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## **Kenya Transition Initiative Quarterly Report**

**March 15 – June 14, 2011**

### **Program Description**

The Kenya Transition Initiative (KTI) program, implemented through USAID's Office of Transition Initiatives (OTI), was initiated in June 2008 following post-election violence that rocked the country. The goal of the program is to continue to support stability with unity in Kenya by contributing to a politically modern Kenya, centered on national identity rather than ethnicity. KTI centers on a two-pronged effort supporting the institutional and grassroots reforms outlined in the February 2008 National Accord, including a constitutional review, youth employment, police reform, and land reform. In pursuit of this goal, the program assists Kenyan state and non-state actors to exercise more fully their capacities and, thereby, support the following broad objectives:

- Enable public institutions to undertake fundamental reforms and to manage instability and uncertainty, and
- Mobilize the public, especially the youth and key change agents, to demand accountability and reform.

KTI had been implemented by Development Alternatives, Inc. (DAI), under a task order that closed in May 2011. Chemonics continues to implement KTI through May 2013, since startup in January 2011. This report covers the period March 15, 2011 through June 14, 2011.

### **Country Situation**

*Political situation.* Much attention has been focused on the ongoing vetting process, led by the Constitution Implementation Oversight Committee (CIOC), comprised of the nominated Chief Justice (CJ), Deputy Chief Justice (DCJ) and Director of Public Prosecutions (DPP). The nomination of the three candidates, Dr. Willy Mutunga, Ms. Nancy Baraza, and Mr Keriako Tobiko, has created some controversy among various stakeholders in the government and major civil society institutions. Church leaders have expressed their discomfort with the nomination of the CJ and DCJ, focused on family values. The nomination of Keriako Tobiko has also come under close scrutiny by a number of civil society activists, accompanied by calls for members of Parliament to reject his nomination. A number of civil society activists have vowed to go to court to block Tobiko appointment if his candidacy proceeds.

*Kamukunji by-elections.* The Kamukunji constituency, located in Nairobi County has a history of flawed elections. In 2007, parliamentary elections were marked by so many irregularities and electoral violence that Kenya's High Court nullified the results. The Interim Independent

Electoral Commission (IIEC) later announced a by-election for May 23, 2011. The by-election was seen as a proving ground for 2012 presidential hopefuls and drew significant interest from the political heavyweights with as many as seven candidates vying for the hotly contested political seat. Unfortunately, Kenya's High Court halted the by-election on May 20, 2011 pending the hearing of a case filed by an aspirant from the National Vision Party (NVP), who successfully obtained a last-minute injunction stopping the poll over a "flawed nominations process." The IIEC filed an appeal against the ruling, and a hearing is scheduled for July 6, 2011.

*The International Criminal Court (ICC).* The ICC remains a contentious issue in Kenya both for the political class and the local *mwanainchi*. The ICC judges on Monday, May 30, 2011 threw out Kenya's admissibility case challenging the trial of the six men, popularly dubbed as the "Ocampo Six," who are facing possible prosecution for alleged roles in the post election violence that rocked the country in 2007-2008. The Kenyan government filed a case challenging the admissibility of the case, claiming that, with the adoption of the new constitution and other reforms, it was capable of investigating the six suspects internally. The case was denied, dealing a particularly hard blow to aspiring presidential candidates William Ruto and Uhuru Kenyatta. In September, the ICC will begin the process of determining whether or not the charges against the suspects have been confirmed, which will determine if each suspect will proceed to trial or will be exonerated.

*Security.* Kenyan media reported the killing of Fazul Abdullah Mohammed in Somalia by security forces in Mogadishu. Fazul was among Bin Laden's top commanders and head of al-Qaeda's East African cell, which was responsible for the U.S. embassy bombings in Kenya and Tanzania on August 7, 1998. This follows the death of Osama bin Laden. Kenyan media, as well as the US State Department, have issued calls for heightened vigilance for residents and travelers in Kenya. There has been a noticeable surge in security measures around Nairobi, including at airports and in public spaces.

## **Program Highlights**

### **A. Narrative Summary**

The KTI offices are now fully operational and fully staffed in Nairobi, Eldoret, and Kericho.

The program performance review (PPR) team fielded by OTI in Washington visited Kenya from May 29 - June 13. They met with staff, grantees and stakeholders in all locations, and also visited Mombasa. The PPR is intended to review KTI's performance and current relevance and provide recommendations and input for future activities. Overall, preliminary feedback from the team in the pre-departure briefing was positive. A rolling assessment is planned for the field team at the end of June, during which the PPR results will be reviewed and discussed.

KTI's Eastleigh youth engagement component is anticipated to begin in the next quarter, as soon as funds are obligated to the task order. Initial recruit activities and networking have begun in anticipation, in order to facilitate a rapid start-up.

## B. Project Activities

I. FINANCIAL UPDATE			
Obligated Amount	Disbursed in Operations	Cleared in Activities	Disbursed in Grants
\$1,500,000	\$570,936	\$380,098	\$113,227

II. GRANTS CLEARED AND CLOSED		
Grant	Grantee	Amount
Documenting Cases of the Dissapearance of the Kalenjin Youth during the PEV	[REDACTED]	\$ 17,525
Kenyans speak on the ICC	[REDACTED]	\$2,077
SMS based civic education and poll monitoring	[REDACTED]	\$ 22,278
Study and discussion on impact of Kenya's New constitution	[REDACTED]	\$34,175
Empowering Kamukunji community leaders to monitor the by-election	[REDACTED]	\$28,841
Expert Technical Assistance to Youth Groups in Kenya	STTA	\$ 152,497
Community Radio Assesment	DDGS	\$25,282
Coast conflict Mitigation workshop	DDGS	\$320

## C. Grant Activity Highlights

The pace of activities has scaled up this quarter, and continues to increase. Highlights of current activities during the quarter include a grant to [REDACTED], a Kenyan non-governmental organization (NGO) that supported a first-ever candidate debate between aspirants for the Kamukunji by-election. Five of the seven candidates participated, and the event received significant media coverage. To prepare for the debate, the grantee collaborated with another local organization, [REDACTED], also with support through KTI, to use SMS technology to poll community members about priorities and questions for aspirants, advertise the debate, and report findings after it was over. Feedback from participants was overwhelmingly positive and included recommendations for repetition in other constituencies and even in the 2012 elections. The SMS system may also have helped keep the climate of the constituency calm by disseminating accurate information and peace messaging when the election was unexpectedly postponed.

## **Program Appraisal**

With offices fully operational in all locations and all staff in place, the program is positioned to respond to key events in Kenya. Staff have received training on the OTI database, grants management and key systems and processes, and additional reinforcement and training will continue in the next quarter. This will include a planned visit from a home office grants specialist in September to provide in-depth grants management training to all members of the team.

KTI is actively coordinating with other USAID programs, and during the quarter hosted a meeting in the Eldoret office that included staff from USAID/Kenya's Democracy and Governance and Education and Youth offices, as well as other implementing partner staff, to discuss strategies for effective coordination in the Rift Valley.

## **Next Steps/Immediate Priorities**

Key activities planned during the next reporting period are:

- Review the PPR team recommendations and make adjustments as needed in response;
- Eastleigh program start up;
- The rolling assessment planned for late June, 2011; and
- Increasing grant commitment and disbursement rates to meet the current established targets in all offices.