



## IFES Quarterly Report: April 1, 2005 - June 30, 2005

### Burundi: Electoral Support for the Transition

USAID Cooperative Agreement No. DGC A-00-01-00004-00,  
Associate Award No. 623-A-00-04-00081-00

Project Period: September 1, 2004 – September 30, 2005

Total Budget: \$1,800,000 Expenses Recorded to Date: \$704,550

### RESULTS SUMMARY

- Completed IFES training manual to be used by the CEPI (Independent Provincial Electoral Commission), to train the CECI (Independent Communal Electoral Commission), and the CECI to train the polling station presidents.
- Training of trainers (TOT) of CEPI trainers and CEPI presidents on May 16-17.
- Training of 650 CECI commissioners on May 20-21.
- Training of Polling Station Presidents in all 17 regions on May 23-27.
- Provided fax machines to each of the 17 provincial CEPI offices; computers and generators to four provincial offices in non-electrified regions.
- June 3 communal elections proceeded without any major blips; results accepted.

### POLITICAL BACKGROUND

The Burundian election cycle continued successfully in this quarter. The Electoral Law and the Communal Law governing the next series of elections were promulgated on April 20<sup>th</sup> 2005. In early April, the Electoral Code and calendar were finally agreed upon. On May 13, guidelines for the voting process, requiring voter ID cards were issued. Tension over the coming elections was high and violence anticipated; however, despite a few outbreaks on June 3<sup>rd</sup>, there was little fighting to disrupt the elections.

Communal elections were held on June 3<sup>rd</sup> – and partial elections were held on June 7<sup>th</sup> in areas that were postponed due to violence on Election Day. The official results were announced on Thursday the 23<sup>rd</sup> of June – giving a sweeping majority to the ex-rebel group CNDD-FDD.

#### Results:

CNDD-FDD	1,457,081 votes	57.3%	1781 seats	55.2% seats
FRODEBU	592,019 votes	23.3%	822 seats	25.5%
UPRONA	160,558 votes	6.3%	260 seats	08.1%
CNDD	105,107 votes	4.1%	135 seats	04.2%
MRC	53,813 votes	2.1%	88 seats	02.7%

PARENA            46,038 votes            1.8%                    75 seats            02.3%

Both FRODEBU and UPRONA, a Tutsi party indicated acceptance of the results.

Dates for the Legislative elections were July 4, the senatorial elections July 29<sup>th</sup>; Presidential elections August 19<sup>th</sup>; and Colline elections late September.

This quarter a sister project of IFES specifically targeted the majority, but poorly represented, female population of Burundi. The Women and Governance Project, active April 6-May 19 in coordination with Search for Common Ground, was successful in its goals to inform women of the electoral process and improve their access to politics and governance. The 5-day seminar consisted of a series of workshops that had various emphases including the Burundian electoral process, law-making processes, the separation of powers, and general civic education.

## PROGRAM ACTIVITIES

On April 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup>, the IFES team organized a 1 ½ day workshop for the IFES staff and the eight BEAT trainers who implemented the BEAT training in the four regions of the country. The workshop enabled IFES to capitalize on the training experience of the four teams and produce and adopt a final report regarding the BEAT phase II training. This report was completed April 15.

IFES Chief of Party Michelle Momy met with PADCO, Inc., to discuss providing technical assistance to the planning of an electoral civic education campaign. IFES provided PADCO with 2000 copies of the Election Law, the Constitution, and the new *Guide for Polling Station Presidents* to be distributed free of charge during the civic education campaign. PADCO provided IFES with a distribution plan and outline of the proposed activities. IFES printed a total of 12,000 copies of the Election Act, 10,000 copies of the new Constitution, and 3000 copies of the Communal Law.

UNOPs proposed a joint mission to visit the provincial commissions to identify the material needs of each commission across the country. The teams were composed of a member of the CENI, a UNOPs representative and an IFES representative. The mission identified the lack of a strong communications structure between CEPI commissions as an immediate need to be addressed. It was decided that IFES would provide fax machines to each of the 17 provincial CEPI offices, and UNOPs would install permanent land lines in each of these offices. The fax machines allowed for any last minute changes or urgent messages to be communicated between CEPI and CENI offices. UNOPs assumed the cost of communications for the duration of the electoral events.

The IFES COP met with various partners (ONUB, CENI) to establish a joint technical committee to draft a new guide for polling station presidents. The draft was completed in early May and approved by the CENI. The guide includes references to the new electoral law, more detailed information on the electoral process, samples of the important forms and diagrams of potential polling station layouts. The new guide will be an important tool for training, electoral civic education, and as a reference tool in each polling station.

The IFES COP and Project Coordinator met with the CENI member responsible for training, communications and information, to discuss the training needs in anticipation of the new elections calendar. Among the proposed activities was the training of the CECI (Independent Communal Election Commissions), once established by the CENI. According to the new law, the CECI will play an important role in the colline-level elections. IFES also recommended to the CENI that at least 3 members from each provincial commission be re-trained regarding the new role that the CEPI will play in the organization of communal elections. The following training needs were identified and implemented:

- May 16-17, Training of Trainers for the CEPI – two CEPI trainers and each of the CEPI presidents participated in the two-day training. The trainers who participated were then responsible for delivering the training to the CECI

commissioners. IFES developed a training manual to be used by the CEPI in training the CECI.

- May 20-21, Training of 650 CECI members by the CEPI trainers. The 650 CECI commissioners from each of the 17 provinces attended the two-day training.
- May 23-27, Training of Polling Station Staff. The CECI members trained over 6000 polling station presidents using training tools and materials provided by IFES, including the training manual used by the CEPI in training the CECI.

IFES received a written request in June for the purchase of 4 small generators for the 4 provinces of Cankuso, Kirundo, Karusi and Muyinga who do not have electricity. IFES provided both the generators and computers to these provinces prior to the Legislative elections.

The IFES COP accompanied the U.S. Ambassador and members of the diplomatic community to Bururi, Gitega and Cankuso to observe the communal elections on June 3.

On June 17<sup>th</sup> and 18<sup>th</sup>, a post-election review of the communal elections was held, organized and jointly hosted by IFES and the CENI. Participants included: ONUB, CEPI, CECI, members of the government, media, local and international NGOs, elections observers, and other members of civil society. Participants were brought together in a dialogue and review of the communal electoral process, to discuss lessons learned, and to make recommendations for subsequent elections. A report listing the recommendations adopted by the participants was produced by IFES and distributed to all participants and interested partners. In response to one of these recommendations, IFES provided transistor radios to all 6007 polling stations to provide an efficient and economic way for the CENI to communicate important changes in procedures to all polling station presidents on election day. IFES also provided identification badges for the 30,500 poll officials.

IFES COP Michelle Momy worked collaboratively with ONUB, UNOPs and the CENI, as a technical advisor in helping to establish the adopted elections calendar. She continues to meet regularly with these groups in a technical advisory role.

#### **ACTIVITIES PLANNED FOR NEXT QUARTER**

- Continuing technical assistance to the CENI
- Workshop on “Managing the Media” for the CENI
- Evaluation/Debriefing session on lessons learned from the Legislative elections
- Commodity support to the CENI in upcoming elections
- Proposal for extension of program to provide post-election support