



MAJI YA AMANI

QUARTERLY NARRATIVE REPORT

(April-June 2019)

Project Name: Integrated Water Resources Management

Target Areas: Ruzizi Plain (DRC)

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Maji Ya Amani (MyA), or IWRM, is a project funded by the Government of the Netherlands through the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. Located in the Ruzizi plain, Luberizi *groupement*, Uvira territory, South Kivu province in the DRC, IWRM is being implemented by a consortium of international organizations led by the International Rescue Committee (IRC), with ZOA and Search For Common Ground (SFCG) as implementing partners. MyA aims to improve stability in the Luberizi *groupement* through safe and secure access to land, drinking water and irrigation, ensuring inclusive access to income opportunities, and increasing awareness of population pressure on natural resources.

During this reporting period, Maji Ya Amani placed a greater emphasis on the land tenure process (particularly collecting signatures for land registration processes) and achieved 95% of the planned work for this activity. The project team focused closely on mitigating potential conflicts over land, reinforcing dialogue between civil-military and local authorities, and engaged with local media to facilitate mass communications activities aimed at improving communities' understanding of good governance and conflict transformation as it relates to natural resource conflicts. The activities included town halls/*Tribunes d'Expression Populaire* (TEPs), awareness raising sessions, media production, and participatory theater.

In the area of land tenure security, a first series of group titles has been obtained, with work on land consolidation and mediation continuing at a very rapid pace due to the action of the process by the CICF in particular, as well as the strong awareness of the stakeholders. In order to make better progress with the mediation and regrouping process, a visit to the refugee camps in Burundi took place, since following security issues in DRC in 2012, many people in the Luberizi area fled to neighboring Burundi. As they are owners of some plots that need to be part of the land titles to be issued, it was necessary to talk to them and ensure they either make themselves available or delegate their representatives in Luberizi to facilitate the process on their behalf.

The agricultural component of the IWRM project experienced a boom, with the harvest recording an increase in yield ranging up to more than double the production as compared to the last growing season. This work will be complimented further once the functionality of the irrigation system is established. Rehabilitation works were launched during this reporting period and will be implemented by two local companies contracted to carry out the work on both the dam and the canal.

As part of monitoring of the project's progress, a mid-term evaluation (MTR) was carried out to identify the main trends in implementation effectiveness, sustainability constraints and opportunities for a more coordinated and integrated intervention.

We should note, however, that the implementation of the project was marked by persistent insecurity and strong inter-ethnic tensions linked to the marriage of Mwami Richard Ndabagoye. In such a climate, each ethnic group, according to its interests, has undertaken actions the result of which was the temporary suspension of activities for reasons of staff safety and the preservation of the neutrality of the implementing organisations.

ACCRONYMS

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

1. IMPLEMENTATION ENVIRONMENT

The socio-political and security situation in the Ruzizi Plains remains volatile and susceptible to sudden changes which can have an impact on project activities. Nevertheless, the incidents that were registered throughout the reporting period were largely driven by criminality, cattle theft and attacks of vehicles after a calm period in April.

The movement of armed groups from the plain to the middle plateaus has resulted in increased insecurity in what was already a highly vulnerable area. This movement has made areas such as Rugeje, Mubere and Kabere totally inaccessible, although they are very important for monitoring the stabilizing activities of the water supply network.

At the political level, the province of South Kivu has seen the advent of a new provincial executive, raising the need to reintroduce the project to its members to ensure mutual understanding of the project and shared expectations regarding their involvement and support.

In the intervention area itself, the civil marriage of the Mwami of the Ruzizi plain gave rise to heightened inter-ethnic tensions. This situation resulted in a temporary suspension of activities for security reasons and to preserve the neutrality of the implementing organisations.

It is also worth noting that the recent spread of the Ebola virus mobilized all stakeholders and demanded from everyone in South Kivu, and especially in the Ruzizi plain, significant prevention measures to mitigate any risk of contamination and spread of the disease in the province.

