



INTEGRATED WATER RESOURCES MANAGEMENT (IWRM)

Quarterly Narrative Report (April-June 2018)



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Contact Person: Tim Vaessen
E-mail: Tim.Vaessen@rescue.org



A. Executive Summary

The Maji Ya Amani Consortium (IRC, ZOA and Search for Common Ground) is implementing the Integrated Water Resources Management (IWRM) project in the Ruzizi Plain in South Kivu, DRC since May 2017. The primary objective of the project is to contribute to the reduction of violence and to increase stability in the groupement of Luberizi, by ensuring that people (men, women and youth from different ethnic groups) have (1) increased access to land and therefore the conflicts over land are reduced; (2) increased access to water and therefore conflicts over water are reduced; (3) increased safe, secure, inclusive and equitable access to income generating opportunities and (4) the same population the project area are aware of demographic pressure on natural resources and start taking actions to decrease it.

The Luberizi *groupement* (cluster of villages) is located along the borders with Rwanda and Burundi and is populated by around 28,800 people. The area are rich in natural resources, including water resources that provide substantial opportunities for agriculture and household use, however, communities are divided along ethnic lines and are constantly in conflict about access to resources.

This report presents the activities and results of the IWRM project over the period April to June, 2018. Major activities include the finalization of the participatory land mapping exercise, the launch of the water piping project using the gravity system, the completion of the additional ethnic data collection and analysis to supplement the baseline study, the management of land conflicts through the establishment of peace committees in Luberizi, mediation of land conflicts in the peripheries of the *groupement*, and capacity building of Sauti Ya Amani radio members and provision of equipment to the radio that helped the consortium to better address topics around security, gender-based violence (GBV) and family planning.

No serious challenges affected the implementation of the project over the reporting period. Despite security incidents in the areas surrounding the project sites, the consortium members managed to mitigate their impact on project activities. The project staff are always advised to abide by both humanitarian principles and security norms to avoid any perceived involvement in or association with the parties in conflict. A daily security report is shared every morning providing the most recent security situation, the behavior to adopt, locations in the intervention zone that may not be accessible, etc.

B. Project Activities

During the quarter from April to June 2018, the following activities were implemented:

❖ *Training and awareness raising sessions conducted:*

- Nine-day training sessions for five health care providers from the Ruzizi Health Zone (4 men, 1 woman) on Family Planning and Post-Abortion Care (FP and PAC) organized together with the National Reproductive Health Program. The training was aimed at strengthening the capacity of providers for quality care and ensuring integration of this package of activities into primary health care at the health center level.
- Community awareness raising to enhance the health seeking behavior and the demand for FP and PAC services. As the providers' training was accompanied with an open day at the community level, it was possible for the client population to learn about the availability of these services and enhance solicitation of the latter. In addition, the identification of 16 community outreach focal points throughout the groupement constitutes an added value in terms of the communication of available health services provided through Maji Ya Amani.
- 206 members (110 adult men, 22 adult women, 58 boys, and 16 girls) of the interim land coordination committee (CICF) attended a training aimed at building the capacity of this structure on awareness raising and advocacy techniques, leadership and land-acquisition procedures in DR Congo. As a result, we observe effective management of land mobilization activities, in addition to easier interaction with local authorities and technical services in charge of land tenure.



