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Peace – LEAP II)  
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# **(Rift Valley Local Empowerment for Peace Program- LEAP II, AO)**

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## Acronyms and Abbreviations

CD	Country Director
DPC	District Peace Committee
EWS	Early Warning Systems
EWER	Early Warning and Early Response System
IGA	Income Generation Activity
LEAP	Local Empowerment for Peace
LPCs	Location Peace Committees
M&E	Monitoring and Evaluation
MSC	Most Significant Change
NSC	National Steering Committee
ODM	Orange Democratic Movement
PEV/MSC	Participatory Evaluation Video/Most Significant Change
YDC	Youth Development Coordinator
YIGA	Youth Income Generating Activities
YSHG	Youth Self Help Group
YYC	Yes Youth Can!
UDM	United Democratic Movement
USAID	United States Agency for International Development
CDF	Constituency Development Fund

# **I. RIFT VALLEY LOCAL EMPOWERMENT FOR PEACE - LEAP EXECUTIVE SUMMARY**

Rift Valley Local Empowerment for Peace (LEAP) is a peace building and reconstruction program that began implementation in 2009 following violent conflicts after Kenya's disputed presidential elections in December 2007. LEAP II is a two-year program with the overarching goal 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. LEAP II builds on the successes of LEAP I, a program that was implemented from January 2009 to July 2010. LEAP II Program began in July 2010 and it covers eight districts of Rift Valley namely: Molo, Kericho East, Kericho West, Eldoret East, Wareng, Eldoret West, Keiyo and Nandi North. However, in the course of program implementation, the government split some of the districts such as Keiyo and Kericho giving rise to two new districts which we maintained throughout the program period. The third objective of LEAP is being implemented by Mercy Corps together with Wareng Youth Initiative for Peace and Development (Eldoret), Kericho Youth Centre (Kericho) and Peace Development Forum (Nakuru/Molo),

This report covers the period from April to June of 2012, the eighth quarter of the two-year program. This quarter marked the culmination of LEAP II and saw implementation of youth income generating activities, DPC strengthening, EWER training, community dialogues by DPC and civil society groups and community reconstruction projects in the eight districts. Major projects were peace dividends in conflict areas that facilitate cohesion and sustainability of good relationships among otherwise divided communities. It is also acknowledged that the youth-led income generating activities contributed significantly to employment creation and economic development among the youth and their communities. In addition, the projects expanded networks of communities and individuals within and outside their respective localities and especially with government officers and ministries, traders, opinion leaders and communities. Through all these, success stories of change and peace have been written.

Cumulatively, the eighth quarter of LEAP II program was able to exceed expected deliverables and indicators. The implementation of income generating activities saw the engagement of 200 youth making a total of 731 in the entire program hence 366% of the program target. In addition, 18 YIGAs were linked with private sector mentors this quarter for a total of 27 during the life of the program hence 135% of the program target. Sixty-three community reconstruction projects are under implementation in Nakuru, Kericho and Eldoret reaching 6,400 people. Following capacity building of district peace committees, there were educational events to teach the public on peacebuilding and conflict resolution. The DPCs therefore conducted 5 forums for a total of 35 during the life of the program.

Mercy Corps' successful implementation of the program is a result of sound planning and support from stakeholders- the local leaders, project committees, youth leaders, government line ministries and officials, and complementarity of programs within the organization. One outstanding factor attributed to IGA, CfW and community reconstruction projects is capacity building of beneficiaries to be able to manage projects on their own guided by the principles of transparency, accountability and participation. However, challenges were faced in the project implementation process due to high expectations specifically from communities and youth; in availability of materials, inflation effects on budgets and group dynamics. In addition, national politics influenced the co-existence of diverse ethnic communities as well as perceptions of programs that are being implemented. However, timely action by the DPCs and synergized efforts of peace actors helped leverage the gains made since post-election violence.

