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BUILDING RECOVERY AND REFORM THROUGH DEMOCRATIC GOVERNANCE IN THE DRC PROGRAM

Quarterly Report (July 1 – September 30, 2009)

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

Sixth Quarterly Report for Task Order 06

October 2009

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

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LIST OF APPENDICES

1. Indicator Table/Activity Report
2. Bandundu Decentralization Training in Mai Ndombe
 - a. Agenda
 - b. Participant Lists (Days 1-3)
 - c. Final Report
 - d. Level of Participation Report
3. Maniema Provincial Assembly & Government Decentralization Training
 - a. Agenda
 - b. Participant List (Days 1-4)
 - c. Final Report
 - d. Level of Participation Report
4. Maniema Provincial Assembly & Government Edicts Training
 - a. Agenda
 - b. Participant List (Days 1-4)
 - c. Final Report
 - d. Meeting Notes
5. Maniema Provincial Government Budget Training
 - a. Agenda
 - b. Participant List (Days 1-4)
 - c. Final Report
 - d. Level of Participation Report
6. Katanga Provincial Assembly Decentralization Training
 - a. Agenda
 - b. Participant Lists (Days 1-6)
7. Maniema Services Déconcentrés Budget Training
 - a. Agenda
 - b. Participant List (Days 1-4)
 - c. Final Report

- d. Meeting Notes
- 8. Bandundu Civil Society Training of Trainers on Decentralization
 - a. Agenda
 - b. Participant List
 - c. Final Report
- 9. Bandundu Archival of Documents
 - a. Agenda
 - b. Participant List (Days 1-4)
 - c. Final Report
- 10. Maniema Services Déconcentrés Decentralization Training
 - a. Agenda
 - b. Participant List
 - c. Final Report
- 11. North Kivu Provincial Government Edict Training
 - a. Agenda
 - b. Participant List
- 12. Judicial Audit
 - a. Bandundu Final Report
 - b. Final Report for the Judicial Audit
- 13. Inventory Updates
- 14. Draft Success Story: Judicial Audit
- 15. Draft Success Story: Elections Assistance
- 16. Draft Success Story: Bandundu Decentralization Trainings in Kwilu, Kwango and Mai Ndombe

BACKGROUND

The following activities marked the third quarter of 2009:

- **Security**

- ❖ On August 6, President Kabila met with his Rwandan counterpart, Paul Kagame in Goma, North Kivu Province;
- ❖ Also in August, the American Secretary of State, Hillary Clinton conducted a visit to the DRC. In Kinshasa, she met with President Kabila, other Congolese political leaders, the press and students, and then continued on to Goma, and;
- ❖ The DRC government continued implementation of Operation Kimia II, which has given rise to, among other issues, a growing controversy over the integration of Rwandan Hutus into the FARDC.

- **Legislative Strengthening**

- ❖ Start-up, on September 15, of ordinary sessions in both chambers of Parliament chaired by their respective Presidents;
- ❖ President Kabila ordered the formation of a committee to look into the practical details of revising the constitution;
- ❖ Implementation of a national plan composed of a series of Presidential decrees dismissing 39 magistrates from the Supreme Court and lesser jurisdictions and revoking 96 presiding Magistrates at all levels. Another 17 Magistrates chose to retire rather than accept imposed transfers;
- ❖ A second national plan was initiated, including another series of decrees announcing the dismissal of numerous functionaries and public administration agents, and the revocation of a number of functionaries who were then referred to justice;
- ❖ Protests followed the publication of decrees naming, revoking and retiring the general secretaries of several ministries. The Prime Minister subsequently formed an administrative committee to examine appeals lodged by those who felt that they were unjustly treated. Despite this, the Public Administration Minister published decrees ordering the transfer of responsibilities, and;
- ❖ The First President of the Supreme Court (CSJ) and the Procureur General de la Republique (General Public Prosecutor) along with ranking Magistrates of the CSJ were sworn into office by President Kabila.

