600	174	174	29%
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%
3.4a # of youth who participate in implementing income generating projects	200	0	0	0%
3.4b # of private sector mentors engaged	20	8	8	40%
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	5	5	63%

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. 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, opening 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. LEAP II is improving 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.

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"> • Three conflict assessments (Nandi, Keiyo, and Nakuru) and two stakeholder maps (Nandi and Keiyo) produced. • District Peace Committees established and/or strengthened. • 32-40 district dialogue forums that bring groups together to discuss resolve joint problems. • District leaders gain new leadership and consensus-building skills to resolve tensions. • Early warning and response systems established. • District and provincial leaders increase interaction through multi-district and regional forums.

Activity 1.1 Conflict assessments and stakeholder mapping:

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

Activity 1.2 Establish/strengthen District Peace Committees:

We established the Uasin Gishu County peace Committee in June 2011. The committee brings together 15 members elected from the three District Peace Committees. While many more people are doing great peacebuilding work, none of that work is sustainable without vibrant and viable peace organizations which reflect the same vision and values as those individuals. There is a growing recognition and institutionalization of traditional and community-based peace structures in Rift Valley, and the District Peace Committees continue to get stronger as opportunities for resolving disputes emerge. Most established District Peace Committees, like Wareng, Eldoret East, Eldoret West, Molo and Kericho central, have successfully engaged their communities in search of alternatives in emerging disputes. In April, an attempted resettlement of IDPs in

Chemusian Farm aggravated tensions at the border of Eldoret East and Wareng districts. To counter tensions caused by the government's non-involvement of locals in the decision to settle the IDPs in the area, the Wareng DPC organized dialogue meetings. These dialogues successfully diffused tensions between Kikuyus and Kalenjins; together, key leaders from the two communities explored possible avenues for resolving the disagreements over the resettlement plan. The plan they developed has been taken up by the provincial administration and is the foundation of an agreement to facilitate the resettlement of IDPs from Nyahururu and Yamumbi. At the time of writing this report, a negotiated agreement by the DPC members to give the locals 75% of the land and settle the IDPs in the remaining 25% was actively being pursued by the government and other stakeholders.

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

The new constitutional dispensation and the emerging culture of constitutionalism in Kenya are radically changing the way decisions on public issues are made. More than ever before, Kenyans affected by political, regulatory and organizational decisions are demanding to be part of the decision-making process. They are shifting from individual to team-based decision-making. Given the nature of Kenya's ethnically polarized politics and institutional weaknesses, these changes have made our conflict management and consensus-building trainings even more important. Unfortunately old-school strategies for decision-making - leaving final authority to a single individual, especially on political issues - still persist at many levels of society, as evidenced by the attempted unilateral appointment of judicial officers by the President in April. These norms continue to damage relationships in ways that make it harder for stakeholders to work together in the future. In training district leaders, and members of the District Peace Committees, we remain alert to these new developments. With the thirty two individuals trained this quarter, our efforts focused on consensus-based decision-making on complex issues such as land, IDP resettlement, political party affiliations and equitable distribution of resources. Participants learned how to gather and analyze information that is both scientifically credible and legitimate in the eyes of its users; craft contingency plans to deal with uncertainties; and continue working together to monitor the impact of their decisions and revisit them if necessary.

Activity 1.4 Dialogue forums for district leaders:

Our district leaders' forums continue to attract key voices in the 8 districts. In the last quarter, we focused on voice, participation and values. The leaders in all the districts seem to agree that to realize stability in Kenya, people should choose their leaders and influence the directions and comportment of such leaders. They also need to be able to voice their impressions of whether or not the system of governance itself is working well, or if it needs adjusting from time to time. The right to be heard is balanced by the responsibility to contribute. Many leaders now agree that while citizens' voice is important, voice in itself is not enough. People should also contribute to the public good in other ways, such as through paying taxes in order to feel membership and to be able to hold the leadership to account in a form of social contract.