## **Qualitative Progress**

The implementation of youth-led income generating activities, community projects and community dialogues impacted the dynamics in respective sectors. The approach to build capacity of youth and communities had greater impact than expected. Prior to disbursement of grants, youth and community project committees were trained on project management, group dynamics, accountability, negotiation, consensus-building, and leadership to address immediate and anticipated challenges in projects. These areas of training were identified at the planning stage where staff interacted with various groups and project managers who identified these needs in advance. Also, these areas were to support sustainability of projects after the program ends; as well as inculcate virtues that will be employed in other community projects such as those funded by government devolved funds. In line with this, all projects were implemented with the involvement of government officials in provincial administration and line ministries so as to receive technical support. As a result, the projects were incorporated in the monitoring work-plans developed by respective District Development Officers in the Ministry of Planning hence complementing Mercy Corps project monitoring process.

Subsequently, the capacity building approach has been adopted by Ministry of Youth Affairs where it trains youth to mobilize resources on their own, and imparts skills to help youth manage groups and projects. It has inculcated among youth the aspect of participation in decision-making and resource management which used to be left for executive committees. The mentorship of youth groups by YDCs has been fruitful particularly in social transformation and empowerment of female youth who for many years have been behind due to cultural issues, under-representation and non-participation in leadership, for instance in Nandi, Keiyo, Kericho and remote areas of Uasin Gishu and Molo. Those women who were mentored were in turn capable of mentoring others which gave rise to formation of women-led youth group in Nandi North district. The mentor group is now a leading youth group in poultry and is giving technical support to youth in Uasin Gishu, Nandi North and Keiyo. In addition, mentorship coupled with onsite training on specific needs/gaps contributed to the success of projects as problems faced in the course of implementation were tackled before they went out of hand.

The focus on participation helped ensure that all sections of a community were represented. If the team perceived potential exclusion of a community segment, the DPC, local leaders and MC staff worked together to ensure the inclusion of the whole community in the project while addressing the challenges that accompany change. As a result, communities have a deep appreciation of this effective, participatory management style employed by CDF in the implementation of their community or public projects. This participatory approach to governance is also emphasized in the new constitution. The community projects and youth income generating activities were linked to various government line ministries for either technical support or compliance-related matters. It was an eye-opener for communities and youth to learn relevant requirements pertaining to trade licensing, livestock movement, animal and crop husbandry, occupational health and safety regulations, standardization and production or use of quality products.

Unlike other projects, LEAP II called for competitive bidding for grants by communities and youth groups to encourage ownership and sustainability. As a result, LEAP II projects are community/youth-initiated, community/youth-driven and resulting in hard-earned economic

empowerment and social transformation of communities/youth, as opposed to being imposed on or 'given' to them.

Capacity building of District Peace Committee of Nandi North was able to intervene in the clashes that broke out in Muhoroni-Chemelil along the border of Rift Valley and Nyanza provinces in May 2012. The Committee was able to mobilize support of the Nandi Council of Elders to lead in negotiation for peace with the Luo Council of Elders. This effort was also complemented by Wareng Youth Initiative for Peace (also MC Partner under the YYC program covering Nandi County) who mobilized Youth Bunges along the border for dialogue that yielded in cease fire and development of sustainable strategies that are now being implemented to ensure peaceful elections. These initiatives have resulted in synergized and coordinated efforts by various actors who are currently devising long-term strategies for peaceful co-existence of Nandi and Luo ethnic communities along the common border. In addition, the actors are employing 'Do No Harm' principle based on the lessons learnt from interventions and the subsequent effects.

