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ANNUAL REPORT: Year One

GEM II Task Order 39: ICT4E

Period of Performance: June 22, 2011 - June 30, 2012

GLOBAL EVALUATION & MONITORING II GEM II BPA Number EDH-E-39-08-00003-00

Contract No. AID-EDH—E-00-08-00003

Order No. AID-OAA-BC-11-00004

Submitted by:
Aguirre Division of JBS International, Inc.

Date Submitted:
September, 2012

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ICT4E (Information and Communications Technologies for Education)

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Submitted by:
Aguirre Division of JBS International, Inc.

Submitted to:
USAID/Washington

Date Submitted:
August 16, 2012

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Acronyms

A/JBS	Aguirre Division of JBS International, Inc.
ACR-GC	All Children Reading – Grand Challenge / All Children Reading: A Grand Challenge for Development
ICT4E	Information and Communications Technologies for Education
M4Ed4Dev	Mobiles for Education for Development (prior name for mEducation Alliance)
mEducation	Mobiles for Education / mobile education
mLearning	Mobile learning
mYWD	Mobiles for Youth Workforce Development (a Working Group of the mEducation Alliance)
USAID	U.S. Agency for International Development

Tasks and Deliverables in Year One

This annual report describes the progress made by the Aguirre Division of JBS International, Inc. (A/JBS) in carrying out the tasks described in Task Order 39 of GEM II, hereafter referred to as ICT4E (Information and Communications Technologies for Education). The ICT4E Task Order began June 22, 2011; as such this is the first annual report of activities under the current contract.

The ICT4E Task Order includes five sub-tasks, being:

- A. Analytical Research
- B. Knowledge Exchange
- C. E-Forums, Workshops, and Conferences
- D. Support for Improved Analysis of ICT4E Global Activities
- E. Mobiles for Education for Development Alliance

This report will review the progress these ICT4E Task Order sub-tasks as compared with the Work Plan covering this period of performance. Appendix A includes the deliverables produced in year one. Appendix B presents a summary of financials.

Task A: Analytical Research	
Dates	July 2011 – June 2012
Estimated Budget	\$122,982
Deliverables	
(as needed)	1. Rapid response research, info briefs by topic / device
10/31/2011	2. Analytical summary of activities in <i>Mobiles for Reading</i>
12/31/2011, ongoing	3. Review of past & current USAID ICT4E activities
3/1/2012	4. Recommendations for impact evaluations of promising practices
5/31/2012	5. Benchmark review of ongoing ICT4E activities vis-à-vis international standards, disaggregated by target group

Progress on deliverables:

1. Rapid response research was conducted by A/JBS on an ongoing basis this year. This included comments provided on the ICT4E Compendium Report produced by AIR, and research conducted on specialized topics for seminar series (e.g. reviews of existing and promising projects using mobile devices as assistive technologies, in the context of identifying a project to highlight for the October 2011 Seminar Series). Info brief efforts this year included a trend analysis on micro (“pico”) projectors and their potential uses in educational development, as well as reviewing Alcatel-Lucent / Bell Lab’s work in mobile learning with a view towards partnership development for the mEducation Alliance.
2. A/JBS conducted topical research this year on existing and proposed uses of mobile technologies for reading (including Open Educational Resources used for early grade reading). An extended analysis building on this effort is contemplated for Year Two.

3. An inventory of recently active ICT4E projects supported by USAID and other donors was prepared by A/JBS and updated periodically this year. Project data collected includes details on regional focus, donor, and project websites.
- 4., 5. A/JBS, in responding to the priority needs of the COTR, did not address these deliverables this year.

Task B: Knowledge Exchange	
Dates	July 2011 – June 2012
Estimated Budget	\$52,461
Deliverables	
(ongoing)	1. Event summaries, including information collected and synthesized for digest and dissemination
(as needed)	2. Commentary on and knowledge exchange for partner institutions
(monthly)	3. E-briefers / newsletters for subscribers and USAID mission staff
6/30/2012	4. Report from representation at ISTE

Progress on deliverables:

