

Democratic Republic of Congo

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CONTRIBUTING TO DISARMAMENT

Democratic Republic of Congo Strategic Portfolio Management Progress Report 2007

The Oxfam partner organisations working in DR Congo completed the Country Programme Mapping. This gives a comprehensive overview of the entire effort by the different Oxfams. Two Country Alignment Team meetings fostered mutual understanding and strengthened collaboration on programmes. There was much support and enthusiasm for Oxfam Novib's initiative for launching the *We Can - Stop all violence against women* campaign with joint funding of Oxfam Germany. Furthermore Oxfam led an intensive advocacy on the renewal of the mandate of MONUC.

Oxfam Novib actively participated in bi-monthly meetings with Dutch actors working on the DRC. Through this exchange the different actors have knowledge of their programmes and strategies and can contribute to collaboration. This collaboration took place for example in a joint letter to the Minister of Development Cooperation on the priority issues for the Netherlands' involvement in DRC, joint briefings with the Minister of Development Cooperation, preparation for a parliamentary debate on the Great Lakes.

Oxfam Novib's approach of community-based reintegration within the Demobilisation, Disarmament and Reintegration (DDR) programmes, has received increased attention and appreciation by Clingendael, the Institute of Strategic Studies (South Africa), and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

Finally, Oxfam Novib has contributed to a joint regional analysis on natural resource extraction and conflicts in the Great Lakes region.

In general Oxfam Novib's strategy for the DRC has shown itself to be comprehensive and effective, showing progress on all aims through the partner organisations' programmes. In the SPM Plan for 2007, conflict transformation and peace building have been presented as key elements that have to be integrated in every strategy. Looking at the developments on security in the DRC this has proven to be a correct assessment.

Sustainable livelihoods

Oxfam Novib has initiated the planned impact assessment to see if improvements can be made in funding strategies and in programme development by the partner organisations, corresponding with the strategies and goals that have been set. This is especially relevant considering the changing situation in the DRC and the differences in the security situation in the different regions. New economic opportunities arise in more stable areas, such as the highlands of South Kivu where one partner organisation seeks to commercialise coffee production of local farmers for the international market. A stable and peaceful context, linked with good governance will increase opportunities for supporting micro finance institutions, thus increasing possibilities for small-scale enterprises.

Basic social services

In the field of access to health care, progress has been made in Maniema province, where Oxfam Novib provided financial support to one partner organisation active in the rehabilitation and capacitation of health structures, such as a regional hospital and 26 health centres. Through this support and the work of the partner organisation, almost 200,000 people now have access to quality basic health care, while working together with the official health care officials and institutions. Also a vast vaccination programme has been supported. The impact on the daily lives of people of this programme is direct and visible, especially on the lives of women and children, who are the main beneficiaries of the health care facilities; apart from the health centres there are nurseries and vaccination programmes for mothers and children.

A four-year follow-up project to the EU externally-funded projects has been started. It aims to consolidate Oxfam Novib's experience with helping setting up a good coordination structure for the distribution of medication, and analyses of the socio-economic and epidemiological data, but also the selection criteria for inclusion of local health structures in the support for medication supply. In the current setting of the bigger 9th European Development Fund (EDF) financed Health Programme in Nord-Kivu, the two Kasaï Provinces and the Province Orientale, Oxfam Novib together with a local implementor is supporting local health structures in the districts of Masisi and Butembo, north Kivu. They do this by gaining the technical knowledge required to improve their performance and participate in the system of results based financing aiming to put in place a more sustainable and qualitatively improved health sector.

Life and security

Through the Humanitarian Capacity Building programme organised by Oxfam Novib, the partner organisations have strengthened their analyses of the local situation regarding food security and poverty in areas where people are either displaced or are in the process of returning back home after years of displacement. Furthermore the element of conflict sensitivity has increased their knowledge of possible causes of conflicts within and between communities. The partner organisations that are based in the different provinces and regions, that are experiencing different levels of (in)security, can now respond to the humanitarian needs that arise, as well as to the different needs in conflict transformation and peace building, community building, conflict resolution, processes of disarmament, demobilisation and reintegration, taking into account the opportunities and limitations imposed by their political, social and cultural contexts.

In Maniema, the community based Demobilisation, Disarmament and Reintegration programme has shown successful results, in which the traditional, reformed councils of wise people, the so-called barza's, play a central role in conflict resolution and reintegrating the perpetrators and victims of crimes committed by former militias.

