TRIDE

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Wakulima Mbele

Farmers Forward



AGRI TERRA FOR COOPERATIVES

VNG International

ZOA from relief to recovery





Royaume des Pays-Bas

Great Lakes Programme

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Photo on the cover: Tree planting in the Luvingi catchment by the Environmental club: Amis de l'environnement, photo by PSVS.

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Acronyms and Abbreviations

ANR	: Agence Nationale de Renseignement / National Intelligence Agency
ALE	: Agence Locale d'Exécution / Local Implementing Agency / LIA
ARC	: Addressing Roots Causes of conflicts
ASCODER	: Assise Communautaire pour le Développement Rural
AVEC	: Association Villageoise d'Epargne et de Crédit
AVUDS	: Action des Volontaires Unis pour le Développement et la Santé
BRALIMA	: Brasserie Limonaderie et Malterie
CARG	: Conseils Agricoles Ruraux de Gestion
CBST	: Community Based Social Therapy (Socio Thérapie à Base Communautaire)
CLPD	: Comité Local de Paix et de Développement
CLPC	: Comité Local de Paix et de Développement au niveau Chefferie
CLPG	: Comité Local de Paix et de Développement au niveau Groupement
CDL CDG	: Comités de Développement Local/ Local Development Committees
CDG	: Local Development Committees at Groupement level
COAPAKA	: Coopérative Agricole Paysanne de Karuba
COAPKI	: Coopérative Agricole paysanne de Kibati
CONAPAC	: Confédération Nationale des Producteurs Agricoles au Congo
CONAREF	: Commission Nationale de la Réforme Foncière
COOPAKIRU	: Coopérative des Producteurs Agricoles de Kinyandonyi/Rutshuru
COOPAMAK	: Coopérative Agricole Mashaka de Kilomoni
COOAPATU	: Coopérative Agropastorale Tuungane
COOCAPA	: Coopérative des Cultivateurs pour l'Amélioration du Développement Agricole
COOPADARU	: Coopérative Paysanne pour le Développement Agricole de Runingu
COOPL	: Coopérative des Producteurs et Vendeurs du Lait
COOPEC	: Coopérative d'Epargne et de Crédit
COOPRITU	: Coopérative des Producteurs de Riz Tuungane
DDRC-S	: Programme de Désarmement, Démobilisation, Relèvement Communautaire et Stabilisation
DGM	: Direction Générale des Migrations (General Direction of Migration)
DRC / RDC	: Democratic Republic of Congo / République Démocratique du Congo
DTL	: Deputy Team Leader
EAC	: East African Community
EKN	: Embassy of the Kingdom of the Netherland
ESPASK	: Ensemble Pour la Paix et la Sécurité au Sud Kivu
ESPER	: Ensemble Pour la Paix et la Sécurité à l'Est de la RDC
ETD	: Entité Territoriale Décentralisée (Decentralized Territorial Entity)
FARDC	: Forces Armées de la RDC (Armed Forces of the DRC)
FDN	: Forces de Défense Nationale (FDN) du Burundi / National Defence Forces
GIS	: Geographic Information System
IDP	: Internally Displaced Person
IMF	: Institution de Micro-Finance / MFI : Micro-Finance Institution

INGO	: International Non-Governemental Organization
IT	: Information Technology
IWRM	: Integrated Water Resource Management
LSC	: Local Security Committee/ Comité Local de Sécurité (CLS)
LTP	: Land Tenure Program
MEAL	: Monitoring, Evaluation, Accountability and Learning
MONUSCO	: Mission de l'Organisation des Nations Unies pour la Stabilisation du Congo (United Nations Mission for the Stabilisation of the Congo)
MT	: Management Team
MyA	: Maji ya Amani
PAV	: Plan d'Action Villageois (Villageois action plan)
PDL	: Plan de Développement Local (Local Development Plan/ LDP)
PDDRCS	: Programme de Désarmement, Démobilisation, Relèvement Communautaire et Stabilisation
PGBV	: Plan de Gestion du Bassin Versant (The Watershed Management Plan)
PI	: Paysan Innovateur (IF : Innovative Farmer
PIC	: Plan Intégré Communautaire (The Integrated Community Plan)
PIP	: Plan Intégrée du Paysan (The Integrated Farm Plan)
PNC	: Police National Congolaise (Congolese National Police)
PSVS	: Programme de Secours aux Vulnérables et Sinistrés
SENASEM	: Service National des Semences
SOPACDI	: Solidarité pour la Promotion des Actions Café et le Développement Intégral
SPIF	: Stratégie Provinciale d'Intervention Foncière (Provincial Land Intervention Strategy)
TL	: Team Leader
TRIDE	: Transition for Inclusive Development in Eastern RDC
UCADI	: Union Coopérative Agricole pour le Développement Intègre
UEFA	: Union, pour l'Emancipation de la Femme Autochtone
VSLA	: Village Saving and Loan Association
W4V	: Water for Virunga

Executive Summary

Since July 2021, the consortium composed of ZOA (lead organization), VNGI and AGRITERRA is implementing the project called "Transition for Inclusive Development in Eastern DRC (TRIDE)"[1]. This report covers the period of the 1st of January – 31st of December 2022, which is the first full year of implementation after a six month inception period.

During 2022 the level of insecurity increased substantially due to intensified clashes between the FARDC and allies against the advancing M23 rebels in North Kivu since 23 May 2022. At the same time the subregional forces were send into North- and South Kivu to disarm the multiple armed groups following the agreements of the EAC. These development came on top of the "normal" security context in North and South Kivu that suffers from a protracted crisis with high level of insecurity due to armed groups and multiple forms of criminality. 2022 was also characterized by particularly unstable Provincial Governments in North and South Kivu. Ultimately a military provincial government was installed in North Kivu while South Kivu the position of the provincial governor was continuously uncertain.

Due to the fighting and occupation by M23, TRIDE had to quit Rutshuru, Nyaragongo and Masisi territories at the end of 2022. Unusual heavy rains and flooding destroyed roads and bridges and reduced accessibility of intervention areas, particularly in Uvira and Kalehe territories in South Kivu province. The war with Ukraine contributed to high inflation, scarcity of fertilizer and seeds and consumption goods as well as the devaluation of the Euro. TRIDE management became aware that risk management, mitigation and adaptive management are key skills to remain afloat in such and environment. If the situation does not improve there are serious concerns about the loss of project funds due to inflation and devaluation.

Over the course of 2022 TRIDE communicated with provincial goverments, and the Minister of Plan in Kinshasa with the purpose of setting up of the Steering group. A combined Steering groupe with the sister project LTP was abandoned with the unexpected closure of this project. Furthermore, unstable provincial governments hampered a smooth installation of the Steering Committee. All in all, at the end of 2022, both provinces agreed to sign the Steering Committee, but the act has been pushed into 2023.

During the first and second quarter the implementation team was completed with the recruitment of some key expert positions and local implementing organisations. The TRIDE management coordination in charge during the Inception phase was transformed in a MT TRIDE with monthly coordination meetings. The role distribution between the TL and DTL was revised in the last quarter of the year. It was agreed that the TL would focus more on the role of Chief of Party while the DTL would concentrate on

[1] Funded by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Kingdom of the Netherlands for a period of 4 years (July 2021 to June 2025). TRIDE is being implemented in the territories of Masisi, Nyiragongo and Rutshuru in North Kivu, Kalehe and Uvira in South Kivu. More specifically, the project targets 100.000 households in 8 chiefdoms "chefferies" (Bukumu, Bahunde, Bashali, Bwisha, Bafuliiru, Plaine de la Ruzizi, Buloho, Buhavu). TRIDE forms part of the Great Lakes Programme funded by the Netherlands and builds on the lessons learned from other projects in the DRC that are aligned with the International Security and Stabilization Strategy (ISSSS) , particularly IWRM-MyA, W4V, FARM, ESPER and MADINI. TRIDE's objectives are (1) mproved access and security of land tenure by smallh olders and reduced land-related conflicts, (2) strengthened Integrated Water Resources Management and resilient agricultural systems, and (3) a revitalised Local economy through inclusive development and profitable value chains and the markets

coordination of the experts and activities under the consortium partner ZOA. A focal point for TRIDE was appointed at ZOA Apeldoorn, for quality control and support.

After the inception and preparative phase TRIDE was now ready to move into full implementation. However, early in the project implementation youth organizations started sending letters of complaint about the lack of TRIDE activities and blaming TRIDE for stopping the Land Tenure Project (LTP). The concerns were addressed through meetings with local leaders and youth groups. Then, in November the TRIDE consortium and its implementing partners were shocked by Whatsapp messages accusing the project of passing security information to Kigali. The messages were considered isolated actions. Consultation with local authorities and stakeholders in the field assured the team that TRIDE should be continued and not to worry about the security of the staff.

During 2021 investments continued in building rapport with the local authorities and main stakeholders at chefferie level, the clusters (groupements) and villages. The team also dedicated time to developing and improving methodologies, and adapting implementation manuals. The implementation team developed their capacity for conflict and gender sensitivity and work was done on improving the MEAL with proposals for comprehensive data base. A study for small productive infrastructures was done to sustain a proposal to top-up this component in TRIDE.

Progress was made with aligning management, administration (uniform treatment of target groups across project activities), and reaching greater thematic and territorial coherence in implementation. The consortium partners expressed committment to an ever closer collaboration in working towards one common goal. Though with obstacles, the partners were tempted out of their comfort zones, reaching out over the fence to see what the others do and to seek synergie in complementarity. The first steps were made on a long road of learning about joining efforts to achieve holistic and lasting development (see annex 12 for the lessons learned).

All components of TRIDE were put on track and visibly started to catch-up with the ambitious planning. However, due to the delay with the start-up and a worsening of the political and security context during 2022, the project is behind schedule regarding its initial planning. Progress of project implementation was very poor in terms of achieved outcome indicators. The overall level of budget execution for the direct programmatic cost was 38 % compared to the planned budget. As a consequence TRIDE also scored low on ratio direct/versus indirect costs. This is due to the fact indirect costs were relatively high, while direct costs of of implementation were low. Definitely all elements from security context to planning, governance, and capabilities present ample room for improvement. However, an important explanation resides in fact that in the current stage of implementation the emphasis is on the process. The harvest in terms of outcomes comes logically later.

The main achievements of 2022 are:
Outcome 1. 19% the of planned budget was used to achieve 60% of the planned outcome.
Also to fill the gap left by LTP, attention was given to the institutional and legal aspects of access to land. At national level support to CONAREF with the drafting of the national land law. At provincial level with getting the institutions and the enabling environment to facilitate access to land. Provincial decrees were drafted and promoted for agricultural Cadastre and for the provincial CONAREF. The Provincial Coordination of National Land Reform Commission (CONAREF) of North Kivu is in place and held its first steering committee meeting. From this meeting, a roadmap and an action plan for 2023 were drawn up and validated.

