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**Yes Youth Can! National (YYCN)**

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

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CBF	County Bunge Forum
CD	Country Director
CFRC	County Financial Review Committee
COP	Chief of Party
DCOP	Deputy Chief of Party
FM	Fund Manager
GOK	Government of Kenya
MFI	Microfinance Institution
NYBA	National Youth Bunge Association
NGO	Non-Governmental Organization
SACCOs	Savings and Credit Cooperatives
SMEs	Small and Medium Enterprises
SYTT	Sustainable Youth Think Tank
TA	Technology Advisor
TTB	Table Top Banking
TTED	Think Tank Executive Director
TYF	Tahidi Youth Fund
YYC	Yes Youth Can!
YYCR	Yes Youth Can! Regional Implementing Partner
YYCN	Yes Youth Can! National
USAID	United States Agency for International Development

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## **EXECUTIVE SUMMARY**

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This report summarizes the key activities implemented and the associated accomplishments for the USAID Yes Youth Can!National (YYCN) program. The report covers the third quarter of USAID fiscal year 2012 (April 1- June 30, 2012) and the fourth quarter of the first year of program implementation. The YYCN activities are aimed at empowering youth to promote their own development and become responsible citizens for peace and security.

The program has been involved in youth mobilization activities in all areas in which the YYCN is being implemented. A total of 12,956 youth bungees had been formed by the end of this quarter under review. The cumulative total number of youths reached directly through the youth bungees structure, as recorded in the bunge tracker, by the end June 2012 was 238,327. However, by the end of this reporting period, a total of 411,275 youths had been reached by the YYC program, translating into 32% of the Year 1 target achieved.

Through the Regional Opportunity Exhibitions, the program reached 1,450 Youth Bunge members which account for 14% of the target. More exhibitions have been earmarked for the next quarter where the youth will exhibit their opportunities as well as learn from their fellow youth across the country. The Do-It-Yourself Entrepreneurship Toolkit was rolled-out to 4,271 Youth Bungees and delivered directly by the youth. During the period under review, the program reached a total of 131,356 youths with DIY toolkit accounting for 26% of the target as at end of the reporting period. Youth reported finding the content useful and relevant to their existing and start-up business ventures.

In this period, the grants team held County Bunge Forum and County Financial Review Committee briefings in all the twenty-five counties during the quarter. As the program is youth-led, youth-managed and youth-owned, the youth leaders at the County Bunge Forums were integrally involved in the distribution, planning, and pre-approval of grants. A total of 15,079 grant applications were distributed in all regions with Nyanza and Rift Valley provinces receiving 39% and 28% of all applications, respectively. Of the total forms distributed, a total of 6,807 applications were received by the program, with 4,219 being either pre-approved or pre-approved with conditions by the County Financial Review Committees.

Through the innovation arm of the program, YYCN signed an agreement with iHub/m:lab to provide a \$10,000 capital injection for the PivotEast business competition. This event brought together numerous venture capitalists as well as early-stage and angel investors. The format of the event was competition to pitch business ideas in which finalists selected by a panel of industry experts from across the continent were given the opportunity to present their business proposals to the attending investors and investment fund representatives. All of the participants, and thus all of the finalists, were youth-created and youth-owned ICT businesses. As a direct result of this event, over \$250,000 was invested by these private funds and venture capitalists in these emerging youth microenterprises.

YYCN launched an SMS platform during this quarter after months of user feedback sessions with youth from nearly every county with active YYCR binges. Using ‘Agile’ software development practices the Digital Innovation Team along with ThoughtWorks, a software architectural firm, engaged the youth as the primary customers for the product. By focusing on the needs of youth, first the program ensured ease of use and utility such that the program will be able to quickly ride the path to scale enabling pitch meetings for further SMS system investments for sustainability and continuation of services. In addition to our user feedback sessions with youth across all levels of the YYC project, the program conducted formal presentations for each County Board president, the YYCRs and their respective staffs, and the full NYBA.

The Chief of Party (COP) and Executive Director of the youth think tank continued conversations with USIU on the MOU. After further discussions with USIU, and in consultation with USAID, Mercy Corps decided to pursue other potential incubation partners—specifically Brookings in the United States and Institute for Economic Analysis in Nairobi. USAID and YYCN discussions during the quarter led to a wind down of negotiations with USIU to host the Think Tank.

