



QUARTERLY NARRATIVE REPORT

Project Name: Integrated Water Resources Management

Target Areas: Ruzizi Plain (DRC)

Reporting Period: July-September 2018

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ACRONYMS

ACEP	: Association des Consommateurs d'Eau Potable de Luberizi
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
DGI	: Direction Générale des Impôts
DGM	: Direction Générale des Migrations
EA\$E	: Economic and Social Empowerment
FARDC	: Forces Armées de République Démocratique du Congo
GEL	: Guichet d'Économie Locale
L2E	: Learn to Earn
MINOKA	: Minoterie de Kamanyola
MYA	: Maji Ya Amani (Projet)
FP	: Family Planning
PNC	: Police Nationale Congolaise
PAC	: Post Abortion Care
SECAS	: Civil Education and Social Action Services
SNCOOP	: Service National des Coopératives et des Organisations Paysannes
SRH	: Sexual and Reproductive Health

Executive Summary

Funded by the Netherlands Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the IRC-led consortium comprising IRC, Stichting ZOA and Search for Common Ground is implementing the Integrated Water Resources Management project, also known as Maji Ya Amani, in the Ruzizi plain in South Kivu, DRC. The multisector and multi-year project aims at contributing to the reduction of violence and the increase in stability in the *groupement* of Luberizi (with a total of 28,800 beneficiaries) by (1) increasing access to land and reducing land conflict, (2) increasing access to safe potable and irrigation water and reduction of water related conflict, (3) equitable and inclusive access to income generation opportunities, and (4) increasing awareness of population pressure on natural resources.

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

Covering the period from July to September 2018, this quarterly report presents an update on the project activities and the implementation environment, including challenges and opportunities. Among other updates, the water piping system is progressing very well and the project team has now reached 63% of the projected work to be done on this component. It is worth noting that the security issues observed all around the project implementation zone, and especially along the 72km distance between the sources where water is tapped up to the villages targeted by the project, did not hamper water-piping related activities. Additionally, the construction of a studio for the Luberizi community radio station *Sauti ya Amani* is planned to be completed before the end of the year.

The Project was able to enhance and manage collaboration with the community and administration at all levels thereby paving a way to successful project implementation, acceptability, and ownership on the one hand, and ensuring support from the state administration and state technical services directly interacting with the project on the other. The community participated significantly in different project activities organized in the intervention zone, including discussions around Gender and inclusion, value chains, town halls, scorecard sessions, management of conflicts resulting from the land mapping exercise, and capacity building trainings.

However, Luberizi is subject to persistent security issues due to its geopolitical position, the ethnic divisions present in the local communities, and the presence of armed groups in the surrounding areas, which do present challenges to the project's implementation, and have caused some activities to be postponed until the situation improves. The project team continues to work consistently to mitigate these challenges while ensuring the forward progress of the planned project activities.

A. Project Activities Implemented

➔ Strengthening institutional capacities for local structures (CICF et ACEP) :

▪ *CICF Migration*

To accompany the restructure of the Interim Land Coordination Committee (CICF) into a permanent and fully aligned structure, a number of exchange visits to structures with similar missions active in South and North Kivu were organized. These visits were followed by presentation of oral reports on the exchange visits and discussions with the provincial ministries of land, agriculture and rural development, as well as with the provincial coordinators of the Rural Agricultural Management Council (CARG). This activity was aimed at identifying, through various experiences, (1) what effective orientation could be retained by this structure, whose objective is to be the interface between the populations and the institutional guarantors of the land in rural areas; and (2) the final legal personality of this local structure which will then guide local actors in decisions ensuring alignment, efficiency, functionality and sustainability for effective support of those local actors in land management.

▪ *Accompanying ACEP in the acquisition of legal personality*

After the provisional authorization to operate (as required by law) was obtained, Maji Ya Amani is carrying out actions to accompany the Drinking Water Users Association of Luberizi (ACEP) in the process of obtaining legal personality from the National Minister of Justice. This involves the collection of the required documentation which is then filed with the appropriate provincial authorities (in this case, the Provincial Division of Justice and Planning) to obtain an "F92" Form which is a proof of the actual transfer of the file to the National Ministry of Justice, after certification and assurance of conformity. Additionally, exchange visits were organized to the Drinking Water Users Associations (ASUREP) in Buhozi, Nyantende, Lubarika, Sange and other ACEPs in anticipation of developing an appropriate pricing strategy.