- **Decentralization Reform**

- ❖ Activities were overshadowed by the persistent rumor of an eventual constitutional revision in response to difficulties encountered while attempting to implement certain articles of the constitution notably those related the *decoupage* process (sub-division of the country into 26 provinces);
- ❖ A workshop, supported by the World Bank, the European Union, the Belgian Cooperation and the UNDP was scheduled with the objective of analyzing an impact study of the *decoupage* process;
- ❖ The Ministry organized a workshop, conducted in Matadi on the draft law detailing the *perequation* (dividing of receipts between the provinces) process. This workshop

- regrouped experts from the Decentralization Ministry, the Finance Ministry and other key services.
- ❖ The deadline for electoral census operations and the distribution of election cards was extended until mid-August in Kinshasa;

I. SUPPORT TO THE LEGISLATIVE SECTOR

I.1. National Level

Support for the *Commission Electorale Nationale Independante (CENI – National Independent Electoral Commission)*

During the course of this quarter BRDG DRC continued its support for the *Commission Electorale Independante* (IEC - Independent Electoral Commission) by providing two experts to work at the IEC and also by supporting the awareness-building campaigns for the *Revision du Fiche Electorale* (RFE - revision of the electoral registration forms) implemented by RECIC and benefitting Kinshasa voters.

The two experts seconded to the IEC pursued their assigned tasks, one working on the electoral awareness-building program and the other on the preparation of judicial systems and procedures to facilitate electoral administration operations. The following was achieved this period:

- Preparation of an operational plan for awareness building on the revision of electoral registration forms for the Bas-Congo province;
- Participation in the examination of a draft law on the implementation of parity presented to the experts by the *Ministere du Genre, Famille et Enfants* (Ministry of Gender, Family and Children), and;
- Elaboration of a draft decree by the Prime Minister on the creation of a commission in charge of electoral reform.

The voter awareness-building campaign in Kinshasa, which was originally scheduled to close on August 5, was prolonged until August 20. This delay in completion of the campaign was due to the long waiting lines of potential voters who presented themselves in great numbers right at the end of RFE operations. According to the RECIC final report of the awareness-building campaign which was submitted at the end of September, approximately 1,572,993 voters (45% women) benefitted directly from this campaign.

Due to a delay in the publication of an official list of decentralized entities in Bas-Congo, the CEI has yet to announce the start-up date for RFE operations in this province.

I.2. Provincial Level

Support to Provincial Assemblies

On-going preparations for a study tour of Provincial Assembly members from the target provinces continued with the final choice of a visit to the National Assembly of the Republic of Benin. The rejection of the original choice of the South African National Assembly was due to many administrative bottlenecks encountered during trip preparation. The study tour is scheduled for November 2009.

Two workshops were completed in favour of the Provincial Assemblies of Maniema and Bandundu.

- The Maniema Provincial Assembly received training on edict preparation techniques on August 11-14. Seven Provincial Assembly members and 39 political and administrative staff members (including 5 women) participated in this activity.
- On September 22-25 a workshop on Parliamentary filing techniques was provided to deputies and political and administrative staff members of the Bandundu Provincial Assembly. Forty five participants (including 9 women) received training. Among the beneficiaries there were 26 deputies and 19 staff members.

Support to Provincial Governments

The principal activities organized in collaboration with provincial governments were workshops on edict preparation techniques. Two provinces participated in this program: Maniema and North Kivu.

- In Maniema, this workshop was held on August 11-14. Participants included 3 Ministers and 24 cabinet members (including two women).
- Held on August 24-27, the North Kivu workshop provided training to 32 participants. Beneficiaries included 6 Ministers and 26 administrative and political staff members.

I.3. Obstacles

The principal difficulty encountered was a lack of interest and response on the part of both chambers of the Parliament to receive support in the form of institutional strengthening. BRDG DRC continues to follow-up with the chambers.

