



USAID
FROM THE AMERICAN PEOPLE

BUILDING RECOVERY AND REFORM THROUGH DEMOCRATIC GOVERNANCE IN THE DRC PROGRAM

Quarterly Report (October 1 –December 30, 2008)

Contract No. DFD-I-00-05-00220-00/06

Third Quarterly Report for Task Order 06

January 2009

This publication was produced for review by the United States Agency for International Development. It was prepared by Development Alternatives, Inc.

Task Order Quarterly Report (October 1 – December 30, 2008)

Contract No. DFD-I-00-05-00220/06

Third Quarterly Report for Task Order 06

LIST OF APPENDICES

1. Indicator Table/Activity Report
2. Bandundu Services Déconcentrés Budget Training Agenda
3. Bandundu Services Déconcentrés Budget Training Participant Lists
4. Bandundu Provincial Government Budget Training Agenda
5. Bandundu Provincial Government Budget Training Participant Lists
6. Bandundu Provincial Government and Bandundu Services Déconcentrés Budget Training Final Report
7. Bandundu Provincial Assembly Teambuilding Workshop Agenda
8. Bandundu Provincial Assembly Teambuilding Workshop Participant Lists
9. Bandundu Provincial Assembly Teambuilding Workshop Final Report
10. Bandundu Provincial Government Teambuilding Workshop Agenda
11. Bandundu Provincial Government Teambuilding Workshop Participant Lists
12. Bandundu Provincial Government Teambuilding Workshop Final Report
13. Political, Administrative and Judicial Committee of the National Assembly Judicial Workshop Agenda
14. Political, Administrative and Judicial Committee of the National Assembly Judicial Workshop Participant Lists
15. North Kivu Provincial Government Teambuilding Workshop Agenda
16. North Kivu Provincial Government Teambuilding Workshop Participant Lists
17. North Kivu Provincial Government Teambuilding Workshop Final Report
18. Bandundu Provincial Assembly Technical/Synergy Training Agendas
19. Bandundu Provincial Assembly Technical/Synergy Training Participant Lists
20. Bandundu Provincial Assembly Technical/Synergy Training Final Report
21. Bandundu Services Déconcentrés Decentralization Training Agenda
22. Bandundu Services Déconcentrés Decentralization Training Participant Lists
23. Bandundu Services Déconcentrés Decentralization Training Final Report
24. Bandundu Services Déconcentrés Decentralization Training Background Paper
25. Katanga Provincial Assembly Technical/Synergy Training Agendas

26. Katanga Provincial Assembly Technical/Synergy Training Participant Lists
27. Katanga Provincial Assembly Technical/Synergy Training Final Report
28. North Kivu Provincial Assembly Technical/Synergy Training Agendas
29. North Kivu Provincial Assembly Technical/Synergy Training Participant Lists
30. Supreme Court of the Magistrate (CSM) Draft Internal Rules and Regulations
31. CSM Participant Lists
32. Bandundu Audience Publique Participant Lists
33. Bandundu Documentary Film Showing and Discussion Participant List
34. Inventory Updates
35. Draft Success Story: Bandundu CRD Opening
36. Draft Success Story: Budget Training
37. Draft Success Story: First Training in Katanga
38. Summary of Quarterly Workshops
39. Status of Approvals

I. CONTRACT PERFORMANCE MONITORING REPORT

Information Provided Under Each PMR

Background

1. The following security sector events that have occurred over the past quarter provide relevant background to BRDG DRC's operations:
 - A resumption of intense combat occurred between FARDC and CNDP (rebel troops commanded by General Laurent Nkunda). CNDP was steadily advancing towards Goma, the administrative capital of North Kivu Province. This led to an opening up of new fronts opposing the CNDP and Mayimayi forces. This situation particularly preoccupied the provincial authorities who became less available to deal with issues other than security;
 - A confrontation with Mayimayi signaled MONUC's entry into the conflict;
 - Rebels positioned themselves in the immediate vicinity of Goma after gaining control of Rutshuru, Masisi, and Rumangabo;
 - In response, the international community became involved with diplomatic efforts to try to find a resolution to the crisis signaled by a meeting in Nairobi between the Great Lakes regions' Presidents Olusegun Obasanjo and Benjamin Mkapa, designated special representatives of the United Nations and the African Union respectively;
 - A meeting was held between the emissaries of the UN General Secretary, the AU and a representative of President Kabila and Nkunda in Jomba;
 - The declaration of a ceasefire and a retreat of the CNDP troops to backup positions;
 - The installation of an administration in rebel held areas;
 - In October, General Vicente Diaz, Commander of the Monuc troops resigned for personal reasons seven weeks after his new assignment in this position. He was succeeded by General Babacar Gueye in November; and
 - The nomination of a new DRC army chief of staff.
2. The following Legislative Sector events have occurred over the past quarter:
 - The organic law n° 08/015, relating to organization and operations of the Conference of Governors of Provinces (organization et fonctionnement de la Conference des Gouverneurs de Province), was promulgated on October 7, 2008. On the same day, organic law n° 08/016, relating to composition, organization, and functioning of decentralized entities and their relationship with the state and other provinces (composition, organization et fonctionnement des entites territoriale decentralizes et leurs rapports avec l'Etat et les provinces), was also promulgated. These two laws took effect on October 7 and November 7 respectively;
 - The plenary session of the Senate adopted the draft law (proposed by Senator Djoli) relating to composition, organization and functioning of administrative decentralized

