

CEPPS/IRI QUARTERLY REPORT: April 1-June 30, 2005

**UGANDA: STRENGTHENING POLITICAL PLURALISM
USAID Cooperative Agreement No 617-A-00-04-00002-00**

January 1, 2004 – December 31, 2005

Total Budget: \$570,000 Expenses to Date: \$384,830

I. SUMMARY

In the most recent quarter, IRI finished its small grants program, released the initial results for its public opinion poll and prepared for the release of the second round of results, and has provided technical assistance to political parties and civil society organizations in a number of areas.

II. BACKGROUND

The Ugandan government began a transition to a multiparty system in 2002 with the enactment of the Political Parties and Organizations Act. Subsequently, other signs have arisen that commitment to this transition is weak. The changing legal climate has provided a consistent challenge as the government and the opposition seek a clear roadmap for political action. The Constitutional Court Ruling of November, 18 2004 declared a number of sections of the Political Parties and Organizations Act unconstitutional and the subsequent registration of most political parties. Government proposals for constitutional amendment, however, indicate an intention to set back other elements of the democratization process. The uncertain outcome of the upcoming referendum has provided another potential hurdle to the democratization process, although recent government re-statements of its commitment to a transition to a multi-party political system suggest that this transition will occur.

III. PROGRAM ACTIVITIES

Small Grants Program

IRI issues small grants to enable Ugandan civil society organizations to host their own program activities aimed at increasing political pluralism and greater citizen participation in governance. The Institute's subgrantees this quarter have engaged in a series of projects directed toward advancing both their internal objectives as well as IRI's larger mission in Uganda.

Uganda Joint Christian Council (UJCC)

UJCC continued its “Strengthening political pluralism through inter-political dialogues in Uganda program.” In this quarter, four dialogues were held involving 21 political parties. The UJCC also supported radio programs where several political parties discussed crucial political issues on the air. Parties expressed enthusiasm about the dialogues and their ability to bring together participants of different backgrounds. They also resolved to continue an inter-party dialogue through a subsequent forum.

Uganda Youth Network (UYONET)

Uganda Youth Network received support for a project to develop a national youth agenda and increase the capacity of youth to advocate for their interests. UYONET has been able to fulfill its objectives of providing a forum for consultation on legislation and policies with the aim of advancing policies which are pro-youth. This included a questionnaire to enable the different stakeholders to contribute ideas for the youth agenda, the development of the UYONET website, www.ugandayouthnetwork.org, on which the questionnaire was posted, and the organization of workshops at the regional level to collect youth’s views on the national youth agenda. In the process of implementing its youth agenda and website project, UYONET has also improved its organizational policies and strengthened its structures. Through the workshops and the questionnaire, this project has brought the youth together as an organized group to develop and discuss ideas.

National Association of Women Organizations in Uganda (NAWOU)

NAWOU held its second workshop for the Northern region in Lira in this quarter on the theme “*Positioning Women in Uganda’s Political Transition: Women, a force that cannot be ignored.*” This workshop was well-covered in the media and engaged women from marginalized areas of the country on issues of political transition. Those trained included women and youth from Kitgum, Apac, Gulu, Lira and Pader Districts. This workshop helped the NAWOU advance its goals as an organization by supporting women to understand and engage in political issues.

National Organization of Trade Unions (NOTU)

The NOTU project was designed to create awareness among Ugandan workers about issues of democracy, good governance, and human rights with respect to the current political transition. In previous quarters, NOTU used television and radio publicity to enhance its image and sensitize workers on their rights. In this quarter, NOTU carried out training of trainers for NOTU Secretary Generals, shop stewards and women leaders on good governance, human rights and democracy. As a result of this training, NOTU members have resolved to develop a joint agenda and an advocacy strategy for that agenda.

Forum for Women in Democracy (FOWODE)

FOWODE’s mission is to train women on women’s participation in politics in a multi-party democracy. The group’s activities under this project are meant to empower women to apply pressure to political parties to include women in decision-making. FOWODE completed a manual to be used to train women leaders on creating their own political spaces and influencing

the agenda of the political parties. It used this manual to carry out training sessions for 60 women councilors from 14 sub-counties in Masindi District. These sessions provided skills to women leaders to pressure their parties to adhere to principles that are crucial for the inclusion of women in decision making at all levels and for them to negotiate and occupy leadership positions within political parties. The session discussion emphasized that women should ensure that the gains so far made regarding women participation in politics and governance are not lost during the transition to multi-party politics. As Uganda moves forward in multi-party politics, such skills will be essential to women leaders and politicians.

