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## Yes Youth Can! - Rift Valley (YYC-RV)

First Quarterly Report  
March 7 – June 30, 2011

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## **LIST OF ACRONYMS AND ABBREVIATIONS**

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A-STEP	- Africa Sports and Talent Program
AOTR	- Agreement Officer Technical Representative
CBO	- Community Based Organization
CES	- Civic Engagement Specialist
COP	- Chief of Party
DYO	- District Youth Officer
FGDs	- Focused Group Discussions
IDPs	- Internally Displaced Persons
IIEC	- Interim Independent Electoral Commission
KCSSP	- Kenya Civil Society Strengthening Program
KTI	- Kenya Transition Initiative
MC	- Mercy Corps
NYC	- National Youth Council
NYF	- National Youth Forum
OCA	- Organizational Capacity Assessment
WYIPD	- Wareng Youth Initiative for Peace and Development
PM	- Program Manager
TOF	- Training of Facilitators
TOT	- Training Of Trainers
PO	- Program Officer
PC	- Program Coordinator
RWPL	- Rural Women Peace Link
RV	- Rift Valley
STA	- Senior Technical Advisor
YSHG	- Youth Self Help Group
YYC	- Yes Youth Can
YDC	- Youth Development Coordinator

## EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

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The YYC program was launched on April 20, 2011 by the former U.S. Ambassador to Kenya, Michael Rannenberger, at Londiani in Kericho. The meeting was attended by 196 youths from the seven counties where the program will be implemented. Recruitment of key program staff and office set-up is almost complete other than the program coordinator for Kericho which has been advertised after the initial candidate turned down the offer.

Objective 0 – the formation of structures from the sub-location, constituency and county levels in Uasin Gishu, West Pokot, Nandi, Trans Nzoia, Kericho, and Nakuru is still ongoing with emphasis on the sub-location as the unit of empowerment. Building on the USAID-funded LEAP II program, we have reached a total of 5,688 youths. In Uasin Gishu and Nandi counties, the county elections were conducted by the Interim Independent Electoral Commission (IIEC) election officers to ensure that the process was free and fair. Currently, we are in the process of forming youth *bunges*<sup>1</sup> at the sub-location level throughout the program areas. The Nandi elections were covered by local media, which helped raise public awareness of the program. During the mobilization process, we have engaged the youth in discussions on youth empowerment. Youth are starting to think of solutions to unemployment and to discuss the reform process in the country. We have also visited the provincial administration to create linkages between our program and government programs and policies for the youth. We have invited different government officials to attend the functions, which has already started bridging the gap between the youth and the government. We have also invited different ministry officials who have disseminated important information to the youth on the opportunities available for the youth.

Organizational capacity assessments for the local partner organizations were conducted by the Chief of Party and Program Manager between June 24 and 26 using a tool designed by Mercy Corps. A provisional report indicated that all the partners are at the foundational stage of organizational development. We are in the process of developing a training program to address capacity needs at this stage. It is necessary to build the capacity of all the partners to be able to institutionalize their organizations and strengthen their structures and financial management.

Significant progress has been achieved on labor market and value chain assessments. The tools for the labor market survey and life skills assessment were designed and the youth have been carrying out surveys. In the next three months, we will continue with the mobilization process, specifically registration of the coalitions formed and strengthening of the sub-location coalition. We will start implementing our civic engagement activities, value chain assessment and market product assessment alongside identifying the employers who will be willing to offer apprenticeship to the youth and link youths to gain experience and knowledge. Finally, we will also initiate the process for gender assessment and female literacy campaigns.

Program implementation has faced a few challenges that we handled and some that we will continue addressing. The perception of the program among politicians and local leaders is the

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<sup>1</sup> A youth *bunge* is an organizational form in which all youth in a defined geographical come together and find common cause to improve their lives and community. The term “youth” refers to people ages 18-35, as defined in the Kenyan Constitution.

biggest challenge that we continue to address. There have also been valuable lessons especially in youth mobilization that has set the pace for the next steps in the program.

