# CDGG Highlight Report –Annual Report for 2013

## 1.) Overall Project status

Consolidation of Democracy and Good Governance in Lesotho (CDGG) is a four-year programme jointly funded by Irish Aid and the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP). It aims to deepen democracy and good governance through improved electoral processes, effective functioning of parliament and enhanced promotion of human rights. To achieve its primary goals and objectives, the CDGG has identified, albeit not limited to, the following key institutions as enabling partners: The Independent Electoral Commission (IEC), National Assembly, the Senate, Ministry of Justice, Human Rights and the Correctional Service (now Ministry of Law, Constitutional Affairs and Human Rights) and the Office of the Ombudsman.

* **2013 Targets**
* (1) Electoral reforms to ensure that elections add value to democratic governance and political stability.
* (2) Parliamentary reforms to improve the effectiveness of the legislature in its three-pronged mandate of law-making, representation and oversight.
* (3) The promotion and protection of human rights in accordance with the principles of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights.

 **Programme Management**

* CDGG activities in the 1st quarter were delayed due to budget presentations by various Government Ministries, institutions and statutory bodies to the Ministry of Finance and to the National Assembly. This included all the five CDGG governance institutions. Following the presentation of the Budget Speech by the Minister of Finance on February 22nd, budget discussions on appropriations were held for each Ministry or statutory body where Ministers and Principal Secretaries (PSs) were requested to appear before the National Assembly to justify their budget requests for 2013/2014. This process affected programme delivery since Principal Secretaries including Clerks of Parliament were not available as Chief Accounting Officers and Administrative Heads of their Ministries or Institutions.

 Senior officials were also not available and the National Assembly adopted the Appropriation Bill, 2013/14 fiscal year on March 26th, 2013. It is expected that programme delivery will improve in the second quarter since the budget issues have been dealt with.

* Programme delivery improved in this quarter, all Implementing Partners conducted activities in accordance to the work plan. Since the Budget was passed, IPs were able to focus more on programme activities. Also the fact that the two Houses of Parliament closed for winter break during the reporting period enabled some activities involving Members of Parliament to be carried out during the break. It would have been quite difficult to have several MPs especially Committee Chairpersons to undergo training at the same time if Parliament was still in session.
* The fact that the two Houses of Parliament and the Ministry of Justice and Human Rights got New Chief Accounting Officers had some adverse effects on planning matters for programme implementation. A new Principal Secretary for Justice was appointed and the Senate and the National Assembly also appointed new Clerks. The new officials took some time to adjust to their new positions and this delayed the process of finalizing work plans and also attaching timelines to activities hence, the inclusion of planned activities without timeframes.
* Despite the anticipated and unanticipated delays, programme implementation improved in the 4th quarter although end of November the progress slowed down

 Due to preparations of submissions for the 2014/2015 financial year by different

 Government Ministries and institutions. The Senate and the National Assembly

 also closed for the festive season in November 2013**.**

**2.) 2013chievements**

**Ombudsman’s office**

* The Office of the Ombudsman undertook field inspections in villages and in Government institutions to using the Investigations Procedures Manual and documenting good practices. During the review period, field inspections were undertaken in Quthing, Butha-Buthe and Qacha, s Nek. The next districts will include MohalesHoek, Mafeteng, Thaba Tseka, Berea, Leribe, Mokhotlong and Maseru. Thereafter, the Office will concentrate of writing a consolidated report with recommendations for submission to all stakeholders.

These visits benefited the Ombudsman’s Office in the following manner:

* Improved communication with the Office
* Enhanced observance of the Rule of Law and Human Rights stands by the GOL institutions
* Improved investigation skills as site visits are a crucial part of the investigation process.
* In addition, Section 7 of the Ombudsman Act of 1996 provides the Office of the Ombudsman with powers to investigate any issues which relate to the environment. General observance of the status of the environment in areas visited
* Advise stakeholders on the improved complaints handling procedure and the enhanced communications methods.
* Assess the condition and suitability for human use of the GOL institutions.
* The Office of the Ombudsman conducted inspections at Government Hospitals and Health Centres. These inspections included Queen ‘Mamohato Memorial Hospital, Qoaling Filter and Mabote clinics. Long queues and slow service were some of the conditions found. A consolidated report will be available once the entire exercise is completed.
* As part of the Communication Strategy, flyers were designed to sensitize the public about the role of the Ombudsman in improving good governance and service delivery. The flyers will be printed and distributed in August.
* The Communication Strategy document was developed and adopted as a working document for the Office. 2 types of a back- to- back 2-page (Sesotho/English) flyer 150,000 ea. have been designed and printed. The country wide distribution thereof is about to commence. The Communications strategy document includes every implement in the Communicator’s tool kit, the resources required to implement the strategy in improving the public’s awareness about the Office.
* Conducted the first leg of the in-house training focusing on improving investigative skills. The second leg focusing on environment matters will be conducted in October and November. Completion of the outstanding training would mean that the core personnel have a sound understanding of the Ombudsman’s mandate.