I.4. Opportunities

Three principal activities are planned for the coming quarter:

- The Parliamentary exchange trip to Benin for provincial assembly members, and;
- Continuation of edict preparation training for partner institutions who have not yet benefitted from this activity, and;
- As a follow-up to the above-mentioned workshop, BRDG DRC plans to implement a program that will walk Provincial Assembly members through the process identifying potential edicts and turning them into laws.

II. SUPPORT TO DECENTRALIZATION AND LOCAL DEVELOPMENT

II.1. National Level

Support to the Ministry of Decentralization and Territorial Development

The official start-up of the *campagne de communication sociale du Ministère de la Décentralisation et de l'Aménagement du Territoire* (social communication campaign of the Ministry for Decentralization and Territorial Development) took place on June 24, 2009. This event paved the road for the implementation of programmed activities, notably those relating to the training of trainers on decentralization and awareness building on the draft laws. Within this framework, USAID and the *Cellule Technique d'Appui à la Décentralization* (Technical Support Unit – CTAD) scheduled a series of meetings in order to organize a workshop on the training of trainers. During these encounters, the two parties retained three recommendations:

(1) Considering that the Ministry and the Catholic Church recently signed an agreement providing for the church's participation in the social mobilization campaign, a certain number of church representatives will be included among the participants;

(2) The Ministry approved the BRDG-prepared decentralization module;

(3) The CTAD, in collaboration with BRDG DRC, originally scheduled the workshop for training trainers on August 9-11. Due to several organizational difficulties the workshop was delayed. A second meeting between BRDG and the CTAD was scheduled on August 10. During the course of this meeting, BRDG experts and the Ministry representatives agreed on the workshop program and selected trainers. The workshop will now take place on October 5-7.

II.2. Provincial Level

Support to Provincial Assemblies

In response to requests from Provincial Assembly partners, BRDG experts conducted two training programs, one workshop was on decentralization and *deconcentration* and a second on awareness building of the draft decentralization law. These two workshops were conducted in collaboration with the Provinces Assemblies of Maniema and Katanga respectively. The Maniema Provincial government also participated in the Maniema workshop, which took place on August 4-7. This workshop had 69 participants, among them, 10 members of the provincial assembly and 59 political and administrative functionaries, including five women.

DAI conducted the second training session together with SOLIDARITY Center. This workshop targeted the Katanga provincial assembly, and it lasted for six days, from August 24 through August 28. One hundred and six beneficiaries including 75 deputies, and 31 political and administrative staff members participated. Twelve women attended, including eight assembly members.

Support to Provincial Governments

Two training sessions were organized in collaboration with the Maniema provincial government. These sessions consisted of training on decentralization and *deconcentration* and accounting and budget procedures. The decentralization workshop was held on August 4-7 in a joint training session with the provincial assembly. Twenty six participants including 4 Ministers (including 2 women and 22 staff members (including 2 women) benefited from this workshop. The accounting and budget procedures workshop was conducted on August 19-22. Thirty participants benefited from this program including 8 ministers (one woman) and 22 cabinet members (four women).

Support to decentralized services

The decentralized services participated in the following workshops organized by BRDG:

- A follow-up to the training program initiated by the Bandundu provincial government benefiting the *cadres territorial* (territorial executives) representing the three new future provinces (Kwilu, Kwango and Mai Ndombe). This process of assimilation by stakeholders of the decentralization reform process through training programs provided to territorial executives of the future provinces of Kwango and Kwilu in Bandundu, which started on March 17, 2009, was followed up by another workshop organized the 9-11 July for the Mai Ndombe pool. This activity, financed by BRDG and MONUC permitted 41 territorial executives (6 women) to be trained. The training included all of the *commissaires du district* (district commissioners), *administrateurs*

de territoire, (territorial administrators), their deputies, and the *chefs de Bureaus* (office managers).