Especially in the light of events in North Kivu, the work of the partner organisations in the two Kivu provinces on community-based conflict resolution, inter-community dialogue and collaboration has been important to contain local tensions and avoid the spreading of the tensions to other provinces. Oxfam Novib supports the initiatives of the partner organisations in setting up local peace committees, dialogue and exchange

In 2007 a new Oxfam Novib humanitarian coordinator replaced the former field coordinator in

Bujumbura. Instead of only focussing on Bujumbura, her responsibilities also include the humanitarian programmes in the east of the DRC. A provisional overall assessment of the humanitarian situation, capacities of the partner organisations and of possible donors was made.

Social and political participation

Governance and leadership have become important elements: a first step has been initiated by Oxfam Novib during the governance workshop in July.

Through support of two organisations working on extractives, Oxfam Novib contributes to gain insight in the role of the extractives industry in the current situation of insecurity and bad or absence of governance. Results from the research of these organisations contribute to the development of a functional local governance, budget tracking, transparency and developing effective measures to counter the uncontrolled exploitation of mineral resources, thus contributing to the national and provincial revenues that can be used for providing basic social services to the population.

Through the approach of working with grassroots and member organisations and unions, the partner organisations stimulate the democratisation processes and mobilisation of farmers and other citizens, informing them on their rights and civil duties, and work towards giving them a stronger voice in decision taking processes. Especially the position of women in this has been addressed.

Gender and diversity

The development of a gender strategy with the Oxfam Novib partner organisations is well under way and there is a positive response from partner organisations on reflection on gender. The preparations for WE CAN campaign are in preparation with much enthusiasm for the idea to work through change agents. Four alliances for the campaign in DRC have been identified. Positive changes in legislation and the implementation of laws on the position of women and against sexual violence show first signs of positive effects, thus opening new opportunities for the campaign.

Conclusions

Concerning progress in sustainable livelihoods and the development of commerce, much depends on security, peace and governance. Without that, no significant development is possible. Where security and peace are not yet stable, work on life in peace and security remains essential, combining both humanitarian assistance as well as community-based conflict resolution programmes.

Through financial support of the Demobilisation and Reintegration programme in Maniema, Oxfam Novib contributes to the disarmament of militias and their reintegration in the communities, often victims of these militias. Through locally supported committees and processes, perpetrators and victims of crimes committed during and after the war, work together thus reinforcing the social structures. By linking and learning Oxfam Novib stimulates an active exchange on lessons learned between partner organisations and other actors.

RESULTS ACHIEVED

SPM code	Expected result end 2010	Results so far
CON 1.1.1.	<p>By 2010, 35,000 rural households (about 175,000 people) in Eastern Congo will have obtained food security, defined as an access to at least two quality meals per day. In addition, local farmers (70% of whom are women) will commercialise their products beyond the local markets to which they now only have access; they will increase their revenues via more frequent exchanges with other regions and have access to new products unavailable in their communities of origin</p>	<p>In East DRC (South and North Kivu, Maniema) twelve partner organisation are active in Sustainable Livelihood programmes. Most programmes focus on multiple themes: agriculture, livestock, micro credit, syndicalism.</p> <p>Households have been trained in stable husbandry and cattle breeding, better-adapted livestock has been distributed and veterinary services provided, therewith reducing to 45% the mortality rate and increasing the total livestock in small cattle. Households, members of the partner organisations, have been trained in using new agricultural techniques and new variances of seeds and plants have been introduced. In South Kivu, coffee has become a main point of attention, with the favourable climate in the Highlands.</p> <p>Environmental protection and anti-erosion programmes have been introduced in vulnerable areas.</p> <p>Farmers are being trained and are organising themselves in Crop Sectors (Filières Agricoles), thus maximising production and facilitating access to markets</p> <p>Micro credit programmes have increased opportunities for small scale farmers (with main focus on women) to engage in small commercial activities, thus increasing incomes and providing resources to send children to school, pay for medical services and rebuild houses.</p> <p>Through these programmes, improvements have been made in food security, permitting access to two quality meals a day for many households.</p> <p>In South Kivu, North Kivu and Maniema, the partner organisations work on syndicalism with the farmers, thus organising and training them in their rights and obligations.</p> <p>Approximate number of direct beneficiaries reached on livelihood programmes in South Kivu, through the programmes of six partner organisations: 13,442 men, 13,240 women</p> <p>In Maniema, a KIC-project (Knowledge Infrastructure with and between Counterparts) project is being implemented. Three agricultural advisers contribute to local organisations' and farmers' learning processes on the agricultural calendar and seeding, cropping and harvesting techniques, etc. Exchange between the different stakeholders (agricultural advisors, local partner organisations, beneficiaries) led to a list of lessons learnt, mainly on the issue of the use of rice and maize seeds. So far, one KIC practice has been documented.</p>

