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Yes Youth Can! - Central (YYC-C)

Third Quarterly Report
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LIST OF ACRONYMS AND ABBREVIATIONS

ACK	Anglican Church of Kenya
AYT	Africa Youth Trust
AOTR	Agreement Officer Technical Representative
CES	Civic Engagement specialist
DO	District Officer
DC	District Commissioner
COP	Chief of Party
DYO	District Youth Officer
GoK	Government of Kenya
ICC	International Criminal Court
INGOs	International Non-Governmental Organization
MCI	Making Cents International
NGO	Non-Governmental Organization
NYC	National Youth Council
NYF	National Youth Forum
OCA	Organizational Capacity Assessment
PEV	Post-election Violence
PO	Program Officer
PM	Program Manager
TOT	Training of Trainers
TSU	Technical Support Unit
USAID	United States Aid for International development
UNDP	United Nations Development Program
VSL	Village Saving and Loans
YDCs	Youth Development Coordinators
YYC-C	Yes Youth Can - Central
YADEN	Youth Art Development & Entrepreneurship Network

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Funded by the United States Agency for International Development (USAID), the Yes Youth Can! (YYC) programs seek to strengthen the capabilities of youth organizations in Kenya's Rift Valley, Western, Coast, Nyanza, Nairobi, and Central Provinces to be agents of positive change in their communities. The program also works to empower young people and grassroots youth organizations in the six program provinces to take control of their destiny through an integrated approach which includes community mobilization, civic engagement, and economic development. To achieve this goal, Mercy Corps and our partners have developed a series of integrated activities that will work towards four objectives: 0) Mobilize youth into village Bunges; 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.

Kiambu and Murang'a counties consist of 1,882 and 1,462 villages respectively. The target is to form 2,000 village Bunges out of which 811 are currently in place. The program has benefited from its experiences in the first two quarters. Earlier attempts at scaling-up grassroots organization showed a low program acceptance at the community level. The marginalized youths in villages had experienced broken promises by the political leaders and a number of NGOs over time and it was difficult to rebuild their confidence. We have therefore invested considerable resources in forming partnerships with local administration and appointing village based contact persons to scale-up Bunge formation and monitoring.

Mercy Corps directly reached a total of 11,209 youth through YYC-C activities during this quarter, and a further 35,000 more 'at risk' youths have been reached indirectly through *barazas*, outreach campaigns, sports tournaments, and other youth activities, bringing the total number of youths reached this quarter to 46,209.

From the cumulative 188,409 youth reached, 21,100 have joined 811 Village Bunges. Though the registration process for the Bunges has been slow, youths in the province have recognized the need to legitimize the operations of the village Bunges so as to tap into existing opportunities created by the government and the private sector. The current number of registered Bunges stands at 212 and the youth, supported by Mercy Corps and USAID are in discussion with the Ministry of Gender and Social Development to support youth Bunges in registration for legitimacy and operational advantages.

Mercy Corps organized two County Bunge Forums, bringing together 994 youths from 15 constituencies (537 Kiambu, 457 Murang'a). Purpose of the CBF was to elect a CBF board that is representative of the Village Bunges in terms of gender balance, ethnic balance, people with disability and regional representation.

From the Bunge data collected from the already registered Bunges, young women's participation stands at 37.4% but leadership has primarily been a male affair. Of much interest is that Bunges dominated by young women have managed to initiate viable

community projects, which indicates that the YYC platform can boost women participation in community development.

We have conducted a second round of Basic Civic Engagement and trained 43 Trainers of Trainers, who rolled out their mentorship training to another 93 Village Bunge members, bringing the total to 144 youth, who, at village level, assist the Bunges with asset/resource mapping and action plans, as well as organizing advocacy campaigns on individual Bunge level issues. The skills acquired have borne fruits evident by how Bunges have been able to initiate discussions and campaigns with the local leadership. When the Ministry of Gender and Social Development's officials failed to register Bunges in Maragawa constituency, Bunge leaders sought audience with the District Commissioner to seek clarification on the reason behind non-registration.

Mercy Corps completed the Labor Market and Youth Skills Assessment report as well as the baseline survey. The results already inform program implementation. Mercy Corps' mentorship program continued to involve Bunge members on civic issues that included development of advocacy plans, resource mapping and action plans. In this quarter alone, 271 youth Bunges developed action plans to influence their community and local government decision making.