entities (composition, organization et fonctionnement des entites administratives deconcentrees). The Senate submitted this draft law to the National Assembly.

- Adolphe Muzito of the PALU party was designated as Prime Minister on October 10. A new government, dominated by the PPRD and made up of 54 members (including one prime minister, three vice prime ministers, 37 ministers, and 13 vice-ministers), was formed on October 26 and invested on November 2. There were only five women in this team. Among them were the Minister of Portfolio, the Minister of Post, the Minister of Telephone and Telecommunication, the Minister of City Planning and Housing as well as the Vice Minister in charge of the Congolese Diaspora.
- The National Assembly voted on the 2009 budget on December 30;
- The Government adopted the 2009 budget on November 24;
- The status quo of the composition of the Inter-Ministerial Steering Committee (Commission Interministerial de Pilotage) on the follow-up of implementation of the decentralization process following the creation of a new Decentralization and Territorial Development;
- The summoning by the First President of the Supreme Court of the Supreme Council of Magistrates (CSM) who held sessions on Monday through Friday the 19 December; and
- The promulgation of the 2009 financial law (loi de finance) by the Head of State on December 31.

1. LEGISLATIVE STRENGTHENING AT THE NATIONAL AND THE PROVINCIAL LEVELS

1.1. NATIONAL LEVEL

1.1.1.Support for the National Assembly

Adoption of laws:

- Promulgation of the law relating to organization and functioning of the Conference of Governors of provinces (organization et fonctionnement de la Conference des Gouverneurs de Province) on October 7. This law went into effect on the same day;
- The law relating to composition, organization and functioning of decentralized entities and their relationship with the state and other provinces (composition, organization et fonctionnement des entites territoriale decentralizes et leurs rapports avec l'Etat et les provinces) was promulgated on October 7 and went into effect on November 7, one month after it's promulgation.

After the Senate's vote, the PAJ committee of the National Assembly adopted its report on the organic law on the designation of the territorial subdivisions in the provinces' interior (loi organique portant fixation des subdivisions territoriales à l'interior des provinces).

The budgetary law of 2009 was approved on December 31, after being examined by the Mixed Parliamentary Committee designated by article 135, paragraph two of the Constitution.

The PAJ Committee of the National Assembly

The Political, Administrative, and Justice (PAJ) Committee of the National Assembly is responsible for providing the DRC with the judicial tools to facilitate the successful installation and operation of the new democratic institutions. DAI provides assistance to the PAJ Committee to assure that the committee possesses the capacity to continue to be operational throughout what remains of the transition period. This package includes timely material support for office space, equipment, supplies, communications and utilities.

On October 13, a meeting was organized between certain members of the PAJ Committee and the DAI technical team in order to define the different types of support that DAI could provide within the framework of the preparation of certain laws that govern the judiciary reform of the DRC. These laws are the following:

- The Code of the organization and allocation of jurisdictions of the judicial order (Code de l'organisation et des competences des juridictions de l'ordre judiciaire);
- The Code on the procedures before the final court of appeals (Code de la procedure devant la Cour de cassation);
- The Code on the procedures, attributions and operations of the Supreme Council (Code de l'organisation, attributions et fonctionnement du Conseil d'Etat); and
- The Code on the procedures, attributions and operations of the jurisdictions of administrative order (Code de l'organisation, fonctionnement et competence des juridictions de l'ordre administrative).

Following this meeting, DAI organized two interventions: a refresher course on the principles of judiciary reform and a committee to study these draft laws article by article.

The four-day refresher training session on behalf of the PAJ committee started on October 27. After this workshop was completed, the participants were scheduled to begin examining the draft law on the Council of State (Conseil d'Etat). This activity was interrupted by the Senate's submission of the draft law relating to the composition organization and operations of administrative decentralized entities (composition, organization et fonctionnement des entites administratives deconcentrees) to the National Assembly's PAJ Committee for immediate examination.

This workshop included sixty-four direct beneficiaries. The participants included National Assembly members (39) and administrative staff (25). Eight of the ten women who participated in the workshop were staff members.

