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**NUTI** Northern Uganda Transition Initiative

**Quarterly Report**

**October – December 2010**

### **PROGRAM DESCRIPTION**

The overall goal of USAID/Uganda's OTI program is to support the voluntary return of displaced northern Ugandans by increasing their confidence in the government and in the ongoing transition process. To support this goal, OTI focuses on the following objectives:

- Increase access to information on peace, recovery and development issues in Northern Uganda through support to the media and strategic communication activities
- Increase the visibility of, and confidence in, all levels of government through the delivery of targeted strategic interventions.
- Support Truth and Reconciliation processes

As of 31 December 2010, USAID's total funding obligation to the NUTI program stands at \$22,716,029.

### **COUNTRY SITUATION**

#### **Security and Transition situation**

Uganda is on high security alert following the 20 November 2010 bomb-blast in Nairobi. The bomb exploded on a Kampala bound bus, killing three and injuring several people. The Somali-based terrorist group the Al Shabaab claimed responsibility for the explosion. So far no arrests have been made in connection with the attack.

Residents of Ongako Village in Gulu district are living in fear of armed civilians. The residents allege that gun wielding civilians, who sometimes wear new police uniforms, target their victims in their homes and social places at night. According to the residents, the group of approximately 20 people is being used by the National Resistance Movement (NRM) to intimidate opposition supporters. The northern region police spokesperson, Johnson Kilama, has denied knowledge of the group and appealed to the public to make a formal complaint to the police so that investigations could be carried out.

The Ministry of Health plans to launch a mass yellow fever vaccination campaign in northern Uganda following the deadly outbreak of yellow fever in November. The outbreak, which started in Abim, has now infected approximately 178 people and killed 45.

#### **Political situation**

Opposition members of parliament from the Acholi sub-region have accused the government of arming people in northern Uganda, creating tension among civilians who are already traumatized by the two-decade civil war. MPs. Regan Okumu, Odonga Otto, Betty Ocan Aol and Elijah Okupa under the umbrella Acholi Parliamentary Group (APG) further accused the Inspector General of Police, Maj. Gen. Kale Kayihura, of recruiting 100 youth from each village in northern Uganda to form youth brigades that will intimidate voters during the 2011 elections. They also alleged that ex-lord's Resistance Army (LRA) combatants were being forced to wear President Museveni's yellow campaign t-shirts to avoid arrest.

The Inter-Party Cooperation (IPC) also accused the NRM of recruiting and training a 9500-strong militia ahead of the elections. Maj. Gen. Kale Kayihura dismissed the allegations as unfounded and baseless. Mr. Ofwono Opondo, NRM campaign spokesperson, also dismissed the allegations and stated that his party is not planning or doing anything sinister. In a response to these allegations, the Electoral Commission (EC) spokesperson, Paul Bukenya, has warned that although the campaigns have remained relatively calm such exchanges between parties might create fear among voters and affect the elections.

The already-strained diplomatic relations between Sudan and Uganda have deteriorated further over statements in which General Aronda Nyakairima, Uganda's army chief, reportedly warned Sudan that his country would support the south if the referendum on its independence is obstructed. Sudan has summoned the Ugandan Chargé d'affaires in Khartoum, Mr. Nelson Kasigiri, to question him on the veracity of threats issued against the government in Khartoum. In relation to these remarks, Sudanese ambassador in Kampala, Hussain Awad Ali, expressed Khartoum's fury over the general's statement, terming them as "an awkward interference in Sudan's internal affairs." Uganda has held

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meetings with Ambassador Hussain Ali to resolve the situation caused by this alleged misunderstanding of the general's remarks.

**OTI HIGHLIGHTS**

**A. Narrative Summary**

	<b>October – December 2010</b>	<b>Total</b>
# of Grants Cleared	28	265
Total \$ of Grants Cleared	\$ 983,546	\$ 14,564,607

**B. Indicators of Success**

During this quarter, the program achieved tremendous success in implementation. Below are several examples of key areas of success:

