



MAJI YA AMANI QUARTERLY NARRATIVE REPORT

(January-March 2019)

Project Name: Integrated Water Resources Management

Target Areas: Ruzizi Plain (DRC)

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Maji Ya Amani (IWRM) is a project implemented by the IRC-led consortium comprising IRC, Stichting ZOA and Search for Common Ground. Funded by the Netherlands Ministry of Foreign Affairs in the Ruzizi Plain, South Kivu province, Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC), the interventions of this multisector project aim at contributing to the reduction of violence and the increase in stability in the *groupement* of Luberizi (with a total of 28,800 beneficiaries) by (1) increasing access to land and reduction of land conflict, (2) increasing access to safe potable and irrigation water and reduction of water related conflict, (3) equitable and inclusive access to income generation opportunities, and (4) increasing awareness of population pressure on natural resources.

Luberizi *groupement* is located in the Ruzizi Plain which is situated along a part of the western borders of both Rwanda and Burundi. The Ruzizi Plain is rich with natural resources, including water that provides substantial opportunity for agriculture and household use thereby creating a potential bond for communities divided along ethnic lines. If well exploited, the Ruzizi Plain would potentially be capable of feeding all of the total population in the Plain and the nearby (Burundian and Rwandan) areas.

This quarterly report provides an update on the progress made by the project during the first quarter of 2019. Major achievements include the finalization and provisional reception of the water supply works in Luberizi, further advancement of the land tenure process, preparations for the rehabilitation of irrigation infrastructures, and conflict resolution sessions, community meetings, trainings, and awareness raising sessions which were conducted on various topics such as GBV, FP and post-abortion care.

The socio-political and security situation in the Ruzizi Plain remains volatile and susceptible to sudden changes which can have an impact on project activities. However, the current reporting period (January-March 2019) was relatively calmer in terms of security compared to the end of 2018. This can be attributed to the end of the election period in December and the resulting reshuffling that is on-going both locally and beyond, leading to a “wait-and-see” approach by many prominent actors who have the capacity to either stir up antagonisms or promote social cohesion.

ACRONYMS

ACEP	: Association des Consommateurs d'Eau potable de Luberizi
APADEM	: Association des Pisciculteurs et Agriculteurs pour le Développement de Mutarule
ASCODER	: Assises Communautaires pour le Développement Rural
ASUREP	: Associations des Usagers de Réseaux d'Eau Potable
BDD	: Bénévolat pour le Développement Durable
BRALIMA	: Brasseries, Limonaderies et Malteries (en RDC)
CEFE	: Competency-based Economies through Formation of Enterprises
CICF	: Comité Intérimaire de coordination Foncière
CMGEL	: Comité de Maintenance et de Gestion d'Eau de Luberizi
CODEMU	: Comité de Coopération pour le Développement de Mutarule
COOPABA	: Coopérative Agricole pour la Commercialisation Performante
COOPAILU	: Coopérative Agricole des Usagers de l'Irrigation de Luberizi
COOPEC	: Coopérative d'Épargne et de Crédit
COOSOPRODA	: Coopérative de Solidarité pour la Production des Denrées Alimentaires
FARDC	: Forces Armées de la République Démocratique du Congo
FP	: Family Planning
GBV	: Gender-Based Violence
GEL	: Guichet d'Économie Locale
I4S/ ISSSS	: International Security and Stabilization Support Strategy
IRC	: International Rescue Committee
IWRM	: Integrated Water Resources Management
MFI	: Microfinance Institutions
MINOKA	: Minoterie de Kamanyola
MONUSCO	: United Nations Organization Stabilization Mission in the DRC
MyA	: Maji Ya Amani (Swahili for <i>Water for Peace</i>)
PAC	: Post-Abortion Care
SFCG	: Search for Common Ground
SNHR	: Service National de l'Hydraulique Rurale
SRH	: Sexual and Reproductive Health
TEP	: Tribune d'Expression Populaire (Town hall)

A. Implementation Environment

The socio-political and security situation in the Ruzizi Plains remains volatile and susceptible to sudden changes which can have an impact on project activities. However, the current reporting period (January-March 2019) was relatively calmer in terms of security compared to the end of 2018. This can be attributed to the end of national elections in December and the resulting reshuffling that is on-going both locally and beyond. Notwithstanding, incidents of insecurity were registered throughout the reporting period, largely driven by criminality (kidnappings, ambushes/looting), targeted assassinations linked to disputes/rivalries, as well as armed clashes between a wide array of local and foreign armed actors,

Kidnapping incidents were concentrated in the village of Lemera (Bafuliro *chefferie*) in the Middle Plateau and generally targeted individuals who are believed to be capable of paying ransoms for the safe return of the hostage. Oftentimes, traders doing business between Kamanyola and Uvira were the targets of these attacks. In addition to kidnappings, ambushes around National Road 5 between Sange and Kiliba targeted transporters with the aim of looting goods.