The ECOFIN Committee of the National Assembly

The Economy and Finance (ECOFIN) Committee of the National Assembly is responsible for preparing and developing laws in the financial sector and exercising parliamentary control in the financial and economic domain. DAI provides logistical assistance to ensure that the ECOFIN committee possesses the capacity to continue to be operational throughout the early stages of operations of the newly elected National Assembly. This package includes timely material support in the form of office space, equipment, supplies, communications and utilities covering costs.

In October, the ECOFIN committee and DAI met to discuss the identification of training needs within the framework of the committee's assigned duties. During this encounter the focus was on organizing a workshop on the responsibilities of parliament in the budget preparation process (a prelude to the 2009 budget preparation) and a second on the Added Value Tax (Taxe sur la Valeur Ajoutee - TVA), a new fiscal legislation which is scheduled to be instituted in the DRC. Preparing for this

workshop alongside members of the ECOFIN Bureau fostered consensus on the need to organize a TVA forum. The objective of this forum would be to allow ECOFIN members to solicit advice from economic agents concerned by the application of the law before discussing it in committee.

This workshop has yet to take place, due to the urgency with which the ECOFIN Committee must submit their report on the 2009 budget and participate in the plenary.

1.1.2. Support for the Senate

Support in favor of the Senate has yet to start up. Proposals for capacity strengthening for their staff are being prepared. Senate leaders had promised to have an encounter with DAI and USAID, but to date, their busy schedule has not allowed them to respect this commitment.

1.2. PROVINCIAL LEVEL

1.2.1. Adoption of edicts

The Bandundu Provincial Governor promulgated the 2009 budget edict on December 31, 2008, thus completing the 2009 Provincial budgetary process. One highlight of the process was the accounting and budgetary procedures workshop provided by DAI experts to the Provincial Assembly and the Provincial Government. The 2009 Bandundu Provincial budget totals one billion Congolese francs or 120 million US dollars.

1.2.2. Support to Provincial Assemblies

During the last quarter of 2008, the Provincial Assemblies in the three target provinces (Bandundu, Katanga and North Kivu) benefited from six workshops, two for each province. These training sessions covered material dealing the production of Parliamentary documents, and the creation of synergy between the services of the Provincial Assemblies.

The objectives of these sessions were to teach Provincial Assembly staff members how to record minutes, write analytical reports for documentation of Provincial events, and to create the necessary synergy to enhance productivity within the administrative services of the Provincial Assemblies. The sessions on the production of Parliamentary documents and the creation of synergy between the different administrative services of the Provincial Assembly lasted three and two days respectively. Three hundred staff members, including 26 women, benefited from these sessions.

1.3. DIFFICULTIES ENCOUNTERED

The principal difficulty that BRDG DRC encountered is a direct result of our partners' lack of basic (project) proposal preparation skills.

1.4. OPPORTUNITIES AND PROSPECTS

BRDG DRC has two principal activities planned for the upcoming quarter:

- To reinforce relationships with partners by preparing and signing a Memorandum of Understanding with them; and
- To strengthen the capacity of the Provincial Assemblies and organize public forums.

1.5. NEXT STEPS

- Multiply meetings with National Assembly committee partners;

- Assist partners in the preparation of project proposals.
- Organize a third country study tour for provincial assembly members and staff to permit them to see how provincial assemblies function elsewhere;
- Create a network to share best practices between provinces;
- Encourage civil society members to engage with Provincial Assembly members and establish a responsible partnership to follow up on budget implementation.

2. SUPPORT FOR LOCAL DEVELOPMENT AND THE DECENTRALIZATION SECTOR

2.1. AT THE NATIONAL LEVEL

Support for Decentralization and Territorial Development Ministry (Ministere de la Decentralisation et de l'Amenagement du Territoire)

During this quarter, DAI provided technical assistance to the Ministry's Decentralization Technical Support Unit (Cellule Technique d'Appui a la Decentralization), in charge of supervising the decentralization process. This assistance consisted of helping prepare a strategic document, define different implementation strategies, identifying future actions, and the preparation of an activity calendar for the decentralization awareness-building campaign.

The strategic document prepared in collaboration with the Decentralization Technical Support Unit included three different approaches:

- Development of local expertise capable of depicting the different challenges associated with the implementation of the decentralization process at both the national and the local level;
- The involvement of citizens in the implementation of decentralization reform; and
- Empowering the Technical Support Unit to permit it to work at the provincial level;

The CTO and technical staff defined the decentralization intervention strategy during a meeting on November 17, by outlining three different approaches: (1) The reinforcement of guidance and coordination of the decentralization process at the national and the provincial levels; (2) The reinforcement of the state decentralization services (services deconcentres) and the territorial administrative authorities on decentralization reform; and (3) The promotion of local governance and sustainable economic development. The necessity to begin awareness building on the decentralization laws and the decentralization process was also emphasized during this encounter. The meeting also highlighted the need for encouraged organization of open debates of different debates at the provincial level.

