



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

**Cooperative Agreement
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**Semi 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 |

| | |
|------------------|---|
| LUFAID | Luapula families In Distress |
| MCDO | Mother and Child Development Association |
| MENDIF | Men Make a Difference |
| MOE | Ministry of Education |
| 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 |
| SODCC | Senanga Orphans Day Care Centre |
| SNNPR | Southern Nations, Nationalities and Peoples Region |
| SYGA | Save Your Generation Association |
| SYHLA | Save Your Holy Land Association |
| TAHAN | Teachers Against HIV/AIDS Network |
| 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 |

IV. Program Overview

IV.1 Key Strategic Objectives

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 supportive of lifestyle choices and behavior change informed by abstinence, fidelity and partner reduction programming (“A and B” programming). The Y-CHOICES program is being implemented by Pact, Inc. in Zambia and Ethiopia. As of this reporting period, Pact Ethiopia has twenty-three local implementing partners and, in Zambia, up to sixty-six partner / grantee CBOs and NGOs in Zambia will act as frontline implementers of the program throughout each country.

The overall goal of Y-CHOICES is to reduce the spread of HIV/AIDS among children and youth (10-24 age groups) through promotion of abstinence and faithfulness (A and B) as desirable behavior. 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.

IV.2 General Overview of Activities & Approaches

The ABY activities in Y- CHOICES occur at two levels, i.e. at the **Pact Level** and **Sub-grantee Level**. The activities at the **Pact level** include the identification of local partners for A&B program implementation, orientation of partner organizations to ABY program, solicitation for ABY sub-grants proposals from partner organizations, review of the proposals, short listing, carrying out sub-grants pre-award surveys and signing of agreements before release of sub-grant funds to partners. Pact is, as well, training its sub-grantees in sub-grants management, Monitoring, Evaluation and Reporting and ABY programming and supporting their organizational development both in terms of financial systems and technical operations. Pact also provides guidelines for selection of peer educators, adult mentors, and leaders to be involved in the promotion and advocacy for A&B among youth and their communities. **The sub-grantees** are responsible

for identification of program sites, and training and deploying peer educators, youth and adult mentors and media personnel. The sub-grantees develop implement and monitor program activities, evaluate program impacts/results and submit program and financial reports to Pact Country Offices who in turn compile, analyse and submit scheduled reports to Pact Headquarters and USAID respectively.

IV. 3 Emergency Plan Indicators

| Reporting Period (October 1, 2005- March 31 st , 2006) | <u>Zambia Planned</u> | <u>Zambia Achieved</u> | <u>Ethiopia Planned</u> | <u>Ethiopia Achieved</u> | <u>Totals (A+B+...n)- planned</u> | <u>Totals (A+B+...n)- Achieved</u> |
|--|---|--|--|---|---|--|
| Prevention/Abstinence and Be Faithful | | | | | | |
| Number of community outreach HIV/AIDS prevention programs that promote abstinence and/or being faithful | 430 (215 community based and 215 schools based) programs. | 93 (45 community based and 48 schools based) programs. | 866 (180 high schools, 360 primary schools, 59 out-of-school clubs; 267 Idirs/Mahbers and ABECs) | 475 (154 high schools, 108 primary schools, 59 out-of-school clubs and 154 Idirs/Mahbers and ABECs) | 1296 | 568 |
| Number of individuals reached through community outreach that promotes HIV/AIDS prevention through abstinence and/or being faithful (disaggregated by sex) | 36 000 172 000* | 27,089 | 692,000 | 461,127 | 728,000 | 488,216 |
| Female | 18,000 | 13 813 | 276,200 | 209,425 | 294,200 | 223,238 |
| Male | 18,000 | 13,276 | 415,800 | 251,702 | 433,800 | 264,978 |
| Prevention/Abstinence (subset of AB) | | | | | | |
| Number of community outreach HIV/AIDS prevention programs that promote abstinence | 215 school based programs | 48 school based programs | 360 primary schools | 108 primary schools | 575 school based programs | 156 |
| Number of individuals reached through community outreach that promotes HIV/AIDS prevention through abstinence; <i>this is a subset of those reached through programs that promote abstinence and/or be faithful (disaggregated by sex)</i> | 22 500 107 500* | 12 969 | 184,000 | 146,185 | 206,500 | 159,154 |
| Female | 11,250 | 6 671 | 73,600 | 77,057 | 84,850 | 83,728 |
| Male | 11,250 | 6 298 | 110,400 | 69,128 | 121,650 | 75,426 |
| Number Trained | | | | | | |
| Number of individuals trained to promote HIV/AIDS | 1,125 | 892 | 2,589 | 1,526 | 3,714 | 2,418 |