## **Quantitative Progress**

This quarter saw the accomplishments of the following:

- 8 Youth Income generating activities participated by 200 youth in total (each group contains 15 to 25 members)
- 18 YIGAs linked to private sector for mentorship
- 63 community reconstruction projects that reached 6,400 people
- 5 educational events led by District Peace Committees using the skills gained in conflict resolution and negotiation; that strengthened understanding among conflict affected communities/groups through community based reconciliation processes
- 14 public fora to teach the public about peace processes

Cumulatively, this quarter reached 6,600 people – 2,260 females and 4,340 males. These achievements build on the foundational activities reported in the previous quarterly reports which include the following:

The training of representatives from youth self-help groups in entrepreneurship is one of the capacity building efforts that enabled the groups to come up with business plans. Business plans of promising projects were shortlisted and pre-visit made to these groups to establish if they were viable and also to assist groups to make corrections in technical areas such as financial projections, profit and loss analysis and budgets. Vetting was also guided by available funds, compliance, contribution of business to peacebuilding, group contribution to the project, and viability of the project. The groups were linked to private sector and government line ministry for mentorship and technical support respectively. Market survey was done during training to give precise projections of market trends and to determine products and prices in that season.

The district peace committees led the community dialogues (in areas that experienced conflict) that culminated in the identification of community reconstruction projects. The identified projects underwent environmental impact assessments. Assessment outcomes informed mitigation measures for each project. Four (4) monitors from each project (outside the project committee) were identified and trained on project management, leadership, governance, accountability, negotiation and transparency. The monitors also complemented the Early Warning Early Response teams in the communities along with the DPCs. Sub-grant agreements were drawn for each project that obligated the project committees and DPCs to manage the funds efficiently. The project committees were linked with government line ministries and technical agencies such as TechnoServe to help communities in the implementation process. These linkages also helped the communities acquire an

in-depth understanding of each sector they were engaging in such as quality of breeds in the case of livestock and poultry, animal movement, occupational health and safety, appropriate husbandry, best practices and trade licensing. The linkage of communities to line ministries and related departments enable them to determine government plan for development in certain areas hence able to direct resources to priority areas of development.

Following the training of DPC on conflict management and resolution, they were able to go out of their way and educate the public on the importance of peace, lead in conflict resolution and mediated in conflicts at community level. They were also able to liaise with peace committees of districts that encountered conflict to give them moral support and link them to other agencies for support especially civil society and the NSC.

### **Project Administration**

The sub-granting process for community reconstruction projects took longer than expected resulting in project implementation late into the quarter. However, since communities were prepared and had established required networks, they were able to implement the projects immediately upon receiving funds. The exit of Program Manager in the course of Program implementation (June 2012) was cushioned through support from Nairobi team and advance planning as reflected in the workplan for the period. Leadership was provided by able team members within the program to adequately fill the gap. The goodwill of the community and local leadership are key strengths of the program that we treasure. These are the key factors behind the success of LEAPII and can be leveraged to support future program activities.

### **Next Quarter's Work Plan**

This report covers the last quarter of the two-year grant period.

## **II. KEY ACHIEVEMENTS (Qualitative Progress)**

**Overall 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**

**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:**

Direct training for Keiyo South DPC was carried out during this reporting quarter. The 15-member DPC was trained on their roles, responsibilities, resource mobilization, conflict resolution and negotiation. As a result of the training, they were able to conduct four community dialogues on land-related conflicts along Kerio Valley. Following the demise of their chairman, the training helped the remaining team develop leadership qualities worthy of DPC leaders, as stipulated in the NSC guidelines. As a result they were able to identify a chairperson outside the existing membership – a man of repute.

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

Training for district leaders was conducted in Nakuru, Kericho and Eldoret areas to equip district leaders with conflict management and assessment skills. The skills helped them identify factors that threaten peace and determine appropriate interventions in response to conflict. These were necessitated by prevailing issues such as ongoing ICC cases, politics/campaigns and regional/national issues that tend to threaten stability and cohesion of communities.

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

This activity was not undertaken during this quarter.

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

While Early Warning Early Response teams are in place, we conducted follow-up trainings in Kericho and Nakuru to reinforce mechanisms already in place and to capacity build the district peace committees on the same especially the government's EWER system.

