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Kenya Transition Initiative Quarterly Report

June 15 – Sept 14, 2011

Program Description

The Kenya Transition Initiative (KTI) program, implemented through USAID's Office of Transition Initiatives (OTI), was initiated in June 2008 following post-election violence that rocked the country. The goal of the program is to continue to support stability with unity in Kenya by contributing to a politically modern Kenya, centered on national identity rather than ethnicity. KTI centers on a two-pronged effort supporting the institutional and grassroots reforms outlined in the February 2008 National Accord, including a constitutional review, youth employment, police reform, and land reform. An additional youth empowerment component focused in Nairobi's Eastleigh neighborhood was also initiated during the reporting period.

The program assists Kenyan state and non-state actors to exercise more fully their capacities and, thereby, support the following broad objectives:

- Enable public institutions to undertake fundamental reforms and to manage instability and uncertainty, and
- Mobilize the public, especially the youth and key change agents, to demand accountability and reform.
- Build moderation, foster identity and self-confidence in at risk youth in Eastleigh in order to enable them to reject extremism.

KTI had been implemented by Development Alternatives, Inc. (DAI), under a task order that closed in May 2011. Chemonics continues to implement KTI through May 2013, since startup in January 2011. This report covers the period June 15, 2011 through September 14, 2011.

Country Situation

Political situation. The International Criminal Court (ICC) is investigating those alleged to have responsibility for the post-election violence that rocked Kenya in 2007 and 2008. ICC proceedings are once again taking center stage in the political arena, as hearings to confirm charges against the "Ocampo Six," as the six current suspects are known, commenced on September 1, 2011. Hearings have started in the cases of former Higher Education Minister William Ruto, Kass FM executive Joshua Arap Sang and former Minister for Industrialization Henry Kosgey, who stand accused of planning and organizing the violence which left over 1,300 dead and some 300,000 displaced. The second set of hearings will begin for the other three suspects on September 21, 2011.

Change of regime. Kenya's new Attorney General (AG), Professor Githu Muigai, replaced his predecessor Amos Wako as stipulated by the 2010 constitution, on August 29, 2011. Amos Wako Kenya's longest serving Attorney General, with 20 years in office, has been criticized as anti-reformist with a poor record on fighting corruption and impunity. He has been banned from setting foot in the United States by President Obama. It was not until the end of his reign that the country got a new constitution, a process he was accused of delaying. More information on Wako can be found at <http://www.africog.org/?q=node/154>.

Cabinet reshuffling. Former higher education minister and ICC suspect William Ruto was removed from the cabinet by President Mwai Kibaki. The decision stemmed from a political dispute between Ruto and Prime Minister Raila Odinga and their respective supporters over the political orientation of the Orange Democratic Movement (ODM) political party. Foreign affairs Minister Moses Wetang'ula was also reinstated in the recent re-shuffle amid controversy over his reappointment. This is one example of the jockeying for position among political leaders as 2012 elections approach.

Kenya Anti-Corruption Commission (KACC). The Kenyan Parliament recently amended the Ethics and Anti-Corruption bill, sending former KACC director Patrick Lumumba and his team home. The amendment of the bill has led to a public outcry from the Kenyan public and civil society leaders blaming parliament for using legislative means to further their personal interests.

Implementation of the new constitution. Attorney General Githu Muigai said he would ensure bills meant to operationalize the new Constitution are enacted on schedule. The implementation of the new constitution is headed by the Commission on Implementation of the Constitution (CIC). Analysts and civil society leaders have expressed concerns about the slow pace of enacting key legislation as required, leading to a recent alert sounded by Parliamentary Oversight Committee Chairman Abdikadir Mohammed, who appealed to all the organizations in the implementation to start their work now to avoid a last-minute rush. A number of pending bills have a December deadline for enactment.

Drought situation. Northern Kenya continues to be ravaged with millions of people from the region facing hunger and an uncertain future as the drought continues to destroy their crops and livestock. Relief agencies, the international community and Kenyans continue to try to support the victims of the drought, which include Kenyans as well as millions of Somali refugees in northern Kenya. A Kenyan led initiative dubbed "Kenyans for Kenyans" launched a massive fund-raising effort aimed at reversing the suffering of an estimated 3.5 million Kenyans in the north. The widely-publicized initiative has brought together a number of organizations including the Safaricom and KCB Foundations, and the country's leading media houses umbrella group - the Media Owners Association (MOA). The effort will be administered by the Kenya Red Cross Society.

Program Highlights

A. Narrative Summary

KTI's Eastleigh Youth Engagement Component (EYE) is now fully staffed and grant activities are currently underway. The first grant activity Youth Engagement through Film was very successful with high participation, and has created early momentum for development of more grants. During the reporting period, KTI's Eastleigh monitoring and evaluation (M&E) specialist traveled to Washington DC, along with the OTI deputy country representative, to attend training on the Sensemaker evaluation tool that will be piloted for the Eastleigh component.

A team building and communication workshop for all KTI staff was held on September 12. The workshop was an opportunity for KTI staff, including the Eastleigh component staff, to meet and interact with each other across all offices, and to increase awareness of team dynamics and practical skills for maximizing performance. The workshop was followed by a Grants Management Training from 13-15 September conducted by Roshana Cohen, director of Chemonics' home office grants department, with extensive expertise and experience in grants management and implementation.

KTI held a rolling assessment during this quarter, from June 28-30, 2011. The session, attended by KTI staff as well as USAID and US Embassy personnel, included a review and discussion of the project performance review (PPR) findings and recommendations as well as strategies and priorities that KTI should focus on in the next six months. Presentations from external experts were also provided on land and alternative leadership. In this quarter, KTI managed to reach and exceed a clearance target of \$200,000 per month, a challenge posed by the PPR team in June. The pace of grant clearance for the rest of the year will continue to meet or exceed this target.

