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SOCIAL IMPACT'S QUARTERLY REPORT

DEMOCRACY, HUMAN RIGHTS & GOVERNANCE – LEARNING, EVALUATION & RESEARCH ACTIVITY

**Quarterly Report #14:
OCTOBER – DECEMBER 2017**

January 2018

This report was produced by Social Impact, Inc. at the request of the United States Agency for International Development.

QUARTERLY REPORT (October-December 2017)
Democracy, Human Rights and Governance – Learning, Evaluation and Research Activity
Task Order Number AID-OAA-M-13-00011
Under the Mission Oriented Business Integrated Services (MOBIS) Contract GS-10F- 0294V

This report summarizes activities conducted by Social Impact (SI) during the first quarter of Fiscal Year 2018 (October-December 2017) and describes the status of all tasking requests received under the Democracy, Human Rights and Governance – Learning, Evaluation and Research Activity (DRG-LER) task order. Active task orders this quarter include the following impact evaluations (IEs), performance evaluations (PEs), and assessments:

- Ghana Strengthening Accountability Mechanisms (G-SAM)
- Eastern and Southern Caribbean (ESC) Citizen Security– Community, Family, and Youth Resilience (CFYR)
- ESC Citizen Security – Juvenile Justice
- Elections and Political Processes (EPP) Fund
- Zambia Post-Election Assessment
- Ghana Post-Election Assessment

Key activities conducted this quarter include: (1) endline reporting and dissemination event for the Ghana IE, (2) further revisions to the ESC CFYR evaluation design and baseline data collection, (3) baseline ESC Juvenile Justice implementation study report finalization and baseline administrative data collection, and (4) support for finalizing Ghana electoral assistance assessment.

I. Current Tasking Status Report

A. Impact Evaluations

Ghana Strengthening Accountability Mechanisms (G-SAM)¹

Tasking No. S002

This evaluation explores the impact of two local governance interventions on the accountability of district officials. The interventions focus on the demand and supply side of accountability. The demand side approach entails a citizen-driven, or “bottom-up,” information campaign designed to facilitate citizen oversight of local officials. The supply side approach is a government-driven, or “top-down” strategy, involving central government performance audits of the quality of capital projects undertaken at the district level. The evaluation measures the impacts of these two approaches on improvements in the quality of district level public services as well as the attitudes and perceptions of both citizens and local government officials.

During this quarter, SI submitted the endline draft evaluation report to USAID at the end of November and produced a two-page brief for a dissemination event. The Principal Investigator on the project, Erik Wibbels, presented endline findings at USAID on November 30th. Given the findings presented, SI and USAID held a preliminary discussion to determine further areas of research and plan an additional dissemination event in Ghana.

¹ Work on the Impact Evaluations (IEs) in Ghana and Uganda began under the Evaluating DRG Effectiveness Project (EDGE task order number: AID-OAA-TO-11-00057) and continued under DRG-LER. EDGE Task Order was under the Analytical Services IQC (Contract AID-OAA-I-10-000003).

Eastern and Southern Caribbean Citizen Security – Community, Family, and Youth Resilience

Tasking No. S016

USAID contracted SI to conduct an impact evaluation of the Community, Family and Youth Resilience (CFYR) activity, which is Output 2 of the five-year citizen security Youth Empowerment Systems (YES) Project in the Eastern and Southern Caribbean (ESC) region. Specifically, this activity will seek to reduce risk factors and increase resilience factors related to youth crime, violence and victimization in communities across several Caribbean countries. This intervention is based on a public health model for crime prevention, and will involve a community-driven approach. Evaluation activities are taking place in Guyana, St. Kitts and Nevis, and St. Lucia.

Measurement of key outcome variables centers around a youth assessment tool (YSET) used by the implementer to determine eligibility of treatment. Use of this tool for evaluation purposes has created some coordination challenges between SI and the implementer. In this quarter, SI monitored YSET assessments managed by the CFYR team both in households and within schools. At the household level, completion rates were much lower than anticipated in St. Kitts and Nevis and Guyana, and targets were not reached. It also became evident that the numbers of youth to be targeted through local schools were lower than anticipated in the design report. While the evaluation was intended to take place over two years with a large number of youth, SI and USAID decided to focus the evaluation on the first year and attempt to reach as many youth as possible in one year. This change was formally documented in an evaluation design change memo.

During this quarter, SI also supported CFYR with developing school sampling protocols and school databases to track progress on obtaining parental consent. School YSET data collection proceeded slower than anticipated. CFYR experienced delays in developing the school databases and in conducting outreach with schools. School-based data collection took place in Guyana from late November until mid-December when schools closed for the holidays. Completed parental consent forms were not received as quickly as CFYR expected, and response rates were low. In St. Kitts and Nevis, CFYR began the process of obtaining parental consent in the schools; however, data collection was postponed until the second quarter. St. Lucia data collection was also postponed. Give delays, low response rates, and CFYR contracting limitations with its data collection subcontractors, towards the end of the quarter, USAID made the determination that NORC and its subcontractors should take over all YSET assessment data collection in St. Kitts and Nevis and conduct supplemental household data collection in Guyana to improve YSET assessment response rates. School outreach and school based YSETs are expected to be completed in the second quarter of the fiscal year.