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

This activity was carried out during the previous quarter. The lessons gained by DPCs from an exchange visit to Wajir have been employed in the implementation of community reconstruction projects and in mobilizing resources for dialogue. For instance, Keiyo North DPC was able to get transport from CDF office during community dialogue – the committee creates a workplan and submits it to CDF manager who in turn makes arrangement for availability of a 4-wheel vehicle for their use within the district.

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

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

As per the revised work plan, July 2011-July 2012, this activity was reported in our fifth quarterly report.

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

The District Peace Committee was involved in community dialogues aimed at reconciliation and identification of community projects. Out of 64 projects identified, 63 were approved by USAID. As a result, disbursement of 63 grants were made this quarter which were used to implement various projects that included environmental and road rehabilitation, livestock, poultry, agricultural, medium enterprises and horticulture in ten districts of Rift Valley. It was a rigorous process that engaged players in public, private and civil society sectors who contributed material, additional finance and technical support to beneficiary communities. Communities have demonstrated increased willingness to cooperate across conflict lines and work jointly in the implementation process – drawing workplans, budgeting and actual project activity. In addition, the project process introduced improved technologies and best practices that the communities have already applied in the management of projects financed by devolved funds. In most cases, the community devised mitigation measures against conflicts surrounding projects using participatory approaches. Among beneficiary communities are those who were displaced during post-election violence and reclamation of government forests; and minority communities. Monitoring of the projects is done jointly by project monitors, district development office and Mercy Corps staff. All projects were linked to government line ministries and successful entrepreneurs or groups for technical support, quality assurance, compliance and sustained synergies for development.

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

This was reported in the previous report. However, the teams were engaged when consensus building and economic development projects were being implemented. They give feedback on project progress highlighting success indicators as well as identification of any deviation for immediate corrective action.

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

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

This activity was reported in the previous reports.

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

The program continued to strengthen the capacity of existing YSHGs to engage young people and cultivate youth leadership. In our attempt to create a large coalition of youth groups that can stand up and say no to violence, youth groups are now organized to determine the content of meetings and agenda; they define their own goals in the group, model healthy interactions, ensure meetings take place consistently, set individual goals and act on their decisions based on key principles of reciprocity, respect, trust, shared leadership, responsibility and non-violence. The trainings have empowered the youth to take charge of their destiny and manage their affairs independently while mutually addressing the challenges that come their way e.g. group dynamics, resource distribution and management crises.

#### **Activity 3.3 Youth-led Cash-for-Work initiatives:**

All 40 cash-for-work activities have been completed. In the course of monitoring the YIGAs and community reconstruction projects, we are visiting the groups to mentor them and provide onsite training on areas of need or with gaps. In this quarter, we are carrying out an internal evaluation of youth-led initiatives to assess impact as well as document success stories.

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

Eight (8) YIGAs were implemented this quarter with the participation of 200 youth, for a total of 731 young people in 40 youth groups engaged over the life of the program. While we record 100% success in YIGAs, beneficiary groups have elicited multiplier effect in that the projects have become learning centers for new and old YSHGs in their respective districts. 120 youth groups participated in the competitive process where 40 groups with viable business plans qualified for grants in the eight districts (hence 5 YIGA per district). The groups appreciated the transparency of the process as compared to non-transparent assistance through private or public sector.

Successful groups have mentored two to three groups within their localities because our training package and mentorship program is comprehensive giving youth a wide range of knowledge and skills that are used immediately and in future. The beneficiaries appreciated the importance of compliance not only with donor regulations but also government/trade requirements. Safety of both workers and customers in business premises was a new aspect incorporated in the entrepreneurship activity.

In addition, the IGA projects have introduced best practices and transfer of knowledge, skills and technologies in respective sectors/fields. Linking YIGAs to respective government line ministries and private sector mentors have increased the capacity of beneficiaries to increase their profits, access better markets, stock quality products, working in safe environment and embracing diversity in trade and relationships in the community.

