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Pact Inc. in Zambia and Ethiopia The Y-CHOICES Program

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Annual Report

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Acronyms

ABC	Abstinence, Be Faithful and Condoms
ABEC	Alternative Basic Education Center
ADA	Amhara Development Association
AGOHELD	Abebech Gobena Yehetsanat Kibkabena Limat Dirijit
ANFEAE	Adult and Non-Formal Education Association in Ethiopia
ANPPCAN-ETH	African Network for Prevention and Protection Against Child Abuse & Neglect – Ethiopia Chapter
ARHA	Adolescent Reproductive Health Advocates
BCC	Behavior Change Communication
BICDO	Berhan Integrated Community Development Organization
CBO	Community-Based Organization
CHAD-ET	Children Aid – Ethiopia
CHEP	Copper Belt Health Education Project
CTYA	Contact Youth Trust Association
CYWDA	Children and Youth Development and Welfare Association
EDA	Emanuel Development Association (EDA)
EMRDA	Ethiopian Muslim Relief and Development Association
FBO	Faith-Based Organization
FGD	Focus Group Discussion
FSCE	Forum on Street Children
GO	Government Organizations
HAPCO	The National HIV/AIDS Prevention and Control Office
HARDA	Harari Relief and Development Association
HIV	Human Immunodeficiency Virus
HIV/AIDS	Human Immunodeficiency Virus/Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome
IEC	Information, Education, Communication
ISAPSO	Integrated Service for AIDS Prevention and Support Organization
KCADO	Kind Hearts Children and Youth Organization
LUFAlD	Luapula Families In Distress
MCDO	Mother and Child Development Association
MENDIF	Men Make a Difference
NGO	Non-Governmental Organization
OCA	Organizational Capacity Assessment
PEPFAR	The President's Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief
RATSON	Ratson: Women, Youth and Children Development Program
RCWDA	Rift Valley Children and Women Development Association
RSU	Regional Support Unit
SNNPR	Southern Nations, Nationalities and Peoples Region
SODCC	Senanga Orphans Day Care Centre
SYGA	Save Your Generation Association
SYHLA	Save Your Holy Land Association
TOT	Training of Trainers
USAID	United States Agency for International Development

VCT	Voluntary Counseling and Testing
WSO	Women Support Organization
YAZ	Youth Alive Zambia
Y-CHOICES	Youth and Children with Health Options Involving Community Engagement Strategies Program
YMCA	Young Men's Christian Association
YWCA	Young Women's Christian Association
ZINGO	Zambia Interfaith Networking Group on HIV/AIDS

I. Executive Summary

Y-CHOICES is an acronym that stands for **Youth and Children with Health Options Involving Community Engagement Strategies**. The Y-CHOICES program provides youth, their families and communities with improved information, services, and skills to support lifestyle choices and behavior change informed by abstinence, fidelity and partner reduction programming (“A and B” programming). The Y-CHOICES program is implemented by Pact, Inc. in Zambia and Ethiopia with twenty-five local implementing partners/grantees in Ethiopia and seventeen local implementing partners/grantees in Zambia

Strategic Objectives

The overall goal of Y-CHOICES is to reduce the spread of HIV/AIDS among children and youth (ages 10-24) through promotion of abstinence and faithfulness (A and B) as desirable behavior to combat HIV. The three specific strategic objectives of the program are to:

- **Promote healthy sexual behaviours** that will lead to decreased sexual activities among youth, families and communities through the provision of skills-based knowledge and capacities for youth,
- **Scale up and expand community-focused programs** for behavior change education targeting youth to bring about healthy sexual behaviors and reduce harmful sexual practices; and
- **Improve and strengthen the environment for family discourse on social issues** critical to healthy behavior change and to the reduction of harmful sexual practices by youth and their communities.

General Overview of Activities and Approaches

During this reporting period, Pact was engaged in identifying, training and issuing grants to local partners in the implementation of the Y-CHOICES program. This included identification of local partners, orientation of partner organizations to program objectives and approaches, reviewing of the proposals, carrying out sub-grants pre-award surveys and signing agreements before release of sub-grant funds to partners. Pact also



trained sub-grantees in sub-grants management; Monitoring, Evaluation and Reporting (MER); and Y-CHOICES programming and support for organizational development both in terms of financial systems and technical operations. Pact provided guidelines for selection of peer educators, adult

mentors, and leaders to be involved in the promoting and advocacy for A and B among youth and their communities, and mentoring of their children. Part of Pact's major activities included consultation with seven Educational Media Centres in different regions, facilitation of transmission of message on A and B through local radio stations, and facilitating training of journalists. Sub-grantees are responsible for identifying program sites, training and deploying peer educators, youth and adult mentors, developing, implementing and monitoring program activities, evaluating program impacts/results and submitting program and financial reports to Pact Country Offices that would be combined by Pact into the periodic reports submitted to USAID.

General Summary of Results and Successes

Results

Zambia has signed seventeen sub-grant agreements with implementing local partner organizations, totalling **US\$541,890.88** out of their total obligated **US\$1,300,000.00** for FY2005 and FY2006 and eight new sub-grant partners for Y-CHOICES have been identified and are already implementing the program. The level of activities and program implementation during 2006 in Zambia increased significantly, partly due to the fact that many of the sub-grant partner NGOs completed their training and orientation to Y-CHOICES programs and were well positioned to implement project activities at the community level. Training included Monitoring, Evaluation and Reporting (MER), and grants management. A total of **1,366** individuals and 33 media personnel were trained by the sub-grant implementing partners to carry out A and B messaging in schools and surrounding communities.

The success of the Y-CHOICES implementation program in Zambia is evidenced by the number of targeted groups reached. Zambia reached **33,824 youths**, (16,745 males and 17,079 females) through A and B messages at 98 community based programs and **19,078 youths** at schools through A messages at 92 school-based programs.

In Ethiopia, Pact signed 24 sub-grant agreements with 24 local implementing partners, totalling **\$812,499.80** out of their total obligated US\$1,200,000 for FY2005 and 2006. Like Pact Zambia, the Pact Ethiopia program made significant progress, most of its sub-grant partner NGOs received training and orientation on the Y-CHOICES program. Pact Ethiopia carried out two training events for "Youth Action Kit and Adult Mentoring, a two-day consultative meeting with representatives from seven radio stations, five-day training for 22 journalists on participatory AB message development, three-day Training of Trainers (TOT) workshop on adult mentoring for 23 representatives of partner organizations. An additional, pre-award assessment



Figure 2: Group discussion on communication strategies

was conducted for the Mother and Child Development Organization (MCDO) in the Somali Region.

Pact Ethiopia strengthened school clubs activities by providing fifty mini-media equipment to fifty secondary schools in addition to small grants of (US\$200 per school) to 179 secondary schools through Pact's local partners.

Challenges

Lack of communication infrastructure and or availability of sub-standard infrastructure at the sub-grantee level coupled with the appreciation of the Zambian local currency (Kwacha) against the US dollar, and delays and reductions in obligated funds paused great challenges to program implementation in Zambia.

