



ANNUAL ANALYTICAL PROGRESS REPORT

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Project Name: Integrated Water Resources Management

Target Areas: Ruzizi Plain (DRC)

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Executive Summary

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

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

Started in May 2017, the project is currently in its third year. This annual analytical progress report presents activities and results of the IWRM project over the year 2018. Overall, the project was able to achieve some results that are presented in the following pages. As major achievements, we should note that the long awaited and dreamt about water is now running down all along the 72Kms distance serving nearly all the 14 villages of Luberizi to be supplied in water. Indeed, the water piping activities stand now at 90% of the whole work.

Regarding the land tenure process, crucial progress has also been made: reflections and discussions conducted with the community, relevant technical services experts and all administrative levels including national level; and in accordance with the relevant Congolese law came up with the option of *group land titles*. The first land titles are to be issued early in January 2019.

With regard to *capacity strengthening* with community structures, health providers in the zone, state technical services directly interacting with the project, local/territorial/provincial administration, project staff, the project conducted several training/awareness raising/technical and community meetings to ensure, knowledge increase, information and education, accountability, etc. These involved the community, at all levels. Furthermore, sessions to foster gender promotion, conflict resolution, education and support to value chains, holding town halls followed by scorecard sessions are other areas where project actions directly involving the community were also felt.

Despite some challenges, project pursues its implementation and coping strategies are continually put in place or adjusted. We also note an improvement in terms of community cohesion and collaboration. Project's acceptability by the community, local leaders and administrative authorities (from territory to provincial levels) has considerably improved.

ACRONYMS

ACEP	: Association des Consommateurs d'Eau Potable de Luberizi
ADR	: Alternative dispute resolution
APADM	: Association des Producteurs Agricoles pour le Développement des Maraîchages
ASUREP	: Associations des Usagers de Réseaux d'Eau Potable
CARG	: Conseil Agricole Rural de Gestion
CEFE	: Competency-Based Economies through Formation of Enterprises
CICF	: Comité Intérimaire de Coordination Foncière
CMGEL	: Comité de Maintenance et de Gestion d'Eau de Luberizi
COOPEC	: Coopérative d'Épargne et de Crédit
DGI	: Direction Générale des Impôts
DGM	: Direction Générale des Migrations
EA\$E	: Economic and Social Empowerment
FARDC	: Forces Armées de République Démocratique du Congo
FP	: Family Planning
GEL	: Guichet d'Économie Locale
L2E	: Learn to Earn
MINOKA	: Minoterie de Kamanyola
MYA	: Maji Ya Amani (IWRM Project)
PAC	: Post-Abortion Care
PNC	: Police Nationale Congolaise
RÉGIDESO	: Régie des eaux
SECAS	: Civil Education and Social Action Services
SNCOOP	: Service National des Coopératives et des Organisations Paysannes
SNHR	: Service National de l'Hydraulique Rurale
SRH	: Sexual and Reproductive Health

A. Project Implementation Environment

All along the year, the project implementation environment was characterized by security instability and intermittent military activities in the mid and high plateaus. Abuses perpetrated by local and foreign armed groups operating in the Democratic Republic of Congo were recurrently reported, including increased robberies on the national road #5 (Kamanyola-Uvira). We recorded an increase in the number of civilian population kidnappings and armed attacks on civilians.

Indeed, the area is prey to a proliferation of armed groups and the circulation of arms; cattle theft, kidnapping of people for ransom; cases of rape, robbery, conflicts between herders and farmers, but also land conflicts because of the superimposition of boundaries, the illegal occupation of public spaces, double allocation of land, etc.

The last quarter of the year under review was also marked by the electoral campaign, with several political actors having an impact on mobility, the availability of communities and the need on the part of the project staff to demonstrate greater neutrality in the exercise of their mission. Indeed, the risk of seeing our interventions recovered by political actors or our actions picked up or aligned behind certain political ideologies was great. Therefore, the project sent a firm reminder to all staff to observe, more than ever, the totally neutral and apolitical character of both the project's mission and the implementing organizations values.

Economically, Luberizi still lacks opportunities for youth employment, in particular, leading to significant rural exodus to neighboring cities and neighboring countries (Rwanda-Burundi). Although the population relies on agriculture as source of livelihoods and income generation, irrigation infrastructures are very old, jeopardizing harvest. The project invests in economic recovery and development by supporting agriculture production and by fostering a spirit of association and initiative to promote a culture of savings and loans through village savings and loan associations (VSLAs). Youths, women along with marginalized groups are constantly part of all project implementation/activities.

Besides this context, the duality characterizing Luberizi remained a challenge project remains aware of and alerted about to better achieve its results.

B. PROJECT ACTIVITIES

Outcome 1: Increased access to land and reduction of conflicts over land

Land tenure process

Land is the main source of vital income for the large majority of people living in the Ruzizi plains in general, and in the Luberizi groupement in particular. Its use and management have, however, always been carried out customarily. Apart from inequitable access to land and rather frequent conflicts over it, the greatest weakness of this practice was not being able to guarantee legal property over a portion of land. The community, despite the risk of dispossession, was not at all concerned about legal protection of one's plot.

Maji Ya Amani inherited this situation and engaged in discussions and awareness raising sessions with the population to ensure that farmers in Luberizi understand and adhere to the need to protect their land by a formal title that only relevant government departments are entitled to issue. Thanks to the project awareness sessions that reached out to a total of 9,377 persons (4,123 men; 2,395 women; 1,705 boys and 1,154 girls) and drawing experience from cases of dis-appropriation of irrigation fields of some community members by a more powerful person, the population came to realize the associated risks if one doesn't have any legal paper and the importance of formalizing their land tenure and in a system where cadaster and real estate services seem to serve the strongest. It is on this basis that the activities of participatory land mapping process were able to start.

