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BUILDING RECOVERY AND REFORM THROUGH DEMOCRATIC GOVERNANCE IN THE DRC PROGRAM

Quarterly Report (April 1 – June 30, 2009)

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Fifth Quarterly Report for Task Order 06

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BACKGROUND

The following activities marked the second quarter of 2009:

1. Legislative Strengthening

- The first ordinary session of the year officially closed. This was also the first session conducted by the new bureau of the National Assembly chaired by Hon. Boshab. Thus far, several essential laws remain to be promulgated, notably the law relating to the Independent Electoral Committee (IEC) and the law on the decentralization process;
- There was an inquiry of the Prime Minister by the Head of State concerning a disagreement on the procedure for managing public expenses. Article 91, paragraph 2 of the Constitution does not stipulate that public finance management shall be a sector of collaboration between the government and the President of the Republic. This falls within the government domain;
- The majority of National Assembly members rejected the parliamentary opposition's inquiry request of the Prime Minister;
- The government will likely be reshuffled in the very near future;
- The Prime Minister met with donors and ambassadors from various countries to discuss strengthening the country's macroeconomic framework, supporting the local currency, and providing financial support for investments as well as poverty alleviation programs;
- The High Council of Magistrates (CSM) held an Extraordinary Session from June 8-24, 2009. During this session, major issues were discussed, notably magistrates staffing, discipline, and internal rules of the CSM that were approved on June 13, 2009; and
- Celebration of the 49th anniversary of independence of DRC in Goma. Former Prime Minister, Gizenga, has been proclaimed a national hero.

2. Decentralization Reform

- The Minister of Decentralization and Territory Development presented a decentralization implementation program during a press release on April 22, 2009;
- The Ministry of Decentralization conducted a visit in the administrative center of provinces to present the strategic framework of decentralization implementation to key stakeholders. The visit started on May 14, 2009 and concluded on June 1. This campaign was one of the many recommendations made during the ministry and technical and financial support partner meeting on April 21, 2009;
- All key stakeholders, including the governors of the provinces and the presidents of the provincial assemblies attended a June 10-11 workshop on the strategic framework of the decentralization implementation program; and
- The first conference of Provincial Governors took place in Kisangani in Province Orientale from June 24-25, 2009 in accordance with the new law (organic law n° 08/015 dated October 7, 2008).

3. Support to CEI

- The Network of Civic Education in Congo (RECIC) launched a public awareness building campaign in Kinshasa on the review of the voter registration record.

I. SUPPORT TO THE LEGISLATIVE SECTOR

I.1. At the National Level

BRDG DRC provided support to the National Assembly during the 2nd Quarter of 2009 through direct assistance agreements with the Independent Electoral Commission, PAJ Commission, and the ECOFIN Commission as well as technical assistance on the passage and adoption of laws.

Adoption of Laws

During its ordinary plenary session (from March 15 to April 15, 2009), the National Assembly adopted the PAJ commission's proposal on the organic law related to the Independent Electoral Commission's organization and function. During the same session, the draft was submitted to the assembly for adoption. The process ended prematurely, due to a disagreement on the quota breakdown between the majority and the opposition. The vote is postponed until the September session.

PAJ Commission

The PAJ commission continues to review projects related to Judiciary reform. Two drafts laws were reviewed, notably the law relating to the Constitutional Court and the Rules on organization and competence of the Judiciary system. It is expected that the draft laws on administrative jurisdictions under the supervision of the State Council will be reviewed in the near future.

ECOFIN Commission

The ECOFIN Commission implemented a new work approach for the National Assembly, which resulted in the preparation and creation of a monitoring system of programmed activities. This tool aims to improve the program performance. The same approach was proposed to and accepted by the PAJ Commission. This new approach allowed ECOFIN to develop a list of priority capacity-building activities for the second ordinary session in 2009. The 2010-2011 State budget project review is one of these priority activities.

I.2. At the Provincial Level

Support to provincial assemblies

In this quarter, activities were primarily focused on preparation for a program on drafting edicts directed at members of provincial assemblies in Katanga, Bandundu and North Kivu.

To ensure the training met the needs of the provincial assembly members, proposals were solicited to determine appropriate support. In the three provinces, BRDG DRC received approximately thirty proposals. Two proposals have been approved for each province, and per USAID's approval, DAI will provide direct assistance.

In addition, BRDG DRC anticipates a parliamentary exchange program with South Africa, on behalf of members of provincial assemblies. After discussing the terms of the exchange, DAI made an initial contact with the South African Parliament to explore practical details. The trip will involve members of provincial assemblies and administrative staff from Bandundu, North Kivu, Maniema, and Katanga.

