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

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**TABLE OF CONTENTS**

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**LIST OF ACRONYMS AND ABBREVIATIONS .....3**

**EXECUTIVE SUMMARY .....3**

**I. PROGRAM OVERVIEW .....6**

**II. PROGRAM PROGRESS.....6**

    A. CUMULATIVE PROGRESS OVERVIEW .....6

    B. PROGRAM INTERVENTIONS .....8

**III. CONSTRAINTS AND CHALLENGES.....16**

**IV. LESSONS LEARNED .....16**

**V. PLANNED ACTIVITIES FOR NEXT PERIOD OF THREE MONTHS, APRIL TO JUNE 2012 .....17**

**VI. LIST OF SUB-GRANTEES .....21**

## **LIST OF ACRONYMS AND ABBREVIATIONS**

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A-STEP	- Africa Sports and Talent Program
AOTR	- Agreement Officer Technical Representative
CBF	- County Bunge Forum
CBO	- Community Based Organization
CES	- Civic Engagement Specialist
COP	- Chief of Party
DC	- District Commissioner
DGSDO	- District Gender and Social Development Officer
DYO	- District Youth Officer
FGD	- Focus Group Discussion
ICC	- International Criminal Court
ID	- Identity Card
IEBC	- Independent Electoral and Boundaries Commission
IP	- Implementing Partner
LMA	- Labor Market Assessment
MoGCSD	- Ministry of Gender, Children and Social Development
OCA	- Organizational Capacity Assessment
OSP	- Organizational Strengthening Plan
PDGSD	- Provincial Director of Gender and Social Development
PEV	- Post-election Violence
PM	- Program Manager
PMP	- Performance Monitoring Plan
RWPL	- Rural Women Peace Link
RV	- Rift Valley
STA	- Senior Technical Advisor
TOT	- Training Of Trainers
VSL	- Village Saving and Loaning
WYIPD	- Wareng Youth Initiative for Peace and Development
YDC	- Youth Development Coordinator
YSHG	- Youth Self Help Group
YYC-RV	- Yes Youth Can, Rift Valley

## **EXECUTIVE SUMMARY**

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The Yes Youth Can! – Rift Valley (YYC-RV) program just completed its first year of implementation since its launch on 6th March 2011. This quarter, many positive strides have been made towards the realization of the goals of the program. Under objective 1 and in this quarter, we reached 285,907 youths, bringing the cumulative number of all the youths reached to 367,810. We also formed 1,140 Youth Bunges to bring the cumulative number to 3,603. The registration process became easier after we held meetings to explain the benefits of the program to the Ministry of Gender, Children and Social Development (MoGCSD) and other stakeholders in the previous quarters.

This quarter, 896 Youth Bunges received mentoring on advocacy, resource mapping and resource mobilization. Furthermore, 8 Bunges completed community service projects and 21 Bunges engaged in 13 total advocacy projects.

We launched 5 County Youth Bunge Forums this quarter. The forums brought together youths from different village Bunges as follows: 800 delegates in Nandi county, 800 delegates in Kericho, 1400 delegates in Nakuru, 744 delegates in Elgeyo Marakwet, and 1500 delegates in West Pokot. During the county forums, the delegates chose their own representatives at the county level in elections witnessed by the Independent Electoral and Boundaries Commission (IEBC) and key stakeholders. Five board members were elected per constituency, bringing a total of 20 county board members for Nandi, 20 for Kericho, 30 for Nakuru, 20 for Elgeyo Marakwet, and 15 for West Pokot. County board members in turn elected office bearers.

In all the county forums, we had high presence of government officials who came to grace the occasion, as well as commendable participation from elders and opinion leaders in the communities. The presence of the elders and government officials gave the youth confidence in the program.

We have also been engaging the elected county board members in trainings to enhance their capacities to carry out their roles. In March we held two trainings for the boards. The first training was for the Nandi board members on peace building for them to engage in conflict mitigation across the border. In the same month we also held the training for all the county board leaders in Rift Valley, where they were trained on the history of conflict in Rift Valley, leadership and strategic planning.

In March, two leaders from each county board participated in the elections of the National Bunge Association Board leaders. All the board members later joined the two representatives as they were informed by different speakers on the topic of youth and development. During the National Youth Bunge Association elections, four out of the seven leaders elected were from Rift Valley (the vice chair, organizing secretary, treasurer and vice secretary). The National Board leaders will be in charge of championing the cause of the Kenyan youth.

Under objective 2, which focuses on increasing youth productivity, employment opportunities and income, we have achieved our targets of training 866 Bunges and 7,537 youths. Our target under the program was 7,500. We have also continued to disseminate the findings of the Labor Market Assessment Report.