▪ *CMGEL is migrating to a cooperative*

The project is supporting CMGEL's migration to a cooperative model to facilitate wider inclusivity of communities, farmers in the perimeter and villages. Currently, more than 1500 members have joined. In preparation for the establishment of a strong, powerful and prosperous cooperative, prospective contact was made with the office for inspection of rural development, the provincial coordination of the National Service of Cooperatives and Farmer Organizations (SNCOOP), as well as with organizations which may contribute to translate the vision into action (GEL, Universities, Banks, Commercial Court, CNSS, DGI, etc.). The project team has drafted temporary organizational charts of the cooperative's bodies, including for the Board of Directors and the Supervisory Board. The size of the executive will be determined during the development of the Business Plan, to be led by a specialized organization yet to be contracted.

➔ Transfer of competencies to local organisations

In order to guarantee more sustainability through the transfer of skills and sub-contracting of local organizations, the selection process continued for local organizations to whom some of the project activities in the two areas of social accountability and land tenure will be entrusted. In terms of social accountability, the organization chosen will help implement, among other activities, the strengthening of the population's governance capacities of community and public assets. It will also provide this capacity building for the community and administrative services management body. With regards to land management, the selected organization will contribute to better governance around the use of land and water resources, thus increasing stability while reducing conflicts in Luberizi Groupement and Sange. At the time of this report, the project team has achieved the following:

- *Social accountability:* After the selection process of a local partner organization according to

IRC's internal procedures, an organization which had fully participated in the recruitment process, met all criteria, and which has demonstrated the technical capacity to implement Scorecard activities was identified. The project team is currently verifying this organization's references, after which a partnership agreement will be drawn up and signed;

- **Land management:** Currently, the technical commission is carrying out a Pre-Award Assessment (PAA) and verifying the references given for the two organizations which submitted the most satisfactory technical and financial proposals. The results of this assessment will allow the project team to determine which organization would be the most appropriate to partner with on this component.

➔ Enhancing collaboration with technical services and territorial and local authorities

In order to strengthen collaboration with state-level stakeholders, the project has undertaken various actions at the provincial, territorial and local levels.

- ✚ The scoping elements of the Steering Committee have been approved and a technical agreement was signed by the provincial governor to ensure that provincial-level decision-makers are involved in monitoring the project and providing the necessary guidance which will ensure alignment and sustainability while enhancing institutional integration.
- ✚ In collaboration with the provincial Ministry of Planning, the project organized a media mission to make available to the public more information on the achievements of Maji Ya Amani through the production of a documentary to be shared in December.

➔ Coordination of actors intervening in Ruzizi Plain

In order to map the actors currently existing and intervening in the Ruzizi Plain, to learn about the constraints they face and to envisage together with them the best coordination and/or possible harmonization of our interventions, a consultation framework for these actors was organized under the auspices of the Uvira Territorial Administrator (AT). The AT makes periodic field trips to see the progress made on the project activities. His presence and involvement is highly valuable, not only in terms of ensuring local ownership but also in terms of reassuring the local population about the project's accountability to them.

➔ Access to drinking water

During this period the project continued water piping and supply activities in the 14 villages targeted. The activities are progressing well and the insecurity observed all along the route of the pipeline had no negative impact on the activities. By the end of September 2018, the following advances had been made:

- ✚ To date, the progress/completion rate of this component is estimated to be 63%;
- ✚ The Maji Ya Amani team supported the validation process for the sites where hydraulic works in all 14 villages targeted by the project will be built. The aim was to facilitate negotiations and to sign commitments to build a total of 70 standpipes, 10 baffle backs and 7 tanks. The Drinking Water Association (ACEP) of Luberizi, the water sub-committees recently set up with the support of the project, the administrative authorities, women, and youth were actively involved in the process.



- ✚ The project is in the process of selecting a service provider to be entrusted with the construction of Seven (7 blocks of four latrines in five primary schools namely: Vijana Primary school of Nyamugali, Neema Primary school, Rwenena Primary school, Mulama Primary school and Rurambira Primary school. Additionally, one washroom, one latrine and medical waste management mechanisms will be built in the two health centers of Mutarule and Rwenena.