During the period under review, the YYCN conducted a 2.5 day training on participatory research from the 6<sup>th</sup> to 9<sup>th</sup> June 2012 for the youth. The Executive Director of the Think Tank worked with the NYBA Think Tank Advisory Committee in order to recruit youth in YYC counties. Carole MacNeil, a Fulbright scholar and expert in youth participatory action research led the 2.5 day training with the help of Muhia Karianjahi. The goal of the training was for youth to learn how to evaluate the work they were doing in their communities using both photography and narrative to document the view of youth in the project. The training covered ways of carrying out research by using a participatory approach. The main research methodology discussed during this training was focus group data collection methodology, and photo capture and documentary skills. A total of 26 participants attended the training and it had representatives from 23 counties out of the possible 25 counties that had been anticipated.

The first policy/research brief was posted on the YYC website this quarter: [http://www.yesyouthcan.org/documents/think\\_tank\\_materials/Research%20Brief-YLMA.pdf](http://www.yesyouthcan.org/documents/think_tank_materials/Research%20Brief-YLMA.pdf). The brief was a summary of the youth-led labor market assessment that was conducted in Central and Rift Valley. It has received 323 hits thus far by the end of June 2012. In this reporting period, the youth organized meetings with the District Registration Officers (DRO’s), Provincial Registration Officers PRO’s and provincial administration to discuss partnership with the government officials in implementing ‘My ID my Life campaign’. The meetings were very productive and the government officials have been very supportive during the implementation of the campaign.

## **I. PROGRAM OVERVIEW**

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The YYCN has embarked on a sustainable grant roll out approach whereby the youths who applied for grants are to be provided with detailed and well documented operations methodology to guide the entire grants process. The grants operations manual has been a living document developed with input from all YYCN stakeholders over the reporting period. During the month of April 2012, the program completed the design of the grant fund application and manuals. As the application was rolled out to County Boards and Village Bunge Presidents in May and June, the program further refined the back-end processes with input from the NYBA Grants Advisory Council. The resulting process has been codified in the grant fund Internal Operations Manual.

Investment strategy to be implemented by YYCN is currently under review with USAID on possible hybrid approach with SACCOs and MFIs. TYF/YYCN has been engaged in extensive discussions with USAID on strategy for rolling out objective one. USAID professionals in the mission recommended a shift in focus towards the creation of youth savings and credit cooperatives, “SACCOs”. Discussions during the period involved the youth leaders, the Ministry of Cooperatives, and of course USAID and YYCN. A likely blended approach mixing microfinance institution lending earlier and transitioning to likely later-formed youth SACCOs once established. TYF would utilize standard industry underwriting criteria to decide on lending to the possible twenty-five (25) youth SACCOs. Youth financial product development has therefore been put on hold as USAID and YYCN engage the Ministry of Cooperatives on possible youth financial products through youth SACCOs. The SACCO approach would enable youth to create and manage their own financial products.

## II. PROGRAM PROGRESS

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### A. Cumulative Progress Overview

Please find the summary delineating YYCN's cumulative progress overview in section VI.

### B. Program Interventions

**YYCN Goal: 1,300,000 Kenyan Youth empowered to promote their own development and become responsible citizens for peace and prosperity.**

The program has continued with its efforts in youth mobilization activities in all areas in which the YYCN is being implemented. In collaboration with YYCRs, a cumulative total of 12,956 youth bungenes had been formed by the end of this quarter under review. The total number of youths reached directly through youth bungenes by end of this reporting period was 238,327. However, by the end of this reporting period, a total of 411,275 youths at risk had been reached by the program, translating to 32% of the target achieved as per end of year one of the program. More youths are being mobilized to join the bungenes hence higher numbers expected after the grants roll out in the next reporting period. These youths have been reached through engagement in economic activity trainings, civic education, advocacy activities, exhibitions, capacity building on their rights and conflict resolution activities.

*Objective 1: "New Partnerships": Establish a youth-owned, youth-led, and youth-managed fund that can support local solutions for community economic development while it grows in value.*

#### Summary of Objective 1 Results

- Seven youth members (NYBA) have the capacity to lead, manage and govern the organizations
- Cumulative 1,450 youth attended the Regional Opportunity Exhibitions, also dubbed value chain youth expos.
- Strategy with USAID and YYCN emerging on investment/loan direction through use of SACCOs and MFIs.

#### **Activity 1.1: Youth members have the capacity to lead, manage and govern organizations**

YYCN as a program has been able to build the capacity of the youths working with the program to take leadership positions at their level. In this regard, the youths who were elected as members of the National Youth Bunge Association (NYBA) have been able to acquire leadership skills through capacity building undertaken by the program. All seven members of the NYBA executive committee have the capacity to organize and run the affairs of the NYBA with professionalism. This accounts for 33% achieved as per the target. More youth leaders will be trained in the next reporting period in order to equip them with good leadership skills.