A field visit by USAID's AOTR for YYC Rift Valley to Eldoret in the third week of May revealed that it might be a challenge for Mercy Corps and partners to register all *bunges* at all five mobilized and elected levels. The AOTR suggested registering the *bunges* at only two levels: the sub-location level *bunges* and the county level *bunges*. Consequently, the county level *bunge* election had to be repeated as now the sub-location *bunges* had to elect the county level *bunge* as opposed to the constituency level *bunge* electing the county level *bunge*, besides USAID's guidelines that all sub-location *bunge* had to be registered legally before county level elections could be held. Election and registration of village/sub-location level *bunges* are under implementation after which the county level board elections will take place.

## **I. PROGRAM OVERVIEW**

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The August 2010 constitutional referendum was overwhelmingly successful for Kenya—both in terms of the fairness and transparency of the voting and the lack of violence. This stood in sharp contrast to the aftermath of the 2007 presidential election, when violence rocked the country and exposed the ethnic and tribal tensions that dominate local and national politics. Frighteningly, 80% of those involved in the violence were youth, raising concerns about Kenya's future. Fortunately, last year's referendum showed that Kenyans want to move beyond the 2007 violence and create a peaceful and productive future.

While the 2007 violence was widespread, the epicenter was in Kenya's Rift Valley, an area central to Kenya's overall stability. Land encroachment, economic inequities, and divergent cultural values bred an atmosphere of distrust and feelings of victimization among rival tribes. Because tribal identity and loyalty largely trump Kenyan national identity, fellow citizens of different tribal backgrounds are often considered "foreigners" in Rift Valley. Political leaders were able to manipulate these grievances to garner support. While the referendum on the new constitution was peaceful, ethnic divides were evident during the campaign. William Ruto, a Kalenjin MP from the Rift Valley and former Minister of Higher Education, led the charge opposing the constitution and the province, which is largely Kalenjin, voted overwhelmingly against ratification. Now that we are at the implementation stage, YYC will engage the youth and local leaders who opposed the constitution to understand its contents and support implementation.

There is a long tradition in Kenyan politics of elites manipulating and paying idle and disempowered youth to raise havoc. The lack of economic opportunities available to young people fuels their frustration and makes them an easy target for manipulation. Despite near universal primary education, relatively few primary school graduates have the means, motivation, or community support to continue to higher levels of education. Those who proceed to secondary school often do not receive the necessary skills to thrive in the Rift Valley's agriculture-based economy. Lack of skills, little access to land, and a lack of desire to participate in farming pull young people to urban centers in Eldoret, Nakuru, and Nairobi where limited employment opportunities lead to poverty, idleness, and alienation. Political elites were able to capitalize on these circumstances; they only had to pay youth a few shillings to take to the streets. With YYC program, the youth will create their own platforms and agenda that keeps politicians at bay especially those opposed to youth empowerment and in favour of tokenism as a bait to lure the youth.

Youth exclusion from social and political processes increases feelings of alienation and frustration. Youth feel underrepresented in local government. This feeling is compounded by corruption, tribalism, and nepotism that unfairly affect land allocations and public service appointments. Additionally, cultural biases limit the respect young people receive from elders, driving some young men to join gangs. Gangs often form around ethnic identities based on stereotypes. For example, Kikuyu talk of Kalenjins as backward and unreliable; Kalenjins “know” the Kikuyu as greedy and treacherous.

Young women are not immune to these dynamics. The Commission of Inquiry into Post Election Violence (or the “Waki Commission”) found that sexual violence was a significant dimension of the PEV, causing long-term trauma. Young women in Kenya attend school at lower rates than young men, leading to greater difficulty finding employment and becoming involved in local and national decision-making. As a result, an important and necessary voice is lost in policy debates—a voice which represents a significant proportion of the Kenyan population. YYC will engage young women (most of who are married) in story telling as a means of literacy training.

Another critical area that YYC is addressing is developing a constituency of youth that is responsive and informed about the political process and is resilient to factors which contribute to alienation and hostility. The 2012 election provides another opportunity for Kenyans to demonstrate that they have moved beyond the violence that cost thousands their homes, livelihoods, and lives with the youth shouldering a big burden in this. As Kenya and the Rift Valley stand at this crossroads, young men and women, be they Kikuyu, Kalenjins, Luo, Luhya, or Massai can stand together to forge a new nation. The YES YOUTH CAN! Program is supporting this crucial population to engage in the political, social, and economic well-being of their communities and lead the way toward a new sense of shared identity based on cooperation, hard work, and opportunity.