- The project reached 1,457 community members (524 men, 449 women, 275 boys, 209 girls) with land-related sensitization messages in the 8 villages of Luberizi focusing on issues related to the procedures for accessing land (especially at the level of the irrigated perimeter) as well as on the legitimate authorities/entities authorized to issue land titles under Congolese law. The training was organized in response to the lack of knowledge observed within the community of issues such as land rights and land tenure. At the end of the training, the community demonstrated an understanding of the key principles for accessing and securing land. Moreover, following the training, there was a higher involvement from the communities in the process of land mapping and land mediation; and some community members had already initiated the process of acquiring titles from the land brigade (for land beyond the irrigated area). The CIBEC are the interface between the community, the customary authorities and the government technical services.
- Sensitization of 33 community members (14 men, 8 women, 7 boys, and 4 girls) from Mulama (the water sources catchment area) about sites identified for the installation of hydraulic works and the necessity to get formal authorization from the landowners. Thanks to the support of Mulama water sub-committees, land owners willingly allowed and signed commitments to allow the project to dig water pipes trenches through their lands;
- Training of 76 farmers (26 women and 50 men, including 11 young people under the age of 35) from the collective marketing committees on leadership and management tools;
- Training of 80 Village Savings and Loan Association (VSLA) management committee members (45 women and 35 men) on the use of VSLA kits, basic accounting and maintenance of management tools.
- ❖ Recruitment process for local community based organizations to implement Social Accountability and Land management activities under Maji Ya Amani is ongoing and IRC expects to have two local NGOs onboard by the end of October 2018;
- ❖ *Presentation of the provisional land mapping results to the local actors and community:* The process made it possible to pinpoint the major land conflicts which are superposition of numerous claims over a given portion of land and absence of land titles, making it possible for the same plot to be attributed 3 times by a customary authority to different people. Results were posted in a public place and people were given 40 days to submit their complaints before the process is fully closed/finalized.
- ❖ *Organization and participation in meetings of the Framework for Concerted Action in Ruzizi Plain by the government technical services, the Administration of the territory of Uvira and NGOs working in the zone.* Initiated by Maji Ya Amani, the Framework's meetings made it possible to manage the risks of duplication on the ground. As a result, coordination with the NGO, Women for Women, showed they are also working with VSLAs in Mutarule. Alert International repositioned their activities outside the Luberizi groupement, as a result of this coordination and the Congolese government technical services are now informed on the evolution of the project therefore decreasing the complaints of their non-involvement;
- ❖ *Construction of the gravity drinking water supply:* The project finalized the (complementary) study on the socio-environmental impact of water supply in the Luberizi groupement. Construction works for the Luberizi gravity water supply started on May 14, 2018 and are progressing as planned. By the end of June 2018, three water sources were tapped in the villages of Mulama, Rubaba and Ngunguti with a total flow that could allow people to have an average of 27,000 liters per hour of drawing, a quantity that meets Luberizi communities' water needs. Three standpipes are under construction and two other standpipes were rehabilitated.

In addition, in collaboration with the *Association des Consommateurs d'Eau Potable - ACEP* ('Drinking Water Consumers' Association') sub-committees and the community, the best locations for these structures were validated. The locally engaged workforce allows for inclusive community participation that takes into account gender, ethnicity and age. In addition, the approach adopted by the project and CIBEC (Carrefour des Ingénieurs Bâtisseurs de l'Est du Congo), the construction company carrying out the activities has facilitated a control of the socio-political environment and the non-disruption of activities despite the presence of armed groups in the highlands where water sources are located.



- ❖ *Ensuring equitable access to toilets and other sanitary facilities in schools and health centers:* The project proceeded with identification of five schools and two health centers to benefit from construction of latrines. This exercise was conducted jointly with the educational subdivision and the central health zone offices of Sange and Lemera, respectively. The bidding document for the recruitment of a local contractor to carry out the construction activities is being developed. The sites selected are listed in the table below:

Beneficiaries		Facilities for each beneficiary
1	Luberizi Primary school	4 toilets
2	Neema Primary school	
3	Rwenena Primary school	
4	Mulama Primary school	
5	Rubambira Primary school	
6	Sauti Ya Amani Community Radio of Luberizi	4 toilets
7	Mutarule Health Center	2 toilets, 1 incinerator, 1 garbage pit, 1 placentas pit, 1 dryer, 1 fence around the biomedical waste space
8	Rwenena Health Center	