The World Bank is among several partners involved in the implementation of decentralization policy in the DRC, and they are currently working in the provinces of Bandundu and Katanga. In the spirit of collaboration (and in avoidance of duplicated efforts), DAI solicited a meeting with Mr. Albert Etshumbe, a World Bank representative. This meeting took place on November 19th at the World Bank offices, enabled the two parties to identify objectives for a second encounter: to discuss different approaches and determine a common strategy within the framework of our interventions in the two provinces.

2.2. AT THE PROVINCIAL LEVEL

2.2.1.Support for the Provincial Assemblies

Among the three target provinces, the Bandundu Provincial Assembly benefited from a Team Building workshop on October 16th-18th. Out of 95 Provincial Assembly members, 92 (including 10 women) took part, a participation rate of 96%.

2.2.2.Support for the Provincial Governments

The Provincial Governments of Bandundu and North Kivu benefited from three training sessions.

These training sessions were as follows:

- A training session for the members of the Bandundu Provincial Government on budgetary and accounting procedures, took place on October 7-8 in the city of Bandundu. Ten ministers and three cabinet members participated in this workshop;
- A team-building workshop for the Bandundu Provincial Government on October 20-22 took place in the city of Bandundu. Beneficiaries included nine ministers and five staff members;
- A team-building workshop for the North Kivu Provincial Government on October 20 – 22 took place in Goma. Beneficiaries included ten Ministers (including two women).

2.2.3.Support for the Decentralization Services (service deconcentres de l'Etat)

The decentralization services of Bandundu Province benefited from two workshops:

- A training session for the decentralization services and justice sector officials of Bandundu Province on budgetary and accounting procedures took place on 6-9 October. Beneficiaries included 45 functionaries (including 4 women);
- A decentralization workshop including awareness building on the promulgated decentralization laws provided to the decentralization services, judiciary sector officials and territorial functionaries of the Bandundu Province. This workshop took place in Bandundu on December 13 – 15 and benefitted 35 participants (including four women).

In total, 209 provincial employees (Provincial Assembly members, Ministers, administrative functionaries, decentralization services employees, and judiciary officials) received training on team building, budgetary and accounting procedures, or decentralization.

2.3. DIFFICULTIES ENCOUNTERED

Insecurity in the East was the principal difficulty, which blocked the program from achieving some planned activities.

2.4. OPPORTUNITIES AND PROSPECTS

Future interventions can be summarized as follows:

- The inclusion of civil society within the framework of the awareness building of the decentralization process through the mechanism of training trainers;
- Follow-up support for the preparation of the finance law (loi de finances), a law indispensable for the implementation of the decentralization process; and
- The creation of a database for the follow-up of decentralization at the Provincial level in the three target Provinces.

2.5. NEXT STEPS

- Start-up of the creation of a database for the follow up of decentralization at the provincial level in the target provinces;
- Start-up of support to the Technical Unit for Support of the Decentralization Process (Cellule Technique d'appui a la Decentralization - CTAD):
 - Help render the CTAD functional;
 - Support for the implementation of the Ministry's Social Communication Campaign (Campagne de Communication Sociale du Ministere).

3. SUPPORT FOR THE JUSTICE SECTOR

3.1. AT THE NATIONAL LEVEL

Activities within the justice sector were centered on two components: the preparation of the strategic and organizational audit of the Justice Ministry and affiliated services and the operations of the Supreme Council of the Magistrates (Conseil Superieur de la Magistrature - CSM).

3.1.1. Support for the Justice Ministry

In November of 2007, the Mixed Justice Commission (Comite Mix de Justice – CMJ) produced an action plan to update and implement the recommendations of the 2004 audit. This plan, entitled “The Justice Reform Action Plan” (Plan Reforme de la Justice), detailed the priorities of reform defined within the general framework of Government policy and dialogue with the principal Justice Sector donors. The completion of this audit is a precondition for the implementation of the reconstruction and the management of the justice system in the DRC. DAI helps render this audit operational by supporting the preparation of the terms of reference on the status of the justice public services (including infrastructure, equipment, and human resource) within the provinces of Katanga, Bandundu, and North Kivu. Currently, these terms of reference are available and ready to be shared with other partners.

In order to improve the performances of magistrates' operations and those of the clerks (greffiers) and secretaries of the Public Prosecutor's office (parquets), a comprehensive training program was developed by the DAI technical staff. The themes retained relating to the clerks and secretaries of the tribunals of (1) penal and civil clerks; (2) functions of the secretaries and the officers of the public prosecutor's office. Concerning the Magistrates, the themes proposed are (1) the norms and regulation of work related litigations; (2) the status of the Magistrates; (3) the code on the organization and responsibilities of the judiciary and future prospects; and (4) the final court of appeals (cour de cassation).