SI staff member Jordan Robinson traveled to St. Lucia to participate in the counselor training held in late November. Plans for a survey of eligible youths' parents or caregivers, referred to as the Caregiver Survey, also progressed during this quarter. NORC finalized and contracted the data collection firm The Solomon Group. SI further developed the Caregiver Survey tool, and a pre-test was conducted in St. Lucia in early December to further refine the instrument. The Caregiver Survey baseline data collection is expected to take place next quarter.

Eastern and Southern Caribbean Citizen Security – Juvenile Justice

Tasking No. S019

USAID contracted SI to conduct an impact evaluation of USAID and partner government efforts to reform the juvenile justice system in the Eastern and Southern Caribbean (ESC) region, which is Output 3 of the

five-year citizen security Youth Empowerment Systems (YES) Project. This component of YES includes an intervention that seeks to enhance approaches to the management of youth in conflict with the law across several Caribbean countries through policy reform, direct reintegration services, and capacity building among justice stakeholders in the region. Evaluation activities are planned to take place in Guyana, St. Lucia, and St. Kitts and Nevis.

In this quarter, SI disseminated findings from its baseline implementation study report in St. Kitts and Nevis. SI also submitted a revised baseline implementation study report that incorporated comments and feedback from USAID and from participants at dissemination events in the three countries. SI supported the ESC Mission in preparing for their meeting with St. Lucia Cabinet Ministers in December, where they presented findings from the report.

The ESC Mission attempted to advance a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with the government of St. Kitts and Nevis to allow for administrative data collection in that country; however, this was ultimately unsuccessful. For now, administrative data collection will move forward only in St. Lucia and Guyana. (The implementation study will still continue in St. Kitts and Nevis.) NORC procured the data collection firm the Solomon Group (TSG) to conduct administrative data collection. Training was held in St. Lucia in early December and included site visits with the Probation Department and the Courts to plan efficient coordination and digitization of records for youth ages 10-17. TSG conducted data collection for probation records in St. Lucia in mid-December but was unable to begin data collection with the Courts. Administrative data collection will continue in St. Lucia in the next quarter, and training and implementation will take place in Guyana early 2018.

B. Performance Evaluations

Elections and Political Processes (EPP) Fund

Tasking No. S013

The DRG Center requested evaluation services to conduct a performance evaluation of the Elections and Political Processes (EPP) Fund mechanism, a \$27-35 million annual flexible funding mechanism that offers Missions access to funding to respond to unanticipated needs or exploit narrow windows of opportunity in the realm of elections and political processes. The evaluation will (1) assess the EPP fund criteria for awarding funds and (2) identify and analyze the types of results EPP fund programs have attained.

The final report was formally approved in the last project year; SI continues to coordinate with the DRG Center on posting the final report to the DEC.

C. Ancillary Studies

Zambia Post-Election Assessment

Tasking No. S021

USAID issued a tasking requesting the support of an electoral specialist to assist a USAID Team Leader in conducting a post-election Rapid Assessment Review in Zambia. This entails documenting electoral assistance strategies and identifying lessons learned to provide Zambia-specific recommendations to inform ongoing electoral and DRG assistance in the post-electoral environment. The assessment will also aim to inform USAID's electoral assistance strategies in other regions.

During this quarter, the USAID Team Leader worked to finalize the draft report and prepare an abridged summary version for public consumption. SI will provide copy editing and formatting support to the final reports once received and post the public version to the DEC when it is approved.

Ghana Post-Election Assessment

Tasking No. S022

USAID issued a tasking requesting the support of an electoral specialist to assist a USAID Team Leader in conducting a post-election Rapid Assessment Review in Ghana. As above, this entails documenting electoral assistance strategies and identifying lessons learned to provide Ghana-specific recommendations to inform ongoing electoral and DRG assistance in the post-electoral environment. The assessment will also aim to inform USAID's electoral assistance strategies in other regions.

During this quarter, the USAID Team Leader submitted a draft report to SI for formatting and editing support. SI sent back revisions and awaits an updated version from USAID to finalize and post the public version to the DEC when it is approved.

D. Knowledge Dissemination/Events

Knowledge Dissemination

There was no new activity conducted under this tasking during this quarter.

II. Project Management and Administrative Status

Basic Management Functions

Tasking No. S001

During this quarter, SI provided technical inputs and management support to the projects above. SI hired and onboarded a new Program Assistant, Julia Kresky, who began work in December.

III. Completed Taskings

A. Impact Evaluation Services

- *South Africa Increasing Services for Survivors of Sexual Assault – Tasking No. S004*
- *Mozambique Voter Education and Political Accountability - Tasking No. S005*
- *Uganda SMS for Better Service Provision – Tasking No. S008*

B. Performance Evaluation Services

- *Macedonia Judicial Strengthening - Tasking No. S007*
- *Cambodia Counter-Trafficking in Persons - Tasking No. S009*
- *Liberia Land Conflict Resolution - Tasking No. S010*
- *Macedonia Interethnic Integration in Education - Tasking No. S011*
- *Regional Investigative Journalism Network (RIJN) - Tasking No. S014*
- *Libya Democracy Programming Performance Evaluation and Assessment - Tasking No. S015*
- *Ukraine Media Project (U-Media) Performance Evaluation- Tasking No. S017*

C. Surveys

- *Albania Post-Election Survey - Tasking No. S006*
- *Libya Democracy Programming Performance Evaluation and Assessment - Tasking No. S015 (also under Performance Evaluation Services)*

D. Ancillary Studies

- *Philippines Predictive Analytics - Tasking No. S020*

E. Knowledge Dissemination/Events

- *DRG Center Communications - Tasking No. S012*