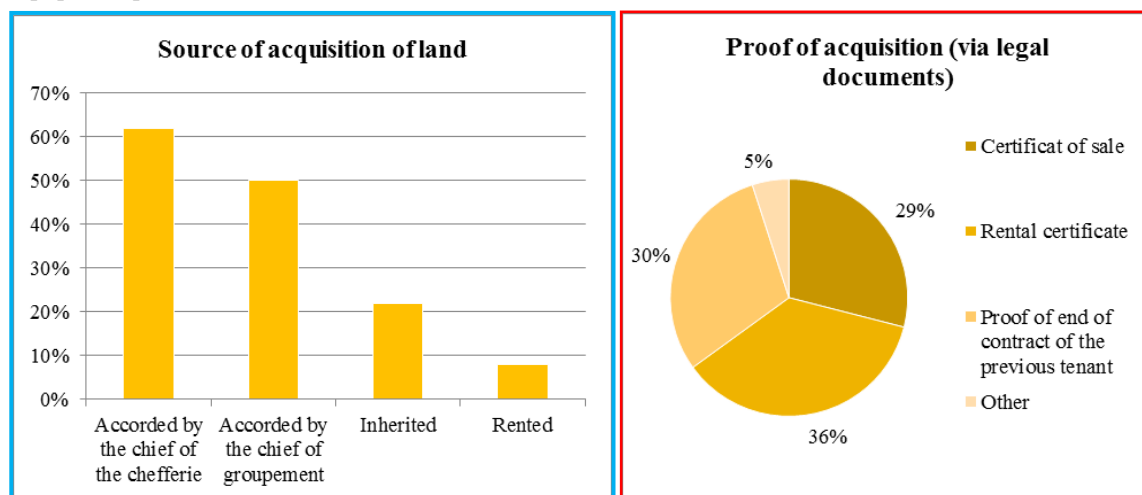
- ❖ *Collection of complementary data for the project baseline:* Using the same methodology used previously, the project carried out a collection of additional data from the Batwa and Banyamulenge ethnic groups in Mutarule 1 and Mapendo villages that had not been sufficiently represented during the initial data collection. As of June 30, the data is being analyzed and will lead to an adjustment of some (baseline and target) values for some indicators hence helping update the monitoring and evaluation plan.
- ❖ *Harmonization of monthly planning within the project:* In order to utilize project resources, especially vehicles, with greater efficiency while avoiding overlaps where staff from the same project could meet at the same place to work with the same beneficiaries, the project put in place a framework for harmonization of monthly planning within the consortium. To do so, the project's M&E unit is compiling consortium and components planning monthly in a single format.
- ❖ *Reporting against IATI standards:* IATI (International Aid Transparency Initiative) focal points for each consortium organization were identified, the reporting format was agreed upon and the role of each partner clarified as to which indicators to report on independently. This report is the first report to be published online by September 30, 2018.
- ❖ *Conflicts resolution:* As part of land conflict mediation, information about 66 land conflicts was collected (21 conflicts between concessionaires and community members, 1 community appropriation of Twa plot belonging to the Twa, 10 conflicts over land borders, 34 illegal land occupations/displacement) and seven of them were resolved via compromise. 1 Scorecard event (Bulletin de score) was conducted but Rwenena village was not accessible due to security concerns as the population was displaced towards Mutarule. Ten radio shows were produced and 27 broadcasts went out through community radio stations on specific themes related to land and water management, community conflicts, and on the role of land mediation sessions. Thanks to these broadcasts, people recognize the role of CICF in land-related conflict and are coming to the structure to have their conflicts dealt with. One cartoon storyline was developed and is currently being finalized to be tested in the community.
- ❖ *Awareness-raising for the Security Sector:* During this implementation period, two awareness raising sessions (military parades) were organized, in the Luberizi military training centre and in the Mutarule-Munara Battalion respectively. These sessions were held by Major Kongolo of the military service SECAS (Civil Education and Social Action Service) of the Luvungi groupment. A total of 92 soldiers participated in the two activities (52 from the training centre and 40 in Munara). The parade was aimed at military sensitization for better collaboration with civil populations on specific topics identified during the town hall (known in French as “tribune d’expression populaire”). As a result, at the end of the



awareness raising sessions, these soldiers pledged to collaborate for the safeguarding of the beneficiaries and the project area.