3.1.2. Support to the Supreme Council of the Magistrature (CSM)

The CSM is the institution that is designated destined to manage an independent judiciary. The organic law on the organization and operations (law organique portant organisation et fonctionnement) was promulgated by the President. Article 9 and obliges the General Assembly of the CSM to adopt within 30 days following its installation, the internal regulations of the CSM, which in respect to article 17, paragraph 3 of the same law, and should be prepared in draft form by the Bureau of the CSM.

DAI provided support for the preparation of the internal regulations given to the Bureau by contributing both organizational as well as material support to the workshop. DAI provided a

workplace, equipment and office supplies to a team designated by the First President of the Supreme Court. This team of four Supreme Court Magistrates and one Magistrate from the CSM were assigned the task of preparing the draft internal regulations for the CSM. It should be noted that according to article 44 of the organic law n. 08/013 dated August 5, 2008, the First President of the Supreme Court will serve the role of Intermediary President of the CSM during the period before the new jurisdictions and the constitutional court are installed.

The team, which was composed of six participants, worked for a period of two days (December 4-5) to produce this draft document. Eighty percent of the completed document has been adopted by the General Assembly of the CSM.

3.2. DIFFICULTIES ENCOUNTERED

Difficulties encountered were the following:

- The Magistrates lack the technical expertise to properly prepare proposals to be submitted to the program;
- In relation to other program activities, validation of justice sector activities is behind schedule.

3.3. OPPORTUNITIES AND PROSPECTS

For the upcoming quarter, interventions will involve:

- Capacity strengthening for the magistrates and justice sector functionaries;
- Start up of the strategic and organizational audit of the Justice Ministry and affiliated services.

3.4. NEXT STEPS

- Conduct a workshop for the CSM Bureau, including a session for all of the CSM on the organization and management of the CSM and comprehension of the draft interior regulations which will be used as a reference document;
- Organize training sessions for the magistrates and judicial functionaries in the Bandundu, Katanga, North Kivu and Maniema provinces;
- Finalize the terms of reference for the judicial audit. Contact the CMJ management, their team and other associated partners for the harmonization of this document.
- Implement the audit in the Bandundu, Katanga, Maniema and North Kivu Provinces

4. COORDINATION OF ACTIVITIES IN THE PROVINCES

4.1. LOCAL MECHANISMS TO ENHANCE INTERACTIONS BETWEEN THE PUBLIC AND THE PROVINCIAL AUTHORITIES (AUDIENCE PUBLIQUES OR PUBLIC FORUMS)

During this quarter, BRDG DRC organized eight public forums with various themes of local and/or provincial interest in two out of the three target provinces, Bandundu and North Kivu. Partners from civil society organizations, in collaboration with the CRDs, initiated these public forums.

These activities provided important opportunities for the public to open-up dialogue with local authorities, in order to contribute recommendations on subjects surrounding the development of their provinces.

The following is a summary of these public forums:

In North Kivu:

- On October 26, a public forum with the theme “Role and Accomplishments of the Provincial Assembly of North Kivu” was conducted in partnership with the local NGO named “Youths for the Non-Mortgaging of North Kivu” (Jeunes pour la Non Hypotheque du Nord Kivu) with Hon Gilbert Kalinda (a member and reporter of the Provincial Assembly) as the principal speaker. Many young members of this organization, as well as other members of the public, attended this forum. The participants, along with Honorable Kalinda noted the relative inability of the Provincial Assembly to produce edicts even though the subject matter was plentiful. The orator urged civil society members to apply rigorous controls on their elected leaders and to insist on an improved performance.
- On November 19, a public forum was held on the “Youth Citizen Participation and the Promotion of Peace in North Kivu” with the Provincial Youth Minister, Aimable BAKAKULERA as principal speaker. Organized in collaboration with the NGO CONJECO (Consultation Collective Nationale des ONG de Jeunesse du Congo), this forum included political party and association members (notably the Provincial youth counsel), Synergy for Democracy and Progress (Synergie pour Progress et Democratie - SPD), and the UDPS.
- Another public forum was facilitated on December 6, presenting the theme “How to End the Security Crisis in North Kivu and particularly in Goma”. The Goma Mayor, Mr. Rachidi Tumbula, served as the principal speaker. This forum was organized by BRDG in collaboration with the “Youths for the Non-Mortgaging of North Kivu” whose members (along with other members of civil society) attended.
- A public forum was conducted in Goma on December 19 entitled “2009 Budget Policies on Taking Responsibility for the North Kivu Youth” with the Provincial Youth Minister serving as the primary speaker. Organized in collaboration with the CONAJECO, this forum included as participants, provincial assembly members, and members of youth Christian, Moslem and non-religious organizations and movements, students, and motorcycle taxi drivers.

