



Connectional Table

The United Methodist Church

The United Methodist Church World Service Contingency Fund Request

Agency Name: General Board of Church and Society

Contact Person/s: John Hill

Email jhill@umcjustice.org Phone: 202-488-5629

Name of Ministry/Program Requesting Funds: Civic and Electoral Education for 2023 Elections in the DRC

Date of Request: April 2023 Amount requested: \$80,000

Date approved by Agency Board of Directors: _____

If not approved by board, please explain: This request is submitted to the CT for consideration by John Hill on behalf of GBCS, GBGM, GCORR, GBHEM, and COSROW following consultation with the four Episcopal Area Bishops in the Congo Central Conference

Please answer the questions below. Expand the text boxes as needed to provide the requested information.

1. Describe how this ministry helps the church fulfill its mission to make disciples for Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world.

In 2018, the Congo Central Conference received support from the General Board of Global Ministries (GBGM), the General Board of Church and Society (GBCS) and the World Service Contingency Fund (WSCF) to promote civic and voter education across the four episcopal regions of the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC). The 2018 elections led the DRC to the first peaceful transfer and alternation of power. The civic and electoral education programs – as reported to the CT in 2019 – successfully trained United Methodist clergy and laity, increasing awareness and participation in the 2018 election and equipped observers to monitor and de-escalate tensions during and after the voting process.

In preparation for the 2023 election, the Bishops of the four episcopal are requesting support for civic and electoral education. Building on the success and learnings from the 2018 program, leaders of the four episcopal areas plan to educate and equip United Methodist clergy and focus particularly on women and youth to ensure free, democratic, credible, neutral, transparent and peaceful elections in the DRC.

Citing scripture, the attached proposal position clergy and members of The United Methodist Church in the DRC as leaders in the public square witnessing to the importance of justice and peace in community.



Central Conference of Congo

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GBHEM



CHURCH & SOCIETY

The United Methodist Church

Living FAITH Seeking JUSTICE Pursuing PEACE



Global Ministries

The United Methodist Church



RELIGION & RACE

The United Methodist Church



Connectional Table

The United Methodist Church

Civil and Electoral Education Project for the 2023 General Elections in the DRC

Project Cost: \$120,000

Date: March-December 2023

Contacts: undagabriell@hotmail.fr, dlunge1@yahoo.fr, bishopnktytnumc@gmail.com, bishopowansouthcongo@gmail.com

Title of programme/project	Civic and Voter Education 2023
Partner Name	GBGM, GBCS, GCORR, GBHEM, and COSROW
Name of applicant	CENTRAL CONFERENCE OF CONGO
Address	2867 OF THE STABLES COMMUNE OF NGALIEMA
Contact persons	
Legal Representatives and Bishops	Bishop: 1. Gabriel Unda Yemba, Eastern Congo 2. Daniel Lunge Onashuyaka, Central Congo 3. Kasap Owan, South Katanga 4. Guy Mande North Katanga
Email	dlunge1@yahoo.fr , bishopnktytnumc@gmail.com , undagabriell@hotmail.fr , bishopowansouthcongo@gmail.com
Project Consultants	Placide Ndjekambodi and Ado Omakinda
Phone Number and Mail	234 810597885, 813269170 pndjekambodi@yahoo.fr odimbado@gmail.com
Head of Finance	Joseph TUNDA MUSEU
Phone number	243 815849723
Email	tundajoseph@yahoo.fr
Start of the project	March 2023
End of the project	December 2023

1. ENVIRONMENTAL ANALYSIS

Please describe the context and circumstances at the start of the project.

In 2018, the United Methodist Bishops of the Central Conference of Congo DRC received substantial financial support from UMC-USA Agencies to promote civic and voter education and the observance of it in the 4 episcopal regions of Central Congo.

Results of the 2018 elections led the DRC for the first time to the peaceful transfer and alternation of power although there were electoral disputes in which the Bishops participated in the mission of mediation and good offices.