The new IGAs are learning from successful youth groups such as Tumaini Women Youth Group in Nandi North district that has mentored youth groups in all the five districts we work in. They are perceived as 'experts' in poultry keeping and youth would consult with them freely than extension officers who are hardly found in the villages. Other groups are contacting them on their own even mobilizing resources to establish poultry projects. A case in point is a data collector in WU Program who upon learning of the successes of Tumaini went to establish a group in his village (Ilula, Eldoret East District) and made a tour to Nandi North to learn the details of the business.

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

We continue to collect, document and share success stories from our YSHGs this reporting quarter. These are stories that depict how different groups of young people came together to build support and momentum for change. While the sharing of stories is helping build networks for support of individuals and groups, they are informing us of the change that has occurred since interventions were employed. They facilitate sharing of experiences and help show how the groups and individuals have come a long way in re-building broken relationships while devising ways to sustain them. So far 15 stories have been documented and are being translated into publishable Kiswahili version for wider readership of the youth and local communities.

Here are a few encouraging lessons from YSHG:

*In a circle of members of Bamoi Group in Ainamoi Constituency, people are encouraging each other. Their stories are full of difficulty, struggle, and disappointments. They are also full of perseverance, renewal, and finding strength in unity. "When I was selling milk in 1995-2003, I used to sell milk to people from all tribes but after the post-election violence, some people told me, 'there are no customers to buy the milk'" said one of the group members.*

*"When I was in Form 2 during the PEV 2007, we had a teacher who was a Kikuyu. He used to teach us but went away when violence erupted. When I sat down I thought, 'who will teach us English and literature?' During games time, he was guiding and counseling master. When he went away, we had no teacher for guiding and counseling." Another member said.*

*“Previously I thought nobody would die in this area. We used to wake up in the morning and know that in the evening we will sleep. It’s like harvesting, if you tell someone there is a place you can’t harvest, they will not believe” said Richard Maritim*

*Whether because of opportunities lost, relationships broken, or beliefs shattered, this group has known great suffering in the wake of the 2007-08 violence. However, talking about the teacher who disappeared, one man remembered, “He used to like speaking about agriculture. He used to tell us that he had reared 500 hens. In that 500, the proceeds of half of the poultry is your profit.” Recalling that teacher’s advice, “I sat down and thought, as youth, if we start poultry farming, tomorrow you will assist another person because of the proceeds you get.”*

*Chairman Sammy Barmao shares the challenges he faced questioning whether he would finish secondary school because of his family’s struggle with school fees. He finished school financed by income from selling egg. After completing secondary school, he soon found the search for someone else to employ him was leading nowhere. He decided to come together with friends to form Bamo group. “The formation of that group was not straightforward because we had to take a lot of time – it was nearly a year before we could get the group together.” Barmao explains that “We started by a merry-go-round to assist the whole group... We had to be patient because we had the knowledge of being a leader – patient, honest, humble.”*

*One after another, Bamo group members talk about the impact of small savings that came from a cash-for-work project, poultry rearing, keeping bees, and farming. Wesley Langat explains, “One day we harvested 52 kilos of honey, and we told the community, everyone to taste first, it was like a donation. We said, we shall assist others, so we said, ‘let them taste.’” Giving people a taste has been a catalyst for hope and action in the larger community. Bamo Group has facilitated and inspired the creation of other local self-help groups, some engaged in chicken-rearing or agriculture, others providing training and support so that people with disabilities can be self-supporting, others supporting health and welfare of single mothers.*

