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

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Submitted to:  
AOTR, Abraham Sing'oei  
USAID/Kenya  
Agreement Officer, Charles Signer  
USAID/Kenya

**COUNTRY CONTACT HQ CONTACT PROJECT SUMMARY**

Country Contact	HQ contact	Project Summary	
Liesbeth Zonneveld Country Director Mercy Corps Waiyaki Way, ABC Place Nairobi, Kenya  +254 (0) 735-139533, cell +254-(0) 733-808105, office <a href="mailto:lzonneveld@ke.mercycorps.org">lzonneveld@ke.mercycorps.org</a>	Becky Steenbergen Senior Program Officer, East and Southern Africa 202.463.7384 x 105 <a href="mailto:bsteenbergen@dc.mercycorps.org">bsteenbergen@dc.mercycorps.org</a>	Award No.	623-A-10-00009
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## **LIST OF ACRONYMS AND ABBREVIATIONS**

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CD	Country Director
CSOs	Civil Society Organizations
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
LPC	Location Peace Committee
M&E	Monitoring and Evaluation
PC	Program Coordinator
PM	Program Manager
PO	Program Officer
SMEs	Small and Medium Enterprises
TJRC	Truth Justice and Reconciliation Commission of Kenya
YSHG	Youth Self Help Group
YYC RV	Yes Youth Can! Rift Valley
USAID	United States Agency for International Development

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## EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

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During this reporting quarter, the International Criminal Court (ICC) confirmation of charges hearings and the visit by the Truth Justice and Reconciliation Commission (TJRC) of Kenya to the Rift Valley provoked another round of suspicion, accusations and counter-accusations in the brittle construction that is the Rift Valley. On the political scene, infighting and intrigues within Kenya's shaky coalition government intensified. During the ICC hearings, Kenyans seemed to agree that justice should be done to the victims and the suspects, yet in their debates, reaching an agreement about what qualifies as justice looked exceedingly difficult.

However, more important than the content of the hearings has been the fact of them. Never before have Kenya's senior political leaders or the wealthy and well-connected been held to account, nor have they appeared before judges considered above the bribery that commonly hobbles Kenyan trials. The ICC process is looking more and more like a turning point in Kenya's modern history as it moves to tame Kenya's long and ignoble history of impunity for politicians and elites.

In our program areas, the convolution of issues of justice and the ICC as they relate to the post-election violence by the political elites created feelings of fear and hostility among the different ethnic groups. This sense of threat and hostility now pervades the everyday lives of the different communities living in the Rift Valley (especially those considered as "enemy tribes"), threatening to override their ability to recognize any shared concerns they might have.

Amidst all these, 1,979 beneficiaries were directly reached in this reporting quarter. Cumulatively, our direct beneficiaries reached 6,343. Two hundred and twenty four (224) people attended seven district leaders' forums. We continued to engage communities by providing space for constructive dialogue through which they openly speak to each other and ultimately forge lasting relationships. 934 men and 368 women took part in 23 community reconciliation dialogues. In Nakuru, we brought together 91 high-level leaders from the Rift Valley in a joint multi-district peace forum and engaged 420 young people in community service and reconstruction through our cash-for-work projects.

The political events this last quarter were quite telling. There was a slowing of pace in the reform front, with attempts to change some constitutional clauses to favor political interests. Arguably, one can say that there was a painful gap between political rhetoric and action in reforms. Tension between activities adhering to the status quo and approaches calling for deep transformation was apparent. As the politics of 2012 began to pick up momentum, as issues around the ICC cases get distorted for political advantages, slowing down...even reversing our efforts in some areas, implementation of LEAP activities continue to be informed by sound analysis, clarity of purpose, flexible strategizing, and high levels of frustration tolerance.