Through direct facilitation by project staff (without agricultural cadastre) of negotiated access to land in concessions, the standard land lease contract was validated by local stakeholders and 527 (489 has) land lease contracts were negotiated and signed by the parties (concessionaires and smallholder households).

Outcome 2. 44% of the planned budget was used for an overall 21% of the planned outcome. However, it should be noted that large part of the investment in the process will lead to results at later stage. In relation to the farmer extension component (PIP), eight local implementing partners were recruited. The drafting of village visions and PIP started in 46 villages where a total of 2553 Innovative farmers (PIs) with their families have finished and are implementing or are developing their Integrated Farm Plans (PIP).

Integrated Water Resource Managemt, has started participatory diagnosis of the eight catchments to increase knowledge and understanding of the water use and users by its population. Three catchment portraits have been completed by the inhabitants and farmers of the catchment. Five catchment management committees (out of the 8) have already been set up with the participation of users and local and territorial authorities and are developing catchment plans,These committees represent a total population of 212,957 inhabitants. Approximately 380,578 trees are in multiplied in nurseries for watershed restoration; 1,500 bamboo trees are already planted at the final sites.

Outcome 3. 34 % of the planned budget has been used to achieve approximately 35 % of the planned outcome.
At present, the project supports 27,568 members of 21 cooperatives in the two provinces (including 7,985 female members). Of these 21 cooperatives, 8 are in the rice value chain, 5 in potato, 4 in coffee, 1 in maize, 1 in dairy and 2 are COOPECs. With the support of the project, eleven of them are currently considered to be "well managed" with properly functioning texts and organs.

The TRIDE project has created a total of 156 jobs. With the support of the project, the volume of credit obtained by cooperatives from formal financial institutions in 2022 was $172,000. Through cooperatives 1431 households divided groups of 20 farmers (G20) were reached to improve agricultural production by soil conservation and agroecological farming practices. Together they managed 680 hectares with at least two conservation practices implemented.

With the support of the TRIDE experts, 12 security plans have been finalised and are operational at the Groupement level. There are already 13 Development Committees at Groupement level (CDG) and others are planned to be installed soon. In addition, TRIDE experts supported the finalization of seven Local Development Plans (LDPs). TRIDE experts also supported the seven Local Development Committees of these chefferies with the implementation of the LDPs. The LDPs take in considertation the problematic of local populations through the development fora at cluster level (groupement) with local stakeholders which is an improvement added through TRIDE.

Finally, through TRIDEs advocacy, the business climate for cooperatives and/or the agricultural markets was improved. The results are national and local tax exemptions affecting farmers, agricultural entrepreneurs and cooperatives. Another achievement is the set-up of formal dialogues between cooperativs and officials to improve the business climate.

1. General Implementation Environment

This report on the first year of implementation of the TRIDE actions, after the six-month inception phase (July 2021 to January 2022), is set in the context of the following developments.

Security context. The security situation in eastern DRC has been volatile for several decades. But compared to the previous years the security situation worsened over the course of 2022. The resurgence of the M23 rebel movement in North Kivu province since 23 May 2022 has caused massive displacements of the project's beneficiary population and local leaders.

Towards the end of 2022, large part of the intervention zone in North Kivu became inaccessible due to the violence and occupation by M23. This let to suspension of all project activities in Rutshuru. The curfew, with a ban on night travel on Lake Kivu during large part of this year, further limited movements of project staff. The border between Rwanda and DRC (which accuses Rwanda of supporting the M23) is closed after 3 PM. Intensification of this conflict also impacted the dynamics of the existing armed groups operating in North and South Kivu, who decided either to join the army or either take the opportunities to reposition themselves in power vacuums. The tensions beween Rwanda and DRC also led to acts of violence against members of communities with suspected links with the M23 rebels; particularly towards Rwandans and Kinyarwanda-speaking nationals.

Another new development is related to the decision of the East African Community (EAC) to send sub-regional forces to to help the DRC deal with the armed groups in eastern DRC. Thus, soldiers of the National Defence Force (FDN) from Burundi were deployed in South Kivu in the territories of Uvira and Fizi, fighting together with the FARDC (the Armed Forces of the Democratic Republic of the Congo) against the various rebels in the highlands (high plateau) and middle plateaus of Fizi and Mwenga on the other hand. Many people fled the violence and moved into the Rusizi plains and several camps in South Kivu. Ugandan and Kenyan soldiers moved into North Kivu to disarm the M23. The facilitator Uhuru Kenyata even travelled to Goma. At the end of this visit, the EAC asked the M23 rebels to withdraw to Sabyinyo area (north east of Lake Kivu) in order to create a buffer zone that would allow the return of displaced persons to their original area under the control of EAC forces.

The fighting has spread to the territories of Rutshuru into the Groupements of Jomba, Bukoma, Kisigari and Rugari, Masisi (Bwito: Tongo and Bweza) and Nyiragongo (Kibumba and Buhumba). Following attacks of the M23 rebel movement in North Kivu, led to the occupation of the village of Bunagana in the Jomba groupement since 13 June 2022.

Indirect effects of the increased insecurity. Under the threat of war, authorities are focused on security concerns and peace instead of on development activities. In addition to these unfavourable political and security conditions, there are "usual" types of security incidents in the implementation area linked to illegal road blocks, banditry, inter-community tensions, epidemics, natural disasters and chronic poverty. As an illustrative example, we note the case of September the 12th when passengers of a bus from Uvira to Bukavu were attacked and robbed from their money and goods at Rushima in Luberizi groupement (on the national road RN5 in Uvira territoire).

Socio-economic context. The cost of living of the average citizen has increased severely in 2022. Large part of this is the consequences of the war in Ukraine which increased the prices of basic products such as fuel, fertilizers and other products. Boat tickets between Goma-Bukavu and airplane tickets increased with 25% or more.

The interruption of traffic flow on the Rutshuru-Goma Road as a result of the war between the FARDC and the M23 rebels, also affected availability and prices of food items. In South Kivu, the price of rice and maize/corn rose significantly in the Ruzizi plain in the territory of Uvira (rice production centre for Uvira and Bukavu). The demand for rice was also influenced by the influx of Internally Displaced People (IDPs) in the plains. To feed them, the UNHCR and the INGOs AVSI and NRC bought large quantities of rice, which led to even higher marketprices in the Ruzizi plain.

According the website of the World Bank, Economic growth in Congo is estimated at 6.1% in 2022, keeping the strong momentum from 2021 (6.2%). Mining sector investment and exports remain the key drivers of growth supported by improved mineral prices and higher public investment. Non-mining sectors (particularly services) are likely to slow down to 4.1% in 2022, from 4.5% in 2021. Higher metal prices are likely to offset higher food and oil prices and lead to improved terms of trade and a balanced current account (from -1.0% in 2021). Higher global energy and food prices due to the ongoing war in Ukraine exert upward pressures on domestic inflation. The inflation varies per source from 3,4% to over 20% over 2022. The economic consequences of the war in Ukraine, through rising global food costs and higher oil prices, could exert stronger pressure on fiscal deficit, on inflation and on households' consumption thus exacerbating poverty and inequality.

'Physical inaccessibility' of intervention area. Some intervention areas are increasingly difficult to access due advanced state of degradation of the road. Exceptional torrential rains caused flooding, landslides and the destruction of bridges, houses and fields, land erosion, and the overflowing of rivers in large watersheds. Particularly hit were the territories of Uvira (the national road RN5 linking Bukavu and Uvira was cut off following the collapse of several bridges) and Kalehe (Bunyakiri became very difficult to access due to the poor maintenance of the infrastructure), and also in North Kivu with the inaccessibility of the villages Bushuhe, Humule and part of Shange-Luzirantaka.

Discontent of youth organizations following the premature closure of Land Tenure Project. In April 2022, some youth organizations from Rutshuru, Masisi and Kalehe started submitting letters accusing TRIDE' consortium partners of being behind the closure of the Land Tenure Programme (LTP). TRIDE responded by organising meeting with youth representatives and local leaders for exchanges and clarifications, and to discuss about the role and involvement of local leaders and youth in project implementation. These letters of complaint caused delay in the recruitment of local implementing organizations and reduced the pace of project implementation in general.

False allegations against the TRIDE and partners through social media. in November and December 2022, two messages were published on WhatsApp, accusing the TRIDE project of working with the M23 rebels and Rwanda. The first message in November came from a political party official in South Kivu province. The second message- from an unindetified source- in December 2022 went so far as to explicitly cite TRIDE staff. TRIDE liaised with political and administrative authorities, including the National Intelligence Agency (Agence Nationale de Renseignements ANR), to express the security concerns related to the messages and to officially distance the project from the allegations. The messages greatly worried the staff, but after checking the sentiments among local stakeholders, it was decided that there were no additional risks for the people working in the field and that project implementation could continue.

Anti-MONUSCO demonstrations: During 2022 we saw several so-called "anti-MONUSCO" demonstrations. Pressure groups, especially from civil society, called for 'ghost town' (ville morte) days, demanding MONUSCO's departure from some areas and accusing it of incapacity in restoring security, and complicity with the M23 rebels. The demonstrations came with violence against MONUSCO forces and several MONUSCO bases were attacked. In the project area, demonstrations resulted in casualties, including peacekeepers, were observed in the towns of Uvira, Bukavu, Goma, Kiwandja, Beni and Butembo. In the wake of the anti-MONUSCO demonstrations, a certain hostility was displayed towards the military authorities governing North Kivu under a *state of siege*. The demands of the demonstrators were echoed on several occasions by the parlementarians from North Kivu. This led the Prime Minister to consider to re-evaluate the *state of siege*. In July, the Provincial Governor was stripped from his executive powers, remaining only with administrative responsibilities, and new zone commanders were appointed at the operational level. In December, the Governor was re-installed as head of operations to enhance the effectiveness of the military authorities, in face of the war with M23. The violence caused interruption of TRIDE activities and political uncertainty hampered coordination with authorities involved in the project.

Electoral process. The electoral process for the general elections started timidly in the last quarter of 2022. Electoral messages by political party leaders were heard in villages and towns in the two provinces. Political speeches were fuelling the anti-MONUSCO demonstrations. Voter registration is officially scheduled to start in February 2023, while the general elections are planned for December 2023.

The closure of the LTP project. LTP was conceived in complementarity to the TRIDE project. LTP is more addressing the institutional and legal enabling environment for TRIDEs more practical farmer led food security and IWRM activities. TRIDE tried to (temporarily) fill the gap left by LTP through taking advisory work in the drafting of the national land law, and adjusted its acitiies and budget. Explaining and negotiating these adjustments with the donor, resulted in a delay in the approval of the budget.

