



**USAID**  
FROM THE AMERICAN PEOPLE

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

Reporting Period: **October 1 to October 31, 2014**  
Date Submitted: **November 26, 2014**  
Submitted By: Gerald Turnbull

TO: Melanie Luick – Martins, Contracting Officer’s Representative, USAID  
CC: Michael Ketover, Alternate Contracting Officer’s Representative  
Nathan Olah, Contracting Officer, USAID  
Glenn Moller, Director, Global Communities/Headquarters  
Gerald Turnbull, COP, Global Communities/Ghana  
Ahmed Kassim, DFA, Global Communities/Ghana  
FROM: Gerald Turnbull, Chief of Party

**1. Program Implementation**

- a. Major activities:
  - a. RING team attended RING District Assembly midyear review workshop.
  - b. Program bank accounts were opened with Zenith Bank Ghana.
  - c. Participated in site visits to various FtF programs during the Richard Green review of the Feed the Future program.
  - d. RING COP Gerald Turnbull attended multiple coordination meetings with implementers such as Systems 4 Health, MSI, and SPRING
  - e. Occupied and furnished office in Tamale, Ghana.
  - f. Visited Tolon DA with visitors from USAID West Africa/DC who were interested in Gender issues.
  - g. COP met with NRCC to discuss contacts for Tier 2 DA implementation activities.
  - h. VSLA Training Manual Review workshops were conducted and work continued on the development of VSLA curriculum. Additional activities included meetings with various local VSLA stakeholders to explore possible collaboration.
  - i. Work on the 2015 AWP was undertaken in collaboration with districts.
  - j. RING team visited Advanced Nucleus Farm in Bawku and discussed the role of women in agriculture.
  - k. COP and RING team attended DA funding level meeting with USAID.
  - l. M&E Advisor met with Farm Radio International regarding mobile data collection platforms and SMS survey data collection.
- b. Milestones reached: There is no update to this section during the reporting period.
- c. Progress against the work plan: Submitted work plan revisions to USAID for review on Tuesday, October 7.
- d. Vehicle procurement process underway.
- e. Submitted RING quarterly financial report.
- f. Held further meetings with JSI/SPRING to discuss overlap and coordination of activities.



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- g. Initiated registration processes with the Ghana Revenue Authority and Tamale Metropolitan Assembly.
- h. Extended offers of employment to consultants Lauren Brooks and Bethany Davidson.
- i. COP Gerald Turnbull held several meetings with USAID, including COR Melanie Luick-Martins and ACOR Michael Ketover.

## 2. Outreach / Communications Update

- a. Success Stories: Three success stories from the reporting period were included in the RING Annual Report (submitted end of October 2014). They included the case of a mother who received ENA messaging and intervention of her under-nourished child, who has since received treatment and follow-up visits, the case of a woman in Chereponi who received soyabean seeds and training that led to positive production results encouraging other community members to adopt similar improved planting methods and a profile of the women nutrition officer in Central Gonja.
- b. Update on stories in local media: There is no update to this section for this reporting period.

## 3. Knowledge & Practices

- a. Lessons learned: The veterinary quarantine system has problems that need to be revised for future activities. The disease supervision and reporting program has long term benefits to the livestock industry. Connectivity is severely limited in several program implementation areas.
- 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. Draft PMEP was submitted to METS for review.

## 4. Staffing

- a. New positions
  - a. Global Communities on-boarded the 2 former USAID PSCs as fulltime employees, as well as, 3 MSAs, an IT Support Officer, 3 Cleaners, 1 Accountant, a GIS Officer, and office guards, and extended offers to a Grants/Contracts Manager (who will start November 1), a M&E Capacity Building Specialist (who will start January 1), and an M&E Data Analyst (who will start January 1).
- 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 Pigey met with the ILGS National Director in Accra to discuss the RING program and next steps. The two financial specialists continue to make significant contributions to day to day operations and assisting with the G2G functions.
- b. Further partner subcontracting is pending USAID approval of revised workplan.

## 6. Pending Issues Requiring Follow up

- a. Assistance with VAT exemptions and other issues concerning taxation and imports.