Impact on Project activities

This insecure environment had significant impact on the implementation of the project. For a week, while the Barundi community was busy with preparations for the wedding of Mwami Richard Ndabagoye, travel and the presence of staff on the ground were reduced to a strict minimum and safety instructions were reinforced for all project staff due to heightened inter-ethnic tensions in the area. The need to monitor daily the evolution of the security situation in the area remained an absolute priority in order to be able to guide the project teams and actions.

2. PROJECT ACTIVITIES

❖ *Strengthening the institutional capacities of local structures*

➤ CICF

The restructuring process for the CICF has led to the adoption by all stakeholders of a more autonomous form with a different name: "Inclusive Framework for Conflict and Land Management." This structure has maintained the guiding criteria of considering Integration, Gender, Age and Volunteering to direct the selection of adhering members. The governing structure is now composed of a Board of Directors and a Coordination and Supervisory Committee respectively.

➤ COPAILU

A co-management charter was signed with the province, the chiefdom and the Luberizi irrigation water users' cooperative (COPAILU) to guide all actions of this structure before the transfer of irrigation management by the province. This charter serves as a basis for support and empowerment in order to reassure the province that, at the time of transfer, the structure is capable of managing and maintaining Luberizi's irrigation infrastructure independently and efficiently. In addition, an institutional support contract to train the COOPAILU technical team on how to manage on a performance basis was provided through ZOA. This 12-month contract is now in progress, and has been developed to support and prepare COOPAILU, which will be responsible for managing irrigation water in future.

❖ **Land tenure security process**

207 group land titles out of the 219 expected are already available, resulting in 95% achievement against the target as of this reporting period. For the remaining 12 land titles, measures have been taken together with SFCG to meet the owners of the plots, most of whom live outside the country in refugee camps in Burundi, Rwanda, or Tanzania. Collecting signatures in the refugee camps was carried out in accordance with the standards of the UNHCR and the Commission for the Protection of Refugees and Stateless Persons (COPRA). This activity took place in Burundi in the camps of Kavumu (province of Cankuzo), Gasorwe (province of Muyinga) and Musasa (province of Ngozi) at the end of June 2019. The project team also worked with landowners who had sought refuge in host families in Cibitoke and Rugombo (province of Cibitoke). The contacts made there will allow a team from the technical services of the Ministry of Land Affairs to collect the missing signatures. The beneficiaries of these 207 land titles are known and a database disaggregated by sex, age, and ethnic group, etc. is available to verify the inclusiveness of the results.

The (irrigated) perimeter co-management charter was also developed during this reporting period in an inclusive manner, and was signed by the following stakeholders:

- The General Secretariat of the Ministry of Land Affairs in Kinshasa
- The South Kivu Provincial Governor
- The Provincial Minister of Land Affairs in South Kivu
- The administrator of Uvira territory
- The land titles registrar
- The Mwami
- The Luberizi *groupement* leaders
- Representatives of the different groups of Luberizi beneficiaries.

A study of the tracing of irrigation canals and the identification of agricultural roads in the Luberizi *groupement* irrigated area was carried out by a consultant. This tracing will form the basis of a development plan for the Luberizi irrigated perimeter.

Finally, the ITC-Uvira has been supported with computer equipment and technical training on the use of GIS software to sample geometric elements in the field. In addition, the ITC has been institutionally strengthened with institutional support to help digitize the archives and build an office building. The Luvungi Land Brigade office will also be built as part of this project and that process is ongoing.

❖ **Recruitment of local organizations**

In line with the recruitment of local organizations to work with the project, an institutional capacity analysis was carried out for the non-profit organization IJED, an NGO active in the intervention zone and with the necessary skills required. IRC will develop and sign a partnership agreement with IJED for the implementation of social accountability activities to be carried out by this new partner.

