



**Strengthening Civil Society Participation
in the Governance Process – South Africa**

**Quarterly Programmatic Report
April – June 2005**

Associate Award No. 674-A-00-03-00015-00
Under Leader Award No. GEG-A-00-01-00005-00

Submitted by Pact on behalf of the
Institute for Democracy in South Africa (IDASA)

I. Executive Summary

Strengthening Civil Society Participation in Local Governance

During the quarter, Idasa completed the leadership training in Ugu District, the How Local Government Works workshops in all three Districts, and nine Public Participation in Local Government seminars. District Coordinators continued to provide technical support to participating CBOs and to engage the municipalities in realizing the importance of building sustainable relationships with civil society. The purpose of this engagement is to develop sustainable models for public participation that will be carried beyond the life of the project in each municipal area.

Strengthening the Capacity of Victim Empowerment and Criminal Justice CSOs

Idasa conducted individual capacity assessments with four partner CSOs; delivered six successful training workshops on topics such as human resource management, financial management, information management, conflict management, and advocacy and lobbying; and contracted the first two CSO leadership coaches.

Civil Society Anti-Corruption Initiatives

Idasa was able to finalize agreements with two universities for the delivery of Investigative Journalism courses. One CSO grant for anti-corruption work has been awarded with another expected soon.

II. Background

Component I

Strengthening Civil Society Participation in Local Governance

The goal of the Strengthening Civil Society Participation in Local Governance program is to create new synergies that strengthen the capacity of civil society organizations to participate effectively in local government. Idasa will pursue this goal through four specific objectives:

1. Increase the number of CBO leaders with the skills to engage their local councils effectively in the development and implementation of local government policies and plans so that the policies and plans meet the development needs of their communities.
2. Improve CBO leaders' knowledge of how local government works and how to influence it.
3. Increase the capacity of key local council personnel and local civil society leaders jointly to manage changing local government-civil society relations.
4. Train key CBO personnel in the skills to qualify for government tax benefits and government grants.

The project uses a four-pronged approach:

1. Skills transfer for CBOs: Occurs through a series of training workshops on a range of topics that relate to the effective functioning of the CBOs and public participation in local government. Training programs will be designed to meet the specific organizational capacity needs of the CBOs and their leadership.
2. Support services for CBOs: Ensures that CBOs put training courses into dynamic and habitual practice through three mechanisms. District Coordinators will play the primary role of re-enforcing concepts imparted through training courses. They will be backed up by

intensive follow-on technical assistance from an Institutional Capacity Building tutor, and a one-on-one mentoring program for designated leaders in each selected CBO.

3. Development of linkages between CBOs and Local Government Councils: Addresses the many constraints that local councils face in engaging public participation in policy formulation and service delivery and trains CBOs on how to create partnerships for development with local councils.
4. Development and dissemination of information and learning products: Ensures the long-term sustainability of critical training interventions and the replication of capacity building modules and concepts for wider use in South Africa.

The project is being implemented in Ugu district in KwaZulu-Natal Province, Vhembe District in Limpopo Province and the West-Rand District in Gauteng Province. Forty-five CBOs (15 per District) take part in this two-year project, which effectively started on January 1st, 2004.

Component II

Strengthening the Capacity of Criminal Justice and Victim Empowerment CSOs

The goal of the Strengthening the Capacity of Criminal Justice and Victim Empowerment CSOs program is to enable CSOs to improve the effectiveness and sustainability of a victim support and empowerment system in South Africa. Idasa will pursue this goal through four specific objectives:

1. Improved information sharing and communication among criminal justice and victim empowerment CSOs
2. Enhanced CSO fundraising skills and increased awareness of alternative sources of funding
3. Improved CSO organizational and strategic planning capacity
4. Increased CSO implementation of advocacy campaigns and/or partnerships with government

Component III

Civil Society Anti-Corruption Initiatives

The Civil Society Anti-Corruption Initiatives aim to strengthen civil society involvement in promoting public accountability by focusing on two primary subgoals:

1. Strengthening of anti-corruption CSOs through the establishment of a CSNAC (Civil Society Network Against Corruption) secretariat or coordinator, improved policy advocacy for the CSNAC network, and strengthened civil society participation in the National Anti-Corruption Forum.
2. Developing a comprehensive, high-quality investigative journalism training program in South Africa that improves journalists' knowledge of existing laws and regulations permitting the practice of investigative journalism, increases journalists' understanding of the many tools and resources available for the practice of investigative journalism, and provides journalism students ample opportunity to develop and practice investigative journalism skills.