Indeed, the Independent National Electoral Commission (CENI), a technical body on the subject, has just confirmed the electoral calendar and its priorities for 2023 by setting 4 flagship elections : presidential, legislative, provincial and municipal to be held in December 2023. It considers civic and electoral education as a major asset for the success of free, democratic, credible, neutral, transparent and peaceful elections in the DRC. It again requests the accompaniment of the Methodist Bishops of Central Congo given their experiences in 2018 and their extraordinary moral authorities over the population of the DRC.

2. PROBLEM AND JUSTIFICATION

Unpreparedness, illiteracy and non-involvement of women and young people are the main barriers and are the main lessons learned during the 3 previous elections (2006, 2011 and 2018) which prove the degree of discrimination and ignorance of the latter in electoral matters.

Indeed, the elections that are being prepared for December 2023 in the DRC are expected in a very tense climate and political turbulence with unpredictable consequences, because the population is mostly women and young people, are illiterate and do not master the electoral issues.

In addition, political manipulation taking advantage of this ignorance of young people and women is at the basis of boycotting the results of the ballot boxes, which are characterized by tensions in the staffs of political parties before, during and after the elections. Whose civic and electoral education, especially for women and young people, remains a priority to achieve this.

Thus, to play its prophetic role as sentinel according to *Ezekiel 3* Verse 16-18, the Congo Annual Conference engages with its long and effective experience, particularly on the involvement and commitment of united Methodist women and youth in the 2023 electoral processes. It is a question of preparing all categories of rural and urban women and young people to know the important stages of the electoral processes including the identification operation, enrolment, electoral law in force ... For free, democratic, credible, peaceful and transparent elections in order to make the Congolese free citizens, agents of peace, able to innovate, to make wise choices, to think for themselves and to transform their living environment for sustainable peace foundation of development before, during and after the 2023 elections.

3. PROJECT DESCRIPTION

a. Overall objective

Engage women and youth as well as United Methodist clergy and surrounding areas to play their prophetic role in the 2023 electoral process in the DRC.

b. Specific objectives

- Train 2000 Methodist pastor and lay leaders on their role and civic engagement at 500 per episcopal region;
- Sensitize the population and advocate with the Congolese authorities on the non-discrimination of women and young people, especially during the electoral period;
- D 2000 electoral observers at the level of the 4 Episcopal Regions.

c. Target beneficiaries

Through the recruitment of community focal points and facilitators who mobilize stakeholders within the target population , we will :

- Women and young leaders,
- Civil society organizations, humanrights **defenders** and community groups that are trusted by local people;
- Religious and traditional leaders, local authorities as a source of knowledge of risks at the local level, **effective mediating factor and support** mechanism throughout the process, community engagement with identification and support to focal points in communities will also contribute to capacity building and sustainability of efforts ensuring the impact of our project.

Besides

- **Regarding the independent of the program:** would be linked to the CENI in the form of consultancy and interpellation in accordance with the electoral law;
- **Regarding our link to other government entities:** to maintain the independence and neutrality of the CMU in the electoral process, we will play our prophetic role, it is clear that UMC will remain on the side of truth. Our actions are committed according to the principle of neutrality
- **An external evaluation:** stronger and a reporting component to the proposal are guaranteed, in this regard, an indecent **consultancy team** that will follow up in the 4 regions is working for the standardization of training module and results-oriented reporting.
- **As for the lessons and information learned from the 2018 elections:** unpreparedness, illiteracy and non-involvement of women and young people are the main barriers and are the main lessons learned during the 3 previous elections (2006, 2011 and 2018) which prove the degree of discrimination and ignorance of the latter in electoral matters.

