



CENTRE DE RECHERCHE SUR L'ANTI-CORRUPTION

REPLIC Project Report

PROJECT YEAR

2024

Agir pour une justice redevable, plurielle et
intègre au Congo (REPLIC)

Acting for an accountable, plural and honest
justice in the Congo – anti-corruption component
of the Justice Reform Support Programme
(PARJ2)

With RCN Justice & Démocratie · Funded by the
European Union and the Belgian Development
Cooperation (DGD)



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REPLIC 2024 at a glance

Citizens able to report corruption in the justice system,
and students ready to act against it.

US\$19,295

received from RCN Justice & Démocratie and spent in 2024

9

focal points in the social alert network in Kinshasa

70

toll-free number posters in the courts of Kalamu, Ndjili and Matete

61

students from 4 universities at the inter-club meeting (December 2024)



PARJ2 – REPLIC

The project

REPLIC aims to strengthen the accountability of justice actors and the power of civil society and citizens – including the most vulnerable and young people – to act, so as to build a plural justice system that has more integrity and respects fundamental rights.



On 1 April 2024, CERC and **RCN Justice & Démocratie** (RCN J&D) signed a specific partnership agreement to implement the anti-corruption component of the second phase of the **Justice Reform Support Programme (PARJ2)**, funded by the **European Union**, and of the project **Agir pour une justice redevable, plurielle et intègre au Congo (REPLIC)**, co-funded by the Belgian Directorate-General for Development Cooperation and Humanitarian Aid (DGD). These projects contribute to result 14 of axis 4 of the National Justice Reform Policy (2017–2026).

The agreement ran until 31 December 2024. It first covered the **social alert and response system**; an amendment signed on 12 August 2024 added the **youth anti-corruption project incubator**: support to university anti-corruption clubs and journalism. RCN J&D provided technical support and validated the tools, the terms of reference and CERC's monthly narrative and financial reports.

2024

CERC's three activities

- **Social alert and response system** – a network of focal points that collects and passes on corruption complaints in the justice sector, and a civil society response: advocacy, awareness raising and legal assistance.

- **Support to university anti-corruption clubs** – integrity clubs in four universities in Kinshasa, and an inter-club meeting.
- **Journalism** – articles in the online media Habari RDC to reach a wider audience.

KINSHASA, MARCH–DECEMBER 2024

Social alert and response system



In 2024, CERC set up a social alert system in Kinshasa so that citizens could report corruption in the justice sector, and organised civil society's response to these alerts.

MARCH–MAY 2024

Setting up the social alert system

With technical support from RCN J&D, CERC developed the system's tools: a guide to the social alert system, a memorandum of understanding with the focal points and an implementation strategy.

The system was run by a network of **9 focal points**, appointed by civil society organisations and anti-corruption networks – ACVDP, PONJA PONJA, C4, GREM, COCOLUCO, AFEVOPHA and CERC – to collect and pass on corruption complaints from their communities. On 6 May 2024, RCN J&D handed CERC 9 phones and 8 SIM cards, which CERC distributed to the focal points with their transport and communication allowances.

JUNE–JULY 2024

Support from judicial authorities

CERC met the prosecutors and heads of division of the public prosecutor's offices of Kalamu, Ndjili and Matete to present the social alert system. Mission orders allowed 7 focal points to access the courts. Several judicial authorities authorised the display of the system's **toll-free number** in their jurisdictions.

To find resource persons within the justice system, CERC also ran small surveys among litigants and traders near prosecutors' offices and courts, to identify magistrates known for their integrity.

MAY–JULY 2024

Awareness raising

- From 15 May 2024, word-of-mouth awareness raising among the general public, and participation in partners' activities in Kisenso, Ndjili and the CPA neighbourhood: about **45 people** reached.
- From 8 June 2024, awareness raising among litigants and the managers of restaurants and small shops near the courts of Ndjili and Kalamu: about **60 people** (27 women and 33 men).
- **70 posters** with the toll-free number, out of 150 planned, put up in June 2024 at the prosecutors' offices, high courts and peace courts of Kalamu, Ndjili and Matete, and at the Ndjili notary office, with the authorities' approval.
- **250 leaflets** printed in July 2024 for Kalamu and Matete; 80 had been handed out by the end of the month, as the public transport strike of 29 July interrupted the activities.

The message was simple: "Together, let us say no to corruption, by reporting corrupt acts and practices in the justice sector."

MAY–JULY 2024

Alerts and responses

CERC received its first 3 alerts in May 2024. By the end of June, it had received and documented 7, of which 3 could not be followed up because the victims or witnesses withdrew for fear of reprisals. The alerts came from the focal points, public speaking forums, awareness-raising activities and the toll-free number.

CERC responded through advocacy with judicial authorities – notably with ACVDP, in Kalamu and Ndjili, from 8 June 2024 – and by advising and assisting litigants. On 26 July 2024, it supported ACVDP in following a case before the Kalamu high court about a piece of evidence that had disappeared.