- Training on *procedures budgetaire et comptables* (accounting and budget procedures) was provided to the *services deconcentres de l'Etat* (provincial officials representing the federal government), justice officials and *cadres territorial*. Seventy-two officials (including 4 women) benefitted from this training.
- The Maniema Province *services deconcentres*, justice sector officials and territorial executives benefitted from a workshop on *decentralization and deconcentration* on September 21-24. This session included seventy one participants (including 6 women).

Four hundred and fifteen stakeholders (provincial assembly members, ministers, provincial assembly political, administrative executives, and administrative personnel, ministry and *services deconcentre* staff (including 42 women) received training during this quarter.

II.3. Obstacles

The major difficulty encountered during this quarter was the delay in obtaining sufficient information from partners. This, on occasion disrupted timely funding for the training programs.

II.4. Opportunities

BRDG anticipates the following opportunities:

- Operationalizing the trainings, documentation, and communication of the technical support unit of the Ministry of Decentralization;
- Support in preparing the organic law relating to public finances.
- Support in preparing the law on *perequation* (balancing out of financial resources between the provinces);

III. SUPPORT TO JUDICIAL REFORM

III.1. At the National Level

Within the justice sector, activities focused on two components:

- Continuation of the strategic and organizational audit of the Justice Ministry and affiliated services, and;
- Organization of the *journée du Barreau* (Bar Association day).

III.1.1 Support to the Ministry of Justice

Visits to the field

The implementation of the the Justice Ministry audit continued with a field trip visit to Lubumbashi in the Katanga Province on July 27-31. The audit team consisted of the Audit Team Leader, the BRDG Justice Advisor, the Audit Team Research Assistant, and two counterparts, (one advisor to the Justice Minister's Cabinet and member of the Justice Ministry central administration). During this visit, private interviews and work sessions were conducted and a focus group was organized.

The private interviews allowed for discussions with the interim *Ministre Provincial de l'Interior, Securite, Justice et Decentralization* (Provincial Minister of the Interior, Security, Justice and Decentralization), the *Premiere President de la Cour d'Appel* (First President of the Court of Appeals), the *Procureur General* (the Public Prosecutor) the *inspecteur provincial des services judiciere* (provincial inspector for judicial services) and the *Procureur de la Republique* (Attorney General), *Greffier principe* (primary clerk), le *Secetaire principal*, (the primary secretary) the *greffier divisionnaire* (the division clerk), and the *secretaire divisionnaire* (division secretary) and with the *greffier du tribunal de paix* (peace tribunal clerk) of Kamalondo, each one in his office along with staff members.

The focus group consisted of the political advisor of the Interior Ministry, several magistrates, *responsables des greffes* (office managers) and the *secretaries des parquets*(tribunal secretaries), the *Chef de Division provinciale de la justice* (Provincial division justice director), the DGRAD representative and civil society members making a total of 17 participants.

During these different meetings, problems and constraints encountered during the course of the implementation of their responsibilities were discussed and debated. Different ways and means for finding solutions were suggested.

Summary of the preliminary conclusions of the organizational audit of the Justice Ministry

Co-financed by USAID and the European Commission, and starting on May 19, 2009, the audit's preliminary conclusions were presented to interested partners in August.

These preliminary conclusions were based on a very frank and critical assessment and also included suggestions for improvement. Among the audits findings were that the Ministry is in a dysfunctional stare (there are 5 general secretaries at the Ministry level which hampers the circulation of information), the poorly planned distribution of personnel throughout the country, and the lack of qualified technical experts. The audit proposed a new organizational chart which includes only one general secretary instead of five, the transfer of certain services in the interior the suppression of the the *Commission de Gestion de Biens Saisis et Confisques* (Management Committee for Seized and Confiscated Property), etc.

It should be noted that the preliminary analyses did not permit the team to dig deep into a certain number of issues which will be assessed during the next stage of the audit which will continue with financing from the European Commission. These issues include job descriptions and candidates' profiles, and the Ministry's financial needs, etc.