In Bandundu

- On November 5, the documentary film *La Femme Port l’Afrique*, directed by the Burkinabe Idriss Diabate, was shown, followed by an open discussion. This film portrays community rural development efforts taken by villagers in Beni, Mali and Burkina Faso to combat poverty. The debate that followed revealed that among the invited, women vegetable farmers and marketers in Bandundu identified with these West African women and were encouraged and enlightened to see what they could do to increase their production. Pertinent recommendations were formulated for the Minister of Gender, Women and Family, Mrs. Carine Kamwisiku, advising her to develop, present and submit for discussion, her policy on promotion for local initiatives for rural women, to the Division Chief of Gender, Family and Children, advising that she schedules visits to women vegetable farmers at their work sites and the Mayor advocating that she limit goat and sheep access to areas where gardens were

cultivated. Participants included The Minister of Gender, Family and Children, the Bandundu Mayor, the Basoko Commune Burgomaster, the Provincial Assembly *Questeur*, several Provincial Assembly members, representatives of women's organizations, and many other citizens.

- On November 19, the documentary film “*Congo, un democratie a inventer; Qu’est ce qui reste du Congo après les elections*” was projected, followed by debate. This documentary characterized the 2006 electoral period in the DRC by: enhanced hopes of the population; followed by un-kept promises; the prevalence of corruption; resulting in the disenchantment of the population; and ensuing challenges. During the debate that followed, some of the recommendations formulated included that elected officials and political stakeholders must make an effort to avoid the constant quarrels, which divert attention from their essential mandate; the search for solutions for problems facing the population. Among those present for this discussion were, the Bandundu Mayor, the Minister of Gender Women and Children, several Provincial Assembly members, the Burgomaster of the Basoko commune and the Provincial Assembly reporter.
- On November 28, a public forum was held presenting the theme “The Preparation, Development Implementation, Follow-up and Evaluation of the Provincial Budget for the year 2009”. The President of the Provincial ECOFIN Commission, George Mbelo, as well as Floribert Kasamba and Anicet Mbakata (both Provincial Assembly members) served as principal speakers. Participants included the Louis Batangila and Philemon Fwala (the Vice President and Reporter to the Provincial Assembly respectively), Philippe Avimituna, (the Minister of Health, Education and Social Foresight who served as the Governor's representative), and several Provincial Assembly members, Division chiefs, and civil society members. There were 117 participants, including 27 women.
- On December 12, a public forum was held on the “Agricultural Policies of the Bandundu Province” with the Provincial Agriculture Minister, Roger Coco Pembe, serving as the principal speaker. 113 people participated in this forum (18 women), including Godefer Mukenene, the Mayor of Kikwit, the Burgomasters of the communes of Disasi, and Basoko and civil society members.

4.2. ACCESS TO RESOURCES AND SERVICE TO THE CRD (LIBRARY, INTERNET)

It has been determined that there has been a steady increase in the utilization of CRD resources by our partners. This increase would be more noticeable if there were more computers.

1,339 people, including 353 women, accessed the internet facilities in the two CRDs (Bandundu and Goma). The distribution between the provinces shows that 71% of the beneficiaries utilized the Bandundu CRD and 29% used the Goma facilities. It should be noted that in Bandundu, the number of women beneficiaries increased from 27 female participants in October to 161 in December. In Goma, 182 women used the internet facilities, which is nearly a threefold increase over the previous quarter (63 women).

Information technology training sessions were initiated in the provinces this quarter. 42 beneficiaries were trained including 13 women. The distribution between the provinces reveals that 64% of the participants received training in Goma vs. 36% for Bandundu.

4.3. FOLLOW UP TRAVEL

In addition to the activities above, the Provincial Activities Coordinator traveled to Goma where he conducted an internal workshop for the CRD staff on the work plan and program management in the provinces. This trip enabled the Provincial Activities Coordinator to establish contact with local partners. This relationship can be utilized to inform them of the opportunities that the CRD provides for organizing activities in the province, collaboration with partners, reformulating existing technical assistance proposals and supplementing them with any other pertinent documents in preparation for USAID submission.

4.4. DIFFICULTIES ENCOUNTERED

4.4.1. In general

The arrival of newly procured vehicles will help alleviate transportation difficulties for the CRDs.

4.4.2. In Bandundu

The fluctuations in the electrical distribution systems disrupt the air conditioners' operations, resulting in rather unpleasant working conditions.

4.4.3. In North Kivu

The quality of services that we can deliver to our partners is limited, due to the dilapidated condition of much of the IT equipment in the CRD, the deteriorating quality of the IT connection, the outdated nature of the library, and the quantity and quality of documentation available.