| | | | | | | |
|--|--|---|------|---|-----|----|
| prevention programs through abstinence and/or being faithful | 900 Peer Educators i.e. 100 per sub-grantee and 225 adult mentors i.e. 25 per sub-grantee. | (Breakdown: 280 Adult Mentors; 579 Peer Educators and 33 others including media personnel). | | 23 TOT for adult mentoring 469 - mentoring skills training for youth and adults; 1034 youth in club management. | | |
| Media Programs | | | | | | |
| Number of Radio Stations involved in airing AB programs | ----- | ----- | 9 | Agreement signing to begin the program is in process with 7 radio stations | 9 | 7 |
| Number of Media Programs broadcasting A and B messages | 192 | 39 radio discussion programs aired | ---- | ---- | 192 | 39 |

* The numbers with asteric were planned for 43 sub-grantees, but year 2 sub – grantees have not yet been implementing.

IV. 4 Summary of Overall Program Progress and Challenges to date

During the first six months of FY2006 (October 2005-March 2006), program implementation was significantly stepped up, owing to the fact that many of the sub-grant partner NGOs in Zambia and Ethiopia completed their training and orientation to the Y-CHOICES ABY program and were positioned to implement project activities at the community level. As of this date, in Zambia, nine partners have signed sub-grant agreements totalling US \$212,672; and Pact Ethiopia has signed sub-grant agreements totalling \$176,669 for a total obligation of \$389,341.

In Zambia, nine (9) out of the thirteen (13) Year I partner organizations who were trained in A&B program Monitoring, Evaluation and Reporting as well as in Grants Management and A&B programming have been implementing the program from August/September 2005 when they finally signed sub-grants agreements. Resulting from their implementation effort, a total of **27,089** youths (13,276 males and 13,813 females) have been reached with A&B messages, out of which **12,969** school going youths were reached with **A** focused messages

during the period under review. These youth were reached through 48 in-school based programs which are predominantly A promoting program sites and in 45 community programs which promote both A&B, all implemented through Pact's NGO partners.

In addition, a total of **892** individuals were trained by the sub-grantees to carryout A&B messaging in schools and surrounding communities. Of these, 280 are Adult mentors, 579 Peer Educators and 33 others who included media personnel.

During the same period, Pact Zambia identified and approved eight (8) new sub-partners for Y-CHOICES sub-grants. These organizations have been oriented to the ABY program and to grants management. A grants pre-award survey has been conducted with all eight organizations and the findings are being utilized in the grant negotiations. The process is nearing the signing stage. The eight new partners are:

| Name | Type of Organisation | Geographical Location (Province and District) |
|---|-----------------------------|--|
| 1. Zambia Interfaith Networking Group on HIV/AIDS (ZINGO) | FBO | Southern Province, Livingstone District |
| 2. Youth Alive Zambia – Mongu | FBO | Western Province, Mongu District |
| 3. Kuba Lusa | CBO | North-western Province, Kasempa district |
| 4. KAYS ARTS Promotion | NGO | Luapula Province, Kawambwa District |
| 5. Kawambwa Anti AIDS | NGO | Luapula Province, Kawambwa District |
| 6. Luapula Families In Distress (LUFAID) | NGO | Luapula Province, Mansa District |
| 7. Youth Development Organisation | NGO | Southern Province, Choma District |
| 8. Workplace HIV/AIDS and Gender (WAGE) Trust | NGO | Southern Province, Mazabuka District |

Pact Zambia also continued with mentoring and backstopping of the nine Year I implementing sub-grantees. These were provided through physical site visits and through e-mails and phone communications where technology was available.

In Ethiopia, close to ninety percent of planned activities for this reporting period have been carried out. Targets were reached and even surpassed in some activities due to high community participation. Collection of both qualitative and quantitative baseline data was undertaken from various sources. Data entry and analysis has been completed, and at reporting time, the final report is being written.

Pact Ethiopia conducted a pre-award assessment in the Somali Region to identify a competent and committed local partner for the Y-CHOICES program. A new partner, the Mother and Child Development Organization (MCDO), was identified. Pact is presently reviewing their project proposal and a sub-agreement with MCDO is expected to be signed by the end of April 2006. Unfortunately the continuous difficulty of finding a local partner in Gambella region will require Pact to implement the Y-CHOICES program in the region through its Gambella field office.