**Independent Electoral Commission (IEC)** 

* Engaged a consultant to develop a Strategic Plan (What are the main strategies in the plan, and how they will improve the work of IEC) for the IEC and also convened the following workshops with Commissioners, Executive Team and Senior Managers. The purpose of the workshops was to engage the mentioned participants in a participatory development of the strategic plan which they would own or accept as their own.

**Outcome:** IEC staff developed an acceptable 5 year Strategic Plan which they will implement in this financial year from April 2013 upon approval of structure by Public and Finance.

* Held Business Plan workshop with Commissioners, Executive Team and Senior Managers Performance Management System workshop and development of Scorecards for Director and Executive Managers
* Held a workshop on Performance Management System and development of Scorecards for Director and Executive Managers. The Score card will assist staff and management to appraise performance of an individual employee and attend to performance gaps where necessary and also reward good performance in some cases.

**Outcome:**  Director and Executive Managers are now equipped to develop their own score cards:

* + - * To assist in the application of  Performance Management System (PMS) in the organisation (IEC) in order to improve service delivery
* Kick-started the process of identifying and selecting external facilitators to conduct Building Resources in Democracy, Governance and Elections (BRIDGE) training for Political Party Representatives and IEC Senior Management on Gender & Elections. The BRIDGE training is designed to expose trainees in ways of mainstreaming gender in elections. The training is scheduled to take place at the end of July or early August 2013.
* Submitted the new organisational structure of the IEC to relevant Ministries to facilitate funding based on the new structure. IEC awaiting final approval from Ministry of Public Service and Funding from the Ministry of Finance.
* Held the Gender and ElectionsBuilding Resources in Democracy, Governance and Elections (BRIDGE) training for Political Party Representatives and IEC Senior Management. The BRIDGE training on Gender and Elections was designed to expose trainees in ways of mainstreaming gender in elections. The training was held for five (5) days from 29th July to 02nd August, 2013. There were 25 participants of which fourteen (14) were males while (11) were females.

**National Assembly**

* The National Assembly conducted countrywide public hearings on matters pertaining to the recently elevated School Fees. This initiative was a result of the National Assembly's resolution to refer the issue of school fees to the Portfolio on Social Cluster to conduct a nationwide consultation; to collect information from all the stakeholders and report back to the House for further cause of action. Public hearings are part of the 2013 CDGG work plan and this gave MPs the opportunity to test the recently developed procedural public participation manuals. Report will be provided in due course.
* Held a workshop for women parliamentarians to enhance their confidence and increase their participation in parliamentary debates. Major conclusions that came out of the meeting are that Women Caucus should raise awareness for women related issues in Parliament including maternity leaves, Married Person’s Equality Act and all laws of equal importance.
* There should be networking with other women in different Parliaments for skills sharing purposes and training in conflict management. Report available.
* Attached 5 Committee Chairpersons to the Zambian Parliament to expose them to international best practice particularly to learn the most efficient and effective ways to run portfolio committees. These include oversight functions and production of annual reports, considerations of bills and recommendations to the House and examination and approval of budget estimates. Another group of Chairpersons will be attached to the Republic of South Africa in August, 2013.
* Begun the process to engage a consultant to produce an educational documentary about the National Assembly for public consumption.
* Following the Women’s Caucus workshop held in June 2013, which was intended at building their confidence and ability to engage in parliamentary debates, there was a realization that there were certain challenges relating to lack of unity and divisions along party lines which hindered progress and therefore a follow-up seminar was held from 16th to 18th September 2013.

The objective of the seminar was to forge the spirit of unity through dialogue in order to address challenges on the ground. Honourable L. Maseko, the Speaker of the Gauteng Provincial Legislature made a presentation and led discussions on challenges and opportunities of women in Commonwealth Parliaments. The discussions were candid and robust with most last speakers reiterating on the importance of unity and putting aside political inclinations to focus on women parliamentarian issues. There was also a recommendation that a specific work plan for women parliamentarians should be developed in the future.