Setting up an Interim land coordination committee (CICF)

Given the project's mission to ensure equitable land access and reduce conflicts over land, the project set up a number of community structures to guarantee the existence of a constant interlocutor to intervene and mediate and thus enhance ownership. The Interim Land Coordination Committee (CICF) was created to serve as the interface between the community, the customary authorities and the government technical services, in relation to land ownership and rights questions.

The establishment of the CICF promotes local empowerment in the land protection process. It also leads local actors to feel more ownership over this mechanism and facilitates their interactions with customary authorities and technical land services. Indeed, depending on the local peculiarities of each environment, tradition and customs, land tenure options to adopt may differ. Furthermore, the work of the CICF helps reconcile people and reduce the number of disputes through awareness raising sessions which go beyond the question of land to also touch upon cohabitation and the need to search for the best ways to live together.

Therefore capacity strengthening sessions on topics such as advocacy techniques, leadership, and land-acquisition procedures in DR Congo were organized for 206 members (110 adult men, 22 adult women, 58 boys, and 16 girls). Over time, CICF began to demonstrate their ability to work more autonomously. Interactions with other actors and their increased ability to carry out their mandate are all aspects that, to date, point to the growth in their capabilities. Over the second year of the MyA project, the CICF was able to conduct and close about 20 cases of land mediation through a process of treatment of complaints and reconciliation of conflicts leading to peaceful local solutions.

The project held workshops on land tenure strategies in the irrigation scheme and identified the relevant state departments which should be involved in the process. It conducted an exchange visit to Makamba - Burundi for capacity strengthening on management of irrigation schemes and on land tenure security programs. It held reflections around the technology to use, set up land mapping teams taking into account the context of duality and conflict between communities, organized a ten-day training on participatory mapping provided by an expert from CADASTA¹ to relevant teams, and organized a warm-up training before the deployment of teams to the field.

¹ This is a platform to empower marginalized people to assert their land and resource rights. Cadasta uses innovative technology, services, and advocacy to advance global land and resource rights. We target the world's tenure-insecure people in rural, urban, and peri-urban areas left out of top-down government land registry systems.

Six teams were deployed, each composed of a chief investigator, an electronic encoder, a manual encoder and an extensionist. The results of the process reveal that the total area is 1,035.2 Ha, of which 94% (970,5 Ha) was used for agriculture, fish farming, brick-making and pottery (no livestock land use was identified in the irrigated area). The vast majority of occupants are men (86%) whereas women, with a vast majority being widows, make up only 8% and youth comprise only 6% of the total. The only documents used in the region are the local proofs of sale (12%), the act of donation (0.64%) and other types of papers represent 1%. Further details, refer to the graphs below.

This step was followed by publishing the provisional land mapping results for the local actors and community. This exercise allowed the project team to pinpoint the major land conflicts which have to do with superposition of numerous claims over a given portion of land and absence of land titles, making it possible for the same plot to be attributed twice or even more by a customary authority to different people. Results were afterwards posted in a public place and people were given 40 days to submit their complaints, if any, before the process would be fully finalized.

Identification and Channeling of Conflicts

To ensure conflict management at community level, a training of 90 land mobilizers, 12 mediators, and 30 local leaders from the eight villages in Luberizi groupement was organized on land mediation, conflict analysis, active listening and non-violent communication, prior to starting the work. Aware of the conflict's polarization and intercommunal relations, close attention was paid to the ethnic makeup of both the mobilizers and mediators to ensure that those selected were both representative and inclusive of all communities. Since then, they have referred 170 cases to the interim land coordination committee (CICF). Peace committees also were established throughout the groupement to help with mediation of land conflicts in the peripheries of the groupement.

There is a fairly even split in terms of the sources of different land conflicts which are being referred to the CICF. Most of the cases (37%) stem from "illegal occupation" or "squatting," dating both from the war and from other displacements in the intervening years. The other primary source is double allocation of land by local authorities as a result of the dual power structures (33%) and conflicts over boundaries (31%). Despite an unfavorable political and administrative context resulting from the duality of customary power, mediation initiatives at the village level have been effective. This supports the possibility of community intervention in land issues, without systematic recourse to the land code or other, private arrangements.

Mediation is an important activity in contexts such as the Ruzizi Plains due to the fact that formalized land ownership tends to be very low and the informal nature of land tenure has created a lot of room for ambiguity, interpretation, and misunderstanding which the formal justice system would have difficulty addressing. If the parties are not able to come to an agreement during the course of the mediation, cases are then referred into the formal justice system.

Of the 170 land conflict cases recorded with CICF, 17 have been resolved with a signed agreement, 4 have been referred to the formal justice system, and 149 remain on-going/in mediation process. The 4 cases which reached resolution included cases of illegal occupation stemming from displacement during the war (2) as well as boundary disputes (2). In general, disputes over boundaries were the simplest to mediate while those involving concessionaires expropriating land were the most complicated.

Throughout all the cases, we have found that the majority of people do not have any legal documentation to claim their land (neither as property nor as rental land). This means that the vast majority of people are operating in a legal gray zone for which positions are very subjective and cases are not clear cut, and therefore, not amenable to adjudication in the formal justice system. For cases where people are able to demonstrate proof of title or rental, they typically rely on records of land rental, a deed of sale, or a document that demonstrates the transfer of family property.

