

Congo (DRC) Report: April - July 2014

1. Radio debates on corruption and democracy

DRC faces elections at all levels over the next couple of years. IGI in DRC decided to increase radio activities in the hope of reaching a large public in and around Bukavu. We organised three radio shows around corruption and democracy.

The first debate concerned youth principally those from universities club formed during IGI's first project. It was an occasion to update their activities and show to public how they take engagement in fight corruption in universities area, how the monitoring is done and how authorities encourage them in this important action.

The second and third debates were around democracy in preparing the upcoming election which present a great challenge. The debates involved two members of civilian society, two journalist and IGI in partnership with Radio Maendeleo. What is the role of civilian action in constitution challenge? How to preserve peace in case of trouble? Is corruption of parliament the source forthcoming changes? Why local elections have not been organised since 2006, making all authorities unconstitutional?

The debate was very rich and IGI promise to respond again when possible by organising seminars. All participant in debates concluded that the Congolese people don't know enough what is the constitution and what is mere talk. They need to be trained, more sensitized. They also conclude that corruption still the origin of bad governance in DRC.

2. Helping the Pygmy peoples of South Kivu

IGI has been associated in a study on the livelihoods of indigenous Pygmy peoples in Idjwi Island (South Kivu). This study was funded by Rain Forest Norway. Two organizations namely IGI and IFDP co-organized this study which focused on:

- Produce detailed and practical information on the comprehensive situation of indigenous Pygmy peoples in the mountainous Kivu and in the case of island territory Idjwi under precarious livelihoods and scope of current field actions.
- Identify possible solutions to improve the livelihoods of indigenous Pygmy peoples, including the method of securing land suitable for the conditions and economic practices of indigenous pygmies, legislative advocacy to complete all levels on land concerns of these peoples in the context of land reform process in the DRC, the participation of these communities in planning and decision-making to local development, participatory budgeting.