Support to Provincial Governments

Training workshops on edict development techniques were the primary focus of provincial level activities held during the second quarter of 2009. The trainings were conducted in Bandundu for the provincial ministries and members of the governor's office from June 23 - 26, 2009. Altogether, 33 people have been trained, including 6 ministers (including one female) and 27 members of the Governor's office (including 2 females).

I.3. Obstacles

The main obstacle encountered concerns the internal administrative procedures of BRDG DRC on the release of funds to conduct activities proposed by the partners and/or activities that have already been approved. This obstacle resulted from the fact that DAI was funding activities on an at-risk basis due to the delay in the budget approval. It will be alleviated with USAID approval of the budget, and the increase of funds available for direct assistance and other programmatic activities.

I.4. Opportunities

Two interventions are planned for the coming quarter:

- Implementation of the edict development training program for members of several provincial assemblies.
- Parliamentary exchange trip in South Africa for members of provincial assemblies.

II. SUPPORT TO DECENTRALIZATION AND LOCAL DEVELOPMENT

II.1. At the National Level

Support to the Ministry of Decentralization and Territory Development

The Ministry of Decentralization and Territory Development conducted a workshop on strategic planning for decentralization implementation through a decentralization support unit (CTAD) with the funding support of UNDP, DFID and OIF from June 10-11, 2009 at the Grand Hôtel in Kinshasa. Participants included provincial governors, presidents of provincial assemblies, and civil society members. DAI provided technical support for the strategic

framework document used in the workshop, which is a reference material for decentralization implementation.

The technical support for the strategic framework was given through (1) the creation of a document inclusive of comments from technical and financial support partners gathered during the meeting conducted by the Coordinator of Decentralization Support Unit on April 21, 2009; and (2) participation in work commissions. Concerning this last point, DAI experts (the Decentralization and Local Development Advisor and the Legislative Assistant) attended two commissions related to “decentralization funding” and “transfer of competences to the ETD.” At the end of the workshop the following recommendations were made:

- To quickly create and adopt legislation, especially laws that relate to the management of public finances;
- To build a fund to support investments in the provinces and the ETD; and
- Establish a schedule to implement the transfer of resources.

Support to Drafting Organic Law Related to Public Finance:

DAI’s assistance in drafting the public finance organic law has two primary objectives: (1) to modernize the financial law (n° 83-003 dated February 23, 1983, and amended through decree n° 87-004 dated January 10, 1987) according to the rules of the State budget and decentralized entities (ETDs) with regard to creation, presentation, execution, and competence; and (2) to revise the budget with the institutional and political changes ratified in the constitution in 2006.

A team of experts from the Ministries of Finance and Budget, with the financial support of the World Bank drafted the public finance organic law. Their direction determined the main principles of public finance management and budget policy applicable to the central government, provinces, and decentralized entities (ETDs). The law focuses on specific rules regarding: resource and budget appropriation; the creation, presentation, adoption, and execution of financial laws, edicts, and budget decisions; public finance control, responsibilities, and relevant disciplinary measures; and relations between the central government and provincial governments as well as between provinces and decentralized entities (ETDs).

In order to contribute and improve this highly strategic document for decentralization reform implementation, DAI analyzed four points: (1) the provinces capacity in taxes, levy, and duties determination; (2) the use of internal loans; (3) capacity-sharing and the transfer of resources; (4) transitional and long-term capacities. DAI shared this analysis with the Technique d’Appui à la Décentralisation (Decentralization Technical Support Unit), the Ministry of Finance (through the Ministry’s research and budget planning department), and the Ministry of Decentralization and Territory Development (through the Technique d’Appui à la Décentralisation).

DAI’s Support to the Ministry of Planning

DAI held two meetings with the Ministry of Planning in the second quarter of 2009. The first took place on June 8, 2009 with the Legal Advisor of the Minister of Planning and primarily focused on the implementation of the local planning process. This discussion helped both parties to prepare for the following meeting between DAI and the Minister of Planning. Meeting participants discussed the technical memo that DAI submitted to the Ministry, and the Advisor of the Ministry said that the Ministry remains interested in DAI's initiatives.

The second meeting was held with the head of regional planning, along with his immediate staff, and the objective was to discuss the local planning process. In the meeting, the current state of progress was discussed, and another follow-up meeting was proposed. Other participants were the Secretary General of Seracob, as well as DAI's Decentralization and Local Development Advisor.

II.2. At the Provincial Level

Support to Provincial Assemblies

BRDG DRC conducted two training sessions for members of the North Kivu and Maniema provincial assemblies, which focused on decentralization, accounting, and budget procedures within the respective provinces. A training session for members of provincial assemblies and administrative staff of the North Kivu province, which focused on general knowledge and awareness program on texts related to decentralization, was held from April 18-23, 2009. During this session, 58 people were trained, including 23 deputies in the provincial assemblies and 4 women. A capacity-building training for members of the Maniema provincial assembly whose work concerns local final sectors (accounting and budget procedures) was held from April 4-8, 2009 in Kindu. In total, 83 people were trained, including 19 members of provincial assemblies and 64 administrative and political staff.

