



Search for Common Ground

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Third and Final Report submitted by
SEARCH FOR COMMON GROUND

To
The Dutch Government

KESHO NI SIKU MPYA - LOBI MOKOLO YA SIKI "TOMORROW IS A NEW DAY"



General Mulubi (front) participating in a joint military-civilian activity in Kinshasa

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Executive Summary

This third report covers the period from June 1, 2010 to September 30, 2010 during which activities were implemented in the target regions of North and South Kivu, Kinshasa, Northern Katanga, and Ituri. This represents the final period of the present phase of the project. During this time, SFCG and local partners ECC-MERU, Justice Plus and EDAD continued to work with the FARDC units despite ongoing military operations in three of the five target provinces.

This final four-month period was highly successful as SFCG and its partners were able to engage with the established Committees to develop a series of activities to reinforce the respect of human rights by the FARDC, to enhance their conflict transformation skills, and to improve civil-military relations.

With all of the new committees and local partners in place in all five provinces, this last four-month period saw an acceleration of activities. The Civilian Protection Committees conducted **168 sensitisation activities** for more than 30,000 soldiers and organized **24 joint civil-military activities** engaging approximately 10,000 participants. In North and South Kivu, SFCG-trained FARDC facilitators organized **41 Mobile Cinema screenings**, gathering more than 6,000 participants, following by discussion sessions with the unit being sensitized.

On the media front, SFCG produced a total of **18 episodes of the radio programme “Kesho ni Siku Mpya / Lobi Mokolo Ya Sika”** and **7 episodes of the radio magazine Njiya za Sheriya**. Broadcast in Swahili and Lingala, they reached millions of listeners with messages around civilian protection, combating impunity, accessing justice and improving military-civilian relationships. Finally, SFCG distributed more than **26,000 comic books** themed around military justice.

During the reporting period, SFCG conducted two base line studies and three evaluations in four of the five provinces. A total of **2,035 people**, both civilian and military, were surveyed by SFCG team, using interviews and focus groups. This evaluation illustrates that SFCG’s project is having an impact on military-civilian relationships, that civilian protection is improving and that the military are proud to be associated with this project.

This report is being submitted as the first quarter of the new phase is underway. This phase is deepening the work of the committees in the new provinces, while looking for strategic opportunities for improving on the work in Kinshasa and South Kivu and possibly altering the strategic and geographic focus to new areas.

1. Project History

In December 2007, Search for Common Ground (SFCG), the Ministère de l’Eglise du Christ au Congo pour les Réfugiés et les Urgences (ECC-MERU), and the Dutch Ministry for International Affairs launched the “Tomorrow is a New Day” (“Kesho ni Siku Mpya” - “Lobi Mokolo ya Sika”) project. This project drew lessons from a pilot phase implemented in South Kivu during 2007, and brought the project up to scale during its 14-month duration by creating 20 Civilian Protection committees within units in North and South Kivu and Kinshasa. Over the duration of that phase, SFCG and ECC MERU worked with these committees to promote joint civil-military cooperation, to monitor human rights abuses, to fight impunity, and to increase awareness of human rights principles and conflict transformation strategies through innovative media tools such as radio, comic books, theatre, and mobile cinema.

In July 2009, the Dutch government signed a contract with SFCG expanding the “Tomorrow is a New Day Project” for another year, from June 1, 2009 to May 31, 2010. This extension enabled SFCG and its partners to continue working in the target provinces and to expand work into Tanganyika and Ituri Districts. A selection process brought two new partners into the project: Justice Plus and Ecologie, Développement et Aménagement Durable (EDAD) in Ituri and Tanganyika, respectively. These partners provided additional support and training for newly formed Civilian Protection Committees in these areas, monitored activities, and worked with the FARDC committees to organize follow-on activities. Due to delays during the first five months of this phase, the contract was prolonged with a No-Cost Extension, extending the end of the program from May 31st 2010 to September 30th 2010.

The “Tomorrow is a New Day” project has three primary objectives:

- **Awareness Raising:** increased awareness of human rights and conflict transformation, including the relevant laws related to the Military Code, amongst the target brigades;
- **Fighting Impunity:** fight impunity through an effective media outreach strategy that promotes accountability, denounces rights violations, and raises awareness about military justice and the dangers of impunity; and
- **Collaboration and Solidarity:** improved civil-military relations through joint cultural and sporting events, dialogue, collaborative action and income generating activities.

In order to achieve these objectives, SFCG and ECC-MERU have engaged in five types of activities (1) Training of new Committees; (2) Supporting existing Committees to undertake sensitization activities; (3) Joint Civil-Military Activities; (4) Multi-Media Outreach through Comics, Radio and Mobile Cinema; and (5) Monitoring and Evaluation.

2. Security Context

The security situation in the DRC, and particularly in the East, remains unstable. North and South Kivu and the Ituri district of Oriental Province host local and foreign armed groups who commit regular human rights abuses against civilians. In the district of Ituri, Orientale province, fighting persisted between the FARDC and several armed groups, including the Front Populaire pour la Justice au Congo (FPJC), the Front for Patriotic Resistance in Ituri (FRPI), and the Allied Democratic Forces/National Army for the Liberation of Uganda (ADF/NALU). In North Kivu, tension persisted over rank allocation and eventual redeployment of the integrated CNDP, while the 'Grand Nord' became unstable with violence and combats between the FARDC and the ADF. In South Kivu, 2010 was the scene of ongoing combat, particularly in Uvira and Fizi territories, between the FARDC and various Mai Mai and other armed groups, including the FRF. In Shabunda, Mwenga and Walungu exactions continued to be committed by the Rwandan FDLR (Front Democratique pour la Liberation du Rwanda) and FARDC units seeking to root them out of their strongholds. For civilian populations living in these three provinces, there has been continued killings, rapes, lootings, kidnappings and other abuses such as forced labor and extortion. Large population displacements have occurred. As well, it meant that many military engaged in the project were focused on military operations and being deployed to diverse regions.

In this context, MONUSCO has been requested to withdraw from DRC in 2011; already 2,000 troops withdrew from the west of the country. In October, in the wake of mass rape in the Walikale territory of North Kivu, the UN Special Representative on Sexual Violence in Conflict, Margot Wallström, called on the UN Security Council to give MONUSCO "adequate financial resources and other critical assets" to carry out its mandate of protecting civilians.¹

Political turmoil and corruption scandals have weakened both the central and provincial governments. The Governors of both Kivus faced no-confidence votes due to corruption charges in their respective provincial assemblies, and the Governor of Province Orientale may face similar charges. President Kabila's call for "zero tolerance" for the Congolese military abusing civilians has yet to be evaluated; meanwhile the number of prosecutions remains minimal alongside the steady stream of accusations of abuse by FARDC.

The Special Representative of the UN Secretary General recently emphasised the need to build the capacity of the country's military justice system, and police force. This should be achieved through military trainings, with a focus on human rights.² Efforts to support Security Sector Reform in the DRC are crucial, particularly in the context of the 2011 elections.

¹ UN News Center, "Victims of mass rebel rape may face same abuse from DR Congo army, UN warns", October 14, 2010.

² UN News Center, "DR Congo: UN mission chief stresses reform of security and law to end violence", October 15, 2010.

3. Activity Report

To contribute to the reduction of human rights abuses committed by the armed forces and to foster collaboration and solidarity between the FARDC and the Congolese population, SFCG and its partners engaged in four types of activities during this period: (1) Committee Sensitisation and Follow-up Support; (2) Joint Civil-Military Activities; (3) Multi-Media Outreach; and (4) Monitoring. These activities were conducted in five regions of the country, North Kivu, South Kivu, Kinshasa, Ituri and North Katanga.

A. Train and Support Committees

Mapping of Trained and Supported Committees

During the previous reporting period, **20 new Civilian Protection Committees** were created within FARDC units in the five target regions. During this reporting period, 2 new Committees were established in Katanga. So far, 37 Civilian Protection Committees have been established, including 33 *comités de base* and 4 steering committees. A mapping is presented below.

In Katanga, where the program continues to expand, five committees have been established by EDAD, SFCG and the Navy and Ground Forces: the 1st Naval Groupement Command in Kalemie, within the Naval detachments based in Moba and Muliro, within the Etat-Majeur of the 61st Brigade In Kalemie (the principle unit of the Forces Terrestres in Tanganyika District), and with the “Attached Battalion” charged with securing military facilities in Kalemie.

As described in the previous report, in both Ituri and North Kivu, SFCG is working with soldiers currently engaged in active operations (the 4th Operational Zone in Ituri, and the 1st Operational Zone in Lubero and Rutshuru Territories of North Kivu). In both areas, to adapt to the rapid redeployment of soldiers and the fact that Ops Zones traditionally do not follow the standard hierarchy, SFCG and Justice Plus have created committees, which bring together troops from several different units deployed in geographically neighboring areas. This includes the 13th, 4th and 7th brigades involved in “Operation Iron Stone” / “Operation Safisha” in the 4th Operational Zone, and two committees within the 3rd Sector of the 1st Operational Zone in Rutshuru (referred to as the 13th Sector).

In Kinshasa, North Kivu, and South Kivu, SFCG continues the strategy of working directly with ‘established’ Brigades and their Battalions as well as the Military Regions. This includes the 111th and 123rd Brigades in North Kivu, the 3rd, 8th, 11th and 421st Brigades in South Kivu, as well as the independent 16th Integrated Battalion. In Kinshasa, this includes the Military Police, Air Force, Naval and Security units. In all provinces except Katanga, there is a steering committee within the highest level of the command structures.

Updated List of Civilian Protection Committees			
Katanga/Tanganyika	Naval Command	Comité de base 1 st Naval Groupe	Kalemie
	1 st Naval Group	Comité de base Attaché Bataillon	Kalemie
		Comité de base EM61 st Brigade	Kalemie
		Comité de Base Navale	Moba
		Comité de Base Navale	Moliro
Orientale/Ituri	Ituri Operational	Steering Committee	Bunia
		Comité de base 7 th Brigade Zone Safisha	Bunia
		Comité de base 7 th Brigade Zone Safisha	Bunia
		Comité de base 13 th Brigade North	Bambu
		Comité de base 13 th Brigade South	Bambu
		Comité de base 4 th Brigade	Irumu
North Kivu	8 th Military Region	Comité de base 13 th sector	Rutshuru
		Comité de base 13 th sector	Rutshuru
		Comité de base 123 rd Brigade	Lubero
		Comité de base 111 th Brigade	Beni
		Comité de base 1113 th Battalion	Beni
		Steering Committee	Goma
South Kivu	10 th Military Region	Comité de base Etat-major 3 rd Brigade	Kyomvu/Mwenga
		Comité de base 33 rd Battalion	Kasika/ Mwenga
		Comité de base Etat-major 8 th Brigade	Bunyakiri Center
		Comité de base 83 rd Battalion	Hombo
		Comité de base 84 th Battalion	Kambale/ Bunyakiri
		Comité de base EM 11 th Brigade	Nyangezi
		Comité de base EM 421 st Brigade	Misisi
		Comité de base 4211 th Battalion	Lulimba
		Comité de base 4213 th Battalion	Ngalula
		Comité de base EM 16 th Battalion	Mumoshosho
Steering Committee	Bukavu		

Kinshasa	Etat-Major General	FARDC Steering Committee	Kinshasa
		État-Major General	Kinshasa
		Air Force Base	Kinshasa
		Military Police Battalion	Kinshasa
		Naval Force	Kinshasa
		Honour and Security	Kinshasa
		10th Brigade	
		Advanced Guard	Kinshasa

Activities during the reporting period focused on supporting these Civilian Protection Committees, which design and implement sensitisation and joint civilian-military activities. These activities aim to raise awareness among FARDC soldiers about the respect of human rights, to reinforce accountability for perpetrators of violence against civilians, and to build trust between the military and local Congolese populations. The FARDC committee members use diverse SFCG-produced sensitization materials to reach out to the military in their units.