In response to the absence of a formalized land tenure processes, many people have sought informal arrangements to claim land. In these cases, agreements tend to be orally-based and poorly documented (if documented at all). These cases are particularly complex, as the perception of who has the legitimacy and authority to make such allocations is subjective and dependent upon intra and intercommunal dynamics. For instance, as said above, 33% of the cases registered with the CICF in 2018 were related to the double

allocation of land by two customary chiefs. In these cases, people seek out the customary chief that they recognize as the legitimate authority to grant them land access. In the context of the Ruzizi Plains, this question is hyper-sensitive given the ongoing conflict between the Barundi and Bafuliro chiefs.

Finally, the local administrative and judicial structures have neither been effective at enforcing land laws, nor in resolving disputes. This is partially due to the legal gray zone discussed above and partially due to a lack of capacity. For this reason, the CICF can play a key role in reaching non-legal settlements; however, it is often not a linear process and is frequently tied to wider intercommunal dynamics which makes the link between the CICF and local peace committees crucial. After mediation the non-legal agreements are being formalized through official land group titles which also identify the individual farmer fields.

What land titles to issue?

During the last quarter of 2018, discussions and reflections with the community, the Provincial Minister of land, the Mwami of the chiefdom, and the Department of Conservation of Real Estate Titles (CTI) were organized to identify the land tenure option to be used in Luberizi. The community, the administration and all experts involved have agreed that the *group land title* is most appropriate. A group (land) title will be issued to a group of plots owners in the irrigation scheme to be irrigated. They will adhere to the co-management principle of a space where each member has his portion of identified land. The process to obtain group land titles was the most feasible as it could be executed on decentralized territory administration level as opposed to the other more bureaucratic possibilities, which would involve the Governor's office or even national levels.

It should be noted though that the process benefitted from visits and joint working sessions between a delegation of experts from the National Ministry of Land Affairs from Kinshasa and the Department of Conservation of Real Estate Titles Uvira, to validate the plots' organization in the irrigation scheme, grouping them according to applicable land standards, so that they could be the subject of group titles. On the basis of the cadastral norms on parceling out of agricultural plots, a total of 219 group plots were determined by the experts from the relevant department in Uvira. This means that there will also be 219 group titles to secure farmland in the Luberizi irrigation scheme.

Conditions for a group land title to be issued

As a prerequisite for the acquisition of a group title, (1) all parcels need to be located in the same area/block; (2) no disputes must be recorded on any of the parcels subject to the same title (so that the owner of the parcel is undisputed); (3) no service roads may intersect the group; and finally, (4) all the owners must adhere to an agreement governing co-management of the space concerned by a group title. This is to ensure that the allocation of these lands is not disoriented and that they are used exclusively for farming in respect of the growing seasons and irrigation schedules and the obligation to continually exploit the spaces and provide contributions to the maintenance and sustainability of the structures that will be developed. Because of the project's structural capacity strengthening, both technical and physical, of the 'Brigade Foncière' and CTI a land title was negotiated downwards to \$350 and, lists of land owners /occupants are being developed before they are transmitted to the technical and competent services to issue the titles. The first group land titles are expected to be issued in January 2019.

Codification of land-related local practices

In order to avoid any overlaps in land rights management roles between government land administration and customary authorities (as guardians of customary land), the project initiated the process of (local) land practices identification and codification through the involvement of customary authorities in the legal process of access to land. In collaboration with the services involved and the community, the project is organizing visits and meetings to validate the implementation plan of this process.

Outcome 2: increased access to water and reduction of conflicts over water

Access to safe drinking water—the historical issue in Luberizi

Water has always been the highest priority need expressed by the population in Luberizi. None of the villages in the groupement had access to safe drinking water, the only water resource being the Luberizi River and at times the Tenge-Tenge canal, whose water is used for bathing, washing clothes, dumping of waste, and drinking for animals and people. Women must rise very early to walk up to 5 kms to collect water and as a consequence are at risk of sexual assault in this unsafe environment. The community reports

that they had been promised by previous actors working in the zone that they would supply the zone with water, but that promise had never been fulfilled.

After the project completed the relevant studies assessing the technical feasibility of supplying Luberizi and Kigoma groupements with drinking water using a gravity system, a complementary study on the socio-environmental impact of the construction was conducted before the recruitment process to contract a firm to carry out the works was launched. CIBEC, the contracted construction firm began work on the Luberizi gravity drinking water supply on May 14, 2018. By the end of June 2018, three water sources were tapped in the villages of Mulama, Rubaba and Ngunguti, with a total flow that allows people to have an average of 28,080 liters per hour, a quantity that meets Luberizi communities' needs.

At the end of 2018, the gravity system spanned a total distance of 72 kms within the beneficiary community and nearly all villages are already supplied with the long awaited drinking water. In December 2018, the overall progress of this component of the project stood at 90% of the expected deliverables. Installation and geographical distribution of the water taps was carried out through the villages taking into account applicable standards in terms of the number of inhabitants per village and the quantity of water to supply per person per day.

Community inclusive participation:

The start of the activities revealed that there were huge expectations among the population not only in relation to access to safe drinking water, but also to job opportunities expected through implementation of the activity itself. To ensure that the works of the water piping project would not exacerbate tensions among a community already divided along ethnic lines vis-à-vis this expectation, the contracted firm was instructed to recruit their workforce from the locations concerned by the activities, all along the 72 Kms of the water grid. As a result, community members from all ethnic groups, as well as women and youths, participated in the activities and were able to earn money. This helped in a high level of appropriation of the activity and avoided disruption of activities. Interethnic rivalries found no motives, despite the active presence of armed groups in the mid and highlands, where the water sources to be captured were located, as all communities were involved in decision making and actual implementation.