Support to decentralized services

Three training sessions were conducted:

- A decentralization training for the state decentralization services, judiciary staff and local leaders of the North Kivu province was held from May 4-8, 2009. This training focused on basic knowledge and awareness of texts related to decentralization. 54 people attended this program, including 8 women.
- The Bandundu provincial government initiated a training for local leaders in three newly-created provinces: Kwilu, Kwango, and Mai-Ndombe. This goal of this training was to create a sense of ownership of the decentralization process among local leaders. This program was intended for district leaders, territory administrations, their assistants, as well as office directors. With the financial support of DAI and MONUC, the training took place from March 17- 25, 2009 in the Kuili district in the city of Kikwit and in the Kwango district in the city of Kengue. The training was held for three days in each site and was conducted by local experts that were selected among provincial officials who attended a training session on reform provided by USAID/DAI. During the two sessions, 50 staff members were trained, including 8 women. In Kikuit, 38 staff, including 6 women, attended the training. In Kenge, 21 people, including 2 women, attended the program.

In total, 254 provincial assembly officials, including 31 women (deputies, “déconcentrés” service of the State staff, and local leaders) attended the training session on accounting, budget procedures, and decentralization.

II.3. Obstacles

During this quarter, BRDG DRC faced no major difficulties while carrying out planned activities at the provincial level.

II.4. Opportunities

DAI anticipates the following opportunities:

- A provincial level training session for local staff and Office of Decentralization Technical Support (CTAD) experts;
- Operationalizing the trainings, documentation, and communication of the technical support unit of the Ministry of Decentralization;
- Strengthening the capacity of civil society; and
- Support in preparing the organic law relating to public finances.

III. SPPORT TO THE JUSTICE REFORM

III.1. At the National Level

Within the justice sector, activities focused on three components:

- The launch of an organizational and strategic audit within the Ministry of Justice as well as associated services;
- Continued work to establish the internal rules and regulations of the Conseil Supérieur de la Magistrature (CSM) (High Council of Magistrates); and
- Completion of the legislation drafting workshop concerning laws on the freedom to hold public meetings and demonstrations as well as general provisions applicable to non-profit associations and public organizations.

III.1.1 Support to the Ministry of Justice

The Coordinator of CMJ held a meeting on March 5, 2009 to launch the selection process for experts to conduct the Ministry of Justice audit. This was in response to the European Union delegation’s request to determine the most appropriate means to conduct the Ministry of Justice audit smoothly, to design the methodology, and to develop the terms of reference for the audit experts. The meeting was supervised by Professor Akele Pierre, an advisor within the Ministry of Justice, in charge of reform.

The Ministry of Justice audit began on May 19, 2009, upon the arrival of the senior expert, Esther Elkrieff. On May 20, DAI hosted a meeting under the supervision of the Audit Coordinator to review the audit terms of reference, the contract, and the outline of the methodological approach. DAI hosted a second working session including DPK and PAG projects of European Union on May 21st to review the methodology proposed by the Mission Director. The examination and adoption of the workplan designed by the Audit Coordinator was discussed during a following meeting held on May 28th by DAI.

Currently, the Ministry of Justice audit process has made good progress with the recruitment of local experts, with establishing initial contacts at the national level and with placing assignments in the field. At the national level, a series of meetings were held with the following parties: (1) the research and documentation service of the Ministry of Justice; (2) the Inspector General of judicial services; (3) Board of Censorship of Music and Television (affiliated services); and (4) members of the Joint Committee of Justice.

Four local experts were recruited, Professor Sabiti, Mr. Forent Takizala, Mr. Pierre Ilunga and Mr. Flory Mawanda, who work in the human resources, infrastructure, architecture, and finance, budget, and information systems sectors respectively. The expert team receives technical support from the BRDG DRC's Legal Advisor, Victor Yenyi Olungu (who serves as the main advisor), as well as from systems support specialist, Mr. Alain Kilpi, and research assistant, Ms. Mona Williams.

The first experts on the ground went to the Bandundu province from June 24-27, 2009 where their objective was to meet with provincial authorities and actors within the justice sector on orientations. They discussed the prospects and obstacles of the implementation of justice reform, and they were able to gather necessary data. Additionally, a series of discussions were held with the Acting Governor of the Province, the Acting First President of Court of Appeal, the Public Prosecutor to the court, the Acting President of the District Court Tribunal, the Public Prosecutor, and the President of Tribunal for the Peace of Bagata.