In three forums, it was observed that Kenya has since independence been dominated by particular powerful groups: their power comes from ethnic numbers and historical control over the economy. This led to stability in the short term, but over time it has entrenched injustice and the perception of injustice and resentment among those that are excluded from the political process.

Participants observed that a society that structurally excludes some of its members is a society that is failing to resolve conflicts, and is thus prone to violence. A typical and particularly important example of this is the exclusion of women and young adults on account of their sex and/or age.

Activity 1.5 Establish early warning systems with the DPC secretariats:

The training of early warning early response teams in seven of the eight districts is complete. A total of 187 people in seven districts have been trained and deployed in different parts of program districts for reporting and responding to incidents and alerts. The teams are connected to the national early warning mechanism and will forward relevant information to both the local administration and to the national early warning mechanism currently run by NSC.

Participants were taken through four types of conflict prevention models that apply to early warning-early response mechanism:

1. The correlation model: focus on structural factors and how they contribute to conflict.
2. The sequential model: pays attention to short-term variables and examines past conflicts to identify the importance of the sequence of events.
3. The conjectural model: models use inductive methods to identify the role of unique combinations of variables.
4. And the response model: focus less on causes than on identifying critical junctures in conflict processes where interventions might be most productive.

In the event of an alert or incident report the information is processed following the mode of operation below:

- Information relayed to the NSC situation room through the system on <http://www.nscpeace.go.ke/ncewers> which has access rights and <http://www.nscpeace.go.ke/108> - open to the public
- Information also relayed through mobile phones (# 108) and emails.
- Verification of the information to determine its credibility
- Analysis of the information and scenario setting
- Communication to the relevant actors for intervention
- Follow up and documentation.

The one weakness we have noticed in our national early warning/early response mechanisms for Kenya is the failure to make as an integral part, the monitoring of indicators of both conflict and cooperation. There are always pockets of cooperation no matter how dire a conflict is. Even in the Rwandan genocide we are told many stories of people risking their lives to save others. If we only monitor indicators of violence, then that's all we'll see. Our early warning maps only depict a small part of reality. We think it is more useful that we also map indicators of peace and cooperation. By identifying the positive initiatives that exist before and during a crisis, we automatically identify multiple entry points for intervention.

Activity 1.6 Multi-district and regional dialogue forums:

As per the initial workplan, this activity 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

- 80 communities engaged through dialogues to promote reconciliation and identify projects for implementation
- Implementation of 64 community and district projects that demonstrate tangible benefits to cooperation
- Demonstration by community members of increased willingness to cooperate across conflict lines
- Establishment of joint monitoring teams for all projects

Activity 2.1 Communities participate in district community dialogues to identify consensus-building and economic development projects:

Our community dialogues continue to offer valuable space for community reconciliation and insights to improve peacebuilding programming. Different groups continue to tell similar stories of losing loved ones, displacement, and fear. As these stories emerge in a layered fashion, the sense of mutual blame between the groups is diminishing, replaced by shared grief over the tragedy that has befallen their beautiful country. A kikuyu elder in Eldoret East summed it up in one of the dialogues, “I think we are all in one big pot of suffering.” Common grounds continue to be discovered through sharing experiences of loss. Alongside stories of tragedy, we are hearing dramatic stories of rescue during the 2007/2008 PEV; Kalenjins who rescued their Kikuyu neighbors’, Kikuyus who rescued their Luo neighbors, and more. These stories continue to have a galvanizing effect on participants. They are interested in moving from victimization - and competition over which ethnic group has suffered more - to stories of rescue. At a dialogue in Kimuri, Wareng district, participants noted that leaders and the media focus only on the grievances of their ethnic groups and that these rescue stories are not known. We are beginning to note that these stories could have a powerful effect if publicized. The earlier process of collective mourning at the beginning of the dialogues in 2009 seemed important, but these rescue stories are offering hope, some reassurance that it would be possible to reconcile and to build a shared future. On a more emotional, relational level, community dialogues continue to promote opportunities for empathy with the other side. We are watching this quality develop in many of our sustained dialogues, as participants move gradually from reactive blame to capacity to walk in the other’s shoes. This is seen in the way they have jointly identified community projects that enhance their co-existence and promote their economic development.

