

Resources to Improve Food Security in Eastern Democratic Republic of the Congo (RISE)
AID-FFP-A-11-00008

FY14 Q3 Quarterly Report
 April - June 2014



RISE Agent electronically registers PM2A participant in Bambo. Photo: Elizabeth Whelan/CRS

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I. Executive Summary

RISE prioritized responding to the results of the mid-term evaluation, including revising the results framework; creating an action plan; and holding a series of workshops to revise activities to ensure better integration between SOs as well as gender. Teams plan to integrate agriculture activities for PM2A participants, particularly livestock and market gardening. Nutrition sensitization will be included within agriculture trainings, and agriculture and governance teams will work closely together on the development of community development plans to ensure that both agriculture and food security objectives are met. Agriculture and nutrition teams will work with Mercy Corps' and CRS' BCC teams to develop coherent messaging.

Specific agriculture activities include distribution of 488 breeding rabbits to 122 SO2 households, formation of 80 new Producer Groups, registration of 25 seed multipliers, sensitization of all target producers in Butembo on profitability analyses, and formation of 214 savings groups (VSLAs and SILCs). The formation of the remaining producer groups and VSLAs is planned for August. Capacity-building of 20 VSLA Village Agents, who will in turn train and support the new VSLAs, was also completed. Additionally, 19 ha of secondary and tertiary cassava plots and several ha of banana production and multiplication plots were planted.

Specific achievement under SO2 include targeting 31,292 participants of the Preventing Malnutrition in Children under 2 Approach (PM2A); joint supervision visits to health centers with Health Zone staff to monitor health care quality and identify areas for improvement; piloting Information Communication Technology for Development (ICT4D) for registering PM2A participants at Kasoko and Mushababwe; and capacity building of health service providers, RECOs and Mother Leaders on Essential Nutrition Actions (ENA).

SO3 focused on the revitalization of Community Development Committees, in collaboration with the Ministry of Decentralization; capacity building for local authorities, civil society, CDCs, and other stakeholders on decentralization and elaboration of local development plans; supporting associations on organizational management; training for communities on disaster risk reduction (DRR) management; and capacity building of CARG members. 46 out of 60 targeted Food for Work (FFW) micro projects were implemented, including road rehabilitation, fish ponds, and agroforestry, providing work for 380 people.

Behavior change communication activities supported all SOs through the development and launch of radio spots to promote ENA, agriculture and governance messages; 3 media trainings for 15 radio partners; 5 listeners' clubs; and the preparation for other media campaigns through theater, songs and videos. In addition, Mother Leaders have begun to form Mother's Groups and are becoming more engaged in BCC activities. Finally, the BCC and nutrition teams carried out the year's 2nd nutrition Lot Quality Assurance Sampling (LQAS) survey.

Finally, Mercy Corps headquarters-based gender advisor trained the team on gender, helped them integrate recommendations from the RISE gender assessment, and conducted a training on the Mercy Corps gender analysis tool for SO1 and SO3 staff. Leadership coverage in country was assumed by Mercy Corps' Senior Advisor for Agriculture and Food Security and Mercy Corps' Guatemala's CoP until the new RISE CoP Jean Daniel arrived on 22 July 2014.

II. Program Overview

Mercy Corps, in partnership with Catholic Relief Services (CRS), is implementing the five-year RISE program aimed at ensuring that vulnerable households and communities in North Kivu build and sustain their food security. The program focuses on improving agricultural production, controlling and eradicating crop disease, increasing household incomes, and preventing childhood malnutrition. Activities specifically address the challenges that vulnerable households face regarding food availability, access, and utilization. RISE aims to build communities' resilience to shocks by introducing and encouraging the adoption of sustainable household coping mechanisms, while being able to engage more efficiently in market activities. The program includes a substantial focus on good governance to ensure that the results achieved are sustainable. This report presents the achievements and challenges during FY14 Q3.

III. Program Activities

Program integration

RISE is in the process of revising its implementation strategy to ensure a more efficient integration of activities between sectors. Several meetings were organized between Mercy Corps and CRS to re-define the areas of overlap between strategic objectives, ensure that activities under each SO are mutually reinforcing, and improve the management of the field teams to ensure harmonization of activities within the same communities. The key integration issues include:

- A better targeting of participants to ensure that small livestock rearing, and vegetable and soy bean production activities carried out under SO1 target specifically SO2 participants; and the sensitization of agriculture stakeholders on nutrition issues; and
- The involvement of SO1 implementation staff in advising CDCs towards prioritization of community activities that support sustainable food security

Additionally, in Butembo, RISE and its partner organization staff held meetings with the health zone's Chief Medical Officer, the Health District's Chief Medical Officer, the Agriculture Inspector, the SENASEM local authority as well as those communities targeted for intervention to coordinate the launch of additional RISE activities across various sectors.

Internal and external coordination

In response to the MTE recommendations, several planning meetings were conducted to improve coordination between implementing agencies and with the local government.

- A MTE planning workshop for all Mercy Corps and CRS RISE staff was held on from 31 March to 1 April 2014 to elaborate an action plan in response to the findings of the MTE.
- On 27 May 2014, the SO1 Program Manager and RISE CoP met with USAID-FFP in Kinshasa to discuss the proposed post-MTE action plan, revised results framework and brief FFP on activity implementation progress
- Mercy Corps, CRS, Caritas and CEDERU team members met in Butembo on 23-24 June 2014 to review the IY4 DIP in line with the MTE recommendations. The team agreed on approaches and methodologies for the integration of activities across all SOs.

