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

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LIST OF ACRONYMS AND ABBREVIATIONS

A-STEP	Africa Sports and Talent Program
AOR	Agreement Officer Representative
CBO	Community Based Organization
CB	County Board
CES	Civic Engagement Specialist
COP	Chief of Party
DC	District Commissioner
DGSDO	District Gender and Social Development Officer
DOT	Digital Opportunity Trust
DYO	District Youth Officer
EWER	Early Warning Early Response
ICT	Information Communication Technology
ID	Identity Card
IEBC	Independent Electoral and Boundaries Commission
IP	Implementing Partner
KHCP	Kenya Horticulture Competitive Program
KTI	Kenya Transition Initiative
LEAP II	Local Empowerment for Peace Program II
LMA	Labor Market Assessment
MC	Mercy Corps
CAR	Member of County Assembly
MoGCSD	Ministry of Gender, Children and Social Development
MoYAS	Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports
NCKC	National Council of Churches of Kenya
NYBA	National Youth Bunge Association
PDGSD	Provincial Director of Gender and Social Development
PEV	Post-election Violence
PM	Program Manager
RWPL	Rural Women Peace Link
RV	Rift Valley
SACCO	Savings and Credit Cooperatives Society
TOT	Training Of Trainers
VSL	Village Savings and Loans
VSLA	Village Savings and Loans Association
WYIPD	Wareng Youth Initiative for Peace and Development
YSHG	Youth Self Help Group
YYC-N	Yes Youth Can – National
YYC-RV	Yes Youth Can – Rift Valley

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Yes Youth Can! (YYC) is funded by the United States Agency for International Development (USAID). Its main objective is to strengthen the capabilities of youth organizations in Kenya's Rift Valley Province to be agents of positive change in their communities. The program empowers young people and grassroots youth organizations to achieve a greater voice in national policy, and in making and creating new livelihood opportunities. YYC takes an integrated approach that includes community mobilization, civic engagement, economic development and gender mainstreaming.

In our second year of implementation of the YYC-RV program, Mercy Corps continued to work in seven counties namely West Pokot, Nakuru, Nandi, Uasin Gishu, Kericho, Elgeiyo Marakwet and Trans-Nzoia. These are the counties in Rift Valley that were worst hit by the Post-election Violence in the year 2007/2008. Initially the YYC program in Rift Valley was being implemented in partnership with our local partners Rural Women Peace Link, A-STEP and Wareng Youth Initiative for Peace and Development, but in an effort to put the youth behind the steering wheel and guided by the principle of youth-owned, youth-led and youth-managed, the seven County Boards (CBs) have now become our partners. The program received a modification for extension up to 6th November 2013.

It is important to note that this year was an election year and hence all efforts were geared towards ensuring a contribution to peaceful elections. The YYC-RV and the County Boards tailor-made their activities to prepare the youth for peaceful elections as well as to minimize tensions coming from the International Criminal Court case hearings against the three suspects. We formed a total of 1,872 *bunges* this year bringing the cumulative figure of *bunges* formed to 5,475. Through these *bunge* networks, the program was able to reach out to approximately 655,190 youths through outreach campaigns, peace caravans, media talk shows, Chief's *barazas* among other events. To date, we have a cumulative figure of youth reached under the program standing at 1,270,293. To ensure the youth were not misused by politicians to cause violence as experienced during elections before and as identified in the Waki report, YYC-RV came up with ways to ensure youth peacefully participated in leadership and governance.

This was achieved through a two pronged approach which included youth vying for political positions and voting in their fellow youths and through capacity building on civic education, mentorship on peace building strategies, and voter education. Approximately 150,000 youth from across the seven counties were directly trained on the Constitution; voter education; and leadership and integrity through partnership with the International Republican Institute, Transparency International, Kenya Transition Initiatives and URAIA. The result of the active participation and engagement of the youth in the community saw 16 youth from *bunges* being elected in the position of Member of County Assembly.

Capacity building for youth in peace building was realized through a number of activities. Firstly, in an effort to reach out to university students, Mercy Corps organized a University Peace Symposium under the theme "the role of the youth in peaceful elections" and brought together 1,200 youth. The topics for discussion included democracy and governance in Kenya

and the strategies of mitigating violence. In partnership with the LEAP II program, 313 youths from youth *bunges* and 80 County Board members were trained on Early Warning Early Response (EWER). The youths were taken through concepts of conflict and EWER mechanisms. 263 TOTs have since reported to have trained 15,780 youths from different village *bunges* across Rift Valley. 135 County Board members were also brought up to speed with the existing EWER mechanism such as UWIANO, USHAHIDI and UCHAGUZI SMS platforms and as credible reporters, they sensitized the youth in their constituencies on the systems to report and respond to violence.

The County Boards conducted board activities geared towards sensitizing the community on peace and voter education. They also organized 19 stakeholders meetings across the seven counties in which they held discussions on the role of the youth in peace building and development. As a result, the profile of the youth in the community has been raised as we continue to see them get invitations to attend government meetings as well as getting consulted on decision making within their communities. Taking the publicity higher was the implementation of 209 community service projects this reporting year compared to 17 projects implemented in the first year. Out of the cumulative 226 projects implemented so far, 22 were funded by the program while 204 were *bunges'* own initiatives.

In an effort to increase the youth economic productivity, which reduces the vulnerability of the youth to be manipulated by politicians, YYC-RV continued with entrepreneurship and life skills training. This reporting year, we implemented the Village Savings and Loans (VSL) program in which 6,640 youth were trained by TOTs. To date, 212 *bunges* have reported having already started VSL groups. Cumulatively the youth have been able to save more than Ksh.1,930,480 from which they encourage borrowing for personal enterprises.

During the reporting year, YYC-RV funded 50 *bunges* to start up Income Generating Activities (IGAs). Among the, two grants were issued to County Boards and the remaining five boards will be benefiting in the next phase. Most of the groups funded are engaged in agri-business activities such as horticulture, dairy, poultry and bee keeping. In partnership with the Kenya Horticultural Competitive Program, TechnoServe, Mace Foods, Syngenta, CanKen and KENFAP, a good number of youth producers have been linked to markets for their products.

Gender mainstreaming has been one of our strategies in our program implementation to ensure young girls are empowered to break the barriers of culture and participate in leadership and decision making. This was done through outreach campaigns, mentorship and round circle talks. During this reporting year, the gender assessment was completed and verified. Some of the challenges the young women identified in accessing business opportunities included level of education, cultural obstacles, lack of capital, lack of empowerment/trust/confidence, poor saving culture, poor time management, security concerns, and dominance by men. The general recommendations from the assessment were to provide financial support to address lack of capital, and also empowerment to portray their ability. Civic education was identified as a way that young women would understand the roles they can play, and can help build trust about women's ability to contest for leadership positions. Furthermore, mentorship programs were recommended in supporting young women to take up leadership roles in the community.