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

This activity is scheduled for reporting in the next quarter.

Activity 2.3 joint monitoring and reporting teams:

130 community project monitors from Kericho, Nakuru, and Uasin Gishu counties and Keiyo and Nandi districts have completed training on joint community project monitoring for 29 communities. Another 130 will receive a similar training in late July 2012. Key thematic areas covered include: democracy, governance and community development, accountability and

community participation, detecting fraud and corruption in community projects, and leadership and project management, among others. The trainings are done in collaboration with Transparency International-Kenya, National Tax Payers Association and the District Peace Committees. The first training's participants agreed that the encouragement of economic growth in the participants' areas must take account of and be restrained by three important objectives: 1. Protection of the environment and consideration of the projects' ecological impact. 2. Fair and equitable distribution - and redistribution - of goods and services that may come from the projects to enable everyone participate in activities and get a fair share of the community projects' fruits. 3. Creation of opportunities for everyone to participate in the planning, design and implementation of the project activities.

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
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 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:

This reporting quarter saw an increased engagement with our local partners and their affiliate youth groups. To date, our local partners have reached 270 youth membership groups, or approximately 5,300 young people. Following the completion of organizational capacity assessments (OCA) of LEAP local partners, trainings have commenced to help build the organizational capacities of the three partners and their member groups. The trainings for partners and youth self help groups have been developed from the priorities that emerged from the OCA. These included: reviewing some of their constitutions to make them more clear and focused; developing vision and mission statements; improving documentation and provision of relevant information to the youth by establishing resource centers; improving networking and linkages with other youth groups and key stakeholders; and improving fundraising skills and financial management capacities. Other areas requiring help include enhancement of outreach capacities; campaigns against environmental depletion and involvement in safer environmental activities; work against drug and substance abuse; and accountability and transparency in organizational management.

Youth engagement through group formation and training has revealed that both the youth and other community members have different views on the exact ages of people who constitute youth, the meaning and importance of youth development and the importance of youth involvement in broader development processes. Diverse reasons and benefits drive young people to form organizations. Primarily on the basis of these differing views and negative perceptions about youths and their organizations, young people are not trusted and adequately involved in

community development processes. Many of our youth groups, including our partners, still have many organizational weaknesses that hamper their capacity to support effective youth participation in community development processes and, by extension, peace work.

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

A total of 242 young leaders from over 90 youth groups had received core training in leadership skills by end of this quarter. Our focus on creating a critical mass of young people who can influence key factors for peace continues. We are identifying young individuals and/or groups who can influence peace factors and working to change *their* attitudes and behavior accordingly. When this is effective, it results in two kinds of changes. The first is **relational** – which will enable the establishment of the right kinds of relationships to enable peace. The second is **structural** – for effective and principled institutions to sustain peace. If young people establish healthy relationships with each other across ethnic lines, and together they hold institutions accountable, we will build capacity to deal with grievances without violence.

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

We implemented a total of 4 cash-for-work projects this reporting quarter. Mercy Corps continues to work with youth Self Help Groups to develop opportunities for young people who are marginalized economically and socially, recognizing the link between youth unemployment and conflict in Rift Valley. The efforts have not just been about reducing economic inequality, but have also focused on creating the culture of saving and using business as a means to increase the “voice” of young people in their communities to influence social change. A key aspect of this is to engage young people in the culture of “giving” to the community even as they save and build a financial and economic base for themselves. This will give young people a voice in a region where power is concentrated in political leaders, elders and instruments and agents of the central government. We have recently won a \$115,000 award from Western Union that we plan to use to leverage LEAP cash-for-work and income-generating activities by increasing the financial literacy of our young people and helping identify the linkage between financial literacy and “investment and saving culture,” if any.