Externally, meetings to strengthen collaboration with key stakeholders included:

- A series of meetings with value chain actors in Butembo and Birambizo took place between 20 April and 9 May 2014, involving representative of producers, transporters and traders involved in cassava, maize, beans, and potatoes value chains.
- On 14 April 2014, the SO1 Program Manager and Commodity Manager met with three representatives of the Commission for Destruction of Commodities, North Kivu Province, led by their President Mr. Desire Muliri, (also North Kivu Provincial Director for Environmental Protection and Tourism) and Mr. Luaboshi, the Coordinator for ASDI (Action et Soutien au Développement Integral) to discuss the possibility of disposing 64 MT of unfit Corn-Soy Blend (CSB) through composting in Katwe, Birambizo. The disposal of a further 89 MT of CSB stored in Goma was also discussed. In both cases, agreements were reached.
- Mercy Corps also met with the Food Security Advisor for Norwegian Refugee Council in Goma to discuss areas of possible collaboration in Birambizo;
- The RISE agriculture field staff attended 2 Food Security Cluster meetings in April and May in the Birambizo Health Zone,
- RISE agriculture staff participated to two coordination meetings held by the North Kivu Agriculture ministry on BXW management, control and coordination.
- The RISE nutrition team participated in the March, April and May' UN Nutrition Cluster meetings. During the April meeting, the nutrition and BCC staff gave a presentation highlighting RISE nutrition activities and the importance of the 1000 Day-Approach for the prevention of chronic malnutrition.
- Members of the RISE team also visited the Chef de Chefferie of Bwito (Birambizo Health Zone) and Chef de Groupement of Bambo in April and May to update them on RISE activities and solicit feedback.

SO1: Smallholder farming households in target areas have increased and diversified production and profit

Over the past quarter, the agriculture team made progress on the strengthening of seed supply; organization of producer groups; and continued dissemination of good production and storage practices. This was complemented by a renewed reflection on how to more efficiently link SO1 and SO2 interventions and participants, including market gardening and livestock activities. The expansion of VSLAs continues, while private service providers (village agents) are being identified and trained to ensure the sustainability of the model. Additionally, progress has been made in Butembo with the preparation and launch of additional activities, such as the creation of five Farmer Field Schools (FFS) in Kalunguta Health Zone and two secondary cassava multiplication plots. Table 1 below demonstrates the achievements during the April-June 2014 quarter.

IR 1.1: Smallholder farming households adopt integrated and sustainable farming practices

Banana: to produce and multiply healthy banana suckers, RISE installed an additional 7 hectares of banana multiplication plots in Bambo, Butare, Kibirizi, Katwe Birundule, Kyaghala, Nyanzale, Singa, Tongo and Katolo.

Cassava: RISE field teams, with the participation of Farmers Groups, carried out a Participatory Variety Selection (PVS) for cassava in Mutanda, Bwalanda, Kikuku and Bambo. The selected varieties will be adopted by Farmer Field Schools and individual households in the project areas.

Small livestock and vegetable: SO1 and SO2 developed a joint action plan for small livestock and vegetable production targeting SO2 participants. During the reporting period, 488 rabbits (breeding stock of 1 male and 3 females) were distributed to 122 households, with a rapid expansion planned for next quarter;

Input supply: a study was conducted to identify the gaps in the input supply chain (including certified seeds, farming tools, veterinary products, and storage and packaging materials). The results of the study will allow the team to organize field open days in YI4 in an effort to fill these gaps.



Rabbit multiplication unit –Bwalanda, Katwe

IR 1.2: Male and female smallholder farmers and other targeted value chain actors improve their practices along the selected value chains

Eighty of the 160 gender equitable producer groups (PGs), representing approximately 4,000 households, completed their training. The remaining 20 PGs in Birambizo and 60 PGs in Butembo (or an additional 4,000 households) will complete their training by August 2014 on time for the next cropping season.

Twenty-five interested seed multiplication farmers (out of 40) were registered to receive training from the National Research Institute (INERA) and the National Seed Certification Agency (SENASA). Agreements with these two agencies are completed. INERA and SENASA will provide capacity building, supply of base seed material, certification of the seeds produced and on-going technical support to the seed multipliers. The choice of the seeds to be multiplied corresponds to the result of the seed supply gap analysis and producers' preference.

Maize - Farmer Groups dried and stored 16 tons of maize seed harvested from demonstration plots in Purdue Improved Cowpea Storage (PICS) sacs. The maize seed will be disseminated during the next planting season in September 2014 in Birambizo and Butembo through a seed sharing system set up by CRS through partner extension agents to increase seed availability.

Soybeans - The training on production technologies and the procurement process for 25MT of soybeans to be distributed to 5,000 SO2 participants has started. Soybeans will be received on time for the September-December 2014 planting season, and will be used partly to produce more seeds for expanded production in subsequent seasons and partly for immediate use to make local CSB.

Livestock - Two youth associations (1 in Birambizo and 1 in Butembo) involved in small livestock activities have been identified to promote rabbit meat consumption through butcheries and cafeterias specializing in rabbit meat. Existing butcheries have also been sensitized to

increasingly include rabbit meat in their offer. In parallel, SO2 team is increasing sensitization for rabbit consumption and the nutritional value of rabbit meat. Acting on both sides of the supply and demand will create a market for this type of meat, more affordable than traditional goat meat.

IR 1.3: Male and female smallholder farmers and other targeted value chain actors create an enabling business environment

The formation and training of savings groups (VSLAs and SILC) is well under way. To date, 214 groups have been formed and trained, and the 8 remaining are currently being trained. These include a total of 4,850 participants. During the next quarter, an assessment will be carried out to have a better understanding of the exact number of participants from SO2 currently enrolled in the VSLAs. A training of trainers for 20 VSLA Village Agents was also completed during the period. The agents have been engaged for a period of 12 months to train and provide support for the development of the VSLAs. Each agent is in charge of 6 VSLAs located in specific sites.

