



IFES Quarterly Report: January 1, 2005 – March 31, 2005

Program name: Democratic Republic of Congo – a Successful Transition to Peace and Democratic Governance Promoted

USAID Cooperative Agreement No. DGC-A-00-01-00004-00, Associate Award No. 623-A-00-04-00102-00

Project Period: August 16, 2004 – September 30, 2005

Total Budget: \$1,873,319 Expenses Recorded to Date: \$796,369

BACKGROUND

Tension continued to mount over the June 30, 2005 deadline for the transition. A comment by the head of the CEI on the possible delay of the election sparked violent protests in Kinshasa on January 10. Various political groups and officials continue to blame each other for the delay. The PALU and UDPS asserted that they would demand the resignation of the government if elections were not held by June 30. MONUC changed its public discourse and came out in favor of elections being held “within constitutional delays.”

On February 1 a UN report was published denouncing violations of the arms embargo in Eastern DRC. Uganda denied any violations.

While the Kivus were more stable this quarter, the security situation in Ituri deteriorated further. Flows of up to 15,000 refugees fleeing to Uganda were reported in early January. Close to 10,000 persons were reported to have returned by February but continued violence left displaced persons in volatile circumstances. MONUC placed over 9,000 people under its protection in February and announced it would henceforth apply chapter VII capacities to disarm the Interhamwe. Before expiring on March 31, the DDR process saw some gains, notably in the Province of Katanga where leaders of two militia groups agreed to disarm during a ceremony in Lumbumbashi and in Ituri where the largest disarmament effort to date was initiated in late March, targeting 4,000 militiamen. MONUC’s mandate was extended 6 months from its 31 March expiration date.

The DRC has taken steps to restore mutual confidence with its neighbors, including meeting with the Burundian Minister of Foreign Relations on increasing border security and the activation of a joint verification mechanism for the Rwanda-DRC border. On February 17, eleven foreign ministers from the Great Lakes region met in Kigali, Rwanda, to map out strategies of implementing the regional Pact on Security, Stability and Development, signed in Dar es Salaam, November 2004.

Aid to the most volatile regions of the DRC was interrupted on numerous occasions during this quarter, notably with MSF forced to suspend its activities at the end of January in Northern Kivu due to looting and the EU and numerous other NGOs temporarily suspending aid programs out of Ituri and Northern Kivu following the deaths of 9 UN peacekeepers on February 28.

Six Moroccan soldiers serving in MONUC were arrested in February in the ongoing sex abuse scandal.

A month-long strike in government hospitals reportedly caused 1,366 deaths in Kinshasa in January-February while aid groups struggled to provide medical relief in the Oriental Province where an outbreak of pneumonic plague broke out in early February.

During this Quarter, the CEI was organized into four divisions: electoral operations, civic education and communications, logistics and training. It began the installation of its 11 Provincial Bureaus and 64 regional Liaison Bureaus, which are organizing similarly. The CEI signed an agreement of cooperation with the Independent Electoral Commission of South Africa on February 10th. The CEI’s website was initiated on February 14th. An information campaign was launched to educate community leaders on the Identification and Enrolment of Voters law, Feb 14. Debates started in the senate following the publication of the draft constitution. During the last week of March the Senate and the National Assembly switched dossiers. The Senate adopted the 2005 budget and the Assembly was studying the draft Constitution.

Activities

Objective 1: Support to the timely implementation of the legal framework for a democratic transition to representative government.

Indicator	Target	Status this Quarter	Key Results	January 2005	February 2005	March 2005
<i>Number of consultations held with IEC members</i>	<i>4 consultations per week</i>	TARGET EXCEEDED	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 4+ meetings per week with CEI members 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 4+ meetings per week with CEI representatives; consultations include: administrative plan, calendar, handicap voting, trainings, roles of BL and BRP, cost planning for voter registration and argument for communications plan Interinstitutional Seminar plans 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 4+ meetings per week with CEI representatives; consultations include: training plan, enrollment, calendar, communication plan, operations of CEI placement and guides, roles of BL and BRP, cost planning for logistics Development of communications plan 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 4+ meetings per week with CEI representatives; consultations include: Boîte training plan, equipment testing, enrollment, calendar, communication plan, roles of BL and BRP CEI approval of communication plan
<i>Level of incorporation of IFES-supported input in key legislative fields (voter registration, draft constitution, electoral law)</i>	<i>10 IFES recommendations included in key legislative texts</i>	TARGET EXCEEDED	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Review and analysis of Draft Code of Conduct for Political Parties, Composition of provisions for handicapped voters to be integrated in the Application Measures related to the Law on Voter Identification and Enrolment and Election Laws 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Analysis of Draft Code of Good Conduct for Political Parties, at request of CEI 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> At request of Supervisor of the Special Commission, contacted specialist to review dispute procedure for voter registration preparatory to official request from CEI 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> IFES-DC organizes virtual panel of experts to analyze draft Electoral Law At request of IEC president, IFES submits list of constitutional and legal provisions to secure voting rights for people living with handicaps