## 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.

## II. PROGRAM PROGRESS

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### 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	1,961	6,325	181%
<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%
1.2b # of public fora/educational events to teach public about peace process.	20 by Feb. 2011, 40 by EoP	2	19	48%
1.2c % change in survey respondents reporting "strong" local mechanisms for conflict mitigation, peace and reconciliation	75%	0	0	0%

Indicator	Overall target by end of program	This quarter	Cumulative	% to date
1.3a # of people trained in conflict mitigation/resolution skills with USG assistance <b>(Indicator no. 106)</b>	300	15	298	99%
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 <b>(Indicator no. 110)</b>	32	7	26	81%
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	224	864	360%
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	7	88%
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	23	77	96%
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	1,302	4,177	174%
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%

Indicator	Overall target by end of program	This quarter	Cumulative	% to date
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	35	64	100%
<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	0	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	21	26	65%
3.3a # of youth who participate in Cash-for-work projects that bring young people together across ethnic lines	600	420	594	99%
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	0	8	40%
3.4b % Youth Self-Help Group members achieving greater economic independence as a result of income generation activities	60%	0	0	0%

Indicator	Overall target by end of program	This quarter	Cumulative	% to date
3.5a # of USG-assisted public information campaigns to support peaceful resolution of conflicts	8	3	8	100%

## 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, and 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 many local, and some national, actors involved in peacebuilding projects in the Rift Valley.

In support of youth empowerment, Mercy Corps has mobilized financial resources to leverage the work of objective 3 above. We have received funding from Western Union that we are using to improve the financial literacy of our youth, especially those who have benefited from the LEAP II cash-for-work and LEAP I IGA projects. We are conducting a series of financial literacy trainings with a select group of YSHGs with a view to establishing any significant difference in their incomes, saving and spending patterns. We hope this research will be able to inform further youth economic empowerment initiatives.

### **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> </ul>

- 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:**

The formation and relevance of district peace committees, a community-driven conflict management structure, continues to gain currency. It is proving to be one of the commendable community efforts to promote peaceful coexistence among communities affected by post-election violence as well as to fill the security void left by the government due to limited outreach or resources. Most communities have long histories of contact with their neighbors, as well as with state-level and other institutions, which have significantly affected the way they perceive and manage conflicts. Members of DPCs are members of these communities and understand these histories. They continue to apply this knowledge in dealing with emerging, often complex disputes between individual community members, families and various other social groups. The task of sorting out such conflicts for the purpose of resolving immediate disputes can be time-consuming and difficult, or even impossible. Their efforts have managed to reduce tensions between and among ethnic groups sharing boundaries and helped diffuse seemingly minor disputes, which could have had major implications because of socio-economic, political, or cultural conflicts embedded in them. We continue our trainings to help strengthen the various committees. Trainings are tailor-made to respond to the specific needs of individual committees and to specific challenges in their settings. In this reporting quarter, we trained Kericho East (35 members) and the reconstituted Kericho West DPCs (20 members) in the months of September and August respectively.

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

No trainings for district leaders were conducted this quarter.

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

Two hundred and twenty four (224) leaders participated in seven (7) district leaders' forums. While the dialogues continue to focus on current events in relation to post-election violence, the social conditions that might have fostered the post-election violence seemed to feature more frequently during this quarter. Many of the local leaders noted that stable peace in Kenya will only be built on social, economic, and political foundations that serve the needs of the populace. It was noted that the crises arose out of systemic roots. The root causes are typically complex, but include skewed land distribution, environmental degradation, and unequal political

representation. These issues, which form part of the grievances, are used to mobilize the public for political support. If these social problems are not addressed, note the leaders, there will be no lasting peace in the Rift Valley.