Behavior communications activities were carried out for SO1 throughout the quarter and are detailed under SO3.

SO2: Improved nutritional status among pregnant and lactating women and children under 5 in target areas

This quarter, SO2 activities were carried out across the 29 health areas in Birambizo Health Zone as well as in four health areas in Butembo in Musienene and Kalunguta Health Zones. RISE conducted joint supervisions visits with the government, closed registration for new PM2A participants and provided capacity building and support to Mother Leaders and RECOs to carry out routine community activities, including home visits, community education, detection and referral of cases of acute malnutrition by RECOs to the health center, and culinary demonstrations. Monthly PM2A food distributions were carried out with significant monitoring support from the nutrition field team and management staff. Please see below for update on commodity distribution activities.

Table 2 highlights key nutrition and health activities undertaken during the past quarter. Progress in multiple activities, including home visits, culinary demonstrations and monthly meetings with MLs has been accelerated by the addition and training of 177 new Mother Leaders, which has accelerated progress towards yearly targets.

IR 2.1: Pregnant and lactating women and caregivers of children under 5 increase their utilization of counseling and health services in accordance with GODRC standards.

Health Zone staff trained nurses in ENAs and Prenatal Care, who in turn trained Mother Leaders and RECOs. Those RECOs who were trained in ENAs have re-gained motivation, as demonstrated by the number of home visits (986) conducted in multiple health areas. In May 2014 the first monthly joint supervision visit was carried out with the Birambizo Health Zone's Equipe Cadre de la Zone de Sante (ECZS) and RISE staff to evaluate the quality of nutrition education, prenatal and postnatal care and growth monitoring clinic activities. Significant challenges identified in the five health areas visited include limited growth monitoring activities, underutilization of health care services by pregnant women, and irregular monitoring visits by

supervisors of the health zone in health centers. The ECZS and RISE staff is investigating ways to address these challenges.

IR2.2: Pregnant and lactating women and caregivers of children under 5 adopt key preventive nutrition and health behaviors.

Data collected from 28 health centers reveal that pregnant women's attendance at a recommended minimum of four prenatal visits has grown between March (50% of pregnant women) and May (61.2%) indicating progress in the promotion of positive health-seeking behavior among pregnant women. Home visits have been widely carried out by Mother Leaders and nutritionists with over 17,000 visits to PM2A homes. During these visits, ML and staff have the opportunity to promote ENAs and identify and address the barriers to the uptake of these behaviors.

IR 2: Pregnant and lactating women and children under 5 consume a diet in accordance with national GODRC guidelines

The number of PM2A participants rose sharply during the reporting period from 24,151 (women and children) at the close of the last quarter to 31,292. During this period, the BCC staff worked to educate community members through diverse channels, including local radio stations, health center staff, Mother Leaders and other community leaders that PM2A enrollment would be ending. This likely spurred women to enroll in the program. BCC staff educated participants during distribution days on various messages, including the close of registration, the program graduation procedure for children who reach 2 years of age, and the importance of the intended participant consuming the food ration.

Other BCC accomplishments include:

- A second nutrition Lot Quality Assurance Sampling (LQAS) was carried out in May (the first one was carried out in September 2013), involving 12 nutrition field agents across 18 health areas in Birambizo;
- Two skits were performed for over 500 pregnant and lactating women during the Kashalira health area commodity distribution;
- New communication channels for the broadcast of messages were identified and include two primary schools, two secondary schools and nine Protestant and Catholic churches;
- Twenty eight new radio spots (7 messages in 4 local languages – three on ENA, 2 on agriculture, and 2 for hygiene) were developed and will be aired twice a day for three months through the six local radio station partners.

SO3: Strengthened community governance of food security in target areas

The main activities of the period focused on the implementation of the MTE recommendations. The establishment of local development committees (LDCs) and the support to the development of their local development plans (LDPs) started in Butembo. These provide the opportunity to strengthen RISE collaboration with the Ministry of Decentralization, which is now playing a central role in this process. The strengthening of the CARGs is also continuing in Butembo; and disaster risk reduction activities, including analysis, planning and organization of committees started simultaneously in Birambizo and Butembo. Finally, a push for the establishment of the infrastructure maintenance committees has resulted in 7 committees being established with

already substantial results. To promote transparency and ensure communities understand clearly the objective and methodology of FFW activities, a series of meetings were conducted with the RISE project managers and M&E to lay out the criteria for selecting FFW beneficiaries and clarify the identification process. This was followed by 6 information-sharing meetings to raise awareness of FFW selection criteria in Kikuku, Kirima, Butare, Kabizo, Mulimbi and Rusheghe, where 138 participants were present, ranging from local authorities, civil society, CDCs, to youth and women associations. To further promote transparency, the partner associations are now publishing the beneficiary lists.



Training session in Butembo on roles and responsibilities of CARG members

The Mercy Corps team received a training on good governance and partnership conducted by Mercy Corps Headquarters' Governance Advisor. The objective was to enhance the knowledge of the RISE team on good governance principles and its integration in the program, and to discuss the particular challenges and opportunities of creating successful partnerships.

