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**Resilience in Northern Ghana (RING)
Monthly REPORT**

Reporting Period: **August 1 to August 31, 2014**
Date Submitted: **October 3, 2014**
Submitted By: Marc Valentin

TO: Melanie Luick – Martins, Contracting Officer’s Representative, USAID
CC: Michael Ketover, Alternate Contracting Officer’s Representative
Nathan Olah, Contracting Officer, USAID
Randy Lyness, Director, Global Communities/Headquarters
Gerald Turnbull, COP, Global Communities/Ghana
Ahmed Kassim, DFA, Global Communities/Ghana
FROM: Marc Valentin, Program Manager

1. Program Implementation

- a. Major activities:
 - a. Senior Technical Specialist Jeff Gray led session with representatives from the DAs and NRCC to get feedback on workplan. Representatives from FHI 360, ILGS, and the RING consultants participated.
- b. Milestones reached: There is no update to this section during the reporting period.
- c. Progress against the work plan: Submitted initial workplan, PMEP, and Environmental Plan to USAID for review.
- d. Vehicle procurement process undertaken.
- e. Prepared a draft MOU between Global Communities and JSI-SPRING.
- f. RING G2G activities continued, facilitated by Global Communities consultants Bethany Davidson, Lauren Brooks, and Ben Anamoh.
- g. Met with partner KNET to discuss RING program and potential ITC/internet access assessment for the NRCC and 17 DAs in Northern Region.
- h. Identified office in Tamale which should be ready in early October.
- i. After discussion with COR Melanie Luick-Martins, the domain name settled on for Ghana RING is name@ghanaresiliency.org
- j. COP Gerald Turnbull held several meetings with USAID, including COR Melanie Luick-Martins.

2. Outreach / Communications Update

- a. Success Stories: There is no update for this reporting period. However, Component 3 is making good progress in determining the trainings needed and how to train for results.
- b. Update on stories in local media: There is no update to this section for this reporting period.

3. Knowledge & Practices



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- a. Lessons learned: Internet coverage with computer hotspots is limiting for truly functional office output. Monitoring and evaluation should be under the direction of the prime contractor of the program
- b. Outputs accomplished: Process on the work plan continued but otherwise there is no update for this reporting period.
- c. Monitoring and Evaluation:
 - a. Work continued on Program Monitoring and Evaluation Plan (PMEP) throughout the reporting period.

4. Staffing

- a. New positions
 - a. Global Communities on-boarded a Field Office Manager, GIS Specialist, and HR Assistant. Interviews have been held for Communications Officer and HR Manager.
- b. Global Communities has continued recruitment efforts for local staff, while prioritizing the administrative support positions.
- c. Departures: There is no update for this reporting period.

5. Partners

- a. Urban Institute's Juliana Pigeon met with the ILGS National Director in Accra to discuss the RING program and next steps.
- b. Further partner subcontracting is pending USAID approval of revised workplan.
- c. PMEP efforts were ongoing.

6. Pending Issues Requiring Follow up

- a. The review for Vehicle RFQ is being finalized.
- b. Requests for internet service will be finalized and submitted.
- c. Email domain and addresses still need to be assigned and program implemented.
- d. Program logo needs to be finalized and submitted.
- e. Workplan to be revised based on any feedback from USAID.
- f. Office location Salaga may not be best choice for minimizing travel time and logistically.
- g. Staffing plan needs to be revised.