Sensitization Activities

During the reporting period, **168 sensitization activities**, raising awareness among a total of 30,414 participants, were organised by the Civilian Protection Committees, supported by SFCG and its partners. These sensitization activities were integrated into the regular “military parades” (parades militaires) and involved mostly FARDC troops, and officers, but also included civilians and members of the Congolese police force. In many



Members of the Republican Guard who undertook sensitization activities while they were deployed on operations in Equateur province

cases, the steering committees were able to negotiate with the Operations Commander and negotiate access into areas of military operations to sensitize other military not directly within the units in which the Civilian Protection Committees are located.

The sensitization activities and themes are selected specifically for each unit’s context, and focus on addressing abuses committed by military as well as conflicts within the units (particularly those newly integrated). During the reporting period, the committees gave priority to the following themes from the curriculum available to them in the SFCG-produced facilitation manual:

- Sexual violence and legal responses;
- Torture as a crime against humanity;
- Forced labour of civilians and legal responses;
- Recruitment of children in armed groups or armed forces;
- Extortion;
- Respect of human life and dignity;
- Peacebuilding and conflict transformation;
- Active listening.

“We had a group of officers in our prison cells, who had stolen the rations for the soldiers preparing the 30 June independence celebrations. We took them out of the cells each day, with other prisoners, and sensitized them, before returning them to their cells.”
 Committee member of the **Military Police** in Kinshasa, recounting his units sensitization activities for the quarter

It should be pointed out that despite the recurring human rights abuses, the FARDC themselves see the value of repeatedly coming back to the conflict transformation messages, including active listening and the need to dialogue. Discussions and interviews with military about why they see these themes as important underscore what they see as a need to influence the way in which military - both officers and soldiers - respond to situations they are faced with, seeing that violence is not always the best way. They also see these skills as ‘life skills’ to help the soldiers deal with the various conflicts around them, including in their families; if the soldiers are living in turmoil in their personal lives then this frustration also comes out in the way they address conflicts and issues in their professional lives.

In addition, there is a consistent focus on ensuring that the military are aware of the law, particularly concerning sexual violence. Many commanders have indicated that because of the integration of former armed groups into the army, many soldiers have never had an opportunity to learn the rules and laws which govern the army and the country. Having seen so much sexual violence go unpunished, the Committee members both in Kinshasa and the eastern provinces have committed themselves to ensuring that their units are aware of the potential punishment for rape and sexual violence, and that they understand the risks that they are taking if they continue to commit such abuses.

The following table summarises the sensitization activities conducted during the reporting period.

Sensitisation Activities			
Location	Committee	Events	Participants
Katanga/Tanganyika	61 st Brigade	16 activities	2,433
	1 st Navy Unit	9 activities	972
	Attached Battalion Units	13 activities	1,498
	Navy Base Moba	8 activities	831
	Navy Base Moliro	9 activities	888
Orientale/Ituri	4 th Brigade Committee 1	4 activities	181
	4 th Brigade Committee 2	4 activities	298
	7 th Brigade Zone Safisha	4 activities	716
	7 th Brigade zone Safisha	4 activities	277
	13 th Brigade North	4 activities	276
	13 th Brigade South	4 activities	335
	Steering Committee	4 activities	804
North Kivu	8 th Military Region, 13 th Sector Unit, 123 th Brigade, 111 th Brigade 1113 th Battalion	10 activities	3,670
South Kivu	10 th Military Region	4 activities	407
	16 th Battalion	5 activities	578
	323 rd Brigade	1 activities	88
	4211 st Battalion	1 activities	125
	421 st Brigade	4 activities	802
	83 rd Battalion	2 activities	253
	84 th Battalion	6 activities	2,387
	323 rd Brigade	5 activities	926
8 th Brigade	5 activities	1,461	
Kinshasa	REGT	3 activities	1009
	10Bd GR	8 activities	1562
	Navy	8 activities	413
	Base Regiment	3 activities	4820
	Military Police	9 activities	289
	QG EMG	8 activities	1095
	Air force	3 activities	1020
Total		168 sensitisation workshops	30,414 participants

B. Joint Civil-Military Activities

Civilian Protection Committees work with local groups to organise solidarity activities that provide opportunities for Congolese soldiers and civilians to share a common experience and work together. These joint activities help break down stereotypes and hostility between FARDC troops and local populations, and foster collaboration and positive relations towards improved protection of civilians. Specific activities are designed to respond to the local dynamic of civil-military tensions. During the reporting period, a total of **24 joint activities** were organised by the Committees, supported by SFCG and its local partners, bringing together approximately 10,000 participants, both civilians and the military. Below is a brief description of some of these activities realized during the reporting period.

Katanga / Tanganyika District

Community clean-up around Lukuga Market, Kalemie

In September 2010, SFCG and its partner EDAD organised a community activity that brought together 80 participants, both soldiers of the 1st Navy Unit and shopkeepers of Lukuga market. This community clean-up, which focused on cleaning up the market and its surroundings, was an important event within the community. It symbolised the positive collaboration between the military and civilians in an area where soldier-trader relations were often characterized by extortion and a lack of dialogue.

Football Tournaments in Kalemie and Moba

Two football tournaments were held in North Katanga. Supported by SFCG and its local partner, these football tournaments were an opportunity for local residents and the military to develop positive relations and break down prejudices and stereotypes.



Joint activities offer one of the few chances for ordinary citizens - particularly youth - to be in touch with local force commanders. Above, Colonel Bokolama of the Naval Forces in Kalemie congratulates young participants in a football tournament

On July 17 and 18, 2010, a civilian-military football tournament was organised in the stadium of Sendwe, in Kalemie. This tournament was organised between two local 'civilian' teams and two military teams. The tournament mobilised more than 800 people, who gathered after the matches for a reception - an

"This sporting event is unforgettable. A while ago, it would have been impossible to see FARDC soldiers speak, drink or play with the local population."

- A civilian participant in the Moba football tournament.

"We were surprised by the positive attitude of the military during the event. We hope that it will continue."

- Civilian participants of the football match in Ngungu.

opportunity for further dialogue between the two communities. At the end of this two-day event, the participants expressed their appreciation for this innovative initiative and hoped for future collaboration.

Another tournament was later held in Moba between four teams, two composed of district fishermen, and two composed of FARDC soldiers - a total of 59 players. During the reception, which followed the tournament, members of the FARDC committed themselves to ending the abuses - mainly extortion - which some of them had perpetrated against civilians.

Football Match between the Military of the 61st Brigade and Fishermen of Kamkolobondo

At the end of the reporting period, a football match was held between FARDC soldiers from the 61st Brigade of the land forces and a local team composed of fishermen from Kamkolobondo. This event, to foster collaboration between civilians and the military, was organised in a friendly atmosphere: at the end of the match, a fair play trophy was given to the two teams, as well as jerseys and footballs, setting the stage for further joint sporting activities. Because fishermen returning from the lake often complain of being harassed by the military, creating strong relationships between members of these two groups is a priority for the project in Northern Katanga.

"The Marathon"

On September 26, 2010, a 10-kilometre "marathon" was organised between young motorcycle drivers and the military from the attached battalion units charged with protecting military installations in town. This race, won by a civilian with second-place going to a soldier, was an opportunity to bring together 39 civilians and soldiers, who jointly celebrated their efforts. During the reception that followed the marathon, an official from the district expressed his appreciation of this positive encounter between the youth and the military of the region. This event was particularly pertinent as relations between the security forces and the young taximen have been tense since the security forces have violently broken up local protests by firing into crowds, leading to the loss of life.

Ituri

Football Tournament in Bunia

At the end of September 2010, a football tournament was organised in Bunia between local teams, composed of both members of the FARDC and civilians. This event, organised by Justice Plus and the Congolese army, and supported by SFCG, aimed to bring together the military of the SAFISHA Operational Zone and the local population. One of the four matches that took place during this tournament was organised between the 4th Brigade, newly established in the area, and members of local NGOs. Another one was played between the 7th Brigade and motorcycle taxi drivers in the area. Because the military units were deployed as part of the SAFISHA operation against the FJPC rebels - and because the popular perception is that some taxi drivers have connections to the armed group - the activity aimed at creating a new and positive relationship.

Although some of the participants were sceptical beforehand about this event building relationships between civilians and the military in the area, afterwards they declared the sporting event a success, as it brought together 2,500 civilians and soldiers. All the participants expressed their appreciation after the matches and during the reception following the tournament: they emphasised the importance of further developing positive relations between civilians and the military.

Income Generating Activity in Bambu

On August 25, 2010, a joint income generating activity was launched in Bambu, gathering civilians and the military, who planted four hectares of manioc, maize, beans, and potatoes. Assisted by an agronomist, the two communities hope to develop a sustainable agriculture project that would contribute to reducing food dependence for the population in the area. The location of Bambu is particularly symbolic, as the local population was particularly affected by the conflict in Ituri. This income



Joint planting fields are powerful practical and visual symbols of new and healthy relationships between military and civilians. Here women and soldiers harvest crops together in the Bambu community field.

generating activity represents a great opportunity for civilians and the military to collaborate around a project aiming to empower the entire local population.

Harvesting at the Collaborative Farming Project in Rwampara

On September 28, 2010, civilians and the military jointly harvested 100 hectares of land on which they had previously planted beans. The crop was a success, and the local population, as well as the military, involved in this shared agriculture project, celebrated their harvest. The production, a total of 450 kilogrammes, was equitably shared between the civilians and the military. A small amount of beans was saved to be reused for future crops; the prospect of future joint civil-military agriculture activities.