In Luberizi, there were multiple targeted assassinations against prominent leaders/personalities in Mutarule and Sango. In February and March 2019, there were several clashes between armed groups in the Middle and High Plateaus of Uvira around Mulenge.

Impact on Project Activities

The security incidents discussed above have resulted in temporary suspension of movements and postponement of planned activities in the *groupements* of Kigoma and Luberizi. Due to security challenges in Kigoma, water-supply related activities (especially monitoring the pipes) have been suspended for a period of five months.

While such acts are generally carried out by isolated individuals, they can have an amplified effect “downstream” by increasing tensions between communities that have a long, complicated history which can be manipulated by opportunistic leaders. This can lead to complications in the organization of activities and makes the work of building social cohesion and resolving non-linked conflicts more difficult.

B. Project Activities

❖ **Land Tenure Process**

Building on previous project achievements as regards the land tenure process and the validation of group land titles options, whereby a group of owners of plots in the irrigated area adhere to the co-management principle of a space where each one has a portion of land, the project continued its work in this sector during this reporting period, involving the community, the provincial Minister of Land, the Luvungi “Land Brigade” and the department of Conservation of Real Estate Titles in Uvira.

➤ **Collecting of landowners’ signatures**

For a title to be issued, landholders had to provide their consent by signing established forms put in place in accordance with the location of the parcels and the group they fall in. During this reporting period, the project collected 49% of the expected signatures (1,363 out of 2,712). In carrying out this activity, the Project Team found that the time it would take to complete the signature collection process had been underestimated at project planning stage, however the group land titling process saw general mobilization of all communities and the involvement of technical services, and local, territorial, provincial and national authorities involved in agriculture and land management. The first group land titles (14 in total) were issued in January 2019. At the time of writing, 176 group titles out of 219 expected (80.3%) are already printed and are currently awaiting signature with relevant land technical services in Uvira (the curator of the real estate titles).

The Project Team is working hard to ensure that the 43 remaining group titles become available as soon as possible. To accelerate and complete the signature collection process, the project plans to institute several measures during the month of April 2019 to accelerate the collection process and ensure completion by the end of the month:

- a) Basing a team in Luvungi to reduce travel times and mitigate risks that travel will be suspended due to security constraints;

- b) Depending upon the security context, extending the work hours by one hour (from 15:45 until 16:45) in order to facilitate access to farmers returning from their field at the end of the day; and,
- c) Working on Saturdays when farmers are more available at their homes.

It should be noted that in order to carry out this work, it was necessary to establish, beforehand, a framework agreement between the project and the Provincial Government for the supervision of the technical services, namely the Uvira Land District, the Conservation of Real Estate Titles in Uvira, as well as the Luvungi Land Brigade throughout the process of issuing long term land exploitation/use certificates, and group land titles for securing farmers' plots in the irrigated area of Luberizi.

In order to ensure that, beyond the respect of the plot owners' rights, the exploitation of plots and the contributions to maintenance expenses are guaranteed and adhered to by all the land owners, a "Basic Act" or "Policy for the co-management of the irrigated perimeter" had been drafted during the previous quarter. Currently, this document governing land management is going through the legalization process thanks to collaboration between the General Secretariat, the Provincial Ministry responsible for Agriculture and experts within the IWRM Consortium before its eventual implementation and roll-out to the community.

➤ Conflict resolutions

The Maji Ya Amani project contributed to the resolution of 141 out of 143 reported cases of land conflict during this reporting period through its engagement with the Land Coordination Committee (CICF). Most of these conflicts (125) were related to boundary disputes while the remaining cases were related to conflicts over who was the rightful owner of the land (18). It is worth noting that the two unresolved cases, described further below, remain unresolved due to the refusal of the parties involved to participate in the mediation processes offered by the project. They preferred instead to take their cases to judicial institutions at the territorial level in Uvira.