- 28 grants were cleared, for a cumulative program total of 265 and 36 grants were closed this quarter for a cumulative program total of 177.
- Six infrastructure-related grant activities concluded in Amuru, Gulu, Kitgum and Pader districts. The facilities, which were handed over to the respective local governments, included the Amuru district staff houses, the Northern Uganda Media Centre in Gulu district, Lira Palwo sub-county offices and staff houses, Kitgum district offices, Bola Primary School in Namokora sub-county Kitgum district and the Pader district Director of Public Prosecutors (DPP) offices and staff housing.
- NUTI, in close collaboration with the Uganda Local Governments Association (ULGA), concluded the "New Dawn: Peace and Recovery in Northern Uganda" Photography Campaign. The photographs taken in the five sub-regions of northern Uganda produced a pictorial of the recovery process underway in the region. ULGA exhibited the pictures in six locations around the country, Mbale, Jinja, Fort Portal, Mbarara, Luwero and Kampala, to help change negative attitudes about northern Uganda.
- NUTI in close collaboration with the Refugee Law Project and the University of California Berkeley, Human Rights Center, launched the "Transitioning to Peace" report in Gulu and Kampala. The report analyzes survey data collected in early 2010 on perceptions about peace, recovery and justice.
- NUTI, in close collaboration with the Refugee Law Project (RLP), launched the Kitgum War Memorial project holding a series of workshops in Kitgum, Gulu and Kampala. The workshops were aimed at building support among stakeholders and partners for the creation of an archive dedicated to documenting and memorializing the 20-year war.

**Speed**

NUTI continues to develop grant activities to respond to the rapidly evolving context, new developments and opportunities on the ground. In preparation for the 2011 general elections NUTI is implementing a series of grants aimed at increasing the understanding of the electoral process, encouraging participation and discouraging potential violence.

NUTI is also working with the Uganda Local Governments Association to implement a series of grant activities aimed at promoting northern Uganda and reducing the north-south divide, by changing negative perceptions and encouraging investment in the region.

**Retargeting/Flexibility**

With fewer than four months remaining in the program, NUTI is currently focusing on carrying out shorter, targeted interventions in the areas of elections, surge support to local governments, youth and conflict prevention. Grant making will end in January 2011 and implementation of new grant activities is expected to be completed by 30 March 2011, paving the way for the closure of most grants by 15 April 2011 and a smooth close-out of the program in mid-May 2011

Currently NUTI is closely following developments in the lead up to the 2011 presidential elections, and is in the process of implementing strategic activities to encourage a peaceful, free and fair electoral process. During this quarter NUTI launched "Twero Wa" a radio drama on the electoral process aimed at sensitizing the voters on their role in ensuring a violence-free and fair election. NUTI has coordinated its election-related activities closely with the Uganda Electoral Commission and the National Democratic Institute, which is also funded by USAID.

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### Resource Leveraging

NUTI is working and coordinating closely with local government and a number of international organizations, donors, NGOs and US government-funded programs. NUTI continues to develop a number of grants to complement USAID's flagship development and capacity building programs including NUDEIL, LINKAGES, NUMAT and the Public International Law Policy Group (PILPG).

NUTI has secured continued resources for the Kitgum War Memorial being created by a NUTI grant to the Refugee Law Project. Within six months, the university of Antwerp in Belgium has approved a 62,000 Euro grant to the memorial to increase its research capacity; UNOHCHR has a \$240K grant that is pending in Geneva to finalize the memorial aspect of the building; Utrecht University in Holland has agreed to do ICT work and to host their website on their trusted server; Tufts University is now involved with GPS mapping of historical war sites and providing research materials; and DFID is working on a grant to RLP so the Kitgum War Memorial and Archive can more professionally store research materials.

NUTI and USAID's Office of Conflict Management and Mitigation are co-funding PILPG to provide technical assistance to the Government of Uganda on the establishment of the Special War Crimes Division of the High Court. PILPG is working closely with the government's Justice, Law, and Order Sector (JLOS) secretariat, which is charged with coordinating multi-donor support to the 11 governance institutions in Uganda. In November and December, PILPG carried out a thorough needs assessment of the special division to help the donors prioritize and better target their support.

NUTI negotiated a corporate social responsibility agreement between Orange Telecom and Gulu District Local Government. Orange Telecom provided internet connection equipment and installation free-of-charge to the recently established Gulu District Computer lab.

Additionally NUTI regularly consults with other USAID partners with a view of leveraging the US government's interventions and strengthening collaboration across programs.