North Kivu

Series of Football Matches between civilians and the military in Tongo, Ngungu, Oicha and Kirumba

During the reporting period, a series of football matches was organized by SFCG and its partners in several localities in North Kivu: Tongo, Ngungu, Oicha and Kirumba. These sporting events gathered more than twenty thousand civilian and military participants. These joint civil-military sporting activities were designed to be very inclusive, mobilising several key actors in the Security Sector Reform process, including local and traditional authorities, members of MONUSCO, and also local populations who were particularly affected by the resurgent conflict, such as internally displaced persons. The blue helmets from MONUSCO, who participated in the event in Ngungu, said that they would like to see more of this type of innovative and collaborative events.



Communal meals are an important element to all of the joint activities undertaken in this project. Above, soldiers (in dark blue) and civilians (light blue) eat from the same plate after the football match. This activity was organized in the wake of the resurgence of the ADF-Nalu in the Oicha region and renewed fighting.

Community Activity in Lubero

On September 30, 2010, a community activity was organised by SFCG and its partners in North Kivu. This community activity was designed to bring together civilians and the military of the area, but also members of the police force and blue helmets from MONUSCO. The aim of this joint activity was to build trust between FARDC forces and the local population, as well as to improve relations between governmental forces and civilians in North Kivu.

South Kivu

Community clean-up around the Markets at Beach Mwanzi and Mumosho

Committees in South Kivu, in collaboration with the 10th Military Region, organized three community activities aimed at bringing together FARDC soldiers and local populations to clean up markets. On September 18, 2010, SFCG and ECC-MERU organised, in collaboration with members of the 10th military region, a



FARDC soldiers and civilians participating in the community cleanup at Beach Mwanzi

community activity aimed at bringing together the military and

shopkeepers of the market of Beach Mwanzi. These groups have been in conflict due partly to extortion and illegal taxes imposed on the shopkeepers by some soldiers tax. This community clean-up, which contributed to improving the environment around the market, was also an opportunity for the civilian and military participants to ease their mutual hostility. It involved 480 participants and was particularly appreciated by the local authorities. The Governor of the Province, Marcellin Chishambo, thanked the organisers and emphasised the importance of a change in behaviour of the military towards the local population.

Ten days later, the same actors, the 10th Brigade and the population of Beach Mwanzi, joined forces again to finish the clean-up. This follow-up activity brought together 300 participants.

On September 29, 2010, the market of Mumosho, built in 1954, was upgraded during a joint civil-military activity that involved 125 participants, who worked together for six days on the project; a unique occasion to break stereotypes and dialogue.

Maintenance of the road around Hombo and cleaning-up around the bridge of Misisi

On September 25, 2010, SFCG and its partner ECC-MERU organised two joint civil-military activities, designed to foster solidarity among FARDC soldiers and the local population.

In Hombo, the 84th Battalion worked with civilians to maintain the road between the *Avenue de la Libération* and the local military headquarters. This community activity gathered 300 participants, both civilians and the military, who jointly worked to improve transportation within their community.



Inauguration of the bridge in Misisi

In Mississi, the 421st Brigade and inhabitants of the village of Mississi collaborated on a project to upgrade a bridge in the locality. 75 people participated in this activity.

Maintenance of the road Nationale N2 in Kasika Mwenga

On September 29, 2010, the population of Kasika and the FARDC soldiers of the 3231st Battalion worked on a joint community activity designed to upgrade part of the *Nationale N02*. The activity brought together 205 civilian and military participants.

Kinshasa Province***“Friendship Mill” in Kinshasa***

In June 2010, the first “Friendship Mill” was inaugurated in Kinshasa. This innovative project will contribute to fostering positive relations between the local population and the military, who will be jointly managing the grinding mill and producing manioc and maize flour. This initiative was undertaken by the Steering Committee at the FARDC Headquarters, in collaboration with a local association which offers assistance to widows and vulnerable children. Several meetings took place to establish terms of reference for the management of the grinding mill, and the manner in which the revenue will be generated to benefit both the soldiers as well as the local association.

The atmosphere was particularly friendly during the ceremony and the reception, during which participants expressed their appreciation of the project, which will develop solidarity between civilians and FARDC soldiers, and which will generate revenues, empowering the community.

Peaceful cohabitation workshop in Kinshasa

On September 24, 2010, SFCG and local organisations, including the parish of *Saint Rombeau*, brought together 125 people, policemen, Air Force soldiers, members of civil society and youth organisations, and local authorities. This innovative workshop aimed to promote peaceful cohabitation between civilians and the military in the area, and to reduce the level of violence. At the end of the workshop, the participants agreed to collaborate to reduce violence within the community, particularly between youth and governmental forces.



Participants of the peace cohabitation workshop in Kinshasa

Sporting events in Kinkole and Nsele

Three sporting events were organised by SFCG and its local partners in the Kinshasa region during the reporting period. Bringing together a total of 285 participants, they contributed to erasing stereotypes and promoting solidarity between soldiers and civilians. One of these sporting events was specifically designed to foster collaboration between women soldiers and women civilians.

- A “Peace Cross-Country” was organised on September 25, 2010, in Kinkole;
- A football match was held on September 26, 2010, in Nsele; and
- An Nzango event, a traditional sport in the DRC, was organised on September 26, 2010, for the women of Nsele.

C. Multi-Media Outreach Activities

Radio Programming

“Kesho ni Siku Mpya / Lobi Mokolo Ya Sika”

“Kesho ni Siku Mpya / Lobi Mokolo Ya Sika” (“Tomorrow is a New day”) is a highly popular radio drama produced by SFCG to educate listeners on pertinent issues like the processes of disarmament, demobilisation and rehabilitation (DDR), security sector reform (SSR), justice, and relations between the military and civilians. The programme features a fictional military unit and local community, with a lively set of characters, including ex-combatants, returning refugees, a mine owner, an army commander, and a priest. “Lobi” follows these characters as they face social, political, and military issues affecting their community. This radio programme aims to change the attitude of the general public, as well as of key actors in the DDR and SSR processes. The stories often emphasise that it is in the self-interest of the military to have respectful relationships with civilians, and vice versa. This program has been receiving cofunding since the inception of the project. During the last six months, there was a hiatus in funding and thus three months of recording costs were covered with support from this project, in order to ensure that the program was not suspended while finalizing the negotiations for new funding.

During the reporting period , a total of **18 episodes** of the radio programme “Kesho ni Siku Mpya / Lobi Mokolo Ya Sika” were produced and broadcast with SFCG’s 85 radio station partners in all provinces of the DRC, both in Swahili and in Lingala.

This program is produced in lingala and Swahili and in addition to being broadcast on SFCG’s 85 partner radio stations around the country, is the only SFCG program, and the only radio drama, which is aired on Radio Okapi’s nationwide FM network each weekend. Both the lingala and the Swahili version of the drama are broadcast on Radio Okapi.

The audience of this radio drama is high, and can be estimated at a minimum of **15 million** listeners around the country. This figure is based on the following data analysis:

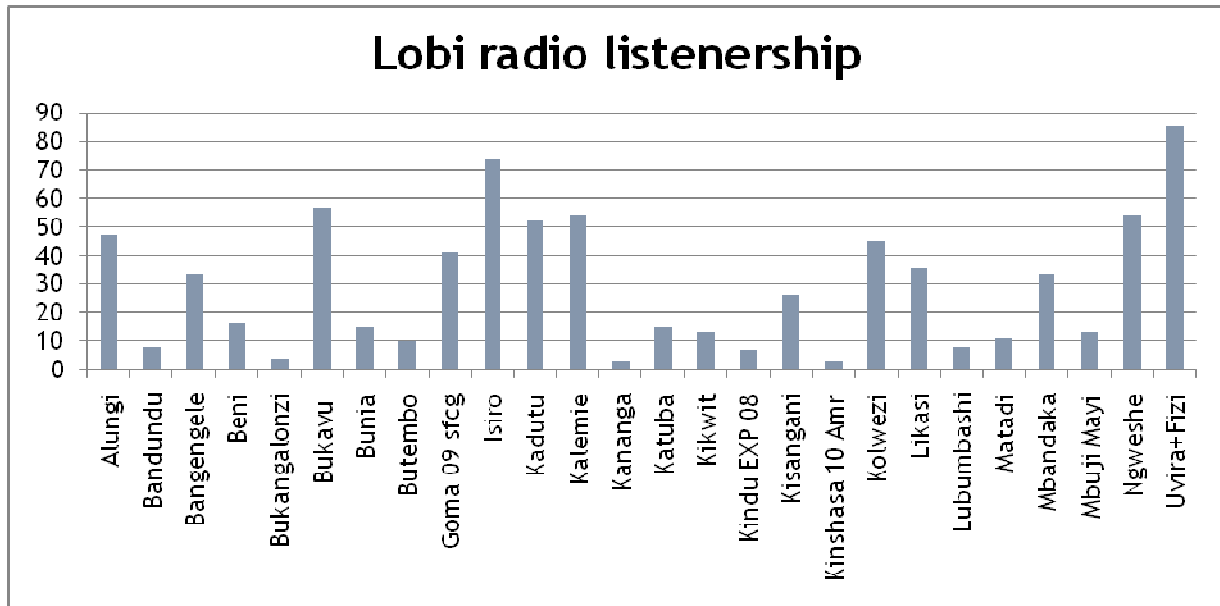
- Geographic analysis shows that 65 per cent of localities are within 150 kilometres from a partner radio station
- Based on surveys in approximately 30 cities and towns, listenership to the most popular SFCG radio program is on average about 60 per cent. Lobi is often rated between the third or fourth most popular radio program, coming after the other radio drama productions produced by SFCG (Mopila and Jirani ni Ndugu)
- Below is an example of the listenership ratings for Lobi

“I have become a faithful listener of the programme ‘Lobi Mokolo Ya Sika’, every Saturday on Radio Okapi; now I am raising awareness among my colleague soldiers. Thanks SFCG for these activities!”

- A member of the FARDC

from various surveys conducted in approximately 30 cities and towns around the country since 2008.

- If one takes a conservative estimate that Lobi is listened to by half as many as those who listen to SFCG’s most popular radio program (Mopila), thus an average of 30 per cent listenership then it can be extrapolated that Lobi is listened to by approximately 15 million listeners around the country.