A focus group comprised of 20 participants was created, including the head of jurisdictions and services, the judiciary system staff, the head of division of the justice, budget, finance, DGRAD, and two members of the civil society. In this focus group, a team of two experts spent for one day in Bagata to collect information on the court functioning, infrastructure and information systems support. The provincial government provided technical assistance to the expert team from the Advisor of the Ministry of Interior, Security, Decentralization and Justice.

III.1.2. Support to the Conseil Supérieur de la Magistrature (High Council of Magistrates)

A workshop from April 13-15, 2009 was provided for the Conseil Supérieur de la Magistrature (CSM) on drafting internal rules and regulations. The objective was to revisit the content of the internal regulations put forth by the CSM General Assembly in December 2008 and to add the conclusions of the workshop that had been organized by DPK from February 27-March 4, 2009. With the financial support of DAI, the workshop involved elected magistrates of CSM, labour union members, members of the permanent secretary office of CSM, magistrates of the Supreme Court of Justice and Parquet Général de la République. At the end of the workshop, a project on the rules and regulations was established and will be approved during the next Extraordinary General Assembly, given that the Ordinary General Assembly of this year was not called on the first Monday of April, as is stipulated in the relevant law.

Prior to the June 8-24 Extraordinary General Assembly of the Conseil Supérieur de la Magistrature (CSM), DAI provided financial support for a three-day workshop (from June 3-5, 2009) on CSM internal rules and regulations. The objective of this workshop was to revise the text to be submitted to the Extraordinary General Assembly for adoption. Approximately twelve magistrates participated in this workshop, as well as four experts from DAI and DPK. The General Assembly of CSM approved the internal rules and regulations during the extraordinary session that took place from June 8-24, 2009.

Support to CSM was also provided through the first training session for magistrates of the Court of Appeal of Bandundu, which took place from April 20- 27, 2009. Several topics were discussed, notably justice sector reform, money laundering, financing of terrorist activities, as well as the standards and settlement of disputes related to labour issues. Eight modules were established: Constitutional Court, la Cour de Cassation (Final Court of Appeal), administrative jurisdictions and State Council, judiciary organization and competence, the statutes of magistrates, Conseil Supérieur de la Magistrature (CSM), money laundering, financing of terrorist activities, as well as standards and settlement of disputes related to labour issues.

III.1.3. Support to Civil Society

Support to Civil Society included a workshop to discuss laws on the freedom to hold public meetings and demonstrations as well as general provisions applicable to non-profit associations and public organizations

Through BRDG DRC's financial support, a workshop took place at Centre Thésanium of Kinshasa in Kintambo, from March 30 to April 4, 2009. An awareness program is also planned for organizations that deal with rights issues, notably CPRDC, magistrates, members of Parliament, defenders, etc. The objective is to ensure that most of members of the National Assembly accept the proposals prior to any endorsement to then submit the draft proposals to the Bureau of the National Assembly.

In addition, an agreement for financial support was signed on May 26, 2009 between DAI and JED (Journalistes en Danger). Through its Secretary General, Tshiviss Tshivuadi, JED participated in the world forum on freedom of expression, held in Oslo from June 1-6, 2009. This forum permitted the JED representative to make several contacts and to share their experiences on defending freedom of the press. During this meeting, an experience-sharing project was initiated between JED and Association Algérienne de Défense des Droits de la Liberté de la Presse (The Algerian Association for Defence of the Freedom of the Press), and a training session will be conducted by members of JED on investigation techniques on allegations related to infringement of press freedom and the drafting of alerts.

III.2. Obstacles

BRDG DRC has encountered the following obstacles while providing support to civil society:

- ❖ Given that similar programs are executed by other partners in the development sector, targeted participants demonstrate a reticent attitude;
- ❖ The Conseil Supérieur de la Magistrature (CSM) is resisting the implementation of recommendations;

- ❖ The replacement of the head of the Konrad Adenauer Foundation has delayed the implementation of awareness-raising workshops on laws applicable to associations, meetings and public demonstrations.

III. Opportunities

During the next quarter, BRDG DRC will focus on the following targeted civil society activities:

- ❖ Continuation and completion of the Ministry of Justice audit;
- ❖ Capacity-building for magistrates and judiciary system staff; and
- ❖ Support to the Body of Defenders at the national level through a round table to discuss the organic law n° 08/013 of August 5, 2008, related to the organization and function of the Conseil Supérieur de la Magistrature (CSM).

IV. Support to the Independent Electoral Commission

DAI has commissioned two national experts in justice and awareness-building to assist in the preparation and enforcement of the organic law that will reinforce the organization and function of the Independent Electoral Commission (IEC). This activity began April 1, 2009 and will last for 115 working days.