The *change of authorities at the head of the territories of Uvira and Kalehe* requires more working sessions to establish rapport and to explain the project to the new authorities in the activities.

Dual overlapping power structures. In the territory of Uvira, especially in the Ruzizi plain chiefdom there is a dual power structure claiming the same administrative entity. There is a 'legal' chief, appointed by the state, and a 'legitimate' chief, supported by the numerical majority ethnic group. This dual power structure remains a major challenge in the implementation of TRIDE, particularly for the elaboration of village visions and elaboration of local development plans. The dilemma for TRIDE is: do we work with both chiefs for greater inclusiveness, acceptability and ownership at the risk of being accused of encouraging duality, or do we only work with the “legal chief” and running the risk of being negelected or even sabotaged by large part of the target group? TRIDE decides to works with both chiefs, coming from a conflict sensitive approach and also based on a lesson learned from the MyA project.

During 2022 the Bukumu and Buloho chefferies have been shaken-up by a *local leadership crisis*. In the Buloho chefrie, Mwami Kitenge was sidelined by an order of the Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Interior and replaced by an another leader from the Kabare chiefdom. This situation had an impact on the implementation of project activities, as there was a general strike of 12 days in May. In Bukumu, installment of the Mwami Le Bon Bakungu Bigaruka was repeatedly postponed due to the tensions within the community. In June 2022, the military Governor of North Kivu wanted to appoint an interim Chief of Police, but was confronted by fierce opposition by customary leaders and civil society actors. Finally, on 29 June, the Mwami Le bon was officially installed as head of the Bukumu chefferie.

After the security incidences as described in the previous chapter, TRIDE management decided to suspend activities in the Jomba groupement. A large part of about 70% of Bwisha chefferie was occupied by the rebels, forcing most of the inhabitants to flee. Unfortunately the fighting in Rutshuru and Masisi territories made it impossible to continue project activities. As a result, the project had to considerably reduce and later (November 2022) suspend its activites in Rutshuru.

In this context, a meeting was organised with the local chiefs in November 2022 to reflect on the current context of the Bwisha chefferie and the Rutshuru territory in general, in order to be able to put in place an administrative contingency plan. The meeting brought together the chief of the chefferie, the heads of groupements and members of civil society and is part of the process of supporting Local Security Committees to address security issues that impede the development of value chains.

2. Summary of Project Results in 2022

Outcome 1 - Smallholder access to and security of land tenure is improved to reduce land-related conflicts

For outcome 1 the level of achievement is approximately 60% of what was planned for 2022.

TRIDE facilitated the negotiation of access to land (489 ha of land in two provinces) for 575 farming households through medium-term (5-year) sharecropping contracts in concessions (see case study in Annex 13). The process started with the sensitisation of concessionaires on the advantages of using the land and, above all, on the risks of not exploiting the land. Then pre-dialogue sessions with the concessionaires (mostly represented by managers) and the farmers. Subsequently, the dialogues were continued in presence of public officials.

The signing of the proposed provincial decrees by the designated provincial authority took much longer than expected. This did not allow the activities to proceed as planned through the public administration. To date, the proposed decrees have not yet been signed, despite the fact that they have been analysed and amended by the technicical secretariat of the two governors. For the negotiation for secure and sustainable access to land for smallholders, the physical availability of big concessionaires is a challenge. Some concessionaires occupy high political and military positions and live often outsde the province. So most of the time the are represented by their managers, who unfortunately lack full authority for decision-making powers. These managers have to consult with their bosses after each round of negotiation, before giving feedback to the project: this delays the progress.

A positive unexpected effect of the negotiations to facilitate access to land for rural households in the concessions, is the transfer of about 200 ha of land to households that had been evicted by a court decision in 2018. Two concessionaires handed over this land to 930 households in the name of peace and allow them to exploit the remaining land. TRIDE faciltated the negotiations and the signing of agreement between these households and the two concessionaires in Masisi territory.

Output 1.1. Provincial land intervention strategies are developed and adopted by the provincial governments of North and South Kivu.

The target of finishing one provincial land tenure intervention strategy (SPIF) in 2022, has not been

achieved. The SPIF is a set of tools for land use planning and land management. The elaboration of this set of land management tools is complex, labour intensive and requires the signature of two provincial decrees: (i) a decree establishing a steering structure for the development of the SPIF and (ii) a decree on the organisation and functioning of the provincial CONAREF. In 2022, only the (ii) decree on the provincial CONAREF has been signed in North Kivu (see Annex 10) while lobbying for the others continues.

Output 1.2 Farmers who rent land on a short-term basis in concessions have medium/long-term access to that land.

In 2022, 489 ha of land were made available to farmers seeking land under medium-term sharecropping contracts (5 years), which represents about 20% of the target (2500 ha). The reason is the failure to create and operationalise the agricultural cadastre in the project area. The agricultural cadastre is the only service that has a legal mandate to raise awareness among concessionaires and negotiate contracts with the farmers.

Output 1.3 Agricultural and pastoral lands are identified and mapped in the target territories and agricultural cadastres are recognised and operational in both provinces

No agricultural cadastre offices, out of the three expected in 2022, have been established. The process is stuck at the level of approval and signing the decree.

Technical secretariats from the two governors have presented a final draft ready for signature. They also already made the plea to the administrative staff requesting office space to house the agricultural cadastre offices.

The problem is clear. Land is in the hands of a small elite who do not exploit it, while large part of the population desperately need access to land for their livelihoods. TRIDE has developed a mechanism for helping landless farmers through dialogue for long-term, negotiated contracts. Working with the competent public services and local authorities and civil society organization went well but results are not achieved in absence of the decree.

Access to land, in the form of negotiated secure long-term lease contracts can only be obtained through agricultural cadastres. However, the implementation of the cadastres by order of the provincial governor is taking too long for achieving results in 2022. For this reason, an adjustment in the modus operandi is made working in parallel with other existing structures such as the agricultural advisory council, the land administration and the CARG to facilate lease contracts on a case by case basis. Also some of these structures need to be rehabilitated in the territories where they are no longer functional. Meanwhile TRIDE will continue to follow up with the provincial authority on the agricultural cadastres. Once the agricultural cadastres are establised they will take over and continue the facilitation of lease contracts. These adjustments started this year and will continue in 2023.

Output 1.4 Appropriate solution mechanisms to address problems related to inter-community conflicts are implemented with the involvement of local, provincial, and national authorities.

After mediation, two out of three (expected) compromises were signed by parties who were in conflict, and these were countersigned by the local authorities.

Outcome 2 - Integrated water resources management is strengthened to promote resilient agricultural systems in the responsibility of North and South Kivu

For outcome 2 the overall level of achievement is aprox. 20% of what was planned for 2022. However, it must be said that in terms of process outputs the progress is far higher.
In 2022 TRIDE recruited eight local organizations, four in each of the two provinces: LOFEPACO, CODHAS, NPCYP, CAAP - Tujitegemee, ASCODER, UEFA and PSVS and AVUDs. The process of selecting the LIAs and signing the contracts in North Kivu took longer than expected because the process had to include the criteria of credibility of the local organisations. This delayed the start of field activities and reduced the outcomes reached during 2022. Working though local organizations is a strategy adopted by the project to gain access to certain hard-to-reach areas, as well as to increase ownership and sustainability of actions by the communities.

A total of 2553 smallholder households living in 46 villages in the two provinces, began improving the resilience of their farming system. By the end of 2022, these 2553 households had finished, or were in the process of, their integrated vision farm vision (PIP), based on the resources, opportunities and constraints they identified. The 2533 represent only 21% of the target for 2022. The delay is the consequence of delay in recruiting the PIP expert and the implementing partners . The low number is also caued the fighting between M23 rebels and the FARDC in the TRIDE intervention areas. However, through local organization it is possible to accelerate PIP interventions in the coming year.

Regarding the Integrated Water Resources Management the concentration catchments were selected: one in each Cheffery (see the figure on the next page for the eight selected catchments. The catchments are the concentration areas for the combined project components: access to land, agricultural production, integrated water management and access to markets. The territorial coherent implementation of all components will show the impact of the integrated development. By the end of 2022, five of the eight catchment management committees were in place with operational plans.

During the inception phase it was concluded that the deplorable state of infrastructures like (feeder) roads, bridges and minor irrigation works constituted a major constraint in access to markets. Hence, a study was commissioned to map the small infrastructures in the target catchments which was used for a proposal to top-up the investments in small infrastructes (see annex 3 and 5 for the proposal and the study).

Approximately 380,578 trees are in propagation sites for watershed restoration; 1,500 bamboo trees are planted at the final sites. The five catchments have a total population of 212,957 habitants. This population is not yet benefiting from improved river basin management and safe deltas. Even the 10.000 planned target for 2022 are not yet fully benefiting, as it takes time to *pick- the fruits* from the interventions.