### Policy Leveraging

NUTI continues to closely follow PRDP developments and contribute toward its successful implementation. To this effect, during this quarter NUTI provided surge support to the district engineering offices to help monitor the implementation of PRDP-funded infrastructure related activities. Improved monitoring of infrastructure investments is critical to control for quality and ensure infrastructure is built to high standards.

NUTI recently took part in a stakeholders meeting organized by the United Nations Development Program (UNDP), where NUTI shared its experience and lessons learned in the implementation of its infrastructure-related grant activities. The aim of this meeting was to improve donor coordination and share best practices. Similarly, one of NUTI's senior civil engineer consultants and the program's Monitoring, Evaluation and Reporting Officer presented lessons-learned and best practices from the implementation of school and teachers' housing projects to the Education Development Partners (EDP) group. The EDP and Ministry of Education has adopted NUTI's design for teacher housing as the national standard for teacher housing construction.

### **PROGRAM APPRAISAL**

NUTI continues to record consistent achievement in the implementation of planned activities as well as generation of new grant ideas. Since the inception of the program, NUTI has cleared 265 grants valued at \$ 14,564,607 of which 28 were cleared during this quarter. This has largely been achieved through the excellent working relationship with USAID/OTI representatives in Uganda in terms of planning and decision making related to the conceptualization, clearance, targeting and implementation of grants. NUTI has accelerated its monitoring and evaluation activities to ensure that the program adequately documents the lessons learned. NUTI is now embarking on customer satisfaction surveys in an effort to accelerate its monitoring and evaluation activities to ensure that the program adequately documents the lessons learned. Several of the surveys should be finalized by mid-March 2011.

### **CHALLENGES AND RESPONSES**

- Ker Kwaro Acholi suspended the traditional reburial ceremonies ongoing in Pader due to the deadly outbreak of yellow-fever. Ceremonies will resume after the vaccination campaign gets underway.

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- NUTI continues to face problems with construction contractors including non-compliance with time frames, poor workmanship, non-payment of laborers, and disregard for sub-county rules and regulations. As the program approaches the close-out phase, NUTI faces the challenge of ensuring that contractors meet set time frames. NUTI is aggressively monitoring contractor performance and holding frequent meetings with contractors.
- NUTI has a partnership with the Norwegian Refugee Council-supported Youth Education Packs (YEPs) to engage youth to make furniture for NUTI infrastructure projects. The YEPs have struggled to make high quality furniture within NUTI's timeframes. As the program nears the end, NUTI will engage private companies and larger vocational training centers to make the remaining furniture.

#### **STAFFING & STAFF MOVEMENTS**

Jeanita Ayenyo joined the NUTI program as the Receptionist and Christopher Otenna joined as a driver. They will boost the administrative and logistical capacities of the Gulu office.

Mr. Christopher Obonyo who served as the Pader field office driver and Ms. Brenda Auma who served as the database coordinator left the program. NUTI is in the process of making internal reassignments to fill the database coordinator position.

As part of the resolutions of the Strategic Review Meeting held in December 2009, NUTI launched the staff development program aimed at providing staff with training opportunities that will position them to secure jobs after NUTI closes. To date, 12 staff have benefited from the program including one of NUTI's senior civil engineer consultants, who travelled to the U.S. to attend the annual USAID infrastructure conference in Washington D.C.

#### **NEXT STEPS/IMMEDIATE PRIORITIES**

In preparation for the implementation of the close out plan, NUTI will focus on ensuring that all cleared grants are effectively implemented and monitored to ensure that most grant activities are completed by 30 March 2011. NUTI will work to close completed grants in a timely manner. As the program enters its last quarter, the number of grant closures will accelerate.

The following will be the key areas of focus through the end of the program:

- Finalize the paper work required to close completed grants.
- Carry out grantee satisfaction surveys. The findings of these surveys and the three-month-after evaluations will provide information for the final report.
- Finalize and handover the remaining infrastructure projects, including the Department of Defense-funded community justice centers and Pader District Council Hall, which are among NUTI's largest infrastructure projects.
- Hold the program's final team building session.
- Closely monitor all infrastructure and non-infrastructure grants to ensure that most grants close by the 15 April 2011. Project Development Officers and grantees will work closely together to ensure that all payments under grant activities are effected by the 30 March 2011.
- Information, Monitoring and Evaluation Officer to work closely with the various program teams to develop a draft legacy and final report.
- Begin and complete execution of the program close-out plan.

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