Behavior Change Communications

In terms of BCC, the following activities were completed by the end of this quarter:

- RISE, in partnership with Fondation Hirondelle, organized 3 media trainings for 15 radio partners, including 5 based in Butembo, on management, marketing and journalism. Participants included radio decision makers, finance and public relation departments, and journalists. These trainings were designed so that radio managers increase their knowledge and understanding of their responsibilities as community leaders; and be better able to plan and design marketing strategies for their radios. Journalists have acquired or reinforced their technical capacities to document news, stories as well as increase awareness within their respective communities.
- Two workshops on how to develop targeted and efficient radio spots (1 minute skits on several aspects of the RISE project) were conducted with focal point journalists from our 15 radio partners. Over 50 radio spots were produced for both SO1 and SO3 in Birambizo and Butembo.
- Five “Clubs d’Écoute”, (Listeners Clubs) including over 100 participants were established and trained on their role with radio partners. A Listeners Club is representative from the community who lead discussions with radio journalists on various topics related to each SO and how they relate to the community where they live. They now interact and engage discussions amongst themselves and with their local radio on issues related to the good practices promoted by RISE.
- Documentary and videos of three feature stories on FFW, Nutrition and Good Governance were produced and shared with the respective program managers for feedback. A Production Validation Committee (PROVACO) composed of key RISE staff and other Mercy Corps staff will meet to validate all productions before dissemination.
- Designed and customized SO1 and SO3 radio spots (messages) are being aired across the majority of the Birambizo and Butembo coverage areas of the RISE project until January

2015. At that time, an assessment of their usefulness and efficiency will be conducted, followed by a revision of messages if necessary.

- Communication campaign activities, including theater, music album, and mini TV series, are being produced after some delays due to the procurement process. Other IEC materials are also being developed for both SO1 and SO3.

IV. Gender Integration

Mercy Corps' HQ Gender Advisor visited Goma from 25 May to 20 June 2014. During the visit, the team was trained on gender issues and gender integration within their activities, including integrating the recommendations from the RISE gender assessment. The HQ Gender Advisor conducted a gender analysis tool training for SO1 and SO3 key staff (including Roles and Responsibilities Matrix, Access and Control Matrix, and Daily Calendar tool); worked with the M&E team on ways to use sex and age disaggregated data (SADD), adjust internal reporting templates to encourage increased use of SADD, and provide guidance on conducting gender sensitive focus group discussions; and worked with individual program managers on ways of concretely integrating gender within all activities. Every program manager committed to include gender within their component starting July 2014. For example, to better ensure gender sensitivity within local associations, particularly for equal participation of both women and men in development activities, SO3 organized two training sessions on gender in Rutshuru and Rugari for youth and women associations, reaching 109 participants (53 women and 56 men). At the end of these trainings, participants were asked to establish Gender Committees to ensure the sensitization of the entire community on gender equity and to increase the ability of women to participate in associations and local decision-making. The new RISE Gender Advisor will strengthen gender integration during the next quarter.

V. Commodity Management

In an effort to strengthen commodity management, Mercy Corps recruited an expatriate Commodity Advisor in May to improve systems and build the capacity of the current national staff Commodity Manager. A Commodity Tracking and Systems Officer was also hired to improve the tracking of program distributions. The commodity team developed a six month work-plan, which was shared with USAID/FFP Kinshasa, which now acts as a key program management tool.

RISE distributed PM2A commodities in Birambizo Health Zone to 27 health centers and FFW commodities in Mutanda, Bambu and Tongo. Having reached the RISE PM2A target of 31,292 participants, program enrollment ended. The BCC team had prepared the community, informing them that participant registration would end in May 2014. Post distribution monitoring tools were developed and pre-tested at the field level and are now used by program field staff and the distribution team to monitor program activities monthly. In May, RISE launched the use of iPods in distributions in Kasoko and Mushababwe.

USAID/FFP approved a call forward for 1,330MT of CSB, 410MT cornmeal, 140MT vegetable oil, and 120MT yellow split peas, which represent almost half the commodity requirements submitted in the IY4 AER. RISE received a 500MT loan repayment of cornmeal from WFP which stabilized the commodity pipeline. The solicitation of transportation services from the port of Dar es Salaam to Goma was finalized and awarded to Bollre Africa Logistics. The first

shipment lot is expected to arrive at the port of Dar es Salaam in July 2014. The commodity team has been preparing and submitting monthly commodity status reports to USAID/FFP since April 2014. Additionally, the commodity advisor and manager travelled to Kinshasa and reviewed all pending QWICR reports with USAID/FFP's Development Assistance Specialist.

In an effort to establish a mechanism for program participants to provide anonymous feedback, the commodity management team installed a comments box at distribution sites in Butare and Buhondwa. M&E staff are responsible for creating summary reports of the issues to share with the nutrition and commodity management teams. This beneficiary feedback system allowed RISE to recognize and respond quickly to two issues: 1) in Butare, some participants had not received ration cards, which was rectified; and 2) participants indicated that former staff stole PM2A food, which allowed for the termination of contracts for those staff (both CRS and Caritas) involved in the theft.

VI. Monitoring & Evaluation.

This quarter RISE focused on developing and implementing systems to respond to the results of the MTE. The M&E team led the way in revising critical tools, such as the results framework and the MTE action plan, and established a communication and reporting system to ensure a more efficient and regular evaluation and correction of action for all activities. Special efforts have also been placed on reinforcing the coordination and systems between Mercy Corps and CRS. A meeting between all RISE managers was organized to draft a consolidation plan. Additionally, two meetings between Mercy Corps and CRS M&E teams were held to discuss the harmonization of methodologies for data collection and the establishment of joint monitoring plans.

Capacity building activities were also carried out during this period, including:

- A training for RISE M&E staff on project design and management of M&E system;
- Field monitoring, quality assurance and compliances checks for FFW and SO3;
- A workshop for the FFW implementing partners on accountability and compliance.