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

Following the award of “Yes Youth Can” (YYC), LEAP is working closely with the YYC team to get the best for the youth out of this activity. In June, a select group of youths from LEAP joined an employer for market assessment survey tools training in Eldoret. Besides training other youths in using these tools, the trainees are now part of a team carrying out employer/labor and market assessment surveys in key urban centers in Rift Valley. The results of the assessment are going to form an important component of improving lives, through placement with potential employers and development of income-generation strategies for young people. Apart from the planned entrepreneurship training, groups will be given financial literacy and saving trainings to help ground the planned income-generating activities in a sound financial and other resource management skills. In July, we will engage fifteen young people in a focus group discussion to help identify financial and saving training needs among young people. The discussions will be followed by trainings and disbursement of funds for small-scale businesses.

Activity 3.5 Youth produce success stories in collaboration with local journalists:

In this quarter, several stories were published through different media. We had one cash-for-work success story aired on Sayare TV. One cash-for-work project and two IGA stories await publication in *The Standard* newspaper. In Nakuru, two different cash-for-work projects aired on both Kenya Broadcasting Corporation television and K24 TV. Next quarter, we plan to engage a local journalist and a communications expert to visit various project beneficiary communities and youth groups working with Mercy Corps to listen, interview, collect, and craft their stories. The two will mentor youth on how to develop stories to be published on popular youth internet sites and air on local TV and radio stations. We will document this mentorship project through photographs/video and written reports.

III. Constraints and Challenges

- While many people are agreed that peace is mandatory for the progress of Rift Valley residents, lack of a shared vision for change – based on wide consultations among key stakeholders - is still lacking.
- The one-sided focus on abuses suffered by victim groups during the PEV has left “perpetrator groups” under a cloud of collective shame that is inhibiting authentic reconciliation with the “victims.”
- Proliferation of uncoordinated peace actors has led to many overlapping plans and weak alignment of the key players behind a unified regional peace plan.
- Peacebuilding efforts focused only on the so-called hot spots and certain regions create pockets of exclusion and engage only a few central actors in development and peacebuilding efforts.
- Peace actors are paying insufficient attention a) to the protection of women and children from discriminative cultures and b) to the participation of women in peacebuilding and development work.
- Insufficient attention to economic growth and job creation, particularly for youth, continues to slow progress towards sustainable peace. This has been aggravated by the government’s unrealistic timeframes for reforms and weak capacity to implement its own plans and projects.
- The need to strengthen linkages between development, security, justice and good governance is still not fully appreciated in many quarters, especially the government.
- Lack of data and reliable statistics to inform progress so far achieved by peacebuilding efforts and for planning for peacebuilding work.

IV. Lessons Learned

Though the route to true reconciliation is still replete with uncertainties, the recent emergence of rescue stories in the community dialogues are offering hope and some reassurance that it would be possible to reconcile and to build a shared future. Members of both victim and perpetrator groups are beginning to recognize that we are all capable of both de-humanizing and

altruistic/compassionate behavior. Neither can be the province of any one group. Imagining one's way into the shoes of victims and perpetrators alike seems invaluable to post-conflict healing. Subsequently, we are beginning to explore:

- What these stories can teach us about the internal capacities and external conditions that prompted rescuers to act, and can our peacebuilding programs be designed to more consciously foster those capacities and conditions?
- How we can use the stories themselves to encourage others to become active bystanders, not to risk their lives but to act before conditions descend to violence?

Our hope is that these stories of moral courage will provide a much-needed counterweight to the stories of atrocities that are so prevalent and have had the effect of sustaining old narratives and creating the justification for revenge.

V. Planned activities for next period of three months, July – September 2011

Next quarter will be the first quarter in year 2 of LEAP II program implementation. We will build on the DPCs' strength created in the first year, especially through monitoring of community projects that will be happening throughout the next quarter. Other DPC engagements will include participation in the community reconciliation and district leaders' dialogues, and the multi district and Provincial leaders' forum. NSC will help conduct Early Warning Systems training for the remaining district in the month of July. Mercy Corps will convene one open quarterly stakeholder meeting in September 2011 to collect program feedback for learning. We will have Mercy Corps' local partner capacity-building sessions for all the three partners conducted in July. Cash-for-work projects will continue through the 3 months ahead of the August training and implementation of IGA by the YSHGs. Plans are underway to have at least 5 success stories written and shared in different media by end of September 2011.