Conclusions were shared with the different concerned partners in the following sequence:

- August 10: The audit's conclusions and proposals were presented to Professor Pierre Akele, Justice Reform Advisor to the Minister;
- August 14: Conclusions and proposals were presented to USAID;
- August 17: Presentation of conclusions and proposals to the Ministry of Justice in the presence of the Minister, and;
- August 17: Conclusions and proposals were presented to other donors and partners (UNDP, DPK, and European Union).

A series of encounters took place with a number of program representatives to discuss collaboration between the different programs and experts who conducted the audit. These programs included the Programme d'Appui au Gouvernement (PAG – Government Support Program), of the European Commission and DPK.

III.1.2. Support for the organisation of the *journee du Barreau* (Bar Association Day)

July 10 is reserved each year for the celebration of the *journee du Barreau*. This year, the celebration included a round table, which was organized to discuss the independence of the judiciary. This initiative received technical and material assistance from BRDG and participants included lawyers, civil society members and the *Conseil superior de la magistrature* (CSM supreme council). The roles of the Bar Association, the CSM and civil society were discussed as they relate to the promotion of judiciary independence. The round table concluded that the *Barreau* should work more closely with civil society to enable the justice sector to gain its independence in with respect to the law.

III.2. Obstacles

BRDG DRC has encountered the following obstacles during the course of implementing its justice sector activities:

- ❖ The reluctance of certain justice officials to communicate information essential for the implementation of the audit, and;
- ❖ Many of the Ministry's functionaries and administration officials are under-qualified for the positions that they currently hold.

III. Opportunities

During the next quarter, BRDG DRC will pursue the following justice sector interventions:

- ❖ Capacity building for magistrates, and;
- ❖ Support for the SYNAMEC Syndicate.

IV. COORDINATION ACTIVITIES IN THE PROVINCES

IV.1. Local Interaction Mechanisms between Citizens and Authorities – *Audiences Publiques* (Public Discussions)

BRDG staff, in collaboration with provincial partners, organized five mechanisms of local interaction between authorities and citizens involving themes of local/provincial interest during the third quarter of 2009 in Bandundu and North Kivu. CRD staff initiated these *audience publiques* in collaboration with the provincial governments and civil society organizations.

North Kivu

- On July 31, an *audience publique* was organized on "Access to Primary Health Care: Policies and Strategies of the Provincial Government." The Provincial Health Minister, Dr. Mbalutwirandi led discussions and participants included many civil society organizations and health sector specialists.
- On August 10, 2009 a debate on "The Promotion of Tourism in North Kivu Province: an Opportunity for Development" was organized at the Goma CRD. Discussions were led by the Provincial Environmental, Tourism, Youth, Culture, Arts and Sports

Minister, Mm RUGEVERA Kabimbi. Participants included the Provincial Division of Tourism Director, hotel managers, local merchants, and representatives of civil society.

Bandundu

- On July 24 a debate took place in the Bandundu CRD on the “Lack of Hygiene in the Commercialization of Food Products in Bandundu City: The General State of the Abattoir in the Central Market.” This debate was organized by the CRD in collaboration with the Consumer’s Union. Discussions were led by Mr. MBO KANTYA, a Union member and President of the *Cadre Permanent de Concertation Economique* (Economic Consultation Permanent Executive) with Mr Nestor TAMINA, Inspector of the EPSP and a member of the Consumers Union acting as Moderator. Participants included NA member, Dieudonne MUPUTA, elected in Bulungu; two Provincial deputies, Erasme KAPUMBA, elected in Bandundu city, and Georges MBELO, (ECOFIN Committee Chairman); the Civil Service, Labor, Gender, Family and Child Provincial Minister, Dr. SHIDI Esperance; the representative of the Provincial Inspector of the National Police; and the Deputy Burgomaster of Basoko, M. Joseph AYINZA.
- On August 12, an *audience publique* was held on “The Opportunity for Development in Bandundu Province.” Discussions were led by Mr. Alain NAZAYABWA, Provincial Assembly member elected in Kasongo Lunda with Mr. Jean WENGESSE, Urban Coordinator of civil society/ Bandundu City acting as Moderator. Participants included 10 Provincial Assembly members, 3 members of the Provincial Assembly Bureau, the Provincial Agriculture Minister and the representative of the Provincial Minister for Information, Press, Youth, Sports and Leisure.
- On August 19 a debate took place on “The Declining Influence of the Press: Gangrene in the Work of the Media in Bandundu Province.” Discussions were led by Mr. Michel NTUMBA EFOR KABONG Provincial Director of the Congolese Press Agency (ACP), and Deputy Secretary General of the Congo National Press Union. Participants included Mr Rene KIAKA, Provincial Coordinator of the Congolese Media Observatory (OMEC). This event was facilitated by Mr. Innocent BILA, Provincial Coordinator of the Media High Authority (HAM).