RISE has initiated the registration of PM2A participants using iForm builder, which has been used to track 17% so far. The iPod registration system has been tested during the Mushababwe and Kasoko commodity distributions. In these two sites, participants were given cards printed with bar codes to be scanned at the registration desk during distributions to improve efficiency and reduce participant waiting time. The team is currently reviewing the results to modify if needed.

VIII. Challenges and Lessons Learned

The key challenges encountered during this quarter have been recorded in Annex 6. Key lessons learned this quarter are as follows:

SO1:

- The involvement of government actors increases the efficiency in the banana wilt (BXW) management and control;

- Community feedback reveals that VSLA activities are well received by participants and need to be expanded;
- Joint supervisory missions between SO provide good opportunities ofr improving integration and should be increased.

SO2:

- In view of the challenges encountered during joint monitoring visits of health facilities with the health zone staff, the MOH staff has become more open to collaborate to identify sustainable solutions and strengthen health care service delivery;
- iPod registration of candidates, though time and labor intensive, is streamlining data collection and will save time at distributions once all candidates have been registered. The data can be processed in real-time, with participant information being immediately uploaded into the database.



Maintenance Committee at Rwahurukeni- Mutanda

SO3:

- The close collaboration with the Ministry of Decentralization during CDC refresher training reinforced their involvement in the development of local development plans in accordance with the laws and policies of decentralization; and Communities that have established their infrastructure maintenance committees have shown progress in the sustainability of their projects. Accelerating this process and ensuring these committees are in place in every community will ensure infrastructure sustainability.

BCC:

- Given the success of the Mother Leaders and their ability to facilitate behavior change, it is important, for sustainability purposes, to seek ways to integrate this system into the government system;
- The number of media production companies is very limited in the Goma area. However, reaching out to companies in the sub-region proved effective; and
- The validation of video productions by the agriculture and nutrition managers is fundamental to the program. We need to take the time and mobilize other managers to share and discuss the content of every productions coming from the BCC team.

Table 1. Quarterly Achievements for Agriculture

Description of Activities	Achievement			Quantitative and Qualitative
	Achieved	On-Going	No	Description
SO1: Smallholder farming households in target areas have increased and diversified production and profit				
IR 1.1: Smallholder farming households adopt integrated and sustainable farming practices				
1.1.1.1 Establish demonstration fields and test sites for seed multiplication.	X	X		7 ha of banana production and multiplication plots created in Bambo, Butare, Kibirizi, Katwe, Birundule, Kyaghala, Nyanzale and Singa
1.1.1.2 Facilitate the establishment of seed bulking plots linked to existing schemes, research organizations and seed companies		X		25 Seed multiplication farmers out a target of 40 were registered. Selection and registration of the remaining 15 ongoing and expected to be completed ahead of the next crop production season. Contacts were made with the National Research Institute (INERA) and the National Seed Certification Agency (SENASA) who will engaged for the capacity building, supply of base seed material, certification of the seeds produced and support going forward for the seed multiplication farmers
1.1.1.3 Conduct formative research and analyze barriers that affect men and women's adoption of improved agriculture practices of targeted farmers in project area	X			Two barrier analyses (for SO1 and SO3) were completed and identified the barriers to the adoption of recommended good practices. This led to the design of a customized and adapted communication campaign strategy for Butembo.
1.1.1.4 Create or modify training material to address identified barriers to adoption of improved agricultural practices	X			
1.1.1.5 Train community-based technical focal points		X		48 focal points are trained, but due to issues in selection criteria and a revision of the strategy, 80 additional agriculture focal points to be trained in August 2014, and 20 livestock focal points in the process of receiving training.
1.1.1.6 Establish on-farm trials and community site demonstration for locally available crops that are resilient to local conditions in collaboration with research organizations	X	X		10 ha of cassava were planted in healthy tertiary cassava multiplication plots.
1.1.1.7 Train male and female farmers on the use of new varieties and crop, disease and pest management techniques compatible with their farming practices	X	X		5 ha of banana fields affected by BXW and other diseases were cleaned throughout the 22 health areas covered by the RISE SO1 activities

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1.1.1.8 Train female caregivers (SO2 beneficiaries) in small livestock, Soya Beans and vegetable production to support nutritional needs and income diversification among SO2 and the most vulnerable participant households	X	X		In the remaining part of IY3, 1,800 additional Guinea pigs and 1,512 breeding rabbits will be distributed to 600 and 302 SO2 participant households, respectively.
1.1.1.9 Integrate nutrition education within trainings of producers and extension services			X	
1.1.1.10 Conduct open field days and input fairs for wider dissemination of extension message and for promotion of the input supply side of the market in the target areas				Sensitization of traders and farmers already completed. 2 open field days (1 in Butembo and 1 in Birambizo) planned for before each planting season in YI4.
1.1.2.1 Conduct training of trainers for government extension officers on sustainable control of Banana Xanthomonas Wilt (BXW) and Cassava Mosaic Disease (CMD)			X	
1.1.2.2 Test new disease resistant varieties using trial systems under output 1.1.1 guided by participatory variety selection practices.	X	X		4 PVS trial sites installed with 7 cassava varieties in Mutanda, Bambo, Kikuku and Bwalanda.
1.1.2.3 Train male and female farmers using the Farmer Field School Approach on Integrated Pest Management (IPM), the use of bio-pesticides and traditional disease and pest management practices			X	Integrated in the training plans for IY4
1.1.2.4 Train male and female farmers, based on Farmer Field School Approach and using local technical focal points, on Conservation Agriculture practices			X	Integrated in the training plans for IY4
IR 1.2 Male and female smallholder farmers and other targeted value chain actors improve their practices along the selected value chains				
1.2.1.1 Conduct a detailed value chain analysis and market research for selected commodities (crops and animal)	X			
1.2.1.2 Sensitize producers on new opportunities using profitability (Gross Margin) analyses.			X	Completed in Butembo for beans, maize, potatoes, and onions. Birambizo planned for Sept 2014.
1.2.1.3 Train producer groups, SO2 beneficiary households, and other selected market actors on improved post-harvest preparation and handling, storage and value-adding processes (including sorting, cleaning, chipping and drying) to maintain nutrient content and respond to market demand as identified in 1.2.1.1.			X	Farmer groups harvested 16 tons of maize seed in secondary fields, dried and stored them in Katwe, using PICS bags technology.