Regional conflict continues to preoccupy the Provincial authorities, rendering them less available to deal with issues other than security.

4.4.4. In Katanga

In spite of interest in the BRDG program expressed by other provincial authorities (Vice Governor, Provincial Ministers, Chiefs of Staff) who encountered it heavy administrative constraints and a centralized decision-making process at the Governor's level renders the latter nearly inaccessible while delaying receipt of technical assistance requests promised by his collaborators. This situation negatively affects any activity that might benefit services and administrations who work under the supervision of the Governor.

4.5. OPPORTUNITIES AND PROSPECTS

4.5.1. Bandundu

The recent decentralization training of the territorial administrators provided an occasion to appreciate the availability and need of all of the district chiefs, territorial administrators to see the CRD conduct public forums in their different administrative entities.

During the next three months, BRDG DRC plans to organize public forums that will highlight local themes in all three districts (and also in two principal cities). These forums will not only promote public participation, but will also inspire provincial and local officials to take on legislative initiatives or regulatory measures that will benefit their local populations.

4.5.2. North Kivu

In addition to providing training sessions that will benefit the Provincial Assembly on the preparation of edicts, and the reinforcement of team spirit, BRDG DRC intends to improve the quantity and quality of the CRD library's inventory and renew its IT equipment.

4.5.3. Katanga

Due to the apparent lack of interest expressed by the Katanga Provincial Government, BRDG DRC will not open a CRD there. Limited activities will continue in Lubumbashi.

The following activities are scheduled for Katanga:

- A workshop for the Provincial Assembly on the preparation and development of edicts;
- A teambuilding workshop for the Provincial Assembly;
- Public forums with the Provincial Assembly members; and
- Training sessions for justice sector functionaries.

4.5.4. Opportunities in Other Provinces

Discussions are ongoing with USAID to conduct a trip to Maniema Province to contact potential partners and assess the interest in opening up a CRD in Kindu.

4.6. NEXT STEPS

- Promote more public forums in the CRDs to increase dialogue between civil society members and provincial authorities;
- Organize a field trip to Maniema Province to contact potential partners and assess the interest in opening up a CRD in Kindu.
- Continue limited activities in Katanga Province to maintain contact with the provincial assembly, justice sector and civil society members
- The following activities are scheduled for Katanga:
 - A workshop for the Provincial Assembly on the preparation and development of edicts;
 - A teambuilding workshop for the Provincial Assembly;
 - Public forums with the Provincial Assembly members;
 - Training sessions for justice sector functionaries.
- Utilization of local media services to continue to promote the CRDs;
- Procurement of new IT equipment for the CRDs.

5. SUPPORT FOR THE AMANI PROJECT

Due to the insecurity cited in the background section above, Amani-related activities were put on hold this period.

6. STAFFING AND MANAGEMENT INPUT

Overview

During the months of October through December 2008, the BRDG DRC team, which is almost fully staffed, continued to recruit and submit for approval qualified trainers for teambuilding, decentralization, edict development, parliamentary document preparation, and budget creation sessions. In response to a meeting with Lauralea Gilpin, the Contracting Officer and Kaya Adams,

the Cognizant Technical Officer, a new approval process was initiated, and a realigned budget was submitted on December 9, 2008, one week after the latest version of the workplan was submitted. The project also benefitted from the short-term assistance of Lindsay Kurlak who audited files and updated the BRDG DRC Grants Manual. The Katanga Junior Governance Advisor was recruited and hired, which is the first staff that DAI has hired in the province.

6.1. CONTRACTUAL AND CTO NOTES

- On November 22, 2008, the BRDG DRC team met with the CO and CTO to review the outstanding personnel requests. At this meeting, it was directed that all personnel approval requests, including technical and labor category approval, would be sent directly to the CO. Additionally, BRDG DRC would resubmit two urgent requests for Victor Yenyi and Anselma Meyya and submit for the first time requests for Willet Weeks and Mawisa Fulgence.
- At the same meeting, held on November 22, 2008, a budget realignment was requested that would include all outstanding personnel approval requests and an additional \$700,000 in funding that would cover the Amani costs outlined in Modification 01. This budget realignment was submitted on December 9, 2008.

6.2. STAFFING

The Kinshasa office of the BRDG DRC program is almost fully staffed, with the exception of the Rule of Law Advisor. This position was staffed on a short-term basis by Mr. Honoré Tougouri who departed October 7, 2008. CTO Technical Approval for Mr. Tougouri to join the project as LTTA was sent on October 8 and received on October 16. On October 24, 2008, a personnel request was sent to obtain a TCN waiver for Mr. Tougouri. This request has been resubmitted with the budget that was sent on December 9, 2008. At the closing of this quarter, the request is still outstanding.