➡ **Community access to economic recovery and development activities**

- ✚ The project team has conducted coaching and capacity building activities for the various structures set up as part of the livelihoods component of the activities. These structures included Village Savings and Loan Associations (VSLAs), producer groups, collective marketing initiatives, and other groups to build capacities to add value to agricultural products in the groupement.
- ✚ The capacity building of the youth and the VSLAs' members in entrepreneurial skills and vocational skills is essential. It's for this reason that the project led the recruitment process for a local firm specializing in this field, Guichet d'Économie Locale. Its training activities will be based on the Competency-Based Economies through Formation of Enterprises (CEFE) methodology. Activities will commence in October 2018 and will run for a period of 6 months, reaching two hundred (200) youths and 400 VSLA members with more than 50% female participants.
- ✚ The project continues to facilitate the development and extension of three value chains - corn, rice and onion - among the crops produced in the project area. Activities in Mutarule and Rwenena will be focused primarily on the corn value chain while those in Nyamugali and Sango will focus on the rice value chain. The project team will additionally focus on the onion value chain in Mutarule.
- ✚ Eight marketing groups (out of ten planned) are promoted for rice, corn, onion and tomato value chains. These groups were benefiting from technical support in collective marketing during the reporting period.
- ✚ The collective marketing groups involved in the corn value chain were connected to and held business meetings with the company MINOKA, as well as with public marketers. Marketing groups of market gardeners, in particular those in Mutarule growing onions, gathered within the association known as APADM and were connected to the big wholesalers of the Sange and Luvungi markets.

➡ **Capacity building**

- ✚ A training workshop on the "Client Responsiveness" strategy was organized for program staff to discuss the best mechanisms for ensuring greater accountability to clients, thus strengthening feelings of confidence and ownership of the program's achievements.
- ✚ Project staff working on the economic recovery and development component of the project were trained on the Economic and Social Empowerment methodology (EASE) and on the new "Learn to Earn" (L2E) approach.
- ✚ 35 Twa VSLA members (8 women and 27 men) were trained on the use of VSLA kits (cash register, safe, etc.) and on basic accounting, as well as on the use of simple management tools.
- ✚ Through an international firm, Africa Ahead, which was recruited based on its unique expertise, the project organized a training of facilitators of community health clubs to promote good hygiene practices.
- ✚ Local listeners' clubs and journalists from the Sauti ya Amani community radio station were trained on the consequences of sexual violence, on GBV principles, and on family planning (FP) and post-abortion care (PAC). 48 listeners' club members, 12 journalists, and 16 volunteer psychosocial focal points participated.

- ✚ Health providers and community actors were trained in family planning and PAC awareness-raising and communication skills. They were further supported in organizing outreach and awareness activities on these topics.
- ✚ A 4-day training for health care providers (13 from the Ruzizi Health Zone and 6 voluntary psychosocial focal points) was organized on GBV case management and psychosocial support for survivors. At the end of the training, the 19 participants passed the post-test with 70% or more, demonstrating a 19% increase in knowledge compared with their pre-test scores.
- ✚ A training of six Maji Ya Amani staff (1 woman and 5 men) on the Development of Enterprise and Employment was organized in Gisenyi.
- ✚ In order to understand the possible implications of agricultural value chain activities and farmer field schools on the activities of other components of the project, an exchange workshop was organized for 13 staff (3 women and 10 men).
- ✚ A two-day workshop was held on the design, development and use of Information, Education and Communication tools, and Gender-Based Violence and Sexual and Reproductive Health materials for Ruzizi health zone providers, community actors, and community action group members. The workshop was attended by 34 participants, representing the 8 villages in the project zone, by the technical services of the Ruzizi health zone, and by other local stakeholders;

➡ Awareness raising/Advocacy for the youth

- ✚ With a view to raising awareness among the youth about the assessment of sexual and reproductive health needs tailored to youth and adolescents through the 8 villages of the Luberizi group, a community meeting targeting young people aged 18 to 35 years was organized. At the same time, the project sought the involvement of the youth by collecting their opinions on sexual and reproductive health (SRH) needs. To achieve this, with the help of a facilitator and a note taker, focus groups were organized and a questionnaire was distributed to the youth, who were divided into discussion groups of 10 to 12 to facilitate maximum participation.
- ✚ In order to inform and sensitize the community on the availability and access to quality FP and PAC services, the project organized a PF and PAC open day in the two health catchment areas of the Ruzizi Hospital, namely the Luberizi and Mutarule health centers. Health providers in the health zone reached out to the 8 villages with presentations and messages on available FP methods and the effectiveness of PAC services in the health centers.