❖ Awareness Sessions of FADRC and PNC elements

Maji Ya Amani conducted 10 awareness raising sessions with the FARDC and 10 with the PNC, engaging 446 soldiers (6 women) and 177 police (6 women) to raise their awareness about issues identified within the TEPs. The sessions were aimed at shifting perceptions and attitudes of security actors which can eventually lead to behavior change through the use of constructive and positive communications. The activity was conducted using a participatory, dialogue-based methodology to ensure that participants could engage with and inquire about the themes addressed in a way that is relaxed and "safe." In preparation for this activity, the Maji Ya Amani team developed two facilitation guides and two "Image Boxes" (*boîtes d'images*)¹. These tools help project staff guide constructive conversations with the soldiers and police participating in a manner that introduces them to new perspectives, perceptions, and attitudes. While each session had its own specific themes (see below), generally, all included elements around what potential positive roles the FARDC/PNC can play within their communities.

As can be observed in the table below, one challenge faced during the implementation of these activities was the relatively low rate of participation of women. While this is largely due to a general lack of female representation in the ranks of security forces in DRC, given the conflicts between women civilians and security actors raised in the TEPs, it is important that women security actors are better targeted and included in these events in the future. The project intends to take into account this learning and further promote gender sensitivity and inclusiveness as the project progresses.

Location, Date(s), Target Group & Themes	Planned	Actual	Achievement (%)	Participation		
				M	F	Total
Mutarule, Luberizi; 25 Jan; <u>FARDC</u> • Arbitrary Arrest	4	4	100%	220	0	220

¹ These are pictorial situations that depict soldiers/police exhibiting positive behaviors, fulfilling in a superior way their duties, and working towards building social cohesion.

•Harassment by Soldiers •Ban on (illegal) Roadblocks						
Mutarule, Luberizi; 25 Feb; <u>FARDC</u> •Sexual Harassment •Sexual and Gender Based Violence •Harassment by Soldiers (Mutarule only)	4	3	75%	200	6	206
Nyakabere, Munara, & Luberizi; 25 <u>March</u> ; <u>FARDC</u> •Strategies to prevent theft of cattle	5	3	60%	220	0	220
Mutarule, Luberizi; 28 Jan; <u>PNC</u> •Positive Policing: An Officer of the People is a “Big Man” •Rights, Duties, and Obligations •Positive behavior	4	4	100%	72	0	72
Mutarule, Luberizi; 25 Feb; <u>PNC</u> •Positive Policing: How a Police Officer lives in his community and his home •Reconciling between civilian women and civilian police •Rights and Obligations of the Police	4	3	75%	49	6	55
Mutarule, Luberizi; 25 <u>March</u> ; <u>PNC</u> •Police Code of Ethics •Policing in a Post-Conflict Zone •Civil-Police Collaboration	4	3	75%	50	0	50
<u>Total</u>	25	20	80%	623	12	635

❖ *Participatory theatre productions*

The project conducted 22 participatory theatre presentations during the quarter, reaching 4,840 people (1,450 women, 737 Men and 2,653 children) on themes related to access to drinking water, land grabbing, and farmer/herder conflicts. The themes were determined in consultation with all consortium member organizations while specific plots/sketches were developed at the field level with communities and the participatory theatre troop to ensure it was adapted to the context and relevant to the real experiences of communities.

Through a participatory performance whereby individuals can explore conflict issues and propose potential solutions by themselves, the approach helps create a space that allows communities to reflect on conflict dynamics. Specifically, participatory theatre performances aim to increase the awareness of individuals about the sources/issues of conflict faced by the community from different sides of the conflict, create a space conducive to the transformation of attitudes about sensitive subjects through humor, irony, metaphors, and positive interaction, change the perceptions of spectators by encouraging understanding and promoting empathy for all parties engaged in conflict, and; stimulate behavior change by promoting collaboration over competition/rivalries. Each performance is unique and highly improvised to ensure that it is adapted and relevant to specific conflict(s) the audience is facing. The project trains the actors to ensure they are able to conduct the performance in a way that encourages reflection, empathy, and ends with a “call to action” for spectators.