## II. PROGRAM PROGRESS

### A. Cumulative Progress Overview

Indicator	Overall targets by EOP	This quarter	Cumulative	% to date
<b>GOAL: To strengthen the capabilities of youth organizations in the Rift Valley to be agents of positive change in their communities</b>				
Goal: % change in the level of adult community members' confidence in youth to contribute positively to the community.	BV+30%	0	0	0%
Goal: % change in number youth who believe that they can contribute positively to the development of Kenya	BV + 50%	0	0	0%
Goal: % change in youth who report engaging in or approve of political violence	BV - 25%	0	0	0%
<b>Objective 0: Form youth representation bodies at sub location, location, constituency and county levels</b>				

0.1 USAID PS 6.1: # of people from 'at-risk' groups reached through USG-supported conflict mitigation activities;	900,000	5,688	5,688	0.6%
0.2 # of elections held for Youth Bunges, County Forums and National Forum.	300	81	81	27%
<b>Objective 1: Support youth to exercise a greater voice in local and national affairs</b>				
% of youth in target counties who feel they have a voice in community and local government decision making	BV + 30%	0	0	0%
1.1 % change in organizational capacity as measured by baseline, mid-term and endline capacity assessments	BV+50%	0	0	0%
1.2a USAID GJD 4.1: # of youth who have completed USG-assisted civic education training programs	15,000	0	0	0%
1.2b # of community service projects implemented by Youth Self Help Groups	150	0	0	0%
1.3a # of youth who attend regional youth leadership conferences	160	0	0	0%
1.3b % change in youth who interact across ethnic lines	BV+40%	0	0	0%
1.4a USAID GJD 2.3: # of local mechanisms supported with USG assistance for citizens to engage with their sub-national government.	49	0	0	0%
1.4b % change in young people's trust of their local government	BV+30%	0	0	0%
1.5 # of youth involved in youth-led advocacy campaigns targeted towards policy and public investment decisions.	400	0	0	0%
<b>Objective 2: To increase youth productivity, employment opportunities and income</b>				
% of Youth Self-Help Group members achieving greater economic independence	2000	0	0	0%
2.1a # of young people who participate in youth skills gaps, labour market and value chain assessments	100	19	19	19%
2.2a USAID EG 6.3 # of young persons completing USG-funded workforce development programs	7500	0	0	0%

2.3a # of youth entrepreneurial groups who develop business plans	200	0	0	0%
2.3b # of small grants issued for microenterprises	100	0	0	0%
2.3c % of youth entrepreneurial groups raising additional investment capital.	25%	0	0	0%
2.4a # of youth that gain on-the-job experience through private sector apprenticeships	300	0	0	0%
2.4b USAID EG 6.3 # of people gaining employment or better employment as a result of participation in USG-funded workforce development programs	500	0	0	0%
<b>Objective 3: Improve young women's access to political, social and economic opportunities.</b>				
3.1 # of county forums held to disseminate gender assessment findings	10	0	0	0%
3.2a # of public outreach campaigns conducted on the importance of female education, literacy and civic engagement	60	0	0	0%
3.2b % change in people who understand the importance of female education	BV+25%	0	0	0%
3.3a # of mentors paired with young women	40	0	0	0%
3.4a # of stories performed and disseminated on the radio and through multimedia	25	0	0	0%

## B. Program Interventions

We have used various strategies in building linkages and partnerships to assist in the mobilization and program implementation. Given that the program is youth led, youth owned and youth managed, we have taken a TOT approach in our activities and in reaching out to as many youths as possible. All trainings under the program will train a cohort of youth “bright spots” that will be supervised to roll out the trainings to youth through the youth *bunges* and train Youth Self Help Groups. We are also using this approach for the ongoing labor market assessment. We have managed to build on to the successes of LEAP II structures for mobilizing youth at all levels, including identification of the “bright spots”. Close working relationships have been built with government officials, institutions and youth centered programs (like Kazi Kwa Vijana and the Youth Enterprise Development Fund) as well as with vocational training institutes, the Constituencies Development Fund, and the National Youth Service Programs.