A call for tenders was also launched to recruit local NGOs to implement a sustainable development plan for the Luberizi watershed. An evaluation of the nine applications submitted was completed and the provisional results are being analyzed by ZOA management team to complete the contracting process with two local non-governmental organizations to assist in the implementation of watershed management activities.

❖ **Community dialogue**

In order to strengthen social cohesion within the community, two community dialogues between herders and farmers were held on June 19th. The decision to promote dialogue among herders and farmers was taken based upon the many incidents of cows grazing in farmers' crops and fields. In total 120 community members attended the events (95 men and 25 women). This mechanism has worked very well, as the different communities can agree on constructive management of the incidents whereby they find solutions on their own without going to the police or justice.

❖ Rehabilitation of irrigation infrastructure

The environmental and social impact study on the rehabilitation of irrigation infrastructure was conducted by the firm Oasis de Consultations et de Services (OCS) and an environmental and social management plan has been prepared by the same firm.

The recruitment process for the companies to be contracted for the rehabilitation of irrigation infrastructure was likewise carried out, leading to the identification and contracting of the ADIC and RAMSON companies, contracted respectively for the work on the dam and the canal.

In addition, the project identified and contracted the company PJF for the daily monitoring of the work and the quality of the works and the strict compliance of the construction companies with the specifications of the dam and canal. This structure was able to include representatives of the community and the National Rural Water Service

❖ Interaction with technical services (provincial, territorial, local)

- **Local level:** The search for greater accountability has enabled the project, in consultation with local authorities and local technical services, to maintain the basis for presenting achievements, projections and exchanges on challenges in order to inform and empower local stakeholders even more. This work required constant interaction with the technical services deployed at the local level, and helped to raise awareness of the project's objectives.
- **Provincial level:** After officially approving the technical plans and requirements for the development of irrigation infrastructure, the project organized the official launch ceremony for the irrigation development works in collaboration with the provincial level authorities and technical services. During the event, a delegation of three provincial ministers present at the occasion invited everyone to ensure the sustainability of these structures.

Monitoring implementation of the work of grouping and issuing land titles has also mobilized the provincial level to promote greater responsiveness and speed on the part of the land services based in Uvira in order to quickly prepare and issue land titles.

It should be noted that, thanks to the support of CARG, the process of restructuring the CICF has made it possible to achieve greater institutional alignment and control, by all the actors involved, of the steps and requirements to be taken in order to provide Luberizi with an effective management structure to interact with local actors on issues of community land management.

❖ Capacity building and sensitization

During this reporting period, a series of training sessions, awareness-raising events, technical meetings and opportunities for providing technical support to community structures were organized with the help of the sectoral technical services. The project team also organized community accountability sessions to strengthen partnership mechanisms, foster more responsible engagement and prepare local stakeholders to take ownership of the project's achievements.

❖ Support for farmers

Following the support provided to farmers during Season A 2019, an assessment of agricultural activities carried out in the area was carried out. Based on calculations of yield squares and testimonies from rice producers, the average yield of rice was calculated to be 8 tons per hectare. This is a record in the Luberizi *groupement*, where according to testimonies from local producers and agronomists, the highest previous yield did not exceed 3 tons per hectare.

In the same vein, COOSOPRODA, the project partner for the implementation of activities in the irrigated area, obtained a contract to supply 350 tons of rice to the beer manufacturing company, Bralima DRC. Similarly, this partner has just received pre-financing in the form of a loan of 1500 tons of rice via Equity Bank. Maji ya Amani facilitated the signature of the relevant agreements.

Monitoring of the repayment of the seed credit granted to producers is in progress. By the end of the reporting period (30 June), 5,000 kg of rice had already been collected out of the expected 28,600 kg. This represents only 17%, but the project team expects that with the harvests that are taking place seed credit repayments will pick up speed.

To maximize the chances of improving incomes through good cassava production outside the irrigated area, training in modern techniques to combat the African cassava mosaic virus was provided to producers during this reporting period.