Other support includes a review of the voter registration record. Because the DRC experienced some problems after the 2006 legislative and presidential elections, the Independent Electoral Commission wished to proceed with the review of the new voter registration record before the municipal, local, urban, and general elections scheduled for 2011. This two-month activity was expected to start on June 7, 2009 in Kinshasa and the Bas Congo, and was to be repeated in the other provinces starting on August 2, 2009. However, the activities in Bas Congo were unexpectedly delayed until August 2, 2009.

This support is essentially a campaign to distribute information and to raise awareness among the population on the importance of the review of the voter registration record and on the effect of population movement, especially among women and youth, who will register for the next elections. It will be necessary to monitor the coordination of these activities in order to distribute information and raise awareness.

DAI signed two direct assistance agreements with the Independent Electoral Commission and one grant agreement with Christian Aid. The first agreement, under the cover of the IEC, concerns the Network of Civic Education in Congo-Kinshasa (RECIC- Kinshasa) for their project, "Raising Awareness and Mobilization of the Kinshasa population for the review of the voter registration record." The second agreement, also with IEC, concerns the Regional Council of Non-governmental Organizations for the Development of the Bas Congo (CRONGD/Bas Congo) under the framework for the project, "Raising Awareness of the Bas Congo for the Voter Registration Record Review." The last agreement, signed with Christian Aid, a British non-governmental organization, concerns the project, "Accompaniment of Civil Society in preparing the population for the voter registration record review."

The mission of Christian Aid is to assure the management, the accompaniment and the coordination of the implementation of all projects in Kinshasa and Bas Congo. The NGO will be supported by a technical team of consultants.

The official launching ceremony for RECIC's awareness-building campaign in Kinshasa for the review of the voter registration record took place on June 6, 2009. RECIC used a motorized caravan to travel throughout Kinshasa and organized activities for participants. The RECIC surveyed an area of about 3,000 persons and met with approximately 1,500 persons for this report.

A total of 30 principal moderators and 164 awareness-raising trainers were selected by RECIC for the creation of these activities in the field. 120 megaphones were provided by DAI to contribute to the success of this activity. RECIC identified close to 800 hotspots (areas of concentrated population), and approximately 500 were selected as awareness-raising sites.

In order to reinforce the capacity of trainers and moderators, the RECIC organized three, two-day sessions in each of the IEC offices in Kinshasa. In total, the RECIC mid-term report estimates that 1,577,430 habitants of Kinshasa are aware of the review of the voter registration record.

In the province of Bas-Congo, the launching of the voter registration review awareness-campaign has not yet taken place because the list of "Déconcentrée" Territorial Entities in this province is not yet known.

IV. Obstacles

- The absence of planning for awareness-raising activities in the field by RECIC made it difficult for DAI to foresee all of the resources required to implement these trainings.
- There was some difficulty in verifying the figures advanced by RECIC. This problem will be resolved by the monitoring of DAI's new Monitoring and Evaluation Specialist, Fulgence Mawisa Mukiele.
- Christian Aid was not successful at coordinating the activities of RECIC. DAI has met with Christian Aid to ensure that they take an active role in this activity.

IV. Opportunities

The awareness-raising campaigns on the voter registration record review are starting to be effective and it is necessary for the RECIC to reframe the targets to be able to have a real impact on voter registration.

The lessons learned in the facilitation of RECIC activities will be taken into consideration in the implementation of the project in the Bas Congo province.

IV. COORDINATION ACTIVITIES IN THE PROVINCES

IV.1. Local Interaction Mechanisms between Citizens and Authorities (Public Discussions)

Twelve local interaction mechanisms between authorities and citizens on local and/or provincial interest issues were developed during the second quarter of 2009 in Bandundu and North Kivu. These discussions were initiated in partnership with the provincial government and civil society organizations that work with the CRD.

The following open dialogues have been conducted:

In North Kivu:

- On May 11, 2009 there was a debate on “The Goma Roads Administration faces problems with trash management and diseases due to unsafe environment: Municipal authority policy.” Speaker: Rachid Ntumbula, Mayor and Provincial Health Inspector of North Kivu. One of DAI’s partner organizations, “Mouvement Intellectuel pour le Changement” (MIC), participated in this workshop;
- On May 21, 2009 there was a debate on “DRC voter registration review.” Initiated by RACID platform, the debate was conducted with the technical support of CRD. The following speakers were involved: representatives of the Commission Electorale Indépendante, the High Commission of Refugees (HCR), MONUC and Governor of province;
- On May 25, 2009 there was a debate on the identification of priority needs that were analyzed in a report entitled, “Living in fear.” This debate was initiated by RACID and conducted by the Provincial Minister of Planning and Budget, Juma Balikwisha and the Representative of the President of the Provincial Assembly;
- On May 26, 2009 there was a debate on “Position of North Kivu youth on local participatory governance: what to do so that Goma’s youth become involved in government on the issues that concern them.” The debate was conducted by DAI in collaboration with Pole Institute. The following speakers were involved in this program : Provincial Ministry of Youth, Sports and Leisure activities, Ms. Bugenera and Honorable Nzangi Muhindo, member of ECOFIN Commission of the provincial assembly of North Kivu;
- On May 29, 2009 there was an open debate on “*Access to basic health care: policies and strategies of the provincial government*” with the speakers, Dr. Mbalutwirandi and the Provincial Health Inspector;
- Open debate on June 18, 2009 on “*Rights of refugees and the repatriation process for Congolese citizens regarding the international conventions and peace agreement signed between DRC Government and CNDP on March 23, 2009: Current status, statistics, and solutions.*” The debate was co-organized by the High Commission of Refugees (HCR), the Bureau of Goma and RACID network;
- On June 19, 2009 there was a debate on “Security in North Kivu and the difficulties of decentralization.” Members of local NGOs, the Rapporteur of the Provincial Assembly and representatives of local community radio channels participated in this program.