B. Project Activities

I. FINANCIAL UPDATE			
Obligated Amount	Disbursed in Operations	Cleared in Activities	Disbursed in Grants
\$5,500,000	\$1,553,472	\$930,524	\$261,612

II. GRANTS CLEARED DURING THIS REPORTING PERIOD

Eastleigh		
Grant	Grantee	Amount
Community development consultant	STTA	\$ 17,055
Youth engagement through movies	[REDACTED]	\$9,987
Eastleigh SMS system	DDGS	\$6,667
Enhancing cooperation and tolerance through sport	[REDACTED]	\$14,287
Eldoret		
Documenting processes in the district lands office, Kitale region	Ministry of Lands Trans Nzoia District	\$29,244
Challenging candidates in Bungoma county	[REDACTED]	\$42,385
Stop hate speech; promote rule of law	[REDACTED]	\$50,882
Information centers for peace along Kalenjin/ Luo border	[REDACTED]	\$21,955
Honoring peace makers – bishop Alexander Muge	[REDACTED]	\$63,777
Promoting accountable politics in Nandi County	[REDACTED]	\$46,778
Alternatives voice on the ICC through KASS FM	[REDACTED]	\$15,551
Hate speech monitoring and follow up action	[REDACTED]	\$30,667
Judicial reform demonstration; enhancing court reporting	Chiefs magistrate court	\$1200
Connecting change agents reflection meeting	DDGS	\$ 3,317
Kericho		
Shifting attention from ethnic politics to development	[REDACTED]	\$25,379

Mitigating conflict through ICC information centers	[REDACTED]	\$32,259
Mapping In Kericho, Bomet and parts of Nakuru and Narok	STTA	\$12,282
Objective voice on the ICC through radio	[REDACTED]	\$29,840
Facilitating community participation in the TJRC process	[REDACTED]	\$23,988
Enhancing citizen oversight of the constituency development fund (CDF)	[REDACTED]	\$7,628.21
Enhancing civic participation in local governance	[REDACTED]	\$14,980.77
Nairobi		
Support to grassroots youth organizations	STTA	\$27,424
Building demand for land reform	[REDACTED]	\$20,185
Mitigating ICC tensions through providing information in central province	[REDACTED]	\$27,731
Mapping in various central Kenya counties	STTA	\$11,365
Mitigating ICC conflict through drama	[REDACTED]	\$21,811
Empowering community against hate speech	[REDACTED]	\$33,882
Reflection after one year of the constitution	[REDACTED]	\$25,521
Providing objective materials on the ICC	[REDACTED]	\$9,059
Mitigating ICC tension through providing Information in Kirinyaga county	[REDACTED]	\$10,187
Red card to soccer mismanagement	[REDACTED]	\$6,538

II. GRANTS CLOSED DURING THIS REPORTING PERIOD

Grant	Grantee	Amount
Empowering Kamukunji community leaders to monitor the by-election	[REDACTED]	\$26,813.76
Youth in Peace and Conflict overseas training	DDGS	\$1,250

B. Grant Activity Highlights

A total of **31** grants totaling \$693,812 were cleared during this reporting period. Highlights of current grant activities include:

Eastleigh. The first Eastleigh grant awarded to [REDACTED], a local NGO, titled Youth Engagement through Film. The film and lecture series was well received by Eastleigh youth and proved as an excellent entry point for the program in the neighborhood. An SMS-based activity monitoring tool was also used for this grant activity, the system captured feedback, tracked attendance and sent out event reminders. The tool will be used in all EYE activities, and is a model for a similar tool that is being rolled out for USAID Kenya's Yes Youth Can portfolio. High attendance and positive feedback from participants confirmed the ability to engage youth via film.

Kericho. During this quarter a grant awarded to the [REDACTED], a local NGO, provided residents of Kisumu an opportunity to be engaged in the selection of the Mayor by the Municipal Council of Kisumu through an unprecedented moderated town hall debate in which aspirants for the Mayoral position presented their platforms and addressed questions from the public. This grant led to the birth of the Kisumu Leadership Accountability Network, an umbrella organization that aims to create a platform for alternative leadership in the region.

Eldoret. Given high sensitivities around the ICC in the Rift Valley, with three of the Ocampo Six hailing from the region, a local NGO, the [REDACTED], opened 14 ICC Centers. The centers are equipped with television sets and ICC informational materials where members of the public can watch the proceedings of the hearings. The grant hopes to enhance community understanding of the ICC process as a legitimate process of justice that should be allowed to go on without causing unnecessary tension and fear in the region.

Nairobi. [REDACTED], a Nairobi based NGO embarked on an innovative effort to advocate for good governance in soccer management in the country by holding the first ever debate for aspirants of the Chairmanship of Football Kenya Limited. Dubbed the "Grand Debate," the activity received widespread media coverage, as the aspirants were able to table out their manifestos to the public ahead of the elections, which are yet to happen.

Program Appraisal

During the quarter, the main challenges related to staff transitions and recruitment at a time when the pace of activities, including the initiation of a new component in Eastleigh, was steadily increasing. Recruit efforts were prioritized and were successful during the quarter, and KTI is close to being fully staffed. Training of new staff also included a week-long orientation for the Eastleigh team, grants management training, and a team building and communication workshop.

Next Steps/Immediate Priorities

During the next reporting period, KTI will continue to meet monthly grant commitment targets and finalize all outstanding recruitment, while training new hires. KTI is also planning an in-country training on the Sensemaker tool, an Eastleigh planning workshop, and possible external short-term technical assistance (STTA), and the next overall KTI rolling assessment.

CONTACT INFORMATION

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