According to information collected from May through December, at least 615 local people were involved in the water piping construction activities. Women accounted for 52%, while men represented 48% and youth (boys and girls) represented 41% of all participants. The overall amount of money earned by the participants is estimated at \$181,008.

Development of a water access strategy:

The project developed a strategy comprising 6 steps namely (1) Establishment of the ACEP; (2) Implementation of the drinking water supply; (3) Water supply pricing; (4) Maintenance and sustainability; (5) Water supply and management mechanism and; (6) Inter-actor coordination. As of now, most of the first two steps are almost complete and the project will continue to work on the last four ones to ensure sustainability, management mechanisms and coordination

Safe water users association:

To enhance governance over safe water management, the project helped set up a community structure that will ensure water supply and maintenance mechanisms. This structure had to be as inclusive as possible, as water is not only vital and a long dreamed about basic need for the Luberizi community, but also a source of interethnic tensions. The structure is composed of members from all the groupements to be supplied in water, namely Sange, Kigoma and Luberizi, and is called *Association des Consommateurs d'Eau Potable de Sange, Kigoma and Luberizi* (ACEPSKILU). It is composed of 25 sub-committees from the 14 villages (8 villages of the Luberizi group, 6 villages of Kigoma and 1 in Sange). ACEP's central management body of this structure is composed of 23 members (7 men and 16 women), of whom 16 are Fuliro, four are Barundi, two are Batwa and one member is from the Bashi ethnic group.

Capacity strengthening for ACEPSKILU: Starting early in March, the project organized technical meetings, accompaniment sessions and trainings on crucial topics including the Congolese Water Code, financial management, commitment and communication, and community management with a view to strengthen capacity for the newly formed association. A two-month training for ACEP's senior

maintenance technician was organized with support from Régideso Uvira, and in December a training of all ACEP water system maintenance sub-committees was organized, as was an exchange visit between ACEP Luberizi and similar water associations in locations like Buhozi and Nyantende.

Acquisition of a legal personality for ACEPSKILU:

The MyA team ensured that ACEPSKILU was registered with the National Ministry of Justice in order to obtain legal personality. Currently, all necessary paperwork and steps at the provincial level are completed and procedures at national level are to be completed in Year 3.

ACEP's performance:

ACEP has been very active in the different awareness processes needed in the context of the drinking water construction in Luberizi. For example they led the negotiations where hydraulic works (taps, reservoirs, etc.) should be best located and ensured follow up within the communities. They also made recommendations that helped to better guide actions of the contracted company. For example, during the construction of the hydraulic works the community itself (through ACEP and its subcommittees) monitored compliance with the technical requirements for structures under construction in the sites with high insecurity where project staff could not report regularly. They reported all cases of non-compliance with the depths of the trenches, allowing the project to reinforce compliance by inviting the contracted company to carry out necessary modifications. Presently ACEP accompanies CIBEC in any repairs while it is being trained on the job and by the project's WASH department. It will be responsible for all maintenance and repairs after the 1 year guarantee period and CIBEC formally hands over the works.

In order to ensure that water taps were located on sites they feel comfortable in accessing, in general and in relation to security, women were mobilized and were very active in the choice of these sites. Their participation rate during this process stood at 40% in Luberizi and 41% in Kigoma and Sange combined.

Hygiene and sanitation:

The project has identified five schools and two health centers which are to benefit from the construction of latrines. This exercise was conducted jointly with the educational subdivision and the central health zone offices of Sange and Lemera, respectively. An anonymous source filed a complaint with IRC HQ related to the bidding process for recruitment of a local contractor to carry out the construction activities. The bidding was stopped and will be relaunched early 2019.

Through an international firm, Africa Ahead, which was recruited based on its unique expertise, the project organized a training of facilitators for community health clubs to promote good hygiene practices. Thanks to the work of the trained facilitators, weekly household meetings are facilitated, locally-crafted hands washing apparatus are installed near latrines, and hygiene is improved around houses.

Sustainability perspectives:

Establishing a water supply system in Luberizi is one thing; ensuring its sustainability is another. It was with this in mind that reflections on pricing were organized to allow effective management of the water supply service in Luberizi. Relevant technical services and local actors have been oriented on the best mechanisms likely, to help recover the costs and ensure the maintenance of the water supply under construction. To ensure the quality of the water supply service, the project organized internal exchanges between the technical staff on the use of the ScoreCard evaluation methodology to better help evaluate the quality of the services provided and thus consider, if need be, ways for improvement.

Access to water for irrigation—rehabilitation of the Tenge-Tenge dam:

The project intends to conduct, through contracted firms with proven expertise in the field, the rehabilitation of the dam and the development of the irrigated irrigation scheme, in Year 3. The rehabilitation is, however, determined by (1) the guarantee of a well-thought out and organized land tenure process (related achievements are presented above, under objective 1) and; (2) a Socio-Environmental Management plan to ensure mitigation of impacts resulting from the construction of irrigation infrastructure.

In preparation for the rehabilitation of the Tenge-Tenge dam, which is planned for June 2019, the beginning of the dry season, the project carried out a series of activities in Year 2 to allow the irrigation of the irrigation scheme to commence before the rehabilitation is finished. The activities included:

- 100% mowing done over 12.5 km on an 8m wide strip, comprising the entire length of the main canal;
- 100% of the canal (12.5 km) was cleaned to allow water access to the fields;
- Clearing of the spillway area downstream of the dam and the sedimentation which settled in the basin upstream of the dam;
- Construction of a 20 meter dam of 1 meter in height in the riverbed to divert water to the intake canal;
- Protection of the left bank of the intake canal with gabions,
- Completion of the Feasibility Study to determine dam design options.