Sixty five gender outreach campaigns were conducted in this reporting year with 26 of them conducted this ending quarter. The topics of discussion included the role of women in leadership as provided under the Constitution and recruitment and support of young girls to join *bunges*. Thirty five mentorship sessions were similarly held benefiting 1,743 girls who were paired up with 55 mentors. The girls were mentored on the role of women in leadership, women bodily integrity, the role of women in peace building as provided under UN Resolution 1325, and overcoming cultural barriers. As a result the participation of young women in *bunges* has been commendable and with improvements in their involvement in decision-making.

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 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 two million youth (15-30 years) are out-of-school, and that the great majority of them have no regular work or income, makes them particularly vulnerable to recruitment for pay into political campaigns and criminal gangs. During the national elections held in March 2013, not only did youth remain peaceful but lead campaigns to hold politicians at bay by signing peace pledges and turning out in large numbers to vote peacefully.

The youth empowerment 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* to be agents of positive change in their communities. Mercy Corps is supporting this goal by pursuing four related objectives: 0) Mobilize youth and form youth representation structures at the village and county level 1) Support youth to exercise a greater voice in local and national affairs; 2) Increase youth productivity, employment opportunities, and income; and 3) Increase young women's access to social, political, and economic opportunities. Our flexible and responsive approach to implementation is based on the principles of putting youth squarely in the driver's seat to determine their own future, identifying young leaders or "bright spots" to champion the potential of their peers, and ongoing market analysis to identify sustainable economic opportunities.

II. PROGRAM PROGRESS

A. Cumulative Progress Overview

Indicator	Overall targets by EOP	This year	This quarter	Cumulative	% to date
GOAL: To strengthen the capabilities of youth and youth <i>bunges</i> in the Rift Valley to be agents of positive change in their communities					
Goal: % change in the level of youth who feel confident to contribute positively to the community.	BV+50 %	0	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	0%
Goal: % change in youth who report engaging in or approve of political violence	BV-25%	0	0	0	0%
Objective 0: Form youth representation bodies at Village and County levels					
0.1 USAID PS 6.1: # of people from 'at-risk' groups reached through USG-supported conflict mitigation activities;	900,000	902,483	655,190	1,270,293	141%
0.2a # of Village <i>bunges</i> formed & registered.	5,000	1,872	181	5,475	110%
0.2b # of County Forums formed and registered	7	2	0	7	100%
Objective 1: Support youth to exercise a greater voice in local and national affairs					
1.1a # of youth <i>bunges</i> who have action plans in place to influence their community and local government decision-making.	1,000	510	181	3,737	374%
1.1b # of youth who attend <i>bunge</i> meetings	15,000	59,390	3,620	131,050	874%
1.2a USAID GJD 4.1: # of youth members of <i>bunges</i> who have completed USG-assisted civic education training programs	15,000	47,630	1,200	31,495	210%
1.2b # of community service projects implemented by <i>bunges</i>	150	209	178	226	151%
1.3a # of youth members of <i>bunges</i> who attend county youth leadership conferences	160	1,277	1,274	1,347	842%
1.3b % change in youth who interact across ethnic lines	BV+40 %	0	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	68	35	75	153%
1.5 # of <i>bunges</i> involved in youth-led advocacy campaigns targeted towards policy and public investment decisions.	1000	1,058	78	1,058	106%
Objective 2: To increase youth productivity, employment opportunities and income					
% of <i>bunge</i> members achieving greater economic independence	BV+50 %		0	0	0%
2.1a # of young people who participate in comprehensive value chain assessments	100	809	16	849	849%
2.2a USAID EG 6.3 # of young persons completing USG-funded workforce development programs	7,500	4,211	0	11,748	157%
2.3a # of youth entrepreneurial groups who develop business plans	200	10	0	518	259%
2.3b # of small grants issued for microenterprises	100	50	0	50	50%
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	193	189	224	75%
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	823	263	888	178%
Objective 3: Improve young women's access to political, social and economic opportunities.					
3.1 # of county forums held to disseminate gender assessment findings	7	0	0	0	0%
3.2a # of public outreach campaigns conducted on the civic engagement and livelihoods.	60	65	26	69	115%
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	55	11	55	137%
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	25	25	25	100%
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B. Program Interventions

Yes Youth Can! Rift Valley Program continued to make progress in empowering the youth of Rift Valley Province in this reporting period. As the country prepared for the just concluded national elections, the YYC-RV team and County Boards focused on voter mobilization, civic education and peace building activities in all the seven counties. The program supported board meetings and facilitated their activities within their counties. For example, the boards held stakeholders meetings in which they invited officials from the Ministry of Cooperative Development and Marketing including the Minister, IEBC, Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports, Provincial Administration, Ministry of Gender Social Services and Children, and the media.

Youth productivity was also enhanced through the economic empowerment grants that we supported and apprenticeship opportunities we linked the youth to. These opportunities have reduced the levels of youth idleness, lowering the chances of youth getting involved in conflict.

In ensuring equal participation of young girls in board activities, mentorship of young women in the boards was done. We have as a result seen mentored women carry out mentorship sessions in the communities they come from. This has helped to ensure gender mainstreaming and active young women participation in the *bunge* activities.

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:

During this annual reporting period the Yes Youth Can Rift Valley team, in partnership with the seven County Boards, mobilized and organized youths to form and join village *bunges*. Throughout the year the team continued to use different strategies to reach out to the youth and to create awareness and share information about the Yes Youth Can program. The use of sports tournaments, road shows, church platforms and public meetings like Chief’s *barazas* proved to be very effective ways of mobilizing the youths and this resulted in 655,190 youth reached, making a cumulative figure of 1,270,293 youths aware of the Yes Youth Can program to date.

Other effective methods included the use of local media where youth shared information through different local FM radio stations that included Kalya FM, West FM, Citizen FM, and Kass FM. Moreover, ‘My ID, My Life’ campaign carried out by Mercy Corps in partnership with the County Boards also contributed to the mobilization of the youths.

Outcome 0.2: Youth representation structures formed in the 7 counties

In the reporting period all the County Boards were registered as Community Based Organizations and have acquired offices. YYC-RV team has been involved in mentorship of the County Boards and the village *bunges* to ensure that the structures are stable. The mentorship included plenary discussions on transformative leadership, strategic planning, resource mobilization, financial reporting and advocacy. Moreover, five County Boards were able to mobilize local resources and forge new partnerships. West Pokot County Board implemented activities with Transparency International on accountability and transparency, Uasin Gishu, Elgeyo Marakwet and Nandi boards partnered with IRI to conduct civic education on devolved government, citizen participation, leadership, and integrity. Kericho and Uasin Gishu County Boards attracted funding from KTI to conduct civic education, governance, leadership and peace messaging activities respectively. All the County Boards have developed their strategic plans and work plans for implementation and they have been able to hold more than two meetings each at the County level.