Description of Activities: At the request of the IEC, IFES reviewed the law on Voter Identification and Enrolment and recommended numerous changes. A panel of legal experts began work on an analysis of the draft electoral law; the panel of 6 experts includes independent analysts from the DGEQ, IFES, Université de Paris, and other unaffiliated reviewers. A round table discussion will be held early in the next quarter and will be chaired by Mr Claude Rioux of the DGEQ.

Objective 2: Development and strengthening of basic political processes and democratic institutions.

Indicator	Target	Status this Quarter	Key Results	January 2005	February 2005	March 2005
<i>Number of meetings and training sessions held with IEC members over project lifetime, in response to IEC requests</i>	<i>2 meetings and training sessions per week</i>	TARGET EXCEEDED	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Significant support for logistics and operational planning, electoral calendar Proposal for Voter Qualification Test accepted and implemented 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Working sessions with IEC on voter training strategy Frequent consultations with IFES logistic expert on Electoral Calendar Reports on status of BL and BRP provided to IEC Participate in recruitment of local logistics expert 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Attend Inter-Institutional Seminar on logistics and electoral training Recruitment of local logistics expert Meetings with EU and other partners on electoral calendar, at request of IEC Support to develop Communications strategy Verify lists of BL and BRPs and production of a repertory At request of CEI, meetings to 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Preparation of scenarios and intensive planning activities for the voter registration material qualification Close cooperation with IEC and various actors on harmonization of Civic Education and Electoral Communications Strategies Operational planning of general and emergency communications plan

					<p>assist Spec. Cmt. on Legal Affairs, Spec. Cmt on Electoral Training, Spec. Cmt on Communication, Information an Public Relations, Sepe. Cmt on Civic Education</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Organize informal meeting between Cote d'Ivoire EC (2000) and Dir. of the Cabinet and the President of the IEC, on issues of institutional independence and credibility <p>Support to Electoral Education Campaign</p>	
<p><i>Level of incorporation of IFES-supported input in key IEC operational areas (internal management, electoral calendar, budget and logistical plan)</i></p>	<p><i>10 IFES recommendations included in IEC documentary output</i></p>	<p>TARGET EXCEEDED</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Development of Communications Plan, Electoral Training Plan, Civic Education Plan, produce scenarios for the implementation of Voter Registration process Production of detailed documents explaining administrative structure and rules of the Bureau and operational structure of the IEC Sustained IEC provincial and field office recruitment and training 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Sponsor and attend Matadi Workshop on electoral calendar and registration methodology 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Develop several scopes of work and organigrams of the IEC operational structure, attend planning meetings Produce repertory of Bureaux de Liaison and Bureaux de Representation Provinciale 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Review and editing of CEI Plan for voter education Official approval of emergency communication and Electoral training Plans

Description of Activities: IFES Logistics Expert to the IEC, David Backler completed his contract and moved on to work as logistics expert with the UN in DRC. His replacement, Martin Nadon, Canada, was recruited during this quarter and assumes his functions at the service of the Bureau national des opérations starting at the beginning of April 2005 for 6 months.

Objective 3: Increased public participation in economic and political decision making and government reform.

Indicator	Target	Status this Quarter	Key Results	January, 2005	February, 2005	March, 2005
<p><i>Number of contacts with key civil society organizations on major election themes</i></p>	<p><i>500 contacts with multiplier effects</i></p>	<p>TARGET EXCEEDED</p>	<p><i>174 partner associations registered</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Working meetings with President of UPESC (NGO for parents of deaf children) to prepare trainings on improving electoral access for the hearing impaired. Trainings to be held next quarter 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 70 local associations volunteer, begin civic education activities using IFES's <i>fiches de synthèse</i> 	<p>70 local associations doing electoral education with IFES' <i>fiches de synthèse</i>; reached voters in 33 communes in 4 provinces, 22,125 participants (11,591 women)</p>