The local partners have identified Youth Development Coordinators (YDCs) to assist in the mobilization process. The YDCs are youths from the counties we are mobilizing, since they have local understanding of the youth in their counties. Some partners have also been working with



vocational mobilizers in their other programs; they have engaged in the YYC program to assist in identification and mobilization of the youth. Through sports and music events, youth have been drawn to attend meetings to learn about the YYC program.

We held an introductory meeting with Chemonics/Kenya Transition Initiative (KTI), the Office of Transition Initiatives, and PACT Inc.’s Kenya Civil Society Strengthening Program (KCSSP) on June 14. Each stakeholder agreed to develop a map marking the different areas of operation and to build linkages. We have also made introductory visits to Moi University School of Business and Economics and the USAID-funded Land O’Lakes, who implement the Kenya Dairy Sector Competitiveness Program (KDSCP). Other stakeholders visited include FINTRAC who implement the Kenya Horticulture Development Program (KHDP), and the Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports.

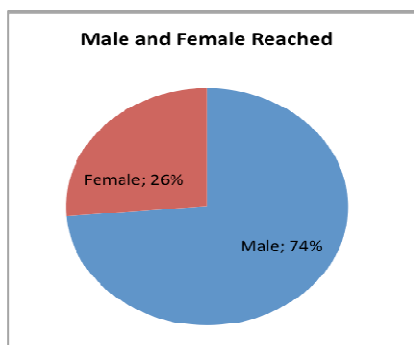
**GOAL: To strengthen the capabilities of youth organizations in the Rift Valley to be agents of positive change in their communities**

**Objective 0: Form youth representation bodies at sub location, location, constituency and county levels**

Summary of Objective 0 Results	
•	900,000 youth aware of Yes Youth Can program
•	Youth representation structures formed in the 7 counties

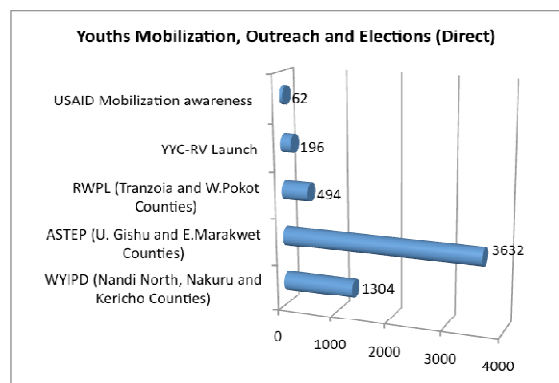
**Outcome 0.1 900,000 youth aware of Yes Youth Can – RV! Program:**

The former U.S. Ambassador to Kenya, Michael Rannenberger, led the launch of the highly publicized YYC-RV program on April 20 in Londiani, Kericho County. The meeting was attended by 196 young people (136 male, 60 female) who were mobilized through youth groups and local partners drawn from the seven counties that form the program area.



YYC-RV has managed to directly reach 5,688 young people through outreach campaigns, mobilization forums and youth *bunge* elections activities. This number includes 4,196 male and 1,492 female youths. A total of 81 elections at different levels were conducted in this quarter. The elections attracted a total of 3,632 young people in Uasin Gishu and Elgeyo Marakwet counties, 1,304 from Nandi North, Nakuru and Kericho counties and finally 494 in Trans Nzoia and West Pokot counties.

The youth at the sub-location forums are being mobilized through various strategies. Wareng Youth Initiative for Peace and Development (WYIPD), which is also currently implementing the LEAP II program with Mercy Corps, used the existing LEAP II structures, provincial administration meetings,



District Youth Officers (DYO), church sessions, local leaders, and the YDCs to mobilize in Nandi, Kericho and Nakuru. Rural Women Peace Link (RWPL) used its network of women leaders, existing youth structures, local YDCs, and provincial administration to mobilize. Africa Sports and Talent program (A-STEP), which has been a local partner with Mercy Corps' Nike Inc. funded LEAP Sport program, uses sports and music events to mobilize the youth within their area.