3. MONITORING PROGRESS

Change monitoring was done through collection of data through use of the Most Significant Change methodology, through a mid-term evaluation carried out in June, and through community accountability meetings and exchange and monitoring meetings with partner structures.

❖ Mid-term evaluation

In order to determine whether the Maji ya Amani project is on track, make recommendations to maintain or increase successes while identifying areas for improvement, and assess the results thus far in order to draw out lessons on the impact of the intervention, a mid-term evaluation was conducted in June. Through perception surveys, the evaluation process gathered the opinions of community members and other stakeholders on the real progress and achievements made towards the different objectives of the project.

Generally speaking, the mid-term evaluation will make it possible to assess the continued relevance of the project, the actions and the activities, as well as the implementation strategies used by the project, their effectiveness and efficiency, and to assess to what extent the results achieved will be sustainable.

Specifically, the mid-term review aimed to:

- (1) Collect both quantitative and qualitative data from the different actors involved, including staff of implementing organizations, direct beneficiary and non-beneficiary populations, various leaders (administrative, religious, traditional/cultural, other opinion leaders), state and/or government partners, and technical service managers in order to identify their perceptions of the progress achieved and of both internal and external factors, both favorable and unfavorable, that have promoted or blocked these changes;
- (2) Analyze these data and identify the necessary recommendations and orientations that will guide the project's implementation for the remaining period in order to maximize the chances of achieving the results and objectives set. In practice, the report should in particular provide the following:
 - An assessment of the relevance of the project's intervention objectives and strategies (evaluating the overall relevance of the project and drawing lessons and observations on how the issues could be addressed in future interventions;
 - An assessment of the degree of achievement of the project's objectives and expected results, based on the performance indicators recorded in the logical framework;
 - An analysis of the impacts (expected and unexpected) of the project on the sustainable access of the Luberizi populations to resources, in particular to land and water;
 - An assessment of the cost-effectiveness of the means used and the results achieved in terms of efficiency/effectiveness;

- An analysis of the main obstacles encountered by the project, and the strategies used to address them;
- An assessment of the degree of ownership of project activities/approaches by state and non-state actors in the project area to assess its sustainability;
- Relevant proposals and recommendations for concrete actions that could contribute to improving the quality of the project's interventions in order to achieve its objectives.

❖ **Most Significant Change**

The collection of Significant Changes from beneficiaries during the implementation of the activities will make it possible to readjust certain mechanisms for involving beneficiaries in the activities and to better perceive the level of impact on social cohesion, well-being and community capacity to sustain the best practices resulting from the project.

For example, feedback from the Twa community has helped to better localize the real constraints to quality participation of this group, which has led to developments aimed at better integrating their socio-cultural and personal characteristics into the implementation strategy and their significant integration into the various community structures involved in the project.

❖ **Community accountability meetings and awareness raising on safeguarding**

These meetings aim to review past achievements and future projections and obtain from the community their opinions and recommendations for action points that are the subject of joint monitoring.

At the same time, the community was mobilized on safeguarding best practices and the need to actively participate in monitoring the behaviour of staff and other stakeholders in order to ensure this intervention maintains a respectful framework and is a promoter of good practices. These meetings aim to promote protection against any risk of abuse and exploitation by any participant or stakeholder in the project's activities, and particularly sexual against exploitation.

4. KEY PROJECT ACHIEVEMENTS

For this reporting period, the key achievements are as follows:

- ❖ *Land tenure security* is reaching a crucial stage. After mediation activities and the start of the consolidation, 187 land titles were issued by the Uvira land services to the operators of the Luberizi irrigated area. In the meantime, the CICF's transformation process has reached its end and enabled local actors to opt for an NGO status specialising in land management and intended to serve as a bridge between technical services, traditional authorities and the community in order to better guide all actions relating to land tenure security and land conflict management.
- ❖ The water supply project, by building a gravity system over a total distance of 72 km, is now a reality and CAPE's preparation for mastery of its management and maintenance has given rise to training on administrative and financial management, followed by support in the use of management tools and monitoring of network maintenance;
- ❖ To help improve working conditions and increase yields for small producers in Luberizi, the project recorded an encouraging harvest of rice by input-supported and supported farmers during season A.
- ❖ In parallel, in order to provide easy and rapid access to credit, the project supported the COOSOPRODA and COOPABA cooperatives in their dealings with Equity Bank, which resulted in a loan of \$145,000 for the benefit of these two cooperatives. The purpose of this credit was to facilitate the collection and transport of rice to the Bralima depot, which had just concluded a 650-tonne supply contract with these two cooperatives.