Outcome 3: Increased safe, secure, inclusive and equitable access to income generating opportunities

The outcome # 3 targets access to income-generating opportunities. It includes activities related to (1) economic recovery and development, and those related to (2) support to agricultural production.

In order to contribute to the recovery of agriculture in the project intervention zone, conservation agriculture technology will be adopted and placed at the center of activities. The latter will help farming households develop more productive and labor-efficient farming systems.

To do so, the project uses agricultural production approaches such as organization of farmers in what are known as farmer field schools (FFS) which support farmers with both market gardening and food crop production methods. In addition, MyA will set up and support collective marketing committees (CCC) and promote in the fields outside of the irrigation scheme the use of the zero-tillage approach to field preparation, which at the introduction of the methodology eliminates weeds using herbicides but without plowing the soil, to clear the field of any impurities and followed by direct seeding after three weeks. This technique is well known for its multiple benefits including erosion control, time and labor saving, soil conservation and increased production. The Ministry of Agriculture is fully involved in the implementation of this strategy and plays an important role in its promotion. To date, 800 beneficiaries (293 men versus 507 women) have already been fully trained on the no-till approach and benefited from the distribution of equipment.

Pending the rehabilitation of the dam and full exploitation of the irrigated irrigation scheme, Maji Ya Amani provided in 2018 for season A, in-kind support to farmers consisting of seeds or cuttings for rice, maize and cassava sufficient to exploit 850 ha ploughed. At the end of 2018 265 ha have been planted in the irrigated area with rice, 93 ha with maize and 40 ha with cassava.

To establish links with microfinance organizations and enable farmers and entrepreneurs involved in value chains to gain access to affordable credit needed to increase agricultural and livestock production, the project conducted an evaluation of the MFIs existing in the area. Currently, a product is being developed with the Kalundu Savings and Loan Cooperative (COOPEC) which has been identified as a reliable potential provider of this service on terms that are still under review. As a formal credit product is not yet in place the project supported beneficiary farmers with tractorized ploughing, and distributed chemical fertilizers and seeds on 10% interest repayable in-kind at harvest.

Project agronomists offered a training to beneficiary households and partner associations on nursery development, transplanting, fertilizer application and sowing, and general follow-up of agricultural activities within and outside the irrigation scheme

Establishing and supporting VSLAs

With a view to foster a spirit of association and initiative and hence to promote a culture of savings and loans within the community while enhancing solidarity, the project identified all existing village savings and loan associations (VSLAs) and set up a plan to revitalize them through trainings, coaching and

appropriate accompaniment. Sixteen VSLAs composed of 25 members, that is a total of 400 people (286 women, 114 men), with youth representing 58.5%, were revitalized. To ensure inclusion of marginalized groups, three VSLAs composed exclusively of members of the Batwa community were set up. We should note that the Batwa ethnic group are not only the minority group in this area but also the poorest group in the intervention zone. The VSLAs' approach has set up a specific mechanism adapted to their situation for a tailored accompaniment taking into account these particular challenges and considerations.

Through regular contributions VSLA members feed their cash registers, thus constituting, besides the interest earned on provided credits, the capital to facilitate the loans given to members to invest in their small business activities. By the end of 2018, the 19 VSLAs had already made savings contributions amounting to \$ 8.353, while in their social welfare cash registers (intended to assist each other in case there is a late repayment from a member), there is a sum of \$ 353US dollars. For loans, the amount is \$6.173

The project team noted an increased collaboration between different ethnic groups gathered in the VSLAs. The system of informal loans constitutes a great opportunity for the development of other, very small income-generating activities. The project team also noted that social cohesion among members goes beyond VSLA activities to include other social aspects, such as mutual support/assistance in event a member is struck by misfortune event.

Outcome 4: people in the project area are aware of demographic pressure on natural resources and start taking actions to decrease it

Through the GBV component, the project ensures the promotion of gender through the establishment of best practice mechanisms to ensure gender balance is translated into action at community level. The MYA project's GBV team engaged in capacity strengthening activities and the implementation of structural support plans for health and community facilities on GBV / SRH activities.

In the door-to-door community awareness raising sessions are led by community action groups (CAG) on the consequences of GBV and the need to refer any victims to the appropriate structures (health centers throughout 8 villages of Luberizi), within 72 hours. A total of 417 people (167 boys, 250 girls) attended.

Training of 78 health providers and community stakeholders on GBV/SRH awareness raising and communication techniques was carried out. Also, a training session for listener club members, focal points and journalists on the consequences of sexual violence, on the GBV Guidelines and on general information on family planning and post-abortion care with a total of 73 participants attending.

A workshop on violence among intimate partners (people living together or holding intimate relationships like fiancés, couples, parents and children) was also organized for 30 Maji Ya Amani staff, and a gender awareness raising session and age-specific sessions were held on Family Planning and post-abortion care (PAC) for 417 schoolchildren in Luberizi. A training of 40 young peer educators on communication and awareness-raising techniques, as well as GBV consequences and how to access services took place last November 2018; while an in person mass campaign (with 72 participants) was run on GBV, FP and PAC in Rwenena 1 and 2.