Uganda Women's Network (UWONET)

UWONET'S project is aimed at bringing together civil society organizations, particularly women's organizations, to enable them to effectively participate in the transition to a multi-party system through developing a position paper on the Constitutional (Amendment) Bill. An UWONET task force developed an issues paper and held a national level workshop in the previous quarter to discuss the issues paper at length. This workshop was attended by representatives of organizations that participated in the drafting of the memoranda to the Constitutional Review Commission. The women who participated were given an opportunity to study, scrutinize, and understand the proposed constitutional amendments. In this quarter, UWONET lobbied members of the legal and constitutional affairs committee based on a position paper developed at the national level workshop.

Uganda Association of Women Lawyers (FIDA)

FIDA's project was designed on the premise that democratic rights and access to legal systems are part of the foundation for a stable, democratic, and tolerant society. Legal education will be required during the period of political transition on the right to vote, role of the electoral commission, parliament and local government, as well as on the political system as provided under the law. FIDA hosted a civic education workshop in Arua where they trained local council chairpersons, district councilors, the prison service, the resident district commissioner's office staff, the town clerk, political leaders and civil society leaders. This increased the knowledge on legal aspects of the political transition in an underserved area.

Uganda Law Society (ULS)

ULS's activities under this program are aimed at enlightening the ordinary person as to the effects of the proposed constitutional reforms as well as the role of institutions that have the responsibility to enforce rights. A legal and constitutional expert developed a training manual out of the Constitutional Review Commission (CRC) Report, the government's White Paper on the constitutional amendment, and the ULS legal opinion on the proposed constitutional reforms. This document was used to conduct three radio programs in Kampala, Gulu and Mbarara in the previous quarter. In the current quarter, a radio program in Kabarole was held on the same topic. Through these programs, ULS contributed to the public's understanding and discussion of constitutional issues relating to the political transition.

Release of Public Opinion Poll

On June 9, IRI publicly released partial results for its 2005 IRI-Afrobarometer public opinion poll on democracy and governance issues. In addition to front-page coverage in the New Vision and the Monitor, radio stations released poll results and materials were disseminated to all IRI partners. IRI and Afrobarometer also brief members of the donor community and other stakeholders. The poll has attracted interest from politicians, members of civil society, the media and public. Among its notable findings were that the majority of the country favors a transition to a multi-party political system and that a slight majority favors the removal of presidential term limits. People also expressed dissatisfaction with the proposal to amend the constitution to create a regional tier of government.

IRI has also developed a strategy for release of complete poll results and has been analyzing data and developing schedules for release, dissemination and outreach on the poll. IRI is planning a workshop for CSO, political parties, and media in July 2005 on public opinion polling.

Technical Assistance

During this quarter, IRI provided technical assistance to political parties on public opinion polling facilitated by the Institute and polling and research experts Robert Sentamu of Wilsken Agencies and Freda Nkuutu of Makerere University. Sessions were held with the NRM, UPC, FDC, and CP, and each party has begun to develop its strategic agenda for research and polling. Two strategic planning sessions were held at the IRI offices for CP and UPC facilitated by Dr. Simba Kayunga and Dr. Suzie Muwanga from Makerere University's Department of Political Science and IRI. There were also sessions with NRM, UPC, DP, FDC, and CP to review political party constitutions facilitated by Hon. Doe Adjaho, Deputy Minority Leader of the Ghanaian parliament and member of the National Executive Committee of the National Democratic Congress Party. In addition, IRI held a total of 15 gender mainstreaming sessions for political parties (CP, DP, UPC, NRM and FDC), facilitated by gender and organizational development consultants Stella Mukasa and Viktoria Walter. Political parties have used this information to formulate their structures and develop strategies for the period leading up to the 2006 elections.

IRI also provided technical assistance to small grants recipients on grants management and financial management. Tanya Scheuer of the IRI-DC office and Robina Namusisi of IRI-Uganda provided support to grant recipients on financial and other management issues.