Proposal positions which have been filled:

- Chief of Party: Toby Vaughan
- Deputy Chief of Party: Lievin Mayanga
- Legislative Strengthening Advisor: Soule Adam*
- Provincial Activities Coordinator: Parfait Moukoko
- Senior Decentralization Advisor: Mohammad Samake
- Governance Advisor, Bandundu: Jean Louis Voka Mule
- Governance Advisor, North Kivu: Agathe Rwankuba
- Training / M&E Program Manager: Ferdinand Kapanga
- Operations Manager: Amanda Brondy
- Judicial Reform Advisor: Victor Yenyi

** Pending TCN waiver and Key Personnel approval from the Contracting Officer. The request was submitted September 2, 2008.*

Proposal positions which are planned for next quarter:

- Governance Advisor, Katanga: TBD
- IEC Media Expert: Desire Molekela
- IEC Legal Expert: Odette Disu
- IEC Planning Advisor: D. Kahama

STTA positions initiated this quarter:

- Project Coordinator: Lindsay Kurlak*
- Decentralization Workshop Facilitator: Valerien Salumu Amisi
- Teambuilding Facilitator: Chirume Mendo
- Teambuilding Facilitator: Ngoie Kalanga Mimwemwe

** Replaced the previously-approved Clara Gelatt who was unavailable due to unforeseen circumstances.*

Notable support staff recruited:

- The Junior Governance Advisor for the Katanga CRD has been recruited.

6.3. CRD OPERATIONS MANAGEMENT

- CRD Bandundu: Due to the large number of training sessions and workshops held with the Provincial Assembly and Provincial Government of Bandundu, the CRD played an active role in assisting Kinshasa to coordinate these efforts. Renovation costs have levelled out, and the team is taking a proactive role in promoting democracy through training sessions and the public forums (Audience Publiques) which allow for discussion between government, civil society, media and other interested individuals. The team is still awaiting the arrival of their vehicle, as the license plates have not arrived due to a delay with the customs exoneration.
- CRD North Kivu: With the recent increase in violence in the North Kivu province, the BRDG DRC team stays in daily contact with the Governance Advisor for updates on the security situation. To date, neither the CRD nor its employees have suffered any violence or looting. The North Kivu CRD has not yet taken a proactive role in coordinating democracy and governance activities. Parfait Moukoko and Victor Yenyi visited the CRD in December in order to provide clarification and guidance. This TDY was well-received, and more activities are planned for next quarter. North Kivu is also awaiting the delivery of its vehicle, which has been tied up over the customs exoneration.
- CRD Katanga: In December, Lievin Mayanga and Abou Soule Adam visited Lubumbashi on a TDY in order to recruit and plan the CRD. The Junior Governance Advisor, Franck-Joseph Ngoy Ngombe, has been hired, and a location has been selected. Currently, the CRD is sharing office space with Solidarity Center until renovations can be completed in the next quarter.

6.4. DELIVERABLES COMPLETED DURING THIS QUARTER

- Quarterly report covering the period of July 1, 2008 – September 30, 2008
- Branding and Marking Plan
- BRDG Workplan Resubmitted

Additional reports submitted during this quarter include:

- October Monthly Activity Report
- November Monthly Activity Report
- December Monthly Activity Report
- Indicator Report for previous BRDG-ACT project

6.5. CHALLENGES AND OBSTACLES

- Travel obstacles remain a constant challenge. Logistics for travel to target provinces has been difficult to coordinate, creating problems in the mobility of field missions sent from the Kinshasa office. Any travel planning often needs to take into consideration last minute flight cancellations, lack of seats on charter services, or delays caused by the need to receive authorizations for transit travel through other countries.
- The BRDG DRC partners often pose scheduling problems that require a constant level of flexibility in order to meet their demands. For example, the Direct Assistance provided to CSM was approved on December 1 and planned for December 10. However, at the request of both USAID and the CSM, this Direct Assistance was held December 4, utilizing the BRDG DRC's conference room as a meeting space.
- BRDG DRC has purchased four new project vehicles. All have arrived but currently cannot be driven as the license plates are held up due to complications over the customs exoneration. This is a daily obstacle as the project has only one vehicle, but it runs on an inconsistent basis.
- Two training sessions that were planned for this quarter have been delayed due to schedule changes on behalf of the partners. The budget workshop planned for ECOFIN and the teambuilding session approved for the Provincial Assembly of North Kivu have both been delayed at the request of our partners. The status of support to ECOFIN is currently called into question, and DAI is discussing continued assistance with the CTO. The teambuilding session for North Kivu is planned for the next quarter, tentatively planned for February.
- The delay between approval request submission and receipt of approval has led the team to lose some of the planned STTA. It also slowed project activities. Please see Attachment 39 for a list of approval request submissions and receipts for this quarter.