*Richard Maritim, a founder of the Boiwek Multi-Purpose Group another local self-help group working with Bamo explains that “To be different we started solving our problems; we saw the youth did not have any employment. We defined our strategy and projects when we asked, ‘what can we do?’...We decided to start with poultry keeping as a major project where we will buy 20 chicken to each member and 100 for the group. We thought that when we become successful in that, we will mobilize profits which we will use to establish horticulture farm specializing in local and exotic varieties of vegetables.” Maritim talks about the group are increasing capacity to assist others. It was not only the economic empowerment that hold key to solution of problems in Bamo’s village, but conflict that brought the significant change. “Peace doesn’t have a boundary,” he says. “Somebody can say ‘take care of your cow that it does not come on my compound’ - or ‘don’t let your chicken eat my vegetables.’ But no one can say that about peace. It can go even to Luo-land with nobody knowing.” It was this strategy and ambition that drove Bamo Group to greater heights where it established networks with Kericho Youth Centre that build their capacity to enable them competitively access’ IGA grants and acquire techniques to resolve conflicts and maintain peace right at community level through support from MercyCorps.*

*One woman shared in the circle: “Let’s get united.....love is always enough but sugar will not be enough. Let’s work and farm so that we can progress and eradicate poverty..... pray for our children so that they obey us. We will be blessed from the work of our hands to be able to school our children so they will not go to the streets and steal other people’s money. Let’s continue working for God gives us patience.”*

### **Lessons Learned (Unexpected Challenges and Successes)**

- It is possible to transform youth by giving them skills to enable them to ‘fish for themselves’. The onsite trainings and mentorship of YSHGs have transformed them to mobilize resources and identify market for their products.
- YSHGs have what it takes to transform them from community-based self-help groups to corporate bodies (companies) and non-governmental organizations

- Mainstreaming peace in entrepreneurship imparts a new dimension in trade. This shows that business linkages can contribute to transfer of positive values and relationships which are essential for diverse communities and individuals to co-exist.
- The pursuit of achieving 1/3<sup>rd</sup> representation of gender, people with disabilities, displaced persons, minority tribes and those living with HIV/AIDs requires planning. This is a unique programming perspective that we have championed.
- While politics play a major role in the lives of Kenyans, it takes a few agents of change to instill 'sobriety' in the community by standing up for peace.
- Continuous capacity building of our sub-partners has resulted in development of personnel, effective and efficient management and financial systems; and adoption of appropriate strategies for project implementation has opened opportunities for financial support outside Mercy Corps grant. For instance WYIPD was able to access funds for civic education by UNDP and Conflict mitigation grants from USAID/KTI while PDF was able to access funds from USAID/KTI – all these are program targeting youth.
- ICC issue is still affecting mainly Kericho and Eldoret areas due to the esteem communities have for two suspects from the Kalenjin community. This was further escalated by the statement issued by the council of elders that threatened to mobilize signatures to challenge the case.

### III. PROGRAM PROGRESS (Quantitative Progress)

Indicator	Overall target by end of program	This quarter	Cumulative	% to date
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*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*

# of people reached through completed USG supported community based reconciliation	3,500	6,600	14,257	407%
<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	0	8	100%
1.2b # of public fora/educational events to teach public about peace process.	20 by Feb. 2011, 40 by EoP	14	42	105%
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	330	110%
1.3b # of disputes resolved by program participants.	32	0	39	129%

Indicator	Overall target by end of program	This quarter	Cumulative	% to date
1.4a # of USG-supported facilitated events geared toward strengthening understanding among conflict-affected groups <b>(Indicator no. 110)</b>	32	5	35	109%
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	0	993	414%
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	8	100%
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	0	84	105
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	0	4,435	185%
2.2a # of joint reconstruction projects implemented that benefit conflict-affected communities	20 by end of year 1, 64 by end of program	0	64	100%
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	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	481	100%
3.2b % change of young people who report using skills to address a challenge in their lives	75%	0	0	0%

Indicator	Overall target by end of program	This quarter	Cumulative	% to date
3.3a # of Cash-for-work sites where 'connector' (re) construction projects have been implemented	40	0	40	100%
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	8	40	100%
3.4a # of youth who participate in implementing income generating projects	200	200	731	366%
3.4b # of private sector mentors engaged	20	18	27	135%
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	12	150%

## **IV. PERFORMANCE MONITORING**

Performance monitoring was well laid out and we did not experience data quality problems. Challenges were programmatic in nature at the community level.