To increase youth employability, livelihoods and income, we rolled-out entrepreneurship trainings in four districts in Juja and Gatanga constituencies. The Bunges had previously selected 16 youths as ToTs to determine the appropriateness of the draft curriculum content developed by MCI. All 16 were paired up to create room for peer learning as they jointly trained the first cohort of 317 Village Bunge members of 16 Bunges.

Mobilization of youth to form Village Bunges and increase their membership will continue, but we anticipate that the formation of new Bunges and increasing of membership will be more of a youth-led activity than a Mercy Corps and implementing partner-led activity as we will concentrate on issuing the advocacy grants, the community grants, the youth enterprises small grants, as well as increasing young women's opportunities to benefit from YYC.

We plan to assist USAID/EY to conduct a major campaign in all the counties for youth who do not have ID cards to register ahead of the general elections, provided we have approval from USAID's Agreement Officer to allocate expenditures to the award as this campaign is not specifically described in the Cooperative Agreement's Program Description. We will conduct capacity building of the county boards in various aspects like leadership, resource mobilization, good governance and media engagement, as well as civic education.

I. PROGRAM OVERVIEW

Youth were at the centre of the 2007/2008 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.

To achieve the goal of supporting youth to be agents of positive change in their communities, Mercy Corps and our partners have developed a series of integrated activities that will work toward four objectives: 0) mobilization of youth and formation of youth representation structures at the sub location 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 quarter	Cumulative	% to date
Goal: To strengthen the capabilities of youth & youth Bunges in the Central province 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%
Goal: % change in number 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%
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;	500,000	46,209	188,409	38%
0.2a # of Village Bunges formed and registered	2,000	467	811	41%
0.2b # of County Forums formed and registered	2	2	2	100%
Objective 1: Support youth to exercise a greater voice in local and national affairs				
Objective 1 Indicator: # of youth Bunges who have action plans in place to influence their community and local government decision making	1,000	231	271	27%
Objective 1 Indicator: Number of youth who attend Bunge meetings	5,000	6,007	18,622	372%
1.2a USAID GJD 4.1: # of youth members of Bunges who have completed USG-assisted civic education training programs	5,000	136	237	5%
1.2b # of community service projects implemented by Bunges	500	0	2	0.4%
1.3a # of youth members of Bunges who attend County youth leadership conferences	96	91	91	94%
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-	28	0	0	0%

national government.				
1.5 # of Bunges involved in youth-led advocacy campaigns targeted towards policy and public investment decisions.	300	12	14	5%
Objective 2: To increase youth productivity, employment opportunities and income				
Objective 2 Indicator: # of Bunge members achieving greater economic independence	625	0	0	0%
2.1a # of young people who participate in comprehensive value chain assessments	40	0	37	93%
2.2a USAID EG 6.3 # of young persons completing USG-funded workforce development programs	2,500	317	317	13%
2.3a # of youth entrepreneurial groups who develop business plans	80	0	0	0%
2.3b # of small grants issued for microenterprises	50	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	150	0	0	0%
2.4b USAID EG 6.3 # of people gaining employment or better employment as a result of participation in USG-funded workforce development programs	500	16	16	3%

Objective 3: Improve young women's access to political, social and economic opportunities.				
3.1 # of County forums held to disseminate gender assessment findings	4	0	0	0%
3.2a # of public outreach campaigns conducted on the civic engagement and livelihoods	24	0	0	0%
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	16	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	10	0	0	0%

B. Program Interventions

The Youth Development Coordinators that are hired by the partner are working closely with volunteers recruited from the villages to mobilize the youths and form Village Bunges. The principle of youth-owned, youth-led and youth-managed is starting to put youth truly in the lead of their own development. Through the Village Bunges, youth identify problems in their villages through resource mapping, find solutions, develop their action plans, and conduct advocacy campaigns. They also identify community service projects that they can do with their community.