An assessment visit was conducted in four (4) regional educational radio stations and initial discussions explored the possibilities of using this media for information dissemination on HIV/AIDS related issues. A two-day consultative meeting was held with representatives of seven (7) radio stations from four (4) Regions, including Addis Ababa. Negotiations are being held which could possibly result in sub-grants with the seven (7) radio stations. Since a high percentage of the population listens to the radio, it is expected that radio access would broaden the information range as well as the age range of the population reached. The scheduled training of journalists and other media professionals will commence after the agreements have been signed.

A planned technical organizational capacity assessment (TOCA) training for partner organizations was cancelled after it was learned that other international organization's they were partnering with already conducted the aforementioned training. An all day review meeting was held with twenty-two (22) partner organization representatives. Discussions revolved around accomplishments, challenges and way forward while participants exchanged their experiences and learning. Monitoring visits were conducted with twenty-two (22) partner organizations in preparation for the bi-annual report. Objectives for the visit were to evaluate the level of partner's preparation before program implementation, the actual project implementation process, to identify accomplishments to date and to provide technical support in planning and documentation.

To strengthen the capacity of the partner organizations in the implementation of the Y-CHOICES program, a three-day Training of Trainers (TOT) workshop on Adult Mentoring was conducted for 23 representatives of partner organizations. The training was aimed at enhancing the capacity of the partner organizations to train adult mentors at the community level.

In areas where the Y-CHOICES program is newly started, a stakeholder's sensitization workshop was held for a day with 231 participants from various government sectors and the communities. Aside from sensitizing the participants on HIV/AIDS related issues and introducing the Y-CHOICES program, it was also anticipated that the participants would endorse and provide their support for the entire program cycle.

Two important activities were conducted this reporting period in strengthening activities of school clubs. Fifty (50) mini-media equipments were distributed to fifty (50) secondary schools and small grants worth US\$ 200/school was provided to 180 secondary schools through Pact's local partners. Grant recipients were Anti-AIDS clubs and Girls clubs in the aforementioned secondary schools; the money will be utilized in student-led activities related to HIV/AIDS.

Recognizing that provision of seed money and equipment alone is not sufficient in fighting HIV/AIDS, this initiative was complimented by trainings provided by local partners to various stakeholders. The trainings are as follows: a) a two-day Youth Mentoring training was conducted for two hundred fifty-four (254) out-of-school youths in basic skills to facilitate A and B activities in their clubs; b) a three-day training on club management was provided to five hundred seventeen 517 youths, (272 out-of-school youth club leaders and 245 secondary school club leaders). This training focused on strengthening the leadership, planning, reporting and documentation skills of youths who are responsible for implementing effective A and B programs.

A and B outreach activities have reached 302,255 secondary school students, 113,646 out-of-school youths through one-to-one discussions, peer education, drama, question and answer contests, mass education and school mini-media broadcasts. In addition, 45,226 community members and Alternative Basic Education Center (ABEC) students were reached with a focus on child - parent communication skills, general HIV/AIDS issues and the A and B strategy. Successful strategies utilized during out-reach activities include coffee ceremonies, mass education campaigns and adult-youth and family discourse events.

Simultaneously, 146,183 students in primary schools were reached with messages and educational campaigns on "abstinence" through one-to-one discussions, peer education, drama, question and answer contests and mass education. .

IV. 5 Challenges to Date

In Zambia:

Poor/lack of communication facilities at sub-grantee level - Not surprisingly, but notably, many of the grantees in Zambia are fairly isolated in rural areas and have little or no access to emails, computers, easy transport for outreaches, or electricity, making on-line program reporting and consultations literally difficult. Partners have to travel long distances to places where they can either post mail or access internet cafes. Pact program staff is forced, in most cases, to carry out physical site monitoring and compliance visits causing burnout to the skeleton staff. It also poses a great challenge in meeting reporting schedules to both Pact Zambia and to the sub-grantees.

Appreciation of the Zambian local currency (Kwacha) against the US dollar – This has negatively affected the anticipated scope of coverage for the sub-grantees leading to uncompleted activities, especially the A&B out reach activities. The dollar amount signed for now translates into a smaller amount of Kwacha, but cost of services in Kwacha is sky-rocketing. This has resulted in unfinished activities. Thus, the level of grants (maximum \$25 000) is now noted as too low to allow for realisation of meaningful program outputs.