❖ *Updating community engagement clauses*

Early at the beginning of the project (September 2017), Maji Ya Amani brought together all stakeholders to ensure common understanding and respect of the project objectives to achieve expected project results. These included state technical services, community representatives from all layers/groups (local leaders, youth, women's groups, civil society, farmers, religious denominations, ethnic representatives, etc.). Their commitment to protecting both project staff and assets was laid down in writing, which also ensured they

would be effectively involved in proper implementation of activities. This quarter, the project held a session to review and update the terms thereof with the same stakeholders and allowed all actors holding a representation mandate or institutional authority to sign the updated version.

❖ ***Community Accountability***

On February 19, 2019, a meeting with the communities of 8 villages to discuss achievements and programmatic projections and to gather the opinions of members on the best ways to enhance efficiency and meet community expectations and project commitments. The recommendations from the previous community meeting were reviewed and updated.

❖ ***Community feedback/complaint mechanism***

To allow the community to channel their complaints and/or other feedback to the project, Maji Ya Amani put in place a formal community response mechanism. To do this, it was necessary to hold a staff orientation session on the key principles and on the functioning of the reporting mechanism itself in order to make them aware of the need to respect the standards likely to be reported by communities. Subsequently, the project organized a community meeting to inform them about the mechanism, which involves the cooperation of 12 focal points from different villages in which the forms are located and who can direct any complaints and/or feedback to the project.

❖ ***Workshop on ScoreCard mechanism***

To ensure the stakeholders understand better the merits of the scorecard methodology, an orientation was held in Uvira between March 20-22nd 2019 around key topics including community involvement, scorecard steps and actors involved, as well as the basic indicators for the evaluation of the quality of service.

❖ ***Updating community mobilization strategy***

In order to enhance integration of the community mobilization strategy, a review of the mechanisms aimed at better utilizing the project community mobilizers' skills through their implications in the activities of all the components was made. This led to an integrated programming of mobilization activities and empowerment of mobilizers regardless of their specific assignment according to project components. The goal is to ensure further mastery of different project components by this group of mobilizers and promote better interactions with communities without having to refer certain questions to the Maji Ya Amani team, thereby gaining efficiency and confidence within the communities.

❖ ***Support to community structures***

The project continues to support the overhaul of the former CMGEL which is transitioning into "COOPAILU" by assisting its members in the development of legal documents for the new structure. This quarter, the support provided consisted of getting its key institutional documents legalized with relevant state services. The new structure was also able to open a bank account and its temporary facilitators were appointed in a consensual manner, taking into account the criteria of including different ethnic groups, gender considerations and youth members.

On May 7-8, 2019, two training sessions were organized for the members of this structure to accompany the organizational development of COOPAILU. The first training focused on the roles and responsibilities of management bodies and decentralized structures. The second focused on leadership and awareness raising techniques to enable the community to provide their contributions for the irrigation infrastructures maintenance.

❖ ***Finalization of the drinking water supply works***

After CIBEC (the firm contracted to carry out the water supply works in Luberizi) declared completion of their assignment, a joint inspection and general assessment mission was organized on February 5-7, 2019 to ensure the quality and conformity of the achievements. A provisional acceptance of the works was signed by the State Technical Services, including the SNHR which also had oversight over the activity, the IPDR and CEPEAHA on the one hand, and CIBEC experts/technicians, the IWRM project staff, the local Group Leaders and ACEP members on the other.

❖ ***Commemoration of International Water Day***

The commemoration was organized in Luberizi (Nyamugali village) on March 22, 2019 under the theme "Leave No One Behind". The day was celebrated in a sensitizing environment whose main objective was to rally as many people as possible around protection actions, conservation and rational management of water works. Thus, several themes with specific messages were conveyed throughout the day; among others the contribution to water services, respect of water fetching hours, promotion of hygiene and cleanliness around the water works, protection of the water network infrastructure, conservation, and transport of water. This event was attended by the Administrator of the territory of Uvira, Chief of the City of Sange, groupement leaders, security officials, project staff and community members.

❖ **Water for irrigation: Preparation for the rehabilitation of irrigation infrastructures**

In preparation for the rehabilitation of the irrigation infrastructure planned for the month of June 2019, during this reporting period the project has:

- (1) Finalized the design for both the canal and the dam and presented them to the members of the consortium, the community, and the territorial and provincial technical services;
- (2) The service road from NR#5 to Tenge-Tenge Dam has been rehabilitated and officially handed over by the company that carried out the work;
- (3) Tenders for the rehabilitation of irrigation infrastructure (dam and 5 km of the main canal) were launched and completed;
- (4) The call for tender for the realization of the Environmental and Social Impact Assessment study was launched after validation of the Terms of Reference by the Congolese Environment Agency (ACE);
- (5) The valves to be installed on the main network were ordered and delivered;
- (6) An inventory of the main social structures to be installed along the irrigation network was made. The project strengthened the capacity of the Luberizi local cooperative to manage water for irrigation and the Luberizi irrigated perimeter.