1. A/JBS key personnel attended and reported on relevant events this year, including USAID’s Partnership Forum and Qualcomm’s WirelessEd Conference, both held on October 20th in Washington, D.C. A/JBS attended relevant local events for information gathering and outreach. This quarter these events included a review of Portugal’s 1:1 laptop deployment and a project overview of integrating VoIP (voice over Internet Protocol) with Drupal. A/JBS also attended and reported on relevant local and virtual events for information gathering and knowledge exchange, including: Technology Salon (presentation of recent ICT4E evaluation in Peru) and an EdWeek Webinar, *‘Mobile & blended learning in Africa and elsewhere internationally’*.
2. Activities conducted this year by A/JBS towards this deliverable included engaging with the Peace Corps, IYF (International Youth Foundation), and the Kamusi Project, all with a view towards identifying strategic partnerships and assisting with knowledge sharing. Specific activities included:

- Reviewing a Peace Corps’ product, ‘Data-Driven Decision Making’ with a view towards identifying future uses of this workshop guide;
 - Assisting CoSN (Consortium for School Networking) identify relevant speakers for their Mobile Learning Symposium;
 - Providing knowledge dissemination support in connecting Alcatel-Lucent to various researchers and resources related to mobiles in education projects for the production of a working paper for the WEF (World Economic Forum);
 - Corresponding with writers of a UNESCO report on the use of ICTs in youth workforce development;
 - Providing logistics support for the launch of the EDC/IYF toolkit, *YouthICT: Employment Training & Placement*. This knowledge product (supported by EQUIP 3) was launched virtually in a WebEx discussion and in-person at the Ronald Reagan Building.
3. Throughout the project year, A/JBS produced summative reports on the events and discussion forums convened. These events included the m4Ed4Dev Symposium (August 2011), ten (10) seminars with in-person and virtual participants (‘Seminar Series’), and a Research Roundtable. A/JBS submitted these event summaries to the COTR for approval and, when appropriate and requested, A/JBS disseminated these products to target audiences which included USAID staff and interested individuals in the general public.
4. At the request of the COTR, A/JBS did not attend the ISTE annual conference this year. Instead, A/JBS did attend the first UNESCO Mobile Learning Week, held in Paris in December of 2011. The UNESCO event was deemed more appropriate than the ISTE annual conference due to its focus on mobile technologies and a larger interest in developing country contexts. A/JBS developed and submitted a summary brief on this event’s proceedings.

Task C: E-Forums, Workshops, and Conferences	
Dates	July 2011 – June 2012
Estimated Level of Effort	\$86,347
Deliverables	
(monthly)	1. Seminar series on ICT4E / m4Ed4Dev / Mobiles for Reading
8/18 -8/19/2011	2. International m4Ed4Dev Symposium
(biannually)	3. Research roundtables
11/16/2011	4. Education Grand Challenge / Mobiles for Reading Launch Event

Progress on deliverables:

1. A/JBS conducted ten (10) seminars during this project year¹. This does not correspond with monthly occurrence of these events: in many instances A/JBS focused priority efforts on other activities (e.g. conducting larger events described below) as per the prioritization of the COTR. The seminars included in-person participation (held in the Ronald Reagan Building’s North Tower suites) and virtual participation (through conference call-in and WebEx). The topics and projects highlighted at this year’s seminars covered a wide range of

¹ Four of these took place prior to the award of the Task Order, beginning in December of 2010.

the many uses of mobile technologies in educational development, including: early reading, assessment, and assistive technology, among others.

2. The m4Ed4Dev Symposium was held on Aug. 18 and 19 in Bethesda, Maryland. The event was attended by approximately 130 participants, with affiliations including donor agencies, private sector interests, public leaders, academics, non-profits, and professional associations. A/JBS provided extensive support for event preparation, planning, coordination and execution of all related vendor contracts. The substantial planning efforts included soliciting presentation proposals, recruiting expertise for reviewing proposals received, and producing an array of promotional and outreach material to ensure a seamless and productive gathering. A/JBS also produced a detailed summary report of this event and continues to disseminate this widely to interested audiences. Activities in Year One also include preparations for the second International Symposium, currently planned for September 5 and 6 in Washington, D.C.
3. A/JBS conducted two Research Roundtables: one held at Stanford University² in March of 2011, and one held at Harvard University in April of 2012. These events examined prominent, recent work in the field of mobile technologies for education, and leveraged partner institution support for convening costs (HED and Hewlett Foundation, respectively). A/JBS developed a summative brief on the roundtable event held at Harvard University and submitted this to the COTR.
4. A/JBS provided logistical, planning and staffing support for the launch event of the Education Grand Challenge: All Children Reading, which also included developing outreach materials highlighting the role of the Mobiles for Reading Working Group, a convening effort shared by both the mEducation Alliance and the Grand Challenge partners.