However, this radio program has consistently been proven to be the most listened to program amongst a military audience. For example, in Rutshuru, 77 per cent of the soldiers surveyed said that they listen to Lobi. In 2009, a survey in Goma showed that more than 85 per cent of the military cited Lobi as their most favorite radio program. Amongst civilians in Rutshuru, a total of 58 per cent follow the program. In the Kalehe survey, the listenership to SFCG radio programs overall was much lower, largely because FM radio coverage is extremely weak along the Bunyakiri - Hombo axis. Since completing this phase, SFCG has entered into partnership with two new community radio stations along that axe, as well as the community radio station in Walikale. Thus, future audience surveys are likely to show a high listenership to this program, again particularly amongst a military audience. Among the messages communicated through this radio drama over the last reporting period included:

- Reintegration of former child soldiers, including girls;
- Peaceful cohabitation with returnees;
- Trust-building between civilians and the military, overcoming prejudice and stereotypes;
- The necessity to fight impunity;
- The role of the military tribunals;

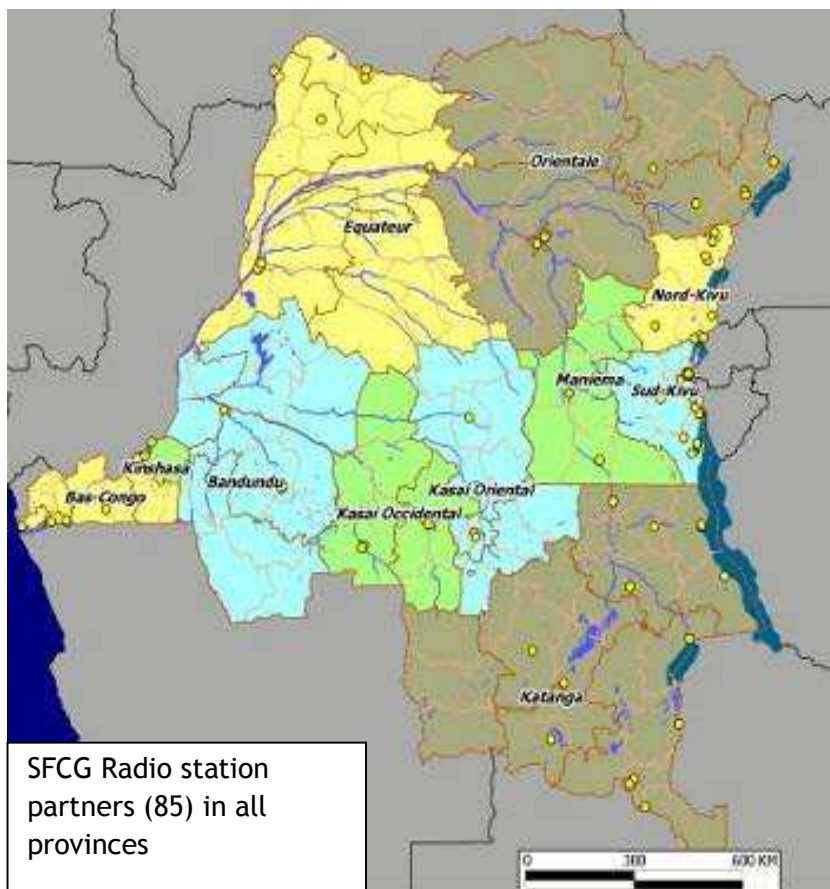
- The negative impact of militias and the importance of resisting recruitment of children into these groups; and
- The interdiction of carrying weapons of war for civilians.

The road to Justice

SFCG continued production of a magazine programme entitled “Njiya za Sheriya - Nzela ya Mibeko” (“Road to Justice”) as a complement to “Lobi.” This radio magazine program highlights developments in the fight against impunity and makes visible through media positive steps underway too fight impunity and enable civilians to access justice. The magazine reports on ongoing legal cases, both within the military courts, as well as in civilian and international courts. The format is produced in lingala and Swahili, and is a magazine format including interviews with ordinary people, magistrates, experts, military officers, lawyers and others engaged in combating impunity. The magazine seeks to highlight the coverage of actual ‘audiences foraines’ and cases handled by the military justice system, filling a large vacuum in the SFCG partner radio stations program schedule. It should be noted that not only is ‘covering justice’ a skill that many Congolese journalists have learned, but accessing information for community radio station journalists can be challenging due to lack of transport, lack of contacts within the justice system, as well as prejudice and uncertainty about the media’s role in covering such cases. Whereby ‘bad

“I have just heard your program Njia za Sheria, on the “arrangement à l’amiable” for sexual violence. Here there is no justice for us. They burned my house, and I do not know where to go to file a complaint. I very much appreciate this show on military justice. Courage!”

-- Phone call from Yahingo Kalewa, a Radio Kahuzi (short wave radio) listener in Salambila, Maniema Province



SFCG Radio station partners (85) in all provinces

justice news' such as prison breaks and civil society condemnations of persistent impunity often capture the headlines, much less coverage is given to the real, albeit insufficient, efforts by the civilian and particularly military justice system to bring criminals to book.

With the goal of contributing to the fight against impunity, specifically in Eastern DRC, a total of **7 programmes** were produced and broadcast by SFCG radio partners around the DRC. These programmes reported on cases going on in North and South Kivu as well as covering an audience foraine on the island territory of Idjwi.

It should be noted that during the reporting period SFCG was obliged to rupture the contract with the producer of this program, following repeated cases of non-respect of deadlines for the completion of this program. Despite the challenges of acquiring information from military justice sources, and despite strong supervision and capacity building of the producer, SFCG was obliged to legally follow procedures to rupture this contract. This led to a hiatus in program production resulting is less than optimal outputs during this period.

Mobile Cinema Screenings

During the reporting period, the 10th and 8th Military Region committees engaged intensively in the use of the Mobile Cinema tool to sensitise military around North and South Kivu. SFCG donated projection equipment to these two Steering Committees which included a projector, a DVD player, a sound system, and a generator to enable the Committee to reach military groups, even in remote locations. SFCG also organized that a trained facilitator from the 10th Region committee (who had previously been trained by SFCG in facilitation of sub films for military) to train up two facilitators in North Kivu.

SFCG also trained technicians within the military in how to handle and maintain the projection equipment and generator that SFCG provided to these steering committees.

In this phase of the project, the Civilian Protection Committees organised **35 screenings** reaching an audience of over 6,000 military men and civilians (including military wives, local authorities, and civilian staff of the armed forces). SFCG and its partners also organised **6 sub-film screenings** targeting the military and police forces and bringing together 300 participants.

The audience of the Mobile Cinema Screenings was particularly broad, with the participation of soldiers, officers, magistrates and civilians, including members of military families, particularly military spouses. The participants, who expressed their appreciation of the screenings, had the opportunity to dialogue around issues related to sexual violence and impunity, such as:

- The ignorance of the law against sexual violence;
- The influence of customs and traditions, and the supremacy of the law over these customs concerning sexual violence offenses;
- The lack of discipline and leadership by commanders and civil authorities and persistent impunity for these crimes;
- The deplorable living conditions for the soldiers, their long stays far from their wives, and the psychological effect of being a combatant in a war.



In order to facilitate a frank discussion and promote 'ownership,' trained FARDC members of the Steering committee in the province are the ones who lead and facilitate the discussion. The sessions are usually organized in mess halls, military chapels or other meeting rooms in or around the military camps.



The discussions facilitated by the military were direct, frank, honest and at times emotional. Soldiers felt that the space for learning and dialogue was safe for them to share their own experiences, as victims and as culprits. They talked about other cases where the culprit had not been punished, or people had escaped or bribed their way out of punishment. They spoke as culprits, but many also had been victims of sexual violence, or had had their wives or relatives victim of rape, which had enraged them. The safe forum for discussion enabled them to connect their frustrations with a desire to combat rape and sexual violence. That the discussion was being facilitated by a military who knew and understood their problems was

more impactful than being lectured to by a human rights expert or a humanitarian worker, it was observed. As well, in many instances the military wives were also invited into the screenings. Their testimonies, but also their encouragement to their husbands to stop perpetrating such crimes, were judged as a powerful motivator for the military in their engagement to stop committing such crimes.

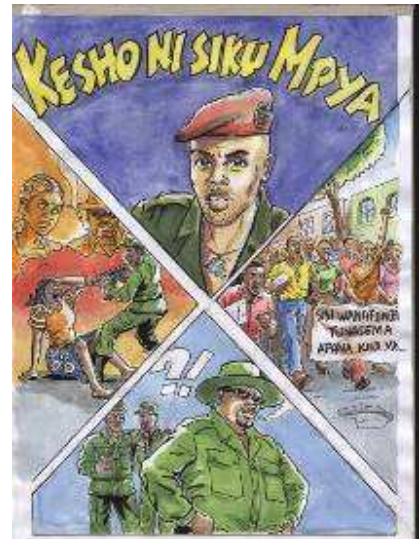
Some of the personal testimonies of the soldiers and their wives are presented below:

- *Sgt Nd. -- "My commander sent me to get a colleague who was late for guard duty. On the way back, we heard rustling in the bush near the local school. Because it was 8:30 pm, we investigated. When we got closer, we saw that it was a taxi driver who was with a little girl. Because it was not our mission, we left them after taking several banknotes from the taximan."*
- *Lt. O. -- "All that we see in this film is so shameful. Everything that we have seen in the film, I feel like it is in my own family that it has happened. I am shocked, and I have nothing to say."*
- *Maman K. (Military wife). -- "Even we, the wives, are ashamed of what our husbands do. We must keep quiet so we are not kicked out of the house, but it is very bad, because it concerns us too."*
- *Cpl. T. -- "During the war, the kadogo raped my aunt, and this (film) makes me feel very sad. My aunt became handicapped because of that."*
- *Maman M. (Military wife). -- "I am sad seeing this, because I also lived through this. During the war with the RCD, a soldier raped me, along with my friend, and said we were nothing but women. I fell sick for several days, and thanks to (my husband's) commander, they took us to Burundi for medical help."*
- *Adj. J. -- "A friend and I, we drugged a woman, and we raped her. There were four of us, and afterwards, we put wood in her vagina."*
- *Adj. K. (crying) - "I saw a group of men in uniform, who I did not recognize, rape the daughter of a widow and steal 170 dollars from her, not 50 meters from my house."*
- *Adj W. -- "Me too, I have raped. In Uvira, an old man had two daughters, and I raped them. Now I pray to God to forgive me, and regret what I have done."*

The frank discussions generated by the mobile cinema screenings, underscore the degree of trauma felt by many soldiers. In many cases, after discussing concrete steps, soldiers were asked to swear to behave differently. In some cases older soldiers pledged to give counsel to some of the younger troops, and officers pledged to redouble their efforts to hold their sub commanders and soldiers to account. Monitoring and evaluation missions will track these groups to see whether these pledges are fulfilled.

Comic Books

Comic books are a very efficient outreach tool, particularly for a target audience that does not have a fixed residence and does not always have access to a radio. As well, in a context of a lack of printed materials, the comic books, given individually to soldiers, becomes a valued possession to read over and over, and share with others. It also is a way for people to carry various printed documents around, and it has been noticed that the comic book soon becomes part of the recipient's every day possessions that he carries with him. A series of studies conducted by SFCG in a previous phase of the project found that many readers generally read each comic book distributed, and recipients also share it with their wives, children and friends. The studies also showed that 92% of civilians and 89% of the military felt that the comic books reflected their experiences. A majority of military readers felt it had an impact on their behaviours, with 38% saying it helped teach them how to treat civilians, 20% saying it showed them how to respond to sexual assaults, and 10% said it discouraged theft.



