

July 30, 2014



Michael Ketover
Alternate Contracting Officer's Representative, USAID

Subject: Quarterly Report for Contract No. AID-641-C-14-00002—Resiliency in Northern Ghana

Mr. Ketover,

On behalf of Global Communities I am pleased to submit our quarterly report for the above mentioned contract. This report summarizes activities undertaken from June 15, 2014 – June 30, 2014.

Please do not hesitate to contact me or my colleague, Randy Lyness, should you have any questions.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Glenn Moller", is written over a white background.

Glenn Moller
Director of Program Operations
International Operations

Cc: Melanie Luick – Martins, Contracting Officer's Representative, USAID
Nathan Olah, Contracting Officer, USAID
Randy Lyness, Director, Global Communities/Headquarters
Ahmed Kassim, DFA, Global Communities/Ghana
Marc Valentin, Program Manager, Global Communities/Headquarters



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Resiliency in Northern Ghana (RING) Quarterly Report

Quarter 3, FY 2014

July 30, 2014

This publication was produced for review by the United States Agency for International Development. It was prepared by Global Communities.

Resiliency in Northern Ghana (RING)

Quarterly Report

June 15, 2014 – June 30, 2014

DISCLAIMER

The authors' views expressed in this publication do not necessarily reflect the views of the United States Agency for International Development or the United States Government.

NAME OF PROJECT	RESILIENCY IN NORTHERN GHANA (RING)
COUNTRY AND REGIONS	GHANA
DONOR	USAID
CONTRACT NUMBER	AID-641-C-14-00002
START AND END DATE OF PROJECT	JUNE 15, 2014 – JUNE 14, 2019
TOTAL ESTIMATED FEDERAL FUNDING	\$30,963,619
CONTACT IN COUNTRY	RANDY LYNESS ACTING CHIEF OF PARTY DIRECTOR, INTERNATIONAL PROGRAM OPERATIONS
CONTACT IN U.S.	MARC VALENTIN, PROGRAM MANAGER

TABLE OF CONTENTS

I. ABBREVIATIONS AND ACRONYMS

II. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

III. INTRODUCTION

IV. PROGRESS BY COMPONENT AND EXPECTED RESULT

- a. Summary Results Table
- b. Key Achievements
- c. New Developments Impacting Implementation
- d. Grants and Sub-Awards
 - i. Grants Under Contract
 - ii. Sub-Contracts
 - iii. Innovation Fund
- e. Monitoring and Evaluation
- f. Lessons Learned
- g. Challenges and Constraints

V. GOVERNMENT TO GOVERNMENT TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE MANAGEMENT AND ADMINISTRATION

VI. ACTIONS AND ITEMS PENDING RESOLUTION

VII. PROJECTED ACTIVITIES FOR NEXT PERIOD

VIII. ANNEXES

- a. Success stories
- b. Press Coverage

I. ABBREVIATIONS AND ACRONYMS

CHF	CHF International (now Global Communities)
COP	Chief of Party
COR	Contracting Officer's Representative
DA	District Assembly
DFA	Director for Finance and Administration
FHI	FHI 360
GC	Global Communities
GUC	Grants Under Contract
HH	Household
ILGS	Institute of Local Government Studies
LOP	Life of Project
M&E	Monitoring & Evaluation
MOU	Memorandum of Understanding
MSA	Management Systems Advisors
M&E	Monitoring and Evaluation
NGO	Non-Governmental Organization
NRCC	Northern Region Coordinating Council
PMEP	Performance Monitoring and Evaluation Plan
RCC	Regional Coordinating Council
RING	Resiliency in Northern Ghana
RPCU	Regional Planning and Coordinating Unit
SMSA	Senior Management Systems Advisor
SMT	Senior Management Team
SOW	Scope of Work
STTA	Short Term Technical Assistance
TA	Technical Assistance
TAC	Technical Assistance Contractor
TOT	Training of Trainers
UDS	University for Development Studies
UI	Urban Institute
USAID	United States Agency for International Development
WASH	Water, Sanitation and Hygiene

II. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

This report covers June 15, 2014 through June 30, 2014; of this 15 day initial startup period the first 10 days were within the USAID contest period.

Global Communities start up team immediately began to mobilize administrative support, technical support and senior management once given the clearance to incur costs from USAID. Upon arriving in Ghana the Startup Team held meetings with all partners including: FHI 360, Urban Institute, Farm Radio, ILGS, UDS and KNET to update them on startup activities and discuss work plan and PME development.

Upon receiving the award letter from USAID, the proposed Chief of Party communicated that he was not available to serve in that role. Global Communities communicated this to USAID and subsequently submitted the name of an alternate candidate. USAID began conducting its due diligence process.