### **Activity 1.2: Youth-led, run and managed fund established to support youth economic empowerment and civic engagement**

To enable public, private and civic partnerships for the creation of mechanisms to increase funding for youth opportunities, program's activities were geared towards connecting youth to opportunities for market development and employment. YYCN engaged with the Private Sector Youth Forum (PSYF) of the Kenya Private Sector Alliance (KEPSA) on ways to increase youth internship opportunities in Kenya. In joint forums with USAID and the Kenya Youth Employment Initiative (KYEI), spearheaded by Nazarene University, the program through Technoserve agreed to support the National Youth Bunge Association (NYBA) to become a registered member of the PSYF, through which it can stay connected with the KEPSA. The NYBA is in the process of completing registration as a society at this time, after which it can join the PSYF. It was also agreed that the PSYF assist the NYBA in lobbying its agenda, since the PSYF has already established itself in the area of policy development with the government. Currently, the PSYF is involved in pushing for the implementation of the government's policy for 10% of all government tenders to be awarded to youths. Through the innovation arm of the program, YYCN has an ongoing discussion with three innovative micro-franchise ventures specifically employing youth. They all involve Business Process Outsourcing and Micro-Work opportunities. YYCN is currently evaluating their path to scale both in urban and rural areas, as well as their ability to provide sustainable employment to youth. These meetings are preliminary and exploratory.

### **Activity 1.3: Public, private and civic partnerships created to connect youth to viable value chains and maximize the return on their investments**

Thus far, Regional Opportunity Exhibitions have reached 1,450 Youth Bunge members which accounts for 14% of the target. More exhibitions have been earmarked for the next quarter where the youth will exhibit their opportunities as well learn from their fellows across the country. The Kiambu event during the quarter included two business talks offered by experts. The first covered an exposition on the county structure as per the new constitution, and the second concentrated on the business opportunities that arise from the soon-to-be-established county governments and structure. There was a third event from the presidential awards director that encouraged youth to get out and do something constructive with their lives.

The local administration was deeply involved as the exhibition was officially opened by the Kiambu District Commissioner. The District provided the venue for free, as well as offered security personnel for the event. Other key participants were 19 private companies, including banks and up and coming SMEs from the area. The hundreds of youths attending the exhibition had direct experience about the kinds of businesses that other youth in the area are doing, such as those in the entertainment industry who were invited to lighten up the event. The entertainers did this at no cost, as a way of advertising their showbiz services. The youth also had one-on-one discussions with the participating corporations.



Figure 1: Kiambu District Commissioner and other GoK officials tour the Kiambu Youth Business Opportunities Exhibition

### YYCN Empowers Kisumu Youths

**Jomo Kenyatta Youth Star Bunge** was initiated in November 2011 and was started through YYC initiative. The bunge registered 30 members with 57% of them being female. The membership comprised of different ethnic communities which were Luos, Kikuyus and Luhya. With an aim of empowering its members, the bunge members have embarked on several economic activities. All its members are self-employed as they carry out income generating activities within the city Centre.

During their weekly meetings, the bunge members contribute KShs 200 each which is given to two group members to utilize in their respective businesses. The merry-go-round technique carried out on weekly basis attracts an interest rate of 10% per month and is used as a source of income for the bunge. At the same time, the bunge members have ventured into table banking as their other source of income. Through table banking, the members contribute between KShs 2,000 to 3,500 per day based on one's capability. Due to their liquidity status, the group has managed to acquire 60 plastic seats for hire at a cost of KShs 42,700 and this business has been able to generate income for the group on daily basis. The total bank savings of the bunge was reported as Ksh 120,000.

The other source of income for the group is the member registration which is KShs 500 per member. Those members who arrive late for the bunge meetings pay KShs 10 while those absent with apology are charged KShs 20 as compared to KShs 50 paid by those absent without any apology. For accountability purposes, the bank slip used to deposit the money in the bunge account is always verified by members during their weekly meeting.

For the group to function nicely, a committee of five has been established comprising non-executive bunge members. The committee is mandated to handle the bunge projects, oversee the loaning system, resolves conflicts and any other business assigned to it. The group membership is guided by the following requirements: (1) Registration fee of KShs 500; (2) Seconded by an existing member; and (3) Identity card except those aged 17 years

According to the members of this youth bunge, the following can be attributed to the YYCN: (a) the program has resulted into high mobilization of youths who have come together to venture into economic activities for them to be self-reliant; (b) the program has encouraged the youths to venture into business activities and this has resulted into the improvement of their economic standards; (c) the program has enabled the youths socially responsible. The youths in this bunge have been involved in economic activities with no attention towards engagement in unnecessary behavior; (d) the youths also feel enlightened about their leadership capabilities by developing their leadership qualities.