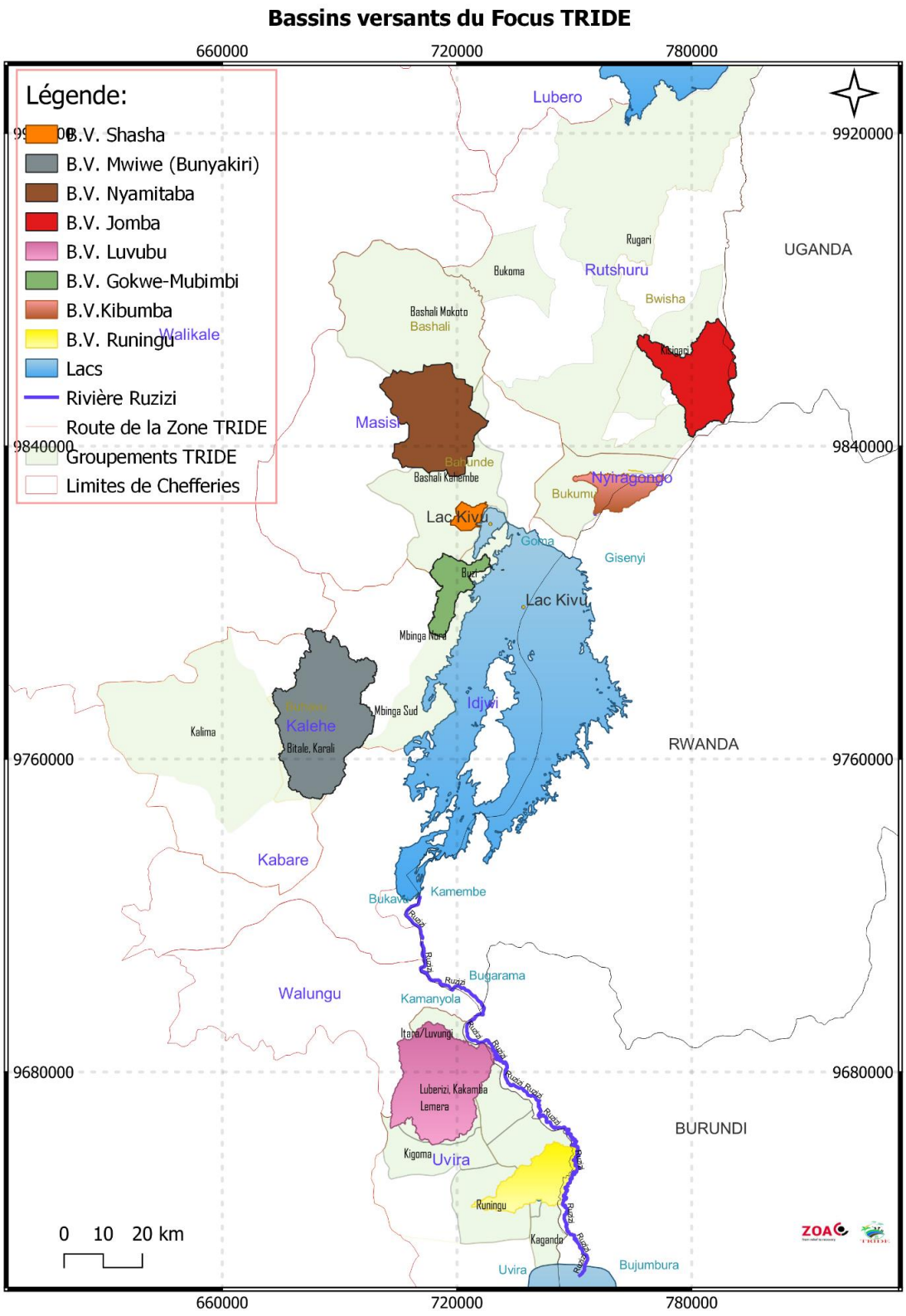


Figure 1 Map of selected catchments

The absence of peace and development organ (NPD) or village development committees (VDCs) in some villages has not facilitated the implementation of certain activities of the PIP and Governance approach (e.g. the development of the village vision).

Climatic disturbances in the Ruzizi plain at the beginning of the 2023 season slowed down the installation of the model farmers' learning groups (G20) and the seed multiplication fields and planting the individual rice producers' fields. This has slowed down the learning activities on the Ruzizi plain in general.

On a positive note, it was observed that the PIP vision within the household, improved gender equity and social cohesion. The project recorded several testimonies where men and women acknowledged the importance of joint planning. It created a space for conversations about vital household issues. The family analysis and dialogues improved the climate and relations within the household, which led to better and equitable management of the household assets. Furthermore, after being trained on the nine modules of the PIP approach, some innovative farmers (PIs) saw this as an opportunity to discuss and exchange on what they can do together for their self-promotion. For example, in the village of Humure in the chefferie of Bahunde, the PIs ended up organising themselves into village savings and loans associations (VSLAs), while in other villages, they created a collective.e Income Generating Activity (IGA).

Output 2.1 Good land stewardship and resilient farming systems are scaled up and promoted through the PIP approach

For 2022, TRIDE planned to reach 5000 ha of agricultural land with at least two soil conservation practices. By the end of 2022 687.7 ha (13.7% of the expected) had been achieved, under leadership of farmer cooperatives. The fact that farmers were not yet able to implemented the good practices learned as part of the PIP approach, as the implementation of PIP activities was delayed, is the reason for this underperformance. In 2023 the number will increase drastically with the 2553 innovative farmers (1st generation) in place who are expected to mentor about 25,000 2nd generation PIP farmers (the cascading extension).

Output 2.2 PIP households improve their knowledge of wise use of food

2553 innovative farmers are accompanied in developing their integrated PIP visions that address both food and nutrition security aspects. This number represents only about 7% of the planned number of farmers. Again, the late start of the PIP actions following a long process of recruiting experts and local organizations, combined with the insecurity, delayed this result. It is important to note that training modules on permaculture to improve household nutrition have not yet started. However, nutritional aspects are promoted in the village visions and Integrated Farm Plans.

Output 2.3 PIP farmers are structured around the G50 approach for more access to services, finances and markets

No households accessed credit through the AUXFIN G50 approach. Difficulties with registering the INGO in the DRC meant that AUXFIN's actions were not effective in TRIDE this year. And due to worsening security conditions the MT TRIDE decided to cancel further recruitment of AUXFIN. In response, TRIDE aims to strengthen the actions of output 3.2 in order to link MFIs with their financial products to farmers.

Output 2.4 Local and provincial land use and sustainable watershed management plans are developed.

Today, 1431 households supported by TRIDE, through cooperatives, are using at least 2 agro-ecological practices in their fields. This figure represents 20,4% of what was expected by the end of 2022 (7000 households). Again, delay in start of implementation of PIP-IWRM activities explains this gap. As those two approaches have now started, an uptake in 2023 is expected.

Output 2.5 Soil degradation in the intervention area is reduced and land restoration is being undertaken at a growing scale through collective actions.

No sub-catchment areas have been restored at this stage (target: 10). It is important to note that in 2023, about 15 sub-catchments will be reached, as in each catchment 3 sub-catchments are planned to be restored. As five catchments are already sufficiently advanced in the diagnostic-analysis and definition of priority actions, the restoration of the sub-catchments will be effective.

Output 2.6 Relevant IWRM infrastructures (irrigation schemes and others) are rehabilitated and built by the community with the support of the project

In 2022, the project reached an area of 176,322.56 ha of basins with an operational plan for IWRM. This area corresponds to the area of five basins that already have river basin management committees and are currently developing river basin management plans. The elaboration of the plan requires a process of diagnosis and analysis of the basin as well as a definition of the actions to be taken.

At this stage, we cannot claim that the planned 10,000 ha has been restored already, because the watershed management committees are still developing watershed management plans. In 2023, restoration actions will be accelerated.

Output 2.7 Involvement of local, provincial, and national authorities in IWRM and promotion of resilient agricultural systems is increased

In 2022, no irrigated area was rehabilitated or constructed. Only a pre-diagnostic study to identify infrastructure of economic interest has been conducted.

Outcome 3 - The local economy is revitalized through inclusive development and profitable value chains and the market system

In outcome 3 he overall level of achievement is between 35% and 40% of the planned outcome. Here as for the other outcome areas it must be said that in terms of process outputs the progress is far higher.

The target for in 2022 consisted of improving the capacities of the target value chain actors so as to (i) create 150 formal jobs and 350 informal jobs. Also, (ii) increase by 30% to USD 135 (USD 104 baseline) the average monthly income of households living in the target villages, and (iii) has to increase to 0.40 USD the household poverty line. Only jobs created will be reported in the year 2022 because no data was collected to verify the other two parameters (average increase in monthly household income and household poverty line).

In total, 36 formal jobs and 120 informal jobs were created within the 21 cooperatives supported by the project. In South Kivu, 98 jobs were created, including 83 model farmers (Agri leads) who accompany the G20 (groups of 20 farmers), 9 agronomists who now have contracts with their respective cooperatives and 3 accountants. There are 18 young people under the age of 35 and 12 women.

This represents respectively 24% and 34% of the planned targets.

The late supervision of cooperatives, June 2022 after the scoping study and the in-depth evaluation (annex 10. Value Chain Study) , did not allow them to create more jobs as planned. Similarly, as the results of the market analysis for the target value chains were only available in the 3rd quarter of 2022, the holistic strengthening actions of the actors involved in the different value chain links will be mostly executed in 2023.

In 2022, the project focused on identifying and analysing the strengths, weaknesses, constraints/barriers and opportunities of actors in the different targeted value chains. Therefore, the various links in the value chain, such as processing, transport, marketing and distribution, which would create formal and especially informal jobs, were not yet functioning in 2022.

The war in Ukraine and its effects on increasing food prices in the TRIDE intervention area are among the specific challenges of Outcome 3 of this project. The surge in local prices has led to the revision of some contracts that some cooperatives and large factories had already signed. This is the case, for example, with Bralima and the cooperative rice suppliers: the price of a ton of white rice, which was negotiated at USD 620 in 2021, has risen to USD 820 in less than six months. Even now, local buyers are offering better prices than Bralima, and this is jeopardising the formal, negotiated market that used to create more jobs.

Among the unexpected results, there is also the hassle that some cooperatives experience because they are accompanied by the project. Before the project, some cooperatives operated in the shadows and were not monitored by certain services. With the project's support, some are now being "harassed" by certain tax authorities, who go so far as to blackmail them and demand "illegal" taxes on the pretext that they benefit from the support of the TRIDE project, and therefore have "large" resources.

Output 3.1 Security and patrimonial governance problems (corruption, harassment and barriers) hampering the development of value chains in the intervention villages are addressed through a multi-stakeholder partnership approach

During 2022, five decisions have been taken by local leadership to mitigate insecurity and patrimonial governance problems in the intervention area. These decisions represent 62.5% of eight expected decisions. Political instability at the provincial level and conflicts within certain chiefdoms have prevented us from achieving the planned results.

Output 3.2 Value chain actors improved their capacities and have better access to finance through formal institutions

At present no smallholder (out of the 15% of beneficiaries who should have access to credit) has gained access to formal credit through TRIDE. The reluctance of MFIs to grant credit to smallholders, based on past experience, seems to be widespread in the intervention area. Fortunately, the project has made contact with some MFIs to develop financial products adapted to these actors, from 2023 onwards. Similarly, some European social donors are willing to put up money for low-interest loans, but their banks do not have branches/representatives in DRC. To date, a total of $172,000 (57.3% of the planned target) in credit has been obtained by the cooperatives supported by TRIDE. This credit is intended to facilitate the commercialization and marketing of the products (of the members) of these cooperatives.

Output 3.3 Farmers (women, men and youth from different ethnic groups) have improved their production per hectare and income for the targeted value chains

At present, it is difficult to say how much the yields of producers of the crops selected by TRIDE have increased, because this parameter has not yet been evaluated. Knowledge on how to improve production has been strengthened and the availability of quality certified seed guaranteed, through collaboration with research institutions in the sub-region. The 25% yield increase expected in 2022 will be evaluated at the next harvest in June-July 2023.

Output 3.4 Organised groups of entrepreneurs (women, men, and young people) are promoted in all PIP villages on the basis of the integrated collective plan (PIC)

Due to the delay of the activities related to PIP, no entrepreneurs groups were organised in 2022 on the basis of a collective integrated plan.