Furthermore, under this objective, negotiations with employers for apprenticeships started this quarter. Mercy Corps held three meetings in Trans Nzoia, West Pokot and Nakuru with 56 employers. We shared with them information about Yes Youth Can and so far seven have already agreed to take up apprentices. 31 youth have benefitted and been placed under apprenticeship. Mercy Corps has also been linking youth to other opportunities for jobs and apprenticeships. Many organizations and Ministries have shown the interest to employ young people. These organizations include SNV, APMATH, Syngenta, Land O' Lakes, Equity, and KTI, among others.

Under objective 3, which focuses on gender empowerment, this quarter we organized 9 outreach campaigns reaching out to 1,344 girls. This was done through empowering girls to reach out to other girls. We also conducted the gender assessment, which engaged 16 enumerators and 240 youths. The gender assessment report is being finalized.

Mentorship sessions under this objective began in February and have reached 400 girls. The topics discussed during these sessions included women and leadership, roles of women in the community, and women's rights. The impact of these sessions has been very evident with more girls participating in Bunge discussions and vying for leadership positions at the National forum. During the Women's Day on 8th March, we commemorated the day by hosting a talk show at the Discipleship Centre where women role models mentored 300 young girls on leadership. After the talk show, we held a football match where young girls beat the cultural barriers and stereotypes and enjoyed the game.

Unfortunately, the current political situation in the country – centered on the ICC case and the next elections – is causing confusion and anxiety among the public. This could easily undermine development as a priority and sway youth into politics. Negative ethnicity, which is evident in the campaign trails, is threatening to pull apart the fragile threads that have been holding together the different tribes in Rift Valley. To mitigate this, YYC-RV has devised strategies that will empower the youth with knowledge and information on civic issues. In the next quarter, we plan to train board members and more youth on nonviolent conflict mitigation methods and the on-going reforms, as well as good leadership, democracy and governance. We will also issue more community service grants and support youth-led advocacy. Under economic empowerment we will continue with the VSL trainings and issuance of enterprise grants for youth empowerment. Finally, under the gender component, we will emphasize mentorship of girls on leadership, outreach campaigns and issuance of economic empowerment grants for young girls.

## I. PROGRAM OVERVIEW

Youth were at the center of the 2007/2008 post-election violence (PEV), both as direct perpetrators and as victims. Although analysis of PEV has identified politicians as the force and organizers behind the large-scale terror, killing, arson, rape, and destruction, youth were the agents. The fact that almost 2 million youth (15-30 years) are out-of-school, and the great majority of these have no regular work or income, makes them particularly vulnerable to recruitment for pay into political campaigns and criminal gangs.

The youth development program Yes Youth Can! provides an opportunity for the youth between 18-35 years to find their voices, elect leaders from the village and hold them accountable in service to their communities, and engage in livelihood activities. The goal of YYC-RV is to strengthen the capabilities of youth and youth Bunges in the Rift Valley to be agents of positive change in their communities by putting the youth in the driver's seat of their own development. Mercy Corps is supporting this goal by pursuing four related objectives:

- 0) Form youth representation bodies at village and county levels;
  - 1) Support youth to exercise a greater voice in local and national affairs;
  - 2) Increase youth productivity, employment opportunities and income; and
  - 3) Improve young women's access to political, social and economic opportunities.

## 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 and youth Bunges in the Rift Valley to be agents of positive change in their communities</b>				
Goal: % change in the level of youth who feel confident to contribute positively to the community.	BV+50%	0	0	0%
Goal: % change in number of youth who take action to 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 Village 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	285,907	367,810	41%
0.2a # of Village Bunges formed & registered.	5,000	1,140	3,603	72%

0.2b # of County Forums formed and registered	7	5	7	100%
<b>Objective 1: Support youth to exercise a greater voice in local and national affairs</b>				
1.1a # of youth Bunges who have action plans in place to influence their community and local government decision-making.	1,000	2,631	3,227	323%
1.1b # of youth who attend Bunge meetings	15,000	18,199	71,660	478%
1.2a USAID GJD 4.1: # of youth members of Bunges who have completed USG-assisted civic education training programs	15,000	14,812	16,135	108%
1.2b # of community service projects implemented by Bunges	150	6	17	11%
1.3a # of youth members of Bunges who attend county youth leadership conferences	160	0	70	44%
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	4	7	14%
1.5 # of Bunges involved in youth-led advocacy campaigns targeted towards policy and public investment decisions.	1000	0	0	0%
<b>Objective 2: To increase youth productivity, employment opportunities and income</b>				
% of Bunge members achieving greater economic independence	BV+50%	0	0	0%
2.1a # of young people who participate in comprehensive value chain assessments	100	21	40	40%
2.2a USAID EG 6.3 # of young persons completing USG-funded workforce development programs	7,500	4,622	7,537	100%
2.3a # of youth entrepreneurial groups who develop business plans	200	508	508	254%
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	31	31	10%
2.4b USAID EG 6.3 # of people gaining employment or better employment as a result of participation in USG-funded workforce development	500	41	65	13%