III. Key Results This Quarter

Strengthening Civil Society Participation in Local Governance

Leadership training workshops

The last two-week leadership training workshop took place in Pretoria for Ugu District on April 11-23. Fourteen of the 15 partner organizations participated. Port Shepstone Disability Group had most of its active members participate last year and could not secure other members to attend this year's course.

How Local Government Works workshops

Three day workshops on How Local Government Works were held in all three Districts on the following dates:

Vhembe District: 16-18 May 2005
West Rand District: 1-3 June 2005
Ugu District: 8-10 June 2005

Public Participation in Local Government seminars

Nine one-day Public Participation in Local Government seminars were held in nine Municipal areas:

Vhembe District: Two seminars – Mutale, 4 May; and Thulamela, 24 May.
West Rand District: Three seminars – Merafong, 19 May; Randfontein, 17 May; and Westonaria, 6 July.
Ugu District: Four seminars – Vulamehlo, 14 June; Ezingoleni, 17 June; Hibiscus Coast, 27 June; and Umzumbe, 01 July.

The seminar report has been presented to some of the municipalities for their consideration of the recommendations therein. Idasa also plans to integrate the outcomes of the seminars into the District-level Public Participation Strategies workshops, which are scheduled as separate activities in the work plans. In addition, Idasa will follow-up on some of the recommendations that will add value in strengthening the relationships between CBOs and municipalities as part of its technical support role.

The dates for the remaining five seminars have not yet been confirmed for a number of reasons in each Municipal area.

- Musina and Umziwabantu: the political situation is currently not conducive because of stand-off between communities and the Municipalities around issues of perceived corruption and service delivery respectively.
- Makhado: the Municipality is under Provincial Administration and it is difficult to draw in the Municipal Councillors and Officials to participate in this activity.
- Mogale City: the councilors are on recess and the original date which was scheduled has to be postponed to the later date still to be confirmed.
- Umdoni: the Municipality seems skeptical about engaging in this activity for but the District Coordinator is pursuing the matter.

Strengthening the Capacity of Criminal Justice and Victim Empowerment CSOs program

Organizational capacity assessments

Four Organizational Capacity Assessments were completed:

CRED (Creative Education with Youth At Risk)	17 May 2005
Mosaic	19 May 2005
Childline (Kwa Zulu Natal)	15 June 2005
GRIP (Rape Intervention Project)	5 July 2005

Training workshops

The following training workshops were conducted:

- 13 – 14 April: Human Resource Management and Development
- 28 – 29 April: Financial Management
- 10 – 11 May: Administration and Secretarial Skills
- 25 – 26 May: Documentation and Information Management
- 09 – 10 June: Managing Conflict and Stress in Organizations
- 21 – 22 June: Advocacy and Lobbying

Human Resource Management and Development

Two-day course attended by two people per organization included HR planning, recruitment, selection and induction, HR maintenance and development and labor relations.

Financial Management

The two-day course attended by two people per organization focused on financial and reporting systems that are appropriate in the CSO environment.

Administration and Secretarial Skills

The two-day course attended by one administrator / secretarial staff per organization focused on projecting a better image of the organization and empowering participants to play a more effective role in the organization.

Documentation and Information Management

A two-day course attended by one person per organization. Aimed at exposing staff to knowledge management systems available and knowledge management for non-profit organizations. Also dealt with the demands of access to information legislation.

Managing Conflict and Stress in Organizations

A two-day course attended by two persons per organization. Participants found the workshop very useful as many of the participating organizations deal with cases which place a great deal of stress on staff and do not have adequate counseling facilities for staff.

Advocacy and Lobbying

A three-day course to be attended by two persons per organization. Dealt with the elements of planning and implementing a successful advocacy campaign.

Identification of Leadership Coaches

Organizations have been asked to identify possible coaches and submit their CVs to Idasa. Two Coaches have signed agreements to work with Mosaic (Rolene Miller) and CRED (Mr. Fedde Renkema). Other organizations have been slow in identifying coaches and Idasa is following this up individually with participating organizations.