Objective 0: Form youth representation bodies at village and County levels

Summary of Objective 0 Outcomes
0.1 500,000 youth aware of Yes Youth Can program
0.2 Youth representation structures formed in the Kiambu & Muranga Counties

Outcome 0.1 500,000 youth aware of Yes Youth Can! – C Program:

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Sensitization and awareness creation process continued in all 15 constituencies of Murang'a and Kiambu counties. As more youths became increasingly aware of the YYC program, most sensitization meetings were organized for Bunges that had formed but needed more insight into the principles of YYC. Mercy Corps, together with the local partner YADEN, collaborated with the Ministry of Youth and Sports Affairs' officers, Ministry of Gender and Social Development, the local administration - especially the chief and their assistants - as well as with the elected youth leaders to organize for sensitization meetings.

During this quarter, the program has directly managed to reach a total of 11,209 youths spread out in Murang'a and Kiambu counties through organized meetings while a further 35,000 have been reached through youth outreaches, sports activities and informal meetings. YYC reference materials were issued during these forums that aided the youth to understand more and internalize the Bunge concept. Though a great number of youth have become aware of the program, only 18,622 have joined the Bunges and attend meetings. This is because the group concept has not been so popular in Central province coupled with broken promises to the youth by politicians in the past.

Outcome 0.2 Youth representation structures formed in Kiambu & Muranga County:

Throughout the third quarter, mobilization meetings were held in all 15 constituencies of the two counties, thus realizing 467 new Bunges and a cumulative total of 811 village Bunges to date as seen in the table below. The process saw Bunge networks forming alongside the current administrative structures where youth and the YYC-C team mapped out the administrative or neighbourhood villages and organized recruitment meetings where those interested in joining Bunges were enlisted for subsequent meetings to discuss the group constitution and by laws. Some of the self help groups in existence in a village also found the need to mobilize more youth, especially those at risk and turn them into Bunge's by broadening their objectives and their constitution so as to accommodate the Bunge concept. There is still a great challenge in mobilizing constituencies around Nairobi like Kiambaa but with the County Board in place all constituencies have a target of 300 Bunges by the end of the program.

The already formed youth village Bunge's from the 15 constituencies of Kiambu and Murang'a counties held separate meetings in respective constituencies where they had a chance to draft and critique their respective County constitution. The constituency meetings culminated to the two County forums where two representatives from each Bunge attended. This resulted to a County structure where a County board was elected and constitution governing the body adopted. Kiambu County forum brought together 537 while Murang'a County had 457 Bunge representatives.

Current cumulative Bunge representation per County

County	Constituency	No of Bunges	Total registered	Male in Bunges	Female in Bunges	Total Bunge members
Kiambu	Limuru	53	14	854	586	1,440

	Juja	136	49	1790	1348	3,138
	Githunguri	30	4	430	294	724
	Kabete	38	1	190	60	250
	Lari	58	16	1171	500	1,671
	Gatundu South	33	5	595	367	962
	Gatundu North	46	13	644	276	920
	Kiambaa	21	12	352	256	608
Murang'a	Gatanga	111	20	979	489	1,468
	Kandara	31	9	777	428	1,205
	Kangema	52	29	992	740	1,732
	Kigumo	39	9	1139	523	1,662
	Kiharu	95	15	1962	1225	3,187
	Maragwa	35	16	548	446	994
	Mathioya	33	1	743	396	1,139
	Total	811	212	13,166	7,934	21,100

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

Summary of Objective 1 Outcomes
1.1 Yaden measurably strengthens organizational capacity
1.2 Youth Bunges actively engaged in civic issues
1.3 Central province youth networked to foster cooperation and understanding
1.5 Youth led advocacy efforts strengthened to influence policy and public investment decisions:

Outcome 1.1 YADEN measurably strengthens organizational capacity

Based on the organizational capacity assessment carried out, specific training needs had been identified for YADEN in strengthening their organizational, finance and sub grant management. YADEN recruited new staff that was oriented to the YYC program. Despite numerous training sessions and on-the job mentoring, YADEN continues to underperform as local implementing partner of YYC C and Mercy Corps considers terminating the sub agreement if no sufficient progress has been made by end of March.