The mobilized youths elected six representatives at each sub-location level. These representatives then formed the location forums with other youths from the different sub-locations. At the location forums, they elected two representatives to the constituency elections, who then elected six youths to the county forum. There are six youths at the county forum, with three of them holding offices (chairman, treasurer and secretary). The elections were done through secret ballots whereas the partners prepared ballot papers and voting materials. In Nandi and Uasin Gishu counties, we conducted the elections with the Interim Independent Electoral Commission (IIEC) overseeing the elections. Some forums have been meeting frequently, including the Uasin Gishu county and Kericho county forums. This strategy has however changed with focus shifting to sub-location and village *bunges* who will form a county forum. By end of September all sub-location *bunges* will be in place with urban towns forming sub-location *bunges* to cater for the high populations in the localities.

One impact of the mobilization activity is that youth from different ethnic backgrounds have come together as young people to think together. Youth have been able to meet regularly and share experiences and strategies to resolve life challenges, exploring the different technical expertise existing among them. The process has also united the different youth-centered structures that exist, like the National Youth Council (NYC) and National Youth Forum (NYF), whose members have expressed interest in working together with the YYC members.

**Outcome 0.2: Youth representation structures formed in the 7 counties:**

The formation of youth sub-location structures as the unit for empowerment is underway in all counties. The earlier process that had seen youth representation from village to county proved unsustainable without focus on the grassroots. The new model focuses on sub-location and village *bunges* forming a county forum. The steps on the *bunge* formation have been shared with the implementing partners and Mercy Corps continued to work with them closely to ensure the messaging is done correctly to the youth.

**Objective 1: Support youth to exercise a greater voice in local and national issues**

Summary of Objective 1 Results
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Youth complete USG-assisted civic education training programs</li> <li>• Community service projects implemented by Youth Self Help Groups</li> <li>• Youth attend regional youth leadership conferences</li> <li>• Local mechanisms supported with USG assistance for citizens to engage with their sub-national government.</li> <li>• Youth get involved in youth-led advocacy campaigns targeted towards policy and public investment decisions.</li> </ul>

**Outcome 1.1: WYIPD, RWPL and A-STEP measurably strengthen organizational capacity:**

We conducted capacity assessments of the partners between June 24 and 26, 2011 using a tool designed by Mercy Corps. The partners invited their staff, beneficiaries, partners, board members and even chiefs to participate in the exercise. Partners were able to identify the shortcomings that they can work on themselves and those that require Mercy Corps intervention. We are developing strengthening plans to be implemented in the next quarter.

**Outcome 1.2: Youth Self Help Groups actively involved in civic issues:**

Yes Youth Can is providing opportunities for young people to build and demonstrate their leadership abilities, advocate for change, influence government officials and develop cross ethnic relationships. During this quarter, the youth mobilization and formation of structures has given a platform to youth to exercise their skills and for some to develop them. The interim youth officials for the *bunges* are engaging local leaders and other stakeholders in youth platforms and discussing community issues not only those touching youth. The civic engagement trainings will commence in August.

**Outcome 1.3: Rift valley Youth Networked to Foster Cooperation and understanding:**

This activity was not planned for reporting in this quarter.

**Outcome 1.4: Local government responsiveness to issues important to youth:**

We have been holding meetings with government officials to explain the YYC program to them. Furthermore, government officials have attended the mobilization meetings and shared information on programs that the government is implementing targeting the youth and opportunities for the youth. We have found most government officials to be appreciative of our work. Some of them have begun to recognize the good conduct some of our youth showed, especially during the county level elections.