The program in Ethiopia encountered challenges related to overlapping of some project locations with those of PEPFAR implementing partners. The unfavourable political climate after elections lead to closure of schools and community activities. The lack of cooperation from various local administration officials made it difficult to Pact Ethiopia and it partners to reach the out-of-school youth club members. Pact's Y-CHOICES program implementation was affected by budget constraints due to reduced funding, and inadequate staffing at the community level



Figure 3: a government official from the district administration opens the training session for mentors at CHEP Luanshya hall as an Adult Mentor stresses a point during the training

Coming Six-months Activities

The Zambia Program plans to increase the number of local implementing partners by 15 organizations; provide grants to ten new sub-grants partner organizations by end of December 2006, train additional 500 Y-CHOICES service providers through the ten new sub-grantees, reach out an additional 25,000 youths with A and B messages through existing eight sub-grants, backstop Y-CHOICES program implementing partners in Monitoring Evaluation and Reporting (MER) and grants management, and complete activities of the first nine sub-grantees issued by the program and close them.

The Ethiopia program will conduct Organizational Capacity Assessment (OCA) for potential new partners; identify 126 additional secondary schools to be targeted by the program, provide additional grants to 25 partner organizations; train 100 youths on Youth Action kit, 756 peer educators, 50 journalists, 374 adult mentors and 560 youth mentors; develop A and B message and reach an additional 65,000 secondary school students; provide small grants for additional 450 secondary school clubs; develop programs and messages on A for 43,000 primary school students and reach 53,334 adults and out-of-school youth through mentoring skills; conduct advanced

resource mobilization and fund raising training for representatives of 25 partner organizations; provide mini-media equipment for 75 secondary schools and clubs; and conduct experience sharing visit for 5 trained journalists.

II. Emergency Plan Indicators Tables

Progress on Yearly Targets for Required Emergency Plan Indicators – Zambia and Ethiopia

Reporting Period (October 1, 2005– Sept 30, 2006)	Zambia - Planned	Zambia - Achieved	Ethiopia- Planned	Ethiopia - Achieved	Totals (A+B+...n) planned	Totals (A+B+...n) Achieved
Prevention/Abstinance and Be Faithful						
Number of community outreach HIV/AIDS prevention programs that promote abstinence and/or being faithful	430 * (215 community based and 215 school based)	173	907 (180 high schools, 360 primary schools, 100 out-of-school clubs; 267 Idirs/Mahbers and ABECs)	740 (173 high schools, 196 primary schools, 133 out-of-school clubs and 238 Idirs/Mahbers and ABECs)	1,337 (395)	913 (173)
Number of mass media HIV/AIDS prevention programs that promote abstinence and/or being faithful	48 radio programs	25 radio programs aired.	9	Agreement is signed with 7 radio stations and 1 Radio station started airing AB message	57	32
Number of individuals reached with community outreach HIV/AIDS prevention programs that promote abstinence and/or being faithful	172,000*	33,824	692,000	1,933,871	864,000	1,967,695

Female	Not pre-determined	17,079	276,800	923,195	276,800	940,274
Male	Not pre-determined	16,745	415,200	1,010,676	415,200	1,027,421
Estimated number of individuals reached with mass media HIV/AIDS prevention programs that promote abstinence and/or being faithful	Not pre determined	About 2,500,000	27,000,000	9,000,000	27,000,000	11,500,000
Number of individuals trained to provide HIV/AIDS prevention programs that promote abstinence and/or being faithful	5,375 *	1,366	2,589	2,874 (23 persons on adult mentoring, 20 on conflict management and 95 on Youth Action kit from partners;22 journalists; 1,122 out-of-school youth and adult mentors, 1,011 school peer educators, 581 school and out-of-school youth in club management)	7,964	4,240
Prevention/Abstinence (subset of AB)						
Number of community outreach prevention	215 *	92	360 primary schools	196 primary schools	575	288

programs that promote abstinence						
Number of mass media prevention programs that promote abstinence	Not pre-determined	As for A and B data	9	3	9	3
Number of people reached with community outreach programs that promote abstinence	22,500 through 9 sub-grantees	19,078 reached	184,000	398,050	206,500	417,128
Female	64,500**	9,247	73,600	200,120	138,100	209,394
Male	43,000**	9,831	110,400	197,930	153,400	207,761
Estimated number of people reached with mass media programs that promote abstinence	N/A	As for A&B data	360 primary schools	196 primary schools	360	196
Number of people trained to provide abstinence prevention services	N/A	As for A&B data	*1,366	*2,589 (The same individuals as those trained indicated above)	1,366	2,589

Notes

* = These figures were originally set in the project document for Zambia based on the full project budget (with 43 local implementing partner organizations to be sub-granted). Subsequent project budget reductions have led to the reduction of local implementing partners to 17 hence reducing the anticipated level of achievement. Out of the 17 sub-grantees, nine are implementing organizations and eight carried out only training of peer educators and adult mentor activities.

** = The Zambia component had planned that 60% of its overall outreach would be females.

L.O.A. Progress Tracking Table for Emergency Plan Indicators –Zambia and Ethiopia

Reporting Period (October 1, 2004 or date of signed agreement) Sept 30, 2006	Zambia – Planned for LOA	Zambia – Achieved to Date	Ethiopia - Planned for LOA	Ethiopia - Achieved to Date	Totals (A+B+...n)-planned for LOA	Totals (A+B+...n) Achieved to Date
Prevention/Abstinence						

and Be Faithful						
Number of individuals reached with community outreach HIV/AIDS prevention programs that promote abstinence and/or being faithful	172,000*	33,824	1,730,000	1,940,740	1,902,000	1,974,564
Female	103,200**	17,079	692,000	925,795	795,200	942,874
Male	69,000**	16,745	1,038,000	1,014,947	1,107,000	1,031,692
Number of people reached with community outreach programs that promote abstinence (subset of AB)	107,500*	19,078	460,000	398,050	567,500	414,128
Female	64,500**	9,247	184,000	200,120	248,500	209,367
Male	43,000**	9,831	276,000	197,930	319,000	207,761
Number of individuals trained to provide HIV/AIDS prevention programs that promote abstinence and/or being faithful	5,375 *	1,366	5,400	3,210	10,775	4,576

Notes

* = These figures were originally set in the project document for Zambia based on the full project budget (with 43 partner local implementing organizations to be sub-granted). Subsequent project budget reductions have led the reduction of local implementing sub-grantees to 17 and this affected achievement levels. Out of the 17 sub-grantees, nine were implementing organizations and eight carried out only training of peer educators and adult mentor activities.