Activity D: Support for Improved Analysis of ICT4E Global Activities	
Dates	July 2011 – June 2012
Estimated Budget	\$137,000
Deliverables	
(ongoing)	1. Assistance on ICT4E informational requests from USAID staff
12/1/2011	2. ICT4E Project Review Template, with KM4ED
(ongoing)	3. Population of ICT4E Project Review templates
3/15/2012	4. Summative analysis of ICT4E Annual Project Reviews

Progress on deliverables

1. A/JBS assisted with a concise review of EMIS activities funded under Equip 2 leader awards, at the request of the COTR. Regular correspondence with USAID staff was conducted as requested, most often in the context of providing background information on the mEducation Alliance, its partners and its events.
- 2, 3, 4. These deliverables were not conducted this year, as a result of other priority activities identified and in light of the ongoing development of the KM4ED platform.

² Conducted prior to award of Task Order.

Activity E: Mobiles for Education for Development Alliance	
Dates	July 2011 – June 2012
Estimated Budget	\$95,454
Deliverables	
(monthly)	1. M4Ed4Dev Planning Committee Conference Calls
(ongoing)	2. Development of m4Ed4Dev Alliance Charter and related documents for formalization of entity
10/5/2011	3. Mock of m4Ed4Dev Website, with ongoing design revisions as requested.

Progress on deliverables:

1. A/JBS convened, contributed to, summarized and followed-up on regularly held conference calls for the mEducation Alliance’s Steering Committee. These calls took place at least once a month, with calls related to mEducation Working Groups and events also held intermittently throughout the project year (e.g. Symposium planning, Mobiles for Reading Working Group planning, Mobiles for Youth Workforce Development Working Group proposal development and planning, Public-Private Partnership Group). Steering Committee calls held during this project year typically included 12 or more participants. Sub-group calls were somewhat smaller, typically consisting of 4 or 5 participants each.

On occasion, A/JBS also assisted with in-person meetings for the Steering Committee and relevant sub-groups. These included a luncheon meeting held on November 18, 2011, and a planning meeting for the 2012 mEducation Symposium held on May 4, 2012.

2. A/JBS drafted and revised the mEducation Alliance charter and thereafter sought ratification of this document by Steering Committee member organizations. The charter document describes the Alliance’s overall purpose, goals, vision and mission, and also describes some of the illustrative activities and Working Group efforts envisioned. A/JBS subsequently used the charter as an outreach resource to help engage new partners and provide detail on the scope and objectives of the Alliance. This document is now publicly available on the mEducation website. At present, 14 member organizations now belong to the Steering Committee (the members most recently approved for inclusion were the World Wide Web Foundation and the Global Partnership for Education).
3. A/JBS produced and presented a beta version of the mEducation Alliance website in January, 2012. This first version of the site was the result of a scoping process conducted with the COTR to outline the site’s purpose, core functionality, and later the wireframes for each of the site’s principal pages. After the presentation of the beta version of the website, the COTR requested a re-design of the site’s aesthetic theme, along with further adjustment’s to some of the site’s architecture (e.g. filter buttons for ‘Resource Library’ and other pages).

In March 2012 A/JBS presented several options for re-design work of the website, wherein BrowserMedia LLC was ultimately awarded the contract for this work. BrowserMedia conducted and deployed the website re-design between April and August, 2012, in coordination with revision requests from the COTR. The approved version of the mEducation website was launched and promoted at the 2012 mEducation Alliance International Symposium.

During the website re-design process, A/JBS continued to work on website content and on generating public interest in the Alliance through social media so as to not delay an online

presence for the Alliance while awaiting the full website. Towards this end, A/JBS developed a “landing page” for the Alliance’s url (www.meducationalliance.org) which was made live in February of 2012 and contained a field for those interested to sign up for a mailing list. This list now contains approximately 550 subscribers. Additionally, over 900 users subscribe to follow the Alliance’s updates sent via Twitter (https://twitter.com/m_Education)

Additional Activities

A/JBS performed several activities which, while broadly consistent with the goals and deliverables of the Task Order overall, fell outside of the specific deliverables described in this year’s Work Plan. These are detailed below: existing Task Order deliverables are labeled “Deliverable” and activities not specifically described in the existing Task Order are labeled “Proposed Deliverable.” These “Proposed Deliverables” will be further described in a request for contract modification with proposed deliverables currently being prepared by A/JBS.