Outcome 1.2 Youth Bunges actively engaged in civic issues

We have conduct a second round of Basic Civic Engagement and trained 43 Trainers of Trainers, who rolled out their mentorship training to another 93 Village Bunge members, bringing the total to 194 youth, who, at village level, assist the Bunges with asset/resource mapping and action plans, as well as organizing advocacy campaigns on individual Bunge level issues. The main component of the 3 days training was on resource mapping and role of youth in governance, advocacy and transformative youth leadership. This facilitated the youth in initiating advocacy campaigns as well as mapping resources available in their specific villages. Resource mapping was crucial in facilitating the youth understand the

available resources and how best to utilize the resources in order to benefit the youth in the locality.

An example of Bunge engagement in issues affecting them is the Kagongo –Rungo youth Bunge in Kiambaa constituency which held an advocacy campaign against mismanagement of community projects and locking out of youths in project management. The activity attracted over 300 youths. They presented their memorandum to the area District Officer with whom they also had a meeting together with the area chiefs.

Through this event the Bunge has through the community leadership and the provincial administration negotiated on taking up a water project that was meant to benefit the community but had been mismanaged. The Bunge is currently raising resources for this project.

Outcome 1.3 Central province youth networked to foster cooperation and understanding

In quarter 3, two County forums were held in the two counties bringing together 994 youth Bunges (537 Kiambu, 457 Murang'a). The forums gave an opportunity for the youth not only to set their County structure but also forge a way for networking. During the next quarter focus will be on strengthening these structures to align themselves with the County governments which are been set up in the country. The capacity building for the County forums will not be facilitated by AYT as earlier envisaged but by Mercy Corps' Gender and Training specialist with support from local consultants. The county boards have elected their executive office and are in the process of collecting funds for registration and developing their work plans for the next six months.

During the same quarter, a national forum was organized for Bunge leaders and 'Bright Spots' as a way of fostering cooperation and to discuss socio-political issues that commonly affect youths in the country. Such includes the ID card acquisitions campaign that would ensure youth have the cards without which they miss out on opportunities, including employment.

Outcome 1.4 Local government responsiveness to issues important to youth increased

During this reporting period, a stakeholder's forum took place in October with all the District Gender and Social Development Officers from 13 districts in Kiambu and Muranga county, resulting in more acceptance and support that led to increased registration of Bunges. The officers invited are in charge of all group registration and mentorship. Bunges also worked closely with the provincial administration especially the chiefs and sub chiefs who assisted them in mobilization of their peers. Mercy Corps held a meeting with the Provincial Commissioner to share the gains realized in the province and discussed ways to promote youth participation and address challenges in program implementation. This has increased the recognition and acceptance of the youth structures formed and addressing socio-political concerns that youths express.

The Ministry of Gender and Social Development in particular has been keen in supporting youth initiatives. The Deputy Provincial Gender and Social Services officers from the ministry attended the ToTs on entrepreneurship trainings and County Bunge Forums as key guest speakers.

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

Strong Bunge networks being formed acted as a platform for agitating youth to influence decisions at the local level. During the quarter advocacy events were organized bringing together Bunge members in the same locality. In Gatundu North, for example, 16 Bunges organized for a meeting with the District Officer and the ministry departmental heads and key stakeholders. They expressed their dissatisfaction in how the Kazi Kwa Vijana (a government initiative aimed at engaging youth in economic activity) was being implemented with little consultation with the youth. The forum agreed to include youth leaders in the implementation of the program and ensuring Bunge are contracted in the community projects. The Bunges also claimed usage of a ten acre public land that had been repossessed by the government from a private developer. Bunges have now started a small scale horticultural farming on this plot.

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
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 Market, youth skills and value chain assessments

The quarterly report for the period ending September 2011 included the main findings of the Labor Market and Youth Skills Assessment which continue to inform the approach Mercy Corps takes to increase youth economic productivity. The report has been finalized and submitted to USAID in January, 2012.

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

During this quarter trainings were rolled out in the four targeted districts of Juja and Gatanga constituencies namely Thika-West, Thika-East, Ruiru and Gatanga. The 16 youths recruited and trained for this purpose were initially paired up to create room for peer learning as they jointly trained the first cohort. At the end of this, we are holding a review meeting to ensure that all the trainers are fully equipped to handle classes on their own.

In this training cycle 317 youths in 16 Bunges benefited, but most importantly we managed to pilot the curriculum on an expanded scale and fine-tune it. As from January 2012 we will be reaching a minimum of 160 youths in 8 Bunges in each of the targeted districts every month. A feat we are now ready for. The text box below shows a summary curriculum that is used:

Summary of Life skills and Entrepreneurship curriculum

Session I – Financial Literacy - exposes participants to the importance of managing money for both personal and business purposes. It explores the importance of savings and how to make better decisions around money.