SPM code	Expected result end 2010	Results so far
CON 2.1.1	<p>By 2010, the performance of the health facilities (224 health centres, 40 hospital centres and 12 general hospitals) in the districts of Masisi and Butembo situated in the province of North-Kivu has been re-established and increased to meet the formal standards as defined by the Ministry of Health. Through special support systems aimed at the most vulnerable groups, increased equal access to these improved health facilities has been safeguarded for the population of these two districts, amounting to a total of 252,145 inhabitants.</p>	<p>In the province of Maniema, the partner organisation ANAM has constructed four health centres and equipped them with materials and furniture. In their vaccination programme ANAM provides the medicines for the vaccination of 17,000 women and children, in direct collaboration with the Bureau Central de la Santé and the Health Inspector.</p> <p>26 Health Centres have a functional Community Committee, responsible for the management of the health centre. ANAM trained each committee and provided monitoring and coaching to improve quality, awareness on health issues and HIV/Aids in specific, community participation and responsabilisation.</p> <p>Unexpected results: ANAM has intervened in not planned health zones with the distribution of medical kits, fuel for fridges for the vaccines, nutritional assistance. These assistances were given in urgent cases where no other medical structures could provide these.</p> <p>Through their intervention in Maniema, ANAM reached a total of 107,656 women and 101,873 men.</p> <p>In September 2006, a four-year follow-up project to the EU externally funded projects with Asrames and BCECO has been started aiming to consolidate Oxfam Novib's experience with helping setting up a good coordination structure for the distribution of medication, and analyses of the socio-economic and epidemiological data but also the selection criteria for inclusion of local health structures in the support for medication supply. In the current setting of the bigger EU 9th EDF financed Health Programme in Nord-Kivu, the two Kasai Provinces and the Province Orientale, Oxfam Novib together with CIF Santé as a local implementor plays the role of supporting local health structures in different Health Zones of the Districts of Masisi and Butembo in gaining the technical knowledge required to improve their performance and participate in the system of results based financing aiming to put in place a more sustainable and qualitatively improved health sector.</p>

SPM code	Expected result end 2010	Results so far
CON STRAT 2.1.1	Oxfam Novib will encourage partner organisations to adopt HIV/Aids workplace policies in the framework of the Joint Oxfam HIV/Aids mainstreaming initiative in East and Central Africa and to integrate HIV/Aids in their programming.	<p>Five Oxfam affiliates have signed the MOU. The JOHMO has taken post in the DRC. An Oxfam International country team in charge of the integration of HIV/Aids is operational.</p> <p>A baseline analysis has been done on risks and impact of HIV/Aids. Some recommendations have followed from the analysis and the distribution of these recommendations has led to better understanding of crosscutting integration approach.</p> <p>Concrete activities on the management of HIV/Aids in the workplace have been realised, such as trainings, distribution of manuals, DVD, condoms, and small funding.</p> <p>The activities have resulted in:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ten partner organisations having a functioning committee on the fight against HIV/Aids, the politics on the fight against HIV/Aids is defined and/or revised and distributed, an action plan on internal integration of HIV/AIDS is operational and policy impact is monitored and revised by internal HIV/Aids committee.
CON 2.2	By 2010, at least 8,000 children will have reached primary and secondary schooling and obtained a diploma and 500 teachers will have been trained with diploma.	<p>Through the interventions of two partner organisations in the Highlands in South Kivu, the percentage of pupils that passed the exams has increased to more than 50% in their region of intervention.</p> <p>Due to the presence of specialized teachers in the operational schools, and the upgrading of the quality of others, and the forming of professional teacher groups, the quality of schools in the intervention area has improved.</p> <p>113 orphan girls were supported to attend school and 158 other girls received material support.</p> <p>Through the intervention of these two partner organisations 160 men and 508 women were reached directly.</p> <p>Results for interventions in other areas than the Highlands of South Kivu are not yet available.</p>