- ❖ The agro-enterprise training process has been one of the key points that can help farmers perceive their farmed areas as real economic structures and thus exceed the threshold of subsistence agriculture. The trained producers will be able to facilitate the supervision of households grouped in CEP on agribusiness thereafter.
- ❖ As part of the informal credit, 32 VSLAs were technically supported, while young entrepreneurs were taken out of the Luberizi area for an internship as mentors. This internship reached 97.5% of the young people supervised, or 195 young people out of 200 expected. During this internship they had to touch on the requirements for signature delegation in case of movements in their account in the MFI during possible fund transfers. Vocational training was also organized to prepare the youths for their futures as entrepreneurs.
- ❖ With regard to reproductive health promotion and GBV control, a review of case management tools was conducted and involved health providers and voluntary psychosocial focal points. When needed, with the support of UNFPA and IMC, the Gender-Based Violence Information Management System (GBVIMS) has been made more explicit and assisted data collection has been carried out to demonstrate best practices to providers through this active learning method.

5. GENDER AND VULNERABLE GROUPS ANALYSIS

- ❖ The project has increased efforts to sufficiently involve the Batwa, who are not only the minority but also the most vulnerable group in the Luberizi *groupement*. The participation of Twa leaders is required to ensure that they acquire sufficient expertise and overcome a tendency for self-exclusion that seems to separate them from the rest of society. In this context, 2 Twa staff were recruited as Community Mobilizers.
- ❖ An assessment of GBV, FP and PAC needs in the Twa community was conducted and revealed the specificities of this group that made FP/SAA use minimal. In consultation with local Twa leaders and local and sectoral authorities, a strategy for interaction with the Twa community has been validated and responsibilities assigned.
- ❖ The total number of beneficiaries in agriculture is 3800 within and outside the irrigated perimeter, with 49% of these being women and 51% men.
- ❖ GBV/PF/SAA actions have been strengthened, particularly for adolescent girls. A pilot group of 100 girls and 100 boys has been set up and will serve to mobilize young people aged 10 to 19 on protection mechanisms against gender-based violence and on reproductive health.

6. CHALLENGES

- ❖ The security context in Luberizi remains volatile, as described in further detail above, which has limited the project team's access to the intervention area and has hampered the implementation of activities during this period.
- ❖ Recent elections have led to changes in actors at the provincial level, which has required the project team to re-introduce IWRM and its objectives and expected interactions with provincial level authority to these new post-holders.
- ❖ Luberizi continues to face rivalries over the exercise of traditional and administrative power, which has led to the establishment of dual authorities. Inter-ethnic tensions were also very high during the reporting period, causing the project team to limit their access at times to the intervention area to preserve the safety and security of project staff and the overall neutrality of the project more generally.
- ❖ The pricing of the water supply in Luberizi to ensure its sustainability remains a challenge. This is partly due to the fact that some households are still reluctant to provide their contributions saying they are not financially capable. Community sensitization is ongoing and contributions are increasing each month, even though proportions may not be very high.
- ❖ The financial autonomy of local structures, which do not have any income-generating or self-sustaining activities as part of their mandate, has also presented challenges. The project team is

exploring possible ways to reorient the community structures to ensure they can still perform their functions after project exit.