programs				
<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	7	0	0	0%
3.2a # of public outreach campaigns conducted on the civic engagement and livelihoods.	60	4	4	7%
3.2b % change in people who understand the importance of female civic education and livelihoods.	BV+25%	0	0	0%
3.3a # of mentors paired with young women	40	0	0	0%
3.3b % change of young women who report a greater diversity of economic opportunities.	BV+50%	0	0	0%
3.4a # of stories performed and disseminated on the radio and through multimedia	25	0	0	0%

## **B. Program Interventions**

In complementing the Local Empowerment for Peace (LEAP) program being implemented by Mercy Corps in the Rift Valley region, the YYC-RV team has continued to work with local partners Wareng Youth Initiative for Peace and Development (WYIPD), Rural Women Peace Link (RWPL), and Africa Sports and Talent Program (A-STEP) in the implementation of the program. The Youth Development Coordinators (YDCs) hired by the partners are working closely with volunteers recruited from the villages to mobilize the youths and form village Bunges.

The principles of Youth Owned, Youth Led and Youth Managed have empowered many youth by involving them in decision making. Through the village Bunges, youth have been able to develop their action plans, identify the problems in their villages through resource mapping, and find solutions as well as the advocacy campaigns that they need to carry out. They have also identified community service projects that they can do with their community. Capacity building for the youth through civic education and entrepreneurship trainings has equipped them with the skills they require to make informed decisions in businesses. Most youth have initiated economic empowerment activities and advocacy campaigns in their villages on different issues affecting them. Mentorship for youth in leadership, either in the Bunges or county boards, has been essential.

All the elders have been very supportive by cushioning the youth and local implementers to ensure they do not turn into political functions. Stakeholder meetings were also crucial to building support and rapport from government and other NGOs. The stakeholder meetings have given the government representatives an avenue to open up and interact with the youth who are beneficiaries of the program.

The County Forums were the climax of youth efforts from the villages. The excitement and celebrations accompanying them from the youth were clear evidence that youth had finally found their space and they liked it. Finally, we worked closely with the local media to disseminate information about the YYC program, which has been helpful in reaching more youths and also giving the youth in the Bunges confidence in the program.

**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 village and county levels**

Summary of Objective 0 Outcomes
0.1: 900,000 youth aware of Yes Youth Can program
0.2: Youth representation structures formed in the 7 counties

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

The YYC-RV program continued to engage key stakeholders throughout the quarter. Continuous use of different mobilization strategies by Mercy Corps and partners has assisted in reaching out to more youths in the program. The strategies include use of sports, theatre, meetings, outreach campaigns and local administration forums to pass the message. YYC-RV has directly reached out to 3,607 young people.

As a result of frequent visits to the village Bunges to monitor progress, several success stories have been collected as the youths continue to attest on the impact the program has had in their lives and their communities. They are inspired to live a positive impact in their communities, hence an encouragement to other youths who have not joined or formed Bunges yet.

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

YYC-RV has impacted most youths in the region. This can be witnessed by the continued increase in the number of youth Bunges formed through mobilization forums and outreach campaigns held. With the joint efforts between Mercy Corps and the three local partners (RWPL, WYIPD, and A-STEP), we have managed to mobilize 1,140 new Village Youth Bunges this quarter. Furthermore, 846 Village Youth Bunges have adopted the constitution and by-laws and a total of 294 Bunges have registered and received their certificates from MoGCSD.

21 constituency forums were held in preparation for the county forums in Nandi, Kericho, Nakuru, Elgeyo Marakwet and West Pokot counties. The forums brought together two delegates from every village Bunge. The main agenda was to give the youth an opportunity to discuss and amend a draft constitution that was to be adopted during the County Bunge Forums.

Moreover, five County Youth Bunge Forums were held during this quarter. The forums brought together youths from different village Bunges as follows: 800 delegates in Nandi county, 800 delegates in Kericho, 1400 delegates in Nakuru county, 744 delegates in Elgeyo Marakwet, and

1500 delegates in West Pokot. During the county forums, the delegates selected their own representatives at the county level, with elections witnessed by the IEBC and key stakeholders. Five board members were elected per constituency, bringing a total of 20 in Nandi, 20 in Kericho, 30 in Nakuru, 20 in Elgeyo Marakwet and 15 in West Pokot. The county boards in turn elected their executive boards.