** = The Zambia component had planned that 60% of its overall outreach would target females.

III. Country-level Progress Report

Pact Zambia Country Overview

The Y-CHOICES program activities are being implemented in five rural provinces of Zambia, namely Southern, Central, Luapula, North-Western and Western provinces. In addition, two partner organisations (TAHAN and CHEP Luanshya) have been included from the Luanshya district of Copper-Belt Province to be twinned with partners in Solwezi district of North-Western province, a district with two newly opened mines. These organizations share mining/HIV/AIDS related experiences. The seventeen implementing partners, their geographical location, and program implementation sites are listed in the following table:

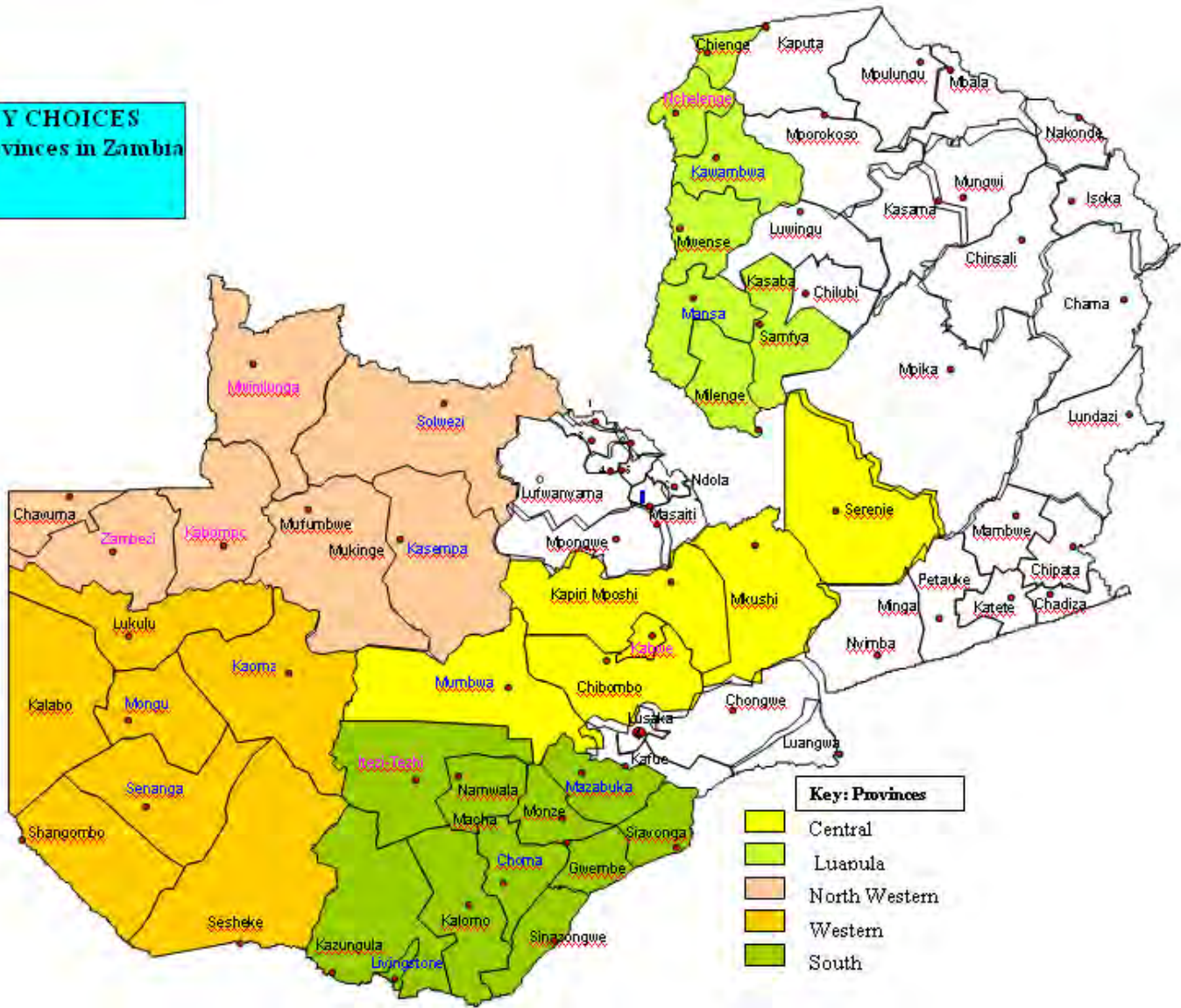
Zambia Y-CHOICES Implementing Sub-Grantee/Partners

Name of Organization	Geographical location	Names of Schools where Y-CHOICES program is being implemented	Names of communities where Y-CHOICES program is being implemented
1. Contact Youth Trust Association (CTYA)	Livingstone District, Southern Province	Linda High School David Livingstone High School. Shungu Basic School. Shamalumba Basic School. Christ the King Basic School. St. Mary's Sec School. St. Raphael Sec. School.	Linda Community Dambwa Central Community Dambwa North Community Maramba Community Livingstone Town Centre Community Libuyu Community
2. Men Make A Difference (MENDIF)	Mazabuka District, Southern Province.	Mugoto Basic School Siyowi Basic School Ndeke Basic School Kabobola Basic School Nakambala Basic School	Mugoto Community, Siyowi Community, Mulonga Community, Njoomona Community Kabobola community
3. Community for Human Development (CHD).	Mumbwa District, Central Province.	Mumbwa High School Lumbanyai Community School. Hope Community School Kanwanzhiba Basic School. Kabwanga Basic school	Chitambala, Salanga Tumbama.
4. YWCA – Youth	Mongu District, Western Province.	Mawawa Basic School Kaande Basic School Siwa Basic School Namitome Basic School Mweke Basic School	Mawawa Community Kaande Community Siwa Community Namitome Community Mweke Community
5. Adolescent Reproductive Health Advocates (ARHA)	Mongu District, Western Province.	Kanyonyo Basic school Holy cross girls High School Coillard High school Namushakende High School Kasima Community School	Mandanga Ilute Lealui Imbowa Kapulanga
6. Senanga Orphans Day Care Centre (SODCC).	Senanga District, Western Province.	Lui Wanyau Basic school Lui Namabunga basic school Senanga High School Lukanda Basic School Namalangu Basic School	Lui Wanyau Community Lui Namabunga Community Senanga Community Namalangu Community Lukanda Community
7. Copper-Belt Health Education Project (CHEP)	Luanshya District, Copper-Belt Province.	Chaisa, Basic School Chamunda Basic School. Fisenge Basic School Luanshya Boys High School Mpatamatu High School.	Mpatamatu Community Area Kamirenda Community Area Chaisa Community Area. Chamunda Community Area. Fisenge Community Area
8. Teachers Against HIV/AIDS Network (TAHAN)	Luanshya District, Copper-Belt Province.	Luanshya Girls High school Luanshya Central High school Kafubu Block Basic School Kasongo Basic School Mazzieri Mid-Basic School	Kafubu Block Twashuka Kamirenda Mikomfwa Chenda Maunga Kamuchanga