Based on the popular characters from the “Kesho ni Siku Mpya / Lobi Mokolo Ya Sika” radio programme, the comics recount the story of a young soldier who grapples with the abuses that his commander commits against the surrounding communities. The book is designed to be highly entertaining, and depicts different forms of illegal activities, including extortion, looting, and sexual violence as well as the hostility from the civilian population that results from the abuses. The story concludes by depicting the accountability processes for *Commandant Janvier*, the villainous commander, focusing on the fight against impunity for crimes committed by soldiers against civilians.

“I did not think that it was possible to arrest a military officer who commits a crime.”

- A Congolese soldier who had just read the comic book produced by SFCG.

During the reporting period, more than **26,000 comic books** were distributed to a large range of people, including soldiers, members of the clergy, and civilians. Most of these comic books were distributed by SFCG and its partners to strengthen the impact of activities organised during the reporting period, such as the sensitization workshops, community activities or sporting events. SFCG was able to receive co-funding for the production of 60,000 additional copies of this comic book from the UNHCR, primarily for North Kivu province, and these were distributed extensively throughout the province, as well as in Ituri and Katanga provinces.

4. Monitoring and Evaluation

A. Monitoring and Supporting Civil Protection Committees

During the reporting period, SFCG and its partners conducted a range of monitoring and follow-up activities with the committees, to ensure that they continued to function, and reinforce the impact and cohesiveness of the committees. This was a chance to:

- Maintain permanent contact with the Civilian Protection Committees to be sure that they are respecting their proposed calendar of activities and managing the funds responsibly;
- Advise the Committees on the organisation of the sensitization workshops and joint activities; and
- Participate in bi-monthly meetings of the Committees during which past activities are evaluated and new ones planned. During these meetings the committees also discuss the abuses committed in their units and how they have responded.

A total of **118 monitoring and follow-up activities** were organised by SFCG and its partners with the Civilian Protection Committees of the region of North-Katanga, Ituri, North and South Kivu and Kinshasa. These activities consisted of:

- 31 bi-monthly meetings monitored;
- 86 sensitization activities were attended by SFCG, ECC MERU, EDAD, Justice Plus;
- 1 visit to a military auditorat; and
- Providing office and activity supplies, as well as funds for operating costs to ensure their functioning.

B. Impact Study

Methodology

In order to track the project's efficacy, SFCG has completed its series of **5 studies** in the eastern regions of the DRC targeted in the project:

- Rutshuru Territory, North Kivu; evaluation
- Kalemie Territory, Tanganyika District; baseline
- Kalehe Territory, South Kivu; evaluation
- Bunia and surrounding areas, Ituri District; baseline
- Nyamunyuni Military-Civilian joint agricultural field, South Kivu: evaluation

For the **base line studies** in Ituri and Katanga, SFCG selected four localities to study civilian attitudes towards civil-military relations, through randomized surveying in the 16 localities, as well as through targeted focus groups. Areas were selected for high rates of interaction between civilians and the military, as well as a wide cross-section of ethnic, rural-urban, and

socio-economic diversity. Additionally, SFCG's evaluators conducted focus groups and surveys of soldiers in the region, in order to better capture military opinions in each of the targeted sites. SFCG will return to these targeted localities in Katanga and Ituri by end of the first or second quarter of 2011 to measure the change in those communities on indicators around civilian protection, military-civilian relationships and security in general.

These base line reports are included in the annexes.

The **evaluations** in North Kivu (Rutshuru) and South Kivu (Bunyakiri - Hombo axe) were aimed at gauging the impact of the project on the abuses committed by military against civilians, the degree of overall security, and the relationships between military and civilians in areas where the Civilian Protection Committees exist. The evaluations were looking to define both the scope of the impact as well as the depth of the impact in the target locations. It should be noted that in both areas, local and foreign armed groups operate, and thus the overall security of the target regions is linked to the behavior of those armed groups, and not solely that of the FARDC deployed in the area.

The **evaluation** of the community planting field in Nyamunyuni, South Kivu, was aimed at examining how a project of this nature could influence military-civilian relationships, and impact on protection of civilians from abuse and violations by military.

C. Results

The results for North and South Kivu will be presented jointly, followed by the results for the Nyamunyuni project.

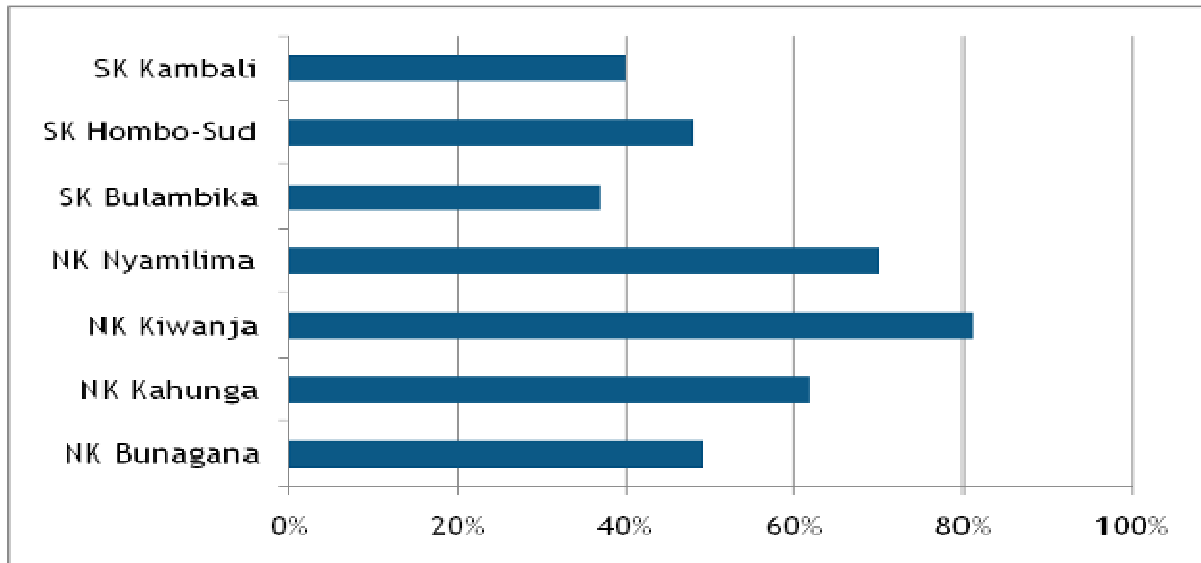
The results extracted for this section of the report demonstrate:

1. Overall security situation and perceptions
2. The respondents' perception of whether there has been change in military-civilian relationships over the last six months, and if so, positive or negative change
3. Perceptions on the degree of impunity for military who commit human rights abuses (perceptions of military and civilians disaggregated)
4. The civilian respondents' perception of military-civilian collaboration,
5. The military and civilians' level of participation in the joint activities carried out by the Civilian Protection Committees of the FARDC

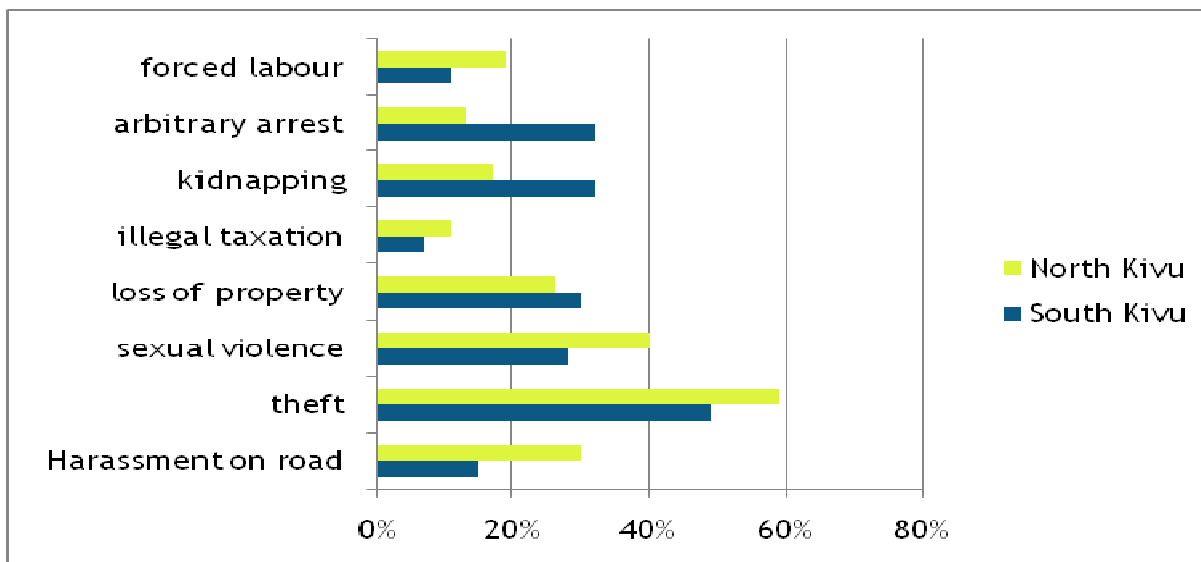
Full results can be found in the copies of these evaluations in the Annexes.

It is interesting to look at general indicators for protection and security in the two targeted zones - Rutshuru territory and the Bunyakiri - Hombo axe of Kalehe territory of South Kivu. Both areas are known for pervasive insecurity, the presence of armed group and internal displacement.