In the reporting period, the National Youth Bunge Association (NYBA) was also launched in March. Rift Valley county boards participated in electing the NYBA board, adopting the constitution, and appointing committee members for the Trust Fund, Tahidi Youth Fund and think tank boards under the YYC National program. Four out of the seven members who now constitute the NYBA are from Rift Valley.

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

Summary of Objective 1 Outcomes	
1.1	WYIPD, RWPL, and A-STEP measurably strengthen organizational capacity
1.2	Youth Bunges actively engaged in civic issues
1.3	Rift Valley youth networked to foster cooperation and understanding
1.4	Local government responsiveness to issues important to youth increased
1.5	Youth-led advocacy efforts strengthened to influence policy and public investment decisions

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

Mercy Corps continued to strengthen the capacity of our youth-led local partner organizations throughout the quarter. We have continued to support our partners in areas where they feel challenged, especially on leadership, M&E and project financial management. This has resulted in exponentially increased performance, especially in monitoring and reporting by all partners.

#### *Outcome 1.2: Youth Bunges actively engaged in civic issues*

The civic engagement mentorship sessions continued throughout the quarter. Out of the 1,140 newly formed Bunges, 896 have been taken through resource mapping, action plans, advocacy, the Kenyan Constitution, and proposal writing. The sessions were held at the constituency level reaching out to youth leaders from different village Bunges. The Bunges have exhibited progress since formation in the kind of the activities they have been engaged in.

Several community and advocacy projects were carried out by village Bunges in five different counties, as summarized in the table below.

No.	County	Village Bunge	Project Undertaken
1	Nakuru	Wanyororo Village Bunge	Campaign on Local brew
2	Nandi	Kamobo Village Bunge Tazama Village Bunge Comer Village Bunge Kiptuiya Village Bunge Arise and Shine Village Bunge	“My Id My Life” Campaign
3	Trans Nzoia	Matofali Village Bunge	Education campaign and

			mentorship sessions for two primary schools
4	Trans Nzoia	Shingereri Village Bunge Orombe Village Bunge Namanjalala Village Bunge	Door to door Anti drugs and substance abuse campaign
5	West Pokot	Mortome Village Bunge Morlem Village Bunge Cheptiya Village Bunge Chepkoghyo Village Bunge Kariwo Village Bunge Chemaltin Village Bunge Najukut Village Bunge Paghgate Village Bunge	“My Id My Life” Campaign

Grassroots Soccer conducted a curriculum development workshop with youth from Bunges to develop a youth-based training curriculum on behavior change, goal setting, life skills and peace building. The workshop was held in February.

In implementing this objective, Mercy Corps has partnered with Transparency International’s Advocacy and Legal Advice Centre, which has been training youth on the Constitution, devolution and the youth gains under it.

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

With the launching of all the seven county forums, Mercy Corps engaged the elected county board members to identify training needs and learning opportunities in their respective counties. In March, we held a two day Rift Valley regional board meeting which brought together all the seven county boards in Eldoret. Creating a non-ethnic youth agenda for Rift Valley was the main agenda for the meeting. Youth discussed openly the barriers by their elders to cooperate with other communities. They also shared their learning opportunities, which Mercy Corps will be supporting in the second year. The group was trained on leadership skills, strategic planning and county envisioning. Mercy Corps will continue to train the board on negotiation skills, governance, peace building and conflict resolution skills, reform processes in Kenya and devolved structure of government, voter education, and more.

In March, two county leaders per county from Rift Valley attended the NYBA in Nairobi, where they elected the NYBA board. The board consists of seven youth leaders, four of whom are from Rift Valley. On the last three days they were joined by the other county leaders. Various speakers were invited to mentor the youth on advocacy and communication strategies as they developed their County Bunge plans. Since the launch, the boards have elected their executive officers. The West Pokot, Elgeyo Marakwet, and Kericho boards are registered as community-based organizations. Board members have been involved in numerous activities in their localities. For instance, the Uasin Gishu and Trans Nzoia boards have been involved in mobilization and formation of more village Bunges; the Nandi County Board has been involved in peace building activities across the Muhoroni-Aldai border, where a recent cattle rustling incident occurred.

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

This quarter Mercy Corps held five stakeholders meetings that brought together representatives of Youth Bunges, District Commissioners (DC), Regional Provincial Commissioner, District Youth Officers (DYO), District Gender and Social Development Officers (DSGDO), relevant ministries and elders from the communities in Rift Valley. This has led to an improved working relationship with the government and has triggered them to provide more support to the youth. The Ministry of Youth and Sports Affairs is engaging the youth Bunges in its sports program to address youth and idleness and also allowing them to access Youth Enterprise Fund in Elgeyo Marakwet and Uasin Gishu counties. Local administration (chiefs and village elders) have also been working closely with our YDCs during mobilization and outreach campaigns.