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

In regard to internet access, there were a total of 2,781 users in both of the CRDs. There were a total of 543 women users (19%). Among the total number of users, 57% visited the internet and 43% the library.

IV.3. Monitoring

During this quarter, monitoring focused on participation in the technical and logistics preparations for the assessment of needs in North Kivu for the 1207 funding.

IV.4. Obstacles

The main obstacles are the following:

- A weak internet signal, which reduces the CRD's ability to provide quality services to users, outdated information equipment and a library lacking diversity in Goma.

IV.5. Opportunities

Civil Society members are ready and willing to participate in the implementation of the decentralization process and have submitted proposals for training of trainers for their implication in the decentralization awareness-building campaign.

V. INDICATORS (see table in annex)

COMPONENT 1: DECENTRALIZATION AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT (July 1, 2009-September 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)		415* 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 gov't.	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		5 local mechanisms were conducted this period	
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	

*41 territorial executives including 6 women from the Mai Ndombe district participated in the decentralization and *deconcentration* (general notions of awareness building on promulgated laws)

*69 individuals including 59 administrative and political staff members of the Maniema PA were trained on decentralization and *deconcentration*

*26 individuals (4 ministers and 22 staff) including 2 women from the Maniema Provincial government received training on decentralization and *deconcentration*

*30 (8 ministers and 22 cabinet members) including 5 women from the Maniema Provincial government received training on accounting and budget procedures

*106 (75 deputies and 31 political and administrative staff members from the Katanga PA received training on decentralization and *deconcentration*

*72 (including 4 women) territorial executives, judicial and *service deconcentres* stakeholders from Maniema received training in accounting and budget procedures

*71 (including 6 women) territorial executives, judicial and *service deconcentres* stakeholders from Maniema received training in decentralization and *deconcentration*

COMPONENT 2: LEGISLATIVE STRENGTHENING (July 1 – September 30, 2009)

INDICATORS	BASELINE	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			
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			

Number of provincial legislators and provincial legislative staff attending USG sponsored training or educational events	0 provincial legislators and provincial legislative staff attended USG sponsored trainings			*150 provincial legislators and provincial legislative staff attending USG sponsored training or educational events.	
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*46 (7 provincial deputies and 39 political/administrative staff members) including 5 women of the Maniema PA received training on edict preparation techniques

*27 (3 ministers and 24 cabinet members) including 2 women from the Maniema provincial Government received training on edict preparation techniques

*45 (26 deputies and 19 political/administrative staff members) including 9 women from the Bdd PA received training on Parliamentary document filing techniques

*32 (6 ministers and 26 political/administrative staff members) from the Provincial government of North Kivu received training on edict preparation techniques

COMPONENT 3: JUDICIAL REFORM (July 1 – September 30, 2009)