Session II – Exploring Entrepreneurship - demystifies what entrepreneurs and business people do by understanding that successful business people are problem solvers.

Session III - Seizing Opportunities in the Value Chain – provides participants a broader understanding of the value chain, how to assess the market, value addition, reading market signals, and costing.

Session IV – Business Skills - focuses on developing business skills by giving participants the opportunity to learn good planning, financial management, pricing, negotiation, and risk management.

The feedback we received is that the materials are of the right depth and breadth. The participants loved the fact that the trainings were activity based and participatory thus allowing them to learn in a fun way that does not disadvantage the less educated among them.

The flexibility built-in in the curriculum was also a major plus. Each Bunge selected its training days and timings. We also had sessions running in the evenings, while others had intensive weekends. This was largely dictated by local and individual youth Bunge factors.

Outcome 2.3 Youth income increased through micro and small enterprise development

The youth Bunges have been identifying possible businesses enterprises through resource mapping activities. Most initiatives are in agri-business (horticulture, dairy, and poultry) as well as small home-based industries in value-addition such as banana, passion fruit and milk-collection centers. Trainings were rolled out in four districts to support Bunges and Bunge members to increase their capacity to run and establish enterprises. In these sessions they are also coached on basic business planning with an emphasis on finding ways to start small with or without external capital injection. The two-fold results of this will be that more Bunges are ready to apply for YYC-C enterprise loans that will be available as from the next quarter starting in January 2012. But most importantly, everyone who is motivated to start/grow an enterprise is able to do so even if they will not get these loans.

In the reporting quarter, mapping for relevant partners and stakeholders was started building on what had been identified from the youth-led Labor Market and Youth Skills

Assessment. This will culminate in the next quarter with at least forty youth Bunges being linked with organizations and individuals that can help them improve production, obtain and expand markets, develop skills, gain experience, to mention a few. In order to enhance youth readiness for the roll-out of grants and loans under the YYC C and National, we have finalized a concept and budget for the roll-out of Village Savings & Loans (VSL) in all the 15 constituencies falling under the two counties of Muranga and Kiambu. This will see all youth Bunges having an opportunity to participate in economic empowerment activities. As per the Cooperative Agreement, only the two constituencies of Juja and Gatanga were to benefit from economic empowerment activities. The materials have already gone through some preliminary adaptation and will be ready for use early in the next quarter. We will be recruiting 15 youth VSL trainers to support this activity. Given that loans both in the regional and national program are expected to, in the long-run, convert to revolving funds within Bunges, this becomes a very important element.

Outcome 2.4 Youth obtain employment in the public and private sectors

During the reporting period, trainings conducted by the 16 TOTs were started in the two constituencies of Juja and Gatanga to support Bunge members sharpen life skills and in the process increase their employability skills. Now that training is underway, we will be able to start placements in the next quarter.

In this quarter, YYC was not able to start engaging the organizations that had indicated they would be willing to take apprentices/interns during the Labor Market and Youth Skills Assessment. This will however be embarked on starting by growing the database in the next quarter culminating in at least 60 youth linked to organizations/businesses that can help them develop skills and gain experience. A MOU with the TOTs is tied to deliverables. They are compensated for training at least 2 Bunges a month. But since they are no incentives there are no incidences of trainers wanting to go beyond that minimum target. The first training cycle showed that a trainer can handle 3, even 4 Bunges a month. We are finding ways to encourage them to do this.

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

Summary of Objective 3 Outcomes
3.1 Gender assessment completed to identify challenges and opportunities for young women
3.2 Community understanding increased of importance of female education, literacy and civic engagement
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 Gender assessment completed to identify challenges and opportunities for young women.

In reference to our implementation plan, Objective 3 activities will commence in the coming quarter.