**Ministry of Law, Constitutional Affairs and Human Rights** 

* Held a training Workshop on the promotion and protection of human rights for members of the Judiciary. The aim of the workshop was to sensitize the judiciary on the application of international human rights principles and standards relating to their responsibilities as well as equipping them with the necessary knowledge related to human rights and adjudication. Further it was to build on their particular role and opportunities for protecting human rights.

The HRU was tasked with the responsibility of updating information on the progress made by stakeholders in implementing the UPR recommendations, thereafter follow-up on progress made and prepare to draft an interim report of UPR.

* Held a meeting to discuss the Universal Periodic Review (UPR) recommendations. The purpose of the meeting was to discuss and provide feedback on the progress made by the stakeholders on the implementation plan of the UPR recommendations.

Recommendations by countries reviewing Lesotho included the following:

* Adopt legislation criminalizing female genital mutilation (Germany);
* Adopt measures to eradicate in a definitive manner the practice of

female genital mutilation (Argentina);

* Take the necessary measures to ensure the primacy of civil and

political authority (Netherlands);

* Take all necessary measures to prohibit the use, procuring or offering

of a child for the purpose of the production and trafficking of drugs (Slovenia). UPR Report attached.

* Held roundtable on the structure on the long awaited Human Rights Commission. The activity brought together key stakeholders to discuss pertinent issues emanating from the draft enabling legislation of the Commission as well as to reach a consensus on best and appropriate ways to address those issues so as to accelerate the coming into being of the Commission. Such issues included the appointment of the Commissioners, tenure of office and the Commission's compliance with the Paris Principles and other international standards. Consensus reached thereat was for the Human Rights Unit to consult with the Office of Attorney General in terms of the constitutionality of the proposed amendments to the Human Rights Commission Bill and to advise on the way forward.

* Held a stakeholders’ meeting on the Universal Peer Review (UPR).The Human Rights Unit compiled a progress report detailing the status of implementation of recommendations of the working group on Lesotho post the review in 2010. The interim report is to be submitted to the Office of High Commissioner for Human Rights as a demonstration of the commitment of Government in fulfilling its obligations under the UPR mechanism. The next review for Lesotho will be in 2015 and a national report will be submitted before the review.
* As part of capacity building for the Human Rights Unit of the Ministry of Law, Constitutional Affairs and Human Rights, the Chief Legal Officer, Principal Legal Officer and Legal Officer attended the advanced course on the Art of Public Speaking, Presentation and Communication Skills in Swaziland. The course was offered by the Professional and Development Training Institute.

The objectives of the course were:

1. To equip officers with skills and competence to effectively and systematically engage with the public and other institutions in their outreach educational and awareness raising campaigns on human rights.
2. To improve the officers’ capacity in speech writing and to equip them with presentation and computer skills.

**Senate**

* The Senate did not undertake any activities in the first quarter due to delays in finalizing the 2013 work plan.
* Capacity Building for Senators and Staff. Six (6) Committee Chairpersons and two (2) Senate Staff Members underwent training in Financial Management in Cape Town. The training provided participants with tools to assist them in planning and budgeting processes including techniques for monitoring expenditure. Report will be available.
* The Senate did not undertake any activity during the fourth quarter. According to the Acting Clerk, the activities which were supposed to take place were dependent on the availability and presence of Senators who were still on winter vacations. This included the review of new standing orders before they go for printing in Sesotho. This year the Senate President and Vice President had indicated that their interest was to focus more on capacitating the Senators more than the staff which had already benefited from training in the past two years.

## 3.) Activities CDGG Implementing Partners requested to be postponed to 1st quarter 2014

## SENATE

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| DESCRIPTION |
| Workshop on public participation for Senators facilitated by the Free State Legislature  |
| Print Sesotho and English language versions of Senate Standing Orders |

**HUMAN RIGHTS**

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| DESCRIPTION |
| Present to Parliament the National Human Rights Commission Bill 2011.  |
| Finalize a communication strategy for Human Rights Unit and develop a human rights policy for the Ministry of Law, Constitutional Affairs and Human Rights. |
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| Hold drafting meetings and a validation workshop on the International Convention on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination (ICERD) and develop an implementation plan |

**OFICE OF THE OMBUDSMAN**

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| DESCRIPTION |
| Sensitisation workshop for Principal Secretaries and Chief Executives of Parastatal Organisations |
| Develop a Monitoring and Follow-up system |

**IEC**

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| DESCRIPTION |
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| Conduct a study to Assess the knowledge of civic groups trained on the electoral process for May 2012 National Assembly Elections |

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| **4.) Legend** |       | **On target****Areas to watch****Areas to address****On Hold** |