d. Activities

What is planned	Dates	Short description
Activity 1 <i>Preparatory, contacts and other operations</i>	March 2023	Identification of facilitators to be trained, trainers, means to borrow, printing of training module, etc.
Activity 2 <i>Training of 2000 local electoral leaders on electoral operations due to 500 per episcopal region</i>	April-June 2023	<p><i>The formation is organized in groups: pastors, women and young people.</i></p> <p><i>Each group will be empowered to play a role before, during and after the elections.</i></p> <p>Several themes will be developed including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>The right and duty of a citizen</i> • <i>The new electoral law</i> • <i>The CENI and electoral operations</i> • <i>The role of women and youth</i> • <i>The role of democracy support institutions</i> • <i>Conflict management and electoral contagiousness</i> <p>Note: Other topics and training modules will be proposed by trainers and partners will be informed.</p>
Activity 4: <i>Evaluation and reporting of the training phase to partners</i>	July 2023	<p>Training activities by consultants will be evaluated in order to report to partners for the awareness-raising and election observation phase.</p> <p>We will have 3 important phases (before, during and after the elections) each phase will have an answer including: electoral civic education before the elections, election observation during the elections and the management/mediation of electoral conflicts after the elections.</p>
Activity 3: <i>Awareness-raising in local churches and grassroots communities by trained election leaders and advocacy with decision-makers</i>	July – December 2023	<p>Local election leaders were selected on the basis of proximity in local churches.</p> <p>They will be able to ensure local awareness to reduce electoral illiteracy before the electoral operations.</p> <p>All facilitators will be identified by a badge, t-shirt and kepi with the logos of the partners.</p> <p>There will also be moments of advocacy to challenge decision-makers of their commitments.</p>

Activity 4: Election observation	December 2023	<p>It will require the training of more than 2,000 election observers, their deployment, etc. due to 500 observers per episcopal region.</p> <p>Here we will work with the ECC, the CIME and other institutions supporting democracy for more efficiency, including the CENI in the form of consultancy. Note: the Church retains its neutrality and independence from being in the middle of the village.</p>
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e. The expected impact of the project

What is expected	Indicator	Audit Sources
<p><i>Outcome 1</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <i>Women and youth are prepared and trained as community facilitators in the 2023 electoral processes in DRC</i> 	Number of election leaders trained	Attendance list, photo...
<p><i>Outcome 2</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <i>Women and young people as well as the local population of our 4 episcopal regions are sensitized on the electoral processes of 2023 and master the basic notions that characterize the electoral process in the DRC.</i> 	Number of youth and women reached through awareness raising	Photos and videos testifying to the population sensitized...
<p><i>Outcome 3</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Reduction of electoral conflicts after the results of the ballot boxes in December 2023 by the mission of observation, mediation and electoral advocacy that guarantees fair play between the winners and the unfortunate. 	Copy of the report of observers and other democracy support institutions on election observation in relation to the results respecting the 2023 electoral law	Copying reports

4. STRATEGIES/APPROACHES DEVELOPED

- Training, awareness-raising, information, exchange of experiences, conference debate, listening, stage and theatre on the elections;
- Election observation, management and mediation of electoral conflicts;
- Use of biblical approaches during outreach and neutral collaboration with other stakeholders (CENI and other government institutions).

5. CALENDAR

Maturity Activities	February 2023	December 2023
Leadership Development	Xxx	
Awareness-raising and community mobilization for free, democratic, credible, peaceful and sustainable elections	Xxx	
Election observation by trained observers, mediation and management of electoral conflicts and disputes		Xxx

6. BIBLICAL BASIS OF THE PROJECT

Ezekiel 3: Verse 16: After seven days, the word of the Lord was spoken to me, saying: verse 17 Son of man, I establish you as a watchman over the house of Israel. You will listen to the word that will come out of my mouth, and you will warn them on my behalf. Verse 18: When I say to the wicked, Thou shalt die! If you do not warn him, if you do not speak to divert the wicked from his evil path and to save his life, this wicked will die in his iniquity, and I will ask you again for his blood....

As for fulfilling our obligations to our government? (Romans chapter 13, 6 and 7. says Christians should fulfill their civic obligations.) .

In a democracy, is there an obligation to vote? Is there an obligation to participate in the choice of our leaders? Yes, the United Methodist Church has been based on democracy since its inception.

To help those around us make a wise choice, the Methodist Church uses the approach (Proverbs 29:2. This text tells us that the justice of our leaders can have a significant impact on the quality of life.) If we choose badly, it involves our suffering.

Although God chooses the ruler alone, in the context of democracy this is very much like free will. God has the power and authority to decide who will rule, but He usually lets us decide. We are certainly associated with God in the selection of authorities.)