The engagement and presence of Youth Development Coordinators at district level provided much needed support for implementation and monitoring of youth-led initiatives. In this quarter, we implemented 8 IGAs a weeks after start-up so that the Coordinators would give the necessary assistance in the event of challenges such as procurement of quality variety, brand and number of project inputs; management of changes such as project sites and leadership; and unfavorable weather conditions for agriculture-based businesses. Also, the Coordinators were present to provide training on accountability, record keeping and branding of IGAs.

With respect to community projects, project monitors were trained prior to the implementation process and were kept abreast of the granting process. When the grants were disbursed, they were ready on the ground to ensure compliance and implementation of the project in line with objectives, compliance standards and expectations. Monitors are complemented by Mercy Corps staff who also assist in handling challenges that the groups face during procurement project inputs and management of projects. The challenge mainly has been getting the right number and quality of products required for the project which has been addressed by farmer associations, government line ministries, partners such as TechnoServe and civil society groups who have implemented similar projects.

## **V. NEXT QUARTER'S WORK PLAN**

This is the last quarter of our grant period.

## VI. FINANCIAL INFORMATION

### Cash Flow Report and Financial Projections (Pipeline Burn-Rate)

Chart I: Obligations & Current and Projected Expenditures

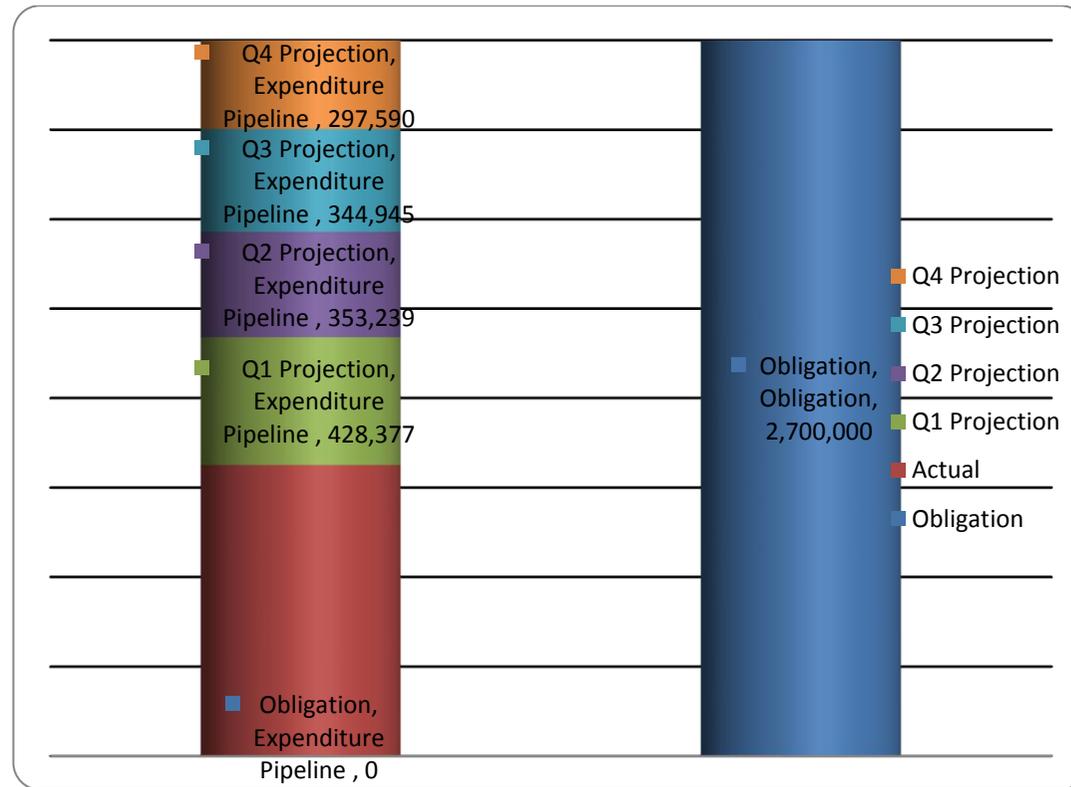


Table 2: Budget Details

Obligation	Actual Expenditures	1st Quarter Projected Expenditures	2nd Quarter Projected Expenditures	3rd Quarter Projected Expenditures	4th Quarter Projected Expenditures
	<b>2,700,000</b>	<b>428,377</b>	<b>353,239</b>	<b>344,945</b>	<b>297,590</b>

<b>Salary and Wages</b>	381,772	76,253	76,452	76,452	76,626
<b>Fringe Benefits</b>	178,209	34,314	34,403	34,403	34,482
<b>Travel, Transport, Per Diem</b>	33,041	8,550	10,215	9,825	11,825
<b>Equipment</b>	40,505	4,320	4,320	4,320	4,320
<b>Supplies</b>	21,217	7,500	2,000	0	0
<b>Contractual</b>	301,098	135,752	157,885	149,852	106,201
<b>Construction</b>	0	96,000	0	0	0
<b>Other Direct Costs</b>	163,464	22,335	21,889	25,321	25,321
<b>Indirect Charges</b>	156,541	43,354	46,075	44,772	38,816

## Budget Notes

<b>Salary and Wages</b>	Salaries for the coming quarters are calculated based on the expected number of engaged staff in program implementation.