A&B messaging outreach has been difficult without supportive printed IEC materials. With printed materials, audiences could clarify some issues even in the absence of the Peer Educators and Adult Mentors. These could be procured through a reprint of existing A&B materials from partner organisations like Health Communication Partnership, but this has not been possible to date because there is no specific budget line in the program for printing of materials.

In **Ethiopia**, major challenges to date are:

Overlap of project locations with PEPFAR implementing partners of USAID;

Political unrest in the country caused an unexpected temporary drop in school attendance and/or prolonged school spring closure which directly affected the timely implementation of the Y-CHOICES programs in the schools.

Less cooperation than expected from different local administration officials for out-of-school youth club members to promote the A and B program through group and mass education;

V. Country-Level Progress Reports

V.A Pact Zambia Report – Country Overview

V.A.1 Geographical Location

The Y – CHOICES program activities are being implemented in five (05) 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 some partners in Solwezi district of North-Western province, a district with two newly opened mines. These have been sharing mining/HIV/AIDS related experiences. The nine implementing partners, their geographical location, and program implementation sites are as in table below: -

V.A..2 Zambia Y-CHOICES Implementing Sub-Grantee Partners

| Name of Organization | Geographical location | Names of Schools where ABY program is being implemented | Names of communities where ABY 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 | Mawawa Community Kaande Community |

| | | | |
|--|---|--|--|
| | | Siwa Basic School Namtome Basic School Mweke Basic School | Siwa Community Namtome 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. | Tuwanganai 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 |

V.A.3 Progress to Date

In Zambia, through the above listed implementing partners, great progress has been made in achieving the main PEPFAR indicators. It is planned for each sub-grantee to train at least 100 peer educators and 25 adult mentors. (The expected total for these 9 sub-grantees by the end of June 2006, the closing month for most sub-grants, is 900 peer educators and 225 adult mentors) and to reach out to 300 out-of-school youths per community, an average of five (05) communities per sub-grantee, and 500 in-school youths per school, an average of

five (05) schools per sub-grantee, for a total of 36,000 youth to be reached by the nine (9) organisations by the end of their sub-grants, i.e. around June 2006.

By 31st March 2006, a total of **27,089** youths (13,276 males and 13,813 females) were reached with A&B messages, out of which **12,969** school-going youths were reached with **A** focused messages only during the period (see table IV. 3 above).

During the same period, a total of 892 individuals were trained to carry out A&B messaging in schools and surrounding communities. Of these, 280 are Adult mentors, 579 Peer Educators and 33 others who included media personnel.

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 the nine (9) sub-grantees. The following were the Terms of References: -

- To learn how the Sub grantees are proceeding with the implementation of the planned A&B activities and to check their programmatic and financial compliance.
- To orient them to the Y-CHOICES monthly reporting format.
- To help them in any other areas of program implementation where they may be experiencing difficulties

Despite the noted enthusiasm in program implementation among the sub-grantees, compliance at both the program and financial levels was found to be an issue, and on site backstopping was provided by Pact staff during compliance visits. Poor record keeping, reporting and lapses in observing financial procedures and regulations were among the noted and addressed weaknesses. The other noted (and attended to) weakness in the implementation of the program sub-grants has been the failure by organisations to develop outreach schedules and appropriate tools for data collection. Three quarters of these partners have gained adequate knowledge and skills through the financial and program management backstopping that have been provided and can now manage their programs efficiently and effectively with little guidance. We are actually planning to provide follow up sub-grants for new programs after close out of their first sub-grants in addition to new partners to be identified. This will hopefully reduce on burden of training and coaching on the skeleton Pact staff.

During the reporting period, the following was also achieved: -

- i. Eight new partners were identified and had their program proposals approved for ABY sub-grants. Prior to the ongoing grants negotiation process, a Pre-award Survey was successfully carried out on each of the new sub-grantees in March 2006. The program and finance related issues that were noted and critically discussed with the organisations during the survey mission (see paragraph above) facilitated a stepping platform into the grant management training. The findings also helped in the negotiations for program and finance management strategies with the respective organisations which will ensure more effective program implementation in the future.
- ii. Trained 16 individuals (two from each of the eight partner organizations) in grants management.
- iii. Held a Pact Ethiopia and Pact Zambia joint BCC training workshop for which a team of 10 Zambians drawn from the five provinces in which the program is being implemented were trained as future provincial BCC facilitators for the program.