- ❖ **Validation of the Central Peace Committee in the Luberizi groupement:** The project conducted a validation mission with local communities in the Luberizi groupement to present the Peace Committee to the community and provide an overview of their mission, structure, and functioning. The aim of the mission was to ensure that communities accept and participate in the committee. Following the validation of the committee itself, Maji Ya Amani organized a further meeting to present and elect the candidates, including the vice president. A total of 50 people participated in these activities, including 11 local leaders (8 village chiefs and 3 leaders of groupements), 2 civil society members, 4 representatives of the Water Management Structures, 4 from the Interim Land Coordinating Committee and 14 representatives of the local community.
- ❖ **Land tenure:** At the beginning of the reporting period, only two land blocks remained to be mapped, one of the steps in the land tenure strategy for farming plots in the perimeter to be irrigated by the IWRM project. With the participation of the community and state technical services, this work was completed in June 2018.

The result of this inclusive participation is that the parties are already taking ownership over major qualitative and quantitative results related to the main findings summarized below. The total area is 1,035.2 Ha, of which 94% (970,5 Ha) is arable land (which could be used for agriculture, livestock farming, fish farming, bricks and pots making); the vast majority of occupants are men (86%) whereas women, with a vast majority of widows, make up only 8%; the youth occupy only 6%; the only documents used in the region are the proofs of sale (12%), the act of donation (0.64%) while other types of papers represent 1%;



- ❖ **Rehabilitation of the Tenge-Tenge Dam:** The topographic survey process for the main channel was completed in June 2018 and a community mobilization campaign based on the labor intensive method allowed for clearing all of the main canal (13 km long) for a daily labor cost of \$ 5/employee/day.

In addition, an in-depth risk study of the main canal was carried out and resulted in the development of a master canal construction plan covering a length of 5,200 m. The rehabilitation of the dam is planned for 2019 and a timeline is under preparation. Studies on the different construction options are not yet complete. Pending the rehabilitations of the current and future irrigation perimeter, the consortium works hand in hand with CMGEL in relation to the maintenance of the canal. Although this entity needs support in restructuring its organizational model, its leaders have already acquired a good understanding of the technical aspects of the system. Their practical skills are strengthened by involving them in the choice of technical solutions and in supervision.



- ❖ *Revitalization of the CMGEL:* Community mobilization was organized and carried out over a period of three months from April 2018 to identify active members. The operation aimed at materializing the decisions related to organizational restructuring of the CMGEL for increased water for irrigation in the region. Through this activity, the number of CMGEL members shifted from 24 to more than 1,507 members. Women account for 40% of the members. It should be noted that apart from the everyday CMGEL operators, another category of landless members (tenants or others) has also joined the structure. The large majority (91%) joined to ensure their needs for water for irrigation are met. A small portion (19%) report they just needed to be part of the association. 76% of all the members say they are ready to provide community works in lieu of a contribution while 24% report they are able and ready to give a financial contribution.

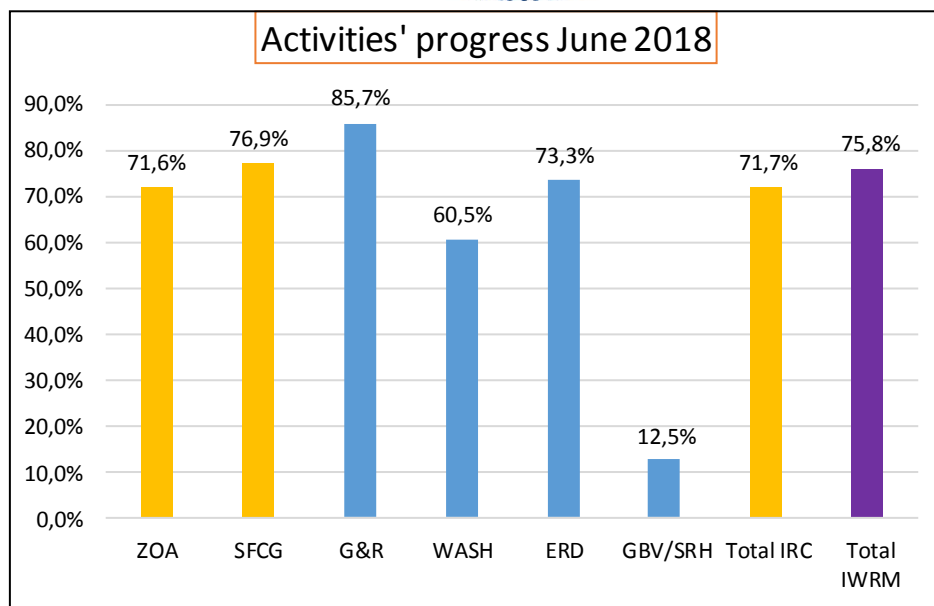
With regard to the CMGEL restructure, the preferred organizational option is that of a cooperative. Planning for next steps to strengthen the board and executive structure is underway. Farmers work together in the fields for the distribution of water. The CMGEL structure could build on such forms of collaboration to progressively accelerate the management of the entire irrigation system in a committed, transparent and participatory manner.