In Bandundu:

- A debate on “*Sexual violence on minors within the province of Bandundu: Strategies and Prospectives for the future*” took place on April 29, 2009. Before the debate, a documentary film entitled “La petite Maria,” produced by Jean Louis Voka, was shown. Among participants were Mr. André Nkié, Deputy Head of Office and Representative of the Governor of the Province, Mr. Augustin Ngunza, Advisor and Representative of the Provincial Ministry of Youth, Mr. Omiotshi, Chief of Bureau and

Representative of the Mayor of Bandundu, two judges of the Court of Appeals of Bandundu, the Mayor of Disasi, representatives of churches, and heads of NGOs that deal with sexual violence related issues. At the end of debate, several recommendations were formulated, notably to follow the implementation of the recommendations with a continued consultations with the various affected actors;

- Debate on “Media professionals and stakeholders of democracy and good governance in Bandundu.” The program was organized on May 3, 2009 and was preceded by a film entitled “Revue en Vrac.” Among participants were the Representative of the Ministry of Human Rights, the Head of Human Rights section of MONUC, Abou Cisse, and Charles Mputu, Directors of Civil Affairs of MONUC/Bandundu and Michel Mtumba, the Provincial Coordinator of the National Press Union, who presented the technical part of the program;
- On May 22, 2009, there was a public discussion in Bandundu on “Food security in order to fight against poverty within the province of Bandundu.” The speaker was the Ministry of Agriculture, and Fishing, Coco Pembe. Other participants attended this program, notably the Head of the Governor’s office, Léopold Makwe Lisasi, the Urban Coordinator of Civil Society in Bandundu, Abbé Bernard Fansaka, as well as veterinarians, agricultural engineers and civil society organizations operating in agri-business sector;
- On June 9, 2009, there was a debate on “Involvement and participation of women within decision-making bodies at provincial level: *Program and vision of the provincial division of Gender, Family and Children.*” This interactive activity was conducted by Ms. Rosalie Balandia, Director of the Provincial Division of Gender, Family and Children and moderated by Ms. Marie-Louise Muzinga Mupasula, Head Officer of the Provincial Division of Gender, Family and Children.
- On June 12, 2009, there was a debate on “State of the Health Sector within the province of Bandundu.” This debate was conducted by Dr. Philippe Akamituna Ndolo, Minister of Health, Social Affairs and public health specialist.

In addition, the national Minister of Decentralization and Territory Development, Mr. Mbusa Nyamuisi met with the Advisor in Governance Issues, Jean Louis Vogt Voka. This meeting was added to the Ministry’s political communication under the framework of their decentralization strategic plan. The objective of this discussion focussed on DAI’s work at the provincial level with the assistance of the authorities in the implement of the decentralization process.

This working session with the Minister resulted on four requests, notably: (i) training session on behalf of territorial officials; (ii) support to decentralized entities in order to put in place a policy on financial resources mobilization (iii) support to civil society for decentralization process ownership through social communication campaign (iv) DAI participation in the national workshop for strategic planning for decentralization implementation.

Furthermore, a discussion was held at the CRD, within the Ministry of Decentralization and local members of civil society.

IV.2. Access to CRD Resources and Services (Library, Internet)

In regard to internet access, there were a total of 1378 users in both of the CRDs. In Bandundu, there were a total of 964 users, of which 33 were women and 931 were men. In Goma, there were a total of 414 users, of which 124 were women and 290 were men. There were a total of 157 women users and 1221 male users.

Concerning the access to the library, the statistics are the following: in Bandundu, there were a total of 84 users, of which 78 were men and 6 were women. In Goma, there were a total of 1554 users, of which 1260 were men and 294 were women. The visitors were mainly members of civil society.