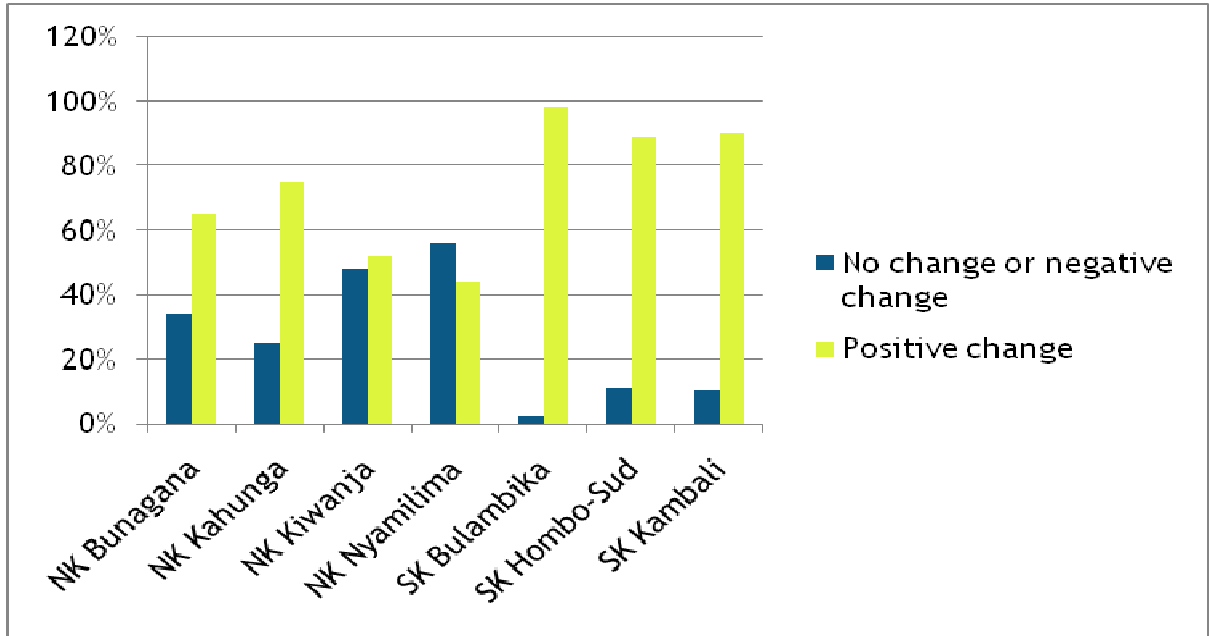
Have you or someone you know experienced a human rights abuse in the last six months? (YES in blue)



In terms of the most frequent types of abuses committed, here below are the responses per province:

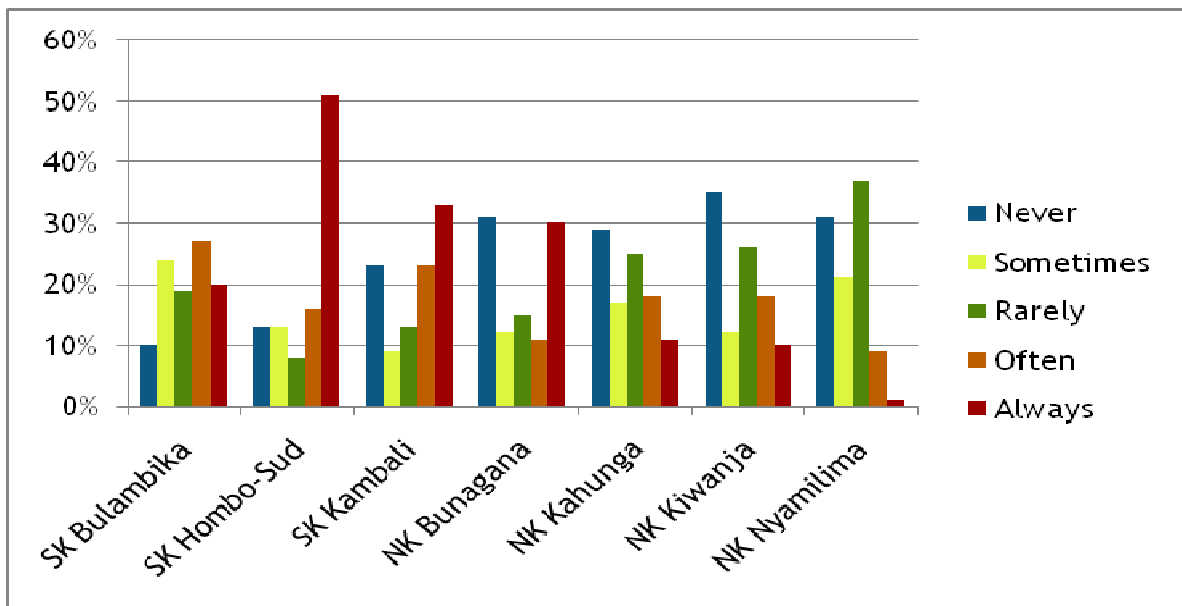


Compared to the situation 6 Months Ago, has there been a Change in How Civilians and Military Interact?



It should be noted that in both cases, the units that were associated with this project were deployed more than six months prior to the survey, or had been engaged in the project slightly six months before the survey was conducted.

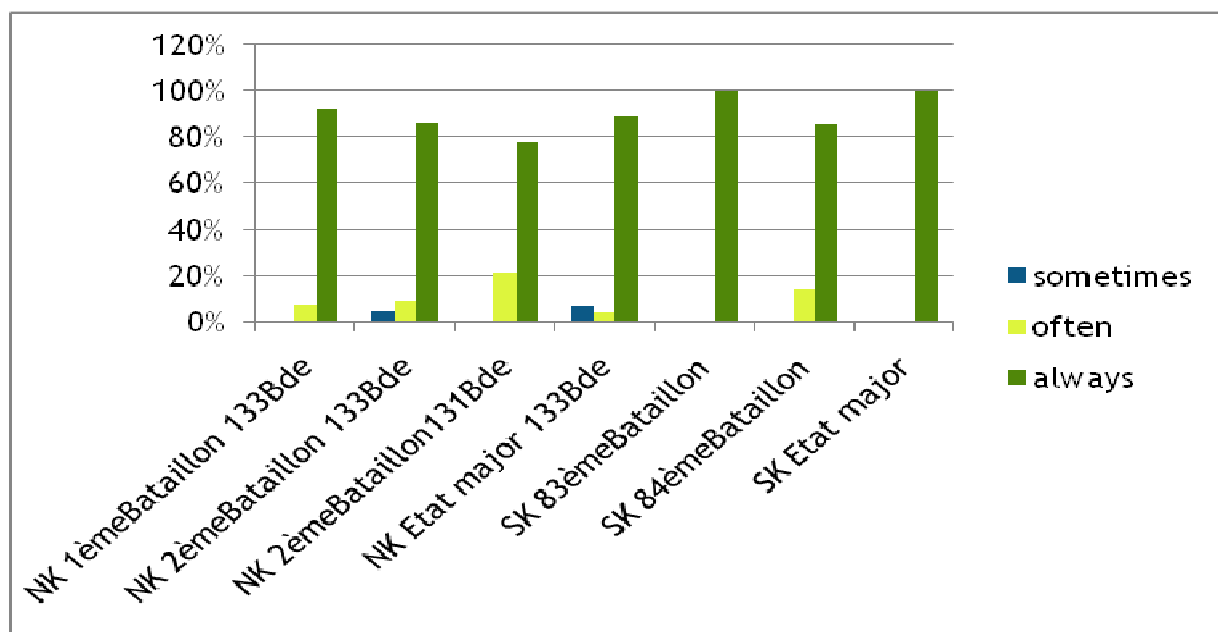
If a military commits an infraction, such as a rape or extortion, he is punished...



The chart above shows that at least a two-thirds majority of the civilian populations rejected the notion that the military are “never” punished for crimes committed, but the frequency of punishment varied greatly in citizens’ eyes. While the threat of punishment is real, in most cases, it could be used to greater dissuasive effect. It is worth noting as well that on this metric, as in others (summarized here and in the full report), the populations of Kiwanja and Nyamilima in Rutshuru Territory were subject to many abuses by FARDC and armed groups due to the military operations underway and the deployment of newly integrated units.

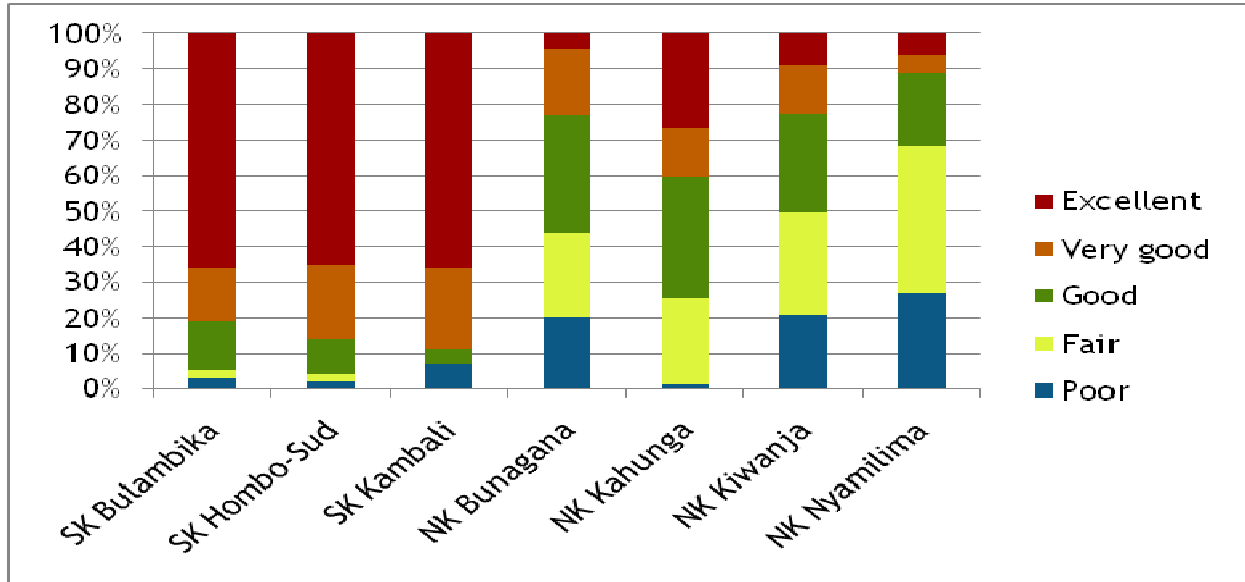
Interestingly, the same question was asked to military, revealing a sharp difference between the way they perceive impunity for their crimes and the perception of civilians. This illustrates as well the possible lack of knowledge of the kind of punishments or sanctions that are meted out to military when abuses are committed. If the information does not circulate, or no effort is made to ensure that civilians are aware that there has been sanctions, and that they are encouraged to come forward, then this perception of ‘double standards’ will persist.

(Question asked to military units) If a military commits an infraction, such as a rape or extortion, he is punished...