7. LESSONS LEARNED

1. IWRM has found it imperative to maintain the continued involvement of the local administration at all levels, not only in the implementation of project activities but also in the search for solutions such as land tenure security in the irrigated area, the reduction of the cost of obtaining land titles, and the simplification of procedures.
2. In a situation of acute inter-ethnic conflicts, the approach aimed at putting the common interest first is likely to lead the parties in conflict more towards appeasement and rapprochement. The successes of the rehabilitation of irrigation infrastructure and the issuance of group land titles has demonstrated this to the IWRM project team.
3. It has been observed that the prevalence of GBV and the low rate of adherence to FP and PAC methods is due few awareness raising actions being provided for adolescent youth. In an environment where traditions, conflicts and armed operations place youth at the centre of all actions, a specific approach on these topics must accompany any strategy.
4. A stabilization project needs to focus on actions that allow for a real improvement in well-being. In this way, the incentive to utilize and maintain the benefits received from the common resources fostered by the project will help the various stakeholders implicated to work towards a common future via the shared responsibility to ensure the sustainability of these resources.
5. Solidarity and community outreach activities are proving to renew trust among community members, despite the resistance that still persists.
6. Resistance to paying monthly contributions to maintain the faucets put in place by the project is generally decreasing. The localities of Nyamugali and Sango, which were the epicenter of the contestation, are demonstrating progress in the collection of the fees. This can be attributed to an awareness campaign that the IWRM media and participatory theater teams have been conducting since April 2019.
7. The project organized a football match in Katekama after the commemoration of a tragic event which plunged the Bafuliru and Banyamulenge communities into violent conflict with each other in 2014. SFCG's strategy to mix the young people present into two teams regardless of their community membership was highly successful. During the game, solidarity among the members of each team eclipsed the community divisions and provided another opportunity for social cohesion between these groups which could be carried forward in future.

8. CHANGES IN PROJECT STRATEGY OR IMPLEMENTATION

Two changes have been made to the project's strategy this reporting period:

- 1) To ensure that communities make a contribution and hence enhance ownership over project activities and achievements, the project stopped donating equipment to the community with no community contribution. Thus, a community contribution is a prerequisite now for any investment in equipment or real estate to be made for the benefit of the community under the auspices of this project. This has resulted in a suspension of several ongoing calls for tenders to ensure that this approach is appropriate for the communities.
- 2) School brigade activities in the hygiene and sanitation component of the project integrated a menstrual hygiene approach into the beneficiary schools to address the constraints faced by female students, who quite often are prevented from attending classes while they are menstruating. The

project is providing sensitization for behavior change in addition to providing menstruation hygiene kit to girls.

9. PROJECT MANAGEMENT

- **Community Participation:** The level of community participation was high during this reporting period, and allowed for effective interaction with the project team through, for example, community accountability meetings. Coupled with the involvement of technical services, partnership management and stakeholder engagement has been easier and more productive this quarter. There has been a greater involvement of Twa communities and of adolescent girls in order to overcome the difficulties highlighted during community surveys around the limits to the participation of certain groups.
- **Conflict Sensitivity:** The implementation of the project during this period focused on how each action affects conflict and cohesion. In the land sector, for example, the effect of group land titles on the collective future of the farmers concerned was taken into account – a principle that guided the actors in the composition of the CICF's bodies at the end of its restructure process. Additionally, the launch of the rehabilitation works on irrigation infrastructure took into account the need to distribute income among villages, ethnic groups, gender and youth and led to a mechanism that facilitates access to the largest number and ensures ethnic, age and gender representation through the works.
- **Partnerships and Coordination:** The project is aligned with the I4S strategy and takes part in the main events organised under the aegis of SSU and STAREC. IWRM is also active in the consultation framework of the actors working in the Ruzizi plain, which is organized under the aegis of the Uvira Territorial Administrator. The restructure of the CICF gave rise to the need for multi-sectoral involvement, which has meant that the ministries in charge of agriculture, land, planning and CARG will now be more permanently involved in implementation and ensuring sustainability of the project.