

April 30, 2015

Agreement Officer, USAID

Subject: Quarterly Report for Cooperative Agreement No. AID-696-A-15-00002—Rwanda Improved Services for Vulnerable Populations (ISVP)

On behalf of Global Communities I am pleased to submit our quarterly report for the above mentioned agreement. This report summarizes activities undertaken from January 1, 2015 to March 31, 2015.

Please do not hesitate to contact me or our Chief of Party should you have any questions.

Sincerely,

International Operations

Cc: AOR, USAID/Rwanda  
Chief of Party, ISVP Program & Country Director, Global Communities/Rwanda

# Q2 FY15 Quarterly Report

**Program Name:** Improved Services for Vulnerable Populations (ISVP)  
USAID/Twiyubake Program (local name in Rwanda)

**Country:** Rwanda

**Donor:** USAID/PEPFAR

**Award Number:** AID-696-A-15-00002

**Reporting Period:** February 23<sup>rd</sup> to March 31<sup>st</sup>, 2015

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Name of Project	Improved Services for Vulnerable Populations (ISVP) <i>(known locally as the USAID/Twiyubake Program)</i>
Country and regions	Rwanda, Africa
Donor	USAID/PEPFAR
Award number/symbol	AID-696-A-15-00002
Start and end date of project	February 23, 2015 – February 22, 2020
Total estimated federal funding	\$36,997,332 million USD (funding from USAID/PEPFAR)
Contact in Country	Chief of Party Global Communities P.O. Box 7028 Kigali, Rwanda
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# Program Overview

On February 23 2015, USAID/PEPFAR awarded Global Communities Cooperative Agreement AID-696-A-15-00002 to implement the Rwanda Improved Services for Vulnerable Populations (ISVP) Program.

Known locally as the **USAID/Twiyubake<sup>1</sup> Program**, this program aims to improve the protection of at least 50,000 vulnerable populations against adverse circumstances in 15 targeted districts of Rwanda. This protection contributes to reducing the risk and impact of HIV/AIDS and other health conditions on most vulnerable populations in Rwanda, which builds upon USAID's support to the Government of Rwanda (GOR) and civil society partners to support these vulnerable populations to access health and social services; a key component that enables them to live productive lives. Vulnerable groups are defined as people living with HIV, orphans and vulnerable children (OVC), including members of the household caring for these two groups, very poor households, especially female and widow headed households, and out of school young people, especially girls.

## Program Objective

The goal of the project is to identify and assist 250,000 vulnerable children, youth and adults by:

- **Increasing capacities of families and communities to provide better care for vulnerable individuals:** the program will address the vulnerabilities of households and communities including those affected by HIV and AIDS by stabilizing household assets, improving nutrition and food security, generating income, and fostering market linkages.
- **Improving household and community care and support practices for vulnerable populations, especially children:** the program will improve care practices in families for OVC and other vulnerable family members and address behavioral barriers to effective care and support practices.
- **Increasing access to education and social services for vulnerable populations:** the program will assist vulnerable families to access the social and educational services necessary for improved health and wellbeing, including early childhood development programs, diverse educational opportunities (most importantly government basic education), vocational skills training (especially for those who are out of school), parenting support, child protection services, and prevention of gender-based violence.

## Program Consortium

Global Communities has selected a consortium of three international partners to complement in the training and capacity building of local partners in various areas:

- **AVSI** will provide household and family strengthening services, including child protection and youth work readiness
- **Plan International** will focus on inclusive and quality education in Early Childhood Development (ECD), gender mainstreaming including strengthening male involvement and combating GBV
- **Partners in Health (PIH)** will provide Capacity building to local partners, work with households to deliver high quality health care, promote clinical-community linkages, and coordinate social, nutritional, and economic support for clinical expertise and linkages.

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<sup>1</sup> Twiyubake is a Kinyarwanda word for **building & enhancing self-reliance**. This term also emphasizes *togetherness* and *mutual support* to achieve sustainable well-being.

## Achievements this Quarter

This reporting period includes the start-up activities for the first month of the program. Key achievements include:

- **Mobilizing the start-up team at Global Communities HQ.** All of the administrative and technical support staff within the US office have been oriented to the program, and are providing board to support all aspects of program start-up.
- **Mobilizing field-based personnel.** Nearly all of the proposed Key Personnel on the program have been deployed to the program. These mobilized staff include: the Chief of Party; one of two Deputy Chiefs of Party; the second Deputy Chief of Party/Director of Economic Strengthening; and the Director of Monitoring Evaluation, Research and Learning. The proposed Director of Finance and Operations was no longer available for the program, so ISVP management staff are now in the process of identifying alternative candidates. Position descriptions have been developed for all other open program positions, and the recruitment process will be launched during the next quarter.
- **Developing key program documents.** The team has begun developing program factsheets, other introductory materials, and templates to orient staff and key stakeholders on the program.
- **Beginning a desk review of key policies and relevant technical resources.** The various technical teams supporting the program have also begun a literature review of relevant materials to guide the start-up and roll-out of the program. This includes reviewing all of the available guidance from PEPFAR, in order to integrate the 3.0 priorities into this program, as well as key national policies and strategies that will be aligned with program interventions and promote Management Issues.

During this quarter, Global Communities began a series of meetings with USAID to clarify the host government line ministries for the program, geographic/sector coverage, and selection of beneficiaries. These meetings also included discussions regarding the plans for an impact evaluation of the program and adapting the program roll-out to facilitate a rigorous assessment of the program, going down to specific program interventions. A larger meeting with USAID and the members of the program consortium is planned for the next quarter.

At this stage of the program, there are no administrative or coordination challenges to report.

## Actual Accomplishments

The table below includes all of the planned activities for this reporting period, which represents 5 weeks of implementation, and provides comments on the status of each achievement.

Description of Activities	Target	Activity Status
Mobilize start-up team with HQ and existing GC field staff.		Existing HQ and field personnel are on board and have begun an in-depth orientation of the program.
Mobilize key personnel (signed contracts)	5	Four of the five key personnel for the program are on-board.
Finalize sub-awards with AVSI, Plan, PIH	3	Letters of Authorization to Incur Costs have been drafted for all international partners to enable them to begin the recruitment process.
Administrative start-up (bank accounts, office lease etc)		The program accounts have been opened and the appropriate personnel have been designated as authorized signatories to ensure appropriate controls and approvals of all program expenditures. The office lease has also been signed.
Procurement of supplies and equipment		Nearly all of the requirements are in place as the assets from the previous PEPFAR-funded program <sup>2</sup> (also implemented by Global Communities) were transferred to ISVP
Target district and sector selection	15	USAID and Government of Rwanda continue to negotiate the selection of the program districts in light of the PEPFAR 3.0 Priorities.
Begin process of work plan development	Ongoing	Work plan templates have been drafted to support a highly participatory work planning process.

## Attachments

Program Fact Sheet

Program Overview – Powerpoint Presentation

<sup>2</sup> Improved Social Services for Vulnerable Populations (ISVP), 2009-2015.