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SWIFT IV SEMI-ANNUAL PROGRESS REPORT

OCTOBER 2016-MARCH 2017

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Contract No. AID-OAA-I-14-00006

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ACRONYMS

ASC	Administrative Service Center
CITI 2	Côte d'Ivoire Transition Initiative 2
GNA	Government of National Accord
IDP	internally displaced person
IQC	indefinite quantity contract
LTI II	Libya Transition Initiative II
M&E	monitoring and evaluation
OTI	Office of Transition Initiatives
SRP II	Syria Regional Program II
SWIFT	Support Which Implements Fast Transitions
TCN	third country national
TO	task order
UCBI	Ukraine Confidence Building Initiative
USAID	United States Agency for International Development

INTRODUCTION

Chemonics International presents its Semi-Annual Progress Report for Contract AID-OAA-I-14-00006 (SWIFT IV sub-IQCs A and B) for the period October 1, 2016 to March 31, 2017. Section I presents the performance monitoring report. [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] This report summarizes activities specifically related to the blanket SWIFT IV IQC contract. Individual Task Orders (TOs) are reported on separately in greater detail.

Submitted to:	USAID – Office of Transition Initiatives (OTI)
By:	Chemonics International Inc.
Indefinite Quantity Contract (IQC):	Support Which Implements Fast Transitions IV (SWIFT IV) sub-IQCs A and B
Contract Number:	AID-OAA-I-14-00006
Reporting Period:	October 1, 2016 to March 31, 2017

SECTION I.

PERFORMANCE MONITORING REPORT

No major issues or concerns related to the SWIFT IV IQC were raised during the reporting period.

UKRAINE CONFIDENCE BUILDING INITIATIVE (UCBI)

Chemonics was awarded UCBI on July 7, 2014. UCBI is a three-year project that provides fast, flexible, short-term assistance to Ukrainian partners in support of successful, peaceful democratic transition and community cohesion in the wake of the conflict and deepened social tensions in eastern Ukraine. The program's overarching objectives are to 1) increase citizen support for and participation in the development of a modern, inclusive Ukrainian identity; 2) increase constructive engagement between government and citizens at the local level; and 3) increase citizen resilience against divisive and biased information. UCBI works in Kyiv and the liberated territories of Luhansk and Donetsk oblasts.

During this reporting period, UCBI cleared 54 activities totaling over [REDACTED]. UCBI program activities focused on social integration of internally displaced persons and other vulnerable groups, encouraging local unity and civil engagement by uniting participants through common interests in social activism and music, improving service delivery, and enhancing the reach and effectiveness of independent media. UCBI has no administrative or bureaucratic constraints to performance to report.

Activities implemented during this reporting period include:

- *Telling Mariupol's Post Maidan Story* - UCBI supported the production of a news article that will help inform and inspire more Ukrainians throughout the country to learn from and replicate the unique approaches used by Mariupol activists so that they are better able to play an active role in Ukraine's ongoing social and political transition. UCBI retained the services of a journalist and professional photographer to produce an article of approximately 2,000 words, with professional photos, on how local activists and progressive leaders quickly adopted new reforms and were the drivers of a dynamic shift in the cultural life in Mariupol. Through its grantees in and around Mariupol, UCBI has been able to support a nascent but powerful group of activists and NGOs over the last two years. Telling the story of how progressive city leaders, IDPs, local activists, and community members in Mariupol banded together to ensure Mariupol had a voice in the current political transition is essential to capturing the unique approaches used by local activists working only 15 kilometers from active shelling, and inspiring and promoting citizens in other parts of the country to participate in the definition of a new, modern, and progressive Ukraine.

- *Online Culture Networks* – UCBI’s online culture networks activity will allow beneficiaries access to knowledge about contemporary culture and best practices in the field of innovative social activism. This activity draws on a need identified by UCBI’s national partners for online "how to" lessons showing activists how to take advantage of their experiences and allow Ukrainians across the country to stay up to date on cultural and civic trends. UCBI’s activity is the first Ukrainian initiative to take advantage of the trend of online informal education. It provides online curriculum and video lectures on Ukrainian art, literature, cinema, journalism and community development. Under this activity, UCBI supported an NGO to conduct and film a series of presentations and field trips, produce 27 video lectures on culture, history and social engagement, and develop a map of cultural and social institutions in Ukraine.
- *Libraries Alive - Enhancing Donbas’ role in the national literature scene* - This activity empowered activists to promote inclusive engagement around issues of national identity and generate a greater vested interest in Ukrainian culture and literature, a medium that reaches and appeals to different age groups and demographics. Since few events have been held thus far in Donbas, there is an opportunity to empower and excite a local community. With UCBI support, a local NGO organized the first ever book festival in Donbas in November 2016, which attracted more than 5,000 local residents of northern Donetsk. This particular grantee has a long history of supporting local libraries. Through this follow-on in-kind grant, the grantee will organize a round of speaker series hosted by libraries in Sloviansk, Kramatorsk, Druzhkivka, Rubizhne, Severodonetsk, and Lysychansk, with Donbas-based and nationally recognized literary personalities interacting with local audiences. This event is anticipated to attract residents of Donetsk and Luhansk, and help the region not only participate in, but help to shape, the development of a modern, inclusive Ukrainian identity.