Task B: Knowledge Exchange

Proposed deliverable: ACR-GC (All Children Reading – Grand Challenge) Partnership Development: assistance with identifying, communicating with, and convening potential and established ACR-GC partners. Basic support services for capturing ACR-GC meeting notes and assisting in preparing periodic briefings for USAID, USG, ACR-GC Partners and other current and potential stakeholders and collaborating partners.

Progress on deliverable:

A/JBS provided support services this year for communicating with and convening several potential and existing ACR-GC partners including World Vision, Lion’s Club International, and other prospective resource partners. A/JBS also participated in the ACR-GC partners meeting held June 12 – 13 and assisted with technical support related to Mobiles for Reading, which is an activity shared between the mEducation Alliance and the ACR-GC efforts.

Proposed deliverable: Assist in identifying and capturing relevant information from ICT4E-themed events, workshops and conferences. Promotion and publicity of mEducation Alliance at public events and conferences (in person and/or virtually).

Progress on deliverable:

At the request of the COTR, A/JBS traveled to and attended UNESCO’s mLearning Week in Paris, France, to participate in the experts meeting and public Symposium on mobile learning (December 2011). Participation in this conference aided gathering information on policy trends in the field and also allowed A/JBS the opportunity to represent, promote and network for the mEducation Alliance.

In February 2012, A/JBS assisted USAID in preparing promotional material and speaking points related to the mEducation Alliance for an event held at the White House by the Office of Science and Technology Policy³

³ For further details, see <http://www.whitehouse.gov/the-press-office/2012/02/08/fact-sheet-harnessing-innovation-global-development>

A/JBS also produced and presented a narrated PowerPoint presentation (in Spanish) for the 2012 webinar series, “Ubiquitous learning: mobile devices and digital content (Aprendizaje ubicuo: dispositivos móviles y contenidos digitales).” This virtual presentation was given as part of the webinar series organized by UNESCO/IIEP Buenos Aires (International Institute of Education Planning) and FLASCO (Latin American Faculty of Social Sciences), held online from March 14 – 16 with more than 6,500 participants from around the globe.

Task E: Mobiles for Education for Development Alliance

Deliverable: Research, and identify and coordinate engagement with potential collaborators and partners for mEducation alliance.

Progress on deliverable:

A/JBS provided technical support for researching and coordinating partnership engagement with several entities new to the mEducation Alliance this year. These included Alcatel-Lucent (and Bell Labs), Microsoft, Intel, YouTube EDU, The World Wide Web Foundation, The Global Partnership for Education, The Clinton Global Initiative, AfD (French Agency for Development), GIZ (Germany Agency for Development), and IICD (International Institute for Communication and Development).

Proposed deliverable: Establish the Mobiles for Reading Working Group in conjunction with ACR-GC activities including research, outreach, partnership development, etc.

Progress on deliverable:

A/JBS provided extensive outreach and coordinative support for establishing and promoting the Mobiles for Reading Working Group as a signature effort of both the mEducation Alliance and ACR-GC. Events included the 2012 Research Roundtable held at Harvard University and a track of breakout sessions held at the 2012 mEducation Alliance International Symposium. Additionally, initial efforts were performed this year for the early stages of a partnership between USAID and a consortium of private companies to conduct a series of evaluations looking at the effectiveness of a variety of hardware and software for the improvement of early grade reading in low resource environments.

Proposed deliverable: Establish the Mobiles for Youth Workforce Development (mYWD) Working Group. Activities include partnership development, research, convening events and related outreach.

Progress on deliverable:

A/JBS further developed a Concept Paper outlining proposed activities for the mYWD Working Group and submitted this to The MasterCard Foundation for the purposes of securing support for research and convening activities. After revisions and input from MasterCard and USAID key personnel, the proposed activities were agreed upon and funding awarded by MasterCard for approximately \$123,000. This amount represents support for direct program costs (e.g. consultants, event venues, printing, travel, etc.) – all oversight labor provided by A/JBS will be the contributions of the ICT4E Task Order and the Youth Policy Task Order.

