

Bridge*it* Tanzania

Quarter One Report October- December 2007

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Background

In September 2007, USAID/Tanzania awarded a two-year project entitled, *Bridgeit Tanzania*, to the International Youth Foundation (IYF) to implement in close partnership with the Ministry of Education and Vocational Training (MOEVT), the Forum for African Women Educationalists (FAWE), the Nokia Corporation, and Pearson plc. *Bridgeit's* goal is to significantly increase the educational quality and achievement among boys and girls in primary schools in math, science, and life skills through the innovative use of cell phone and digital technology. *Bridgeit* works toward three key objectives:

- To work with the MOEVT and others to launch and expand *Bridgeit* in Tanzania and integrate it into the education system, at low cost, in order to reach the greatest number of children and teachers possible;
- To improve teacher performance in *Bridgeit* classrooms, as determined by changes within the quality of interaction and teaching and learning in the classroom; and
- To increase learning gains among upper primary students in math, science, and life skills in *Bridgeit* classrooms, with a particular emphasis on girls.

The following quarterly report is organized according to the outline stipulated by the Cooperative Agreement. The report describes activities planned and realized in the first quarter of the project (October-December 2007) according to the framework of the activities planned in the project's work plan. The report also describes planned activities for quarter two, relevant project partnerships, and a summary of expenditures during the period.

I. Descriptive narrative of activities

A. Progress on Activities Planned

- **Project Start up:** Much of the project's first quarter was devoted to project start up tasks and re-engaging the primary Tanzanian partners, the MoEVT and FAWE, following the delay in the project's award. The first activity included an initial visit to Tanzania by Project Director, Nancy Taggart, in which she attended a roundtable for all education partners organized by USAID/Tanzania; held initial meetings with FAWE; and identified potential consultants, staff and partners. Due to a lack of availability of the MoEVT, Taggart was unable to meet the MoEVT during this trip, which contributed to an initial delay in re-launching discussions with the Ministry about the project.

Taggart's trip did enable meetings with FAWE to discuss their role in the project. FAWE is slated to provide technical assistance in several educational areas of the project, including identification of target grade levels, regions, schools; current curriculum assessment and mapping; lesson development and gender equity; and initial evaluation of the program during the pre-pilot phase in the first year of the project. FAWE will also organize and participate in the *Bridgeit* Steering Committee of the project. IYF is in the process of finalizing a contract with FAWE Tanzania. Zamaradi Said is the Project Officer at FAWE who is managing their support to *Bridgeit*.

During quarter one, the *Bridgeit* IYF/Baltimore team also benefitted from the visit of Philippines Text2Teach ELSA Project Director, Zeny Domingo, who presented the *Text2Teach* program in order to guide the Tanzania program. This visit was extremely valuable because it enabled the IYF/Baltimore team to learn successful strategies and lessons from the Philippines project that will assist with the model's replication in Tanzania. Ms. Domingo also made available at that time the curriculum framework and digital content from the Philippines project that will be adapted for Tanzania.

Another start up task in quarter one was IYF's revision of the work plan as originally presented in the project proposal in order to update the timing and elaborate upon proposed activities.

Another priority start up task was hiring the two international consultants for the project, the Digital Content Specialist and the Evaluation Specialist. IYF hired Mr. Theo Smith as the Project's International Digital Content Specialist. Mr. Smith will guide the IYF-TZ team and the MoEVT to adapt existing digital content and create new content that will complement the MoEVT's math and science curricula, as determined by the project's curriculum review process. Smith is based in the U.S. and will travel to TZ throughout the project to provide technical support. His first trip to assess capacity of local digital content providers and orient the Chief Advisor and the MoEVT/TIE counterparts on the content development process is planned for early quarter two.

IYF also drew up a scope of work and took initial steps to hire the evaluation consultant originally proposed for the project, Mike Royer. However, he was no longer available, so IYF/Baltimore is in the process of selecting another monitoring and evaluation expert to support the project. Among the experts being considered are two people- one American and one Filipina- who have supported IYF in evaluating the Text2Teach project in the Philippines and who both know the project model well. IYF will bring this expert on board early in quarter 2 in order for the person to guide the development of the evaluation plan.