V.A.4 – Success Stories, Major Challenges, Constraints and Lessons Learned During Reporting Period

V.A.4.a Success story

Adolescent Reproductive Health Advocates (ARHA) Breaks through the Barotse Royal Establishment Communities with it's A&B messages.

ARHA's A&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 the 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.

V.A.4b - Major Challenges

Low program staffing is the major challenge. The program is highly demanding on the only two (2) full time Pact Zambia staff as Pact is partnering with rural based and nascent NGOs/CBOs/FBOs with no or very little experience in managing USAID program sub-grants. Consideration for additional two staff (one to deal with monitoring, evaluation and reporting and the other with finance and sub-granting issues) is required.

V.A4c - Constraints

4.1. Effect of local Currency appreciation against Dollar.

The Kwacha appreciation has negatively affected the anticipated scope of coverage for the sub-grantees, leading to uncompleted activities especially in regard to A&B outreach activities. The dollar amount signed for now translates into smaller amounts of Kwacha, but the cost of services is skyrocketing, resulting in unfinished activities.

4.2 Larger grants needed

The \$25 000 currently set as maximum for grants is too low to allow for realisation of meaningful program outputs.

4.3. Poor/Lack of communication facilities..

Almost all Y-CHOICES sub-grantees are nascent and rural-based and, as such, lack communication and documentation facilities making reporting and general program communication difficult. For example, the sub-grantees lack personal computers for processing their reports.

4.4. Lack of A&B IEC printed materials at sub-grantee level.

A&B messaging outreaches have been found to be difficult without supportive print materials. With print materials, audiences would clarify some issues even in the absence of the Peer Educators and Adult Mentors. These could be procured through a reprint of existing A&B materials from partner organisations like Health Communication Partnership. However, this cannot be done because there is no specific budget line for printing in the current approved program budget.

4.5. Inadequate program staff at Prime Partner (Pact Zambia) level.

Two full time program officers are far too inadequate to ensure smooth and efficient program and sub-grants management. The experience of the first year has proved this and there has been high level of burnout of the lean staff.

V.A.4d - Recommendations

Effect of Local Currency appreciation against Dollar

In the case of the current implementing organisations, there is need to either provide a sub-grant extension at a cost equivalent to uncompleted planned activities or close out the current running sub-grant. Those with effective programs should be allowed another sub-grant to implement program activities in new community areas and to cover the unfinished activities in the current communities. This has budget implications and an analysis to that effect is being done at this time by Pact Zambia.

Larger grants

For the new sub-grants agreements to be signed with new organisations, there is need to consider increasing the grant value from \$25,000 to about \$50,000. This will take care of the Kwacha appreciation against the USD as well as allowing for increased results through a longer period of program implementation, i.e, about 1 year. One year will be long enough for the sub-grantees to plan and implement their programs adequately without the risks resulting from rushed implementation.

Poor communication facilities

To ensure efficiency in data analysis, documentation and reporting, there is a need to consider budget reviews for the possibility of procuring personal computers for sub-grantees.

Lack of A&B IEC materials

Need to provide a budget line for re-printing of existing A&B print IEC materials and have them distributed to sub-grantees for use during program outreach activities.

Inadequate program staff

There is a great need to consider budget review to allow recruitment of an additional full time staff to deal with the program finance/sub-granting and monitoring, evaluation and reporting issues.

V.A.4.e Lessons Learned

In Zambia, the key lessons learned during the period under review include the following: -

- Efficiency in program reporting requires access to effective communication facilities like phones, transport, personal computers, e-mail facilities which most sub-grantees lack.
- Efficiency and effectiveness in community outreach programs of Peer Educators and Adult Mentors can be greatly enhanced by the existence of efficient transport and availability of supporting IEC printed materials.
- To improve the efficiency of the ABY program, there is a need to have adequate program and finance staff to facilitate sub-granting and program management.