III. Constraints and Challenges

- An underdeveloped information feedback mechanism was the main constraint in this quarter as most of the village Bunge activities taking place on the ground were not reported. Mercy Corps will address this by having community based field officers and engaging the constituency representatives in a number of constituencies to facilitate linkage and sharing of information between the beneficiaries, stakeholders and implementing partners.
- There is still only a lukewarm government support especially in registration of village Bunges where most of the government ministry officials have a misconception about the YYC program and have insisted on a letter from the permanent secretary in the Ministry of Gender and Social Development.
- Most Bunges are willing to register their Bunges but it actually takes time for youths to collect registration fees from the members.
- The Bunge concept has not been realized in some constituencies like Kiambaa, where youth still have a ‘wait and see attitude’ so thus far very few Bunges have been formed.
- The economic empowerment TOTs have had to pay quite a price for the flexibility of the trainings. Some sessions go as late as 9 PM, and this creates a bit of a security risk despite the fact that each trainer is working within their home district. This is due to the fact that some youth are casual laborers and only available in the evenings.

IV. Lessons Learned

- There was a constant need to engage with the government of Kenya officials to update them on YYC progress and to address bottle necks with e.g. Bunge registration. In as much as the officers expressed their support to the program, some of them rely only on their superiors for approval; which is hard to obtain.
- There is a need to diversify activities of the youth Bunges so as to reduce the likelihood of group disintegration. We need to engage Bunges in advocacy activities, community service projects and investment projects, all at the same time, so we give a chance to all members of a village Bunge with diverse talents to participate in YYC.
- We need to continuously engage with all the different stakeholders in Central province in order to have widespread acceptance of the YYC program.
- Mobilizing youth into Bunges in Central province was not as easy as it had been anticipated. This is because youth have been disillusioned in the past by people who wanted to organize them for their own gains. It thus requires a lot of confidence building among the youth while making them appreciate the gains of coming together and exploring the opportunities that are open to them.
- Youth and youth networks from Nyeri and Kirinyaga counties have consistently requested for expansion into their counties and YYC-C is considering taking the program to one of the counties.

V. Planned activities for next period of three months, January to March 2012.

Mobilization of youth to form Village Bunges and increase their membership will continue, but we anticipate that the formation of new Bunges and increasing of membership will be more of a youth-led activity than a Mercy Corps and implementing partner-led activity as we will concentrate on issuing the advocacy grants, the community grants, the youth enterprises small grants, as well as increasing young women's opportunities to benefit from YYC. We will work with the county board structure to ensure equitable mobilization across all constituencies.

The Bunges will continue with civic engagement, mentoring issues in their localities as well as attending public forums and policy meetings. The advocacy and community projects identified through their resource mapping that are viable will be funded on a first come first served basis.

On increasing youth productivity, employment opportunities, and income, the rollout trainings for life skills and Entrepreneurship will continue in the four focus districts. We will also get Bunge VSL groups up and running by the close of the quarter. For all these Bunges we will be seeking to create avenues to consolidate benefits by fostering linkages and partnerships that add value in one way or the other. We aim at seeing increased productivity, market access, skill acquisition to mention a few. In addition we will also be giving Bunge enterprise loans from the business plan competition and placing the first group of Bunge members in internship/apprenticeship.

Gender assessment in sampled villages of Muranga and Kiambu will commence in February with data collection and analysis while the dissemination of findings will be in March.

Activity (Person responsible)	2012		
	January	February	March
Project Start-Up, Administration, and M&E			
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			
Objective 0: Form youth representation bodies at Village and County levels			
Outcome 0.1: 500,000 youth aware of YYC program			
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 structures formed in the 2 counties			
Form Village Youth Bunges and seek registration (CES)			