Output 3.5 The governance and functioning of cooperatives and support institutions agro-pastoral value chains are improved

Of the 21 cooperatives accompanied in 2022, 9 (42.9%) have up-to-date accounts, and 18 (85.7%) have management tools. All these cooperatives (100%) have boards of directors in place, and among them, 15 (71.4%) hold at least one meeting per quarter and (10) 47.6% have organised their ordinary general assemblies in 2022. 17 (81%) of the 21 cooperatives have two signatories to the bank accounts. In sum, 11 of the 21 cooperatives (52.4%) meet at least 5 of the 7 criteria for the year 2022.

Output 3.6 Home-based or larger-scale processing facilities and innovative post-harvest activities are introduced and enhanced

Initially, the project planned to achieve ten agricultural products processing enterprises from the value chains supported by the project and having an active link with the project (cooperatives and/or sales market) by the end of 2022. By the way, no enterprises have been supported. However, support needs are identified for some processors. The process of identifying innovative ideas in the agricultural value chains of the TRIDE project has been launched, and actions will continue in 2023.

Output 3.7 Farmers have better access to local, urban and regional markets

During the year 2022, eight contracts were signed. These contracts concern the delivery of rice to BRALIMA by six cooperatives in South Kivu and one contract for the delivery of potato seed between two cooperatives in North Kivu, in addition a contract for the delivery of maize grain by a cooperative to a processing unit (KMO) located in Goma. This represents 133 % of the target of six contracts in 2022.

Output 3.8 Actors and support institutions have improved their services for a value chain-friendly business environment

In 2022, five decisions were taken by state actors (national, provincial and local) to improve the business climate in the project areas. This is very positive compared to one decision which was expected. These are the decisions taken in 2022: (i) a decree signed by the Prime Minister exempting certain agricultural products from tax; (ii) a decree signed by South Kivu governors exempting young entrepreneurs from certain local taxes; (iii) a decision taken by the Governor of North Kivu to convene a dialogue between agricultural cooperatives and the tax authorities on tax issus; (iv) a decision taken by the Governor of South Kivu to convene and request a fiscal dialogue in some ETDs in South Kivu Province; (v) a letter setting the tax classification in Kalehe signed by the chief of the chefferie.

Other cross-cutting governance results

With the support of the project, 12 security plans have been finalised and are operational at the Groupement level. : 4 in North Kivu (Kibumba, Kibati, Mfunyinga Shanga, Mfunyi karuba) and 8 in South Kivu (6 in Uvira: Lemera, Kigoma, Sange, Runingu, Kiliba, Luvungi) and 2 in Kalehe (Mbinga Nord and Mbinga Sud) There are already 13 Development Committees at Groupement level (CDG) and others are planned (Lemera, Luvungi, Runingu, Kigoma, Mbinga Sud, Mbinga Nord, Mupfunyi Shanga, Kalima, Mupfunyi Karuba, Bashali Kaembe, Bashali Mukoto, Kibumba and Kibati).

3. TRIDE governance, management and coordination

TRIDE governance and management

TRIDE Management Team consists of the respective coordinators of the consortium partners and Team Leader, the Strategic Group consisting of the organizational leadership of the consortium partners and finally the Steering Committee consisting of the Governors of the provinces under the Minister of Plan and the donor and direction of the consortium partners. The Steering Committee is not yet put in place. The Strategic group gathered a few times in a rather haphazard manner and needs to be further operationalized.

Over the course of 2022 TRIDE exchanged ideas with provincial goverments, the Minister of Plan in Kinshasa and donor with the purpose of setting up of a Steering group for TRIDE. The idea for a combined Steering groupe with th Land Tenure Project (LTP) was abandoned with the onforeseen closure of this project. Furthermore, unstable provincial governments and did not allow a smooth installation of the Steering Committee. Outlines for a Terms of Refeence were developed (Annex 12 of TRIDE Inception Report). Appointed focal points were to further prepare an MoU and facilitate the installation of the the Steering Committee. The Provinces agreed to sign the Memorandum of Understanding but it was not possible to plan the signing before the end of 2022; so this act remains pending for 2023.

The strategic group TRIDE consists of the organizational leadership of the constituting consortium partners (see annex 14 for the ToR). The objective is to oversee the project implementation, give overall guidance and intervene on issues that surpass the level of implementation team or that cannot be solved by the MT TRIDE. The SG TRIDE monitors the overall quality of the implementation and achievement of the planned results. The SG has a role to communicate the TRIDE project at their respective HQs and can also be used to mobilize support from the staff and management at HQs in the interest of TRIDE.

The management team TRIDE consists of the representatives of the consortium partners at implementation level. The chief technical advisor and the responsible for MEAL are also part of the MT TRIDE. The objective is to jointly manage the project in order to achieve the objectives in the most coherent and efficient way. The MT discusses and takes decisions regarding planning reporting, budgeting, and progress with implementation. Project policies and strategies, visibility, policy influencing, relations with donor, local authorities, target group, consortium activities, staff, consultants and formulates recommendation when necessary. From the weekly coordination meetings during the inception phase in 2021 the frequency went down to once a month in 2022. In May, the MT validated the Terms of Reference (Annex 14 ToR) of the MT as well as the one from the Strategic Group, agreeing on the frequency, objectives and responsibilities of these sessions. It regularly happened that the MT meeting were combined with donor visit or with other events.

Coordination with (local) actors and other development initiatives

To increase the receptivity of the project within the communities and especially of the community-based IWRM-PIP approaches, the project team strengthened its collaboration with the local authorities. Agendas and ToRs for meetings and workshops at chefferie level are coordinated with these authorities beforehand and the local authorities sign the invitations of the participants. In addition, local authorities,

CLPD leaders and civil society participated in the local recruitment process of implementing partners. During 2022 TRIDE has continued to work in partnership and collaboration with other actors operating in the same area as well as in the same thematic sectors.

Collaboration with other NGOs takes place in the activities and workshops. TRIDE experts regularly invite governmental and non-governmental organisations to their events and vice-versa.

VNGI and AGRITERRA organised a mission to Kinshasa as part of the advocacy for the seed law and the adaptation of the Congolese law on cooperatives within the Organisation for the Harmonisation of Corporate Law in Africa (OHADA) framework law on cooperatives.

Externally, collaboration is sought with various development agents: public administration and state services, local, provincial, and national government, other private players and NGOs working in the same area or in the same sectors. Collaboration with RIKOLTO within the framework of the PICAGEL project is underway on the harmonisation of approaches in the Ruzizi plain. A meeting was planned for December but was postphoned to the first quarter of 2023.

Security governance activities under TRIDE are aligned with the security governance activities of the ESPER project. The Territory Security Action Plans (developed or updated under ESPER) are linked to the more operational plans at the Groupement level. This allows connecting the higher level interventions with concrete issues related to agricultural production. TRIDE also uses the results of the ESPASK[2] programme in Uvira Territory funded by the Coherence fund[3] which is nearing completion. TRIDE continues strengthening the management committees set up under this project. The same applies to the monitoring activities of police stations under ESPASK, which has been integrated into local security support.
In order to harmonize views and approaches between the TRIDE and ESPER projects, a four-day training and exchange session took place in Goma on the security governance approaches implemented by the project (through VNG International).

TRIDE's activities are aligned with the various government plans as well as the Local Development Plans.

Full participation and inclusivity of the vulnerable and marginalized groups is sought in training or awareness-raising sessions. Facilitators are focussed on getting everyone to listen to each other, to speak out their point of view and to give everybody a place in the decision-making.

Similarly, the cooperative development experts have advised on operationalizing the storage facilities built by FARM and profitable, as well as accompanied cooperatives in the Luberizi cluster to turn infrastructural investments in irrigation by the Maji Amani Project into production and link the pro markets for the in.

TRIDE collaborated with the civil society coordinating offices in the province of South Kivu. A workshop was conducted to support the coordination office of “Forces Vives” in South Kivu with developing a vision

[2] Inclusive and participatory local governance contributing to reducing the extent and incidence of customary power conflicts. www.vng-international.nl/congo-drc-espask-peace-and-security-program-south-kivu

[3] Created in 2016, the DRC Stabilization Coherence Fund is the principal programmatic mechanism for project implementation under the International Security and Stabilization Support Strategy (ISSSS). DRC Stabilization Coherence Fund | MPTF Office (undp.org)

and improve operations. The NGO APC was supported with the integration of young people into productive activities.

TRIDE experts participated and contributed to regional events organized in the framework of Rusizi catchment authority ABAKIR[4] (Autorité du Bassin du Lac Kivu et de la Rivière Rusizi/Ruzizi).

TRIDE implementation will be supported by innovative radio messages developed by Radio Benevolencija. The EKN support Radio Benevolencija in communication for peace building. A few exchanges took place to define a the Terms of Reference for collaboration. To have all the staff on board and for common understanding, Radio Benevolencija was invited to explain their approach during the annual planning . Radio Benevolencija facilitated a discussion to define their collaboration with TRIDE. The contract will be implemening

Coordination within the consortium

At operational level coordination of activities is placed in the implementation team of technical experts. The implementation team TRIDE consists of the experts of the constituting consortium partners. The objective is the coordination of project implementation, share information and joint learning. The experts can bring up issues to be solved collectively or by the MT TRIDE. The meetings are intended to strengthen the TRIDE team spirit and forge a shared TRIDE identity.

Implementation team meetings at the level of Bukavu and Goma office were organised. The implementation team meeting improve mutual understanding, geographical en thematic coherence and improve coordination of actions within the project. The different meetings also contributed to avance the harmonisation of approaches and actions within the consortium, analysing the evolution of the security situation and plan specific measures. ZOA staff meets every morning for a devotion and after the devotion security and operational information is shared. During the Monday morning meetings there is an elaborate security briefing by ZOA's security officer. The Monday morning meetings are attended by staff from all consortium partners.

During the last quarter of 2022, the planning meetings for the 2023 workplan took over the usual coordination meetings. Subsequently, a series of exchanges with consortium staff was organised in the week of 7-11 November 2022. Initially, a face-to-face annual planning session with all the staff in Goma was planned for the week of 31 October to 4 November. Due to serious security threaths, the meeting was replaced by a hybrid meeting gathering sub teams in Bukavu and Goma connected by an online connection. During the week in November, the achievements of the year 2022 (challenges and successes, delays, etc), the project's theory of change, financial procedures, lessons learned (to be considered in the 2023 plan), reporting procedures, approaches and strategies used in the project (to facilitate a better and equal understanding as well as the need for synergy/harmonisation and complementarity) were discussed and reviewed.