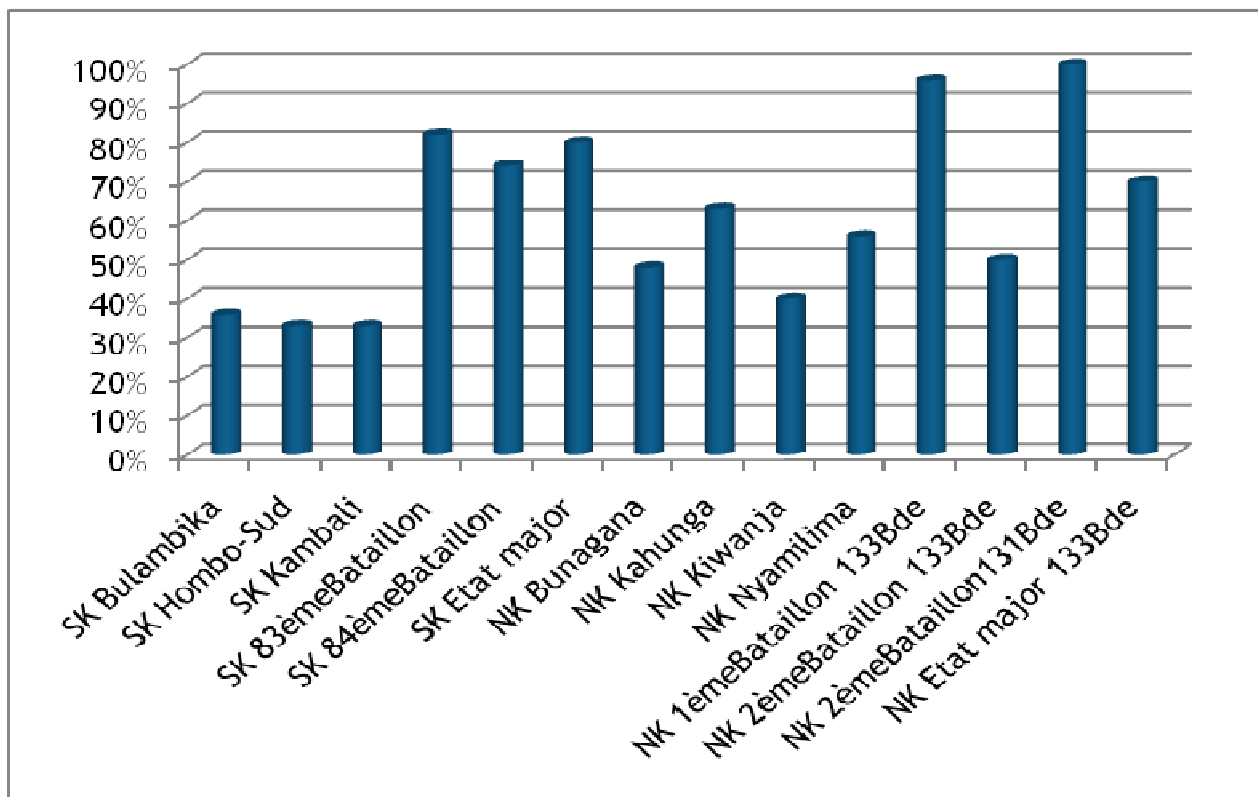


For the military, either because they felt pressured by the survey to give a ‘right’ answer, or because they sincerely feel as though their crimes are punished, there is not a self-perception of impunity from this data.

How do you evaluate the degree of collaboration between military and civilians in your community?



Have you participated in a joint military-civilian activity in the last six months?



The above table shows that the level of penetration of the project is very large, particularly amongst military, with an average of over 70 per cent of soldiers surveyed having participated in the events. But for civilians, considering the demographics, an average of 44 per cent of the population has participated in these activities. This, combined with, in Rutshuru, the penetration of the radio programs (77 per cent for military and 58 per cent for civilians) means that the project is touching at least half of the entire population of these zones. As mentioned earlier, SFCG is enhancing its partnerships with radio stations on the Bunyakiri - Hombo axis which during 2009 were not yet functioning.

Further analysis can be gleaned from reading the full evaluation reports, in Annex. However, some important findings are also to be highlighted from the focus groups which were carried out in North and South Kivu, including:

1. Civilians in the South Kivu focus group lauded the positive change that came with the deployment of the 8th Brigade to the Bunyakiri area.
 - a. *« We had been victim of looting, theft, extortion, sexual violence and many crimes by the FARDC who were deployed here before the 8th Brigade. We expected the same when they came. But we found that these military are completely different and we trust them” -*
 - b. *“If these military leave our area, we will follow them....”*
 - c. *“If President Kabila wants peace, he should leave these military deployed here in Bunyakiri. We are no longer afraid when we see the military uniform.”*
2. The climate of trust expands beyond the soldiers to their wives and families
 - a. During the 30th June independence day celebrations, the military wives put on a theatre performance in which they acted out the crimes of the infamous “Commandant Janvier” in front of an audience of both civilians and military, encouraging their husbands to do more to protect civilians and not be like Commandant Janvier
3. There is sense the FARDC commanders are taking the fight against impunity relatively seriously, as well as enhanced discipline
 - a. A soldier was extorting a civilian through tricks and ‘magic.’ The Commander got wind of this and had the soldier arrested.
 - b. *“Before, the civilians used to be able to manipulate the Military Police for doing bad things. But now, they are disciplined and don’t allow themselves to be used for bad things.”*
4. There are many challenges ahead, particularly when listening to the military perception of the issues of cohabitation.
 - a. While the 8th Brigade in Bunyakiri were unanimous in their appreciation of their collaboration and trust with the civilians, the FARDC in Rutshuru are yet to be convinced. In a focus group, only 60 per cent agreed that the collaboration was positive, while 40 per cent accused civilians of continuing to collaborate with the FLDR and the Mai Mai and thus putting the FARDC in danger.

Evaluation of Joint Military-Civilian communal field

SFCG conducted an evaluation in Nyamunyuni (near the Kavumu airport in South Kivu), surveying a total of 195 civilians who were not beneficiaries, 87 civilians who were beneficiaries, and 75 military who were beneficiaries in the project. Focus group discussions were also used to gain more qualitative data in addition to the quantitative data.

The results of this evaluation show that the communal field had a direct impact on reducing the number of abuses committed by military against civilians. Secondly, non-beneficiaries were consistent in recognizing the positive impact of the project on military-civilian relations, in particular the decrease in abuses against civilians.

Some of the important findings of this evaluation are as follows:

1. 59 per cent of those surveyed say that they undertake meetings with military and civilians, including their wives, as a direct result of the community field
2. 48 per cent say that they have now undertaken other types of military-civilian joint activities because of the improved relationship
3. 88 per cent (both beneficiaries and non-beneficiaries) say that there is a clear change in the relationship between military and civilians. More specifically, the respondents cite the following as concrete changes in their community:
 - a. Open communication between military and civilians
 - b. A climate of trust and lack of suspicion
 - c. Visits between the two groups, and sharing of goods
 - d. Use of the same tools and joint community work, without fear
4. 87 per cent say that the protection of civilians has improved since the community field project, citing as examples of this change the following:
 - a. Reduction of theft
 - b. Sharing of food and drink between military and civilians
 - c. An end to forced labour by the military of civilians
 - d. Respect of civilians and their rights
 - e. A decrease in extortion by the military
 - f. Mutual assistance provided between military and civilians
5. 67 per cent are listeners to the radio program 'Lobi' and 97 per cent of those say that the program has helped them to manage conflicts between military and civilians by putting into practice the lessons learned.



5. Outputs and Results

This section will look at the overall outputs for the last reporting period and the project as a whole. It will also propose findings per the projected outcomes and results.

The following chart summarises the outputs for the period from 1 June to 30 September 2010:

<u>ACTIVITIES</u>	<u>PERIOD OUTPUTS</u>
SENSITISATION EVENTS	168 sensitisation events for 31,414 participants
MOBILE CINEMA SCREENINGS	30 Mobile Cinema screenings for 5,358 participants
JOINT CIVIL-MILITARY ACTIVITIES	24 Joint Civil-Military Activities for an estimated 10,000 persons
RADIO PROGRAMME	25 Radio Programmes produced
COMIC BOOKS	26,000 Comic Books distributed
MONITORING VISITS TO COMMITTEES	118 Monitoring and Follow-up Activities
MONITORING VISITS TO MILITARY COURTS	1 Monitoring Visit to a Military Court
EVALUATIONS	3 Evaluations conducted, 2 base line studies

Here below are the overall outputs for the project since 1 June 2009.

<u>TARGETS</u>	<u>PROGRESS</u>
20 new Committees in Ituri, Katanga, and North Kivu, for a total of 40	37 Civilian Protection Committees
Support to 40 Committees in Ituri, Katanga, the Kivus, and Kinshasa	Support to 37 Committees
800 sensitisation sessions, reaching a total of 160,000 soldiers	352 sensitisation sessions for 48,585 participants
30 Mobile Cinema screenings for an estimated 6,000 soldiers	41 Mobile Cinema Screenings for 6,626 participants
5 civil-military income-generating Activities	2 joint civil-military income-generating activities
80 joint civil-military projects	33 joint civil-military projects
40,000 comic books distributed	51,300 comic books distributed
40 participatory theatre productions in military camps	31 participatory theatre productions
48 productions of Kesho- Lobi;	66 episodes produced
40 productions of Njia za Sheria	20 episodes produced

The outputs are lower than targetted for various reasons:

1. the first three to six months of the project focused on:
 - a. restructuring the nature of the relationship with the FARDC, which meant having a clear **Terms of Reference** to define the roles and responsibilities of the committees, the support of the project, and the reporting mechanisms;
 - b. Auditing and restructuring the contractual **relationship with ECC MERU** based on lessons learned from the previous phase
 - c. securing the **authorizations from FARDC hierarchy** in Oriental Province (and Ituri) and Katanga for the extension of the project into these two new military regions
 - d. **Selection of the new local partners** for the two new provinces
 - e. **Training** of the new 17 committees. Note that the project manager is at the same time the trainer, and it was underestimated the amount of time needed to prepare and execute trainings, thus detracting the focus away from other aspects of the project management
2. The above meant that sensitization activities began in North Kivu during this first semester, but did not get underway in Kinshasa and South Kivu until November 2009. The partners in Ituri and Katanga only began organizing their sensitization activities as of April and May of 2010. The targets were identified on the presumption that the 40 committees would all be in place after two months into the project, which was an ambitious and ultimately unrealistic projection.
3. **Military operations** in South Kivu, meant that whereby the committees had already been created and trained during the previous phase of this project (which ended in February 2009), in mid-2009 two of the four brigades engaged had been redeployed elsewhere in the province or to another province, and in some cases, the members of the committees had been dispersed, rendering practically dysfunctional the committee structures. The delay in restarting South Kivu and the shortcomings on outputs for that province was largely due to this, which persisted throughout all of 2009 and into 2010. By this last reporting period, ECC MERU had again regained contact with the units that had been on operations in Uvira and Fizi territory.
4. **Military operations** in Ituri and North Kivu also at times constrained access to the units, or necessitated postponing of planned activities or meetings.
5. Concerning the joint activities, the above reasons also impacted on the outputs relative to these activities. In addition, because of some of the units engaged in the project were mobile, in operations or being deployed, it was difficult to find a strategy that would enable them to have a more durable activity jointly with civilians. This explains why certain units were able to achieve this (Nyamunyuni is a military camp, and in Kinshasa, the military are more stable, as the unit in Ituri), while in other areas the security alerts made this aspect of the project challenging.
6. Recognition of the need to build capacity within local partners. Delays in submitting reports and reconciling accounts led to delays in sending funds. This was addressed in the evaluation workshop in October, mentioned earlier.