***Objective 2: To increase youth productivity, employment opportunities and income***

Summary of Objective 2 Results
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Young people participate in comprehensive value chain assessments</li><li>• Young persons complete USG-funded workforce development programs</li><li>• Youth entrepreneurial groups develop business plans</li><li>• Small grants issued for microenterprises</li><li>• Youth gain on-the-job experience through private sector apprenticeships</li><li>• Youth gain employment or better employment as a result of participation in USG-funded workforce development programs</li></ul>

**Outcome 2.1 Comprehensive labor markets, youth skills and value chain assessment:**

Significant progress has been made on the labor market and value chain assessments. The tools for the labor market survey and life skills assessment were designed on June 15-17, 2011 in a

TOT workshop. Some YDCs from the YYC and LEAP II programs were involved in developing the tools. The tools were tested on June 21, 2011 through a Focus Group Discussion (FGD) with all YDCs and a sample of employers within Eldoret town. We conducted a Training of Facilitators (TOF) for the YDCs on June 28, 2011 in which the YDCs who had already been trained were engaged to train the rest of the YDCs. In carrying out the employer survey, the youth have come to understand why employers do not employ the youth. Those engaged in the assessment have been able to positively change the attitude of the employers by giving youth a chance to interview them professionally. In the process the youth have learned valuable presentation, communication and data collection skills.

### **Young persons complete USG-funded workforce development programs**

This activity was not planned for reporting in this quarter

### **Youth entrepreneurial groups develop business plans**

This activity was not planned for reporting in this quarter

### **Small grants issued for microenterprises**

This activity was not planned for reporting in this quarter

### **Youth gain on-the-job experience through private sector apprenticeships**

This activity was not planned for reporting in this quarter

### **Youth gain employment or better employment as a result of participation in USG-funded workforce development programs**

This activity was not planned for reporting in this quarter

### ***Objective 3: Improve young women's access to political, social and economic opportunities.***

<b>Summary of Objective 3 Results</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• County forums held to disseminate gender assessment findings</li><li>• Public outreach campaigns conducted on the importance of female education, literacy and civic engagement</li><li>• Young women champions engaged to work with in-school girls on economic empowerment</li><li>• Stories performed and disseminated on the radio and through multimedia</li></ul>

As per our initial work plan, objective 3 activities were not planned for reporting in this quarter.

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

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- Objective 0 has raised a lot of concern and reaction from politicians, government leaders and the community, and it was not clear to the partners initially. Through the partners meetings held every Thursday, partners are able to give feedback on the progress of the programs and gain clarity on these questions from Mercy Corps. The partners relay information to any leaders with questions. Also, the USAID team came

to Eldoret on June 14, 2011 and conducted a workshop with the youth on Objective 0, which improved understanding of the objective.

- Mobilizing in seven counties and implementing in at the sub-location level heightens the expectations from the youth on what is in it for them. Continuous messaging is needed that the *bunge* is for the youth to unite and find common cause to improve their lives and community, and that the *bunge* is not a stove pipe for getting money from the program. Mercy Corps and partners also need to keep the youth focused on developing their own action plans to improve their lives and community.
- The local administrations felt left out at the start of the program. They also felt that the mobilization was competing with their National Youth Council process. We will continue to hold meetings with government officials in order to explain the need for a collective approach to youth empowerment.
- There are misconceptions that the program has a lot of money and that we will be giving it out to all the youth.
- Some counties are very large geographically with very poor infrastructures. Our local partners have expressed a challenge in covering regions such as Pokot. The use of youth from the same regions for mobilization is bridging the gap but monitoring is not as smooth as expected.
- Registration of the *bunges* as Self Help Groups is confusing to the youth as they think it threatens the existing youth groups that have been operating. Mercy Corps and its partners have clarified that the *bunge* focuses more on voice which is beyond an individual group.
- Culture has hindered young women from interacting with others and forming groups. Mobilizing them is difficult because they lack freedom of movement in some areas.
- Insecurity caused by cattle rustling slowed down program implementation in Pokot. Forced resettlement of IDPs was also a challenge in Sabaot in Trans Nzoia county.

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

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- Many young girls do not belong to groups. The village and sub-location *bunges* will give them a chance to get involved.
- Many youths do not know their rights and are not informed of the opportunities for the youth in government ministries and through the devolved funds.
- Youths understand their problems and their solutions. We only need to listen to them and guide them.
- Youth from Rift Valley need constant encouragement because they are frustrated and traumatized by the blame laid on them for the Post-Election Violence.

