EVALUATION SUMMARY
Internal evaluation of the project Pamoja kwa amani in DRC (mid-term)
November 2015

EVALUATION THEME
1. Governance & state-citizen relations
2. Reconciliation & reintegration

INTRODUCTION
This report presents the results of the internal evaluation of the Pamoja kwa amani (All together for peace) project, implemented in the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) and financed at 90% by the European Commission through the Instrument contributing to Stability and Peace (IcSP) for the DRC. This three-year project, led by International Alert, started on 1 February 2014. It targets the territories of Rutshuru, Masisi and Walikale in North Kivu and the Kalehe territory in South Kivu.

BACKGROUND TO THE PROJECT
The overall objective of the project is to promote an inclusive process from the grassroots to the east of the DRC led by local peace actors. The specific objectives of the project are to:

• Strengthen the capacities of local peace actors and the peace process in the Kivus;
• Create opportunities for local actors to contribute and evaluate peace policies at the national, regional and international levels.

To help achieve these goals, the team targets three intermediate outcomes:

• Increased capacity and actions of local peace actors to address the root causes of conflict;
• Peace actors and initiatives in the Kivus are connected through an effective network;
• Peace actors/initiatives engage with high-level stakeholders (government, civil society, private sector) at the territorial, provincial, national and international levels.

METHODOLOGY
The methodology chosen for the evaluation of this project follows a qualitative approach based on interviews with key informants (mostly local actors, selected for this project for financial support and capacity-building). This was complemented by data collected via a questionnaire distributed to the participants at a workshop held in Goma during the evaluation period with members of the Congolese Network of Peace Actors, with national level actors, including the targeted territories of the project, but also the territories Of Butembo, and Ituri, and the city-province of Kinshasa.

SUMMARY OF FINDINGS
Since this is a mid-term evaluation, it is not yet possible to assess the project’s contribution to the overall objective of the project. Nevertheless, conclusions related to the relevance, effectiveness and sustainability of the project can be drawn, which provides indications of success and guidance for the second phase of the project.
Relevance:

- The role of the peace actors has not changed since the beginning of the project and the project remains extremely relevant. It responds adequately to the needs of the peace actors.
- The project is intrinsically flexible and can adapt to changing contexts thanks to the peace actors’ central role in the project, and their professional tendency to respond to local developments and dynamics. In addition, local peace actors have been trained to carry out contextual analyses and are able to use the tools and skills acquired to monitor evolutions of the context.
- Concerning the context at the national level, peace actors are worried about the potential instability that could result from elections.

Effectiveness:

- There is already some recognition that the network has changed the trend of relations between peace actors and the exchange of information, for the better. The peace actors testified that they had formed new relations among themselves. They learned about the context and about the work of other actors operating in other localities and shared more information. They also know how to rely on their colleagues when they go through their areas of operation. One of the added values of the network according to them is the possibility of exchanges of experience.
- A lot of time was needed to develop key activities and this led to delays in assessing the effectiveness of the project.

Sustainability:

- There are no signs of lasting results at the moment.
- The main challenge will be the sustainability of the network. Suggestions have been made by the actors of peace but some actors still rely on the leadership of Alert to develop a long-term viable structure and formalize the network.

RECOMMENDATIONS

Organise more capacity-building sessions in order to contribute to strengthening the capacity of members of the Network. Network members could organise an assessment of capacity-building needs and choose the topics or the most appropriate format for capacity-building.

Complement Alert’s support through key activities by recruiting a consultant to accompany local stakeholders throughout the project. This consultant could support peace actors through his expertise in mediation, advocacy, facilitate contacts with the authorities or the international community, or unlock situations that actors face.

Continue to support and strengthen the Network as envisaged by the project, in particular by continuing to support the formation of a strong link between the East and Kinshasa and in order to ensure that the networks have a legitimate voice to contribute to national, regional and international peacebuilding initiatives.