- ❖ *Luberizi Watershed Management:* Two major studies were conducted; one on agricultural systems in the three agro-ecological zones of the watershed and another on land and natural resources management. Initial reflections on the challenges faced led to the decision for the project to work on improving pasture management. The project plans to use the Soil and Water Assessment Tool (SWAT), which will help to identify erosion hotspots. Together with owners/residents of the lands of these locations and local communities, appropriate solutions will be sought to stabilize and protect the soil.
- ❖ *Access to income-generating opportunities:* In order to contribute to the recovery of agriculture in the project intervention zone, conservation agriculture technology will be adopted and placed at the center of activities. The latter will help farming households develop more productive and labor-efficient farming systems.

To do so, the project uses agricultural production approaches such as organization of farmers in what are known as farmer field schools (FFS) which supports farmers with both market gardening and food crop production methods, setting up and supporting collective marketing committees (CCC), and promoting the use of the no-till approach to field preparation by destroying weeds using herbicides but without plowing the soil to clear the field of any impurities and proceeding with direct seeding after three weeks. This approach is well known for its multiple benefits including erosion control, time and labor saving, soil conservation and increased production. The Ministry of Agriculture is fully involved in the implementation of this strategy and plays an important role in its promotion. To date, 520 beneficiaries (244 men versus 276 women) have already been fully trained on the no-till approach and benefited from the distribution of equipment.

C. Monitoring Progress

- ✓ *Monitoring project implementation:* To ensure monitoring against the workplan submitted to the donor, a comprehensive monitoring format of the activities was developed and shared with the technical staff in charge of the different project components to ensure we regularly have an updated situation of project implementation. At the end of this quarter under review (which is the first quarter after project inception phase), a comparison between planned and completed activities (completely or partially started / in progress) shows that some components are partially on track while others are facing delays — as captured here below (% is indicative against progress made towards full realization of planned activities):



- ✓ *Planning and evaluation meetings* are organized per project component to evaluate the level of activities' actual implementation versus the level planned. For example, the WASH component held 12 weekly staff meetings (that is four meetings per month), which allowed for reframing the continuation and/or achievements of the component's activities—including monitoring implementation of the water supply project using a gravity system. This was entrusted to the firm CIBEC and activities are progressing very well.
- ✓ *Collecting, encoding, Organizing and Analyzing stories related to project's Most Significant Change (MSC)*: To ensure the project tackles and integrates the idea of the most significant changes in the monitoring and evaluation strategies and hence draws inspiration to define appropriate actions based on or in response to the concerns raised by interviewees, the project initiated a MSC data collection across the project implementation zone. According to the feedback collected during the period, the population appreciates the start of the drinking water supply works underway while, on the other hand, some people are worried about the delay in start-up of irrigation-related activities. This process will from now on be an integral part of project monitoring and data collection.
- ✓ *Harmonization of MyA and ISSSS (also known as I4S)*: Discussions between the SSU M&E unit of ISSSS and the Maji Ya Amani (MyA) project continued and achieved the following results: (1) alignment of the MyA project with the I4S strategy; (2) harmonization between I4S and MyA consisting of comparing the two logical frameworks to identify similar or common indicators and thus identifying which indicator of the MyA logical framework will inform which indicator of the I4S logical framework; (3) sharing tools and methodology for data collection on these indicators. It was also agreed to create a Technical Working Group (TWG) which will serve as a formal exchange framework between the key M & E staff within the MyA project and the SSU.
- ✓ The project pursued sensitization sessions for local leaders on equitable resource management. At least 4 sessions are held monthly and key messages on the resources available and how to ensure shared access for all the communities.