V.B Pact Ethiopia Report - Country Overview

V.B.1 – Geographical Location and Implementing Partners

Pact Ethiopia Implementing Sub-Grantees

| No. | Name of the organizations | Geographic Location | | |
|-----|--|--------------------------------------|-------------------|---------------------|
| | | District (Zone) | Province (Region) | Municipality (Town) |
| 1 | Abebech Gobena Yehetsanat Kibkabena Limat Dirijit (AGOHELD) | North Shewa | Oromia | Fitche |
| 2 | Adult and Non Formal Education Association in Ethiopia (ANFEAE) | Yeka and Arada | Addis Ababa | Addis Ababa |
| | | North Shewa | Oromia | Dibre Birhan |
| | | Asosa and Bambase | Benshangul | Asosa |
| 3 | African Network for Prevention and Protection Against Child Abuse and Neglect –Ethiopian Chapter (ANPPCAN-ETH) | North Gonder Zone | Amhara | Gonder |
| 4 | Amhara Development Association (ADA) | Awii, South Gondar, | Amhara | Gonder |
| | | North Shewa | | Debre Birhan |
| | | East Gojjam,W.Gojjam, | | Bahir Dar |
| | | S.Wollo, Bati and Kemmsie) | | Dessie |
| 5 | Berhan Integrated Community Development Organization (BICDO) | West Shewa | Oromia | Ambo |
| 6 | Children and Youth Development and Welfare Association (CYWDA) | Mekele | Tigray | Mekele |
| 7 | Children Aid –Ethiopia (CHAD-ET) | Arsi | Oromia | Asella |
| 8 | Emanuel Development Association (EDA) | Akaki-Kaliti | Addis Ababa | Addis Ababa |
| | | Debre Berhan | Amhara | Debre Berhan |
| 9 | Ethiopian Evangelical Church Mekane Yesus /South Western Synod / | Gamo Gofa South Omo, Konso & Darashe | SNNPR | Arba Minch |
| 10 | Ethiopian Muslim Relief and Development Association (EMRDA) | North Wollo | Amhara | Dessie |
| | | Arsi | Oromia | Arsi |
| | | Afar | Afar | Samara |

| | | | | |
|----|--|--|-------------|--------------|
| 11 | Forum on Street Children (FSCE) | Dire Dawa | Dire Dawa | Dire Dawa |
| 12 | Harari Relief and Development Association (HARDA) | - Harari - Hamaresa | Harari | Harari |
| 13 | Integrated Service for AIDS Prevention and Support Organization /ISAPSO/ | Gulele, Arada, Yeka and Addis Ketema Zones) and SNNPR (Sidama and Gedeo Zones) | Addis Ababa | Addis Ababa |
| | | West Hararge & Bourgie | Oromia | Aseb Teferi |
| 14 | Kind Hearts Children and Youth Organization (KCADO) | South West Shoa | Oromia | Ambo |
| 15 | Meserete Kirstos Church Relief and development Association | Jimma | Oromia | Jimma |
| | | East Wollega | Oromia | Nekemt |
| 16 | Progynist | Lideta | Addis Ababa | Addis Ababa |
| 17 | Ratson: Women, Youth and Children Development Program (RATSON) | East Shewa | Oromia | Adama |
| 18 | Rift Valley Children and Women Development (RCWD) | Bale | Oromia | Goba |
| 19 | Save Your Generation Association (SYGA) | Debre Birhan | Amhara | Debre Birhan |
| 20 | Save Your Holy Land Association (SYHLA) | North Wollo | Amhara | Dessie |
| 21 | Tila: Association of Women Living with HIV | - Kembata- Tembaro - Alaba | SNNPRS | Durame |
| 22 | Women Support Organization (WSO) | North Wollo | Amhara | Dessie |
| 23 | Young Men's Christian Association | Bahr Dar | Amhara | Bahr Dar |

V.B.2 - Progress to Date - Detailed Achievements

V.B.2.a - Sensitization of Stakeholders

A day-long stakeholders' sensitization workshop to introduce the Y-CHOICES program to local government bodies and community representatives was conducted with the intention of securing their support in program implementation. A total of 231 participants (male 184/female 47) from the government sector and community members attended the workshop.

V.B.2.b - Identification of new partners

A pre-award assessment was conducted in Somali region to identify a competent local partner. The Mother and Child Development Organization (MCDO), was selected and the organization's project proposal is presently under review. The sub-grant agreement will be signed after the completion of the proposal review before the end of April 2006. Attempts were made to locate a new partner in Gambella region to no avail. As a result Pact will implement the Y-CHOICES program in the region its Gambella field office. Approval for budget of the Gambella Y-CHOICES program is presently being processed by Pact head office.