INDICATORS	BASELINE	TARGET VALUES	NATIONAL LEVEL	PROVINCIAL LEVEL	FINDINGS
Number of justice sector personnel that received USG training	0 justice sector personnel received USG sponsored training in the previous year	231 out of 330 magistrates (including 211 men and 20 women received training (for all target provinces)			
Number of targeted justice sector priority tasks completed according to the time schedule outlined in the CMJ workplan	0 targeted justice sector priority tasks were completed in the previous year as outlined in the CMJ workplan	1 targeted justice sector priority task has been completed as outlined in the CMJ workplan (Audit)			
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			

VI. STAFFING AND MANAGEMENT

VI.1. Overview

Originally, the third quarter of 2009 would have been the last quarter for the BRDG DRC project. However, in July 2009, USAID approved the budget modification that was originally submitted in December 2008. Modification 03 provided \$2.7 Million in additional funding to DAI, and prolonged the project end date of the core BRDG DRC program until December 18, 2009. DAI will continue to operate with \$2 Million in 1207 funding until July 31, 2010. The approval of the modification allowed DAI to reduce its focus on closedown and shift attention back to the programming and completion of activities.

VI.2. Contractual and CTO notes

- The long-standing CTO for the BRDG DRC project, Ms. Kaya Adams, departed the DRC in July 2009. Her replacement is expected to arrive in January 2010. During the interim period, Mr. Alpha Ibrahima Bah has been designated as the COTR, with support from Cheryl Anderson, Ruxandra Datcu and Agathe Tshimpanga.
- DAI and USAID signed Modification 03 on July 23, 2009 for \$2.7 Million in additional funding. \$700,000 is earmarked for the Amani peace process, and \$2 Million is designated as 1207 funding. The modification provides a complete scope of work for these funds. Although similar to the activities of the core BRDG DRC project, the 1207 funding focuses on decentralization at the local level for the provinces of Maniema, North Kivu, and South Kivu.
- Modification 04 was signed by DAI on September 08, 2009. This modification fully obligated the project at \$9,349,015.
- DAI was awarded the ENGAGE project, referred to as PBG on September 30, 2009. To maximize efficiency, this project will co-locate with BRDG DRC. This will save on rent and other ODC costs. Additionally, several BRDG DRC staff members will divide their time to work on both projects. This will preserve institutional memory as well as ensure a seamless transition between the BRDG DRC and PBG projects.

VI.3. Staffing

For most of the quarter, the Kinshasa office of the BRDG DRC program was fully staffed. However, on September 25, 2009, the Senior Legislative Strengthening Advisor departed to the project. DAI began recruitment for a short-term replacement immediately, and pending USAID approval of the proposed STTA candidate, will fill the position as soon as possible.

The project fielded several international short-term consultants, including two technical experts, Ms. Esther Elkrieff and Mr. Rick Gold. Ms. Elkrieff led the judicial audit team. Although she had previously been employed by the Projustice project, the approval of the budget modification allowed DAI to hire her. DAI staff Mr. Rick Gold completed a two-week STTA as Integrity and Accountability Specialist. Mr. Gold provided an assessment and recommendations to strengthen SYNAMAC (Syndicat Autonome des Magistrats du Congo).

On the project management side, BRDG DRC fielded Mr. Dejan Momirovic as the IT Specialist. Mr. Momirovic assisted in the configuration of the new project computers, as well as with the cleaning and maintenance of some of the older computers. He reviewed the current status of IT equipment and internet usage and made recommendations to improve the project's information technology capacity.

Finally, BRDG DRC fielded two STTA to provide emergency coverage when the Chief of Party, Mr. Toby Vaughan, broke his leg while on holiday in June 2009. The severity of the injury pushed Mr. Vaughan's return date back from July 22 to September 23. The Operations Manager, Ms. Amanda Brondy, took Annual Leave for the final two weeks of July. Typically, the project is able to provide internal coverage when a team member departs. In this case, with the temporary loss of Mr. Vaughan, additional assistance was requested and approved by USAID.