The governance component implemented by VNG International collaborated with Agriterrra on their work with agricultural cooperatives. Governance also liaised with the PIP component to explore alignment between the PIP approach and the Local Development Plans and institutionalize the PIP approach and village visions. Through the joint analysis of barriers in agricultural value chains and in farmer extension, the experts now understand better each others approaches and the integrated way to address the

[4] About - ABAKIR

agricultural sector.

Although the consortium management and coordination meetings have been a struggle due to the centralistic way of working that has been observed so far, we intend to strengthen this by decentralizing the decision making as much as possible. Joined field visits are promoted to allow everyone to understand how complementary the TRIDE components are.

4. Gender, Diversity and Inclusion & Conflict sensitivity

TRIDE sought a fair representation of the divers socio-economic strata throughout the project activities. A balanced participation in terms of gender, ethnic groups and categories such as youth, indigenous peoples (Bamboti/Batwa), the elderly, is fair and strategic. Inclusive development factors-in the viewpoints and capabilities of the different groups including the disfavoured groups and becomes more sustainable. Gender, diversity and inclusion (GDI) and conflict sensitivity are cross-cutting values and are taken into account in all of TRIDE's project activities.

Balanced participation of men and women

Compared to developmental activities, women are far less represented in security-related activities. This applies even more so in decision-making bodies or security services. Apart from the administrator of the Territory of Uvira (who, was replaced by a man the last quarter) and the chef de cité of Sange, women do not occupy key positions in services such as police, migration offices (except for the head of the DGM post in Groupement Luvungi in Uvira), the army in the five territories. In TRIDE workshops for example, the invited positions are often occupied by men so the project insists on the participation on women's organisations to take into account the women's perspectives. To counterbalance the male oriented culture, facilitators are prepared with attitudes and skills to encourage women's participation and help them with expressing their ideas.

The expert in charge of gender and social inclusion and in charge of youth entrepreneurship, trained staff, partners, and target groups to achieve inclusive gender and youth activities. To overcome the obstacle related to women's participation and social inclusion, upstream working/ training sessions with the "excluded" categories were organised to bring their viewpoint into the downstream decision making. In terms of participation in project activities in general, the percentage of women in project activities has remained very low (around 32%). Strong challenges remain most notably due to discrimination by men and self-discrimination by women fuelled by local beliefs, practices, and customs.

There has been an improvement in the participation of young people and women in activities related to the cooperative, PIP, IWRM and land tenure components. In the selection of leaders to work with the project (e.g. innovative farmers and various committees in land tenure, value chains & cooperatives, IWRM, etc.), the project and the local administration have agreed that the population that selects them should include a certain percentage of women. The same was true for the choice of priority actions where women's interests were taken into account (e.g. when defining village visions in the PIP approach). It is worth noting the specific case of the household visioning sessions within IPs' households in the PIP approach, which offered new opportunities for women, and children, to build self confidence and learn to express themselves freely and participate in planning and Improvements of the family farm (breaking engrained taboos).

People living with disabilities

Apart from in the Kalehe Territory, in the beginnne, very few people living with disabilities took part in TRIDE activities. The positive influence of We Are Able project active in Kalehe on TRIDE. We Are Able is a consortium of which ZOA and VNGi are partners working for the integration of people living with disabilities in decision-making. TRIDE decided to improve the inclusiveness and invite people living with disabilities in activities in Uvira Territory. TRIDE will further increase inclusion of the people living with disabilities in the territories of Masisi, Nyiragongo and Rutshuru.

Conflict sensitivity

Conflict sensitivity is becoming more and more important in the TRIDE project. The recruitment of an expert for a combined responsability: conflict- gender sensitivity and inclusive development was completed in the 2nd quarter. All project staff are sensitised on this aspect, and training sessions by the staff in charge of this dimension have been organized. Related indicators have been developed and integrated in the monitoring and evaluation framework and will be regularly monitored and the results documented.

Several trainings and discussion on conflict sensitivity were held during 2022. In January a simple monitoring tool was tested in a joint conflict analysis workshop among sister projects ESPER, LTP and TRIDE facilitated by Pole Institute and with participation of the donor. In May, ZOA DRC organised a training session on conflict sensitivity for all its staff and the staff of partner organisations. The training was facilitated by ZOA's Sector Specialist Peacebuilding from its headquarters in the Netherlands. The aim of the training was to support and strengthen ZOA - DRC working in a conflict context to be and remain conflict sensitive.

In the 3rd quarter, there was a training of the TRIDE project staff (consortium staff) and partners (UEFA, AVUDS, CAAP-T, LOFEPACO, NPCYP, CODHAS) on this concept by the project expert. The structures with which the project works, such as the various committees, cooperatives, the various leaders selected or chosen for this purpose, such as PIs and others, are all sensitised and encouraged to operate in a conflict-sensitive manner. Similarly, the choice of suppliers/purchases of services is also made from this perspective.

The project hosted a monitoring visit from two independent consultants recruited by the EKN to assess adoption of conflict sensitivity in the project. The impression of the consultants was rather positive. They praised the strong expertise in conflict sensitiveness in TRIDE. The people that have been trained showed a better understanding of the concept and can use the conflict sensitiveness to improve the performance. As part of their work in August 2022 a “conflict sensitivity Hub” was established in East Congo. The hub is managed by International Alert and supported by GIZ and UK Aid and will be an important resource centre on the subject. TRIDE will coordinate with this hub for advice and further develop its capacities in TRIDE and the implementing partners in conflict sensitivity.

Conflict sensitivity often mean taking in consideration the voice and interests of the various socio-economic strata including the vulnerable groups. But in addition, the project has put a lot of emphasis on sensitizing staff to monitor their own language and attitudes. Through analysis and exchange with others people learn to recognize authoritive, aggressive, discriminatory and provocative communication and to adopt more appreciative and peaceful communication styles.

The project monitors project intervention in the light of conflict sensitivity to ensure that the actions do not negatively impact on existing local conflicts increase the effectiveness of the project. This was the case for the Buloho chefferie where the project joined efforts with local stakeholders to request the Deputy Prime Minister to restore legality and legitimacy by re-assess his decree to appoint a new chief of the Chiefdom. As a result the former chief was reinstalled, which greatly contributed to restoring the security climate and social cohesion. Similarly, in the selection of the keuy agricultural value chains, this principle of conflict sensitivity led the project to select the milk value chain in the Ruzizi plain, in addition to rice. Through this decision all ethnic and socio-economic groups could be included in the project.

Gender and conflict sensitivity mainstraining in implementing local partner organisations

Conflict and gender sensitivity analysis sessions were conducted with the local partner organisations of the project (except with AVUDS, which is planned for early 2023). This was to reconfirm the commitments and propositions of their gender and conflict sensitivity strategies. And to draft gender and conflict-sensitivity strategies with the organizations that did not have them yet. All local organizations currently have (updated) their training module on gender and inclusion with the support of the project. Further strengthen the capacities of field staff in the areas of gender, social inclusion, and conflict sensitivity is necessary to counter the deeply engrained believes and habits regarding the role of women and disfavoured groups. Improving capacity and attitude of the local staff is important since they are in charge of the awareness-raising sessions at grassroots level.

5. Monitoring, Evaluation, Accountability and Learning (MEAL)

Monitoring and accountability

The full monitoring framework with the targets and achievements of 2022 can be found in Annex 2. The primary source of information on progress and achievement of outputs and outcomes are the reports of the experts and reports if local implementing organizations through the coordinaotors of the consortium partners. The annual review to check outcome through population sampling was posphoned to a later moment in 2023.

Monitoring of project implementation was further done through joint field visits with local authorities and project participants, while also collecting certain data for the database. Feedback from local leaders and stakeholders received during field visits or meetings, gave guidance to adjust the way of working. It was observed several times that TRIDE needs a local name and an easy to understand mission statement. An illustration is the adjustments made in the recruitment process of local implementing partners. The project had to include also the criteria of local community acceptance.

The MEAL responsible introduced a follow-up exercise on the monthly operational planning. This checks on effective implementation of planned field activities render a quick insight in operational performance of TRIDE and an early alert for delays in implementation.

Accountability. Some progress has been made with installing Local accountability mechanisms. People can convey their feedback on the project during quarterly community meetings , suggestion boxes, or via committees of elders and monitoring committees. Consortium member organisations have also green phones to report complaints.

Provincial and territory governments are considered “counter parts” of TRIDE. These high level local authorities were part in the conception of TRIDE and are the first to be informed and get on board for the implementation. Hence the contacts and planning sessions with governors and their representatives, heads of divisions, territorial administrators of five target territories) and local (chiefs of 8 chefferies) authorities, and other civil society actors (representatives of CLDs, youth representatives, women representatives, farmers' representatives, etc.). The aim was to discuss the relevancy of the proposed project interventions and plan together the implementation in each territory and chefferie.

To improve rapport with local authorities separate meetings were organized in all eight chefferies. Cheffery authorities, technical agents of the chefferie, civil society actors (women's associations, youths, peasants, representatives of indigenous peoples), community leaders and group leaders took part in this activity. On the agenda was also complaint management mechanisms in TRIDE.

Community participation is viewed as a key principles for greater sustainability of the interventions. Stakeholder consultations are a standard step in the preparation of activities to ensure all views are heard and taken into account. This applies to the selection of target groups, the selection of catchments, anc activities to be implemented. Through public participation TRIDE works towards the ambition of more and more delegation of responsibilities and ultimately self-management.

Similarly, in selection procedures the local leaders and main stakeholders were involved in the whole process from defining selection criteria and validation. Collaboration and consultations with state services and local authorities as well as the target groups is a key feature of TRIDE approach for building ownership and capacities.

As an illustration, the village vision is done through community work known as 'salongo'. And in the cooperatives, for example, local leaders are involved in the field days organised with the participation of farmer groups (G20 members) and advocacy for a better enabling environment for the farmers, etc.

Note: *An adjustment of TRIDE targets is foreseen after the Mid Term Review. However, some targets of the indicators in the MEAL framework have already been adjusted based on the two scenarios for 2023 work plan.*

Annual review

The annual review of the project planned for end 2022 to collect data concerning progress of certain indicators was not conducted for the following reasons:

1) Many field activities particularly in the PIP and IWRM started in the course of 2022, so that it too short for real changes at the level of the participating households.
2) TRIDE is accelerating implementation to catch up with the planning. The priority of the field staff is speed up implementation so no working days should be lost for the review excercise.
3) Considering the size of the project area, the cost of this review is estimated at approximately 20,000 USD, not including the cost of fuel, time, and investment of support staff.

The project management team has therefore agreed to collect project data for the annual report that does not require a survey. Information from experts and other resource persons from the local organisations informed the progress of the project during 2022.