<b>Fringe Benefits</b>	Fringe benefits are constant ratio against all salaries and wages calculated based on the Kenya Labor Law requirements and Mercy Corps internal policies.
<b>Travel, Transport, Per Diem</b>	Travel expenses have been consistent and they are projected to increase with the recruitment of all budgeted staff and more frequent field trips.
<b>Equipment</b>	Depreciation rate is the only expense budgeted under Mod 2. Expense is expected to be constant and based on the vehicle usage under this program,
<b>Supplies</b>	Majority of procurement is expected in the first quarter.
<b>Contractual</b>	Expenditures related to direct program implementation inclusive of participant training expenditures and expenditures incurred by sub-grantees.

<b>Construction</b>	With latest budget realignment, USD 96,000 line has been allocated to this budget line. As it relates mainly to community construction projects which were in pipeline in the last quarter, it is expected that the budget under this cost category is fully utilized in coming quarter.
<b>Other Direct Costs</b>	The level of expenditures is expected to be consistent in coming period.
<b>Indirect Charges</b>	Calculated as per Award conditions.

## VII. PROJECT ADMINISTRATION

### Constraints and Critical Issues

#### Personnel

The challenge we had in the quarter was the exit of the Program Manager in June 2012, one month before the close of LEAP II Program. Recruitment of Chief of Party for LEAP III is underway to support the implementation of the next phase of the program.

#### Changes in the Project

None.

#### Contract Modifications and Amendments

Modification one to the cooperative agreement became effective May 8, 2012,

Modification two to the cooperative agreement became effective on July 3, 2012. The modification provided a one-year, one million dollar cost-extension for the program.

## VIII. Information for Annual Reports Only

This section is not applicable for this reporting period.

### Annex I: Schedule of Future Events

Date	Location	Activity	Level of USG Participation, IF Requested
21 <sup>st</sup> September 2012	Eldoret	<i>International Day of Peace – bringing together peace committees, communities and government officers to the ceremony in one place – various activities will precede this event – sports and multi-ethnic dialogues</i>	

Dates for other activities will be fixed based on the workplan for the new grant period.

## **Attachment II: List of Deliverable Products**

None for this quarter.