Continuous collaboration with the government has been crucial and necessary, especially when the youth are implementing community service and advocacy projects. An example is the collaboration with the Ministry of Health in Eldoret, which provides drugs and nurses to assist Conner Youth Bunge when they are carrying out anti-jigger campaigns in Langas.

*Outcome 1.5: Youth-led advocacy efforts strengthened to influence policy and public investment decisions*

Youth Bunge members have been mentored on advocacy skills. As a result, 21 Bunges have carried out advocacy campaigns this quarter. For instance, Corner village Bunge lobbied to be given an ILO road construction contract that was funded by the Japanese Embassy. They also hosted the Japanese Ambassador, who agreed with them about the need for his government to focus on youth as a priority area.

The Nakuru County Bunge president, also identified as a youth leader in Nakuru County, was invited to a meeting by the District Commissioner for Naivasha during US ambassador's visit in the constituency. The county president presented a paper on the need for inclusion of youth in peace building and negotiation processes in the country, since they are the front runners in conflicts. He said that this will assist in reaching a resolution much faster.

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

Summary of Objective 2 Outcomes
2.1 Comprehensive labor market and value chain assessments completed
2.2 Youth employability increased through life/job skills and entrepreneurship training
2.3 Youth income increased through micro and small enterprise development
2.4 Youth obtain employment in the public and private sectors

*Outcome 2.1 Comprehensive labor markets and value chain assessment*

The Economic Empowerment team started to disseminate results of the labor market assessment and youth skills gaps in various stakeholder forums. This was done at Elders and stakeholder forums in Elgeyo Marakwet, Kericho and Nakuru counties. Besides that, two meetings were held in Kitale and Nakuru with potential employers/providers of apprenticeship for youths to

specifically disseminate this report. During these meetings, facts of the LMA report were validated and useful feedback obtained.

The YYC staff are now working with large agribusiness firms, local leaders in the sector, and existing value-chain projects, in an effort to make youth understand that this is a profitable and well-respected form of income generation.

Also, through partnerships and networking, Mercy Corps has initiated discussions with various partners who are development actors specializing in value chain activities in the seven counties where YYC-RV is operating. We have pursued collaboration in terms of co-opting these youth in all our economic empowerment activities as part of the wider strategy of helping youth benefit from these organizations' value chain work. These partners have been providing a platform for empowered youths to identify farming practices, avail inputs and access relevant accompanying information. Fibs Africa will help them in identification of youth groups that are already practicing farming and are benefiting from it, so that these groups can serve as agents for change. Syngenta is a Swiss company working on a variety of activities within the agri-business sector. Collaboration has been agreed upon in terms of funding up to 15 Bunges in areas such as commercial nurseries and green houses in Uasin Gishu, Nandi and Elgeyo Marakwet counties. SNV will also offer expertise to youth on horticulture and passion fruit value chains.

Land O' Lakes will be assisting in the promotion of the dairy sector value chains. We held meetings with the Ministry of Cooperatives, which is now working with the youth to register cooperatives and tap into the benefits of the ministry, as a strategy for quarantining growth and sustainability of the Bunge activities. Mainstream banks, particularly Equity, have been training many Bunges on financial literacy. APHIA Plus has also started engaging some youth on HIV and AIDS discussions.

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

Out of the 24 "Bright Spots" that were trained in October 2011, 21 continued to roll out trainings in their respective constituencies under the supervision and support of our local partners' YDCs. Up to now, they have conducted trainings on entrepreneurship to 866 village Bunges that reached out to over 7,537 youths in the seven counties as at end of February 2012.

Noteworthy gains with regards these trainings include:

- Most Bunges have embarked on various economic activities that have been triggered by the trainings. Such activities, as reported in February 2012, include table banking, brick making, horticulture, poultry production/chicken rearing, buying and selling of cereals, home bakery, making and collection of beads, vegetable farming, bee keeping.
- The illiterate class in West Pokot are eager to learn and taken full advantage of these training to gain basic life and entrepreneurship skills.
- In many places where Bunges had not been formed, mobilization work and a drive to have them registered has taken off after they saw the trainings being conducted in their villages.

- Collaboration with Equity bank in delivery of trainings has given youth confidence that they can visit a bank and be treated with respect. The Economic Empowerment Trainers (EETs) have also benefited from training materials given out by Equity (e.g. flipchart paper and marker pens).
- Some EETs have benefited from the use of GOK resources. One of them has a GOK motorbike that he was given to use during mobilization.
- Special groups, like headmen in the villages, have also benefitted from the training.
- Some Bunges have taken advantage of the trainings to develop proposals for funding and given these to Mercy Corps (for community service) and others potential funders like the YEDF and NACC, amongst others.