9. Youth Alive – Solwezi	Solwezi District, North-Western Province.	Tuvwanganai Basic school Kikombe Basic School New Era International School Solwezi Technical School Kyawama High school Solwezi Day Secondary School	Zambia – Kimasala Community Kyawama Community Kyalalakuba Community Changa Changa Community Solwezi Urban Township Community
10. Zambia Interfaith Networking Group on HIV/AIDS (ZINGO)	Livingstone District, Southern Province.	Yet to be identified.	Dambwa North, Dambwa Central & Dambwa Extension Dambwa South
11. Youth Alive Zambia - Mongu	Mongu District – Western Province	Malilo Basic School Luena Basic School Mulamatila Basic School Chilombo Basic School Kaoma High School	Malilo Compound Luena Barracks Mulamatila Community Chilombo Community Chimuzhi Community
12. Kuba Lusa	Kasempa District – North Western Province	Kantenda Basic School Nkenyauna Basic School Lufupa Basic School Nselauke Basic School Kasempa Day Secondary School Kalusha Basic School	Kantenda Community Nkenyauna Basic School Lufupa Community Nselauke Community Boma/Chikonkomene Community Lwamadamba Community
13. KAYS ARTS Promotion	Kawambwa District – Luapula Province.	Kalamba Basic School Kawambwa High school Mable show high school Chama Basic School Matanda Basic School St. Mary’s Basic School	Chibwe Community Filope community Chitimukulu Community Matanda community St Mary’s community
14. Kawambwa Anti AIDS	Kawambwa District – Luapula Province.	Lengwe Basic School Kani Basic School Chitondo Basic School Muyembe Basic School Shikalaba basic School	Shikalaba Community Lengwe community Kani community Chitondo community Muyembe community
15. Luapula Families In Distress (LUFAID)	Mansa District – Luapula Province.	Kabunda High School St. Clements High School Mansa High School	Senama Community Mutiti Community Fimpulu Community
16. Youth Development Organisation	Choma District, Southern Province.	Njase Girls Secondary School Choma Secondary School Choma Day High School St. Patricks Basic School Shampande Basic School	Zambia Compound Mwapona Compound Macha Road Compound Shar Compound Prison Compound Shampande Community Site & Service
17. Workplace HIV/AIDS and Gender (WAGE) Trust	Mazabuka District, Southern Province.	Namalundu Basic School Namalundu High School Chikani Basic School Chilileka Basic School	Namalundu B Community Chikani Community Chileka Community Nansenga Community

		Nansenga Basic School	Namalundu H Community
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Y CHOICES
Provinces in Zambia



Pact Ethiopia - Country Overview

Ethiopia Y-CHOICES Operational Regions and Implementing Partners

Y-CHOICES program is implemented throughout Ethiopia in nine regional states and two chartered cities of Addis Ababa and Dire Dawa. The program is implemented by Pact Ethiopia in collaboration with 25 local partner NGOs and Faith Based Organizations FBOs. The 25 implementing partners and their operational geographical location are listed in the following table:

Ethiopia - Local Implementing Partners and their Operational Regions

Name of Partners	WOREDA/District	ZONE/Province	REGION/State
1. Amhara Development Association(ADA)	Mekedela/ Masah	S. Wello	Amhara
	Adet/ Yilmanaadensa	W. Gojam	Amhara
	Bati	Oromia	Amhara
	Benja/ Shekudad	Agew Awei	Amhara
	Bure Wemberma/ Burshekud	W. Gojam	Amhara
	Dangela	Agew Awei	Amhara
	Dawa Chefa	Oromia	Amhara
	Debre Markos	E. Gojam	Amhara
	Dega Damot	W. Gojam	Amhara
	Dejen	E. Gojam	Amhara
	Dera	S. Gonder	Amhara
	Ebenat	S. Gonder	Amhara
	Efratana-Gedem	N.Shewa	Amhara
	Enargena Enawega	N.Shewa	Amhara
	Enemay	E. Gojam	Amhara
	Estie	S. Gonder	Amhara
	Farta	S. Gonder	Amhara
	Fogera	S. Gonder	Amhara
	Guangua	Agew Awi	Amhara
	Hulet Eju Enese	E. Gojam	Amhara
	Jabi Tehnan	W. Gojam	Amhara
	Kelala	S.Wollo	Amhara
	Kemekem	S. Gonder	Amhara
	Kewt	N. Shewa	Amhara
	Kombolcha	S. Wello	Amhara
Lay Gaynt	S.Gonder	Amhara	
Legambo	S. Wello	Amhara	
Machakel/ Debre Elias	E. Gojam	Amhara	
Merawi/ Mecha	W.Gojam	Amhara	
Quarit	W. Gojam	Amhara	
Sayint	S. Wello	Amhara	
Tach Gaynt	S. Gonder	Amhara	
Tenta/ Mekdela	S. Wello	Amhara	
Wegede	S. Wello	Amhara	

Name of Partners	WOREDA/District	ZONE/Province	REGION/State
	Wereilu Debre Sina/ Tarmaber	S. Wello S. Wello	Amhara Amhara
2. AGOHELD	Degem Girar Jarso Wuchalena Jido	N. Shewa N. Shewa N. Shewa	Oromia Oromia Oromia
3. ANFEAE	Woreda 12 Woreda 28 Assosa Bambassi Berehna Aleltu/ Sendafa Kembibit Woreda 16/ Yeka	Zone 4 Zone 3 Assosa Assosa W. Shewa N. Shewa Zone 4	Addis Ababa Addis Ababa Benshangul- Gumu Benshangul- Gumu Oromia Oromia Addis Ababa
4. ANNPCAN-ETH	Chilga Dabat Dembia Gondar Town Gondar Zuria Layarmachiho Metema Wegera	N. Gonder N. Gonder N. Gonder N. Gonder N. Gonder N. Gonder N. Gonder N. Gonder	Amhara Amhara Amhara Amhara Amhara Amhara Amhara Amhara
5. BICDO	Ejera Walmera	W. Shewa W. Shewa	Oromia Oromia
6. CHAD-ET	Dodotana Sire Bekoji Digaluna Tijo Gedeb Hitosa/ Itaya/Lode Munessa Shirka Tiyo/ Assela	Arsi Arsi Arsi Arsi Arsi Arsi	Oromia Oromia Oromia Oromia Oromia Oromia Oromia Oromia
7. CYWDA	Degua Tembein Hintal Wajerat Mekelle Samre Tsadamba Wukro	C. Tigray S. Tigray Mekelle S. Tigray E. Tigray E. Tigray	Tigray Tigray Tigray Tigray Tigray Tigray
8. EDA	Woreda 26/ Akaki kaliti	Zone 6	Addis Ababa