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1.2.1.4 Select and structure local associations to form gender equitable Producer Groups (PGs) and strengthen their governance	X	X		In preparation for IY4, and in response to the revised results framework, completed formation of 80 new Producer Groups (PG) out of the targeted 160. The formation of the remaining 40 PGs in Birambizo and 60 PGs in Butembo are ongoing and will be completed before the next cropping season in August 2014
1.2.2.2 Provide training opportunities to selected producer groups and VSLAs in improved business capacity (including financial skills) and governance (linkage to SO3)			X	Planned for 1 st quarter of YI4
IR 1.3 Male and female smallholder farmers and other targeted value chain actors create an enabling business environment				
1.3.1.1 Support Community Development Committees (CDCs) to identify priority infrastructure projects			X	SO1 and SO3 managers have agreed on the terms for collaboration. Planned for YI4
1.3.1.2 Support the CDCs to implement sustainable priority and market-access supporting infrastructure actions through Food for Work activities			X	SO1 and SO3 managers have agreed on the terms for collaboration. Planned for YI4
1.3.2.1 Develop a sustainable market information systems based on results of feasibility study			X	Study planned for next quarter
1.3.3.1 Facilitate the formation and development of Village Savings and Lending Groups (VSLA)	X	X		214 VSLAs formed and trained
1.3.3.2. Facilitate the establishment of private services providers for VSLA sustainability		X		Completed a 5-day capacity building training of 20 Village Agents who will be responsible for training and providing development support for 120 VSLA in Lubero / Beni (Butembo)

Annex 2: SO2 Quarterly Achievements

Description of Activities	Achievement			Quantitative and Qualitative Description
	Achieved	On-going	No	
SO2 Improved nutritional status among pregnant and lactating women and children under 5 in target areas				
IR 2.1: Pregnant and lactating women and caregivers of children under 5 increase their utilization of counseling and health services in accordance with GODRC standards.				
2.1.1.1 Train health care providers and community volunteers in health and nutrition.	X	X		34 nurses were trained in Pre/Post Natal Care (CPN/CPoN). Of these, 22 were trained on the Essential Nutrition Actions (ENAs). Trainings sessions in Integrated Management of Child Illness (PCIME) and Essential Hygiene Actions are planned in Birambizo between July and September, 2014.
2.1.1.2 Conduct refresher trainings for health care providers and community volunteers in health and nutrition.		X		No refresher trainings were carried out this quarter.
2.1.1.3 Conduct joint supervision and quality monitoring visits with the government to health centers in project area.	X	X		From May 2014, two joint supervision missions were carried out by CRS and Caritas nutrition staff with Birambizo and Bambo Health Zone staff. A joint visit with Provincial Health Department (PRONANUT/DPS) is planned for August.
2.1.1.4 Advocate to key stakeholders and project catchment areas to ensure adequate provision of medication and supplies		X		In the June UNICEF Nutrition Cluster meeting, partners discussed the lack of medical supplies in Birambizo. Save the Children discussed possible plans to address this concern in some areas of Birambizo.
2.1.2.1 Conduct formative research and analyze barriers that affect timely care seeking behaviors of population in project area.	X	X		BCC field agents in collaboration with nutrition agents conducted focus group discussions with Mother Leaders to identify and understand barriers to seeking prenatal care at health centers.
2.1.2.2 Create or modify campaign materials to address identified barriers to timely care seeking behaviors			X	

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2.1.2.3 Implement SBCC campaign focusing on key messages on timely access and utilization of services, targeting men and women strategically.			X	
2.1.3.1 Provide tools and follow-up training to community volunteers monitoring of moderate acute malnutrition (MAM)	X	X		502 children under 5 referred to clinics for suspected malnutrition, based on MUAC tape measurements, by both nutritionists and RECOs.
2.1.3.2 Establish accountability mechanisms for households to ensure government implementation of CMAM services			X	
2.1.3.3 Monitor the quality of community volunteers and government's growth monitoring activities among children under 5	X	X		
2.1.3.4 Advocate to key stakeholders in project catchment area to ensure adequate coverage of CMAM services			X	
IR2.2: Pregnant and lactating women and caregivers of children under 5 adopt key preventive nutrition and health behaviors.				
2.2.1.1 Produce and promote use of fuel-efficient cooking stoves to reduce indoor air pollution contributing to Acute Respiratory Infections.			X	
2.2.1.2 Train communities in the construction and usage of low-cost appropriate household tools (such as tippy taps or drying racks for dishes) to reduce the risk of hygiene related diseases and contaminants			X	
2.2.1.3 Train community volunteers in essential health and hygiene behaviors to encourage the uptake of positive health behaviors.	X	X		Nutritionists trained RECOs in ENAs. 170 training sessions of RECOs have been conducted. The first training of trainers (ToT) on Essential Hygiene Actions planned for July 2014.
2.2.1.4 RECOs promote the GoDRC's key family health practices in the community	X	X		2,302 home visits carried out by RECOs. Caritas and CRS nutrition staff held 16 meetings with RECOs in Birambizo and Bambo Health Zones.
2.2.2.1 Conduct formative research and analyze barriers that affect the uptake of key ENAs of population in project area	X	X		A second nutrition Lot Quality Assurance Sampling (LQAS) Survey was carried out in May; the first one was carried out in September 2013. 12 nutrition field agents participated in an