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

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In the next three months we will continue with mobilization, and specifically registration of the coalitions formed and strengthening of the sub-location coalitions. In August, we will hold TOTs for civic engagement, with trainers identified through Youth *bunges*. Half of the youths trained on civic education will also be engaged in the life skills and the other half in entrepreneurship training, to be conducted in September. We will also conclude labor assessments, which will inform the curriculum on life skills and entrepreneurship, and commence on the value chain and

market product assessments. We will identify the employers who are willing to offer apprenticeship to the youth and link youths to gain experience and knowledge. We will also initiate the process for gender assessment in September. Throughout the program, we plan to build synergies with the government and other stake holders, and also build on the ongoing LEAP II program.

Activity (Person responsible)	2011		
	July	August	Sept
<b>Project Start-Up, Administration, and M&amp;E</b>			
Branding and Marking Plans finalized			
Annual work plans			
PMP submitted to USAID			
USAID Yes Youth Can Database input			
Financial reports			
Quarterly Report			
Baseline Survey conducted and completed			
Annual Reports			
External Mid Term Evaluation			
External Final Evaluation			
<b>Objective 0: Form youth representation bodies at sub location, location, constituency and county levels</b>			
Outcome 0.1: 900,000 youth aware of YYC program (CES)			
Outcome 0.2: Youth representation structures formed in the 7 counties (CES)			
<b>Objective 1: Support youth to exercise a greater voice in local and national affairs</b>			
Organizational capacity assessment with Partners (COP)			
Training plan implementation for RWPL, A-STEP, WYIPD (PM)			
YSHG mobilized, organized and engaged (CES)			
Civic engagement training (TOT) (CES)			
Youth group civic engagement training (CES)			
Community service campaigns led by youth groups (CES)			
Grass root soccer (CES)			
2 days county level Advocacy training (CES, PM, AYT)			
2 days county level network training (CES, PM, AYT)			
One 2 days training for the Rift Valley platform (CES, PM, AYT)			
Meetings with government officials (PM, CES)			
Public forums with government partners and youth (1 per quarter) (PM, CES)			
Youth participate in public planning meetings (PM, CES)			
Youth led advocacy campaigns (CES, PM)			
<b>Objective 2: Increase youth productivity, employment opportunities, and income</b>			
Labor market assessment (STA, PM)			
Value chain assessment (STA, PM)			
Market (Product) assessment (STA, PM)			
Life skills/entrepreneurship TOT with 20 people completed (STA, PM)			
Life skills training (STA, PM)			
Entrepreneurship training (STA, PM)			
Business plans and grant applications			
Grant application evaluations			

Small grants issued to youth enterprises			
Apprenticeship programs negotiated with employers			
Youth centers provide career counseling			
Youth linked to USAID and other donor programs			
<b>Objective 3: Improve young women's access to political, social, and economic opportunities</b>			
Gender assessment in 10 project districts			
Outreach campaigns on female literacy/civic education			
Play writing and literacy curriculum completed			
Schools identified for girls economic empowerment programs			
Training for champions on mentorship			
In-school economic empowerment campaigns			
Stories collected from the beneficiaries			
Results of story-telling initiatives widely disseminated			
Young women participate in Youth Leadership Forum			

***Objective 0: Form youth representation bodies at sub location, location, constituency and county levels***

**Outcome 0.1: 900,000 youth aware of YYC program**

The local partners will conduct monthly campaigns to reach out to more youth in the mobilization process.

**Outcome 0.2: Youth representation structures formed in the 7 counties**

We will continue to strengthen the sub location structures and form village level forums that link to the sub location structures. The youth forums at this level will be registered and will hold regular meetings to discuss issues affecting them in their communities.

***Objective 1: Support youth to exercise a greater voice in local and national affairs***

**Outcome 1.1: WYIPD, RWPL, and A-STEP measurably strengthen organizational capacity  
Training plan implementation for RWPL, A-STEP, WYIPD**

The organizational capacity assessments have been conducted. Using the reports generated and the needs identified, we will develop a training plan on leadership, resource mobilization, staff performance, monitoring and evaluation, and reporting and financial management for rolling down to our local partners and the YSHGs.