Cross-cutting activities

Working on conflicts

In September 2018, the project set up eight local peace committees in 8 villages of Luberizi. The purpose of these structures is to both serve as a locally-rooted conflict transformation mechanism that can promote the non-violent resolution and transformation of conflicts as they emerge, as well as conduct preventative activities that create avenues for communities to interact, challenge existing conflict scripts and stereotypes, and build relationships with "the other." Through this engagement, trust can begin to be built which can lead to improved social cohesion and reconciliation.

The project conducted two trainings from 15-25 August, 2018 that reached a total of 80 representatives coming from the 8 structures. The training was delivered by the Maji ya Amani training team and aimed to reinforce the members' capacity to understand, diagnose, and transform conflicts in their communities.

The community increasingly turns to the peace committees to resolve their conflicts, as opposed to the police and the formal judicial system. This is due to the fees and potential fine that will need to be paid during more formal legal processes. Access to the committees, in contrast, is free and the solutions are "win-win" oriented, whereas in formal processes there is often a perception that justice goes to the highest bidder.

Since launching, the peace committees have received and settled 116 cases of conflict by organizing community dialogues with village chiefs and parties in conflict using a mix of traditional conflict resolution practices and alternative dispute resolution (ADR). The groupement chiefs act as advisors to the structures. The majority of cases (58%) involved conflicts between farmers and herders with herders accessing water by leading their cattle across farmers' fields damaging crops.

Due to the incidence of conflicts of this nature, the project is developing a specific strategy to deal with herders' access to water for their herds. Other recurrent types of conflict referred to the conflict transformation structures were conflicts over the theft of agricultural products/inputs (15%) and conflicts over inheritance within the family (13%).

Most of the cases stemming from the theft of agricultural products/inputs were related to either Batwa individuals or the wives of soldiers. Both of these groups tend to experience greater challenges accessing land. For the Batwa, this is a result of both their traditional lifestyle as hunters-gathers and a lack of representation in the customary institutions that allocate land. The wives of soldiers, who follow their husbands from other parts of the country, also do not have the kind of social capital needed to be allocated land. Other, less recurrent cases, included domestic conflicts within the household, conflicts stemming from "public insults," and one accusation of witchcraft. It should be noted that these structures do not preside over any case that is criminal in nature.

In terms of cases per location, they were generally well spread across the 8 villages, with Nyamugali with the highest number of cases at 19 and Mataba with the least at 9.

Social cohesion

To promote social cohesion, the project organized several activities bringing the different communities together. These include at least 44 participatory theatre performances throughout 2018 to support conflict transformation, promote social cohesion, and raise awareness about other project themes. The performances provide an opportunity for participants to present real-life conflict issues that the community itself is facing, demonstrate constructive ways for those challenges to be addressed, and allow members of communities themselves to input and contribute to how the actors should respond. The format aims to convey positive messages and encourage changes in behaviors and attitudes.

The project organizes a series of solidarity events to bring together the various communities for a series of "bridge building" events. Possible activities could include a talent show / poetry competition, a market clean-up day, or a football tournament in which mixed teams of youth from different ethnic groups face off against one another. This year, 13 solidarity activities were organized including a football tournament was organized that convened young people from 8 villages in the Luberizi groupement, as well as in neighboring groupements. Other activities included cultural festivals incorporating music and dancing.

Conflict Sensitivity in project implementation

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

Capacity building and knowledge increase

In the course of the year, MyA conducted several trainings/awareness sessions, workshops, and exchange visits on topics related to the different project components (further described above). The information from the project's capacity strengthening data base shows that 9,880 people participated in these sessions (4,629 men; 5,251 women) of whom youth represent 43%.

Gender responsiveness

At project level, special attention is paid to gender through the recruitment of women. To date, 22% of project staff are women, 80% of whom are locally recruited.

Project staff were trained on gender promotion and on how to mitigate those and to encourage gender balance. To ensure that staff involved in everyday project implementation (especially in GBV area) are aware and capable of providing appropriate assistance/support in case they encounter instances of GBV among intimate partners, a specific sensitization session on violence among intimate partners was conducted for project staff.

Data are systematically disaggregated by sex (e.g. data training sessions, sensitization sessions, group discussions, proposed composition of structures, etc.) and community structures are formed in an inclusive way with respect to gender. For example, the setting up of management committees within village savings and loan associations involves women in decision-making bodies by 75%;

MyA has conducted a series of gender analyses focused on access to land, which will lead to the development of awareness-raising and advocacy tools which communities will be able to use to mitigate inequitable access to land going forward;

During the clean drinking water piping works, the contracted firm was encouraged to take gender into account. Data collected show that women accounted for 51.71% of all the workforce used for these works up to December 2018.

The project produced radio programs on gender and context/gender-specific issues. These broadcasts were used in listening clubs, and thus allowed for deeper discussions around the messages broadcast. To collect feedback with regard to the Inatuhusu and Yawezekana broadcasts, the audience was asked a wide range of questions about their social and professional life, about women's place in their milieu, and the relationships between different communities. Based on the amount of feedback collected per gender and theme, the project team noted that women are very interested in topics that deal with their life experiences, hopes, and concerns such as early marriages, prenatal care in well-equipped health facilities, and women's involvement in decision-making.

Age responsiveness: inclusion and mobilization of the youth (boys and girls)

The project team is aware that youth are not only highly impressionable and sometimes the source of some tensions, but also much more vulnerable to enrolment in armed groups as a result. Their involvement/representation in all project implementation stages/decision-making bodies is crucial.

Through various activities, not only are youth necessarily taken into account as a stakeholder in the project but, above all, certain specific actions are aimed at them in order to strengthen their resource mobilization capacity. For example, MyA is supporting young entrepreneurs in drawing up Business Plans to be financed, following an entrepreneurship training. Two hundred young people under the age of 35, 50% of whom have received training on entrepreneurial skills, have developed business plans to support the start of their own businesses. This activity started in October and was to continue for six months.