- **Communication & Marking Plan:** As stipulated in the Cooperative Agreement, IYF developed its communication and marking plan in early quarter one and submitted to USAID/TZ for approval. This plan discusses the type of written and digital materials, promotional events and activities that the project will organize, and it includes examples of the branding that will be used in each. The next step is to share this with project partners, such as MoEVT and FAWE in order for all partners to have an understanding of the plan and how the project will be communicated. Given the delay in engaging the Ministry, the sharing of the branding strategy has not yet been done. This will be planned for early in quarter two.
- **Hiring Bridge IT local staff and setting up MOEVT Bridgeit unit:** IYF successfully recruited and hired Felix Mbogella for the position of Chief Advisor. Mbogella will officially join the team in the beginning of Quarter 2. Felix comes to *Bridgeit* from the Jane Goodall Institute where he was the National Director of the *Roots and Shoots* Tanzania project, an environmental education project funded by

USAID. Felix has substantial experience in implementing large education projects and working with the Ministry of Education and Vocational Training in Tanzania.

The support staff budgeted for the project including a Coordinator, Finance Manager and Contracts & Grants Manager are cost- shared with IYF's existing youth health program in Tanzania. As a result, the Finance Manager is already in place and the Chief Advisor will work with the IYF health program to hire the Contracts & Grants Manager and Coordinator in early quarter two. The project's other technical staff (two teacher trainers and a digital content specialist) will also be hired in quarter two.

Toward the goal of establishing the *Bridgeit* unit within the MoEVT, IYF hired Simbo Ntiro as a Senior ICT consultant to move along the discussions with the Ministry, particularly during the interim period when the Chief Advisor position was vacant and there was no one else to lead this effort. Ntiro's scope of work also includes conducting a preliminary assessment of the ICT infrastructure and providers in Tanzania. (see below for progress made on this during the quarter) Ntiro is a well-known expert in ICT policy in Tanzania and Africa and has worked with the MoEVT on developing its ICT policy, so he has a strong understanding of the important stakeholders at the MoEVT and how best to move the project forward within the Ministry. Soon after being hired, Ntiro was able to make inroads into the MoEVT and he and FAWE Program Officer, Zamaradi Said, met with the MoEVT on several occasions toward the end of the first quarter to present the project, discuss priorities, and field the MoEVT's questions. Ntiro produced an integration guide that maps the *Bridgeit* content to the MoEVT's new ICT policy that was valuable for highlighting the synergies of *Bridgeit* with the Ministry's policies and priorities. Based on these discussions, it was determined that *Bridgeit* would be "owned" by the Department of Primary Education within the MoEVT and the MoEVT identified Jumanne Shauri as the MoEVT *Bridgeit* Coordinator. Mr. Shauri is the ICT4E focal point with the MoEVT's Department of Primary Education. He will work closely with the Chief Advisor and other IYF staff to implement the project. Since the *Bridgeit* project closely aligns with the MoEVT's current ICT work, they are also eager to move the project forward. The Ministry is establishing its own ICT for Education Steering Committee, under which the *Bridgeit* project will fall. In fact, the MoEVT now views *Bridgeit* as a "flagship project" for realizing its ICT policy because it is currently the only ICT project the MoEVT has.

Based on the recommendation of the ICT Advisor and MoEVT, IYF drafted an MOU (using the Philippines Text2Teach MOU as a guide) that outlines the roles/responsibilities of the key partners: MoEVT, IYF, Nokia, and FAWE. The MOU is being discussed with the MoEVT and is expected to be shared with other partners and USAID in early quarter two. In addition to the Department of Primary Education, the Ministry's Tanzanian Institute for Education (TIE) will play a central role in the project primarily in the area of curriculum revision and development. As of the current quarter, the project had started discussions with TIE and the possibility of a developing a separate MOU with them.

Based on the discussions with the MoEVT during the first quarter, the current plan is to have the “Bridgeit unit” housed within the IYF project office in the interim and that the Department of Primary Education or TIE would devote space and staff to lead it after the project is “off the ground”. The unit of the MoEVT to lead this has not been determined and will form a part of the MOU(s) that are still under discussion.