#### Roll-out of Village Savings and Loan (VSL) program

Following the entrepreneurship training, many Bunges have initiated income generating activities and hence created an overwhelming demand for funding development enterprises. The Village Savings and Loan (VSL) program was rolled out as a crucial tool/strategy for keeping youth together, as well as helping in the mobilization of local resources and inculcating a culture of saving and borrowing to invest among the youth. It is expected to help the youth to access capital for the entrepreneurial ideas that they have developed, as well as to enhance building of networks among the youth at the village level.

The first batch of VSL facilitators and supervisors were trained early March this year. They include nine YDCs and nine other pre-selected bright spots from Trans Nzoia, Uasin Gishu and Nandi Counties. The roll-out of VSL activities has begun in these three counties. The VSL Trainers developed work plans and proceeded to conduct initial trainings in their localities (Bunges in close proximity to where they live). By end of March 2012, the VSL trainers had reached 167 youths from eight village Bunges.

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

Mercy Corps sent out a call for proposal for economic empowerment and Youth Bunges have been sending business plans. Over 500 proposals have been received for the first phase of training. The proposals are currently being vetted and the best Bunges will be funded under the YYC-RV. A partnership arrangement has been worked out to ensure most if not all of those promising project proposals are funded through YYC National funding and other potential partners, including Banks and INGOs working in our target areas.

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

As established during the Labor Market and Youth Skills Assessment, youth are seeking gainful employment. However, what is lacking among many youths is the skills to network, spot opportunities and present themselves to prospective employers. We have started to create linkages with employers who might be willing to have youths as their employees, as we target to place 300 youth in apprenticeships and see another 500 gain meaningful employment through participation in the program. So far, and apart from the 20 partner YDCs that have benefited as employees of the program, we graduated 24 “Bright Spots” as life skills and entrepreneurship facilitators, and nine VSL facilitators. All of them are now engaged in training village Bunges.

Currently they are paid a fee from YYC, but later on, the village Bunges should pay the fees to the Bright Spots. Each Bright Spot has one Making Cents International training kit to assist him/her to conduct the training in the villages with the village Bunges.

Negotiations for apprenticeships for the youth started early this year and are ongoing. Towards this end we have worked with the Ministry of Labor’s employment officers and the Chamber of Commerce and Industry to reach out to its members that have a potential of employing youth. We indulged individuals from the business community, under the auspices of the Chamber of Commerce and Industry in collaboration with the Ministry of Labor, to rally them to take on apprentices and potentially employ youth. The aforementioned two meetings covered Trans Nzoia and West Pokot counties in one meeting, and Nakuru county in the other.

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

Summary of Objective 3 Outcomes
3.1 Rift Valley wide gender assessment completed to identify challenges and opportunities for young women
3.2 Community understanding increased of importance of female civic engagement and Livelihoods
3.3 Young women in village Bunges mentored by female role models on economic opportunities
3.4 Young women develop leadership and advocacy skills through storytelling initiative

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

The gender assessment seeks to address some of the gender roles and the implication of these to (young) women’s involvement in decision-making processes. These are issues which are often seen as the causes of why young women are not actively involved, even in issues that concern them. In the reporting period, gender assessment was conducted with the support of sixteen enumerators (eight female and eight male) who were trained as data collectors. They worked in pairs within eight constituencies reaching out to 240 youths. The assessment was majorly done to establish facts on lack of participation in civic engagement and enterprise development by young women. The assessment report is still being drafted.

*Outcome 3.2 Community understanding increased of importance of female civic engagement and Livelihoods*

To have more young women participate more in Bunge formation and discussions, we conducted nine outreach campaigns in Kacheliba, Ororwo, Kiwawa, Konyao (Kacheliba Constituency), Nakuru town (Nakuru town Constituency), Sosiet (Belgut Constituency), Pipeline (Eldoret North), Nyaru (Eldoret East), and Kapsowar (Marakwet East). The total number of youth reached was 1883, of which 1344 were females and 539 males.

Additionally, in partnership with NCKK and our local implementer RWPL, we commemorated the International Women’s Day on 8<sup>th</sup> March. The event brought together 300 young women from Bunges and women role models from the community to talk about women’s leadership. This created an opportunity for the young women to meet and discuss with women leaders in the

community. Young women learned from the leaders and were motivated to take up leadership positions in the community.

*Outcome 3.3: Female youth in Bunges mentored by female role models on economic activities.*

This quarter, the mentorship program for young girls started and reached all the ladies in the county boards. It took a women rights approach on leadership, participation in civic issues and empowerment. The process proved very productive as many young girls have started to gain confidence and also have claimed their space in the National Youth Bunge Association, where two were elected.