<i>Number of debates held on transition-related themes</i>	<i>14 per center</i>	TARGET EXCEEDED	32 events held (conference/debate/radio discussion) 23,652 direct participants in various activities and conferences est. 4,760,000 beneficiaries of radio programming activities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Kinshasa: 1 event held 50 participants (20 women) ▪ Kikwit: 4 events (2 conf., radio) 200 participants (35 women) est. 315,000 beneficiaries of radio programming ▪ Lubumbashi: 1 event held 61 participants (13 women) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Kinshasa: 2395 participants (1453 women) in various activities est 2,000,000 beneficiaries of radio coverage of activities ▪ Kikwit: 12 events (6 radio, 6 conf.) 4299 participants, (2332 women) in various other activities est. 440,000 beneficiaries of radio programming ▪ Lubumbashi: 9 events (1 media, 8 conf) 633 participants (381 women) in other various activities est. 20,000 beneficiaries of radio programming 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Kinshasa: 5 events (1 radio, 4 conf.) 5168 participants (2501 women) in other various activities ▪ Kikwit: 1 event (1 conf) 4656 participants (1954 women) in other various activities ▪ Lubumbashi: 1 event (1 conf.) 2389 participants (1134 women) in other various activities ▪ Kisangani: 2588 participants (2330 women) in various activities est. 1,200,000 beneficiaries of radio coverage
<i>Production of footage suitable for a documentary film on the transition process, elections and the role of CSOs in the DRC</i>	<i>15 minutes of suitable footage</i>	TARGET MET	11 radio stations covered Electoral Education Campaign 24 audio programs produced	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ DRC Chief of Party interviewed for Centre Lokole documentary 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ 8 radio programs produced, radio audience of apx 2,875,000 ▪ Visiting IFES-DC manager and director interviewed on film 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ 16 radio programs produced, radio audience of apx. 1,200,000 ▪ No footage developed – contact maintained with Centre Lokole
<i>Individuals and/or organizations capable of providing information on voter registration/observation</i>	<i>50 2-person teams</i>	TARGET EXCEEDED	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ 1695 direct beneficiaries of Resource Centre facilities and electoral education activities (433 women) ▪ Total 22 training activities held (91% of planned) ▪ Preparation, production and commencement of ▪ Boîte à Image training 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Multiple working sessions on the Boîte à Images project; printing of the Guide and illustrations and initial planning of delivery 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Continued working sessions on the Boîte à Images project; reception of accessory materials and assembly of 2,500 kits 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Began delivery of 2,500 Boîte à Image kits, initial training of trainers in Lubumbashi, OTI contracts to train 280 trainers in 140 communes in Prov. Orientale and Maniema
<i>Production of voter registration handbook</i>	<i>200 copies produced</i>	TARGET UNMET	<i>Progress on handbook awaiting CEI approval of voter registration procedures and application measures for electoral law</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Decided product specifics and logistic needs, Strategy developed at Matadi workshop 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Development of materials 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Organization of working group sessions on application measures for electoral law with international electoral expert, Claude Rioux (prerequisite to handbook production)

Description of Activities:

22 of 24 planned training activities took place this quarter (91%) primarily on the topics of electoral processes, voter identification and registration, nationality and the role of women and different social actors and the press in the success of the electoral process. To improve information access for all levels of society IFES conceived and produced thematic *Fiches de Synthèse* (Summary Sheets) on the electoral process, nationality and identification of voters, in the four national languages (Lingala, Kikongo, Swahili and Tshiluba). 70 of the 174 registered with the Resource Centers volunteered to use these sheets in their provincial outreach. So far, 333 communes/territories have been covered in 4 provinces with a total outreach of 22,125 people (52% women).

Activities planned for next Quarter

- Kinshasa
 - Round Table discussion on draft Electoral Law, including the review of the comments and analysis of international legal experts
 - Drafting of the Application measures on the Law on voter registration
 - Support to the planning and implementation of the qualification test for registration materials
 - Support to the IEC in its recruitment of staff for the National Bureau of operations and other technical cells
 - Support to the installation in the IEC new Headquarters
 - Support to the implementation of the BRP and BL
 - Distribution of 41,000 copies of the Law on voter registration (in the 4 national languages)
 - If possible, translation and printing of the Law on referendum and the Election Law
 - Radio programming on Draft Constitution, electoral process, women's participation
 - Education activities on political party law
 - Training of trainers for education program on deaf-mute participation in the electoral process
 - Training of youth leaders in Catholic parishes
 - Phase II of education campaign on electoral process and voter identification with university students and staff
 - Election observer training with university students
 - Support to IFES partners in their civic education activities
- Lubumbashi
 - Boîte à Images training, especially targeting handicapped voters
 - Conference and radio program on electoral process with diverse partners
 - Education activity for women's associations
 - 3 day information program on the draft Constitution
 - Election observer training with university students
 - Support to IFES partners in their civic education activities
- Kikwit
 - Election observer training with university students
 - Boîte à Images training of trainers
 - Education activities on draft Constitution
 - Support to IFES partners in their civic education activities
- Kisangani
 - Inauguration of Resource Center
 - Conference and radio program on Nationality Law
 - Boîte à Images training of trainers
 - Support to IFES partners in their civic education activities