Works to allow the continuous availability of the water in the channel were realized (mowing, cleaning of the main channel on a distance of 3.5 km) in order to allow for agricultural production in spite of the irregularity of rain during the season.

❖ **Agriculture & Economic and Recovery Development**

In order to contribute to improving the competitiveness of Luberizi agricultural products on the market through value addition operations, Maji Ya Amani facilitated capacity strengthening for collective marketing groups and linked them to companies (DATCO, BRALIMA, MINOKA and Kishibisha), state institutions such as the provincial rural development inspectorate, local leaders and FEC in order to promote better understanding of the quality requirements of each actor and better prepare the communities to provide the expected products. The action point arising from this meeting was the establishment of a permanent consultation framework for stakeholders (state institutions, support structures) intervening on the agricultural value chains selected – mainly rice, maize, cassava and vegetable crops.

The project team also organized meetings for marketing groups to strengthen organizational structures. An agricultural cooperative (COO-TRACOPAM) initiated by Mutarule maize producers benefited from training on cooperative principles. It will now be able to house Mutarule's GCC maize and brings up to five the number of Cooperatives, in addition to three Luberizi CBOs, which have collective marketing among their main activities, as presented in the table below:

Value Chain	Location	# of Producers	Name	Comments
<u>Rice</u>	➤ Nyamugali	136	COOSOPRODA	Rice Storage. The rice is sold with Bralima and at public markets.
	➤ Luvungi with a branch in	113	ADPA	Actions are limited collecting rice to participate in the contract with BRALIMA

Value Chain	Location	# of Producers	Name	Comments
	Nyamugali			
	➤ Sange with a branch in Sango	26	COOPABA	Actions are limited collecting rice to participate in the contract with BRALIMA
<u>Maize</u>	➤ Mutarule	110	COOTRACOPAM	Maize stored at household level. MINOKA (for transformation) and the public are now targeted for the current season.
	➤ Rwenena	85	ADCP	Maize stored at household level while commercialization is possible with Sange and Luvungi public markets.
<u>Onion</u>	➤ Nyamugali	40	COOSOPRODA	Members store produce at their own home and commercialization is done with retailers from Sange and Luvungi public markets.
	➤ Mutarule	23	APADEM	Members store produce at their own home and commercialization is done with retailers from Sange and Luvungi public markets.
<u>Tomato</u>	➤ Nyamugali and Sango	40	CAPMEL & UCADI	Members store produce at their own home and commercialization is done with retailers from Sange and Luvungi public markets.
<u>Cassava</u>	➤ Katekama		COODEMU	Members store produce at their own home, but transformation is still currently made by inexperienced private persons in the sector.

❖ *Training of VSLAs on VSLA methodology*

Maji Ya Amani continues to accompany the 16 VSLAs established in the previous project year. This quarter, they were trained on Module 7 relating to the reallocation of funds and the audit and closure of the VSLA cycle. In total, 394 participants (286 women and 108 men VSLA members) took part in these sessions. Three additional Batwa VSLAs also benefited from coaching on VSLA meetings, taking into account relevant internal VSLA rules and other considerations. The three Batwa VSLAs created recently demonstrate ownership over the approach in the same way as the other 16 VSLAs which are made up of members from different communities.

❖ *Facilitation of dialogue between VSLA members and their partners*

In order to ensure men and women at the household level are both involved in and agree on the VSLA enterprise and to prevent possible gender-based violence, the project facilitated dialogue sessions among VSLA members and their partners during the period from February 12 to March 1st, 2019. The activity also functioned as a preparation for a new mobilization of funds for the renewal of the VSLA cycle. In addition, a

series of discussion sessions were held for women from 17 VSLAs and their partners following the EASE training that started early in January.

