



## SHORT-TERM CONSULTANCY OPPORTUNITY KENYA YOUTH ASSESSMENT

**Issued on:** August 28, 2014

**Submit by:** September 12, 2014

**For:** Kenya Youth Assessment

**Period of Performance:** September – October 2014

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### 1. BACKGROUND

The USAID Kenya funded [Yes Youth Can \(YYC\) program](#) (2011 – 2015, \$55 million) supports the empowerment of Kenyan youth. It aims to develop peaceful leaders among 18-35 year-olds, with the complementary objective of improving their socioeconomic status. USAID implementing partners include:

- YYC/Coast: CLUSA International
- YYC/Central: Mercy Corps
- YYC/Nairobi: CLUSA International
- YYC/Nyanza: World Vision
- YYC/Rift Valley: Mercy Corps
- YYC/Western: Winrock International
- YYC/North Eastern Province: Education Development Center
- Village bungenes and County Bunge Forums

YYC Focus<sup>1</sup>: Through the program, young people organize themselves in youth-run and youth-led bungenes, (parliaments) through which members democratically elect their own leaders at the village, county, and national level. The bungenes provide a structure and a forum for young women and men to mobilize and take action to improve their own lives and those of their neighbors, develop new leadership skills, promote transparent decision-making about their priorities, engage their collective voice on decisions that affect them and revive the true spirit of harambee (a Kenyan tradition of community self-help events).

Research conducted after the 2008 post-election violence showed that Kenyan youth wanted their own voice in affairs that affect them, through youth-run organizations.

For more information on YYC and how it is making a difference, see the USAID Kenya fact sheet following the scope of work.

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<sup>1</sup> Description drawn from USAID YYC website: <http://www.usaid.gov/kenya/fact-sheets/yes-youth-canmwamko-wa-vijana>



## 2. SCOPE OF WORK

World Council of Credit Unions is seeking a youth expert to carry out a youth assessment in Kenya focused on positioning World Council for future work in developing economic opportunities for young people in Kenya.

In particular, the findings of this consultancy will be used to inform future programming World Council may develop in Kenya.

Specific objectives of the consultancy include:

- Provide background on possible new approaches USAID/Kenya is considering for their YYC2 program, including youth access to finance and SACCOs' role;
- Provide analysis on current implementers' program in YYC1, including information gathered from locals as well as USAID officials and others, if possible;
- Suggest possible local and international partnerships for YYC2;
- Provide notes from all meetings with current youth groups, implementers, Government of Kenya (GoK) officials, USAID, and others;
- Identify possible key personnel for YYC2.

## REQUIREMENTS

- Must have knowledge of Kenyan context and current YYC1 program;
- Must have contacts with USAID officials;
- Must have contacts with current implementers of YYC1;
- Must have experience in youth programming;
- Must have ability to schedule own meetings with little support;
- Should have contacts within GoK;
- Can have been involved in current YYC1 project at relatively senior level.

## TIMING

The consultancy will take place between September and October 2014. The anticipated work will include:

- 3 – 4 days of preparation;
- 5 days in Kenya;
- 3 – 4 days post trip for writing and presenting the report.

## SUBMISSION REQUIREMENTS

Please submit a copy of your CV, biodata and a cover letter outlining why you can do the work to [recruit@woccu.org](mailto:recruit@woccu.org) by September 12, 2014.



## Yes Youth Can/Mwamko wa Vijana!

### What is Yes Youth Can?

Yes Youth supports the empowerment of Kenyan youth as envisioned in the 2010 constitution. The program aims to develop peaceful leaders among 18-35 year-olds, with the complementary objective of improving their socioeconomic status.



Photo by Donatella Lorch

Enthusiastic bunge members at the Taita Taveta County Forum. Youth-led and youth-managed, the bunges are helping young Kenyans find a voice and organize to help themselves and their communities.

### How does Yes Youth Can work?

Young people organize themselves in youth-run and youth-led bunges, (parliaments) through which members democratically elect their own leaders at the village, county, and national level. The bunges provide a structure and a forum for young women and men to mobilize and take action to improve their own lives and those of their neighbors, develop new leadership skills, promote transparent decision-making about their priorities, engage their collective voice on decisions that affect them and revive the true spirit of *harambee* (a Kenyan tradition of community self-help events).

Research conducted after the 2008 post-election violence showed that Kenyan youth wanted their own voice in affairs that affect them, through youth-run organizations.

### Who implements Yes Youth Can?

USAID's implementing partners offer training, mentorship and skill building activities to the bunges and focus on supporting youth leadership and entrepreneurship.