In 2023, the project envisages to conduct a quantitative data collection in June-July 2023 and a qualitative assessment in November-December 2023 as part of the MTR. This is what have been agreed in the MEAL strategy in the proposal (MTR after two years).

Learning

At this stage the experts are busy adapting the manuals, methodologies (Conflict Scan Methodological Guide (see Annex 4).; PIP Module 1. Awareness raising activities and village visioning (Annex 5) and the IWRM Strategy (Annex 8). Furthermore two studies from the inception phase were finished and endorsed Report Socio-Economic and Environmental Study in Buholo (Annex 7) and the Value chains study (Annex 9). One case study was produced on the access to land (see Annex 13. Briefing note on landconflict Mihara 2).

Two workshops, in which all project staff participated, were organised in March and November 2022 at the Amani centre in Bukavu for learning and to better align the approaches and expertises in the project. The second workshop looked at lessons learned and improve the synergie between the consortium partners to maximise the results of TRIDE.

VNG International staff conducted two training sessions in May. Programme staff took part in a two-day training course in Goma on the security governance approaches implemented by VNG International. During the same period, the staff in charge of finance was trained in the use of SAGE 100 software for financial management.

Capacity building within TRIDE and local organizations

Within the Localization framework[5] subscribed by TRIDE it is mandated to channel large part of the project funding through local Implementing Agencies / LIAs/ ALEs) and strengthen their capacity. In fact, to maximise the chances of success, after selecting and contracting eight LIAs, TRIDE first organised capacity building sessions on some key issues: first and foremost, on the PIP and IWRM approaches that these organisations will be working on, then on other identified issues such as conflict sensitivity, gender and social inclusion, administrative and operational procedures.

This is how TRIDE increases the organisational capacity (including administrative capacities) of Local organizations, to become more capable and performant also outside TRIDE. In addition, in the fourth quarter, there were trainings for the various representatives of governmental services and representatives of the target groups village monitors, agronomists, school teachers and mangers, managers and staff of cooperatives, etc.

Training of project staff and partners on conflict sensitivity.

This training took place in the third quarter, both in Minova and in Goma. It was facilitated by the expert in conflict sensitivity, social inclusion, and gender for 34 participants , both project staff and local partners, participated. At the end of the training, it was found that participants can analyze the context in which interventions are carried out and to analyze interventions with a view to avoiding creating or exacerbating the risks of conflict, and to increasing opportunities to contribute to peace and social cohesion.

[5] Localising humanitarian response (or localisation) is a process of recognising, respecting and strengthening the leadership by local authorities and the capacity of local civil society in humanitarian action, in order to better address the needs of affected populations and to prepare national actors for future humanitarian responses

6. Risk Management

During the design of the TRIDE proposal, the inception phase and the training on conflict sensitivity (organised in November 2021 by EKN in Goma), several risks were identified. The risks are categorized as follows:

- Operational risks;
- Implementation risks;
- Climate change and natural disasters;
- Political instability, resistance, or unwillingness risks;
- Conflict sensitivity risks;

In each risk category, we will focus on the risks that have materialised since the start of the project, its mitigation strategies and adjustments.

Risks category	Risks identified	Materialised risks	Mitigation measures & adjustements
Project operational risks	Consortium coordination bottlenecks can delay decision making	Yes	Exchange meetings to clarify tasks between staffs. Redistribution of roles and tasks between TL and DTL to allow the TL to focus on strategic coordination tasks. ToRs for the MT, implementation team and TRIDE strategic group. Including responsible MEAL and chief Advisor to the MT meetings. Invite some technical staff. EKN-TRIDE meetings with representation of the consortium partners.
	Misunderstanding and failing to coordinate and integrate the implementation among partners	Yes	Meetings for harmonisation of approaches in which experts and managers participate. Joint actions and joint field visits (i) advocacy between Agriterra and VNGI in Kinshasa (cooperative statutes, and taxes), joint ZOA-VNGI advocacy at provincial level around security plans. MT-TRIDE complementarity meeting facilitated by a member of strategic group.
	Fraud and misuse of project assets	No	
	Inflation and currency changes	Yes	Reduction of the number of participants in activities. Overspending of some budget lines. Purchase of second-hand vehicles in good condition.
Implementation risks	Dependency syndrome “wait and see attitudes” of target communities due to long culture of humanitarian assistance. People are accustomed to interventions that provide short-term assistance (donations in terms of agricultural input, per diem, etc.). They might resist the philosophy of the PIP approach.	Yes	Communication and promotions on intrinsique motivaiotn and the PIP approach. Restoration of the degradation hotspots will be conditioned by community contributions. Distribution of roles and responsibilities of stakeholders in the development of village visions (project contribution, in-kind/cash contribution from beneficiaries). Harmonisation of transport reimbursement costs to participants.
	Village chiefs not being interested/understanding the approach or people/organisations just being reluctant to collaborate.	No	
	Slow start of implementation and youth complaints	Yes	Workshop with all staff to identify actions to be taken in acceleration. Reduction of targets for the year 2022. Integration of young people in specific activities such as cooperatives and in the organs of cooperatives/ PIP groups according to skills and needs.
	Youth exclusion.	No	
	Lack of coordination with other agricultural projects in the intervention areas.	Yes	Identification of partners implementing agricultural projects in the TRIDE area. Strengthening of the framework for stakeholder consultations (Rikolto, GIZ (Maendeleo Pamoja) and PICAGL) / Harmonisation of approaches in the Mbinga North grouping with UNDP, which finances some agricultural actions of the Local Development Comites supported by TRIDE (VNGI).
	Deterioration of security level and access to targeted areas. The security situation in North and South Kivu	Yes	Progressive suspension of activities in insecure areas (Rutshuru-Nyiragongo - Masisi) and concentration of actions in more secure and

	does not guarantee staff safety, accessibility to project zones and could limit the project intervention.		accessible areas. Reduction of targets. Context analysis and conflict sensitivity meetings to adapt approaches. Reminding staff to respect security standards when moving in accessible but risky areas (road blockers and kidnapping). Deviation via Burundi to reach Uvira due to insecurity on the Bukavu-Uvira road.
	Covid-19 / War Ukraine	Yes	Limiting the number of participants in certain mass activities. Revisiting the terms of the contract between the cooperatives and Bralima in relation to the cost and availability of rice (three consecutive times in 2022). From 31 USD to 41 USD per bag of 50 kg
Climate and natural disastrers	Climate change has globally increased the risk of these disasters, including new pests and diseases, and there is a risk of natural disasters occurring early in the project which might affect people's participation.	No	
	Harsh weather: drought, flood, storms, etc. Crop failure due to adverse weather conditions or diseases. Demotivated farmers because output might s uffer.	Yes	Delaying actions due to the inaccessibility of certain areas. Relocate some activities that should take place in some villages cut off by the destruction of bridges to accessible areas.
Political instability, resistance and unwillingness	Low involvement and non-fulfilment of commitments made by local and provincial authorities	Yes	Involvement of the key ministries to support the project's activities. Collaboration with ESPER and territorial inspectors to support security activities in South Kivu. Designation of a TRIDE project focal expert by the military governor to accompany the project. Linking to the PDDRC-S programme (security diagnosis) and CPAP (SWOT analysis of conflict transformation structures and evaluation of LDPs in North Kivu.
	Unstable political situation with frequent changes of staff (provincial level government and parliament staff) that might cause interruptions in project implementation.	Yes	Initiate meetings with new authorities to present the project. Involve the heads in the line ministries in the actions and help them act as bridge between the provincial and national levels. Discussion with provincial authorities on the format of the Steering Committee and the roles that will be assumed by the provincial and national authorities.
Conflict sensitivity risks (+ Training on CS organised in Goma by EKN)	Selection of cooperatives, value chains, villages for project support may lead to perceived unequal distribution of benefits, jealousy and conflicts among different (ethnic) groups	No	
	Interventions to improve access to land and water might face resistance from large landowners and other actors who want to retain the status quo	No	
	TRIDE initiatives to help improve security by enabling increased presence of state security services may lead to conflict with local militia/Mai-Mai, who in turn may target program staff and project assets;	No	
	The planned rehabilitation of land and watersheds can hinder transhumance movements which in turn might lead to herdsman opposing TRIDE interventions	No	
	Location of the donor in Kigali (Rwanda)	Yes	AUpdate the communication strategy to different target groups. Explain the structure of the Dutch cooperation's Great Lakes programme to Congolese authorities at all levels.
	Negative perception of the implementing partners by the social environment / Local implementing partner not accepted in the zone	yes	Reassess the selected partners with the involvement of local authorities. Revision of the partner recruitment process to ensure that the selected organisations are locally accepted.
	Elite capture	No	
	Bad road conditions	yes	Use of motorbikes to reach some areas such as Buloho. Condensed planning to achieve maximum activities when going there. Diversions via Goma to reach certain villages in South Kivu (Kalehe). Proposal to improve certain infrastructures of economic interest in the TRIDE intervention zone sent to the donor (EKN).
	Structural changes at political level	No	

Additional materialized Risks	Mitigation measures
Staff of TRIDE and partners at risk due to false allegations against the project through social media	Meetings with authorities and stakeholders to clarify the project and distance TRDIE from the allegations.
Destabilisation of chefferies in. Buloho and Bakumu creating dualism of powers through appointing two chiefs in the same chefferei)	Suspension of activities in these chefferies for a period. Advocacy in Kinshasa to explain the situation to the national authorities and how the crisis should be handled.

*Persisten wait-and-see attitude.Due to e*mergency humanitarian projects in North Kivy were distributing material aid (free distribution of kits, food, and non-food items), in the form of donations	TRIDE will continue with awareness-raising activities to bring the beneficiary populations to better understand their role in the principles of sustainable development, in order to recover project beneficiaries' intrinsic motivation.. To face this, will organise many capacity building sessions on the principles of beneficiary participation for better ownership and sustainability. Project stakeholders will not be considered as "beneficiaries" but as partners in the project
Project success depends on overall institutional changes	TRIDE investments in rural cadasters and the new Land Act and were hopeful in view of structural and long-term impacts in the land issue. The potential to influence these high level legal and institutional arrangement was considered high. However, the unstable political context shows that progress is fragile and can take long or be reversed. Hence, TRIDE will invest therefore more in direct negotiated access through lease contracts with landlords.
Appointment of new territorial administrators (AT) by the central government (Kinshasa) leading to a change in the interlocutors of the TRIDE project	More involvement of public managers and technical services officers that will continue in their jobs. reexplaining the project to the new authorities (AT).
Wrong image and perception of the project	Updating communication strategy adapted to the context: Regular meetings with A focal point within each organisation that plays this role has already been identified in order to make up for the lack of a specific position/staff qualified and dedicated to this.
Target group is traumatized by history of violence.. These people cannot engage effectively in a developmental processes and put the results at risk	Consortium partners agreed that it is important to introduce CBST sessions in 2023. In previous interventions in which some TRIDE consortium organisations have worked, the CBST approach has produced significant results in improving social cohesion (Within household members and among ethnic groups), interpersonal relationships, mental well-being, etc.