Activity (Person responsible)	2011		
	July	August	September
Program start up			
Hiring of program staff (CD)			
Conduct external midterm program evaluation (CD, PM, M&E and external evaluator)			
Semi-annual progress reports, (CD)			
Goal 1: Build and strengthen local mechanisms for conflict mitigation and reconciliation			
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)			
Goal 2: Support community dialogues and implement joint development projects that build bridges among divided communities for peaceful co-existence			
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)			
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			
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 will engage all the community members already trained in community project monitoring and early warning systems in implementation and management of community projects within their locality.

Activity 1.3: Conflict management and Consensus building for district leaders

We will continue to identify training needs of key leaders and members of the DPC in the eight districts and where necessary conduct the training.

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

Throughout next quarter, we will continue to bring around 30-40 district leaders together on specific district topics of concern for peace and development. We will target leaders of various categories including but not limited to religious leaders, politicians, village elders, business people, CSOs, women and youth representatives. A competent facilitator will guide all the forums.

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

Fully supported early warning/early response team connected to the National early warning/early response mechanism will be in place in all the 8 districts except Nandi North effective mid July 2011.

Activity 1.6: Multi-district and provincial leaders' regional forums

One provincial leaders' forum is scheduled for August 2011, in Nakuru town. Nakuru leaders will host a select group of influential representatives and leaders from all the 8 districts in Rift Valley province. The exchange visit will provide an opportunity for the leaders to exchange notes and learn from each other especially in areas of peace and development.

Activity 1.7: Quarterly open meetings for local stakeholders

A stakeholders meeting to help review program progress is scheduled for July 2011. Plans for the next quarter will also be shared and discussed.

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 planned to run through out the next quarter in all the districts. Dialogues of 20 to 50 participants will be organized to help build relationships for reconciliation through discussions on issues of conflicts. In the process, economic projects that build relationships will be discussed and proposals for financial support of up to Ksh. 120,000 forwarded to Mercy Corps for consideration.

Activity 2.2: 20/64 district reconciliation projects implemented

Implementation of this activity is expected to start in the month of August following the submission of the environmental review report of the already submitted project proposals. The projects will be implemented in the communities and monitored by the community through trained project monitors.

Activity 2.3: Establishment and training of joint monitoring teams

Final group of 130 joint community project monitors training will take place in July 2011. This will in total create a pool of around 4 monitors per project to help in implementation and monitoring of 64 community projects.

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

Mercy Corps will continue conducting organizational capacity building for its three local partners this quarter. This will be guided by both the Mercy Corps Sudan Localizing Institutional Capacity (LINKS) tool the partners capacity assessment reports conducted.

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

This activity is not scheduled for next quarter implementation and reporting

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

These activities will be led by the three local partners in their respective regions, guided by Mercy Corps. At planning stage, beneficiary youth groups agreed to prioritize the spirit of community giving, youth integration and economic empowerment through wage earnings and savings.

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

Starting the month of August, youth employability and Market assessment reports from YYC Rift Valley program will be ready and shared to inform LEAP II IGA implementation. We will proceed with entrepreneurship training of more than 50 youth group representatives towards the end of August. Modules used in the training would be partly informed by the assessment reports from YYC RV.

Activity 3.5: Production of eight youth success stories

5 Stories that communicate youth successes as a result of the program will be written and shared in the next quarter. In writing these stories, Mercy Corps will embrace conflict-sensitive reporting techniques. One youth group story from Kericho, three in Eldoret and one from Nakuru counties that show change attributed to program outputs like trainings and cash-for-work implementation will be covered and shared through different media.

VI. List of sub-grants

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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