*Outcome 3.4: Young women develop leadership and advocacy skills through storytelling initiative.*

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

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

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- There have been incidents of insecurity (cattle rustling) in West Pokot and Trans Nzoia, which have made it difficult to plan youth activities and Bunge formation meetings during some months in the program.
- The ICC has made the region very sensitive due to the uncertainties caused by the process. We were advised by the PC to move slowly on implementation and to be sensitive of December/January ICC deadlines and what they would mean to the region.
- It has been a challenge to have many young women participating in the Bunges due to culture and the timidity of the girls. Our specific activities targeting women will kick off next quarter in an effort to correct this imbalance.
- Politicians have approached the County Boards and the youth are divided along political lines. This has also caused a lot of confusion among the youth that some of their board members are receiving money from politicians.
- Literacy levels among the youth in some villages are very low and therefore they are not able to prepare the action plans and write proposals. Hence a lot of mentorship needs to be done beyond the planned scope.
- Registration of the Bunges is still a challenge, with DSGO's who are willing and eager to register alleging there is a shortage of certificates at their main office in Nairobi.

### **IV. Lessons Learned**

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- County forums offer a platform for interaction among the young people. It gives them a chance to share their experiences and learn from each other. The forums also act as mechanisms to speed up formation of village Bunges and a motivation to more youths joining Bunges.
- Elected County board members need capacity building on various issues, such as: leadership and good governance, resource mobilization, county government, and the new

constitution. They also need training on their roles as elected county board, as they will act as mentors in their counties.

- The elections gave the youths an opportunity to elect worth leaders. This is a guiding factor towards the upcoming elections. Hence active participation in competitive elections in the process of identifying right leaders.
- Efforts pulled together with organizations like Transparency International and IEBC proved to be great successes. The collaboration to sensitize the youths on Kenya’s constitution, especially on devolved government, allowed the youths to understand the devolved structure. It is an opportunity to know strategies on how to interface with the county government, as the program prepares the youths to constitute county youth Bunge forums for their counties.

#### **V. Planned activities for next period of three months, April to June 2012**

Mercy Corps and the local implementing partners will continue with mobilization and formation of more Bunges. The already formed Bunges will be mentored on groups and group dynamics, advocacy, voter education and leadership skills. Bunges that have registered and have resource maps and action plans will be eligible to apply and be funded for community service and advocacy grants. The “My ID My life” campaign will continue with Bunges identifying youth in their villages who do not have IDs and advocating for them.

In the previous quarter, the county boards formed, held elections, created strategic plans, and were trained on leadership. Capacity building for the boards will continue this quarter and they will be funded to conduct civic education and to invest in enterprises that will give the boards income. Grassroots Soccer training, which focuses on behavior change, goal setting, civic education and peace building, will be done once the curriculum is approved. The trained TOTs (Coaches) will in turn cascade the training to the Bunges.

Mercy Corps intends to train the partners on human resource management, documentation of success stories, and monitoring staff performance. Under objective 2, validation workshops on the Labor Market Assessment report will be conducted and dissemination of the report done. Negotiation for apprenticeships will continue and youth with expertise in different disciplines will be attached to employers. Further, training on the VSL program will continue. Finally under objective 3, the gender assessment report will be completed and disseminated to young women and mentors during the mentorship session. The report will also be used in devising strategies of implementation. Outreach campaigns will continue targeting areas where participation of young women in the Bunges is low. Young women mentorship will also continue throughout the quarter by the mentors who we shall identify.

Activity (Person responsible)	2012		
	April	May	June
<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 Village and County levels</b>			
Outcome 0.1: 900,000 youth aware of YYC program (CES)			
Host public fora (CES,PM)			
Outreach to at-risk youth (PM, CES & FOs)			
Develop materials to explain the program (COP)			
Outcome 0.2: Youth representation Village Bunges formed in the 7 counties (CES)			
County forums Formed (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)			
Village Bunge leaders identified (CES)			
Civic engagement training (County Board capacity building) (CES)			
Youth Bunge civic engagement training (CES)			
Community service campaigns led by youth Bunges (CES)			
Grass root soccer (CES)			
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>			
Labour market assessment (STA, PM,M&EO)			
Value chain assessment (STA, PM,M&EO)			
Market (Product) assessment (STA, PM,M&EO)			
Life skills/entrepreneurship TOT with 20 people completed (STA, PM)			
Life skills training (STA, PM)			
Entrepreneurship training (STA, PM)			
Business plans and grant applications (STA, PM)			
Loans application evaluations(STA, PM)			
Small loans issued to youth enterprises (STA, PM)			
Apprenticeship programs negotiated with employers (STA, PM)			
Youth centers provide career counseling (STA, PM)			
Youth linked to USAID and other donor programs (STA, PM)			
<b>Objective 3: Improve young women's access to political, social, and economic opportunities</b>			
Gender assessment in 7 project Counties (GTS, M&EO,PM)			
Town Hall meetings to share gender assessment results (GTS, M&EO,PM)			
Outreach campaigns on female literacy/civic education (GTS, PM)			
Bunges identified for female economic empowerment programs (GTS, PM)			
Training for champions on mentorship (GTS, PM)			
Village Bunges economic empowerment campaigns (GTS, CES, PM)			