The County Boards meetings conducted in the year provided a platform to reflect on the opportunities in their counties, issues affecting the youth, and solutions. During the year, 56 board activities were organized. These activities included civic education, peace building, stakeholders meeting, advocacy campaigns and leadership trainings. We had 1,872 new *bunges* formed this reporting year. These include 181 formed in the last three months of this reporting period. To date, we have a cumulative figure of 5,475 village *bunges* formed since program initiation. Approximately 42,387 youth from these *bunges* attended meetings in this reporting year. See the following table for summaries from each County.

Bunge formation per County

County	Number of <i>bunges</i> formed so far	No. of <i>bunges</i> formed (Jan – Mar, 2013)
Uasin Gishu	610	19
Nandi	651	60
Elgeyo Marakwet	662	16
Trans-Nzoia	535	22
West Pokot	1,099	23
Kericho	968	15
Nakuru	950	26
Totals	5,475	181

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

Summary of Objective 1 Outcomes
1.1 County Boards measurably strengthen organizational capacity
1.2 Youth <i>bunges</i> 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: 7 County Boards measurably strengthen organizational capacity

In the first two quarters of this reporting period, we continued to strengthen the capacity of the three former local partners to engage young people and work efficiently to deliver on their goals within YYC program. To this effect, mentorship of the partners on report writing and financial reporting were carried out. However, in our attempt to reach as many young people as possible and embracing the youth-led, youth-owned, youth-managed principle, we started to engage more with the County Boards than with the local partners and embarked on a transition plan. Hence, in the last two quarters, we fully engaged the County Boards in implementing the YYC-RV program activities. We have noted improvements in planning and successful implementation of activities by the County Boards after taking them through strategic planning, resource mobilization and networking training in the previous quarters. We shall continue therefore to build and strengthen their capacity in various areas of financial resource management and reporting, monitoring and evaluation, organization management, networking skills, and public relations. The youth empowered through the program have taken up leadership positions in the devolved government. Most County Board members who were involved in the recent elections and were contesting for different seats were replaced. This was guided by the adopted code of ethics which was developed by the National Youth Bunge Association (NYBA). The process of replacement was also guided by the County Board constitution where members went back and held elections in their respective constituencies.

Outcome 1.2: Youth bungenes actively engaged in civic issues

This reporting year was characterized by many civic activities geared towards voter education and voter registration in preparation for the March 2013 elections. 150 youths from *bungenes* in the seven counties were trained as TOTs on Devolution, Political Parties Act, Elections Act and Boundaries who then disseminated the same to their *bunge* members. Several *bunge* members and some County Board members were involved in the registration exercise as clerks. The partnership of Uasin Gishu County, Elgeiyo Marakwet and Nandi County Boards with International Republican Institution, to implement the civic education program went on well. Through this engagement, approximately 9,000 youths were reached through outreach campaigns on citizen's role and participation, government devolution, bill of rights and leadership and integrity issues.

With the formation of new *bungenes*, mentorship in civic engagement was a priority. In partnership with the County Boards, *bungenes* were mentored on developing resource maps and action plans. Further, the partnership between the boards and Transparency International and International Republican Institute saw 1,140 *bunge* members benefit from civic education training on the on reform agenda. Moreover, Hope Worldwide Kenya in West Pokot, under a program dubbed '*Shujaa*', involved youth *bungenes* to widen their network. More than 5,000 youth have gone through HIV counseling and testing, and behavior change and life skills under this program. Mercy Corps LEAP II program trained 313 youths from youth *bungenes* and 80 County Board members on Early Warning Early Response. The youths were taken through concepts of conflict and EWER mechanisms. The aim of this was to improve and increase the capacity of these youth in handling issues of conflict and the role of young people in monitoring insecurity trends during the elections. 263 TOTs have since then reported to have trained 15,780 youths from different village *bungenes*. Additionally, the youths were taken through peace building processes and

conflict resolution approaches which led to three major peace building process being initiated in Chemase, Kamoi and Matharu villages. In collaboration with USAID and KTI, 135 County Board members were taken through the existing EWER mechanism. The UWIANO, USHAIDI and UCHAGUZI SMS platforms were emphasized during the trainings with participants expected to cascade the same to the village level.

In the year, YYC launched ‘My ID My Life campaign’ in all the seven counties where 101,000 youth were able to get their IDs. This was done in close partnership with USAID who provided the dummy application forms, posters and fliers that helped in raising awareness. The County Boards together with approximately 918 *bunges* also helped in executing the campaigns in partnership with the former Youth Development Coordinators. National Registration Bureau officers and the local Provincial Administration were also supportive in most of the areas. YYC-RV also participated in the “*Tuko Rada*” campaign and held peace caravan events and peace concerts at different stop-overs in Uasin Gishu, Nandi, Trans-Nzoia, Kericho and Nakuru Counties. The main events at the venue were performances by different youths and youth groups and speeches from the County Board presidents, the NYBA president, the elders, and the Provincial Administration. The most significant visual during the events was the peace pledge signing where the people present were given the opportunity to sign working peace pledges on a white canvas marked “I Pledge For Peace During the 2013 Elections”.



Uasin Gishu county youths pledge to maintain peace during the *Tuko rada* peace caravan



National Youth Bunge Association (NYBA) officials sign the pledge form promising to maintain peace during and after the elections

During the year, 1,058 youth *bunges* conducted advocacy campaigns in which key stakeholders in the community participated. The campaigns targeted drug abuse and HIV awareness, peace building, anti- female genital mutilation and civic and voter education among others. In line with this, youth have actively participated in youth *bunge* activities.

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

In the reporting year, youth from different tribal affiliations continued to meet during the regional county meetings and the NYBA where they shared ideas and interacted freely. This helped to combat tribal balkanization and foster cooperation and understanding. SACCO and Village Savings and Loans Association (VSLA) meetings were other platforms where youth met and networked as well. The exchange visits for Rift and Central regions carried out in the year

brought together 140 youths from different ethnic affiliations that interacted in different settings. This was successfully carried out amid a varied political atmosphere during the time. It's therefore a lesson that an empowered youth can make independent decision hence reduce manipulation or being incited against each other.

In partnership with County Boards in Western region under Winrock international, Uasin Gishu, Nandi and Trans-Nzoia County Board members organized joint cross-border activities which included cleaning exercises, peace walks and sports to mobilize youth in the hot spots along the borders. During the activities they discussed the role youth would play in ensuring peace during the elections, they popularized the EWER system, and explored qualities of a good leader. *Bunge* activities therefore continued to create impact at the local level. Communities met to dialogue on land conflict experienced between Kikuyu and the Kalenjin communities, as part of County Board peace initiatives in Banita, Nakuru County, and Chemase in Nandi County. As a result of these meetings, tension reduced and there is improved interaction between the two tribes in the two regions.