DOCUMENTED CASES (THE PEOPLE ARE NOT NAMED)

- **Arbitrary arrest.** In April 2024, a resident of Lemba was arrested and beaten by police officers for no reason, until he lost consciousness. His family filed a complaint with the military prosecutor's office, but the case did not move forward, and the family suspected that the investigating magistrate had been bribed. CERC went to the military prosecutor's office on 15 and 16 May 2024 for advocacy and advised the victim.
- **Release of a suspect.** According to the victim's family, a judicial police officer released, for 100,000 Congolese francs, a young man arrested for assaulting and injuring a woman; once free, he threatened to kill the victim and her family.
- **Land dispute.** In Kimbanseke, a woman who had won a land dispute at several levels saw her case dropped by the prosecutor's office, and had to pay to obtain the decision.
- **Assault at work.** An employee of a public company, beaten by his superior after claiming his mission allowance, filed a complaint with the public prosecutor's office. The magistrate heard witnesses without hearing the complainant, while the accused claimed to have bribed the prosecutor's office. The complainant challenged the magistrate.
- **Child custody.** In July 2024, a mother accused her former husband of paying a magistrate of a children's court to obtain custody of their children. CERC followed up and documented the case.

UNIVERSITIES OF KINSHASA, SEPTEMBER–
DECEMBER 2024

Youth anti-corruption project incubator

From September to December 2024, CERC supported students from four universities in Kinshasa to set up integrity clubs and act against corruption at university and in the justice system.

Selected by RCN J&D through a call for expressions of interest to raise young people's awareness of the fight against corruption, CERC ran the **Youth Anti-Corruption Project Incubator**. Its aim: to help mobilise students as citizens against corruption, particularly at university and in the justice sector.

SEPTEMBER–NOVEMBER 2024

Four university integrity clubs

CERC supported the creation of integrity clubs in four universities: the **University of Kinshasa**, the **Pan-African University**, the **Reverend Kim University** and **Bel Campus University**. Each club had up to 15 students – as many women as men, 30% of them marginalised or under-represented students – led by a president and a vice-president.

Each club held three meetings, on the project and its partners, the legal and institutional framework against corruption, and the role of students.



The students studied the United Nations Convention against Corruption, the African Union Convention on Preventing and Combating Corruption, the SADC Protocol against Corruption and national legislation, and the institutions in charge of enforcing them.

They identified the legal obstacles to fighting corruption in the DRC: the lack of a special anti-corruption law, of a law on access to information and of a law protecting whistleblowers. Ready to report corruption but afraid of reprisals, they included in their joint roadmap advocacy with the National Assembly for the adoption of a **whistleblower protection law**.

3 DECEMBER 2024

Inter-club meeting and diagnosis

On 3 December 2024, the inter-club meeting brought together **61 students** (18 women and 43 men) from the four universities at the Pan-African University. With an expert recruited by CERC, they diagnosed corrupt practices at university and drew up a joint action plan.

PRACTICES IDENTIFIED AMONG TEACHERS

Money paid to pass ("lidabo"); sexual corruption in exchange for grades; forced sale of books as a condition for passing; nepotism in recruiting assistants; undeserved grades; grades deliberately lost; bribes to enter the exam room.

PRACTICES IDENTIFIED AMONG STUDENTS

Exams taken by someone else ("merco"); bribed invigilators; gifts to assistants before exams; swapped exam papers ("kotisa-bimisa"); falsified grades; favouritism, tribalism and influence peddling.

OCTOBER-DECEMBER 2024

Journalism

To reach a wider audience, CERC worked with the online media **Habari RDC**, which published articles on the activities – including awareness raising among Bel Campus University students and the creation of a network of students against corruption in Congolese universities – with a focus on the sexual corruption identified by the students.

2024

Training modules

CERC's training sessions used modules prepared by anti-corruption expert Paulin Kibendelwa: understanding corruption (definitions and offences under the Congolese Criminal Code), the legal and institutional framework against corruption, and monitoring corruption.

2024 – NOT AUDITED

Funds received and expenditure



In 2024, CERC received **US\$19,295** from RCN Justice & Démocratie for the REPLIC – PARJ2 partnership, and spent it on the lines of the agreement of 1 April 2024 as amended on 12 August 2024. Funds were transferred quarterly, on the basis of the quarter's forecast and of justified expenditure, and CERC accounted for its expenditure through monthly financial reports with the original supporting documents.

Item	US\$
Running costs	175.00
Office supplies	55.00
Communication	60.00
Bank charges	60.00
Social alert system and response	14,295.00
Setting up the social alert system in communities	6,500.00
– communication for the 9 focal points (10 months)	2,250.00
– transport for the 9 focal points (10 months)	2,250.00
– supervision per diem	2,000.00
Civil society response to alerts in Kinshasa	7,795.00
– transport (advocacy meetings)	2,500.00
– media (press briefing or advocacy programme)	750.00

Item	US\$
– legal assistance	3,000.00
– awareness raising	1,545.00

Item	US\$
Youth anti-corruption project incubator	4,825.00
Journalism	1,000.00
Support to university anti-corruption clubs	3,825.00
Total expenditure 2024	19,295.00

Equivalent to €17,826.13. These figures have not been audited.

Our partners



CERC thanks RCN Justice & Démocratie for its trust and technical support, the European Union and the Belgian Development Cooperation (DGD), the organisations of the focal point network – ACVDP, PONJA PONJA, C4, GREM, COCOLUCO and AFEVOPHA –, the judicial authorities of Kalamu, Ndjili and Matete, the University of Kinshasa, the Pan-African University, the Reverend Kim University and Bel Campus University, Habari RDC, and the students and citizens who took part in the project.





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CERC is a registered non-governmental organisation (NGO) (Registration number: F.92/42579) and given Legal Personality by the Ministry of Justice: JUST/SG/20/21311/2021.

CERC holds Special Consultative Status with the United Nations Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC).