Stories collected from Yes Youth Can beneficiaries (GTS, M&EO, PM)			
Results of story-telling initiatives widely disseminated (GTS, PM)			
Young women participate in Youth Leadership Forum (GTS, CES, PM)			

**Objective 0: Form youth representation bodies at Village and County levels**

This activity will continue in villages we have not reached yet.

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

Mercy Corps and the three local partners will continue to mobilize youth and form more Bunges. We will work closely with other stakeholders to disseminate information about the program. Moreover, the ID campaign that started this quarter will continue next quarter. The campaign will be a demonstration that the Bunges can help them to solve problems within their villages. Finally, YYC-RV plans to use media talk shows to mobilize the youth to join or form Bunges in their villages.

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

This activity was completed and reported and is not scheduled for implementation in the next quarter.

**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*

Mercy Corps will train the partners on improving staff performance, documentation of success stories, and project management.

*Outcome 1.2: Youth Bunges, actively engaged in civic issues*

Mercy Corps and its partners will continue with village Bunge formation and identification of their leaders throughout next quarter. For the already formed Bunges, we will engage them through trainings on civic issues in the next quarter. These trainings will be conducted by qualified consultants in the different disciplines. We target to fund village Bunges with Community Investment Funds and advocacy funds to conduct community service projects and advocacy campaigns within their communities in next quarter. Grassroots Soccer will train TOTs on behavior change, peace building and civic education using sports.

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

In the next quarter we shall continue conducting two-day county-level advocacy and networking trainings. This is geared to build the capacity of the elected county-level youths to truly represent their peers, advocate for change, and work together across ethnic lines and geographic boundaries. Through these trainings, youth representatives will identify county-level and national issues for advocacy and networking with other counties in other provinces. Other identified capacity needs for county boards will also be addressed on a case-by-case basis.

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

Mercy Corps will continue engaging government officials through meetings to discuss program objectives, progress and challenges. These will occur throughout the next quarter. Other activities leading to this outcome include holding public forums with government partners and Youth Bunges, as well as Youth Bunges participating in public planning meetings.

*Outcome 1.5: Youth-led advocacy efforts strengthened to influence policy and public investment decisions*

This objective has been ongoing. We will continue encouraging youth to participate in forums where policies are made and advocate for youth inclusion.

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

*Outcome 2.1: Comprehensive labour market and value chain assessments completed*

We will conduct validation workshops and continue roll-out of VSL as a way of mobilizing local resources for Bunges and to keep them meeting.

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

Under the life skills and entrepreneurship trainings that were being conducted by EETs, the target has already been met. We will change focus to VSL trainings in the 4th quarter. Care will be taken to monitor changes in the groups, for instance: number of Bunge members achieving greater economic independence, number of youth entrepreneurial groups who develop business plans, number of youth that gain on-the-job experience through private sector apprenticeships, number of people gaining employment or better employment as a result of participation in USG-funded workforce development programs, amongst others.

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

Through efforts of individual youths and youths in Bunges adopting best practices in operation and management of their individual and group enterprises and through projects financed under the YYC! Regional and National grants and loans, YYC-RV will fund 100 enterprise grants in the next quarter. Changes such as increases in income will continue to be monitored.

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

This will be largely supported through deliberate efforts by Mercy Corps staff. Skilled youth will be identified for job experience placements and formal employment where openings exist. We will link the youth with prospective employers, as informed by the Labor Market and Youth Skills Assessment report conducted during the second quarter.

### **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.*

Data collection and entry for the gender assessment was conducted in March. In the next quarter, the report will be completed and dissemination of the findings commenced.

*Outcome 3.2: Community understanding increased of importance of female civic engagement and livelihoods.*

Outreach campaigns on the importance of female civic engagement and livelihoods will be enhanced through village Bunges and specifically targeted, following the gender assessment. However, there will be continuous gender mainstreaming in all activities being implemented to ensure gender equity.

*Outcome 3.3: Female youth in Bunges mentored by female role models on economic activities.*

The mentorship program that started last quarter will continue with the identification of mentors and girls who are willing to be placed under the mentorship process.

*Outcome 3.4: Young women develop leadership and advocacy skills.*

Activities for this outcome will start at the end of next quarter as young women's stories on leadership and advocacy are documented.

### **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 (ASTEP)
3. Rural Women Peace Link (RWPL)