**Objective 2: “New Enterprises”:** Invest in economically viable youth enterprises with new finance products and methodologies, as well as development of new skills to facilitate livelihood development and employment.

**Summary of Objective 2 Results**

- Set-up and trained 25 County Financial Review Committees (CFRCs). CFRCs reviewed over 15,000 grant applications during the quarter.
- 4,271 Do-It-Yourself Entrepreneurship Toolkits distributed to Youth Bunges. Youth communicators delivering the training and 118,700 youths reached

**Activity 2.1: Young people’s community engagement and status increased through implementation of community economic development projects with grants from the Fund**

This quarter presented the opportunity for the youths to be engaged in decision making in grants process. In order to achieve this, the YYC team ensured that the vetting of all proposals was Youth-Led, Youth-Owned and Youth-Managed. This was done by incorporating the CFRC’s and the County Boards in the vetting of the community service, economic empowerment and advocacy campaigns. In order to rollout the grants to the beneficiaries for their economic empowerment, the Grants team held County Bunge Forum and County Financial Review Committee briefings in all the twenty-five counties during the quarter. As the program is youth-led, youth-managed and youth-driven, the youth leaders at the County Bunge Forums were integrally involved in the distribution, planning, and collection of grant applications. A total of 15,079 grant applications were distributed in all regions with Nyanza and Rift Valley provinces receiving 39% and 28% of all applications respectively. Of the total forms distributed, a total of 6,807 applications were received by the program with 4,219 being either pre-approved or pre-approved with conditions. It is anticipated that once the first batch of grants are rolled out, then there will be increased demand by the youth to join the program with intention of benefiting from the new grant hence more beneficiaries may be reported in the next reporting period. Pre-approved Youth Bunge applications were submitted to USAID ABEO for approval. Awaited USAID Contract Office grant concurrence during the quarter, received during July 2012. Grant distribution per region is as follows:

**Table 1: Grants application and approval status**

Province	Grant application distributed	Applications received	Applications pre-approved or pre-approved with conditions
Central	960	595	149
Coast	1,417	444	329
Nyanza	5,958	3,551	1,989
Rift Valley	4,227	1,163	977
Western	2,467	1,054	775
Nairobi	-	-	-
Total	15,079	6,807	4,219

During the application for the grants, the youth bungen submitted a total of 6,807 different community projects applications for grants. After the review by the CFRCs, a total of 3,586 projects were pre-approved without conditions, while another 633 were pre-approved with conditions (meaning that some piece of paperwork was missing). At the same time, of all the pre-approved projects, poultry projects comprised of 36%, crop farming 17% and general and microenterprises 13% among others.

**Activity 2.2: Young people’s ability to contribute economically to their communities increased through stronger life, employment, and entrepreneurship attained through technical assistance:**

Do-It-Yourself Entrepreneurship Toolkit rolled-out to 4,271 Youth Bungen. During the period under review, the program reached a total of 131,356 youths with DIY toolkit accounting for 26% of the target as at end of the reporting period. Youth communicators delivered the training during the period. Youth reported finding the content useful and relevant to their existing and start-up business ventures. Youth communicators are often the more educated youth with more dynamic public speaking abilities among the Youth Bungen, selected by Youth Bunge members themselves. Typically, they are Youth Bunge leaders who have been involved in mobilizing their own Youth Bunge, plus several other Youth Bungen in their neighborhood. They all committed to deliver the DIY toolkit to five or six Youth Bungen in their neighborhood and demonstrating how to use it. For specificity, they all gave names of the specific Bungen they will reach.

Discussions also progressed on the Roll-out of Microsoft’s Build-Your-Business (BYB) curriculum to youth Bungen that have access to computers. Through this, Bunge members running cyber cafés will be trained as trainers for the BYB curriculum by Microsoft trainers, and then have them offer the training with their existing infrastructure. A roadmap for the rollout has been developed with Microsoft and is awaiting final feedback to trigger rollout. As a pilot, 40 youths will be trained and monitored. Using lessons learned from the pilot, a wider roll-out may be done.