In the coming project year, A/JBS will implement initial activities for the mYWD Working Group which include a ‘Landscape Review’ analysis of the field, several participatory ‘Learning Series’ events, and a dedicated track of sessions and discussions at the 2012 mEducation Alliance Symposium with an accompanying summary report.

Proposed deliverable: Administrative support for development of the ACR-GC including logistics, data management and planning.

A/JBS provided logistic support for the November 18 launch event of ACR-GC, which included contracting and overseeing the production of a brief animated video piece to be used for promotional purposes around the ACR-GC. This effort included resources from the Knowledge Management for Education (KM4ED) Task Order, also being implemented by A/JBS, and was produced by the Video Editing Consultant. From January – May of 2012, A/JBS also provided considerable data processing and technical support related to the proposal review of the more than 450 ACR-GC submissions received by USAID.

Appendix A. Deliverables for Year One

Task	Deliverable	Status
Task A: Analytical Research	1. Rapid response research, info briefs by topic / device	Conducted, ongoing as requested
	2. Analytical summary of activities in Mobiles for Reading	Ongoing
	3. Review of past & current USAID ICT4E activities	Conducted
	4. Recommendations for impact evaluations of promising practices	Postponed/Canceled for adjustment of priorities
	5. Benchmark review of ongoing ICT4E activities vis-à-vis international standards, disaggregated by target group	Postponed/Canceled for adjustment of priorities
Task B: Knowledge Exchange	1. Event summaries, including information collected and synthesized for digest and dissemination	Conducted
	2. Commentary on and knowledge exchange for partner institutions	Conducted, ongoing as requested
	3. E-briefers / newsletters for subscribers and USAID mission staff	Ongoing, will continue through mEducation Alliance website
	4. Report from representation at ISTE	Conducted from UNESCO event
Task C: E-Forums, Workshops, and Conferences	1. Seminar series on ICT4E / m4Ed4Dev / Mobiles for Reading	Conducted
	2. International m4Ed4Dev Symposium	Conducted
	3. Research roundtables	Conducted
	4. Education Grand Challenge / Mobiles for Reading Launch Event	Conducted
Task D: Support for Improved Analysis of ICT4E Global Activities	1. Assistance on ICT4E informational requests from USAID staff	Conducted, ongoing as requested
	2. ICT4E Project Review Template, with KM4ED	Not conducted, will be proposed for removal in contract modification
	3. Population of ICT4E Project Review templates	Not conducted, will be proposed for removal in contract modification
	4. Summative analysis of ICT4E Annual Project Reviews	Not conducted, will be proposed for removal in contract modification
Task E: Mobiles for Education for Development Alliance	1. M4Ed4Dev Planning Committee Conference Calls	Conducted, ongoing as requested
	2. Development of m4Ed4Dev Alliance Charter and related documents for formalization of entity	Conducted
	3. Mock of m4Ed4Dev Website, with ongoing design revisions as requested.	Conducted, ongoing as requested

Appendix B. Summary of Financials

AGUIRRE INTERNATIONAL BUDGET STATUS REPORT

PROJECT CODE(S): **53900**
 Contract Number: **EDH-E-39-08-00003 (MOBIS GS-10F-0285K; SIN: 874-1)**
 Contract Title: **GEM II Task 39/USAID/GEM 39/Information and Communications technology for Education (ICT4E)**
 Client: **USAID**

This Budget Status Report provides supplemental information to the attached current invoice detailing costs billed to date. This report includes outstanding commitments which represent unbilled costs payable under this contract. Examples of commitments include work authorized to consultants/subcontractors not yet completed, and for work completed but not yet billed by the vendor. The addition of the commitments to invoiced costs reflects a more accurate picture of resources spent to date and the balance remaining for project activities.

Contract Start Date: **6/22/2011**
 Contract End Date: **6/2/2014**

Expenses Reported through: **6/30/2012**

CURRENT BUDGET	\$	1,466,701.00
EXPENSES processed thru Accounting:	\$	644,388.75
PLUS Commitments:		
T&M Consultants (see below for detail)	\$	
Travel (see sheet for detail)	\$	
In Country Support / Subcontract	\$	
G&A on ODC Commitments 10.30%	\$	
Total Costs Incurred and Committed to Date:	\$	822,312.26
Balance (after commitments):		\$822,312.26

Funding:
\$ 1,466,701.00
\$ 644,388.75
44% percent of funding spent