**Outcome 1.2: Youth Self Help Groups actively engaged in civic issues**

Since July 1 we have been developing a youth database in the seven counties, which we will continue to update and use in our civic engagement activities. We will conduct a basic civic engagement TOT in August with our partners and youths from the structures mobilized, who will then conduct the training with other youths. The youth trained under the TOT training will in turn train youths from the groups. Trained youths will then access the community investment fund to

conduct community service campaigns.

**Outcome 1.3: Rift Valley youth networked to foster cooperation and understanding**

We will conduct trainings on advocacy and networking for youths across all groups, geographic boundaries and ethnic lines. We will do this through two days of county level advocacy training, two days of county level network training, and two days of training for the Rift Valley platform formed by representatives from all the counties..

**Outcome 1.4: Local government responsiveness to issues important to youth increased**

We will conduct one public forum with government partners and youth, during which the youth will explain their concerns to the government officials. We will also encourage the youth to attend public planning meetings, in order to influence the allocation of government resources such as Local Authority Transfer Fund and the Constituency Development Fund.

*Objective 2: Increase youth productivity, employment opportunities, and income*

**Outcome 2.1: Comprehensive labor market, youth skills and value chain assessments completed**

The assessments will be conducted in three quarters instead of proposed four quarters. We are in the process of conducting the labor market and youth skills assessments. We will conduct labor market, value chain, and market (product) assessments in this coming quarter.

**Outcome 2.2: Youth employability increased through life/job skills and entrepreneurship training**

Making Cents International will conduct training with our partners and youth “bright spots”. These youths will then be paired with field officers to conduct trainings. We will then select 50% of the YSHGs from the civic engagement training to graduate onto life skills based on their performance under Outcome 1.2. As with the civic engagement training, two leaders from each YSHG will attend the life skills training and then will train their YSHGs members in August 2011 and January and February 2012. Similarly, for the entrepreneurship training, 50% of the high performing YSHGs (for example, those that successfully train their members in life skills), will be eligible for entrepreneurship training. Again, leaders from those chosen YSHGs will receive the entrepreneurship training and then train their members in these skills in September 2011 and February 2012. The life skills and entrepreneurship training will be conducted over four phases of the program.

**Outcome 2.3: Youth income increased through micro and small enterprise development**

After youth successfully completing the entrepreneurship training, they will be invited to develop simple group based business plans to compete for business start up grants of approximately \$500-1,000 starting from November. The grants are limited to a few groups hence the competition will be as transparent as possible with a clear checklist that youth are welcome to see and participate in. One of the criteria is that the groups must be part of a youth bunge and actively participating in its grassroots activities and meetings.



## **Outcome 2.4: Youth obtain employment in the public and private sectors**

For youth better suited for employment in the public and private sectors rather than entrepreneurship, we will connect them to various employment options. In the assessments under Outcome 2.1, we will begin to identify sectors looking to expand and where added workforce is needed. Starting in July, we will begin to reach out to employers to gauge their interest in having apprentices. The first group of apprentices will be placed in November after the life skills training. Starting in October, we also will work with youth centers to increase information about employment options and link youth graduates with other USAID and donor youth employment programs, such as the World Bank-funded Youth Employment Program.

### ***Objective 3: Improve young women's access to political, social, and economic opportunities***

## **Outcome 3.1: Rift Valley wide gender assessment completed to identify challenges and opportunities for young women**

In September, Mercy Corps and RWPL will conduct a gender assessment to identify the impacts of the PEV on relations between women and men, and specific constraints facing young women in participating in economic and civic activities. The assessment will include a literature review and field work in all districts including focus groups with girls, boys, youth, and adults to understand the specific issues in Rift Valley province that affect young women's involvement in civil society, local decision-making, and economic activities. As with the market assessments, these will be youth-led, with young women collecting and analyzing the data. We will hold town hall meetings in October in each district to share the findings and receive community reflection.

## **VI. List of sub-grantees**

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1. Wareng Youth Initiative for Peace and Development (WYIPD)
  2. African Sports and Talents Empowerment Program (A-STEP)
  3. Rural Women Peace Link (RWPL)
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