- **Establishment of project steering committee:** The project had been planned to have the first steering committee meeting in quarter one, however, due to the initial delay with engaging the MoEVT, this was not possible. Based on the progress made with engaging the MoEVT toward the end of quarter one, the first steering committee meeting is planned for February of quarter two. Proposed members include:
 - Mr. Jumanne Shauri, MoEVT Bridgeit Coordinator
 - Felix Mbogella, IYF Bridgeit Chief Advisor
 - Zamaradi Said, FAWE Project Officer
 - Representative of TIE
 - Representative of the MoEVT’s Education by Radio Program
 - Representative of Nokia-Tanzania

- **Infrastructure feasibility study:** As mentioned above, Simbo Ntiro’s scope of work includes facilitating negotiations with the MoEVT and conducting a preliminary assessment of the information technology (IT) infrastructure in preparation for Nokia’s support in this area. Nokia expressed the need to wait on its contribution to the infrastructure assessment until after the MoEVT was “on board” and some geographic priorities for the project sites had been determined. For this reason and as a result of Ntiro focusing his efforts on securing the MoEVT’s engagement, the feasibility study was not conducted in quarter one. Toward the end of quarter one, IYF and Nokia discussed Nokia’s contacts in the region who could assist in recommending potential cell phone providers and during the current quarter, he, the Chief Advisor, and IYF Vice President, Alan Williams, met with the Tanzanian Nokia representative to gain his recommendations on potential providers. Based on his guidance, the Chief Advisor and Ntiro will follow up with Vodacom as a first option for cell phone provider. A meeting with Vodacom will also discuss their suggestions on satellite providers.

Power sources for the pre-pilot and pilot sites are another essential component that needs to be assessed by the infrastructure study. The available infrastructure at the primary school level in Tanzania is somewhat poorer than anticipated, so it is not clear if electricity is available at most schools that will likely be targeted by the project. In quarter two, the Chief Advisor will work with the MoEVT to get a map of selected schools and their power source and research what other IT or energy projects exist in communities near likely targeted schools with which Bridgeit could collaborate.

- **Identification of project pre-pilot and pilot sites:** IYF, MOEVT and FAWE began the process of identifying the school locations in quarter one as planned. While the infrastructure feasibility study and education analysis are still under way, the project did receive input from Nokia, USAID and the MoEVT on criteria for selecting

potential sites where the pre-piloting in 20 schools may be conducted. The Text2Teach experience is also informing the site locations and based on their experience it was critical to have some sites near the capital (ie. Dar) in order to facilitate monitoring and support. Criteria for selection include:

- Cell phone coverage
- Satellite coverage
- Electricity availability or alternative power source
- Strong school management (strong principal, active PTA-desirable, strong MoEVT management at district level)
- Cluster schools in order to facilitate
- Priority area of USAID and MoEVT
- Synergies with other projects

In the current quarter, the Chief Advisor and FAWE Project Officer had received initial input from the Ministry recommending an increased number of pre-pilot sites of 50 rather than 20 with five schools per ten regions. IYF will work with the BIT-TZ team to confirm priorities and selection criteria in order to ensure a focused pre-pilot phase.

B. Activities for Quarter Two

Below is a listing of activities planned for quarter two, based on the project's work plan and activities not completed in quarter one.

- **Continued project start up support to Bridgeit staff and partners:** Early in quarter two (January 2008), IYF Vice President, Alan Williams, traveled to Tanzania in order to orient the new Chief Advisor, Felix Mbogella and meet with MoEVT and the local Nokia representative. A second trip from IYF/Baltimore is anticipated during quarter two or early quarter three to support the local team.

As mentioned above under activities during quarter one, the project will continue to hire local staff including the project coordinator, digital content specialist, and teacher trainers.

In order to strengthen their understanding of the project concept and strategies for success, Felix Mbogella, Bridgeit Chief Advisor, and Jumanne Shauri, MoEVT Bridgeit Coordinator, will travel to the Philippines in February to visit the Text2Teach/ELSA Project sites and meet with key Philippines partners.

- **Assessment of digital content providers' quality and training needs:** IYF Digital Content Specialist, Theo Smith will travel to Tanzania February 11-15 to identify potential content providers and local capacity for partnering with project to produce and adapt video/audio content. As part of this, he will visit the TIE production unit to assess opportunities for working together. Smith will also orient the Chief Advisor and government counterparts (MoEVT & TIE) on the process of adapting/developing digital content. Smith is already in the process of reviewing the ELSA/Text2Teach digital content that will serve as the foundation for the Tanzanian content in the pilot project, in order to have a sense of the content's format and how it should be adapted/edited.