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				LQAS training and served as enumerators across 18 Health Areas in Birambizo. Report is forthcoming.
2.2.2.2 Develop a SBCC campaign based on the results of the formative research			X	
2.2.2.3 Develop IEC materials for adoption of Essential Nutrition Actions	X	X		Materials were developed and are being revised.
2.2.2.4 Recruit a network of committed Mother Leaders to support the target population in adopting positive nutrition behaviors	X	X		17 additional Mother Leaders identified and registered CRS nutritionist staff held 75 meetings with ML
2.2.2.5 Train Mother Leaders in Essential Nutrition Actions to encourage the uptake of positive nutrition behaviors	X	X		Caritas nutritionists trained 177 ML.
2.2.2.6 Form Mother Support Groups using a network of Mother Leaders to reinforce positive infant and young child feeding practices through group education			X	Field agents are in the process of grouping participants into groups
2.2.2.7 Mother Leaders carry out targeted home visits using IEC support materials	X	X		17,057 home visits carried out by Mother Leaders
2.2.2.8 Pilot Father Leader and Father Support Groups to increase integration of men into family health and nutrition issues			X	Father Leaders are in the process of being identified.
IR 2.3 Pregnant and lactating women and children under 5 consume a diet in accordance with national GODRC guidelines.				
2.3.1.1 Distribution of PM2A ration commodities to eligible women and children	X		X	Increased the number of participants from 24,151 (women and children) at the close of the last quarter to 31,292 during the reporting period.
2.3.1.2 Monitor exclusive consumption of PM2A ration among eligible participants through post-monitoring distribution surveys			X	
2.3.1.3 Conduct formative research to identify barriers and enablers to consumption of PM2A ration among eligible participants.			X	

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2.3.1.4 Develop and disseminate key messages to ensure participants understand the importance of consumption of PM2A ration exclusively by PLW and children 6-23 months		X		Messages disseminated at distribution days.
2.3.2.1 Community volunteers support household gardening to produce micronutrient-rich vegetables, legumes and grains through subsidies for seeds to PM2A participants, prioritizing households with undernourished children. (Link to 1.1.1.7)		X		262 participants (including 80 mother leaders) received vegetable seeds. The distribution strategy was revised this quarter, and will be applied from next quarter on.
2.3.2.2. Support rabbit and guinea pig breeding among women in households with pregnant and lactating women and children under five. (Link to 1.1.1.7)		X		While 126 households have received 4 rabbits (1 male 3 female), the process will scale up next quarter (to reach 900 households) and beginning of IY4 (to reach 4,000 households) . In the remaining part of IY3, an additional 1,800 Guinea pigs and 1,512 breeding rabbit are planned to be distributed to 600 and 302 SO2 participants households, respectively
2.3.2.3 Develop and disseminate key messages on the process of transforming locally produced corn and soy beans into “home-made” corn-soy blend			X	Soybeans to be planted in September 2014.
2.3.3.1 Collect and promote locally appropriate recipes that meet the nutritional needs of pregnant and lactating women and young children			X	
2.3.3.2 Culinary demonstrations carried out by Mother Leaders to promote healthy foods for children 6-59 months, including “home-made” corn soy blend porridge made with commodities as well as locally grown maize and soy	X	X		426 sessions held in 29 health areas.
2.3.3.3 Culinary demonstrations carried out with producer organizations to promote household consumption of diverse micronutrient-rich foods			X	CRS and Caritas nutrition managers will train nutrition field staff, agriculture extension workers and field agronomists in the first quarter of FY4.

Annex 3: SO3 Quarterly Achievements

Description of Activities	Achievement			Quantitative and Qualitative Description
	Achieved	On-going	No	
SO3 - Strengthened community governance of food security in target areas				
IR 3.1: Local Leaders, Local Development Committees, civil society, and government service providers collaborate to maintain accountability and transparency in regards to community food security concerns				
3.1.1.1 Reconstitute the Local Development Committees (LDCs) in line with Decentralization Laws		X		
3.1.1.2 Train LDCs on decentralization and elaboration of Local Development Plans and inclusion of gender and vulnerable populations when prioritizing and designing projects.	X			In partnership with the Provincial Division of Decentralization, a 2-day public campaign workshop on decentralization was held in Kikuku Birambizo to increase knowledge of local authorities, CSOs, and others stakeholders on decentralization policies. 62 participants (54 men and 8 women) participated. In collaboration with the Ministry of Decentralization, 38 participants (35 men and 3 women representatives of local authorities, CDCs, and local ministry) received training on "Local Planning and laws in Public procurement". 67 participants (56 men and 11 women) at Masereka, Kalunguta (Butembo) including representatives of local authorities, CDCs, and local CSO trained on developing Community Development Plan (CDPs).
3.1.1.3 Support LDCs and other community structures in the development of local development plans (focused on sustainability of SO1 and SO2 priorities and on reduction risks to food security of natural or man-made disasters).		X		The recruiting process of consultants to lead the elaboration of 12 Community Development Plans in Butembo is finalized. The elaboration of the plans is scheduled for July 2014
3.1.1.4 Support LDCs to implement and monitor FFW projects in accordance with the plans identified		X		7 infrastructure maintenance committees established in Birambizo, and 2 new micro-projects implemented in Birambizo including road rehabilitation Kibirizi-Kahumiro, and agroforestry in Kabana
3.1.1.5 Support the LDCs to hold tenders for association projects that address the food security action plans (which should address sustainability of SO1 and SO2 priorities) and/or the needs of women and youth or other vulnerable groups			X	Planned for first quarter of IY4
3.1.1.6 Provide training and resources to implement micro-projects to associations that are selected through a clear and		X		119 participants (64 men and 55 women) including youth and women's associations members received training