Mercy Corps in collaboration with Moi University conducted a youth and student peace symposium on the role of youth in peace building and other political processes at Moi University. 1,200 participants were in attendance; 300 youths from village *bunges* in Uasin Gishu county and County Boards, Moi University students and staff, AIESEC, NYBA, CJPC, Transparency International, and NCIC.

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

The partnership between the youth, the District Registration Officers (DROs), and Chiefs in conducting the “My ID My life” campaign has proved that the youth have regained their voice and confidence. During the formation of SACCOs, cooperation between County Commissioner’s Office, and District Commissioner’s Office was evident as the government has become more responsive to youth issues.

In all the counties, youth have reported to have been invited by government officials, elders and other stakeholders to participate in decision making. A case in point is five *bunges* in Uasin Gishu. After renovating a road in Langas, the Minister for Roads, Hon. Franklin Bett, committed the government to train the youth in road construction. The youth trained have since registered a company and are involved in tendering for government contracts. In the case of West Pokot and Elgeyo Marakwet County Board, presidents participated in the medium term planning public consultative meetings, organized by the government. The youths from the County Boards also participated in the organized Brand Kenya discussions on peace.

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

Youth continue to be involved at the village level and also the county level in discussions with different stakeholders on key issues affecting the youth. Youth are now respected as partners in decision making in the community and there is a shift from them being perceived as instruments of conflict to partners in development. Many politicians are seeking their ideas and positive support in the community. During the year, YYC-RV completed 226 community service projects. 22 projects were YYC-RV funded (per table below), while 204 were community self

funded making a total of 226 community projects implemented so far. These projects have raised their profile as the community engages with them in implementing the projects that include renovation of health facilities, schools, and roads among others. Their engagements have seen youth being elected to Constituency Development Fund committees, District Peace Committees, and school management committees.

No.	Constituency	Project title	Bunge name	Amount
1	Eldoret South	Renovation of Chief's Office	Cheptiret	80,000
2	Eldoret South	Rehabilitation of Sports Field	Burnt Forest	90,000
3	Eldoret South	Fencing of Kermetio Ngeny primary school	Kabongo	80,000
4	Eldoret East	Community water troughs	Katuiyo	100,000
5	Eldoret East	Water conservation/tree planting and fencing	Kapsoni Central	80,000
6	Eldoret North	Fencing of Seiyot Secondary School	Seiyot	80,000
7	Keiyo North	Completion of Cheptoo Chemoiywo road	Kobil	40,000
8	Keiyo North	Fencing of Primary School	Kiplus	80,000
9	Keiyo South	Construction of an ECD classroom	Chamasika	80,000
10	Marakwet West	Water supply to Kamoi dispensary	Chelpchot	80,000
11	Kuresoi	Cattle dip renovation	Kongoi	80,000
12	Molo	Electricity connection	Soin Elites	40,000
13	Bureti	Cattle dip renovation	Charera	50,000
14	Belgut	Tree Planting	Yator	50,000
15	Belgut	Cattle dip renovation	Lelagoi	50,000
16	Ainamoi	Dam fencing and tree planting	Chepkong'onoy	50,000
17	Ainamoi	Supply of water	Kiplogoi	50,000
18	Emgwen	Bridge completion	Kaptuiya	80,000
19	Mosop	Water supply to Soiyet community	Kokwet	80,000
20	Saboti	Classroom construction	Wayeta	80,000
21	Cheranganyi	Pit Latrine construction	Musoli	80,000
22	Sigor	Connection of water gravity	Nyal	80,000
			Total.	1,560,000

During implementation of the community service projects, youth followed the mitigation plans that they had developed to preserve the environment and hence environmental compliance was observed.

Under the YYC program, objective one is aimed at raising the voices of the youth. As a result, 16 youth in Rift Valley who are members of *bunges* were elected during the March 2013 elections in the position of County Assembly Representatives as per the table below. They achieved this through the leadership training and awareness raised on the role of youth in leadership that saw majority of youth voters voting for them. Other youth are in the nomination lists of political parties and are awaiting nomination.

No.	Name	Position and Ward	County
1	Josephat Cheruiyot	CAR, Soin	Kericho
2	Bernard Mutai	CAR, Kipchimchim	Kericho
3	Livingstone Cheruiyot	CAR, Seretet	Kericho
4	Francoline Rono	CAR, Tebesonik	Kericho
5	Charles Ng'etich	CAR, Kapkisiara	Kericho
6	Weldon Koech	CAR, Chaik	Kericho
7	John Sang	CAR, Kabianga	Kericho
8	Anthony Santos	CAR, Kipkelion	Kericho
9	Stephen Arap Ting	CAR, Moiben	Uasin Gishu
10	Hillary Ronoh	CAR, Kipkenyo	Uasin Gishu
11	Hillary Kiptoo	CAR, Kesses	Uasin Gishu
12	Mark George Kirwa	CAR, Kilibwoni	Nandi
13	Richard Mastaluk	CAR Kanguria	West Pokot
14	Tuliakim c. Thomas	CAR, Tapach	West Pokot
15	David Kipketer	CAR	Elgeiyo Marakwet
16	Joel Milimo	CAR, Kiminini	Trans-Nzoia

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

Summary of Objective 2 Outcomes
2.1 Comprehensive labor market, youth skills and value chain assessments completed and VSL roll out
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

Dissemination workshops to share results of the comprehensive labour markets and youth skills assessment report were carried out in YYC target counties. The results from this study informed negotiations for apprenticeship opportunities, curriculum development for life skills and entrepreneurship training, directed to value chains to be funded. A second and similar exercise was carried out towards the close of the year, albeit on a smaller scale and with less complexity. It involved conducting a comparison between funded and non-funded *bunges* with an aim to discern the most successful enterprises, identification of key value chain options that the youth are interested in, and identification of areas of support/areas that require greater interventions going forward. Analysis of information obtained from this exercise is currently ongoing. Mercy Corps worked closely with TechnoServe and County Boards in achieving this.

From the survey, most *bunges* reported to be involved in poultry production with others stating tree seedling production, dairy farming, horticulture production, maize farming, rabbit rearing and brick making were assessed for products' development and marketing. Based on this indication of the interest that the youth have in agro-based enterprises, 19 agribusiness enterprises with special focus on horticultural crops represented by 44 youth from Nandi, Uasin

Gishu and Elgeyo Marakwet, were identified and linked to markets. This was done in partnership with the Kenya Horticulture Competiveness Project (KHCP) funded by USAID. Enterprises identified and networked with markets included: tomato, potato, cabbage, kales and capsicum production. It is worth noting that the choice of these selected enterprises and target counties was based on KHCP target crops and their designated operational areas.