Name of Partners	WOREDA/District	ZONE/Province	REGION/State
9. EECMY-SWS	Arba Minch Zuria	Gamo Gofa	SNNPR
	Boreda	Gamo Gofa	SNNPR
	Chencha	Gamo Gofa	SNNPR
	Daramallo	Gamo Gofa	SNNPR
	Derashe	Derashe esp	SNNPR
	Dita	Gamo Gofa	SNNPR
	Gazer/ Jinka	S. Omo	SNNPR
	Gofa Zuria	Gamo Gofa	SNNPR
	Kemba	Gamo Gofa	SNNPR
	Konso	Konso S. W.	SNNPR
	Kucha	Gamo Gofa	SNNPR
	Mirab Abaya	Gamo Gofa	SNNPR
	Uba Debre Tsehay	Gamo Gofa	SNNPR
10. EMRDA	Amibara	Zone 3	Afar
	Awash Fentale	Zone 3	Afar
	Dulecha	Zone 3	Afar
	Kobo	N. Wello	Amhara
	Woldiya	N. Wello	Amhara
	Dendi/ Gobiye	W. Shewa	Oromia
	Dugeda Bora	E. Shewa	Oromia
11. FSCE	Dire Dawa town	Dire Dawa	Dire Dawa
12. HARDA	Harar	Harari	Harari
13. ISAPSO	Woreda 11/ Gullele	Zone 4	Addis Ababa
	Woreda 13/ Arada	Zone 4	Addis Ababa
	woreda 14/ Arada	Zone 5	Addis Ababa
	Woreda 7/ Addis Ketema	Zone 5	Addis Ababa
	Chiro	E. Harargie	Oromia
	Goro Gutu	E. Harargie	Oromia
	Meta Robi	W. Shewa	Oromia
	Tulo	W. Harargie	Oromia
	Aleta Wondo	Sidama	SNNPR
	Dale	Sidama	SNNPR
	Hulla	Sidama	SNNPR
	Wonago	Gedeo	SNNPR
	14. KCADD	Alemgena	W. Shewa
Illu		S.W. Shewa	Oromia
15. MCDO	Aware	Degehabur	Somali
	Jigiga	Jigiga	Somali
	Kebribeyha	Jigiga	Somali
16. MKCRDA	Dedo/ Sheki	Jimma	Oromia
	Goma/ Agaro	Jimma	Oromia
	Kersa/ Jimma	Jimma	Oromia
	Limu	E. Wellega	Oromia
	Mana/ Yebu	Jimma	Oromia
	Omonada/ Assendabo	Jimma	Oromia
	Yeki	Sheka	SNNPR

Name of Partners	WOREDA/District	ZONE/Province	REGION/State
17. Pact - Ethiopia Gambella field office	Dima/ Ale Gambella Itang Jor/ Fungido	Gambella Zone 1 Zone 2	Gambella Gambella Gambella Gambella
18. PROGYNIST	Woreda 4/ Lideta	Zone 1	Addis Ababa
19. RATSON	Ada Liben/ Debrezeit Adama/ Nazreth/ Wonji Adamitulu Lome/ Modjo	E. Shewa E. Shewa E. Shewa E. Shewa	Oromia Oromia Oromia Oromia
20. RCWD	Agarffa Goba Sinana Arsi Negele Ziway Dugda	Bale Bale Bale E. Shoa E. Shewa	Oromia Oromia Oromia Oromia Oromia
21. SYGA	Debre Berhan	N. Shewa	Amhara
22. SYHLA	Bugna Meket	N. Wello N. Wello	Amhara Amhara
23. TILA	Alaba Kacha Bira Angacha Kedida Gamella	Alaba SW Kembata A. T Kembata A. T Kembata A. T	SNNPR SNNPR SNNPR SNNPR
24. WSO	Habru	N. Wollo	Amhara
25. YMCA	Bahir Dar	Bahir Dar	Amhara

Zambia - Summary of Results

Pact Zambia made good progress in the implementation of project activities succeeded in achieving the main PEPFAR indicators. Pact Zambia had planned that each of the 17 sub-grantees would train at least 100 peer educators and 25 adult mentors, 1,700 peer educators, and 425 adult mentors by end of September 2006. They also expected to reach out 300 out-of-school youths per community, an average of five communities per sub-grantee, and 500 in-school youths per school, an average of five schools per sub-grantee. A total of 36,000 youths should be reached by the nine implementing partner organisations by the end of their sub-grants.

In an effort to enhance efficiency in program and sub-grant management of the implementing partners, Pact Zambia staff undertook rounds of compliance visits to all seventeen sub-grantees with the objective of:

- Assessing sub-grantees' progress with the implementation of the planned A and B activities and verify their programmatic and financial compliance;
- Familiarizing sub-grantees with Y-CHOICES monthly reporting format and requirements; and
- Assisting sub-grantees overcome program implementation difficulties that they may have been facing.

Despite the noted enthusiasm in program implementation among sub-grantees, weaknesses relating to compliance at program and financial levels were identified. Pact staff provided on site backstopping during the compliance visits. Poor record keeping and reporting, and lapses in observing financial procedures and regulations were among the noted weaknesses. There are also weakness in the development of outreach schedules and appropriate tools for data collection.

In response to the results of the assessment, Pact increased its financial and program backstopping and mentoring to sub-grantees which resulted in noticeable improvement in knowledge and skills. Sub-grantees are currently capable of managing their programs more efficiently and effectively with minimum guidance. This improvement encouraged Pact to consider granting additional funds to these sub-grantees for new programs after the close out of the first sub-grants. Re-investment in



these sub-grantees is expected to build local capacities, improve program achievements and equally reduce the burden of training and coaching on the limited number of Pact's program staff. New partners will also be identified.

The Zambia component of the program was able to reach a total of **33,824** youths (16,745 males and 17,079 females) with A and B messages, out of which 19,078 were in-school youths who were reached with **A** focused messages during this reporting period. The program also trained a total of 1,366 individuals on carrying out A and B messaging in schools and surrounding communities. Trainees included adult mentors, peer educators and media personnel.

Achievements

- In addition to the first nine sub-grantees, eight new partners were identified and submitted successful program proposals that were approved for Y-CHOICES sub-grants. A Pre-award Assessment was conducted for each of the new sub-grantees in March 2006. The experiences and lessons learned from compliance visits to the first nine sub-grantees, were utilized in setting new platforms into the grant management training for the new eight sub-grantees and in agreeing with them on program and finance management strategies that will ensure more effective program implementation in the future.
- Trained 16 individuals (two from each of the new eight partner organizations) in program monitoring, evaluation and reporting and grants management.
- Held Behaviour Change Communication (BCC) training workshop jointly with Pact Ethiopia which was attended by a team of ten Zambians drawn from the five provinces where the program is being implemented. Participants were trained as future provincial BCC facilitators for the program.

- Completed and closed out three of the first nine sub-grantees. Two additional sub-grants are expected to be completed and closed by end of December 2006.

Challenges

General challenges that faced the program in Zambia were:

- Failure to reach the planned for target numbers because of inadequate staff and reduction in funding.
- Weak capacity on behalf of local organization to formulate quality proposals.
- Inadequate program staffing at Pact Zambia for both program and finance aspects of the program. The two full time staff are overwhelmed and occupied in backstopping and mentoring the inexperienced and emerging partner organizations. It is essential to increase the number of staff by two in order to achieve better results especially in monitoring, evaluation and reporting, and for financial management.
- Apparent need for extended time to complete outreach curricula for individuals to be counted as being fully reached with A and A and B messages. To be counted as outreached, individual should be reached through multiple outreach visits with different topics that constitute a minimum A and B curriculum.