Civil Society Anti-Corruption Initiatives

Strengthening Investigative Journalism

The panel considering applications for the Strengthening Investigative Journalism project has accepted the application by Rhodes University, and the contract has been signed. Rhodes is busy with preparations for activities to start in September. The contract with the University of the Witwatersrand will be signed on 10 August and activities will commence in October.

Anti-Corruption Initiatives

Agreement was also reached with USAID on the use of funds originally earmarked for support for the Civil Society Network Against Corruption (CSNAC). An APS for anti-corruption work was advertised and six proposals were received. Thus far one grant has been awarded to CSPRI (Civil Society Prison Reform Initiative) for the amount of R371000, while another proposal will be followed up with Econet for research and anti-corruption work at the village level.

Unfortunately the remaining four proposals were rejected due to poor quality, necessitating the issuance of another request for proposals once contracts with CSPRI and Econet have been finalized.

IV. Comparison of Planned and Actual Accomplishments

Activities Planned for This Quarter	Timeline	Status
Strengthening Civil Society Participation in Local Governance Program		
Training on Integrated Development Plans	Apr-Jun	Postponed to next quarter
Leadership Training	Apr	Completed
How Local Government Works	May-Jun	Completed
Public Participation Seminars	May-Jul	9 completed, 5 remaining
Strengthening the Capacity of Criminal Justice and Victim Empowerment CSOs program		
Orientation of Leadership Coaches and commencement of Coaching	May-Jun	Underway
Start of individual capacity assessments according to OCA process	Apr- Jun	Underway
Human Resources Management and Development Workshop	April	Completed
Financial Management workshop	April	Completed
Administration and Secretarial Skills workshop	May	Completed
Documentation and Information Management workshop	May	Completed
Managing Conflict and Stress within Organizations workshop	June	Completed
Advocacy and Lobbying workshop	June	Completed
Civil Society Anti-Corruption Initiatives		
Finalization of contracts with journalism schools and commencement of planning for implementation	Apr-May	Completed
Agreement with USAID on the use of funds originally earmarked for support for the Civil Society Network Against Corruption	June	Completed

Training on Integrated Development Plans

Training on Integrated Development Plans was postponed to the next quarter to fit better with municipalities' IDP cycles. All three workshops are scheduled for July.

CBO mentoring

Although Pact and Idasa continue to improve the quality of the local governance CBO mentoring program, the degree of success we are seeking remains out of reach. It appears that several of the mentors are completing the work required, but not reporting fully on this work. Others will be sanctioned for non-performance of mentoring duties. Pact and Idasa are currently re-evaluating the merit of this input in the local governance context.

V. Activities Planned for Next Quarter

Strengthening Civil Society Participation in Local Governance

- Integrated Development Plans and Budgeting workshops (x3)
- Project Planning and Management workshops (x3)
- Proposal Writing and Fundraising workshops (x3)
- Financial Management workshops (x3)
- CBO Management workshops (x3)
- District wide Public Participation Strategies Seminars (x3)
- Advocacy and Communication workshops (x3)

Strengthening the Capacity of Criminal Justice and Victim Empowerment CSOs

- Orientation of remaining Leadership Coaches and commencement of Coaching
- Continuation of six remaining individual capacity assessments according to OCA process
- Monitoring and Evaluation Workshop
- Fund Raising, Proposal Writing, Budget Writing Workshop
- Organisational Sustainability Workshop (Round-table)
- Institutional Image Building Workshop
- Generic Management
- Role of the Board Workshop

Civil Society Anti-Corruption Initiatives

- Planning and implementation of Rhodes and Wits agreements.
- New call for anti-corruption proposals.

VI. Success Stories/Lessons Learned

Strengthening Civil Society Participation in Local Governance

In most of the local public participation seminars there has been a call for CBOs operating in the same field within the municipal area to constitute strategic alliances or networks which will facilitate their coordinated voice in engaging the municipalities during the Integrated Development Planning and Budgeting processes as well as joint fundraising processes. District Coordinators have already facilitated processes with participating CBOs in both Makhado and Westonaria municipalities to realize this initiative.