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

A curriculum was developed by Making Cents International who also delivered a ToT training for 24 youth 'Bright Spots' covering the seven counties. A total of 11,748 youth were trained by the ToTs. The training has proved beneficial for a great majority of youth who have since been motivated to get engaged in several income-generating activities including dairy farming, livestock trading, cereals and tree-seedling production, horticulture, and apiculture among others. The summary of the curriculum is as presented below.

The strategy developed for the roll out of the life skills and entrepreneurship training entailed initially engaging trainer of trainers in trainings fully supported and covered by Mercy Corps. Gradually, the trainers were released off into the market to provide training for fees having established networks of *bunges* and carved out a niche for themselves. A fact worth noting is the initiative taken by some trainers to build close working relationships with other organizations, exemplified by the Youth Enterprise Fund. The experience gathered as trainers built a strong profile of the relevant youth, built their confidence, and their presentation and networking skills to such an extent that a significant number were taken up as trainers of the "Do It Yourself" toolkit, as program officer by KTI, as SACCO officials, and a great majority thrust into youth leadership positions mostly representing youth on respective County Boards. A few started off businesses that have proven successful.

Village Savings and Loans training

A total of 6,640 youth from 242 village youth *bunges* benefited from VSL trainings. Of this 5,300 youth from 212 *bunges* operate vibrant and functional VSLAs. Total cumulative savings of approx. Ksh.1,930,480 were recorded. The concept has had a huge impact on practising *bunges*. Benefits recorded include emergence of small businesses like vegetable vending, small hotels, and small scale farming. The highest amount recorded per *bunge* so far is Ksh.300,000.

VSL has proved effective in mobilising internal resources and freeing up cash for small businesses that would otherwise not have been funded by mainstream banks or local micro finance institutions. Furthermore it has allowed members save money which they can easily access in future during which time it comes in handy in enabling them meet some financial obligations like school fees and other needs. It benefits a population that has not benefited from social insurance offered by commercial insurance companies.

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

The program issued 50 small grants, totaling to Ksh. 4,788,850 in the current reporting year.



YYC-RV funded poultry project, Milimani youth *bunge*, Kericho

Enterprises funded comprise of poultry, tree seedling production, horticulture, dairy production, livestock keeping, fish farming, ICT and mobile money transfer services. Field officers continue to carry out projects monitoring alongside providing on-site technical enterprise management support to *bunges* that may require such.

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

A total of 500 youth out of the 888 youth reached this year benefited from training and engagement in a road rehabilitation technology

popularly known as “Do nou”. The project funded by the Japanese Embassy and bringing together the ILO office in Kenya and COA, an NGO based in Eldoret, committed the youth to a two-weeks long paid exercise in four counties namely: Uasin Gishu, Nandi, Trans-Nzoia and Elgeyo Marakwet. However, the focus is now on registration of companies by amalgamating the various groups involved earlier in the road rehabilitation exercise. Such companies would provide a framework through which the youth can access government contracts especially targeting the most basic and lowest level of government contracts, that is, rehabilitation of rural access roads. In addition to the above, we had youth involved in various Mercy Corps funded exercises including conducting a baseline survey for Western Union, engagement as financial literacy trainers, engagement as life skills and entrepreneurship trainers, and involvement as data clerks during YYC-N vetting of proposals. 263 youth *bunge* members were part of peace monitors engaged in the EWER project implemented by Mercy Corps’ LEAP II program last quarter of this year.

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 on the importance of female civic engagement and Livelihoods
3.3 Young women in village <i>bunges</i> mentored by female role models on economic opportunities
3.4 Young women’s development of leadership and advocacy skills through storytelling initiative

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

In this reporting year, the gender assessment was completed and verified. Some of the challenges the young women identified in accessing business opportunities include limited level of education, cultural obstacles, lack of capital, lack of empowerment/trust/confidence, poor saving culture, poor time management, security concerns, and dominance by men. The general recommendations from the assessment were to provide financial support to address lack of capital, and also empowerment to teach youth that they do have the ability. Civic education was identified as a way that young women would understand the roles they can play, and can help build trust among others and about women's ability to vie for political positions. Further, mentorship programs were recommended in supporting young women in taking up leadership roles in the community. Many of the recommendations generated through the assessment overlapped with the gender outreach campaigns and mentorship forums which are YYC's current activities.

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

YYC-RV program tried to address the importance of female education, literacy, livelihoods and civic engagement in this ending year. There was a very clear linkage between literacy and civic engagement as was noted by the youth and community members. This is evident in how education and greater levels of exposure contribute to the young women's confidence in accessing public spaces and engaging in civic duties, including community leadership. Young women in the County Boards took the lead this reporting period in mobilizing gender outreach campaigns. Sixty five outreach activities were conducted in this financial year with twenty of them conducted in this ending quarter. For the 65, about 7,500 youths were reached, 4,500 females and 3,000 males. The impact of these meetings is already visible with men in the community appreciating women as partners in development and allowing them to share their views in public meetings which in the past was not allowed due to cultural barriers. Several *bunges* have been formed with young women taking the initiative in mobilizing and taking up leadership positions. Consequently we have increased participation of young women in the *bunges* accounting to up to 40% in membership. Additionally, four young women vied for political positions with one getting elected as the Representative of the Elgeyo Marakwet County Assembly.



Gender Outreach campaigns
in Languse – Uasin Gishu County



Outcome 3.3: Female youth in bunges mentored by female role models on economic activities

Young women in the seven County Board memberships had a two days mentorship session. The session empowered and inspired them to be proactive in influencing leadership in the 35 young women from the County Boards. Some of the issues addressed included women rights, leadership participation, and cultural hindrances to active participation. The young women

interacted with female mentors who are leaders in various fields. The mentored young women have taken up the initiative to organize mentorship forums linking the young women with female role models from their communities who have mentored them on economic engagement and leadership. Low self-esteem among the young women is another issue that was addressed. This year has seen 50 mentors paired with around 1,743 young women. We have young women reporting increased confidence to engage in civic roles and leadership. Moreover, through observations young women now speak out in forums with increased levels of assertiveness. As a result, we now have two young women as chairpersons of SACCOs in Nakuru and Kericho counties. Other successes recorded are of young women engaging in small-scale businesses and others accessing the Women Enterprise Fund loans.

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

The collection of success stories was conducted with young women taking up the challenge of not just collecting the stories but also writing them. Talking circle methodology was used which creates a safe space for people to share their stories. The young women were selected from those who had benefited from the mentorship forums. The stories were powerful and young women expressed the empowerment that this had on their leadership skills where they committed to more leadership roles in their local *bunges*. To date and for this reporting year, 52 young women were engaged in story telling where they shared their real life experiences to demonstrate what they had gone through as women. We have 25 stories written up and currently undergoing review. Below are the words of Edith Chepkoech, one of the mentorship program beneficiaries and member of the Kericho County Board.