**Activity 2.3: 4,900 individuals received USG supported short term agricultural sector productivity or food security training**

To facilitate short-term agricultural sector productivity and food security training, YYCN mobilized youths from five counties in the Rift Valley region to attend a market development training by the Rabbit Keepers’ Association. The participants included 16 Bunge leaders from Trans Nzoia, Uasin Gishu, Elgeyo Marakwet, Kericho and Nandi counties. The training resulted in youths having increased information on the existing market available for rabbit meat, awareness on where to get rabbit feed, veterinary drugs, supplements and veterinary services. Some youths bought books on rabbit farming.

**Activity 2.4: Youth financial products developed to improve the viability of youth enterprises:**

Investment strategy to be implemented by YYCN is currently under review with USAID on possible hybrid approach with SACCOs and MFIs. TYF/YYCN has been engaged in extensive discussions with USAID on strategy for rolling out objective one. USAID professionals in the mission recommended a shift in focus towards the creation of youth savings and credit cooperatives, “SACCOs”. Discussions during the period involved the youth themselves, the Ministry of Cooperatives, and of course USAID and YYCN. A likely blended approach mixing microfinance institution lending earlier and transitioning to likely later-formed youth SACCOs once established. TYF would utilize standard industry underwriting criteria to decide on lending to the possible twenty-five (25) youth SACCOs. Youth financial product development has therefore been put on hold as USAID and YYCN engage the Ministry of Cooperatives on possible youth financial products through youth SACCOs. The SACCO approach would enable youth to create and manage their own financial products.

**Activity 2.5: Organize Youth Business Competitions to leverage venture capital for scaling up youth microenterprises**

In June, Mercy Corps signed an agreement with iHub/m:lab to provide a \$10,000 capital injection for the PivotEast business competition. This event brought together numerous venture capitalists as well as early-stage and angel investors. The format of the event was a pitching competition in which finalists selected by a panel of industry experts from across the continent were given the opportunity to pitch their business proposals to these collected investors and investment fund representatives. All of the participants and thus all of the finalists were youth-created and youth-owned ICT businesses. As a direct result of this event, over \$250,000 was invested by these private funds and VCs in these emerging youth microenterprises.

*Objective 3: “New Networks”: Network and link youth groups, and youth-serving organizations and strengthen their linkages with all relevant development actors so that their activities are both economically and politically self-sustainable, and promote ethnic tolerance.*

**Summary of Objective 3 Results**

- Planning and strategy meetings held for NYBA executive committee.
- Distribute National Assembly constitution to County Bunge Forums for their review
- YYCN funding and fostering youth leaders’ participation and input into YYCN activities and entities.
- SMS platform developed and ready for national rollout.

**Activity 3.1 National Youth Bunge Association established to involve youth in Kenyan development and reform issues:**

YYCN continues to support the NYBA and hold multiple NYBA executive committee meetings at the youth leaders' request. The National Youth Bunge Association Board is mandated to carry out quarterly Board meetings one of which is an annual general meeting. So far this year, the NYBA has carried out 2 board meetings in March and in July. The executive team conducts bi-monthly meetings and advisory council members have resolved to meet quarterly as well to deliberate on the activities they are mandated to carry out.

**Activity 3.2: Distribute National Assembly constitution to County Bunge Forums for their review.**

The National Youth Bunge Association Constitution was developed and reviewed collectively by the board members during just before the National Elections at the NYBA meeting in end of March 2012. The constitution underwent a final review at the NYBA board meeting at Multimedia University during the first week of July 2012. The constitution is now with the Lawyer who is managing the registration process and will be a legal document once the registration is complete.

**Activity 3.3: Inter-ethnic and inter-regional coalitions built through information exchanges and collaborative projects:**

Through YYCN, YYCR, and organic youth demand, youth at county and local levels continue to plan inter-ethnic and inter-regional events across the country. Collection of feedback and monitoring of the activities is underway with more to report next quarter. As part of the program objective of ensuring all youth groups form partnerships and collaborations across the country, several county boards and youth groups or leaders have taken initiative to travel and meet with respective youth in other counties e.g Nairobi County Board visit to Mombasa.

During the period under review, the program facilitated the youth from different regions to attend an exchange program in Garissa to learn more on what other youths in the country are doing and strategies they are using. The county boards in the different counties have also been able to meet in the regional level to discuss issues affecting the region and also to meet at the national level to share and exchange ideas at the NYBA.