Among VSLAs and collective marketing groups, the project has set up two that are exclusively comprised of youths.

For the ACEPSKILU bodies, at least 50% of the members are young people. However, the choice of 50 young people to be involved in sanitation marketing was an explicit decision made by the project team to involve exclusively young people in the community, with a particular focus on gender representation (50% boys and 50% girls).

During construction of the water supply system, youths (18-35 years old) made up 56% of the workforce, while adult people (older than 35 years) represented 43%;

Data produced by each project component is consistently disaggregated by age group, to reinforce the idea for project staff that they will necessarily have to ensure the youths are always taken into consideration in the activities implemented.

40 young peer educators were trained in communication techniques and awareness-raising on the consequences of GBV so that they can raise the awareness of other young people on the subject and be able to refer them appropriately in cases of sexual violence.

While participation of girls and boys was too low in the CMGEL bodies before its re-organization, the project notes that there is a significant number of girls and boys in all bodies of COOPAILU.

Quality, appropriateness and functionality of infrastructure investment (inclusive maintenance plans)

Radio Sauti Ya Amani: For good quality performances, Radio Sauti ya Amani journalists benefited from specific training sessions on non-violent communication, communication techniques, etc.. In addition to the construction of the radio studio, the project provided in-kind support: equipment including loud speakers, microphones, amplifiers, generator, laptop, etc.

ACEPSKILU, the safe water management structure in Luberizi: Maji Ya Amani, hand in hand with the community and the community structure, has put in place a maintenance strategy to ensure the sustainability of the works carried out in Year 2. It organized the maintenance team into three categories: the Technical Manager of ACEPSKILU who supervises the sectoral technicians divided into 5 sectoral zones; the latter in their turn, supervise the technicians of the subcommittees which are distributed in all the villages and avenues. This strategy should be based on a fair pricing system and a rational and sound management of the structure's funds and materials. The project envisages providing some spare parts along with a tool kits as part of the sustainability plan.

Water Quality Analysis: Water quality must be continually monitored, so to ensure that ACEP regularly conducts the necessary water analysis without having to rely permanently on analytical institutions situated far from Luberizi and whose procedures do not always promptly react to enclave environments, the project team has equipped this structure with a Kit (known as Kit WagTech) to monitor the quality of water. A technician from ACEP underwent a two-month internship with the Régideso to develop and strengthen the skills required to carry out this work and meet other maintenance needs.

C. Monitoring Progress

Maji Ya Amani has a dedicated Monitoring and Evaluation Unit whose role is to routinely collect and analyze data to inform project decision-making, identify gaps and delays, and ensure the project is progressing towards achievement of its objectives. Monthly coordination and planning meetings are held, during which every project component team presents the achievements vs. targets and raises challenges to be addressed. The same type of meetings have been initiated in all villages of the groupement.

As of December 31, the project team notes that 45.1% of the activities planned for 2018 were completed; 46.5% are sufficiently advanced but not fully completed; while 8.3% of the activities could not start before the end of the year. In 2019, while building on existing achievements, the project will have to complete these pending actions; notably those activities which were not able to start in 2018 have been incorporated into the early 2019 workplan.

D. Key Achievements

Key achievements for this year are the following:

- (1) *Land tenure* is at a crucial stage. After the participatory land mapping activities were successfully completed, the reflections and exchanges made to decide on the land title option were successfully completed. Land tenure will be done on the basis of delivery of group land titles to the owners of parcels within the irrigated irrigation scheme;
- (2) The water supply project by the construction of a gravity system over a total distance of 72 km is now more than a reality within the beneficiary community. Nearly all the villages are supplied in the long awaited

drinking water. At the end of December, the overall progress of this project stands at 90% of expected deliverables;

- (3) In order to contribute to the improvement of working conditions and hence increase yields for small producers in Luberizi, the project has undertaken actions aimed at transferring agribusiness innovations and connecting producers to profitable markets. In the same vein, and in response to the challenges related to access to micro credits, these producers have been oriented towards the mobilization of savings at the local level through VSLAs and through a specific training on entrepreneurial skills;
- (4) With the support of the project, the CICF re-organization process was able to reach the final decision on the what type the structure should be while ensuring its legitimacy and regulatory alignment;
- (5) The construction of a studio for the Sauti Ya Amani Community radio station of Luberizi is completed;
- (6) ACEP was set up and registered with the National Ministry of Justice with a view to obtain legal personality;
- (7) Major activities (such as the peace football tournament) aimed at community cohesion were organized and saw the participation of many people (adults, young people, men, women) from not only Luberizi but also beyond this groupement;
- (8) As part of interaction/collaboration with the provincial level/authorities to ensure ownership over and follow-up of project's commitments/achievements, a joint steering committee was set up;
- (9) Cleaning and mowing activities were carried out on the canal and the dam to allow irrigation in the perimeter and reassure farmers while the dam is to be rehabilitated starting May 2019,

E. Gender and Vulnerable Groups Analysis

Maji ya Amani is making careful considerations and taking action accordingly to ensure inclusion of the Batwa ethnic group in project activities, as they are not only the minority but also the poorest group of the population in Luberizi. This situation often leads them to exclude themselves from certain initiatives, hence making their integration a challenge at times. The Village Savings and Loan Associations (VSLA) approach has set up a specific mechanism for their accompaniment to try to address this. Members of the Batwa ethnic group have now formed three VSLAs, and are currently benefiting from an accompaniment adapted to their situation.