LIBYA TRANSITION INITIATIVE II (LTI II)

Libya Transition Initiative 2 is a three-year, ██████████ program that was launched on August 11, 2014. The program builds on the work of the original Libya Transition Initiative (LTI, also implemented by Chemonics) and after a few shifts in programming objectives, is currently supporting credible, participatory, and responsive governance at the national and local levels.

During this reporting period, LTI 2 cleared 38 activities totaling ██████████. Notably during the reporting period, the project received funding to expand programming to the then-newly liberated Sirte area and opened a new office in Misrata to manage this new portfolio of activities. This portfolio is primarily funded through an agreement on delegated cooperation between USAID/OTI and the UK Government’s Foreign and Commonwealth Office (FCO) and currently consists of 7 activities totaling ██████████.

The program experienced delays related to the recruitment of a long-term monitoring, evaluation and learning manager (MELM). These delays were due, in part, to the need to ensure the appropriate candidate profile, given the evolving needs of the program. Interviews for the

position commenced during the last reporting period and did not conclude until December 2016. To ensure coverage for this critical function, Chemonics engaged a short-term monitoring and evaluation specialist from November 2016 (when the incumbent research, monitoring and evaluation director departed the program) through early February 2017, who helped manage LTI 2's flexible research and analysis platform, provide oversight of activity-level M&E and, together with OTI's senior transition advisor, support the cluster design process. The long-term MELM candidate arrived in country on February 28th.

Activities implemented during this reporting period include:

- *Service Delivery and Outreach Campaigns* - Effective service delivery is a key concern affecting public perceptions of Libya's municipal councils and the nascent Government of National Accord (GNA). During this reporting period, LTI 2 supported efforts to build the capacity of Libya's local and national governments to deliver services through tangible service delivery projects complemented by public outreach campaigns. For example, LTI 2 supported the Tripoli Center Municipal Council to conduct a two-month clean-up campaign that promoted cooperation between local residents, neighborhood councils, private companies, civil society groups, and national level ministries. Governing entities' commitment to improved waste management did not go unnoticed; the campaign caught the attention of bloggers, popular social media sites, and TV channels. Notably, the Tripoli Center MC Facebook page received close to 500 "Likes" for a post announcing the distribution of dumpsters. LTI 2 is also implementing a broader cluster of activities designed to build the GNA's capacity to inform the public about its accomplishments. Other activities supported by LTI 2 during the reporting period included a GNA-sponsored economic forum to discuss options for improving economic stability, a three-month training for 76 communications staff, and the production of a series of short videos on key GNA achievements.
- *Critical Support to Returning IDPs* - During this reporting period, USAID/OTI entered into an arrangement on delegated cooperation with the UK Government's Foreign and Commonwealth Office for LTI 2 to support Sirte stabilization efforts, following liberation from Islamic State occupation. During the reporting period, IS fighters were mostly expelled, and the region is now recovering from the initial occupation and clearance operations, which resulted in significant displacement of residents. As of November 2016, fighting has decreased, and displaced residents are increasingly returning to the area. To support the peaceful return of IDPs to Sirte, LTI 2 is working with local authorities to provide critical support to residents, including refurbishing public facilities and community infrastructure, promoting economic recovery, and providing psychological and social support to returning children and families. UK funding for this effort during the current reporting period is approximately [REDACTED].
- *School Rehabilitation* - In tandem, LTI 2 has also supported efforts undertaken by GNA ministries and municipal councils to provide tangible services to Sirte IDPs and their host communities. For example, municipal councils in Tripoli and Bani Walid recently partnered with the Government of National Accord (GNA) ministries of education and social affairs to coordinate the refurbishment of eight schools hosting schoolchildren

displaced from Sirte by the Islamic State. LTI 2 sponsored the school improvements and an outreach event to build confidence in the coordinated efforts undertaken by these national and local governing authorities.