Constraints

The ability of Pact Zambia to respond to challenges was restricted by the following:

- **Local Currency appreciation against the US Dollar**

The Kwacha appreciation against the US dollar has reduced the funds available to the sub-grantees and has negatively affected the anticipated scope of implementation and ability to carry out some activities related to A and B outreach and completion. The cost of services also increased resulting in less funds available to implement activities.

- **Need for larger grants to create impact**

The \$25,000 initially set as maximum for grants proved to be lower than needed to allow for realization of meaningful outreach program that would influence the desired sexual behaviour among the youth and related expected outputs in terms of numbers reached.

- **Poor/Lack of communication facilities**

Almost all Y-CHOICES sub-grantees are rural-based, they lack communication and documentation facilities such as computers and printer. This has created difficulties in program communication and preparation of reports.

- **Unavailability of A and B IEC printed materials at sub-grantee level**

Reaching out target groups with A and B messaging seems to be difficult without supportive printed materials. With print materials, audiences would be able to retain knowledge learned and use printed materials for reference during the absence of Peer Educators and Adult Mentors. These materials could be made available through reprinting of existing A and B materials from partner organizations like Health Communication Partnership. However, budget for reprinting could not be allocated after the reduction in the program budget.

- **Inadequate number of program staff at Prime Partner (Pact Zambia) level**

The two full time staff are overwhelmed and pre-occupied in backstopping and mentoring the inexperienced and new partner organizations. It is essential to increase the number of staff by two additional. .

Lessons learned

Pact Zambia believes that the success of an emergency plan program of this magnitude requires the following:

- Stable and adequate funding at all times in order to maintain the smooth implementation of the program activities. Pact has already run out of funds and there are no indications that the situation will improve and this makes planning for future activities difficult.
- Adequate number of experienced staff is essential for the smooth and effective management of the financial and program needs of sub-grantees
- It is important to make available printed Information, Education, Communication (IEC) materials to sub-grantees to improve their efficiency and allow them to cope with Emergency flow of the program.
- Zambia prefers to work with a limited numbers of well qualified sub-grantees than larger a large number that is not fully equipped to implement the program activities.
- Efficient communication facilities at both prime partner and sub-grantee level are key in ensuring success of the PEPFAR programs

Zambian Component Planned Activities for the Coming Fiscal Year

Planned activities for the next year include the following:

- Identifying, approving and training at least 20 new partner organizations for the Y-CHOICES sub-grants.
- Providing 20 new sub-grants to partner organizations.
- Integrating A and B skills based programming into the formal education sector and communities of 200 youth club.

- Training an additional 6,000 Y-CHOICES service providers through the 20 new sub-grantees..
- Reaching out at least 45,000 youth with A and B messages through the current eight running sub-grants and 20 more to be obligated.
- Providing backstopping to the Y-CHOICES program implementing partners in Zambia.
- Finalizing and closing out the first seventeen sub-grants.

FYO6 Budget (Zambia)

US\$ 1,305,981 was for the FY2006 work-plan, only US\$500,000 was obligated, creating a shortfall of \$805 981.

Monitoring and Evaluation

Pact has developed a community-based strategy for supporting HIV/AIDS monitoring, evaluation, and reporting (MER) programs that is currently being utilized in multiple countries to collect data supporting demonstration of impact against the 2-7-10 goals of the U.S. sponsored Emergency Plan for HIV/AIDS Relief. Pact's methodology focuses on building the capacity of local partner NGOs, and community-based organizations to track performance, measure results, and report progress. During FY2005/2006, discussions were held with Y-CHOICES partners on their experiences and interventions in HIV prevention monitoring and evaluation, as part of the pre-award assessment and formative evaluation process. Partners were trained in MER practices using a Pact Inc. course which provides general principles of Monitoring, Evaluation and Reporting for HIV/AIDS Response Programs and an associated workbook which includes all Emergency Plan specific requirements focused on helping partner organizations and groups understand and apply basic monitoring, evaluation and reporting activities within their organizations. A baseline survey was developed in Ethiopia, translated into Amharic and distributed to partner organizations for review and baseline data collected. Both country programs worked on an indicator and grant database system. Teams in both countries worked with local USAID staff in response to development in country reporting formats and provided data as requested and worked on the development of a detailed MER program plan documenting methodologies including: (1) performance indicators and their definitions; (2) data sources; (3) exact methods of data collection; (4) exact frequency and schedules of data collection; (5) responsibilities for acquiring data; (6) data analysis plans; (7) plans for reporting and using performance information; (8) targets to judge progress (9) broader learning agenda and evaluation questions and formats and 10) reporting frameworks. A draft of the MER plan for the Emergency Indicators was shared with USAID. The Y-CHOICES Team drafted reporting formats for both implementing partner progress reporting and Country Office reporting to ensure a unified approach. Accordingly, partner organizations were provided with Emergency Plan protocols and data forms along with comprehensive MER training so they would be able to provide the required data. Indicators beyond the Emergency Plan prerequisites were selected and a learning agenda developed.

Program Management

There has been a notable change in personnel as a result of the departure of the Country Representative Mr. Jack McCanna who moved to Pact Namibia. Mr. McCanna was succeeded by Ms. Brenda Liswaniso who was an MER Officer in the program. Ms. Liswaniso's position was in turn filled by Ms. Nalukui Kazilimani. No changes in the levels of effort or terms of references were made for these two positions.

Zambia's Success stories from the Field

Adolescent Reproductive Health Advocates (ARHA) Breaks through the Barotse Royal Establishment Communities with its A and B messages

- ARHA's A and B peer educators and the adult mentors, through their outreach programs, have received great recognition and acceptance in most of the hard-to-penetrate Lozi traditional communities.
- Headmen Luwawa of Mandanga community and Ndunda of Ilute community in Mongu district both commended work done by ARHA in promoting Abstinence and Fidelity in their communities. Headman Ndunda said "I have never had any organization in my area, apart from ARHA, that has been consistent with addressing the issue of HIV infection among adults and youth through the promotion of Abstinence and Fidelity, ways of living that are traditionally accepted. Most organizations are normally here only to distribute condoms without talking about these effective and traditionally accepted methods".

As a result of the appreciated work, the headman has offered a plot of land to ARHA for which the organization has been advised to mobilize resources and build a shelter at which the youth in the area could be reached for reproductive health/HIV/AIDS awareness programs. In turn, the ARHA Coordinator has made an appeal to Pact Zambia, through the Y-CHOICES Program Manager to help the organization find a funding source for roofing sheets. The community will supply poles and other building materials.

From Scepticism to Praises: Rosemary's Story of Success

Rosemary K. Kalaluka

Founder and Executive Director for Senanga Orphans Day Care.



Being an old woman did not deter Rosemary Katiba Kalaluka from making a contribution to better the lives of the disadvantaged in her community. Based in a remote part of Western Province of Zambia, where traditionally women are expected to be confined to household chores, the entire community was not only sceptical about her project they also teased her when she started a Day Orphans Care Centre in 2002 with about 20 orphans. Her situation has been transformed to a success and admiration by the entire community after she and her staff underwent capacity building training to undertake an Abstinence and Fidelity HIV/AIDS prevention project using PEPFAR money.