D. Key Achievements

- By June 2018 the project completed the land mapping exercise for seven blocks in the area to be irrigated. This is indeed a key step towards land tenure and eventually towards land-related conflict management.
- Through the Governance and Rights component, Maji Ya Amani supported the establishment of ACEP and its legal recognition at the provincial level as a structure to manage water use and hydraulic infrastructures to be installed by the project.



- The canal was cleared to facilitate the topography and further activities for the forthcoming agricultural season.
- The project supported six local associations in the market gardening area
- Establishment of farmer field schools (FFS) using the innovative no-till technique;
- The local radio, *Sauti Amani*, created thanks to the initiative of the youth of Luberizi with the support of the project, was equipped by the project. The journalists working there were provided capacity building sessions taking into account context-driven needs. A studio is to be built by the project shortly.
- The project launched sensitization on Family Planning, starting with the support of the PNSR (Programme National de Santé de la Reproduction) Bukavu and Sange health zone office.
- Participatory theaters were started on comprehensive and sensitive themes which the project focuses on, namely land conflicts, land tenure, water management, GBV and Family Planning, etc.

E. Gender and Vulnerable Groups Analysis

- All of the activities carried out under Maji ya Amani in the Luberizi groupment took special care to mitigate all forms of discrimination related to gender or to the vulnerability of certain groups. As mentioned above, one of the most recurrent sources of conflict is related to the deprivation of Twa groups of land. To act on this conflict, the project and the CICF committed to advocate for the rights of Twa by advancing a plea on their land rights.
- The radio shows have focused on issues specifically relating to women and the Listening Clubs have provided specific opportunities for women and minority groups to have their voices heard and contribute to public debates about important issues that they are frequently excluded from. The project created a number of gender-specific clubs in order to ensure that women would be able to freely participate and not be hindered by social norms.
- The radio shows were designed so as to raise awareness on Sexual and Gender Based Violence and mobilize communities around the issue. As one of the listeners told us:

"I have seen too many cases where girls got raped, the perpetrators were known, but no one was persecuted. This practice had meant that even married women were endangered. It hurt me a lot. I imagined what would have happened if it was my mother or my sister who was a victim. Based on what is said in your program, I call on everyone not to tolerate this practice and denounce the perpetrators of rape."

- The activities carried out by MyA in the Luberizi groupement, during this reporting period promoted favorable attitudes to mitigate all forms of gender discrimination by systematically ensuring woman's participation in all project activities involving community participation:
- Land mapping results reveal that the vast majority of occupants are men (86%) whereas women, with a vast majority being widows, make up only 8%. Youth occupy only 6%. From this situation, one may say that the issue of access to land is one of the manifestations of gender inequality.
- With a view to combat negative attitudes to the promotion of gender equity, these issues will be addressed more thoroughly during the next quarter, starting with traditional and community mechanisms. Special focus will be given to minority groups such as Twa, Banyamulenge, Barundi, etc.

F. Challenges

- ✚ *Duplication risk over water supply:* While the villages of Mutarule, Katekama and Nyakabere 2 are part of the gravity water supply works undertaken by Maji Ya Amani, the same villages are targeted by the National Village Water Program, which recently announced plans to install mechanized boreholes with solar pumping. The beneficiaries are worried about this decision, as they fear it may divert Maji Ya Amani's water supply away from their villages. However, it's now self-evident that the water piped by MYA will be flowing soon in the villages.
- ✚ *Security:* the security context remains volatile and project staff must remain alert to eventual (unforeseen) changes that may take place in the project zone and thus affect project planning.



- ✦ *Duality of power in Luberizi:* There are persistent rivalries over the exercise of traditional and administrative power leading to the establishment of dual authorities up to the level of villages and avenues. This requires diplomacy and flexibility on the part of the project to guarantee communities' continued commitment to the project's goals and thus help them ease tensions and better collaborate among themselves.
- ✦ *Promoting Gender:* There is low participation of women in the management of local (public) affairs in the project implementation zone. Indeed, in community consultations, only 10% of participants were women. The same situation also applies to land ownership. The project intends to intensify actions to counter negative attitudes to the promotion of gender equity.