God asks us to choose righteous leaders. It is part of our civic duty, just as paying taxes is a moral duty. It is in this context that the Methodist Bishops are putting themselves in the middle of the village to act in time to promote civic and electoral education as a guarantee of free and peaceful elections in the DRC in 2023.

7. DURABILITY

a) Success factors even beyond partner funding:

The youth and women population is trained and prepared for their involvement and ownership of the project which guarantees the success of the project. We will also work with the CENI, CIME and other civic and electoral education NGOs for technical input.

The local committees for the accompaniment of the electoral process and the awakening of consciences "CLAPECO" will be supported by the respective local churches even beyond the project with the integration of evangelization in depth in all levels of elections.

We will also work in ecumenism by associating the powers of the religious authorities and leaders of other religious denominations who are located in the project sites.

8. GENDER EQUALITY APPROACH

The general idea of this project is to bring women and men together around issues that affect their lives, parity and the involvement of women and people living with disabilities are mandatory from the planning to the evaluation of the project, there will be no discrimination in management. The gender aspect is largely guaranteed in all stages of the project.

The committee will be made up of women, men and people living with disabilities.

9. DONOR VISIBILITY

Appearance of donor logos in all awareness-raising media and TV/radio commercials, their opening and closing speeches during training and workshops are guaranteed.

10. MONITORING AND EVALUATION

The project team advocates **participatory management** with beneficiaries from implementation to final evaluation of the project. In this context, provision is made for a system of shared responsibilities between the beneficiaries and the management committee.

Monitoring will be permanent and the mid-term evaluation system will be sanctioned by a final evaluation focused on results, Objectively Verifiable Indicators (IOVs) will be defined by level of achievement of expected results and will constitute the dashboard for monitoring and evaluating performance with partners.

To avoid any obstacles and prejudices, the project team uses the internal and external evaluation approach by **independent consultants** or those who will be engaged by the partners. However, the committee remains open for an external audit as well as an external one.

The reports of this project will follow the format of the partners, it can be done monthly or quarterly with a final report.

11. FINANCIAL MANAGEMENT

The funds of this program will be housed in the bank account to allow the consultant and the representatives of each episcopal region for the planned activities;

The disbursement will follow the partner's criteria and the standards of our financial management manual for each region.

However, partners are free to express their opinions on the financial management system to be followed by the project team. The participation of the local community and the gender aspect are required so that the management committee refrains from any prejudice. As a result, the management committee will be made up of United Methodist and non-Methodist in a system of concerted decision-making.

12. SPECIFIC BUDGET

ARTICLE	Unit	Unit cost	Total value of the item
Costs for the coordination team			
Project Coordinator	No one	\$1000 x 5 months	\$5000
Finance Officer	No one	\$500 x 5 months	\$2500
<i>Subtotal</i>			\$7500
AWARENESS-RAISING, CIVIC AND VOTER EDUCATION			
Costs of training, awareness-raising and electoral certification by Episcopal Region	Region	\$25000	\$100,000
<i>Subtotal</i>			\$100,000
MONITORING AND EVALUATION			
Communications (telephone, fax, internet, cards)	cards	\$1000	\$1000
Monitoring and consultancy mission	Pers	\$9500	\$9500
Report and other fees	-	\$2000	\$2000
<i>Subtotal</i>			\$12500
TOTAL		\$120,000	\$120,000

13. SOURCES OF FUNDING

Income	Name of donors	Projected Revenue	Total
Supporting Partner 1	GBSC	\$10000	\$10000
Supporting Partner 2	GBGM	\$10000	\$10000
Supporting Partner 3	GBHEM	\$10000	\$10000
Supporting Partner 4	GCORR	\$10000	\$10000
Supporting Partner 5	WSCF	\$80000	\$80000
Local contributions	Conference Central Congo	In kind	In kind
Total income		\$120,000	\$120,000