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

As reported in the April-June 2011 quarterly, the training of early warning/early response teams is complete. The teams are already set and in place. In our follow-up meetings with the teams in their individual locations, we explored what key things could be done to improve early warning in the future in their immediate locations/communities. Among several issues raised, two major challenges to improving early warning/early response were highlighted: (1) anticipating triggers that will tip vulnerable spots into crisis; and (2) linking forecasting and long-range analysis to current policymaking by government. The teams appreciate that there is a limit on what they can possibly know in advance of violent conflicts and acute political crises given the complex nature of Kenya's politics, but reporting incidents, however small they may look, would help, for seemingly small events can have outsized effects. There is also need for shifts in both mindset and government process. Senior decision-makers should think in terms of managing risks of conflict and instability over time, not just responding to immediate events, and they should demand facts to support this approach.

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

We brought together 91 leaders from the Rift Valley for higher-level discussions on strategies for sustainable peace in the Rift Valley for 2012 and beyond. The forum brought together the political leadership from the 8 project districts (MPs, councilors and political party leaders), the provincial administration, (Regional Commissioners, DCs, DOs and Chiefs), police, women leaders, youth leaders, elders, private/business sector leaders, civil society organizations, and DPC members, among others. The forum, themed *Building Bridges for a shared future in Rift Valley: 2012 and Beyond*, invited General (rtd) Lazarus Sumbeiywo as keynote speaker. Gen Sumbeiywo, a resident of the Rift Valley, gave a candid presentation that elicited heated debate on the state of peace in the Rift Valley. While appreciating the current efforts, participants were in agreement that the possibility of a relapse to violence in the Rift Valley is real. The debates that followed after various presenters at the forum made it clear that most tangible issues among competing ethnic blocs in the Rift Valley have become embedded within larger sets of values, beliefs, identities, and cultures of the groups. Disputes about land, access to political power, and other resources have taken on increased symbolic significance, especially among the Kalenjin. Though the participants seemed divided about the past and ways to remedy past injustices for a better, shared future, it was generally agreed that leaders who project a clear and hopeful vision of the future and the ways and means to get there can play a crucial role in sustainable peace. But in addition to looking forward to a shared future, Gen (rtd) Sumbeiywo observed that, "parties must deal with their painful past. Reconciliation not only envisions a common, connected future, but also recognizes the need to redress past wrongdoing. If the communities that fought each other during post-election violence are to renew their relationship and build an interdependent future, what happened must be exposed and then forgiven."

### ***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:**

Everything about the state of peace and reconciliation in the Rift Valley is contested. Actors and the community of residents disagree about most subjects, except one: the importance of dialogue among groups divided by the conflict. As in the past, our community dialogues continued this quarter to attract people from divided communities to hear one another's feelings, values and experiences of the post-election violence. By end of this reporting quarter, 23 such events brought together 1,302 participants. A crucial component of these dialogues has been future imaging, whereby communities form a vision of the shared future they are trying to build. Communities are recognizing that they have more in common in terms of their visions of the future than they do in terms of their shared and violent past; the thought is that if they know where they are trying to go, it will be easier to get there.

Unfortunately, while deliberations from the dialogues organized in the previous quarter were slowly moving from stories of blame to stories of rescue, the events at the ICC this quarter slowed the pace of identifying unifying moments. As the hearings proceeded, wounds seem to have been opened, and enemy lines were re-created. Suspicion seems directed mostly toward the Luos, but there is also reason to believe a lot of suspicions now exist between Kalenjins and Kikuyus. We don't see the enthusiasm and eagerness to tell each other what one experienced/did during the post-election violence as we witnessed in the last quarter. Individuals seem comfortable talking about The Hague with members from their own ethnic groups, rather than with individuals from other ethnic groups. At a community dialogue in Chilchila village, in the larger Kericho, the DPC brought together members of the Luo and Kipsigis communities to discuss threats of violence against a certain community should the trials proceed to full hearing. There is fear that a full trial would hurt Hon. William Ruto's chances of vying for the presidency in 2012. Amidst all this, strong voices of reason have emerged from these community dialogues as demonstrated by the intervention of an elderly lady at the dialogue meeting; "Our Luo neighbors did not take Ruto to the Hague, but even assuming that they did, when you try to hurt back you never hurt the people who hurt you. You normally end up hurting the people who love you."