The following can be concluded as findings for the following results, based on the project performance data, the evaluations conducted, and other evidence gleaned from internal and external sources over the last 16 months.

Result #1: Military officers and soldiers exposed to this project demonstrate a greater awareness of human rights and the importance of protecting civilians.

Finding: Evaluations in North and South Kivu of regions where units have been deployed have been appreciated by the civilian population since their deployment into their area. The population have not only noticed a different attitude in the military associated with this project, but have been able to point to real changes in terms of civilian protection, fighting impunity and overall collaboration between military and civilians in their areas. The example of the community planting field reflects further evidence of proof of behaviour having been changed - towards a better respect of human rights and protection of civilians. Importantly in the Nyanmunyuni evaluation, even non-beneficiaries were unanimous in the improvement of relations between the military and the civilians as a result of the community field.

Result #2: Military officers who are members of Committees display a “zero tolerance” for abuses committed by members of their units, and thus these cases are brought to the military justice.

As mentioned earlier, this result is no longer being systematically monitored, following the guidance by the General heading the Service d’Education Civique and Patriotique. However, there have been shortcomings in the performance of the local partner whose responsibility it was to undertake monitoring of abuses committed by the FARDC and juxtapose these to the units engaged in this project to analyse results, as well as insufficient support for that partner from the SFCG staff. Some information is available which suggests that the units that are engaged in this project are less accused of abuses than those that are not. Without presenting quantitative data, an overall trend over the last year has been that the majority of the abuses have been committed by the FARDC soldiers engaged in the ‘Amani Leo’ operations, as opposed to the brigades and battalions deployed throughout the Kivus. This is also due to the deployment of newly integrated and inadequately trained (on protection issues) units into the ‘Amani Leo’ operations.

Anecdotal evidence can also point to many examples of the change that has resulted amongst military engaged in this project, such as:

- The President of the Republican Guard in Kinshasa announced that he had punished one of his soldiers for sexual harassment of a female military in his unit (PMF), for the first time, after realizing that this was also a crime that merited punishment;
- A Major who facilitates the Mobile Cinema projections in North Kivu said that he was reaching out to military wives and alerting them to the risks of early marriage and

warning them of the legal risks of perpetrating this, despite the customs encouraging this;

- ‘Commandant Janvier’ remains a nickname that no soldier wants to be called - unless it’s to make a joke. This ‘symbol’ of the negative role model has permeated the army due to the extensive distribution of the comic book, the broadcast of radio spots and the ongoing radio drama broadcast across the country.
- In Katanga, following complaints that visitors to prisoners in the FARDC camp were being harassed, the committee posted a sign aiming to prevent such abuses
- In South Kivu over the last reporting period, 33 cases of abuse were recorded by the committees, all were transferred to the auditorat militaire, and three soldiers have been sentenced.

Result #3: Decrease in the abuses committed against civilians by FARDC officers and soldiers exposed to this project.

Although violence and instability continues across the DRC, there are signs of improvement. According to OCHA, the incidence of atrocities fell dramatically in early 2010. The evaluation conducted by SFCG during the reporting period also shows encouraging results. Both civilians and soldiers believe that the level of violence has fallen in the projects target regions. In North Kivu for instance, 34% of the civilians and 28% of the military believe that the level of sexual violence has decreased, and 29% of the civilians and 17% of the military believe that the number of murders has decreased. The evaluations conducted in North and South Kivu reveal a tendency towards improved protection of civilians as mentioned earlier in the report, and as can be seen in the full reports in Annexe.

Result #4: Positive relationships between target civilian groups and military are strengthened through joint activities.

Positive feedback has been consistent from all of the joint activities organized during the life of this project, both from military and from civilians. Be it through sports activities, joint clean-ups, days of discussion and dialogue, or joint community planting fields, these activities have broken ground in dispelling stereotypes and prejudice and contributing to a new and more positive image of the FARDC in the community. Decades of war and negative relationships with civilians, even beyond the ‘war zones’ has meant that a large amount of mistrust has developed between the two groups. The evaluations in North and South Kivu highlight a number of other concrete indicators to measure the health of these relationships, including: sharing water sources between military wives and civilian women, giving credit in shops or at the market to military, visits and inter-marriage between military and civilians, and overall ‘assistance’ being provided between the two groups. On all of these fronts, the degree of cohabitation is positive in the area where the project is active. The follow up on the base line surveys in Ituri and Katanga will provide more evidence that can reinforce the attribution of these tendencies to the project.

It should be noted that the joint community planting fields seemed to have an outstanding impact, both in Bambu, Ituri, and in Nyamunyuni, South Kivu. These highly visible collaborative activities not only engaged participants, who were disposed to finding common ground, they also made non-participants aware of the potential for more positive civil-military relationships. Both civilians and the military tend to positively view cohabitation between the two groups, which are excellent according to 32.4% of the persons surveyed during SFCG's evaluation missions.

Result #5: Military and civilians are more aware of how to combat impunity, how to access military and civilian justice and the consequences of justice in action.

The evaluations reveal that the military engaged in this project have the perception that they are not protected by impunity, and that they will be punished by their crimes. This can be interpreted as a result of repeated sensitization sessions, access to SFCG radio programs about fighting impunity, combined with a zero tolerance behavior by the commander of their unit.

Civilians in general, according to the evaluations, are still skeptical of the efficacy of the justice system, and feel that military who commit crimes are not necessarily going to face justice. However, this

The large penetration of the two radio programs SFCG produces that are associated with this project contribute to this awareness. At least 34% of the civilians and 62.5% of the military know the radio programme "Kesho ni Siku Mpya/Lobi Mokolo Ya Sika" and have therefore been sensitised to issues such as impunity and access to justice. A comparative analysis between listeners and non - listeners on specific points related to knowledge about fighting impunity and accessing justice will be undertaken in future evaluations. It should be noted that the Mobile Cinema and comic book outreach contribute to knowledge of fighting impunity and clarify issues around how to access justice.

6. Challenges and Lessons Learned

During the reporting period, and overall in this phase of the project, several challenges have emerged. These were discussed in depth in an evaluation and planning workshop held at the end of this reporting period with all of the local partners engaged in the project.

Below these issues are raised as challenges and opportunities/strategies going forward, to ensure that the best practices are put in place and the lessons learned are applied towards enhanced success in the current phase of the project:

Challenges encountered	Opportunities and strategies underway
Terms of reference need to be possessed and understood by all committees	Local partners need to ensure that all committees have this document. This ensures transparency and equity throughout the project and guards against fraud and manipulation, be it by the FARDC or by the local partner, in the use of funds.
Local partners have weak capacity in program management and reporting	<p>Workshop in October clarified the overall vision of the project, the contractual obligations and reporting requirements, both financial and programmatic for the three local partners.</p> <p>The identification of a local partner for N Kivu will ensure a minimal degree of reporting capacity.</p> <p>SFCG monitoring systems have been amended to include monthly updates and a smoother financial reporting system.</p>
Access to operational zones poses obstacles to project achievements	Good practices from North Kivu replicated for South Kivu and Ituri, based on contacts with the Military Operations command structures.
Effective and regular production of the ‘fighting impunity’ magazine program in collaboration with military correspondents	Recruitment of new journalist, who starts work in January 2011. Training already completed for three military correspondents from N and S Kivu and Ituri to effect successful collaboration with the military press. Collaboration with Kinshasa military press to be examined for possible larger impact on national RTNC station.
Transport needs surpass the budget	Two more motorcycles purchased for use in South Kivu by ECC MERU, while Ituri and N Katanga have already received theirs.
Equipment for committees needs renewal	SFCG undertook purchases of new ‘image boxes’, radio/CD players and megaphones to be able to distribute to committees in need of new equipment in the current phase.

<p>Enhanced monitoring system needs to capture results of activities while also measuring impact systematically</p>	<p>Reporting formats have been systematized and distributed to all local partners at the October workshop.</p> <p>Reporting cycles have been tightened and clarified.</p> <p>A new system of approving joint activities outlines criteria for ensuring that the right population is being targeted, that the conflict is being addressed through the activity, and that there is implication of local authorities in the activities.</p> <p>Evaluation will be undertaken in Kinshasa, and the follow up to the base line surveys in Katanga and Ituri are planned for the first semester of the new project.</p> <p>A revised system of tracking accusations of abuse by FARDC has been put into place following the October workshop. This new database will rely on existing sources from OCHA and the Protection cluster (largely) and will be able to produce quarterly or monthly updates on areas where there are abuses, be engaging the FARDC units with whom SFCG works, and arrive at a clearer comparison in terms of the protection of civilians indicator between units associated with this project as compared to those that are not.</p>
<p>Follow up evaluations</p>	<p>Areas of the project requiring more evaluations will include the impact of the revised ‘fighting impunity’ radio magazine program, the impact of continued joint activities (in particular the income-generating activities) as well as the degree to which the mobile cinema screenings are leading to a decline in sexual violence cases by the units who have seen the film.</p>

7. Next Steps

At the time of submission of this report, SFCG has completed the first quarter of the new phase of this project. In October, the first pedagogical workshop was held with IF Production and Whyze Communications, along with FARDC members from three provinces and experts in the field of sexual violence, to determine the content for the new educational film tool.

A major reflection needs to be taken during the first quarter of 2011 however, as to the geographic targeting of the project. Some units, particularly from Kinshasa and South Kivu, have been engaged in this project since 2008. In Kinshasa, there appear to be few if any major human rights abuses persisting around some of these units (such as the Air Force, Navy or Unites Rattache around the FARDC HQ). In South Kivu, evaluations show that the brigades with whom the project began in South Kivu (notably the 3rd and 8th Brigades) have demonstrated progress towards enhanced civilian protection. This opens up a strategic opportunity to redirect the resources from at least five or six of these committees towards areas in dire need of more support and engagement with the FARDC: notably in North Kivu and in Oriental Province (in Ituri and Haut Uele). In South Kivu, an analysis of the brigades with the 'poorest' reputation in terms of civilian protection should be undertaken in order to target these units and close out the collaboration with those units who began in 2008 working with this project. It has however been noticed that due to vested interests, or arrangements due to a longstanding relationship, there is a degree of resistance from the local partner ECC MERU as well as from some FARDC officers, to engage in this strategic reflection.

SFCG would like to propose that during the first quarter of 2011 a meeting takes place between SFCG and ECC MERU and the Dutch embassy in order to underscore the importance of this strategic shift, and if necessary, also engage the Steering Committee of the FARDC in Kinshasa in the discussion as well.

8. Annexes

Financial report

List of SFCG Partner radio stations

Evaluation of North Kivu - Rutshuru territory

Evaluation of South Kivu - Kalehe territory

Evaluation of Nyamunyuni community planting field

Base Line report from Ituri

Base Line report from Kalemie and Moba