Rosemary admits that she had a lot of organization management problems when she started. ‘What mattered to me was to ensure that money was spent on acceptable activities of the project. Keeping proper financial and other project management records did not matter to me,’ narrated Rosemary to Pact Project Staff.

Rosemary’s Orphans Day Care looks after over 200 orphans, she later decided to add a prevention aspect to her project and obtained PEPFAR funding from the Y-CHOICES program from Pact Zambia after she realized that preventing new infections among the youth was important. Managing her program and staff performance improved after they all undertook training in Grants Management and Monitoring, Evaluation and Reporting provided by the Y-CHOICES program as part of the capacity building program.

“Now we have well planned activities and have learned to keep our financial and program records well. All this has been due the training and the backstopping we have received during the implementation of the PEPFAR Abstinence and Being Faithful Project, continued Rosemary.” She further narrated that she is able to conduct monitoring and evaluation of her projects, a tool that has made her to better understand the needs of her community and plan better for them. So far her organisation has managed to reach out to five school sites and five surrounding communities with Abstinence and Fidelity messages. People in Senanga community are now citing Rosemary’s efforts as an example of hard work, persistence and endeavors as what women should do to help their communities. A recent visit by Pact Zambia program and finance officers to Senanga Orphans Day Care revealed great improvements in financial and program management record keeping systems within the organisation.

Ethiopia - Summary of the Results

Pact Ethiopia planned to work with 180 secondary schools, 360 primary schools, 100 out-of-school clubs, 267 Iders/Mahbers and ABECs. To date, 173 secondary schools, 196 primary schools, 133 out-of-school clubs, 238 Iders/Mahbers and ABECs have been involved in AB/A programs. Pact



Ethiopia had planned to train a total of 2,589 persons; peer educators, club leaders, out-of-school youth mentors, adult mentors, partners' focal persons, and journalists. So far a total of 2,874 were trained in various AB/A and related trainings. The out-reach program envisaged to reach 280,000 secondary school students, 184,000 primary school, 152,000 out-of-school youth and 76,000 community members instead managed to reach 860,750 secondary school students, 398,050 primary school students, 516,062 out-of-school youth and 159,009 community members through diverse AB/A focused behavior change out-reach activities. Pact planned to reach a total of 692,000 persons through AB/A message but managed to 1,937,484 persons during FY2006, a figure significantly beyond the planned target.

Results of the Y-CHOICES program's effectiveness are clear as more discussions on AB/A related issues are becoming common among youth and children at different discussion forums. The

Y-CHOICES program offers children and youth healthy sexual choices and information on a range of HIV/AIDS and sexuality issues. Adults also recognize the importance of their involvement in promoting openness in HIV/AIDS and sexuality issues among their families.

Achievements

A pre-award assessment was conducted in Somali region where the Mother and Child Development Organization (MCDO) was selected. After review of the organization's project proposal, sub-grant agreement was signed with MCDO during this reporting period. MCDO has been oriented on the program and some preparatory activities have been started in Somali Region. As a baseline for organizational capacity development, an Organizational Capacity Assessment (OCA) was conducted to assess the managerial, financial, administrative and technical capacity of the organization.



Pact Ethiopia faced difficulties in finding a competent and appropriate partner in the Gambella Region. The Pact sub-office in Gambella was selected to carry out the implementation of the Y-CHOICES program and was taken through the necessary steps for equipping sub-grantees

A three day Training of Trainers (TOT) on adult mentoring was conducted for 23 persons (17 males and six females) drawn from partner organizations. The training was aimed at providing participants with child-parent communication skills on HIV/AIDS and sexuality issues and enabling them to provide similar training to target out-of-school youth clubs, Ider/Mahber and ABECs.

Pact Ethiopia collaborated with Health Communication Partnership and organized a six-day training on 'Youth Action Kit' for 95 participants (73 male and 22 female) drawn from 23 partners,

which target schools and clubs. The major objective of the TOT was to strengthen school and club AB/A activities by assisting participants to complete 30 activities in the Youth Action Kit training manual and enable them to provide similar training to the target schools and clubs in their vicinity as part of peer education activities. The training focused on communication and decision making skills, basic knowledge of sexual and HIV/AIDS issues, trust and relationship development and community mobilization and out-reaches activities. Participants are expected to provide similar training in their respective schools and out-of-school clubs.

Y-CHOICES partner organizations were provided with a three day organizational conflict management training. Twenty representatives participated (16 males and four females) from 19 partner organizations. The training was given as a capacity building effort to enable partners to deal timely and effectively with organizational/work place conflict.

An assessment visit was conducted in seven regional educational radio stations and initial discussions explored the possibilities of using this media for information dissemination on HIV/AIDS related issues. Hence, a two-day consultative meeting was held with representatives of seven radio stations from four Regions to discuss and negotiate on AB/A radio programming. Following the consultative meeting, a contractual agreement was signed with seven Educational Radio Stations (two from Amhara, two from Oromia, one from Addis Ababa, one from SNNPRS and one from Tigray Region). According to the agreement signed, all Radio Stations are expected to produce and disseminate 26 programs, each program to run for 15 minutes. Pact worked with the communication consultant to closely monitor and assist with the message development and dissemination processes. Currently, the Addis Ababa Educational Media Radio station airs AB/A messages on a weekly basis starting September 30, 2006. It is anticipated that the radio messages will reach a larger population because many people listen to the radio and it is affordable to most communities.

Twenty two Journalists/Radio Program Producers (20 male and two female) from eleven Educational Media Radio Stations participated in a five-day training on participatory HIV/AIDS prevention program preparation with special emphasis on AB/A programming. The purpose of the training was to acquaint producers with Y-CHOICES program focus area (HIV prevention through A and B promotion) and other issues related to the Y-CHOICES messaging. A set of 50 Mini Media equipment was distributed to 50 secondary school clubs through partner organizations to strengthen A and AB promotion activities in schools and plans are underway to purchase additional equipment for 75 secondary schools. Small grants were of \$200 to each per school were also provided to the 50 schools.

Major Accomplishment in Community Level Training and Out-Reach Activities

During the reporting period different trainings and workshops were conducted by partners to stakeholders and target groups in their respective operational areas. The training programs included a day long stakeholders' sensitization workshop attended by 311 representatives (250 male and 61 female) from concerned government offices and target groups. The purpose of the workshop was to introduce Y-CHOICES programs to local government bodies and target groups, and to secure necessary support to implement the program in the area.

Peer Education training was conducted by partner organizations to secondary school students in their operational area. There were 1,011 students (510 male and 501 female) who participated in the training. The major objective of the training was to equip participants with basic ideas and skills of peer education to enable them to facilitate and organize AB/A activities in their schools and out-reach primary schools. A Youth Mentoring training was conducted by partner organizations to 582 out-of-school youth (302 male and 280 female) for the purposes of providing basic skills of facilitating AB/A and mentoring activities in the target out-of-school youth clubs

A Club Management training was also provided to 297 out-of-school youth club leaders (176 male and 121 female) and 284 secondary school club leaders (159 male and 125 female) in order to strengthen leadership, planning, reporting and documentation knowledge and skills of participants responsible for undertaking effective AB/A programs among students and out-of-school youth. In total 581 school and out-of-school youth participants (335 male and 246 female) attended the aforementioned training.