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

There was a slight delay in the start of this activity. We experienced an unexpected delay of submission of project proposals by some communities. This process is meant to be participatory and democratic and it took some communities longer to reach an agreement than we anticipated. The culture of consensus-/team-based decision-making on complex issues that Mercy Corps is helping to build among communities we work with can be a big challenge for people accustomed to leaving final authority to a single individual. At the time of writing this report, all the projects had been submitted, reviewed for their environmental impact, submitted to USAID for review and approval. All the communities are ready, and once approvals from USAID environmental team comes, the implementation will begin immediately.

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

This activity was reported in the last quarter.

### ***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 have built our local partners' capacity to handle youth-focused activities and consequently seen an increase in the number of youth groups and networks registered with the local partners from 270 reported in the last quarter to over 300 today. The decision taken by WYIPD to hire an M&E focal person after a one-day M&E systems development and management training demonstrated their commitment to organizational improvement and quality programming. Kericho Youth Centre and the Peace and Development Forum in Nakuru each had a one-day training to build their capacity in areas of leadership and strategic planning.

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

While discussions during core leadership trainings in the last quarter focused on building relations and attitude change, this reporting quarter seemed to focus more on challenges facing young Kenyans. The young leaders observed that youth in Kenya need access to both decent formal education and opportunities to acquire a range of vocational and life skills to actively participate in all spheres of an increasingly knowledge-intensive society. This would enable them participate in the society today as young citizens and tomorrow as the country's leaders.

Unfortunately, in this reporting quarter, the complexity of forces working against young people in Kenya was greater than ever. The traditional socio-cultural constraints that have long limited youth participation in the economy and their access to resources are now coupled with Kenya's international issues of debt, the severe food crisis, declining terms of trade, a shilling in free-fall and spiraling inflation. Austerity measures have curbed public and especially family spending, cutting deep into social sector programs that support young people, causing hardship for many of our unemployed youth. The current lack of dynamism in Kenya's economy has meant there are fewer economic opportunities, while innumerable barriers, such as age and gender, lack of relevant education and access to land and capital, obstruct the efforts of young people to break out of poverty. Suspicion and negative perception of young people by their parents still persist. The gravity of the situation is captured by a comment by Major John Seii of the Kalenjin council of elders, who in a recent meeting to strategize ways of involving youth in peacebuilding work, described young people as "squatters in transition." We have noticed this challenge and as part of our efforts next quarter, the core trainings for the young leaders, while emphasizing identification and use of locally-available resources, will encourage young people to look beyond their traditional ethnic and village settings for emerging opportunities; a shift to "simple living, high thinking in hard times."

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

We implemented 21 cash-for-work projects this quarter, bringing the total implemented to 26. We continue to pay specific attention to the needs and capacities of conflict-affected communities, with particular attention to issues relating to unemployed youth. While our cash-based responses strive to increase the purchasing power of young people in order to empower them to meet their own needs, we continue to use the space created by this activity to engage the youth on issues relating to conflicts and peace in their settings. We engage them in identifying creative opportunities for youth employment and involvement in economic activities that tap into their positive energy and skills. We engage them on civic debates that respond to issues affecting their country and what role they can play. We have seen increased levels of awareness after every 21 days of interaction in these cash-for-work activities. At an official launch of a rehabilitated rural access road by Bamo youth group in Ainamoi by the area DC Mr. Samuel Njora, Jean Opana, the Kericho East Youth Development coordinator, captured the mood of the youth group: "We can no longer be casually dismissed, young Kenyans have the largest stake in ensuring that Kenya remains strong for its own peace and stability. It is the youth that do the bulk of the fighting in Kenya's politically-instigated ethnic violence. If Kenya fails to maintain peace and stability, it is the youth that will have to fight to restore it; we must therefore be taken seriously." It has been great to see the interest these cash-for-work projects have generated among members of the beneficiary communities. The young people's efforts have captured the attention of their parents, local leaders, their disinterested peers and the government. The activity is definitely contributing to transforming social relations, shifting power distribution, widening the space for dealing with the past, promoting truth and tolerance and challenging authorities.