SPM code	Expected result end 2010	Results so far
CON 3.1.2	<p>The humanitarian response capacity of eight Oxfam- Novib partner organisations in DRC will have increased. They will have the capacity to react to humanitarian crises via an active participation in the Oxfam International contingency planning and, and will be sensitive to HIV/Aids and gender. In line with international sphere standards and the red cross code of conduct. Oxfam Novib partner organisations will provide emergency assistance to up to 350,000 people (locally affected population, IDP's, refugees).</p>	<p>After participation in the Humanitarian Capacity Building program, three Oxfam Novib partner organisations in South Kivu have put the lessons learned in practise following the return of refugees, movements of Internally Deplaced Persons and flooding in South Kivu. A total of 15,232 men and 16,491 women have received emergency aid in the form of non-food items and basic agricultural tools and seeds. In the programmes was a special attention for victims of sexual violence and HIV/Aids.</p>

SPM code	Expected result end 2010	Results so far
CON 3.2.1	<p>Less exclusive rhetoric will be used by local authorities and civil society actors, and communities will more frequently resist attempts by political authorities to manipulate ethnicity to violent means.</p>	<p>In North Kivu, South Kivu and Maniema, partner organisations are working on non-violent and community based conflict resolution programmes, through training of committees and informing the population. Inter-community dialogue is stimulated, showing results at local level where local communities discuss and work together on practical issues.</p> <p>In certain areas, notably North Kivu, this work is severely limited due to the ongoing violence between the national army and military insurgents and rebels. This increases the inter-community tensions since the rebel leader Nkunda claims to be the guardian of the rights of the Congolese Tutsi population.</p> <p>Especially in the light of events in North Kivu, the work of the partner organisations in e.g. south Kivu on inter-community dialogue and collaboration is important to avoid the spreading of the tensions to other provinces.</p> <p>Human Rights Watch published an in-depth analysis of the political situation in DRC, giving the context international attention and raising international awareness on the situation. This makes it difficult for Congolese politicians to ignore events and feeds information to the opposition.</p> <p>In Maniema, through the Social Cohesion /DDR Programme: The authorities and communities are overwhelming positive about the function of the Barzas (Local Councils of wise people). Communities have even spoken in favour of the state recognition of the Barzas Through the Barzas people have been informed on the elections. The Barzas function effectively as conflict resolution councils: one conflict between communities has been settled, twelve communal conflicts have been settled. The principle of accepting everybody in the Barzas regardless sexes, religion, origin has increased social cohesion.</p>

SPM code	Expected result end 2010	Results so far
SPM Expected CON 3.2.2	The demilitarisation process improving protection of civilians will have been completed. There will have been an increased international commitment to the establishment of a genuinely responsible and accountable national army, guaranteeing the quality and sustainability of demobilisation and reinsertion programmes.	<p>Human Rights Watch has had a significant impact on bringing violence against civilians in eastern Congo on the international agenda. Their frequent and ongoing advocacy with UN peacekeepers in the Kivus over the past year contributed to greater attention to the protection of civilians as part of UN operations. A number of legal papers and press releases on crimes committed by national army led to the arrests of army officers and their subsequent court cases.</p> <p>Maniema: 67 ex-combatants have voluntarily handed over their arms. Skill training for ex-combatants and war-affected people together is enhancing social cohesion as barriers between them are overcome.</p>

SPM code	Expected result end 2010	Results so far
CON 4.1.1	<p>The communities targeted by Oxfam Novib partner organisations in DRC (approximately 100,000 people) will show an awareness of their rights and duties as citizens and will ask to exercise these rights in their daily lives. Public goods in their communities will be managed by appropriate community based mechanisms accountable to the population and in close collaboration with local authorities.</p>	<p>Partner organisations working on AIM 1 re-enforced the farmer's grassroots organisations in their functioning, democratic elections and leadership. Through these groups, approximately 7,00 farmers are informed on and trained in the defence of their political and socio-economic rights and participation in decision making at local level.</p> <p>Farmers are sensitized on the functioning of syndicates that work for the defence of their interest and their rights in the case of abuse by local authorities, military and police.</p> <p>Through a radio station , an audience in Mwenga region (500,00 persons) are informed on the abuses of their rights, agricultural information and sensitization on HIV/Aids. Special attention exists for the participation of women in the development activities and their representation in the structures of the grassroots organisations. Abuses of women's rights and sexual violence are brought to the attention of relevant authorities.</p> <p>In north Kivu POLE Institute supports the emergence of legitimate local governance and decentralised justice state through research on extractives, incomes from extractives, cross border commerce in this field and informing of the provincial government on the findings of their researches. They bring together elected politicians, functionaries, civic actors and independent researchers in workshops, where the participants work on questions of peace and security, governance and sustainable development.</p> <p>Through this cross border research, POLE institute stimulates an open debate on cross border trade without ethnic or national tensions.</p> <p>Through Gardens of Exchange, the POLE institute trains civil society organisations and persons in context analysis and responsible citizenship, reaching 2,400 young persons in North Kivu and 12,856 young demobilised soldiers in South Kivu.</p> <p>The NGO Network organisations CRONGD Maniema and CRONGD North Kivu work through their members' networks, reinforcing the circulation of information between the members, training of members, syndicalism and promotion and defence of the rights of the members.</p> <p>In July Oxfam Novib initiated a workshop on Governance in Goma, North Kivu. The workshop was an occasion to facilitate discussion with and amongst Oxfam Novib partner organisations together with other Oxfam affiliates, their partner organisations and relevant expert organisations in the field of governance (university, state, NGO level) on the different issues related to governance. The workshop succeeded in raising awareness on what organisations can do in their day-to-day working environment. Also some (more expert) organisations presented their experience with the theme. The discussion looked at possibilities in the field of lobby/advocacy through research and</p>