**Activity 3.4: Enhance County Bunge Forums and National Bunge Association youth members' leadership capacity**

Mercy Corps employees in the various forums which they interact with the members of the NYBA actively coach and mentor the youth leaders through different leadership experiences which they go through. Using the Learning by doing approach, the Youth leaders tackle different challenges while getting assistance and coaching from the Mercy Corps team. This happens at the Executive Committee level, Advisory councils, Board meetings as well as any

task forces that are formed by the Board. The coaching and mentoring sessions have happened during the 2 Board meetings in March and July as well as two Executive Board meetings and Advisory council meetings organized by Mercy Corps in the during the reporting period. Leadership capacity at the County level is enhanced by the interaction of the boards with the Yes Youth Can regional partners who have also facilitated trainings for the youth leaders. As partnership initiative with YYCR, the Rift Valley partner has been mentoring the Bunges on resource mapping and action plans. This has built the capacity of the Bunges in initiating projects in their communities without funding. In partnership with Transparency International, 140 board members benefitted with civic education training on the on-going reform agenda in the country within the Rift Valley region. In TransNzoia County, 100 youth from 18 different youth bungen participated in civic education training on the role of young people in monitoring insecurity trends during the elections.

**Activity 3.5: New technology innovations connect 1,000,000 Kenyan youth from different ethnic groups, regions, and socio-economic classes**

YYCN launched an SMS platform during this quarter after months of user feedback sessions with youth from nearly every county with active YYCR bungen. Using ‘Agile’ software development practices the Digital Innovation Team along with ThoughtWorks, a software architectural firm, engaged the youth as the primary customers for the product. By focusing on the needs of youth, first the program ensured ease of use and utility such that the program will be able to quickly ride the path to scale enabling pitch meetings for further SMS system investments for sustainability and continuation of services. In addition to our user feedback sessions with youth across all levels of the YYC project, the program conducted formal presentations for each County Board president, the YYCRs and their respective staffs, and the full NYBA. These presentations were wildly successful as each group was eagerly awaiting the system launch. As the program continues to register every Bunge in the country with the SMS system, the program will ensure that there is a continuous collection of and act upon feedback from our users to bring them more utility with this powerful tool.

***Objective 4: “New Enabling Environment”: Support broader based youth policy development to create a more enabling environment for youth enterprises, youth employment, and youth civic engagement.***

**Summary of Objective 4 Results**

- New direction of Think Tank resulted in likely cessation in USIU partnership.
- Policy brief published during the quarter.

**Activity 4.1: Incubate think tank by developing their strategic planning, resource mobilization, financial management and human resources**

During the past quarter the Executive Director of the Think Tank drafted an operations manual that is currently being revised. She also consulted with the NYBA Think Tank Advisory Committee to hire a Deputy Director for the Think Tank. The NYBA Think Tank Advisory Committee reviewed the finalist CVs and discussed the pros and cons of hiring either of the candidates. By consensus, the position was offered to Michael Orwa who started on July 1, 2012.

**Activity 4.2: Identify incubation partner either within a university or international think tank**

During the reporting period, the COP and Executive Director continued conversations with USIU on the MOU. After further discussions with USIU, and in consultation with USAID, Mercy Corps has decided to pursue other potential incubation partners—specifically Brookings in the United States and Institute for Economic Analysis in Nairobi. USAID and YYCN discussions during the quarter lead to a wind down of negotiations with USIU to host the Think Tank.

**Activity 4.3: Youth develop research agendas, collect and analyze data, write reports and advocate on policies**

During the period under review, the YYCN conducted a 2.5 day training on participatory research from the 6<sup>th</sup> to 9<sup>th</sup> June 2012 for the youth. The Executive Director worked with the NYBA Think Tank Advisory Committee in order to recruit youth in YYC counties. Carole MacNeil, a Fulbright scholar and expert in youth participatory action research led the 2.5 day training with the help of Muhia Karianjahi. The goal of the training was for youth to learn how to evaluate the work they were doing in their communities using both photography and narrative to document the view of youth in the project. The training covered ways of carrying out research by using a participatory approach. The main research methodology discussed during this training was focus group data collection methodology, and photo capture and documentary skills. A total of 26 participants attended the training and it had representatives from 23 counties out of the possible 25 counties that had been anticipated.

During the training, the participants were taken through major processes of carrying out research using participatory approach. This included from identification of research interests (a problem they wanted to address) to the actual planning of carrying the intended research. By the end of the training, the participants had a well-defined research question, a protocol for conducting focus groups that they had developed and pilot tested, a protocol and plan for doing observations and photo documentation, and an action plan and timeline for implementing their research plan back home. Different regions had different research topics/interests hence varied and covering a range of issues specific to particular regions.