“It was through the mentorship forum that I learnt to be always among those making decisions and coming up with ideas in the board. I owe a lot of my success to taking part in the mentorship because when the elections for the interims in the Sacco board were done, I vied for the seat and 98% voted me in to be the interim chairperson for Kericho County. Though I served for a short time, it was a great success and I made history. Another achievement is that I stand out in a group of young women always because I know I am a woman of substance and the little things that I always do are taking me far. I love when I hear the young women and men admire me, they normally say be like Edith. I think God knows because I can facilitate any meeting without fear.”

“From my earlier challenges that I faced being a youth from the marginalized region I am happy to be part of the other youths from the county and stay together because the YYC program is our umbrella. That’s why it is youth-led, youth-owned and youth-managed. Thanks to USAID for starting the program

for the youths. It has really empowered us; that is why I say where there is a will there is hope. We are willing to work as youths in the program and hope that the program has influenced the youths positively”

“I’m now a mentor. The mentorship sessions have changed me quite a lot and I am happy. We once did a meeting in Chepkoiniok on mentorship after which the young women present gave ‘bravo’ on how I spoke. This motivated me very much and I can say women are equal to men and what a man can do, a woman can do.”

Additionally through the story telling experience the program sent two young women to the United States, where they shared their stories with confidence. They participated as panelists with policy makers, Civil Society and government officials in Washington DC. More of the stories can be seen on the sites below:

<http://www.usip.org/publications/largely-peaceful-kenyan-vote-bolstered-youth-technology>

<http://csis.org/multimedia/video-building-youth-inclusive-democracies-lessons-kenya>

III. Constraints and Challenges

Several constraints and challenges arose during this second year of program implementation:

- Politics took the center stage during this reporting year since this was an election year and therefore it was difficult to avoid politics related interference during our public activities. Their influence was much felt within the County Boards which attracted many politicians in their attempts to reach out to the youth. On several occasion during the ‘My ID My Life’ advocacy campaigns and peace events, politicians took advantage of such activities pushing their way to be given opportunities to address the youths.
- Despite the fact that Mercy Corps has continued to mentor the County Boards, they still face internal wrangles. An example is that when they were required to vacate office by resigning prior to engaging in politics, only few of them honorably accepted. Even with resolving to apply the CB code of ethics, the transition was not smooth and led to delays in refocusing and carrying on with the board activities.
- Some youth had intensions of mismanaging the grants. In cases where we suspected that that would happen, we involved the local administration to be present during issuance of cheques.
- Owing to the high qualification of youth engaged as Youth Village Trainers and the campaign season, VSL trainings were slowed down by the high mobility of trainers who either obtained better employment outside or became political aspirants.
- The number of youth reached by life skills and entrepreneurship trainings is somehow limited after the program withdrew the incentive due to the fact that the many youth are very hesitant to pay some fees to facilitate the trainers. This is despite the fact that they express appreciation for the trainings given to them.

IV. Lessons Learned

We learnt several lessons along the project cycle. The most important this year were:

- Despite the great success recorded in registering a high number of *bunges*, membership of such structures needs to be enhanced by attracting more youth to join the already established grassroots structures. The advocacy, community and business projects that the youth are participating in have attracted more youth to join, with many opting to register new ones. Hence strategies geared towards increasing *bunge* membership need to be developed.
- With many *bunges* having benefited from entrepreneurship trainings and small grants, focus now needs to shift to more targeted trainings and support by embracing the value chain approach.
- The market linkage forum is most effective after some level of funding has already been released to speed up and improve levels of production. This was a lesson from the well-timed and successful forum held towards the last quarter.
- The youth empowered through the program have taken up leadership positions in the devolved government. This can also be equated to have increased youth employability. Several youths from the youth *bunges* and County Board membership were elected to government positions at the county as County Assembly Representatives.
- For a long time youth have been perceived not to have the ability to engage the government on development issues. This has changed tremendously as youth can now forge good partnership with the government for local development. This has been witnessed in the collaborative effort between the youth and government in implementation of ‘My ID My Life’ campaigns, peace initiatives, and SACCO formation.
- The *bunge* structure has proven to be very effective especially in giving every youth a chance at the village level to participate in finding solutions to their local problems. The youth played a key role especially in Early Warning Early Response where they participated as peace monitors sending community conflict information during the electioneering period.
- Young people have learnt to get organized and take up the initiative of pulling resources together to solve their problems. With good structures and good leadership, most have been able to attract funding from donors as evidenced by different donors who have shown interest in funding most of the County Boards.
- The community service and advocacy activities have profiled youth and increased their voices in the community. This shows that when given the opportunity, youth are able to make a difference and remain responsible and respectable members of the community.

V. Planned activities for next period – March, 2013 to November 2013

To ensure a solid and informed counterpart for the YYC-RV program, Mercy Corps with the County Boards will continue mobilizing youth with information on the benefits of the program

as well as platforms for engagement. The strategy will involve working closely with the local leaders: Chiefs, Sub-chiefs, Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports officers, existing youth groups and leaders, as well as churches in the target localities. The use of peer to peer learning will be used whereby mobilizers from these counties supported by Mercy Corps’ field officers and the County Boards will reach out to areas where village *bunge* representation is still very low.

The YYC–Rift Valley team will work to improve overall economic and livelihood opportunities for 80,000 youth through a holistic approach based on market knowledge developed in the first phase of the YYC program. In the new phase, the team will reach all seven counties. The envisaged activities will include key initiatives such as strengthening the Village Savings and Loans roll-out and establishment of VSL/SACCO linkages, establishing and supporting youth-friendly agricultural value-chains, strengthening employment and job skills through careers/business counseling, enhancing entrepreneurship through market-driven formal/informal training and support to vocational training centers, grant support to disadvantaged but unique small and microenterprises (SMEs), and leveraging ICT innovations to provide solutions to cross-cutting challenges.

The program will also establish linkages between the youth and existing USAID-supported agriculture and health programs. The Rift Valley region continues to have high employment rates especially from the informal sector and in agriculture. With the current transitions to County Government structures and with new pro-youth policies already embedded in the Constitution, we have more resources and opportunities to be availed to create income for the youth. The value chain activities will be focused on four counties, namely: Nandi, Uasin Gishu, Trans-Nzoia and Elgeyo Marakwet, where we have our partner KHCP operational at the moment.

