



**USAID**  
FROM THE AMERICAN PEOPLE

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

Reporting Period: **November 1 to November 30, 2014**  
Date Submitted: **December 30, 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. The COP and NRCC representative meet with all Tier Two Districts for RING familiarization meetings.
  - b. COP and RING Team began preparations for Tier Two inception meetings which includes updating various templates for better efficiency and clarification.
  - c. Governance team met with ILGS to discuss DA training needs and begin planning next steps.
  - d. GIS mapping of communities continued with support of MSAs.
  - e. Annual work plan workshop held with all Tier One districts. USAID representatives traveled to Tamale to participate.
  - f. Microfinance Specialist met with DA staff to review VSLA implementation status and helped identify district training needs.
  - g. GIS Specialist trained MSAs on use of tablets for monitoring and mapping.
  - h. NRCC coordination meetings held to discuss, among other topics, embedding MSAs and ongoing technical support. Additional topics included developing interventions to better meet the needs of the various districts.
  - i. Livelihoods and G2G Specialists presented RING at the REACH conference in Tamale.
  - j. COP and G2G Nutrition Specialist met with JSI/SPRING to discuss collaboration and develop detailed activity plans on component 2 activities.
  - k. COP and Agriculture and Livelihoods Technical Advisor met with Director of Operations and Ghana Manager for Farm Radio to discuss RING activities and next steps following the holiday season.
  - l. COP attended KM&L meeting in Accra hosted by METSS. The data from the household surveys will be useful for intervention application in the Tier Two Districts.
  - m. Agriculture / Livelihoods Specialist met with the Dean of Faculty of Agriculture at UDS to discuss FOA support of RING activities, especially regarding nutrition-sensitive



# USAID

FROM THE AMERICAN PEOPLE

agricultural linkages with particular emphasis on crops such as orange flesh sweet potatoes.

- n. RING Technical staff continued to review 2015 DA work plans that were submitted and provided feedback to DAs.
- o. Began planning for Director of Operations Glenn Moller's trip to Ghana to meet with USAID and RING leadership and staff.
- b. Milestones reached: There is no update to this section during the reporting period.
- c. Progress against the work plan: Submitted final work plan revisions to USAID for review on Friday, November 21<sup>st</sup>.
- d. Vehicle procurement process underway. Vehicles were shipped and will arrive in December.
- e. Internet installation complete in Tamale office.
- f. The first all staff meeting took place in Tamale.
- g. Meeting with DANIDA about the new training facility on the Yendi road. Discussions included how to train various agriculture agents and volunteers in technical agriculture aspects as well as governance issues.

## 2. Outreach / Communications Update

- a. Success Stories: A story concerning small ruminants is in progress
- 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 field office situation for the southeast area of the Northern Region will be revisited after better understanding the services available in Salaga versus Bimbula.
- b. Outputs accomplished:
  - a. Work continued against the six month deliverables.
  - b. Tier Two Districts have been visited and prepared for phase two activities.
  - c. Areas for general targeted technical assistance continue to be identified as a result of DA visits.
- c. Progress on the work plan continued but otherwise there is no update for this reporting period.
- d. 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. (Review received in December)
  - b. Interactions with E4H managed by MSI are in process.

## 4. Staffing

- a. New positions
  - a. Additional MSAs reported for work on Monday November 3.
  - b. M&E Officer reported for work on Wednesday, November 12.
  - c. Accountant reported for work in mid-November.
- 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



**USAID**  
FROM THE AMERICAN PEOPLE

a. Further partner subcontracting is pending USAID approval of revised workplan.

**6. Pending Issues Requiring Follow up**

a. Continued assistance with tax exemptions and various clearances.