Programmatic trends distilled from activities conducted during this reporting period:

- *Promoting community reconciliation* - In Western Libya, LTI 2's programming has supported a positive trend of local reconciliation between communities and tribes. After the revolution and through 2015, clashes were common between tribal-aligned militias in the region. Communities fought to control resources, territory, roads, and smuggling routes. However, in 2015 local leaders agreed to a reconciliation process, and for the past year LTI 2 has supported a cluster of activities to reinforce and promote reconciliation.
- *Psychosocial support to communities* - The need for psychosocial support is a trend that has emerged in multiple regions of Libya over the past year. Because of the presence of extremist groups, massive internal displacement, and multiple low-intensity violent conflicts in communities throughout Libya, a significant proportion of the population has experienced some level of trauma requiring psychosocial support. LTI 2 is responding to this need under different program objectives in different areas. The program is partnering with municipal councils and civil society groups to provide psychosocial support as a part of broader efforts to promote stabilization, and strengthen social cohesion.

SYRIA REGIONAL PROGRAM II (SRP II)

The Syria Regional Program II is a three-year program with two one-year option periods and a total estimated cost of [REDACTED]. It was awarded on August 28, 2015. The program builds on the work of the Syria Regional Program (also implemented by Chemonics) and aims to build a moderate, inclusive and stable Syria by: 1) enabling the early recovery of areas newly liberated from ISIL; 2) strengthening communities to better resist extremism; and 3) maintaining and increasing the influence of strategic moderate entities.

In this reporting period, SRP II has been in Phase II – Full Implementation. The project ramped up operations and grants activities, reaching the milestone of 185 activities in the database for an approximate value of about [REDACTED], including 109 closed or completed activities, 60 cleared activities in implementation, and 16 pending activities. Further, during this reporting period, a revised emergency and information security plan, accruals report, agricultural commodities report, phase two field staffing plan, and an annual report were submitted to OTI to fulfill deliverable requirements under Phase II – Full Implementation. Weekly status reports keep OTI updated on the progress of SRP II. In January 2017, SRP II also underwent a management review and an externally-facilitated rolling assessment. During this period SRP II fielded a new monitoring and evaluation/research manager as key personnel. SRP II has no administrative or bureaucratic constraints to performance to report.

Examples of activities implemented during this reporting period include:

- *Supporting moderate bodies to increase their credibility and coordination* - SRP II continues to strengthen ties among moderate bodies to increase their effectiveness and credibility. In a besieged area in the Damascus suburbs, SRP II sought to improve the relationship between a local council in Rif Damascus and the Rural Damascus Provincial Council (RDPC), in order to encourage collaboration and improve credibility through the rehabilitation of two roads in Rif Damascus. The activity is considered a success due to the completion of the road repair and the visible improvement in the relationship between the local council and RDPC. Surveys conducted by field staff showed that nine out of ten people surveyed credited the local council for the road repairs and gave good feedback regarding the quality of the work. Further, the local council consulted and coordinated with the RDPC in the development additional projects, demonstrating increased coordination between the two bodies. Through such activities, USAID/OTI promotes the visibility, credibility, and coordination between moderate entities.
- *USAID/OTI assistance arrives to newly liberated area of the Aleppo governorate*: On February 20, 2017, an area of the Aleppo governorate was liberated from the Islamic State of Iraq and the Levant (ISIL) by the Turkish-led Euphrates Shield forces. Upon its liberation, the Aleppo Provincial Council's Stabilization Committee (APC/SC) and a local council in the governorate identified needs that would facilitate a return of civilian life to the city. The list of needs began with explosive remnants of war (ERW) removal, as improvised explosive devices (IEDs) were littered across the city by ISIL. Rubble removal, bread production, electricity, and waste management services were identified as basic service delivery needs following ERW removal. Responding to these needs, USAID/OTI delivered one wheel loader and one skid steer loader to the local council through the APC/SC, in addition to installing a generator to power a well provided by USAID/OTI. USAID/OTI also approved the delivery of two bread production lines and a waste management kit (which includes two waste management vehicles, bins, and light equipment) to the liberated area. Another USAID/OTI partner, the Syria Civil Defense (SCD), has been conducting basic rubble and IED removal activities in the Aleppo governorate since its liberation with funding provided by USAID/OTI. Additional equipment will be provided to the SCD center operating in this area in the coming weeks to support the re-establishment of an SCD center. Through this assistance, USAID/OTI is playing a critical role in ensuring the early recovery of newly liberated areas from ISIL.

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