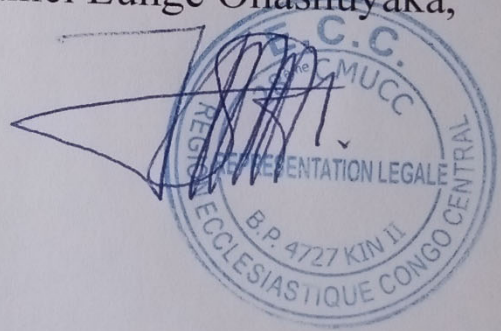
Signatures

Pour la Conférence Central du Congo
01/02/2023

Gabriel Unda Yemba,



Daniel Lunge Onashuyaka,



2. How does this ministry help increase the number of vital congregations through any of the four areas of focus? (Developing principled Christian leaders, creating new places for new people and revitalizing existing congregations, engaging in ministry with the poor, and/or improving global health.) If this is a collaborative project with other general church agencies, please describe the collaboration.

The planned activities will train and equip 500 leaders in each episcopal area who will engage in their communities before, during, and after the 2023 elections. Training modules include biblical foundations and thematic lessons on civic engagement grounded in justice and peace.

The proposal, modeled on the 2018 initiative, expands the agency collaboration to include: GBGM, GBCS, General Board of Higher Education and Ministry (GBHEM), General Commission on Religion and Race (GCORR) and the Commission on the Status and Role of Women (COSROW). Staff of GBGM and GBCS have worked with the project developers to strengthen and clarify the proposal and integrate lessons from the 2018 initiative. In addition to the financial support outlined below and in the attached proposal, the agencies expect to be in continued conversation and serve as resources as leaders design and execute the project.

3. Please state the ministry objective and quantify the anticipated outcomes. Explain the basis for these assumptions.

Objective: a specific, measurable milestone achieved by following certain steps.

Outcomes: Changes in attitudes, behaviors (practices), knowledge, skills and abilities.

1. Objectives :

Educate and equip women, youth and clergy to engage the 2023 electoral process in the DRC to increase peaceful participation while safeguarding human rights.

Train 2000 clergy and lay leaders – 500 in each of the 4 episcopal areas.

2. Outcomes :

Increase awareness of civic participation and the role of the church in the public square.

Build capacity for conflict management and de-escalation of political/community tensions.

Ensure independent voice and presence of the DRC UMC in the electoral process

4. Is the activity/product/service/mission available within the denomination or provided somewhere other than within the denomination? If so, please explain.

Civic education and participation by United Methodists as community leaders for justice and peace is part of the mission and programming of participating agencies; however, the scope of this proposal extends beyond the agencies' capacity for resourcing. The proposal does partner with DRC organizations outside the UMC including the Église du Chris au Congo (ECC), Commission d'Intégrité et de Médiation Electorale (CIME), and the Commission Electorale Nationale Independante (CENI), while building the unique and independent voice of the church as a witness in the public square.

5. What resources are currently available to your agency and what is the source? What are the excess financial reserves as reported to GCFA on your agency's annual reserves analysis? What resources (expertise, skills, financial) are not currently available?

Below is the amount each agency with program resources is able to contribute. The first request for additional agency support was made in December 2022 after our agencies' 2023 budgets were finalized. The total amount requested for the project exceeds what the agencies can accommodate within our 2023 spending plans.

1. General Board of Global Ministries:	\$10,000.00
2. General Board of Church and Society:	\$10,000.00
3. General Commission on Religion and Race:	\$10,000.00
4. General Board of Higher Education and Ministry:	\$10,000.00

6. List expected milestones for completion that will be reported annually to the Connectional Table during the quadrennium.

Each phase of the project – pre-elections, elections, post-elections will include an evaluation and reporting component. The proposal's timeline indicates two training phases (April-June 2023 and July- December 2023) with a midterm evaluation and reporting in July 2023. Following the elections in December, the project consultants will provide a full evaluation and report including detailed use of the funds.

7. Identify possible next steps, including legislation, developed for the next General Conference and potential World Service or other budget requests.

Agencies will continue to work with the leaders from the 4 episcopal areas to strengthen partnerships and collaborations for justice and peace in the DRC.
Learnings from the project will inform possible updates to Resolution 6082: Democratic Republic of Congo: Hope for a Radiant Future at the General Conference to be held in 2024.