To ensure that activities impact positively on gender and vulnerable groups, requiring representation of women and youth in the project's activities ensures that each partner community structure in place considers integration a priority criterion. Thus, in the governing bodies of each structure set up with the support of the project, it was possible to represent all the ethnic groups present in the area, women and youth. Furthermore, the existence of a gender-focused component within the project plan helps ensure that a gender lens is taken into account in all interventions.

Staff recruitment also takes this aspect into account, even when this requires adapting procedures to meet this need. This applies not only to Maji Ya Amani project staff, but also to the workforce recruited by partner organizations and companies contracted by the project.

F. Challenges

Key challenges experienced by the Maji ya Amani project in Year 2:

- 1) The security context remained volatile throughout the second year of implementation. The project team continued to monitor the situation as it evolved, and ensured compliance with all necessary security protocols to ensure staff remained safe while carrying out project activities in the field. However, adherence to these protocols meant that there were instances in which project staff could not access field sites as planned, leading to delays in some areas of implementation. These delays will be recouped in Year 3.
- 2) Ensure that the re-organization of the CICF complies with the land reform regulations underway. Indeed, the land reform is still underway while CICF needs also to undergo re-organization. Project needs to continually monitor/follow up the changes to ensure the re-structure is in the right direction (complies) to ensure the final result reflects the requirement.

- 3) Luberizi is still prey to rivalries over the exercise of traditional and administrative power, leading to the establishment of dual authorities up to the level of villages and avenues. The project maintains that the decision to collaborate with both sets of local leaders (customary and administrative) is, so far, more effective, as all communities feel they are involved and trust the decisions which are taken.
- 4) Discussions over the water service's pricing to ensure maintenance and sustainability of the system were held with the community. The challenge faced is that the community don't seem to be ready/able to contribute monthly the amount of money that was determined to ensure the water supply system is maintained. Project intends to smoothly pursue discussions involving local, territorial and even provincial authorities to ensure the population understand and adhere to the required contribution to ensure sustainability.

G. Lessons Learned

- 1) The continued involvement of the local/provincial administration at all levels, not only in the implementation of project activities but also in the search for appropriate solutions such as land tenure for the irrigated irrigation scheme, made it possible to get land titles costs reduced and procedures simplified.
- 2) Participatory land mapping led to a broader understanding of possible complementarities between the MYA project and local sustainability initiatives (namely CICF, CMGEL, and ACEP) around land issues.
- 3) The recruitment of local staff from the project implementation zone (Ruzizi plain) enhances acceptability, confidence and ownership in the community. Indeed, according to a story collected during qualitative data collection in the framework of peer monitoring exercise (July 2018), beneficiaries reported that,

“Most organizations used to come to work in the plain with staff recruited from elsewhere, without even considering the local workforce or our brothers and sisters who have degrees and are qualified in different domains. But with Maji Ya Amani, we feel that organizations honor us by engaging our children--which is good for their families in particular and for all communities in general because they participate in improving living conditions through what they earn each month.”

- 4) The peer monitoring visits organized and conducted every six months at the IWRM project by the donor's delegation, along with project staff working on W4V and FARM (both also funded by the Dutch Ministry of Foreign Affairs), is very helpful to the project in the sense that it brings an external assessment/contributions to the project's everyday implementation. Their recommendations inspire the MyA team and enhance accountability.
- 5) The involvement of youth associations from different communities which are in conflict with each other in the planning and implementation of market gardening activities was an essential factor for success in this activity. The groups were working together from the initiation of each activity, guaranteeing cohesion, inclusivity and enhancing participation even in other activities of Maji Ya Amani.
- 6) In a situation of acute interethnic conflict, a center of interest is a factor likely to reunite communities. The case of the establishment of the water piping system is a striking example. Over a distance of 30 km occupied by the Mai-Mai armed group, whose mission is allegedly identity protection, it should be noted that the project's water piping activities continued largely without issue or concern due to the buy-in of the local communities who ensured that progress on this activity continued to move forward. Also, in order to supply Luberizi in drinking water, communities overcome their differences and set up inclusive sub-committees, with members from all ethnic groups, including men, women, and the youth. This collaboration for the management of a common good is a precursor of a better future in terms of coexistence between the ethnic groups of Luberizi.

- 7) In order to channel any possible complaints and thus avoid accusations, sabotage attempts, and/or threats whose originator(s) and grounds are unknown, the community set up a committee of ten elders in the community. It is now the only body that can serve as a bridge from the community to the project, to the territorial authorities and to the donor if need be, in support to the community leaders. This will also help put an end to any maneuver of ill-intended persons who, through uncontrolled communications, constitute a significant threat to the continuation of the project activities.
- 8) Accelerating water piping activities while ensuring quality assurance has helped to cool down existing tensions among the communities, thereby strengthening confidence in the Maji Ya Amani project. Indeed, despite the constraints related to the conflict context itself, the degree of acceptance of the Maji Ya Amani project improves progressively as the activities are implemented. This is an opportunity to build on in order to improve on actions aimed at ensuring greater ownership and sustainability of project achievements.

ANNEXE: PHOTOS



Exchange Visit to Kabare
(onion fields)



Distribution of equipment



Réservoir of 120m³ in
Katekama



Operational tap in
Nyakabere2



Conclusion of the training of
the ACEP technician at the
Regideso Uvira.



Training of de 50 Jeunes
Macon entrepreneurs at
Nyamugali on the
sanmarket



Training of de 50 Youth in
sanmarket



Land mediation session