A total of 540 adults (381 male and 159 female) from Iders/Mahbers and ABECs participated in Adult Mentoring training organized by program partners. The focus of the training was to equip adults with basic knowledge and parenting skills to communicate on HIV/AIDS and sexuality issues.

Challenges and Constraints

Pact Ethiopia found out that some projects locations overlap with those of other PEPFAR implementing partners of USAID, particularly in the two Woredas (Wenago and Yergachefe) in the SNNPR Region. Two Pact partners; Samaritan Purse and Integrated Service for AIDS Prevention and Support Organization (ISAPSO), both implement the A and B interventions for Y-CHOICES and also worked in the same secondary schools, out-of school club and Idir. After a discussion with the two implementing partners in the presence of the donor, it was agreed that ISAPSO should pull out of the project location.

There were incidences of political unrest in the country that resulted in unexpected temporary school closures and/or a temporary drop in student attendance. This directly affected the implementation of the Y-CHOICES program in the schools and out-of-school clubs because the school administrators did not fully appreciate youth activities.

It was also evident that some local government/administration officials were not fully cooperating to-promote A and B activities through group and/or mass education. The strained budget hindered the strengthening of local partners and there was also inadequate staffing at community levels to undertake more effective out-reach activities. Double counting appears to be a problem because there is no mechanism in place to ensure that double counting does not happen. This results in inflated numbers of people reached with AB/A message.

Since the inception of the Y-CHOICES program, Pact Ethiopia has learned that:

- Youth and children have an immense potential and initiative to contribute to HIV prevention through necessary support and follow up by partners
- Timely and regular monitoring of grassroots activities of implementing partners and providing technical support is the best strategy to ensure effective and efficient program implementation.
- The promotion of A and B messaging has encouraged youths to abstain and be faithful to their regular partners,. This may be an indication that the sexual practices of this particular age group is beginning to have a positive behavioral change.
- Creating regular discussion forums and space for the community will help to effectively deal with HIV concerns.
- HIV prevention activities need to integrate an economic feature to effectively address the daily needs of the out-of-school youth.
- HIV prevention interventions have to encompass provision of edutainment facilities and income generation activities to elevate results and ensure sustainability.

Ethiopia's Activities Planned for the Coming FY2006

- Conduct OCA for potentially new partners
- Conduct training on Appreciative Inquiry
- Identify 126 additional secondary schools
- Provide grants to 25 partner organizations
- Train 100 youths on Youth Action kits
- Train 756 peer educators
- Develop A and B messages and reach 196,000 secondary school students
- Provide small grant for 450 secondary school clubs
- Develop programs and messages on A for 129,000 primary school students
- Train 50 journalists
- Reach 160,000 Adult and out-of-school youth through mentoring skills
- Train 374 Adult mentors and 560 youth mentors
- Conduct Advanced resource mobilization and fund raising training for representatives of 25 partner organizations,
- Provide mini-media equipment for 150 secondary schools and clubs
- Conduct experience sharing visits for 5 trained journalists. The trained journalists will visit AB activities of selected partners to document, broadcast and share their experiences with other journalists
- Disseminate A and B supportive programming through 9 mass media/radio stations

- Conduct monitoring and technical support visits to partners
- Organize periodic partners review meeting

Monitoring and Evaluation

Data Base System Development and MER Formats Refinement

During the reporting period the partner organizations' planning and reporting format and a monitoring checklist were refined and updated through participatory discussions and feedback sessions among Pact staff and partners to fit in to the newly developed data base system. A half day staff training was conducted on how to use the newly developed data base system and these data base systems will be used in the coming fiscal year as a pilot phase.

Monitoring Visit to Partners

Monitoring visits were conducted for 23 partner organizations located in different parts of the country. The major objective of the visits was to assess progress in activity implementation, and provide technical support in areas of planning and proper documentation.

Biannual Review Meeting

Two bi-annual review meetings, each lasting one day, were held with partner organizations. Partners presented their major accomplishments and challenges faced while implementing Y-CHOICES activities, and shared their experiences and lessons learned.

Data Quality Management/Assessment Training

Three Pact staff (all male) from Capacity Building and MER Units attended a three-day Data Quality Management/Assessment training and a two-day practical work with partners in South Africa. The main goal of the course was to improve the proficiency of participants in developing data quality management systems, and support their efforts in addressing data quality issues in order to maximize utility of data generated from their organizations and specifically their grant with USAID/Pact. Based on the aforementioned training, Pact Ethiopia organized a one day DQA orientation to 24 partner organizations' representatives (18 male and 6 female) to sensitize them with DQA issues.

Results of Baseline Survey

Baseline data was collected through self administered questionnaires from eight secondary schools and 13 out-of-school youth clubs across the country and was complimented by a total of 23 FGDs with youth and adults of both sexes to assess the existing situations. The report writing of the baseline survey will be finalized during the reporting year, and results will be disseminated in the coming FY. The results of the survey highlighted: a) that the majority of the youth are informed in HIV/AIDS matters but that the information is not sufficient, b) that there is need to focus on skill based interventions rather than information provision in

order to bring behavior change; and c) that unemployment, consumption of alcohol, lack of recreational facilities, inadequate youth friendly information services were identified as concerns that contributed to unsafe sex and HIV spread. The results of the survey give a picture of the existing situation to be used as a benchmark to measure the changes brought by Y-CHOICES program interventions.

Program Management

There were no changes in Pact Ethiopia key personnel. A Program and M&E was hired. There have been no changes in key personnel level of effort and organizational structure.

Success Stories from the Field

- Children Aid Ethiopia partnered with Pact Ethiopia and with Wogen-la-wogen out-of-school youth club in Bokoji District during FY 2006 to engage in HIV/AIDS activities. The partnership yielded favorable results, 16 members from the club have undergone HIV testing one female tested HIV positive.
- Beruh Tesfa is one of the out-of-school clubs working with Children Aid Ethiopia in Kersa District. During the club's coffee ceremony discussions that promote openness in HIV/AIDS and sexuality issues are undertaken and one such gathering one person living with HIV disclosed his HIV positive status and volunteered to work with the club in reducing stigma and discrimination in the target area. Disclosing HIV positive status is not common practice in most cases as it results in discrimination and stigma in rural areas like Kersa.

Kind Hearts Children Aid and Development Organization targets out-of-school clubs and Iders in Sebeta Town with AB education at 'Burial ceremonies.' Facilitating discussions during burial ceremonies has been found to be an effective and unique way to reach significant community members at a time of grief, especially if the cause of death is associated with HIV/AIDS. The integration of youth clubs and Ider members and adults at burial ceremonies is viewed by many as an innovative opportunity to disseminate AB messages whilst it is still fresh in the minds of those attending the funerals that HIV/AIDS related deaths can be avoided or reduced through behavioral change.