➡ Access to land: managing land-related disputes

Land disputes are a key source of conflict in Luberizi. Through undertaking participatory land mapping, the Project identified the factors related to land ownership which can contribute to conflict and violence, including the lack of a unified approach for managing land ownership and governance.

To build the community's capacity to manage conflicts peacefully, the project held a training for 44 land mobilizers and another training for 64 Peace Committee members, focusing on non-violent communication, active listening, Identity, sources of conflict, and conflict analysis at a community level, as well as on alternative methods of conflict resolution.



The Land Mapping exercise demonstrated that of 82 complaints registered at CICIF level, 60% concerned double allocations, 10% concerned boundary-related issues, and 30% revolved around issues of expropriation. This double allocation results from the system of dual power structures at the local level. Different local chiefs (chief of a *groupement* and chief of a *chefferie*) can attribute a plot to two separate individuals. Given the ethnic and customary rivalries at play in this area, both individuals have

trouble proving themselves to be the rightful owners, leaving this type of conflict unresolved.

This situation underlines the necessity of creating a unified structure for managing conflicts of this kind given that the current structure creates a sense for both parties that they are the legitimate occupier/owner of the land. It's worth noting that of the 82 complaints received, 11 land-related conflicts were successfully resolved (with signed compromises), while two were referred to court.

➔ **Enhancing dialogue and security governance among civilians, the police and the military in Luberizi**

Town halls and scorecards (bulletin de score) reinforce security governance at the local level by providing community members with the opportunity to rate the provision of security services and initiate dialogue with security forces directly about problems facing the community. The town hall meetings are attended by members of communities, representatives of the police (PNC), the Army (FARDC), and other local authorities.

Between July and September, the project organized a total of six TEPs in Mataba, Sango, Nyamugali, Mutarule, and Rwenena, during which participants discussed themes selected based on results of recently conducted scorecard processes in the same areas. The facilitation was ensured by Major Kongolo from the Civil Education and Social Action Services (SECAS), Captain Lewis Kiyonga, Commander of the Mutarule police station, and members of the bureau of civil society in Luberizi.

As a result, this strengthened communication between local chiefs, the commanders of 3304th regiment and the PNC in Mutarule. Now, the chief of *groupement* directly communicates with the colonel when problems arise, a new police station was established in Kitemesho to ensure security to the villages, a monitoring strategy for the alcoholism demonstrated among some FARDC and PNC members in Nyamugali and Mutarule was set up while supervision by military and civil intelligence near the Burundi boarder was improved. Furthermore, two additional Bureaus and migration officers were assigned to the area to help reduce illegal immigration.

➔ **Ad hoc community sensitization for pacific coexistence**

The status of intercommunal relations was tense during this reporting period. While previous reconciliation activities had begun to build some positive momentum in terms of creating inter-communal linkages, the security incidents that afflicted the zone over the summer strained positive recent gains. In response, Maji Ya Amani proactively organized sensitization activities through Peace Committees on the importance of peaceful coexistence.

More specifically, the sensitization focused on the importance of treating members of other groups with respect and dignity and avoiding ethnic and other kinds of stereotypes for peaceful cohabitation. Further discussions revolved around denouncing wrongdoing and wrongdoers, encouraging forgiveness and reconciliation, and promoting inclusion and collaboration at the community level.

➔ **Towards land tenure (in the perimeter to be irrigated)**

❖ **Dissemination of results from the participatory land mapping**

In addition to the presentations and discussions which took place at the community level and with state services on the results of participatory land mapping exercises conducted recently over the perimeter to be irrigated by the MYA project, the project team is currently holding meetings and discussions with the land brigade and other leaders in the sector so as to reflect on what provisions exist in Congolese law around management of marshes and irrigated perimeters. This will enable to project team to identify possible land tenure alternatives which the project could apply in collaboration with the community.

❖ **Drawing inspiration from Burundi and Rwanda models**

In order to identify the most appropriate land tenure model, taking into account various complexities around the issue of land tenure, the project organized prospecting visits of irrigated

perimeters in Rwanda and Burundi to better understand and anticipate the constraints and dynamics around management of irrigated perimeters. A visit involving a large delegation composed of the community and local leaders is planned for next quarter.

❖ **Identification and validation of vacant plots**

As part of the land tenure process, vacant/unoccupied plots were identified and validated by local leaders, in the Luberizi groupement.