G. Lessons Learned

- (1) Participatory land mapping led to a broader understanding of possible complementarities between the MYA project and local sustainability initiatives (namely CICF, CMGEL, and ACEP) around land issues.
- (2) The recruitment of local staff from the project implementation zone (Ruzizi plain) enhances acceptability, confidence and ownership in the community. Indeed, according to a story collected during qualitative data collection, beneficiaries say that “most organizations used to come to work in the plain with staff recruited from elsewhere, without even considering the local workforce or our brothers and sisters who have degrees and are qualified in different domains. But with Maji Ya Amani, we feel that organizations honor us by engaging our children—which is good for their families in particular and for all communities in general because they participate in improving living conditions through what they earn each month.”
- (3) The peer monitoring visit organized and conducted every six months at the IWRM project by the donor's delegation along with project staff working on W4V and FARM (both also funded by Netherlands) is very helpful to the project in the sense that it brings an external assessment/contributions to the project's everyday implementation. Their recommendations inspire us and enhance accountability among the teams.
- (4) The involvement of youth associations from the different communities in conflict with each other in the planning and implementation of market gardening activities was an essential factor for success in this activity, as the groups were working together from the initiation, of each activity, guaranteeing cohesion, inclusivity and enhancing participation even in other activities of Maji Ya Amani.
- (5) With government technical services taking part in the participatory land mapping process recently conducted by the project, their capacities were strengthened on this technology and process on the one hand and, on the other hand, it was an opportunity for them to get involved in a joint operation with the local population and traditional chiefs allowing an extensive understanding of the land management/governance issue.
- (6) The start of the drinking water supply activity last May revealed that there are not only huge expectations among the population for access to drinking water (which is on good track) but also for job opportunities through implementation of the activity itself.

H. Changes in Project Strategy or Implementation

- ❖ In accordance with the donor's recommendation, the rehabilitation of the irrigation system is a condition for land tenure.
- ❖ For better disaggregation of data according to ethnic groups, the donor recommended the collection of complementary data on the ethnic groups to feed into the baseline report.
- ❖ Studies on the various construction options having not yet been completed, the rehabilitation of the Tenge-Tenge dam is rescheduled for 2019.
- ❖ The communities' expectation for maximum commitment of local labor for the project works, or even as project staff, is a pressure that is difficult to meet.

**Participation:**

Collection of data and establishment of a database on project participants: The project designed data collection tools to enhance the collection of data on the participants of the project's actions, particularly the members of the structures set up or revitalized by the project with which the project will work (ACEP and its sub-committees, CMGEL, CICF, VSLA members, listening club members, CCC members, etc.). The purpose of the collection of this information is the archiving of data relating to these participants in case they need to be used for later purposes, and to measure the degree of inclusiveness of the project in relation to age, sex and ethnicity.

Conflict Sensitivity:

The project integrated conflict sensitivity and Do No Harm principles throughout implementation. Recruitments and the provision of goods and services have all been advertised locally in Luberizi to provide opportunities for members of the beneficiary communities to apply to and have an opportunity to play that role. Whenever possible, we have relied on local resources rather than bringing in outside resources. At a strategic level, SFCG has proposed creating a Committee of Elders that will serve as a focal point for communication between communities and the project as well as provide some strategic guidance. The intended impact is to have greater community buy-in of the project and reduce the risks of demonstrations/protests against the project. A meeting was held with the civil society of Luberizi in order to retain the modalities of selection of the Committee members.



ANNEXES

1. Rapport de la cartographie participative dans la zone irriguée de Luberizi
2. Rapport des systèmes agricoles dans les trois zones agro-écologiques du bassin versant de Luberizi
3. Rapport sur les risques liés au canal principal
4. Rapport sur les relevés topographiques du canal
5. Rapport sur la Gestion des terroirs



Photos :



Visit of the national-level and provincial-level Ministers of Rural Development to the land mapping exercise in the irrigated perimeter.



Source collection works for gravity adduction.