IV.3. Monitoring

During this quarter, monitoring was focused on two activities:

- Participation in the working session of the Independent Electoral Commission (IEC) with private sector actors (ANE) regarding the involvement of civil society organizations in the awareness-raising program and as observers in voter registration review as a prelude to local, municipal , provincial and general elections to take place in 2011;
- Participation on June 18th in a working session between Search for Common Ground (SFCG), DAI and USAID for experience sharing in the “Open Discussions” and the “Public Expression Forums” (TEPs) to improve the results and build synergies between DAI and SFCG;

IV.4. Obstacles

The main obstacles are the following:

- Weak electricity power supply in CRD Bandundu, resulting in discomfort in the multipurpose meeting room, notably during open discussions and training sessions held on site;
- Most of computers are worn out, with poor screens brightness ;
- Weak Internet signal, which reduces the CRD’s ability to provide quality services to users

IV.5. Opportunities

Training sessions on decentralization and “déconcentration” as well as law drafting techniques made clear the need to also train local leaders in current institutional reform. Training is also needed by local leaders of decentralized and “déconcentrées” entities who were recruited on political basis, to help them acquire the appropriate knowledge to draft administrative documents in their positions.

V. INDICATORS (see tables in annexes)

COMPONENT 1: DECENTRALIZATION AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT (April 1, 2009-June 30, 2009)

INDICATORS	REFERENCE VALUES	TARGET VALUES	NATIONAL LEVEL	PROVINCIAL LEVEL	FINDINGS
Number of members and staff of NA, Senate and target PA's; Prov. Gov can demonstrate an informed understanding of decentralization process	Number of members and staff of NA, Senate and target PA's; Prov. Gov can demonstrate an informed understanding of decentralization process	1600 out of 2285 Members and staff of NA, Senate, and PA's and Provincial Gov't are familiar with decentralization laws and regulations (disaggregated by gender)		254* members of targeted PA's and Government members and staff were trained and showed basic knowledge of the decentralization process	
Number of local mechanisms supported with USG assistance for citizens to engage their sub national govt.	3 mechanisms have been conducted in the previous year for citizens to engage their sub national government	15 mechanisms supported with USG have been conducted to engage sub national governments		Public audiences were organized to raise people's awareness and to inform them on what the decentralization process represents	
Number of laws or amendments promoting decentralization drafted with USG assistance.	0 laws or amendments promoting decentralization have been drafted with USG assistance	10 laws or amendments promoting decentralization have been drafted with USG assistance			
Number of people who have completed USG assisted civic education programs	0 people have completed USG assisted civic education programs	1,901,760 Kinshasa citizens have completed USG assisted civic education programs		1,577,430** Kinshasa citizens have received USG assisted civic education programs	

*83 members of the PA, staff members and administrators in Maniema have been trained on budgetary procedures and accounting; 58 members of PA, staff members and administrators in North Kivu have been trained in decentralization and delocalization; 54 members of "déconcentration" service, local leaders, judiciary actors in North Kivu have been trained in decentralization and déconcentration"; 38 local leaders in the district of Kwilu have been trained on decentralization, déconcentration" and good governance; 21 local leaders in the district of Kwango have been trained in decentralization, déconcentration" and good governance.

**According to the report prepared by RECIC (June 5-8, 2009), 121,128 people were made aware of the voter registration file review in the BL Ngaliema; 225,327 BL Limete; 307, 900 BL Gombe; 273, 270 BL Kalamu; 459,811 BI Ndjili; 139,774 BL Nsele; 11, 844 BL Institut National des Arts; 22,300 BL Université de Kinshasa; 4,128 Université Chrétienne de Kinshasa; 7,511 BL Institut Supérieur des Sciences et Techniques Médicales; 3,000 persons in the launching ceremony caravan; 1,457 at the official FIKIN launching ceremony

COMPONENT 2: LEGISLATIVE STRENGTHENING (April 1- June 30, 2009)

INDICATORS	REFERENCE VALUES	TARGET VALUES	NATIONAL LEVEL	PROVINCIAL LEVEL	FINDINGS
Number of NA& Senate law and PA's edicts drafted, debated, and civil society-vetted, adopted, promulgated, and implemented	1 law came up for final vote in the previous year	32 laws and edicts were drafted, debated, and civil-society vetted, adopted, promulgated and implemented	2 laws: on the governors conference and the ETD were promulgated		
Number of laws, regulations and procedures related to judicial independence supported with USG assistance	0 laws, regulations and procedures related to judicial independence were adopted in the previous year	6 laws regulations and procedures on judicial independence are to be adopted			
Number of national legislators and national legislative staff attending USG sponsored training or educational events	0 National legislators and national legislative staff attended USG sponsored trainings	1483 of 2118 National (including provincial) national legislative staff attended USG sponsored trainings or educational events		*33 members of PA's attended USG sponsored trainings	
Number of local mechanisms supported with USG assistance for citizens to engage their sub national government	3 mechanisms were conducted in the previous year for citizens to engage their sub national government (in three provinces)	14 local mechanisms supported with USG assistance for citizens to engage their sub national governments (on legislation)			

*6 provincial ministers and 27 Bandundu Provincial Government cabinet members were trained on the preparation and creation of edicts.