❖ **Codification of land-related local practices**

In order to avoid any overlaps between land management roles held by land administration and customary authorities (as guardians of customary land), the project initiated the process of local land practices codification, which involves customary authorities in the legal process of access to land. In collaboration with the services involved and with the community, the project organized visits and meetings to validate the implementation plan of this process, including its conceptualization and methodology.

➔ **Rehabilitation of irrigation infrastructures**

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

- ✚ 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 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 mtrs dam of 1 mtr high in the riverbed to divert water to the intake canal
- ✚ Protection of the left bank of the intake canal with gabions
- ✚ Finalization of the dike design and completion of technical drawings of the main canal and its associated works.



➔ **Actions/Activities in the watershed**

- ✚ The Socio-Environmental Impact Study was validated at project level, and is awaiting submission to the relevant state services.
- ✚ Development of the terms of reference for the set-up of the Luberizi Watershed Sub-Basin committee was completed. The committee structure will be made of representations at different levels, including local and provincial authorities, local leaders from the different ethnic groups in the community, relevant (government) technical services, the Tenge-Tenge Water Users Association, and farmers, as well as youth and women.

B. Monitoring Progress

To ensure that the project is progressing towards achievement of the objectives, coordination and planning meetings are held monthly. During these sessions, every project component team makes a presentation of achievements vs. targets and points out challenges and exchanges needed on actions to successfully address them. Furthermore, the Monitoring and Evaluation Unit makes necessary comparisons of achievements against planning, along with analyses on gaps and delays in implementation in order to help the project

team in decision-making and planning any adjustments required to ensure all activities are completed.

C. Key Achievements

- ✚ 63% of water piping activities using the gravity system have been completed, and water is already flowing in the villages nearest the source where water is tapped.
- ✚ As part of the economic recovery and development component, nineteen (19) Village Savings and Loan Associations (VSLAS) with 25 members each were set up, and others were revitalized / supported by the project team. Three VSLAs composed exclusively of Batwa were created to ensure the inclusion of this marginalized group.
- ✚ The agricultural activities of Season A are progressing well. 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 rehabilitated.
- ✚ Gender is consistently taken into account in all project interventions.
- ✚ Resolution of land conflicts identified as a result of the recent participatory mapping exercise is proceeding well.
- ✚ The project is already planning activities on the watershed.
- ✚ The construction of a studio for the Sauti Ya Amani Community radio station of Luberizi is progressing normally, and is to be completed in the next quarter.
- ✚ 16 facilitators of community health clubs were selected and the community health club approach in the Luberizi cluster was launched.

D. Gender and Vulnerable Groups Analysis

1. The involvement of women, girls and marginalized groups has improved compared to past periods.
 - ✚ To date, female representation is estimated at 120 out of 224 members, or 53.5%, within the drinking water users association (ACEP).
 - ✚ Women represent 13.7% of participants in the Interim Committee for land coordination (CICF).
 - ✚ During the validation of the locations for the hydraulic works to be built as part of the water piping activities, women were mobilized and were very active in the choice of these sites to ensure that they were favorable to them. Women's participation rate was 40% in Luberizi and 41% in Kigoma and Sange combined.
 - ✚ 50 young entrepreneurs were identified, with 30% of them being women;
 - ✚ Of the two hundred (200) youths the project identified in collaboration with community leaders of the Luberizi group who will attend courses on Competency-based Economies through Formation of Enterprises, 50% are young women.
2. The Twa group have communicated that they feel valued by the Maji Ya Amani project, as shown by the declaration of this indigenous population who recently have received a school in return for the authorization to tap Kingundu's water sources (see success story below). In Luberizi, Twa-specific activities were launched with the implementation of 3 VSLAs exclusively composed of Twa beneficiaries to ensure their inclusion in this and other components of the project.
3. Additionally, through the GBV component the project ensures the promotion of gender through the establishment of best practice mechanisms to ensure gender balance is a lived experience for the entire

community. These mechanisms are always considered alongside ethnic and youth balance, and also take vulnerability into account.

E. Challenges

The project faced two major challenges during the reporting period:

- ✚ **Insecurity:** The worsening security situation had negative effects on the implementation of the project activities during this reporting period, which resulted in the project team not being able to carry out and achieve all planned activities. After one particular incident, for example, the project had to suspend movement to the field for nearly a week. It was also necessary to reduce mobility of the field teams at other times throughout the period to ensure their safety. Activities were temporarily suspended in some areas including Rwenena 1, 2, 3; Mataba; Ngendo; Kanga; and Rugeje, and mass activities (such as TEPs and scorecards) were suspended at various points as well.