V.B.2.c - Capacity Building Training Workshops

(1) Adult Mentoring Skills Training

A three-day Training of Trainers (ToT) was conducted by Pact staff on adult mentoring for 23 people, (17 male/6 female) from local partner organizations. The training was aimed at enhancing the capacity of partner organizations to effectively implement adult and youth mentoring. Topics covered during the training included basic facts about HIV/AIDS, sexuality, child psychology, child rights, mentoring program implementation models, facilitation skills, conflict management, community conversation approach, mentoring approach, communication and listening skills, amongst others. After the training, participants were expected to facilitate a similar training in their respective operational areas targeting Idir, Mahiber members and Out-of-school youth clubs.

(2) "Mentoring Skills" Training . This training was conducted for two days by partners to a total of 469 participants; 245 (137 male/108 female) out-of-school youth and 224 (135 male/89 female) adults/parents. The goal of the training was to provide participants with basic facilitation skills in conducting A and B activities with target out-of-school youth clubs, Idirs and Mahibers. Topics discussed during the training included child-parent communication on HIV/AIDS and sexuality issues to help people openly discuss HIV/AIDS in their family. Adult mentors were also equipped with facilitation skills to assist them in out-reach activities with Idirs/Mahibers and ABECs

(3) School and Out-of-school Club Management Training

A three-day training on club management was provided to a total of 517 in-school and out of school youths (296 male/221 female); 272 out-of-school youth club leaders (159 male/113 female) and 245 (137 male/108 female) secondary school club leaders. Training was conducted to strengthen the leadership, planning, reporting and documentation knowledge and skills of participants. These participants are responsible for effective A and B program implementation with students and out-of-school youths.

V.B.2.d - Mini-media equipment and Small grant Support

(1) As part of strengthening school club activities, mini media equipments were distributed to 50 needy secondary schools. An amplifier, two handheld microphones with stands, a column speaker, two horn speakers, one tape recorder and a 500-meter speaker cable make up the “mini-media equipment” package.

(2) Concurrently, small grants agreements were signed with local partners who will funnel the \$200 per school grant to 180 schools. The small grants will be given to the anti-AIDS clubs and Girls clubs for their activities promoting A and B programs and/or messages.

V.B.2.e - Baseline Survey and Focus Group Discussions

The collection of both qualitative and quantitative baseline data was completed. The quantitative data (self administered questionnaire) was collected by partner organizations from eight secondary schools and 13 out-of-school youth clubs and submitted to Pact. The quantitative data entry and analysis has been completed. Simultaneously, a total of 24 focus group discussions (FGDs) were conducted by Pact with youth and adults of both sexes.

V.B.2.f - Media Programs

A two-day consultative meeting was held with representatives of seven radio stations from four regions. Representatives were oriented on the Y-CHOICES program and exploratory discussions were held to implement a HIV media program. Contract negotiations with seven radio stations are in progress.

V.B.2g - A and B Outreach Activities

(1) Secondary and Primary School Outreach Activities

Based on the skills obtained through peer education and club management trainings, school club members organized different A and B activities in their schools. Accordingly, **302,255** secondary school students (160,881 male/141,374 female) were reached through one-to-one discussions, peer education, drama, quiz bees on HIV and A and B messages, mass education and school mini media broadcasts.

Similarly, secondary school students initiated Abstinence (A) promotion activities in neighboring primary schools. As a result, **146,185** (69,128 male/77,057 female) primary school students received Abstinence messages through one-to-one discussions, peer education, drama, question and answer contests and mass education. (You have used this phrase – mass education – a lot – what does it mean?)

(2) Out-of-school Youth Club Outreach Activities

Out-of-school youth club leaders and members also organized A and B programs aimed at addressing the needs of out-of-school youths. A total of **113,646** (66,599 male/47,047 female) out-of-school youths participated. In reaching out-of-school youths the following activities were conducted: one-to-one discussions, peer education, discussions during coffee ceremonies, mass education, drama/theatre, question and answer contests and youth-adult discourse fora.

(3) Idir/Mahiber and ABECs Outreach Activities

Parent and adults are needed in reinforcing the HIV prevention initiatives of children and youths through the A and B programs. As a result, different activities were organized by “trained” Idirs/Mahibers and ABECs to involve parents and adults within their own communities. To date, **40,239** community members (21,904 male/18,335 female) were reached through the child - parent communication approach on HIV/AIDS issues and A and B topics in particular. Coffee ceremony, mass education, adult-youth discourse forum and family discourse events were major outreach strategies used to reach the targets. Simultaneously, **4,987** students (2,318 male/2,669 female) in ABECs were reached with A and B messages. The total number reached is 45,226 (24,222 male/21,004 female) through these activities.