During the last implementing period it was evident that gender issues differ not only by region but are concrete to certain situations and circumstances. Experience has continued to show the existence of gender inequalities in terms of opportunities and outcomes. Furthermore there has been a clear indication of gender inequality where in most cases women are excluded or disadvantaged in relation to decision-making and access to economic and social resources. It is against this backdrop that the program will be specifically targeting young women at the village level to empower women with a focus of increasing their participation in village *bunges* in terms of numbers and active contribution in discussions and taking up of leadership positions at the local level to the county level. This will be done by working with the entire community to be able to create these spaces for the young women. The use of role models from the community to reach out to the young women is one way in which the program has sought to build the confidence of the young women. The program will capitalize on the gender assessment to work on the opportunities and the challenges identified in the assessment.

YYC-RV 8 Months Work Plan	Person responsible	YEAR 3									
Activities		M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	
Objective 0: Form youth representation bodies at the village and county levels											

Outcome 0.1 900,000 youth aware of Yes Youth Can! – RV Program										
Host outreach campaigns by village <i>bunges</i> and CB boards	CES									
Develop materials to explain program and youth use local media	COP									
Outcome 0.2: Youth representation structures formed in the 7 counties										
Form and register village <i>bunges</i> & CB boards	CES									
Objective 1. Support youth to exercise a greater voice in local and national affairs										
Outcome 1.1: Training and support to County Boards										
Support to County Board secretariats with equipment's	COP									
Training plan implementation for County Boards	CES & PM									
Support County Board meetings and activities										
Outcome 1.2: Youth <i>bunges</i> actively engaged in civic issues										
Youth <i>bunge</i> civic engagement training	CES									
County Board activities	CES&CBF									
Community service campaigns led by youth <i>bunges</i>	CES									
Youth peace symposiums	CES									
Outcome 1.3 Young people engaged in peace building and conflict resolution										
Hold inter-generational and interethnic dialogues	CES, CB									
Exchange visit	CES, CB									
Outcome 1.4: Rift Valley youth networked to foster cooperation and understanding										
Youth leadership conference	PM, CB									
Outcome 1.5: Youth-led advocacy efforts strengthened to influence policy and public investment decisions										
Youth-led advocacy campaigns implemented	CES, CB									
Community grants proposals review and support	CES, PM									
Environmental compliance approval	COP, PM									
Community grants funded and monitored	CES, PO									
Objective 2: To increase youth productivity, employment opportunities and income										
Outcome 2.1 Comprehensive labor markets and value chain assessment										
Value chain assessment	PO									
Consultative for a	PO, PM									
Outcome 2.2 VSL roll out and training										
VSL ToT training	PO									
Roll out/monitoring of VSL training	PO									
Quarterly VSL ToT meeting	PO									
Outcome 2.3: The establishment of seven (7) pre-identified youth-friendly agricultural value-chains in the seven (7) beneficiary counties to enhance youth employment and enterprise development										
Youth enterprises financed										
Outcome 2.4 Youth employability strengthened through life skills, careers and business counseling, entrepreneurship training and employment fairs										
Support youth exhibitions in trade fairs, county youth forums and ASK shows.	PM, PO									
Employment fairs	PO, PM									
Support to life skills and entrepreneurship trainers	PO									
Establish youth business and career counseling centers	PO, PM									

Outcome 2.5: Use of Information, Communication Technology for easy delivery of solutions										
Establishment of sites (web/social media) for market outreach for pre identified sectors.	PO, PM									
Objective 3: Improve young women’s access to political, social, and economic opportunities										
Outcome 3.1: Gender analysis and awareness conducted to assess the gender roles, access and control and impact on project implementation										
Gender analysis data collection	CBF, GTS									
Gender assessment report compiled	GTS									
Outcome 3.2: Young women linked with mentors on civic education, leadership and enterprise development										
Outreach campaigns on female civic education and enterprises	CBF, GTS									
Advocacy campaigns on cultural and social issues affecting young women										
Gender Forums	PM, GTS									
Outcome 3.3: Female youth in <i>bunges</i> mentored by female role models on economic activities and leadership activities										
Mentorship forums for young women leaders in the <i>bunges</i>	CBF, GTS									
Constituency mentorship forums in leadership and economic empowerment	PM, GTS, CB									
Outcome 3.4: Increase in community inter-generational gender dialogues and Story Telling initiatives										
Success story collection	ME, GTS, PM									
Stories dissemination	GTS, ME									
Intergenerational Gender forums	PM, GTS									

Objective 0.1 Form youth representation bodies at village and county levels

Outcome 0.1,300, 000 youth aware of Yes Youth Can! – RV Program

In the extension, YYC-RV will continue with mobilization and formation of *bunges* within the seven counties spearheaded by the County Boards. Our objective will be to raise awareness on the Yes Youth Can program. The use of peer to peer learning will be used whereby mobilizers from these counties supported by Mercy Corps’ field offices and the County Boards will reach out to areas where village *bunge* representation is still very low and in hot spots in the region. This will be done through the close partnership of the County Boards and Mercy Corps, working closely with the Provincial Administration, holding outreach campaigns, and using different local media to inform the youth about the success of the program. The strategy will involve working closely with the Chiefs, Sub-chiefs, Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports officers, existing youth groups and leaders, as well as with churches in the target localities. The County Boards will be facilitated to use the media to raise awareness through radio talk shows. The program targets to form an additional 1,000 *bunges* and surpass the target of reaching one million youth in Rift Valley.

Outcome 0.2: Youth representation structures formed in the 7 counties

The elections for the Village *bunges* as provided under most of *bunges* constitutions are to be carried out annually and hence there will be need to ensure that the elections are held democratically. Similarly, the seven County Boards will undertake elections planned and organized by them. This is a departure from last year where Mercy Corps and local partners organized everything. Mercy Corps will act as observers to ensure the elections are free and fair. The County Boards will also be expected to raise at least 20% of the county forum budget. We shall continue with mentoring the existing *bunges* and County Boards on group dynamics, record keeping and basic accounting skills to enable them to manage their groups well. This is because each new group faces challenges which, if not managed, can deter the growth of the group. We have also noted that most *bunges* have not yet reached all the youth within their village to join the *bunges*. As a lesson learnt in the current grant, we have realized that outreach campaigns and the advocacy grants were helpful in reaching more youth within the village and more will be encouraged around specific issues identified through the *bunge* action plans. The county forums will be carried out in April and May with constituencies caucusing at the county to elect their leaders who will then move to elect a new NYBA leadership.

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

Outcome 1.1: Training and support to County Secretariats.

YYC-RV will continue with County Board capacity building. Under this extension we shall focus on organizational strengthening to ensure that they are able to prepare good financial and project reports, keep financial records, communicate with their constituents, and engage the stakeholders. This will enable the County Boards to be able to fundraise and attract donors as well as boost sustainability. To ensure that the County Boards can execute their mandate to their constituents with ease, we will support the seven County Boards with furniture and equipment to establish a secretariat. We will also continue to support the quarterly board meetings as per their constitution and assist the CBs to conduct two activities per quarter that they feel will bring a positive change in their communities and unite youth across ethnic lines.