Unfortunately, given the current context of increasing armed mobilization observed throughout the zone and the elections to be held next quarter, we anticipate security will continue to be a challenge through the end of the year. The project team will continue to monitor the situation as it evolves, and will ensure compliance with all necessary security protocols to ensure staff remain safe while carrying out project activities in the field.

- ✚ **Rivalries** over the exercise of traditional and administrative power persist, leading to the establishment of dual authorities up to the level of villages and avenues. The project's decision to collaborate with both local leaders is, so far, more effective, as all communities feel they are involved.

F. Lessons Learned

The following testimonies / statements from the community are illustrative of the lessons learned during this quarter of implementation:

1. On 6 September 2018, the local leader, Zarro Mutalama, reported: "On behalf of the population in Mulenge, Mulama and Kishagala, and especially the Batwa group, we are grateful for the work done by the Maji Ya Amani consortium. For the very first time in history, a school was built standing for a monument that marks our commitment to let our brothers in Luberizi to tap water from our source in Kingundu. At the beginning, we were afraid that our request, expressed through exchanges and discussion, would simply be disregarded. But, to our great surprise, after signing the act of mutual commitment we marveled to see that the construction activities (where most of the workforce was recruited from the community) began and moved at a speed that left everyone speechless. For us, this is both the proof that the project values us indigenous peoples living in Mulama and a source of confidence into the project."
2. For Makelele, the President of the CMGEL provisional office, stated, "In the Luberizi groupement, there had never been a community-based structure dealing with land mediation. If two people quarreled over land, they would always go either to see the local leaders of the police seeking justice/conflict resolution. This approach takes a lot of time, incurs enormous expenses and further reinforces the dissension between the populations. Nevertheless, since the consortium helped us to set up the interim committee for land coordination (CICF), we are granted a free referral with good will to lead the opposing parties towards a durable and peaceful solution. For the community, this new way of fixing cases was unimaginable a few years ago because, the only way to get conflicts resolved was rather through the use of force (or even violence), no matter its nature."

"The work of the CICF helps to reconcile people and reduces the number of disputes around land because awareness raising goes beyond the only question of land to touch cohabitation and the need to search for the best ways to live together."

Additionally, there has been demonstrated collaboration between different ethnic groups gathered in the

VSLAs. The system of informal loans through these village savings and loans associations constitutes a great opportunity for the development of very small income-generating activities. The project team also notes that social cohesion among members goes beyond VSLA activities to touch other social aspects.

Accelerating water piping activities while ensuring quality assurance has helped to cool 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.

To ensure community ownership over the project's achievements, a joint monitoring mechanism led by the project team, the Technical Services and Sector Committees is being implemented. Sharing recommendations and ensuring that they are translated into action are opportunities to better understand how to better protect project results and involve all key stakeholders.

G. Changes in Project Strategy or Implementation

1. **WASH:** The cycle of the Community Health Club has 23 themes, however the project team decided to retain only eight of them so as to focus more in-depth on those tied to project objectives, such as hand washing, toilet use, key moments of hand washing, preventing and treating diarrhea, latrine construction, different types of diseases and their prevention methods, and drinking water.
2. **GBV/SRH:** For GBV activities, the project initially planned to offer services to beneficiaries at the Health Center level. After an analysis of the context, an emphasis will now be on (1) basic care services, family planning, and psycho-social care at community level to facilitate demand, orientation, and access of beneficiaries to the health facility; (2) safe spaces to be set up in each health facility to ensure safety, confidentiality and quality of services, after advocacy with stakeholders in the community; and (3) legal and socio-economic references constituting a very important package of services not originally planned by the project as a minimum package for GBV survivors. Contacts with the NGOs Women for Women and FOMEKA are envisaged to enhance coordination and partnership to cover this crucial need.
3. **Livelihoods:** The project decided to support the creation of three Batwa VSLAs to ensure inclusion of this marginalized group.

PHOTOS



Excavations in Rwenena



Carrying pipes in Kabere

Arrivee de l'eau a Nakisasa



Reservoir in Kanga

Brise charge, descente de Rugeje



Mulama Primary School, 6 classrooms