III. INTRODUCTION

The Resiliency in Northern Ghana (RING) Program is a five-year, \$60 million dollar initiative funded by USAID/Ghana. RING is an integrated project and partnership under USAID's Feed the Future Initiative designed to contribute to the Government of Ghana's efforts to sustainably reduce poverty. Its goal is to improve the livelihoods and nutritional status of vulnerable populations in the Northern Region. It will be decentralized and employ mixed modalities for implementation interventions will be implemented through a collaborative approach with the District Assemblies (DAs) in Northern Region and with the Northern Region Coordinating Council (NRCC). For eligible DAs, USAID support and funding for district management requirements and the implementation of interventions at the community level will go directly to the DAs

As the RING Technical Assistance Contractor, Global Communities has assembled a multi-disciplinary team of international and Ghanaian organizations to work with Regional and District level stakeholders to bring together the capacity of communities and governments to work together to help vulnerable families address their nutrition, livelihoods, and water, sanitation and hygiene needs. RING will work with the NRCC and DAs to identify and overcome the institutional challenges to creating the synergies across nutrition, agriculture and livelihoods activities necessary to promote a healthy, thriving, productive population. Competitively awarded sub-contracts and grants under contract will be used to reinforce and complement technical assistance,

IV. PROGRESS BY COMPONENT AND EXPECTED RESULT

a. Summary Results Table

There is no update to this section for this reporting period.

b. Key Achievements

The Global Communities start up team immediately began to mobilize administrative support, technical support and senior management once given the clearance to incur costs from USAID. Work has begun on the 15.5 month annual work plan as well as the Program Monitoring and Evaluation Plan (PMEP), both of which are due to USAID as part of the 60-day deliverables.

Initial RING startup team held introductory coordination meetings with representatives of the NRCC in the northern region to discuss collaboration of work planning.

c. New Developments Impacting Implementation

There is no update to this section for this reporting period.

d. Grants and Sub-Awards

i. Grants Under Contract

There is no update to this section for this reporting period.

ii. Sub-Contracts

Meetings have been held with all partners: FHI, Urban Institute, Farm Radio, ILGS, UDS and KNET to update them on startup activities and discuss work plan and PMEP development. At the request of the USAID COR, Global Communities held-off signing long-term subcontracts with partners until approval of the first annual work plan. In lieu of this, Global Communities signed 90-day Letters of Collaboration (LOCs) with 3 of its core partners to facilitate project start-up and work plan development.

iii. Innovation Fund

There is no update to this section for this reporting period.

e. Monitoring and Evaluation

There is no update to this section for this reporting period.

f. Lessons Learned

There is no update to this section for this reporting period.

g. Challenges and Constraints

New agriculture/livelihoods, health/nutrition, and governance programs in Northern Region since RING was designed must be considered as we move ahead with program implementation and work plan development. For example, other USG and donor programs in NR (ADVANCE II, SPRING, HEALTH SYSTEM STRENGTHENING, UNICEF, etc.). This includes implementation of activities by USAID direct-funded RING target districts (G2G) the past several months that requires getting up to speed on what types of RING interventions are already underway in the target 17 districts.

V. GOVERNMENT TO GOVERNMENT TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE MANAGEMENT AND ADMINISTRATION

There is no update to this section for this reporting period.

VI. ACTIONS AND ITEMS PENDING RESOLUTION

Due diligence by USAID on potential Chief of Party candidate Gerald Turnbull.

VII. PROJECTED ACTIVITIES FOR NEXT PERIOD

Activities planned for the upcoming period, July 1, 2014 through September 30, 2014, consist but are not limited to:

- Submission of all contractual 60-Day deliverables.
- First year work planning workshop to be held in Accra and Tamale
- Identify RING activities that will require Environmental Monitoring and Mitigation measures to include in EMMP
- Finalize Grants Under Contract Manual
- Develop TOR/SOW and begin RING baseline survey
- Coordination with all key personnel to on board and start work.
- Chief of Party to be mobilized and fully integrated into RING team in Tamale.
- Finalize selection and secure Global Communities' office space in Tamale.
- USAID RING PSCs transitioning into STTA consultants for Global Communities' RING team. Bethany Davidson, Lauren Brooks, and Ben Anamoah to assist in the development the RING first annual work plan.
- Finalize all recruitment efforts for local staff.
- Finalize drafts of all subcontracts and fully execute with all local and international partners.
- Develop coordinated efforts with SPRING program to ensure programmatic best practices and no duplication of effort.

VIII. ANNEXES

a. Success stories

There is no update to this section for this reporting period.

b. Press Coverage

There is no update to this section for this reporting period.