❖ *Reproductive Health and GBV activities*

This quarter, a number of activities focusing on reproductive health and preventing GVC, including specific trainings, were held. These included:

- (1) A training session on Family planning (FP) and post-abortion care (PAC) was organized to strengthen capacity for nine health providers (4 women and 5 men) ;
- (2) Several sessions on sexual and reproductive health were organized for 386 young boys and girls from Luberizi. Topics included the consequences of GBV, family planning, PAC, survivors' access to services within the following 72 hours) ;
- (3) Training of community relays on family planning and emergency post-abortion care (10 men, 4 women, 5 boys and 1 girl);
- (4) A Joint FP and PAC activity monitoring meeting was organized hand in hand with the Ruzizi health zone. For the quarter under review, the following results were validated:
 - a. 231 new FP acceptances;
 - b. 64 post-abortion clients, of whom 3 clients were young girls under 20 years age;
 - c. A refresher training for seven health providers (5 men and 2 women) on infection prevention ;
- (5) Coaching to health facilities on psychosocial care, FP and PAC ;
- (6) A mass sensitization campaign in relation to International Women's Day. The event saw the participation of 247 people (214 women and 33 men) ;
- (7) Several sensitization sessions on women's rights were organized in the eight villages of Luberizi (in total, 704 community members attended).

C. Monitoring Progress

- ❖ Interaction with local partner structures allowed the Maji Ya Amani team to better understand the difficulties they are faced with, especially in the implementation of their roles and responsibilities. This was the case for CICC which, after many talks with communities, concluded that community members didn't have essential information concerning the group titling process in order to effectively get involved in the land tenure process. This led the project to intensify sensitization on the question of joint ownership and the assurance the mechanism gives to every member over their plots.

Solving this issue produced significant results, with the acceleration of membership and finalization of a great number of groupings so as to get land titles. This work gathered all the participants according to sectors and mobilized all technical services and local leaders at different levels (provincial, territorial, and local).

- ❖ Regarding GBV, a joint monitoring mechanism with the health zone was set up so as to assess GBV, PF, post-abortion care activities, and coaching, and to gather monthly data to ensure the integration of all systems in the health strategy of the relevant sector ministry. A review of the monitoring tools was done by health care staff and the volunteer psychosocial focal points with reference to the information management system on Gender Based Violence (GBVIMS) validated by the Ministry.
- ❖ Internal implementation monitoring has been done through an indicator monitoring table. This serves as the basis not only for internal accountability, but also for quality research and work efficiency.
- ❖ A project-community accountability mechanism was set up during this reporting period, which allows for monthly collection of opinions and recommendations from communities via monthly meetings. This is linked to the Client Responsiveness/Feedback mechanism and community complaints which, through 12 local, key delegates, allows Maji Ya Amani to gather any concern linked to staff behavior or the way activities evolve and which, based on its potential sensitivity, may not be raised in public meetings. While dealing with all these concerns, the project team makes sure to keep anonymous those who are reporting in order to help improve implementation and better guide decision making.

- ❖ The monitoring of contractual clauses' implementation is done jointly between, service providers and enterprises and between the Maji Ya Amani team and local managing structures and community representatives in order to make sure that every stakeholder respects the key principles of community engagement and the project objectives while also ensuring sustainability of the project's achievements.

D. Key Achievements

Key achievements for this quarter were the following:

- (1) The water gravitation network is in place and the provisional sign-off of the drinking water works (72 km long with 72 water taps) took place with the support of provincial government services;
- (2) Determination of the water pricing strategy, concluded hand in hand with stakeholders;
- (3) Technical and institutional support for ACEP, including opening of a bank account in a microfinance institution (COOPEC Sange), support in the selection of the fountain maintenance team, and introduction of a bookkeeping system;
- (4) Hand in hand with the Education Office of Luvungi, Maji Ya Amani launched a strategy for the creation and support of five school brigades following the development and validation of the action plan for the promotion of hygiene and sanitation in every school. The stakeholders should ensure every action plan takes into account disability and gender considerations for every construction and equipment to be put in place within the framework of hygiene and sanitation.
- (5) Strengthening capacity for health providers, the youth (pupils) and community relays on family planning and emergency post-abortion care;
- (6) Validation of GBV and PAC integrated reporting tools with Ruzizi health zone;
- (7) To strengthen accountability, an orientation session was organized for actors on the complaint and feedback mechanism established. Three complaints were also collected in Nyamugali village in relation to insufficient quantity of water supplied during some hours;
- (8) The project continues to support the CICF overhaul. This quarter an election of members and sub-structures was held for the new structure (non-profit organization);
- (9) Maji Ya Amani continues to support the VSLAs through coaching and training on relevant modules to ensure members gain knowledge on how to appropriately manage VSLA activities;
- (10) Analysis of microfinance institutions' (MFIs) institutional and technical capacities for referral possibilities with VSLAs and farmers.

