



Femmes Africa Solidarité

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PROJECT: Building Democratic Institutions through Gender Equality in the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC)

PERIOD: April 2007 – December 2008 (20 months)

AMOUNT: \$248,951 USD

DONORS: United Nations Democracy Funds (UNDEF)

PARTNERS: UNDEF, UNDP, UNIFEM

DESCRIPTION:

The objectives of the project is to build the capacity of DRC policy-makers at various levels in leadership, advocacy, coalition building and women's human rights and to enable project beneficiaries to support the adoption of laws, policies and programs that promote justice, reconciliation and equitable participation of women in the electoral process.

The project is being developed by FAS and supported by UNIFEM with funding from the UN Democracy Fund (UNDEF), focusing on human rights, democratic governance, and peacebuilding with a particular emphasis on women's rights issues through the use of regional and international legal instruments on women's rights. This project is implemented in partnership with "Le Cadre de Concertation des Femmes Congolaises" and other stakeholders of the "Gender is my Agenda Campaign".

EXPECTED RESULTS

The projects expected to provide key decision-makers and members of civil society in the DRC with the necessary skills, knowledge and expertise needed to implement and effectuate change in policies and programs for the engenderment of the DRC's democratization process.

These results were achieved through trainings (on human rights, democratic governance, the rule of law and peacebuilding), and advocacy efforts on gender issues within the framework of the *Gender is My Agenda Campaign* and the *Solemn Declaration on Gender Equality in Africa*.

MAIN ACTIVITIES

The activities of the project were implemented by Femmes Africa Solidarité (FAS) and the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) was in charge of the oversight of project activities. Through these, the women of the DRC have been able to create national platforms to support their participation in peace negotiations and transitional mechanisms of governance as well as establish the Cadre de Concertation des Femmes Congolaises, a nation-wide association of women's groups.

- The program was officially launched during a workshop on negotiation and networking in Kinshasa, hosted by UN in August 2007.
- A Steering Committee was established to supervise the program implementation.
- A Memorandum of Understanding was finalized between UNDP (executive agency) and FAS (implementing agency).
- The initial assessment has been initiated. A consultant and a program coordinator were hired to conduct the baseline study to map the current situation and the future challenges.