Figure 2: Youth attending research training in one of the sessions

In order to engage the youth on research process, those who attended the training were tasked carry out research in their respective regions based on the research questions and are expected to give feedback during the second session of the training and the results will be reported in the next quarter. Youth were taught how to develop a research question and agenda and conduct focus groups. As part of the training, youth were paired with someone from a neighboring county, to explore some of the following questions:

- How are the YYC projects changing communities in our counties?
- How will the YYC board in our counties mobilize funds once the donors leave?
- How is leadership nurtured/developed among the youths through YYC in our counties?
- How does the YYC affect the mindsets of the youth with regard to ethnicity?
- How can the youth groups that have been formed sustain themselves financially after the donors have left?

#### **Activity 4.4: Distribute policy briefs to Youth Bunges**

The first policy/research brief was posted on the YYC website this quarter: [http://www.yesyouthcan.org/documents/think\\_tank\\_materials/Research%20Brief-YLMA.pdf](http://www.yesyouthcan.org/documents/think_tank_materials/Research%20Brief-YLMA.pdf). The brief was a summary of the youth-led labor market assessment that was conducted in Central and Rift Valley. It has received 323 hits thus far. In this reporting period, the youth organized meetings with the DRO's, PRO's and provincial administration to discuss partnership with the government officials in implementing 'My ID my Life campaign'. The

meetings were very productive and the government officials have been very supportive during the implementation of the campaign

#### **Activity 4.5: Youth Think Tank and NYBA develop policy briefs on priority issues**

During the previous quarter, the Think Tank released its first policy brief on Youth-led Labor Market Assessments in Central and Rift Valley. The initial research was conducted during the summer of 2011 with 20 youth researchers mentored by Mercy Corps staff. Some of the highlights from the research include:

- Employers see youth as reliable, hard-working, knowledgeable, and professional
- There are an abundance of training opportunities
- We need to bridge the perception gap—youth believe employers don't think they have the skills for work, yet employers believe they do.
- Agriculture appears to be a growth area for youth.
- Youth need experience in the workplace to refine their expectations of the work world.

The Think Tank is now working on two other research projects on Youth Access to Finance and What Devolution Means for Youth.

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

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- The rapid scale-up grant rollout proceeded quickly and exceeded expectations with 4,219 grants pre-approved. Clearly quality assurance is critical during such large scale operations.
- Youth demands for “facilitation” or funding in exchange for their participation increased markedly during the period.

### **IV. Lessons Learned**

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- The training and mentorship of the youths in their local regions has been able to record positive results. Through capacity building by business officers and YYCR-project officers has opened the eyes of the youth and the youths have realized that opportunities exist beyond the white collar jobs. In this essence, the youth have engaged themselves in economic activities at the group level and some of them have started getting meaningful returns.
- YYCN has adopted the youth led approach whereby the NYBA members have been engaged in all major decisions of the program and this has started to bear fruit as there is full ownership in the sides of the youth. Through constant consultation with the youths, much progress have been realized especially those depending on the mobilization issues.
- The youth through advocacy avenues have been able to voice their concerns to the authorities. This has made it easier for the youth to be listened to by the government and any other body concerned.

## VI. Performance Data Table

Indicator	Estimated Target Year 1	Achieved April to June 2012	Comments/others involved
<b>GOAL: Kenyan Youth empowered to promote their own development and become responsible citizens for peace and security.</b>			
PS 6.1 Number of people from “at-risk” groups reached through USG-supported conflict mitigation activities.	1.3 million	411,275	32% achieved. More youth bungenes are being mobilized and higher numbers expected after the grants roll out
% change in number youth in Bungenes who take action to contribute positively to the development of Kenya ;	20%	0%	Baseline survey yet to be conducted and the findings will be reported in next quarter
% change in youth who report engaging in or approve of political violence	Baseline Value	0%	Baseline survey yet to be conducted and the findings will be reported in next quarter
<b>New Partnerships: Establish a youth-owned, youth-led, and youth-managed fund that can support local solutions for community economic development while it grows in value.</b>			
Number of legal entities transferred to youth ownership	0	-	To be reported in year 3
Number of youth who have the capacity to lead, manage and govern organizations	21	7	33% Achieved. More youth leaders will be trained in the next reporting period in order to equip them with good leadership skills
Number of Global Development Alliances established	2	0	Discussions held with the Kenya Private Sectors Alliance (KEPSA) on ways to link youth to industry. Plans for partnering with Microsoft in their Build your Business (BYB) Curriculum progressed. Scanning for possible GDA partners is ongoing.
Number of youth attending Regional Opportunity Exhibitions	10,500	1,450	14% achieved. More exhibitions have been earmarked for the next quarter where the youth will exhibit their opportunities as well learn from their fellows across the country
Amount raised for investment and grant fund	\$200,000	0	Plans to evaluate the viability of SACCOs is at an advanced stage
Amount leveraged via other financial institutions for youth enterprises	\$5 million	0	Tracking of this will be enhanced in next quarter
<b>New Enterprises: Invest in economically viable youth enterprises with new finance products and methodologies, as well as development of new skills to facilitate livelihood development and employment</b>			
Amount of money disbursed for grants	\$3 million	0	Total applications disbursed = 15,079. Applications received 6,807 and those approved were 4,062
Number of community development projects implemented by Youth Bungenes	5,000	0	60% to be funded. Main Projects include: • Poultry: 1278 • Crop farming: 614 • General Micro and Small Enterprises: 472 • Livestock: 447 • Forest Harvesting: 188
Number of youth in Youth Bungenes who experience better business environments through community development projects	250,000	0	Will be reported after carrying out an assessment of YYCN