- **Selection of local brand/name for Bridge IT and national launch project:** One of the first tasks for the project steering committee in quarter two will be to determine the Tanzanian “brand” for *Bridgeit*. The local brand will then be used as a part of the national level project launch event also planned for quarter two.
- **Clarification of educational areas for program focus:** FAWE, with guidance from MOEVT and in coordination with IYF, will lead this effort recommending grade level focus and identifying salient gender issues and teaching and learning gaps. A report from FAWE is expected by mid February in quarter two in order to guide the curriculum review process. As part of this task, FAWE will also review the table of contents from the Philippines Text2Teach/ELSA teachers’ guide in order to determine the grade level in Tanzania that correlates with the Philippines school system. The Philippines content that will serve as the basis for adaptation for Tanzania is targeted for grades 5 and 6.
- **Evaluation Plan:** IYF will identify and hire an evaluation consultant to support the project in early quarter two since the expert previously identified was no longer available at the time of the project award. Based on the scope of work developed in quarter one for the evaluation expert, he/she will provide support to *Bridgeit* to develop the evaluation plan for submission to USAID in March 2008. The consultant’s second major activity will be to travel to Tanzania to work with local evaluation experts to develop test instruments.
- **Identification of providers for reception package & ICT infrastructure assessment:** Initial discussions between IYF and Nokia on the potential vendors to provide the reception packages for participating schools took place in quarter one and these discussions will continue in quarter two. Simo Hoikka of Nokia/Philippines is the contact person for this task and he plans to travel to Tanzania in quarter two to assist in assessing the most feasible infrastructure for the project and facilitate partnerships with cell phone and satellite providers. Simbo Ntiro will continue to provide support to this task and produce a preliminary report in early quarter two which will inform Hoikka’s trip to Tanzania.
- **Assessment of teachers’ quality and needs:** IYF/Baltimore will support the *Bridgeit*-TZ team, including MoEVT and FAWE to review the Teaching and Learning Quality Assessment (TALQ) instrument to gauge its relevance for assessing teachers’ skills in sample schools for *Bridgeit* -Tanzania. Using an adaptation of the TALQ tool, the *Bridgeit* Team will conduct a needs assessment of teachers’ teaching and learning quality with focus on interactivity, educational tools, and girls’ participation. The purpose of this assessment is to understand the needs of the teachers in the targeted schools to inform the development of the teachers’ guides (planned for quarter three) that will guide teachers on participatory teaching methodologies.
- **Curriculum review workshop:** Following the determination of the focus educational areas for the program, IYF, MOEVT, and TIE will organize a workshop with master teachers, curriculum experts (in focus subject areas), and digital content specialist(s) to review existing curricula and content and to identify content

gaps and areas for adaptation and creation of new content. The envisioned process will include a multiple day workshop and two teams- one focusing on math and one focusing on science. Each team will be tasked with first reviewing the existing MoEVT curricula in these subject areas and making a list of lessons that could be strengthened with additional content. Then the two teams will each review the listing of available Pearson/Text2Teach content (e.g. video/audio “clips”) and make an outline of which video “clip” content corresponds with which lesson that needs to be strengthened and identify where there is no existing content and new content will need to be created. During the third stage, experts will review the digital clips for relevance and appropriateness for the Tanzanian context (gender, culture, language, etc.) and identify what editing will be needed in the content localization phase. This process is tentatively planned to start in March 2008.

II. List of names/affiliations of participants/beneficiaries

Since quarter one was focused on project start up activities rather than program activities, there are no participants or beneficiaries to report for this period.

III. Publicity

There has been no media coverage regarding this project since the project was in its initial start up phase during quarter one. IYF plans to have media coverage of the project’s official national launch in quarter 2.

IV. Partnerships

Nokia Corporation is one of the primary partners of Bridgeit and Nokia’s Philippines, Africa and Helsinki-based teams have contributed guidance to the project’s start up on potential cell phone and satellite providers, equipment needs, and strategies for selecting pilot schools. Simo Hoikka of Nokia/Philippines has facilitated contact with the local Nokia-Siemens-Networks Country Director in Tanzania who will assist the project to identify likely cell phone and satellite partners. Nokia and IYF are still in discussions about the roles/responsibilities that Nokia will play in the project, but technical assistance from Nokia/Philippines is expected for the sourcing of equipment and determination of needed infrastructure.

Pearson plc is another key partner that is anticipated to contribute additional digital/audio content for the program from their Knowledge Box program. IYF was in initial communication with Pearson in quarter one and will follow up with Pearson in early quarter two to discuss their specific contributions to the project.

V. Budget

A total of \$38,571 was spent during the first quarter of the project. This amount is equal to 15% of the total FY2008 budget of \$256,537. Of the \$38,571, the major expenditures were under Personnel, Travel, and Contracts.