Schedule of Activities and Revised Plan

The CEPPS extension was signed during the second calendar quarter of 2005. This extension will include several workshops, public dialogues, technical assistance, small grants, and a public opinion poll leading up to the 2006 elections. Subsequent to this extension, IRI revised its 2005 implementation plan to include the activities funded by the extension. During the quarter, IRI

also finalized its performance monitoring plan and carried out baseline surveys and analyzed results for its initial submission of quarterly results.

IV. RESULTS AND ACCOMPLISHMENTS

In working to assist its partner civic and political groups in more effectively advocate on issues of priority to the citizenry, IRI's activities have overall yielded significant results. Youth, workers, women, members of disadvantaged communities, and other groups have demonstrated increasing capacity and engagement in advocacy and politics. Political parties have reformed key aspects of their organizations to become more inclusive, more democratic and more dynamic. Members of the media have demonstrated greater commitment to publicizing relevant information including public opinion poll results.

Participatory Political Governance

Membership of political parties disaggregated by age, gender, etc.

No reliable data available at this time.

Average number of partner CSO submissions per quarter to Parliament

Cumulatively over the first three quarters of financial year 2005, there have been .6 submissions to parliament per IRI partner CSO.

Number of communities (districts) supported by IRI and IRI sub-grant activities

At present, a total of 13 districts in Uganda are being supported by IRI activities, exceeding the Institute's goal of 10.

Increased Participation in Public Dialogue

Number of citizens participating in IRI public dialogues

Exceeding the Institute's target goal of 400 people, to date, 463 citizens have participated in IRI's public dialogue series.

Political Parties Activities and Structures Enhanced

Average number of activities in formal coalitions

No reliable data available at this time.

Percentage of women on partner political party executive committees

This quarter, IRI witnessed a decline in the percentage of women leadership in the parties from the baseline of 17% to 16%. This slight drop-off is attributed to the new leadership of the UPC party, which includes only 8% women. By the conclusion of its program, IRI hopes to see 20% female party executives.

Strengthened Political Parties

Public perception of political parties

In the most recent quarter, 37% of poll respondents indicated increased levels of trust in the opposition parties, which is 2 percentage points higher than IRI's target. Levels of trust in the ruling party were found to be significantly higher at 72%.

Political Party Image Enhanced

Number of policy issues mentioned during political party press releases and press conferences

No reliable data available at this time.

CSOs' and parties' capacity to influence political decisions increased

Number of people trained through IRI activities

Excluding those who participated in IRI trainings during financial year 2004, a total of 72 people have participated in IRI activities and received training. This figure does not include those who participated in IRI's public dialogues. The Institute recognizes that while it is below the target of 300 people, IRI will increase the number of people participating in IRI activities and trainings.

CSO Advocacy capacity on Governance Increased

Advocacy issues presented by CSOs to political parties

IRI's partner CSOs have lobbied political parties on two of their core issues, demonstrating their increasing involvement in the political process through advocacy.

V. EVALUATION

As a result of grantee activities, members of the public have become more aware and empowered on issues related to the political transition. These combined efforts have particular value given lack of civic education in the period leading up to the 2006 elections. Radio programs and activities carried out in districts ranging from Kabale to Arua to Lira to Kamuli have allowed IRI grant recipients to inform and engage citizens throughout the country in political dialogue and debate.

Grantee activities have also politically empowered disadvantaged groups including women, youth and workers. Increasing activism by such groups will strengthen political pluralism in Uganda and lead to a political system that is more representative of the interests of its citizens.

The release of IRI's poll has contributed to debate and dialogue on the political transition. This poll, the first major nationwide representative survey carried out since 2002, has stimulated debate on the country's path through political transition. The representative nature of the poll and the way in which the poll has been reported has led to greater interest and trust in public opinion polls among Ugandan leaders and the public.

Finally, IRI's technical assistance to Uganda's political parties has led to positive changes in the ways political parties operate. For example, based on IRI technical assistance carried out during this period, the FDC streamlined their party structure to be more efficient. In addition, UPC and CP agreed to embark on a process of strategic planning to build teamwork and unity among their party members.

VI. FUTURE ACTIVITIES

In the upcoming quarter, IRI intends to release further results from its public opinion poll on democracy and governance, and conduct dissemination and activities related to this poll. IRI will also hold a workshop with IRI political party and CSO partner organizations on strategic management. It will continue its technical assistance program to political parties and civil society organizations. Finally, it will begin the second phase of its small grants activities.