YYC /Coast:	CLUSA International
YYC /Central:	Mercy Corps
YYC /Nairobi:	CLUSA International
YYC /Nyanza:	World Vision
YYC /Rift Valley:	Mercy Corps
YYC /Western:	Winrock International
YYC/North Eastern Province:	Education Development Center

Village bunges and County Bunge Forums

### Project Duration and Budget

2011- 2015

\$55 million total budget

### How is Yes Youth Can making a difference?

#### *Organizing a Movement*

As of mid 2012, close to one million youth from thousands of villages have come together and as many as 20,000 village-level bunges have registered with the government of Kenya as Self-Help-Groups. Village bunges have selected representatives to form 25 county-level bunges. In March 2012, the county bunge leaders gathered to form the National Youth Bunge Association (NYBA) to represent the movement at the national level.

#### *Income Generating Activities & Community Self-Help*

The village bunges have built and are running small businesses such as fish ponds, poultry raising, small scale tea growing, milk sales and jewelry making. They organize community service, focusing on environmental conservation, building and reinforcing peace groups, local garbage collection, making sanitary pads for secondary school girls, pairing up with hospital workers to eliminate jigger infestations as well as doing infrastructure repairs and raising funds to provide reliable water for their communities.

#### *Promoting a Youth Focused Agenda*

Bunge leaders are working at building strong relationships with local government officials as a means of promoting a youth-focused agenda. Since early 2012, the bunges across Kenya have been mobilizing youth in their counties as part of a national government campaign called "My ID My Life" to register Kenyans for national identity cards. Without a national ID card, Kenyans cannot get a job, open a bank account or vote. It is estimated that since June 2012, the My ID My Life has helped roughly 400,000 Kenyan youth to apply for an ID card. In addition, the program is supporting the development of a "Kenya

Youth Think Tank” to research youth issues in Kenya with the aim of influencing policies to be more youth-friendly.

### **Supporting Grassroots Development**

Bunges have generated proposals for a youth-led and youth-managed Youth Innovate for Change (Tahidi) Fund for grassroots community development and empowerment projects. By mid-2012, 4,200 Tahidi grants (beginning at 40,000 Kenya Shillings or \$480) were awarded to village bunges in all 25 counties to work on agricultural, environmental, conservation, infrastructure and water projects. In addition, 25 youth-led Savings and Credit Cooperatives (SACCOs) have been launched nationwide.

### **Yes Youth Can in Action**

By midday, 18-year-old Verah Akoth Abonyo had already been standing in line for three hours. The crowd of over 100 people, mostly Kenyan youth, was in a good mood and no one seemed to mind the hot sun or that they had walked hours to get here. “Today is a very happy day for me,” Verah explained. “Yesterday I saw a flier calling youth to come here and that my life would change for the better.”

The event, organized in the dirt courtyard of a local primary school in Kenya’s Migori County near the Tanzanian border, is part of a nation-wide campaign to register and provide national identity cards in the next few months to as many as one million Kenyan youths. For several months now, the bunges across Kenya, through the National Youth Bunge Association (NYBA), have been working with the Kenyan government to mobilize youth. The posters of their “My ID My Life” campaign are plastered in villages from Lake Victoria to the Indian Ocean Coast. And tens of thousands of youth have been showing up to register.

“An ID is more than just a card. It is my life,” declared Verah who has been working odd jobs for a couple of years. “I can finally get a real job, go to university. My ambition is to go to college and study information technology.” The Migori County Bunge Forum has had huge turnouts mobilizing youth while working in tandem with the local district registration office and the district chiefs. The county registration bureau has only four government employees and is located in a small hut in Migori town. “For us, we can’t go out and sensitize people,” explained Sephaniah Otieno Ogundo, district registration officer for Awendo district in Migori County. “The youth are the ones going out into the countryside and finding all these people. Without them, we wouldn’t get this crowd.”

Michael Ngaji, 33, is the county organizing secretary for the Migori bunge forum and he and his fellow bunge members have for several weeks now been walking and riding motorcycles village to village spreading the word about upcoming mobile registrations, posting fliers on village bulletin boards, distributing “how-to” instructional forms to local youth. “I feel very good because the turnout has been so good,” said Michael. “Recently we have been receiving many calls from youth, chiefs, and opinion leaders asking for more mobile registrations. I’m happy that our voice can now be heard on the ground and that our work is respected.” As of September 2012, the bunges in Migori County have helped the government register over 81,000 Kenyans.

Photo: USAID/Donatella Lorch



Verah Akoth Abonyo proudly holds up her temporary national I.D. card in Migori County. Youth bunges across Kenya are helping thousands of Kenyans to register for I.D. cards so they can vote, and access schooling and employment.

### **For more information:**

<http://www.facebook.com/NYBAKenya>

<http://kenya.usaid.gov>

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