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

The process of implementing income-generating activities and linking youth groups with the private sector started with a market and labor survey. The results of the survey showed that young

people have some level of basic ingenuity and understanding about managing finances and small-scale businesses. Through the Yes Youth Can! market and labor survey, we were able to understand what opportunities for small to medium enterprises exist in target districts, their strengths and limitations. This has also formed the basis for identifying economic constraints on youth groups and training needs, and eventually building mechanisms to address their needs. To date, we have trained 100 young potential entrepreneurs from the 8 program districts. The training program, while aiming to equip the potential entrepreneurs with basic skills like book keeping, developing of business plans, marketing and understanding market conditions, leadership and financial literacy, also aimed to: 1) Help young people come up with relatively simple project designs that can quickly be formulated and implemented, 2) Empower and increase self-reliance to help improve the bargaining power of youth groups and their members by providing an alternative to exploitative indebtedness; and 3) Promote organization, mobilization and group formation of young people within the framework of an income-generating project. In this way young people can end existing exploitative relationships and also make their collective voice heard in community affairs and politics. We plan to disburse funds for start-up of the businesses in the beginning of December, 2011.

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

A total of 86 young people affiliated to three YSHGs were visited for success stories sharing and collection within Uasin Gishu County. In a full day session for each group, all group members engaged in sharing and identifying most significant change in terms of stories of hope and connection. Our first meeting with Kapsoya Border Farm group was aired by Sayare television station in Eldoret. *The Standard* newspaper carried a two page story of how young people are using IGAs as sources of income for peace, and Citizen TV aired SAKAMU youth for peace repairing a bridge in Molo for peace. Most of our cash-for-work projects have received wide media coverage in the region with the most discussed being the SAYARE TV and KASS TV footages of Uasin Gishu Deaf YSHG project and Tumaini Women YSHG project in Nandi. During this quarter, three short stories were developed by the team working with the youth groups and will be published next quarter in local dailies and social media.

### **III. Constraints and Challenges**

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- We are witnessing increased political activities towards securing the 2012 elections with the traditional carelessness associated with politicians still intact. Most politicians, rather than developing serious policies and development plans to sell to the public, have resorted to the old habit of generating collective ethnic grievances to earn them ethnic support. This is threatening to erode the gains already made in reconciliation efforts.
- On an emotional and relational level, the confirmation of charges hearings at the ICC have created a rather ironic opportunity for empathy with the suspects and helped strengthen “in-group” feelings, especially from the communities where the suspects come from. This has slowed down the earlier pace of movement of communities from reactive blame to capacity to walk in the other’s shoes.
- The Truth, Justice and Reconciliation Commission meetings within the Rift Valley, while important, have only succeeded in opening up many healing wounds, with no strategies for dealing with the emotions.

### **IV. Lessons Learned**

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- The happenings at the ICC and the start of campaigns for 2012 have shown just how much past peacebuilding efforts can be reversed or erased all together in one go. We have learned the importance of sound analysis, clarity of purpose, flexible strategizing, and the need for high levels of frustration tolerance in planning implementation of peacebuilding activities in a post-conflict setting.
- We have learned the importance of strategic planning and setting the priorities at the outset. In times of tensions, we have learned that the sequencing of events/activities, the choice of actors and even location of activity are critical for success.