EG 4.6.3-5 Number of youth participating in USG-funded workforce development programs	500,000	131,356	26% achieved
EGAT 4.5.2-7 Number of individuals who have received USG supported short term agricultural sector productivity or food security training	150,000	4,900	The initial training for the trainers already done and they are expected to massively reach out to the youth with those skills
Amount money disbursed for investments.	\$3 million for microenterprises, \$200,000 special window	0	
EG 7.1 Number of clients at USG-assisted microfinance institutions.	33,000	0	Tracking of this will be enhanced in next quarter after MFIs have been officially engaged in this program
EG 4.6.3-2 Number of people gaining employment or better employment as a result of participation in USG-funded workforce development programs.	14,500	0	Will be reported after carrying out an assessment of YYCN
Percent of Youth Bunge members who receive investment support achieving greater economic independence	20%	0%	Will be reported after carrying out an assessment of YYCN
EG 7.1 Number of microfinance institutions supported by USG financial or technical assistance.	0	0	Program has embarked on a discussions with MFIs to effectively offer them necessary support
<b>New Networks: Network and link youth groups, and youth-serving organizations and strengthen their linkages with all relevant development actors so that their activities are both economically and politically self-sustainable, and promote ethnic tolerance</b>			
USAID GJD 4.1: Number of youth members of County Bunge Forums and NBA who have completed USG-assisted civic education training programs	260	140	54% achieved.
# of youth attending County Bunge Forum and National Bunge Association meetings	11,000	1,512	13.7% achieved
Percent of youth surveyed in targeted areas aware of the activities of the County Bunge Forums and NBA	Baseline Value	0%	Will be reported after carrying out an assessment of YYCN
Number of youth assemblies established at the national level	1	1	NYBA established
USAID PS 1.6.1-2 Number of people attending USG-assisted facilitated events that are geared toward strengthening understanding and mitigating conflict between groups	3,000	54,252	Achieved mostly in Rift Valley through the collaboration with YYCR
Number of hits on Yes Youth Can web portal	65,000	12,010	18.5% Achieved. Yes Youth Can website went online on April 2012
Number of youth who access the SMS platform	275,000	5,866	2% Achieved to date. The New SMS platform will be launched on launched on 23rd July 2012 A total of 81,153 SMSs sent from the system
Number of new connections youth make to other Kenyan youth via new technology.	65,000	-	Will be reported after carrying out an assessment of YYCN
<b>New Enabling Environment: Support broader based youth policy development to create a more enabling environment for youth enterprises, youth employment and youth civic engagement</b>			

Amount raised to fund Think Tank	0	0	Operationalization of Youth Think Tank underway
Number of Think Tanks established with a Board of Directors	1	-	Yet to be formed
Number of youth informed about youth-related policy discussions through radio, distribution of policy briefs, web-chats and SMS messaging	1.3 million	323	Members have accessed youth think tank document from the YYCN Website
Percent change in youth knowledge about key policy issues	Baseline Value	0%	Will be reported after carrying out an assessment of YYCN
Number of policy briefs published	3	1	Think Tank document uploaded in the YYCN website
GJD 4.1 Number of CSO advocacy campaigns supported by USG	2,600	1	My ID My Life Advocacy campaign that brought together 647 youths. Other such meetings were held at the regional level and will be reported in the next reporting period
GJD 2.1 Number of public forums resulting from USG assistance in which national legislators and members of the public interact	3	1	More meetings have been planned in different regions
Number of youth issues taken up by Parliament and/or other governmental bodies.	1	0	

## VII. List of sub-grants

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1. Technoserve (service provider directory, scale-up mentoring and linkages, training and select toolkits).
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