In addition to these international STTA, BRDG DRC hired several Congolese experts and trainers. The names and positions are provided below:

- Pierre D. Ilunga M'Bunda Wa Biloba: Public Finance Specialist for Judicial Audit
- Stephane Tshilombo Kabamba: Document Archival Specialist
- Flory Mawanda Kimiana: IT Specialist for Judicial Audit
- Jacques Sabiti Kiseta: HR Specialist for Judicial Audit
- Pierre Mukendi Wa Mpoyi: Adult Education Specialist for Civil Society Training
- Jean Pierre Musombo: Decentralization Specialist for Civil Society Training
- Florent Mbwise Takizala: Infrastructure Specialist for Judicial Audit
- Flory Tamulenge Zingwa: Computer Archival Specialist

There were other minor changes in the BRDG DRC staffing plan during this quarter. Originally, BRDG DRC had proposed hiring three experts to advise the Independent Electoral Commission (IEC). Two of these experts, Mr. Désiré Molekela Ebene and Ms. Odette Disu Mawete, had been engaged by DAI since April 2009. The hiring of the third expert, Mr. Joseph Laurent Kulabakwenda Tulengi, was delayed. In late August 2009, the IEC notified DAI that Mr. Tulengi had been engaged by another donor. The IEC requested that the days originally planned for Mr. Tulengi be divided between the two experts already engaged, which would allow them to remain with the IEC until approximately November 2009. USAID approved this request on September 2, 2009.

In addition to the Senior Legislative Strengthening Advisor, five long-term contracts were not renewed. Explanations and status updates are provided below:

- Agathe Rwankuba (North Kivu Governance Advisor): DAI encountered management problems and based on this experience, decided not to renew Ms. Rwankuba's contract.
- Godelyve Mbangi (North Kivu Junior Manager): DAI encountered management problems and based on this experience, decided not to renew Ms. Mbangi's contract.
- Jean Louis Voka Mule (Bandundu Governance Advisor): Mr. Voka Mule has accepted a position with another donor. DAI will propose a replacement next quarter.
- Ferdinand Kapanga (Training Manager): Mr. Kapanga will continue to work with DAI on PBG, and will advise the BRDG DRC and 1207 projects, but on a short-term contract.
- Anselme Meya (Legislative Assistant): Similar to Mr. Kapanga, Mr. Meya will continue to provide guidance, but will be engaged for short-term assignments.

IV.4. CRD Operations Management

- CRD Bandundu: Bandundu continues to be an eager partner that is easy to work with. BRDG DRC will work with the PBG program to ensure the CRD is fully staffed during the final quarter, before management transitions completely to the PBG project.
- CRD North Kivu: BRDG DRC will recruit for a Governance Advisor and Junior Manager. The responsibilities for these positions will expand to include assistance with activities planned for South Kivu under the 1207 funding.
- CRD Katanga: The opening of a Katanga CRD will fall within the responsibility of the PBG program. This CRD was removed from the BRDG DRC budget at the request of the CTO.
- CRD Maniema: BRDG DRC will open a CRD in Maniema. A trip was planned for early September to search for office space and to meet with the preferred candidate for the Governance Advisor position. This trip was delayed due to scheduling difficulties and is now planned for October 2009.

IV.5. Deliverables Completed this Quarter

The BRDG DRC Quarterly Report Number 5 was submitted on August 4, 2009. The project requested and received a small extension in the deadline due to the fact that the Chief of Party unexpectedly broke his leg, causing him to be out of the office for three months.

IV.6. Challenges and Obstacles

- The biggest challenge faced by the project during this quarter resulted from the absence of the Chief of Party. Annual leave and office travel within the home office made it difficult to obtain coverage on such short notice. At the same time, with the award of the 1207 funding and the impending closure of the core BRDG DRC project, DAI focused on ramping up activities for the final months, which placed strain on all staff. Fortunately, the Chief of Party has returned, and DAI does have assistance arriving in October.
- The availability of the partner organizations and trainers continues to challenge the scheduling of remaining activities. DAI has discovered that the best response of this is to remain flexible.