7. Financial report

The financial statement for 2022 (figure 1) shows an overall level of budget execution for the direct programmatic cost of 38%. The full financial report can be found in Annex 1. The underspending per outcome areas is respectively: outcome 1 of 748k (only 19% of the planned budget was used), outcome 2 of 863k (44% or the planned budget for 2022 was used) and outcome 3 of 1.123k (34 % of the planned budget for 2022 was used).
This very poor financial performance is caused by:

- The slow start up during the first six months and retarded recruitment of staff (kept from other projects) into 2022;
- The worsening security situation in N. Kivu were increasing part of activities in the PIP villages was interrupted or had to be stopped;
- Extreme weather and more than normal damage to infrastructure in Kalehe and Uvira;
- The political instability of provincial governements in North and South Kivu which made it difficult to establish relation with TRIDE and coordinate with the main counterpart of TRIDE.

Implementation of activities in the three component of TRIDE kicked of in 2022. Since operational planning also started in the course of 2022, when the expert team was in place, one can expect higher accuracy in planning of activities and budget. This wll become evident as of 2023.

At the end of 2022 the activities are still in the ascending part of the project curve. During this preparation phase the focus was on partnership development, diagnosis and planning with the cooperatives, authorities and villages. In other words the investments for later results and outcomes. The peak of activities and expenditures comes during the phase of full implementation. The pace of implementation was to take-of end of 2022 . but context factors are hampering more and more the implementation of activities. The local implementers in Rutshuru had to suspend all activities (while fixed costs are continued to be paid).

The budget lines for fixed costs and indirect costs have a higher execution rate. Expenditures such as officie costs and travel costs of experts. These costs are somehow independent from the implementation rate and even tended to be higher due to inflation and devaluation. This further worsens the balance between direct and indirect costs, which is important indicator for the performance and the image of the project (funds actually reaching the target groups).

	SUMMRY YEAR	2022			
	Budget section	BUDGET	ACTUAL	REMAINING	Niveau % Real
1.1	Outcome 1: Access to land by small-scale producers is increased, security of tenure for small-scale producers is improved and land-related conflicts are reduced	922.886,52 €	174.749,37 €	748.137,15 €	18,94%
1.2	Outcome 2: Integrated Water Resources Management is strengthened to promote resilient agricultural systems in North and South Kivu	1.550.825,40 €	686.968,13 €	863.857,27 €	44,30%
1.3	Outcome 3: Local economy is revitalized through the development inclusive and profitable value chains and the market system (MSD)	1.705.256,64 €	582.049,35 €	1.123.207,29 €	34,13%
1.4	Consortium Management and coordination	531.782,16 €	345.702,49 €	186.079,67 €	65,01%
1	Direct Activity Costs	4.710.750,72 €	1.789.469,34 €	2.921.281,38 €	37,99%
2.1	Human Resources	1.391.412,84 €	1.109.776,39 €	281.636,45 €	79,76%
3.1	Travel, Perdiem and Local Transportation:	220.200,00 €	243.691,62 €	- 23.491,62 €	110,67%
4.1	Equipment (vehicle / motorcycle)	553.799,88 €	287.676,98 €	266.122,90 €	51,95%
5.1	Office - Country and Field Offices	304.575,72 €	300.814,78 €	3.760,94 €	98,77%
6.1	Support	289.729,92 €	272.885,93 €	16.843,99 €	94,19%
	Total operating cost	2.759.718,36 €	2.214.845,70 €	544.872,66 €	**80,26%**
8.1	Administration / AKV (ZOA)-11%	485.274,12 €	321.437,44 €	163.836,68 €	66,24%
8.2	Administration / AKV (Agriterra)-12%	209.238,72 €	99.483,48 €	109.755,24 €	47,55%
8.3	Administration / AKV (VNG)-11%	145.995,24 €	98.997,41 €	46.997,83 €	67,81%
	AKV	840.508,08 €	519.918,33 €	401.403,34 €	61,86%
	Total 2022	**8.310.977 €**	**4.524.233 €**	**3.867.557 €**	**54,44%**

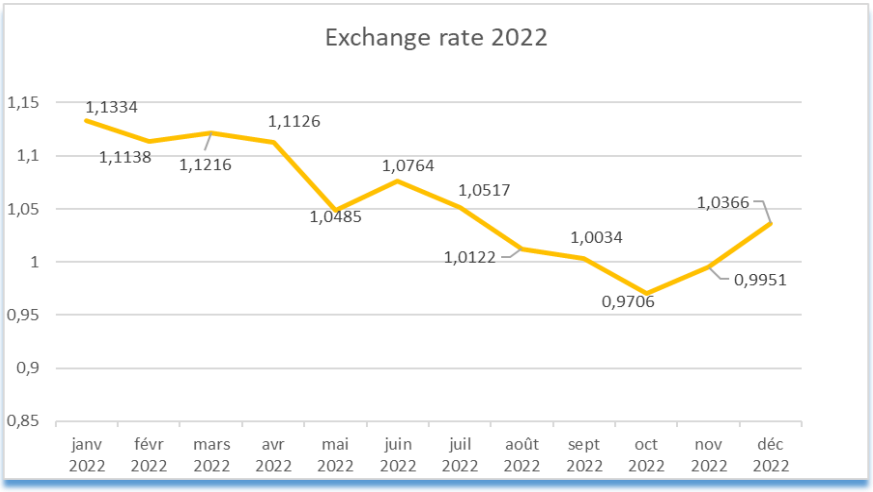
Figure 1: financial statement TRIDE 2022

Operating costs

- Spending on budget lines of operating costs is relatively high (80% executed) because many costs are not depending on the intensity of activities, such as employee contracts and office rent. These budget items are fixed, not variable. This means 80 % of operating costs is used for 40% of the planned implementation or in other words the cost per unit of output is double the one that was planned.
- Underspending on the budget for equipment is high because no Landcruisers were purchased in 2022. ZOA used cars transferred from the FARM project to TRIDE; they are old and require more maintenance. ZOA was in the process to renew the registry as an NGO and getting a tex exemption for the vehicules purchase. The renewal of NGO registry was achieved end 2022 so ZOA will purchase new cars in 2023.
- Recruitment of TRIDE experts and support staff was completed during 2022. The positions for IT-GIS, MEAL, and PIP were filled during the first quarter. In the second quarter, six PIP-IWRM facilitators were recruited. The recruitment of (1) Gender, Conflict Sensitivity and Social Inclusion Expert, (2) Security Expert and (3) Youth Entrepreneurship and Local Development Expert has been completed in the third quarter. An expert on result based finance was selected but not contracted. The contract negotiation with the candidate did not succeed and after reevaluation it was decided that required expertise required could be acquired through partnership with ESPER and Cordaid and eventually short term consultants.
- The process of recruiting the local tax expert and the driver (within VNGi), and that of a business advisor in charge of organisational development of "small" cooperatives is underway.

Exchange rates – weak Euro

The changes in the exchange rate during 2022 were substantial (see graph 1). This had a big impact on the financial result in 2022. TRIDEs Revised budget was submitted against an exchange rate of 1.1334 EUR/USD. During the execution of the project in 2022 the value of the EURO decreased in relation to the US Dollar. The estimated accumulated loss over 2022 for the project due to the exchange rate fluctuation was approxately USD 400,000. See the table 1 and Fig 1 below for the estimated accumulated loss for TRIDE. The higher unit costs had little effect on the implementation of the project: one because of the low level of expenditures in general, and two, because capacity development processes are rather flexible compared to the construction of drinking water supply systems.



Graph 1: EUR vs. USD Historical Chart for Year 2022

Month	Étiquettes de lignes	Actuals 2022	Exchange rate	Actual converted in USD	Expected USD	Difference
Jan 2022	202201	74.666,67 €	1,1334	$ 84.627,20	$ 84.627,20	$ -
Feb 2022	202202	105.220,25 €	1,1138	$ 117.194,31	$ 119.256,63	$ -2.062,32
Mar 2022	202203	522.041,46 €	1,1216	$ 585.521,70	$ 591.681,79	$ -6.160,09
Apr 2022	202204	132.586,92 €	1,1126	$ 147.516,21	$ 150.274,02	$ -2.757,81
May 2022	202205	126.920,67 €	1,0485	$ 133.076,32	$ 143.851,89	$ -10.775,56
Jun 2022	202206	422.657,17 €	1,0764	$ 454.948,18	$ 479.039,64	$ -24.091,46
Jul 2022	202207	314.382,44 €	1,0517	$ 330.636,01	$ 356.321,06	$ -25.685,05
Aug 2022	202208	146.455,87 €	1,0122	$ 148.242,63	$ 165.993,08	$ -17.750,45
Sep 2022	202209	773.920,75 €	1,0034	$ 776.552,08	$ 877.161,78	$ -100.609,70
Oct 2022	202210	368.825,50 €	0,9706	$ 357.982,03	$ 418.026,82	$ -60.044,79
Nov 2022	202211	176.290,91 €	0,9951	$ 175.427,08	$ 199.808,12	$ -24.381,03
Dec 2022	202212	1.360.264,76 €	1,0366	$ 1.410.050,45	$ 1.541.724,08	$ -131.673,63
	Total général	**4.524.233,37 €**		**$ 4.721.774,22**	**$ 5.127.766,10**	**$ -405.991,88**

Table 1: estimated accumulated loss over 202210

NB 1. *The financial impact loss over 2022 due to weakening Euro to the US Dollar is an approximation depending on the administrative calculation method used.*

NB 2. *The reference chosen for the calculation is the exchange rate loss over 2022 is the rate at the beginning of the year and not the exchange rate at the moment of the project design.*

Annexes

1. Financial Report TRIDE 2022
2. Revised TRIDE MEAL Framework - 2022 targets
3. Proposal. Small Infrastructures TRIDE
4. Conflict Scan Methodological Guide ZOA
5. Consultancy Report. Infrastructure Mapping TRIDE (August 2022)
6. PIP Module 1. Awareness raising activities and village visioning
7. Report Socio-Economic and Environmental Study in Buholo
8. IWRM Strategy TRIDE
9. Report Study of value chains in TRIDE project area
10. Arreté du 30 Mai 2022 CP CONAREF Nord Kivu
11. Local Development Plan Chefferie Bafuliru
12. TRIDE Lessons Learned 2022
13. Briefing note on landconflict Mihara 2
14. Reglementation of TRIDE meetings