Outcome 1.2: Youth bunges actively engaged in civic issues

The greatest civic task now that elections are behind us is how to operationalize and implement devolution under the Kenyan Constitution which has provided for County Governments. It is important that youth learn the role of the County Government so that they can understand how well to engage with the devolved structures. We shall therefore use the TOT methodology which worked in the current phase of the YYC program where the County Board members will be trained to disseminate information at the constituency and village level through public outreach campaigns. We shall seek partnership with the colleges and universities in Eldoret where the program is working with the student bodies to organize youth symposiums on issues affecting the youth during which youth will present papers on selected topics.

Outcome 1.3 Young people engaged in peace building and conflict resolution

We shall conduct inter-generation and inter-ethnic dialogues. This forum will bring together elders in the different counties with the youth to discuss topical issues such as peace, family, and development. We also intend to carry out exchange programs within and outside Rift Valley Province to expose the youth to best practices. The exchange programs coupled with exhibitions will help the youth to learn from each other.

Outcome 1.4: Rift Valley youth networked to foster cooperation and understanding

Mercy Corps will continue developing interactive, participatory training programs in collaboration with participants and ensure that messages are delivered in a format that is receptive to young adults. The County Boards will work closely with the District Youth Officers to ensure that information about youth policies moves from the grassroots level to decision makers as well as from decision makers to youth. The Rift Valley Province County Boards will raise the profile of youth issues at a higher level of government and connect youth across the counties in outreach, advocacy, and partnership with provincial officials. New county representatives will be invited to conferences to address, listen to, and work with youth participants. We will work with the media to broadcast the youth leadership conference on local and national TV, radio, internet, and print. We will continue to facilitate outreach, advocacy, and partnership with provincial officials for the County Board members to achieve this objective.

Outcome 1.5: Local government responsiveness to issues important to youth increased

Mercy Corps and partners will meet with local, constituency, and county leaders, such as Members of Parliament, County Commissioners, the Provincial Administration, the District Commissioners Office, District Youth Officers, the Ministry of Agriculture, and Ministry of Cooperative Development and Marketing to help them understand the value of youth participation both for youth and for themselves. In these meetings we will share success stories that demonstrate the benefits of youth participation. Mercy Corps already has strong relationships with numerous government officials, which we will continue to leverage for the YYC project. To solidify these relationships we also will continue to assist the County Boards to conduct youth-led meetings with government officials, informing them of progress of the Yes Youth Can activities.

Objective 2: Increase youth productivity, employment opportunities and income

Outcome 2.1 Comprehensive labor market and value chains assessment

A review of the Labor Market and Life Skills Assessment - that was conducted in the first year of program implementation - will be analyzed, to identify the value chains that youth are engaged in.

Outcome 2.2: Strengthened Village Savings and Loans (VSL) to stimulate a healthy financial services up-take by youth from village to county level (SACCO)

VSL will be strengthened through engaging more youth trainers to replace those who fell out due to reasons of getting better employment or vying for political seats. Refresher trainers will be facilitated to refresh old trainers as well as orient new trainers. The ToT apprentice system of management would be borrowed from SILC, a similar program that is being implemented by Catholic Relief Services. This is where village agents would be identified to ensure greater success and sustainability of trainings.

Outcome 2.3: The establishment of four pre-identified youth-friendly agricultural value-chains in four counties to enhance youth employment and enterprise development

Four value chains will be selected based on analysis of data collected during the value chain assessment exercise. Partnerships will be built which will result in tangible agreements bringing together youth from village *bunges*, private sector players and other non-governmental organizations. The players will collectively provide services covering production, market and support services. The four counties represent the areas where KHCP has a strong presence and is already doing some value chain work.

Outcome 2.4: Youth employability strengthened through life skills, careers and business counseling, entrepreneurship training and employment fairs

This will entail signing of agreements with identified organizations that will play host to business and career counseling centers. The centers are to be based in Kericho, Eldoret and Nakuru. Life skills and entrepreneurship trainers would be called upon to offer training services for the youth within the set-up of the business and career counseling centers. Employment fairs will also be organized which is expected to link out of school youth to potential employers.

Outcome 2.5: Use of Information, Communication Technology for easy delivery of solutions

Given the high levels of embracement of new technology by the youth, current information, communication and technology systems will be used to share relevant information with the youth. In this regard we will closely work with YYC-N technology innovations unit and Digital Opportunity Trust (DOT).

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

Outcome 3.1: Gender analysis and awareness conducted to assess the gender roles, access and control and impact on project implementation

The gender analysis will aim to examine relational differences in women and men of different ages in the community. This will be crucial in better understanding the roles and identities, needs and interests, access to and exercise of power and how this will impact the different YYC objectives. We will conduct two analysis forums per county targeting at least 50 young women and men, and one forum per county involving older women and men. The results of these analyses will be used to inform the outcomes under this objective as well as other objectives in YYC Rift Valley program.

Outcome 3.2: Young women linked with mentors on civic education, leadership and enterprise development

Yes Youth Can Rift Valley will continue to engage the communities in the gender outreach campaigns. The campaigns will basically be focusing on the potentials of young women which persistently have not been tapped, especially because of the socio-cultural attitudes held by the communities in the Rift Valley which have a great significance in determining the unequal status between man and women. Before the outreach campaigns, young women's mentorship forums will be conducted in all the counties in order to empower young women in civic engagement, leadership and economic engagement. The mentorship forums will therefore offer opportunities for young women to recognize the opportunities available for women in the County Government and hence to organize advocacy campaigns.

Outcome 3.3: Female youth in bunges mentored by female role models on economic activities and leadership activities

We will conduct mentorship forums aimed at empowering young women in the *bunges*, using a group mentorship approach which reaches more young women and is cost-effective. This will be done by role models in the communities and the young women in the County Boards who have been mentored and are now seen as role models in the communities.

Outcome 3.4: Increase in community inter-generational gender dialogues

Under the extension in the coming year, Mercy Corps will organize gender forums that will involve youth from the four counties and a professional to address the various thematic gender issues that will have been realized in the course of implementation. We will aim to organize seven gender dialogues involving young people and four inter-generational dialogues between the youth and older persons from the community. During these forums, we will discuss critical gender issues that impact on the community. The forums will also be used to disseminate gender related policies and to update the youth on any legislations and policies that are gender related at national or county level.

VI. List of Partners

1. Uasin Gishu County Board
2. Trans-Nzoia County Board
3. Kericho County Board
4. West Pokot County Board
5. Nakuru County Board
6. Elgeiyo Marakwet County Board
7. Nandi County Board