Objective 1: Support youth to exercise a greater voice in local and national affairs			
Organizational capacity assessment with Partners (COP)			
Training plan implementation for YADEN (PM)			
Village Bunges identified (CES)			
Village Bunge civic engagement training (CES)			
Community service campaigns led by youth Bunges (CES, PM)			
Grass root soccer (CES, PM)			
2 days County level advocacy training (CES)capacity building for County boards			
2 days County level network training (CES)capacity building for County boards			
2 days training for the Central platform (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 (CES)			
Youth led advocacy campaigns (CES)			
Objective 2: Increase youth productivity, employment opportunities, and income			
Labour market assessment (STA, M&EO, PM)			
Value chain assessments (STA, M&EO, PM)			
Market (product) assessment (STA, M&EO, PM)			
Life skills/entrepreneurship TOT with 15 people completed (STA, PO Econ, PM)			
Life skills training (STA, PO Econ, PM)			
Entrepreneurship training (STA, PO Econ, PM)			
Business plans and grant applications (STA, PO Econ, PM)			
Grant application evaluations (STA, PO Econ, PM)			
Small grants issued to youth enterprises (STA, PO Econ, PM)			
Apprenticeship programs negotiated with employers (STA, PO Econ, PM)			
Youth/community centers provide career counseling (STA, PO Econ, PM)			
Youth linked to USAID and other donor programs (STA, PO Econ, PM)			
Objective 3: Improve young women's access to political, social, and economic opportunities			
Gender assessment in Kiambu County and Muranga County (GTS, M&EO,PM)			
Town Hall meetings to share gender assessment results (GTS, PM)			
Outreach campaigns on female literacy/civic education (GTS, PM)			
Play writing and literacy curriculum completed (GTS, PM)			
Bunges identified for girls economic empowerment programs (GTS, PM)			
Training for champions on mentorship (GTS, PM)			
Bunge economic empowerment campaigns (GTS, PM)			
Stories collected from the beneficiaries (GTS, PM)			
Results of story-telling initiatives widely disseminated (GTS, PM)			

Young women participate in Youth Leadership Forum (GTS, PM)			
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Objective 0: Form youth representation bodies at Village and County levels

Outcome 0.1: 500,000 youth aware of YYC program

Mobilization and awareness creation for the YYC program will continue to encourage more youths to join village Bunges. Mercy Corps and the partner will work within the county structures established to ensure that youths are able to mobilize fellow youth in their respective areas. The strategy will also use the goodwill of the provincial administration and the relevant ministries for sensitization. In particular, youth Bunge leaders will organize for youth-led outreach campaigns to reach fellow youths. Our experience has shown that youths have never identified with formal meetings and that more innovative approaches especially around what interest youths most like sports, theatre, and beauty shows for female youth must be considered. The ‘MY ID MY LIFE’ campaign is meant to triple the numbers of youth in the village Bunges as overall coverage for the program.

Outcome 0.2: Youth representation structures formed in the two counties

In the coming quarter activities will focus on strengthening the operations of the CBF boards including an office set up and drawing of an action plan for three to six months. A training needs assessment for the board members will take place to inform the focus areas of capacity building. The boards will also appoint and constitute a financial review committee to vet and recommend proposals from youth Bunges for funding from the YYC-National program after Bunge rating.

To strengthen the county structure, all Bunges formed in each county will be expected to subscribe and commit to the constitution of their respective county boards. Conflict management, capacity enhancement, coordination and advice will be provided by the board executives who will also ensure all Bunges strive to achieve the YYC objectives.

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

Outcome 1.1: YADEN measurably strengthen organizational capacity

New staff that joined YADEN last quarter will undergo VSL and M&E trainings. This will enable them support program activities planned better.

Outcome 1.2: Youth Bunges actively engaged in civic issues

Bunges will be supported to engage in civic issues in their respective regions. Of importance will be influencing the government for inclusion in decision making at regional levels. As the discussions on the implementation of the constitution to align with the proposed administration structures get underway, Bunge leaders will be encouraged to have their voice felt. The community service projects implemented by village Bunges with their communities create a platform for engagement and cooperation with local leaders.

Outcome 1.3: Central youth networked to foster cooperation and understanding

The two county forums held in December offered an opportunity for youths in Kiambu and Muranga counties to foster cooperation and networking. Since only 811 Bunges participated in these forums, efforts will be made so all newly formed Bunges will join the county board as well. The board will also be strengthened to promote members' interests through periodical meetings as stipulated in their constitutions. Exchange programs will be supported within the province in order to create interest in areas where the Bunge concept has not been adopted. Capacity building for county boards in various aspects like resource mobilization, good governance, leadership and media engagement will be rolled out with support from local consultants and Mercy Corps gender & training specialists.