V.B.2.h - Pact Oversight of Y-CHOICES Implementing Partners

(1) Bi-annual Review – Twenty-two (16 male and 6 female) participants from partner organizations attended a one-day bi-annual review. During the meeting, partners presented their major accomplishments; challenges faced implementing Y-CHOICES activities and shared their experiences. The meeting provided an opportunity for the partner organizations to jointly visualize the progress of the Y-CHOICES program, share experiences and reach a common understanding and consensus on different programmatic, MER and financial issues.

(2) Monitoring Visits to Partners

Pact conducted monitoring visits to 22 partner organizations located in different parts of the country. The objectives of the visit were to: a) observe the level of the partner's preparation for program implementation and the actual project implementation process; b) monitor partner accomplishments and to; c) provide technical support in planning and proper documentation. During the monitoring it was observed that majority of partners conducted initial trainings as planned and that the A and B program has started. Monitoring visits were not conducted with the Rift Valley Children and Women Development Association (RCWDA) due to its geographic location complicated by the rain.

V.B.3 Success stories

1. Most in-school target students have started giving emphasis to A rather than B. In the Asela Preparatory and Technique School approximately 210 girls underwent the Voluntary Counseling and Testing (VCT) service. In addition, girls took part in a “beauty contest” in which the objective is not to recognize the most beautiful girl in school in relation to her physical beauty as usually practiced, but to distinguish the most confident and “strongest” girl that has successfully overcome challenges in relation to HIV/AIDS and sexually transmitted diseases. The motto of the contest is “knowing one's own HIV status is beauty”. The winner then becomes the beauty queen of Asela Preparatory and Technique school for one year. This is will be a yearly event for the school in line with their information dissemination campaign on HIV/AIDS.
2. A young, committed, HIV positive person chairs an out-of-school youth anti-AIDS club in Bokoji (Oromia); it has 280 members of which 167 are females. This club has initiated sub-clubs in addition to accomplishing all its activities related to the A and B sensitization campaign. Most club activities are done through member contributions.
3. In Mekelle –Tigray Region, the Children and Youth Development and Welfare Association (CYWD) is closely working with all 60 students in one class. These students have undergone a VCT and made a commitment to abstain from early sexual intercourse. They have become a role model for others students in the school.

V.B.4 - Challenges and Constraints

- Overlap of project locations with other PEPFAR implementing partners of USAID, specifically in 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 implementing the A and B interventions for Y-CHOICE, worked in the same secondary schools, out-of-school club and Idir. After discussion with the two implementing partners in the presence of the donor, it was agreed that ISAPSO was to pull out of the project location. Budget implications on ISAPSO and on Pact still need to further be discussed.
- Political unrest in the country has caused unexpected temporary school closures and/or a temporary drop in student attendance due to the political instability. This directly affected the implementation of the Y-CHOICES program in the schools.
- There is less cooperation from different local government/administration officials for out-of-school youth club members to promote A and B activities through group and/or mass education

V.B.5 - Lessons learned

1. Timely and regular monitoring of grassroots activities of implementing partners is the best strategy to ensure effective and efficient program implementation.
2. The promotion of A and B has encouraged youths to think of VCT and abstinence rather than being faithful to a regular partner for the in-school youths. This may be an indication that the sexual practices of this particular age group is beginning to have a positive behavioral change.
3. HIV/AIDS prevention activities need to **integrate** an economic feature to effectively address the daily needs of the out-of-school youth.

VI. Program Indicators

In Zambia, in addition to the three main PEPFAR Abstinence and Be Faithful indicators of people trained and youth reached with A&B and A only messages, the program has also been implemented in a total of 94 community and school sites above the 90 sites anticipated for the nine sub-grantees.

A good number of traditional, civic and political leaders were successfully mobilized and oriented to the program. In turn, they helped in identifying and mobilizing the 94 sites for the Y-CHOICES program implementation. Traditional and civic leaders also helped in the identification of some of the eight new sub-grantees whose programs are still undergoing negotiation.

Three of the implementing sub-grantees have also managed to air a total of 39 A/A&B radio discussion programs using the Liseli and Ichengelo community radio stations of the Western and Copper Belt provinces respectively.

In Ethiopia, a TOT training was provided to 23 project officers (17 male/6 female) of partner organizations in mentoring skills to empower them in providing mentoring skills training to youth and adult mentors in their respective target area.

VII. Program Management

There have been no notable changes in personnel, level of effort, or organizational structure.