E. Gender and Vulnerable Groups Analysis

Every approach or orientation taken in the project's implementation takes into account considerations of gender and vulnerability, and ensures these considerations are actioned in interactions with the communities as well as in the internal activities of each of the implementing organizations. On this aspect, staff recruitment processes have taken into account the representation of all ethnic groups and especially the Batwa. As a result, two Twa have been recruited as Maji Ya Amani staff and they will benefit from a specific follow-up to ensure successful integration into the project team and to support their performance on the project's work.

On the programmatic front, the following actions are systematically applied:

- (1) A consistent representation of Batwa is ensured in all project activities in addition to capacity strengthening sessions specifically held to support skill-building and to raise their competencies in relation to project activities;
- (2) Youth participants are also consistently selected in all activities and are supported through project activities to enable them to recognize and address the dynamics of the environment and to enhance their participation in decision making;
- (3) Establishing discussion groups for women members of VSLAs and the involvement of their partners, both to ensure household participation in the project activities and to prevent economically motivated GBV;

- (4) Equal participation of boys and girls in entrepreneurship activities supported by the project (50% girls and 50% boys);
- (5) For every community structure working with the project, there is a strict requirement for diverse ethnic, gender and youth representation.

F. Challenges

Challenges faced this quarter include the following:

- (1) The community have high expectations of the project and expect less required contribution on their part. The project is now engaged in sensitization on the roles and responsibilities of the stakeholders. This should lead to the establishment of compulsory mechanisms for community participation and contribution in relation to different project investments;
- (2) With the changes in different government positions following the election period in December 2018, many of the project's focal persons within the different technical services have also changed. The project had thus to organize contact with the newly appointed focal points to explain the project expectations for collaboration to ensure continuity of these bodies' participation;
- (3) The security context in the project implementation zone remains volatile.

G. Lessons Learned

❖ *Shared Responsibilities:*

The mobilization of communities in conflict around common interests is a strong tool likely to lead towards peaceful cohabitation. This was confirmed once again with the forming of groupings in order to acquire group land titles. Whereas previously individuals (perhaps motivated by other actors) tended to put forward or raise past killings to justify the requirement of individual titles without taking into account continuity and availability of the budget, the community has instead put forward the preservation of the irrigated perimeter which is the source of their income through farming, thus overcoming these oppositions and adopting the option of the group titling. As a result, the responsibility for a common asset slowly becomes a lifestyle and a guide for communities who, for years, resisted a common interest approach.

❖ *Context Specificity and Demonstrating Early Results:*

The mastery of the context and the participating management of the beneficiary community is a key element to strengthen project acceptability with communities and to promote their sense of ownership over project achievements. The supply of drinking water in all the villages of the Luberizi groupement, the constant communication of the project's next steps – especially the rehabilitation of irrigation infrastructures such as the dam and the canal – have significantly intensified the level of acceptability of Maji Ya Amani within the community. The beneficiary population says they are more and more confident that the project will achieve the remaining planned results.

❖ *Community Participation:*

The implementation of relevant activities is clearly being carried out by local structures accompanied by the project. This is the case with CICF, ACEP, GCC, GAC, CEP, and the listening and peace clubs which support the communities on various topics (land, water, farming, GBV and sexual and reproductive health). In order to make sure communities are most effectively involved at every stage of implementation, a community accountability mechanism was set up and ensures that, every month, a meeting with all the villages takes place so as to provide a space for exchanges on the challenges linked to implementation, to gather opinions and recommendations of the beneficiary population, and to better reinforce their involvement and ownership.

❖ *Conflict Sensitivity:*

The project team is highly cognizant of how sensitive the operating context for Maji Ya Amani is. For this reason, a conflict-sensitive approach leads every action so that project interventions will not be source of conflict or exacerbate past tensions, but rather contribute to community mobilization towards cohesion through the creation of conditions in which members find themselves working together towards a common interest and taking decisions together accordingly. Thus, community/ethnic groups' representation is

systematically sought for every activity in order to make sure that every action benefits from the involvement of all.