

Third Annual Reports: Web Updates

GTF163 EISA

The EISA “Promoting Accountable, Transparent and Responsible Governance” programme aims to empower civil society to be at the forefront of governance and anti-corruption efforts at national and sub-national levels in the Democratic Republic of the Congo. The programme seeks to strengthen the capacities of civil society organisations (CSO) to interact effectively with representatives of relevant national, provincial and local public institutions and political parties and monitor the work of these public institutions in order to promote accountable, transparent and responsive governance and the fight against corruption, for the benefit of the poor, the marginalised and the environment.

The programme is being implemented with more than 50 CSOs and networks in six provinces. The main strategies are: (i) to strengthen the institutional capacity of CSOs; (ii) to put in place networking mechanisms for CSOs to deal effectively with political parties; (iii) to create space for continuous interaction between CSOs and Governance institutions; (iv) to develop a comprehensive strategy for CSOs to fight against corruption; and (v) to enhance the capacity of CSO to contribute to transparent, free and fair elections.

Achievements to date include:

- Electoral Law: CSOs engaged in the strategic process of drafting the Electoral Act, submitting a proposal to the National Electoral Commission, the provincial and national legislatures and to the main political parties. CSOs also publicised their proposed changes and created public awareness on the need for a more transparent Electoral Act. Some of the changes were accepted and included in the new Electoral Law.
- Social Dialogue: A further achievement of significance is the establishment of the Social Dialogue programme, where elected representatives interact directly with citizens on the grassroots level on a platform that enables them to intermingle in a non-hierarchical way. In Kasai Oriental, for instance, the Social Dialogue session resulted in the adoption by the Provincial legislature of an edict on land reform. The Social Dialogue has succeeded in bringing civil society and elected representatives together and has now been decreed by some provincial legislatures (such as Bas-Congo) as the mechanism to engage with the local population. Also the Prime Minister has introduced an Office of a special advisor on Social Dialogue in the public sector.
- Anti-corruption: The programme successfully conducted sensitisation on corruption issues at the grassroots level. Citizens have been trained on how to investigate and prepare reports on cases of corruption. A civil society anti-corruption charter was also collectively agreed.

For the remaining year, the programme will focus on sustainability, to make sure that the main achievements continue beyond GTF funding. This will involve:

- Consultations with provincial authorities to institutionalise the Social Dialogue as a mechanism for increasing citizens’ participation;
- Encouraging political parties and CSOs to continue the permanent interaction;
- Supporting CSOs in developing strategies for fighting corruption and getting their proposals funded;
- Sensitising other partners to continue their support for marginalised groups, such as the Pygmies, ensuring real ownership and commitment on promoting accountable governance.

All annual reports are available at www.eisagtf.org and to view photos related to this programme please visit <http://www.flickr.com/groups/1468856@N21/>