## **V. Planned activities for next period of three months, October – December 2011**

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October – December 2011 will form the second quarter in year two of LEAP II program implementation. Our commitment to ensure strong DPCs that are capable of handling community conflicts will continue and even stretch to the Location Peace Committees (LPCs) throughout next quarter. District leaders' meetings to have leaders discuss issues affecting their districts will also be running in the next three months. We will invite all peace stakeholders for a program reflection and learning meeting in the month of December. Mercy Corps' support to reconciliation in the Rift Valley through community reconciliation dialogue forums will continue. Implementation for the USAID-approved community projects will start in November and December. Our three local partners' capacity will determine how efficiently and impactful we will implement LEAP. Mercy Corps will continue investing in building their capacity in the next quarter to improve on the existing areas of weaknesses like leadership and project M&E. Remaining cash-for-work projects will continue alongside training and implementation of YSHGs IGAs in the next quarter. Production and sharing of youth success stories will proceed in October and November.

Activity (Person responsible)	2011		
	October	November	December
<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: Baseline, conflict assessment and mapping**

This activity was completed and is not scheduled for next quarter implementation or reporting.

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

As it has been, we will continue to work with all the eight DPCs throughout next quarter. However, we plan to do this through the Location Peace Committees (LPCs) so as to reach a wider community. Much of this will be done through our planned community projects implementation, proposed in most communities.

### **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**

This activity will continue throughout the next quarter. Topical issues especially those that point towards peaceful coexistence in all the districts will be discussed by leaders who hold stake in those areas. The forums will have a balanced group of leaders depending on the areas of discussions. Invited leaders will range from religious leaders, politicians, village elders, business people, CSOs, women and youth representatives.

### **Activity 1.5: Establishment of early warning systems**

This activity was completed and the EWS is up and running. The activity is therefore not scheduled for next quarter implementation.

### **Activity 1.6: Multidistrict and provincial leaders' regional forum**

This activity is not scheduled for next quarter implementation.

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

We will invite local stakeholders that include CSOs representatives, government officials, youth representatives and DPC members to a program reflective and learning meeting in December, 2011.

### ***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**

We will facilitate communities to engage in dialogues either as different communities or members within a given community with the objective of strengthening their relationships through conflict issues identification and solutions discussions. The meetings of at least 20 community members will be organized by either DPC members, LPC members or a CSO with experience in community organization and peace building. We envisage that this will run through out next quarter.

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

We will have the first group of community projects launched in November and December after USAID approval of all the 64 proposed projects. It is expected that through these projects, community members will have improved livelihoods in different ways. A pool of trained community project monitors will help monitor initiation and implementation of this activity in their respective areas for accountability.

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

This activity is not scheduled for next quarter implementation and reporting

*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**

As it has been in every quarter, Mercy Corps will conduct organizational capacity building for its three local partners next quarter. Our main reference materials for local partner capacity building; Mercy Corps Localizing Institutional Capacity (LINCS) tool will be used.

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

We will continue to encourage our local partners to ensure close follow up of the trained YSHG leaders for knowledge application. As this will be happening, selection of promising YSHG leaders and especially those interested in entrepreneurship will be initiated to have them train and mentor others on entrepreneurship. This activity is scheduled for the months of October and December.

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

Our local partners will continue spearheading the few remaining cash-for-work activities with our financial and technical support for maximum impact. All the LEAP II cash-for-work projects will be completed by December 2011. As we have seen before, participating youth have improved their relationships, incomes and saving culture with the one month steady wage earnings.

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

Starting November, we will evaluate various business plans presented by different youth groups after the training. We plan to disburse funds to successful groups at the beginning of December.

### **Activity 3.5: Production of eight youth success stories**

Mercy Corps together with its local partners and select members of the fourth estate will continue organizing youths within program areas to share their stories of change. We have blocked October and November next quarter to have this done. As per the objective of this activity, we will not only have the stories in writing or video for dissemination but we will also seek to engage the participating youth in the process of hope and change stories sharing for learning and perception change within themselves. We plan to organize one youth group stories sharing session in Kericho, three in Uasin Gishu and one in Nakuru.

## **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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