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

Mercy Corps will continue to engage the Bunges with government officials through meetings to help officials be aware of the value of youth participation in local development and governance—both for youth and themselves. In these engagements, we will share success stories that demonstrate the benefits of youth participation. To advance these potential partnerships, we also will arrange opportunities for youth to meet with local and district decision makers. We will do this by:

- Holding forums between youth leaders and district decision-makers to discuss timely issues that affect youth, such as implementation of the constitutional reforms, devolution, and reforestation of the Mau Forest, and the constraints on both young people and government for addressing these concerns.
- Working with local structures to identify appropriate mechanisms for young people in Bunge settings to meaningfully participate in local planning processes, such as informing the allocation of local budgets, helping plan public events, and tapping into funding streams that are earmarked for youth development.

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

With a total of 144 civic engagement mentors trained in Muranga and Kiambu counties, the team will work on a roll-out program for advocacy trainings and will lead in advocacy events. Key areas that have so far been identified by the Bunges include the ID card campaign, access and inclusion of youth leaders in the allocation of government initiated youth programs, and the consumption of illicit brew and drugs. The advocacy efforts will rely on the goodwill realized by the Bunges in working with the provincial administration.

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

Outcome 2.1: Comprehensive labor market and value chain assessments completed

A second round of the Labor Market and Youth Skills Assessment will not take place as we believe an extensive partner/stakeholder mapping initiative will be of immediate value. However, findings from the earlier assessment will be incorporated into the economic empowerment programs/activities.

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

The life skills and entrepreneurship Trainings will continue in the four districts coupled with coaching for business plan development. The roll out of Bunge based Village Savings and Loans (VSL), a simple and inexpensive community microfinance methodology, will be carried out in order to set the youth on the path of mobilizing their own resources, utilizing and accounting for them. The approach is primarily market-driven and run by youth trainers with oversight from Mercy Corps staff.

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

Bunge-based business plans and competition for business start-up loans will kick off in February with the first disbursements expected in March 2012. This is to allow time for development and design of the application process that permits a fast review while also ensuring that activities feed into the overall project strategy and have a strong chance of success. Potential recipients will be mentored in groups throughout the business development process to allow them to share ideas and collaborate, identify ways to get the ideas started, thus increasing business creation, linkages and creating a supportive network. Under this outcome, we will partner with the Yes Youth Can-National program to provide support to viable business ideas.

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

Starting the month of January, we will hold negotiations with employers willing to take on apprenticeships as informed by the Labor Market and Youth Skills Assessment. The first placements are anticipated to start in early March. We will embark on establishing partnerships with a number of youth centers to build their capacity in career counseling in each of the four districts. Young people with or without good academic qualifications who are not interested in business will be linked with career counselors for advice and mentorship while others and especially those organized in groups will be helped to find other sources of support like financial institutions and other youth empowerment programs.

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

Outcome 3.1: Kiambu & Muranga gender assessment completed to identify challenges and opportunities for young women

We will conduct a gender assessment in sampled locations of Muranga and Kiambu counties in the coming quarter, to understand the specific issues in Central Province that affect young women's involvement in civil society, local decision-making and economic activities including taking up leadership roles in Village Bunges and County Forums. Key informants interviews will be carried out with stakeholders in the political, social and economic spheres. This will include service providers in micro finance institutions as well as women leaders within the community. Young women and young men will be mentored as enumerators to conduct the assessment. The findings of the assessment will inform the implementation of YYC-C objective 3. This will also be shared during young women's mentorship forums in Kiambu and Murang'a county and with other stakeholders in stakeholders' forums.

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

Activities leading to this outcome are not scheduled for implementation and reporting in the next quarter. However, through the village Bunges formation process, meetings have been held with key community leaders to discuss women participation and involvement. This has also been done among the Bunge members. The elections for the County Bunge Forum board members and executive committee ensured gender representation where the female youth form 41% of the total board members and 43% in the board executive committee. YYC Central will continue emphasizing the importance of inclusiveness in all the activities implemented under the program.

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

A mentorship forum will be organized around the International Women’s Day to engage young women Bunge leaders from each county with women leaders in the community. Young women will identify key women achievers in their community who have made stride in economic, political and other areas of leadership. A forum for each county will be organized where selected female youth leaders will get opportunity to interact with influential women leaders to learn and share with them. The young women will share the outcome with Bunge members.

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

Activities leading to this outcome are not scheduled for implementation and reporting in the next quarter.

VI. List of sub-grantees

Youth Arts Development & Entrepreneurship Network (YADEN)