VI. STAFFING AND MANAGEMENT

VI.1 Overview

As the current contract stands, this is the second to last quarter for the BRDG DRC project as the end date is September 30, 2009. Increased attention has been focused on closedown preparation and on the completion of current activities. The planning of additional project activities has stalled as a result of the delay in the budget realignment approval. As of May 2009, the project had committed the entirety of the Special Assistance Fund (SAF). The budget realignment, which was submitted originally December 9, 2008, shifts more funding into this Contract Line Item. As of June 30, 2009, the realignment is outstanding, and project activities have slowed with all commitments for planned activities being funded at risk by DAI.

VI.2 Contractual and CTO Notes

- The BRDG DRC project has returned to the portfolio of the original Contracting Officer, Lauralea Gilpin.
- As noted above, the BRDG DRC project awaits USAID's decision on the budget realignment that was originally submitted in December 2008. As of June 30, 2009, the realignment is outstanding as USAID's request for the 5th version of the budget is due in early July. For more details, please see the attached *BRDG DRC Budget Realignment Timeline*.
- Approval or disapproval of the budget realignment greatly affects the project's activities as the SAF has exceeded its contractual limit. On June 2, 2009, DAI received a letter from the USAID Contracting Officer authorizing DAI to overspend the SAF and labor amounts by \$200,000 and \$170,000, respectively. This money is spent at the risk of DAI. It can only be billed if USAID approves the long-outstanding budget modification.
- At the request of the CTO, BRDG DRC funded several election assistance activities including three grants and two direct assistance projects for the Independent Electoral Commission. These activities were not included in the Workplan, and total approximately \$350,000.

VI.3 Staffing

The BRDG DRC program is fully staffed, although several positions await approval of the budget realignment. These include the Judicial Sector Advisor (LTTA CCN), Legislative Assistant (LTTA CCN), and the Rule of Law Advisor (STTA TCN). On June 29, 2009, the project received permission to add the position of Monitoring and Evaluation Specialist (LTTA CCN).

The Quarterly Report for January – April 2009 detailed the difficulty the project encountered when seeking approval for the IT Specialist. Approval was received for Dejan Momirovic on May 12, and he will be completing his STTA in July 2009. The outstanding request for approval of the Project Associate, Will Perreault, was received on May 29. Although the project submitted this approval on February 5 with a period of performance starting February

16, the Contracting Officer granted approval for a period of performance starting on or around May 4.

VI.4 CRD Operations Management

- CRD Bandundu: The Deputy Chief of Party and Operations Manager visited the Bandundu CRD in May 2009. The purpose of this visit was threefold: to drop off the project vehicle, which only received its license plate in March 2009; to recruit and hire a driver for the CRD; complete an audit of the CRD's nonexpendable inventory.
- CRD North Kivu: Training workshops and audience publiques continue to be held in North Kivu. A trip will be planned for the next quarter to audit the inventory of the CRD in preparation for closedown and disposition of non-expendable property.
- CRD Katanga: Based on the decision of the Contracting Officer in her email dated June 19, DAI will not hire for or open a DRC in Katanga. Pending approval of the budget modification, DAI will focus on Maniema for the location of the 3rd CRD.

VI.5 Challenges and obstacles

- Previously, it was reported that BRDG DRC encountered difficulties in recruiting trainers as most skilled and competent trainers work for the government. Discussions with USAID provided a solution in that DAI can pay honorariums to such trainers, provided that they sign that they are taking a leave of absence of the period of the training.
- Scheduling problems continue to require a constant level of flexibility in order to meet partner demands. This is to be expected as BRDG DRC works with high level government officials. Advance planning, frequent communication and follow-up, and increased flexibility are the best solutions for meeting this obstacle.
- The 6-month delay in the pending budget realignment has mounted a very large challenge to project implementation. In addition to not have the LOE days to hire important staff such as Monitoring and Evaluation Specialist and the Rule of Law Advisor to head up the audit, the lack of funding available for project activities has slowed implementation. DAI continues to respond to all USAID requests in the hopes that budget realignment will be resolved soon.
- DAI has been asked to support activities that were not in part of the workplan (please note that as of June 30, 2009, the workplan has not been approved). These activities will provide valuable support to the local election, but have reduced the amount of money available for the decentralization, legislative strengthening, and judicial reform activities. The pending budget modification will shift more money into programmatic activities, and will allow the project to complete all activities, thus alleviating this problem.