SPM code	Expected result end 2010	Results so far
CON 5.1.1	1,000 strong female civil society leaders have emerged mainly from a local level, of which 100 have been able to positively influence political processes at district/provincial/national levels.	<p>In the 2006 national elections and the 2007 provincial elections, women participated in great numbers freely in the preparations and as candidates. Although the total number was not high, women candidates were elected in the national and provincial parliaments and in administrative positions. The Oxfam Novib partner organisations actively worked in the election processes through sensitisation of the electorate and with special attention for the role and rights of women.</p> <p>POLE Institute in Goma organised two workshops in October 2006 in Bunia and Goma on the weak representation of women in the Congolese elections and the results and consequently, their weak representation in public institutions. This despite the great participation of many women in the elections itself.</p> <p>After these workshops the women in Goma sent the authorities a memorandum signed by 31 organisations, as an alarm cry and a demand for "rehabilitation".</p> <p>Women actively participate in the Partner organisations local development committees, health committees, local barza's and in 3 known cases women became heads of villages.</p> <p>Through the partner organisations interventions 2,250 women directly participated in and benefited from the programmes, as well as 1,300 men.</p> <p>Indirect beneficiaries are much higher, since the impact of the sensitization, election and the functioning of the various community committees affect the lives of the total population.</p> <p>One of the foci of lobby actions in DRC involving members of LDGL was female rape and gender based violence and two debating sessions have been organised around (new) legislation and Gender Based Violence (GBV) and the role of the military and other armed groups in GBV and other Human Rights violations, attended by the high level representatives from the Provincial Justice sector.</p> <p>As in Burundi and Rwanda, LDGL has carried out a gender study on the level of gender mainstreaming of their members in the DRC and has formulated a strategy for improvement. N.B. this would be useful for sharing with Oxfam Novib within the framework of We Can & Gender mainstreaming in DRC!</p>

SPM code	Expected result end 2010	Results so far
CON 5.1.2	A clear decrease in the cultural acceptance of violence against / and increase in recognition of rights of women within society is demonstrated by the fact that each year, more women seek and obtain justice (in period 2007-2010, an annual increase of 5% is taken to justice).	<p>Through the partner organisation's interventions, more than 2000 women in South and North Kivu and Maniema seek and receive assistance in cases of sexual violence. Through awareness raising campaigns over 12,000 persons have been informed on sexual violence against women and the consequences, as well as the legal procedures. In Maniema, five cases were identified in which the perpetrators were convicted.</p> <p>During the year, a gender workshop has been organised for partner organisations to raise awareness on the importance of reserving more attention to work on women human rights. Therefore the 23 participating organisations formulated related commitments and publicly pledged to work towards women rights. One of the major commitments was fighting any gender-based violence, leading to the start of the We Can Campaign in the DRC. The preparatory phase started, in which a focal point was appointed. Preliminary meetings and exchanges have been held in India and continue in the DRC with representatives of participating partner organisations and booklets and folders have been distributed to explain the strategy of WCC</p>
CON 5.1.4	Increased access of women to basic social services has been achieved through support of Oxfam Novib partner organisations (increase of 10,000 women/girls for whom partner organisations have facilitated/promoted access to education/ health care).	<p>In Maniema, the partner organisations programme has identified and facilitated medical assistance to 270 women victims of sexual violence.</p> <p>Through alphabetisation programmes 180 women have been trained, whereas the positive school results for girls in four secondary schools that have been interviewed passed from 115 to 270, or from 29% to 76,4% for the year 2006-2007 in the highlands.</p> <p>In the medical programmes women and children are the main group of beneficiaries. Also a special attention is given to HIV/Aids through awareness raising programmes</p>

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