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transparent LDC tendering process				on organizational and management capacity, and structuring of local organizations
3.1.1.7 Train beneficiary associations on gender approach for inclusive participation and increased female leadership		X		2 training sessions on gender approach in Rutshuru and Rugari for youth and women associations were conducted for 109 participants including 53 women and 56 men. They established during this training gender committees responsible for sensitizing the community on gender equity and participation in local decision-making
3.1.2.1 Support LDCs and local chiefs to establish processes for posting public notices			X	Planned for 2 nd quarter IY4
3.1.2.2 Promote Social accountability through Community Score Cards related FFW implementation			X	Planned for 1 st quarter IY4
3.1.3.1 Conduct training for the local counterparts of the CARG on the management of land conflict		X		N/A for this period. 2 training sessions on the management of land conflict were previously completed, and will continue during 1 st quarter of IY4
3.1.3.2 Organize a series of dialogues with male and female community leaders and stakeholders on local strategies aimed at improving access to land			X	Planned for IY4
3.1.3.3 Conduct a review of the types of land conflicts and the frequency and consequences that emerge over the course of a year and hold a meeting with the chefferie CARG and chefferie authorities to develop an action plan			X	Planned for 1 st Quarter IY4
3.1.4.1 Support the constitution of Local DRR and EWS-R sub-committees within the LDCs				During this period, 2 DRR committees were established in Kabanda and Kibirizi. DRR committee's role is to support and participate in developing, and implementing the DRR plans
3.1.4.2 Organize cascade trainings on disaster risk reduction and EWS-R		X		A disaster risk analysis conducted in 9 localities of Birambizo. 109 participants (42 women and 67 men from the local authorities, local associations, and CDCs) received training on DRR planning in Tongo and Bambo. Following this training, during next quarter, communities will elaborate DRR plans and set up local DRR committees
3.1.4.3 Organize workshop to help community develop DRR and EWS-R plans for responding to food security shocks		X		N/A for this period. 8 workshops were previously completed, and 5 others are planned for July 2014
3.1.4.4 Establish mechanism and procedures for identifying a way to review the effects of the shock and the preparedness of communities to identify future mitigation measures			X	Planned for 1 st quarter IY4

IR3.2: Communities reinforce linkages with territory and provincial food security structures				
3.2.1.1 Conduct needs identification and capacity assessment of CARGs		X		Needs identification and capacity assessment workshop of CARG Ruwenzori is scheduled for the next quarter.
3.2.1.2 Support CARGs at community level on development of action plan		X		CARG Baswagha Butembo developed an action plan
3.2.1.3 Provide CARGs with processes and skills required for advocacy/lobbying and conflict resolution		X		29 CARG members in Baswagha, Butembo trained on their roles responsibilities and mission
3.2.2.1 Provide small grants for CARGs' information sharing activities at Provincial and local level		X		The strategic plan and project proposal for the CARG provincial is currently under development, the signature of the MOU is planned for the next period and funding will start at the beginning of IY4
3.2.2.2 Sensitize communities regarding the role and responsibilities of CARGs			X	Planned for next quarter
3.2.2.3 Sponsor CARG visits to constituent communities and other initiatives aimed at planning and information-sharing			X	Planned for next quarter
3.2.3.1 Organize CARG quarterly workshops aimed at fostering links between territory and provincial stakeholders and discuss on food security concerns		X		The next CARG quarterly workshop is scheduled for August 2014
3.2.3.2 Support the wide dissemination of provincial agriculture development strategies			X	Planned for 1stquarter IY4
3.2.3.3 Support joint monitoring of market trends and its implications on food security			X	Planned for 2 nd quarter IY4
3.2.3.4 Hold a final meeting with the CARGs to review the systems in place and the challenges to identify realistic priorities and appropriate mechanisms for CARGs to function at community and at chefferie and territory level			X	Planned for IY5

Annex 4: RISE Commodity stocks

Direct distribution commodities in stock in country as of June 30th, 2014.

Corn soya blend (MT)	Vegetable oil (MT)	Yellow split peas (MT)	Corn meal(MT)	Total tonnage(MT)
363.35	122.21	160.38	512.98	1,158.91

Total number of PM2A beneficiaries served and commodities distributed during the quarter.

Period	Pregnant and lactating women	Children under 2 years	Corn soy blend (MT)	Vegetable oil (MT)	Split yellow peas (MT)	Cornmeal (MT)	Total (MT)
April-14	20 847	6 661	197.44	14.98	-	-	212.42
May-14	16 704	6 423	164.79	13.96	-	-	178.74
June-14	6 282	4 203	72.56	6.31	-	-	78.87
TOTAL	43 833	17 287	434.79	35.25	-	-	470.04

Total Food for Work beneficiaries served and commodities distributed during the quarter.

Period	Households reached	Vegetable oil (MT)	Split yellow peas (MT)	Cornmeal (MT)	Total (MT)
April-14	397	1.37	5.48	18.28	25.13
May-14	3 349	11.50	45.96	153.38	210.84
June-14	3 704	12.73	50.90	169.62	233.25
TOTAL	7 450	25.61	102.34	341.27	469.23

Annex 5. Quarterly supervision missions

Topic of Visit	Date	Comments
Agriculture		
Harmonization of project sites, SO1 approaches and activity for Lubero/Beni project areas (Butembo)	April 5 – April 11	SO1 Butembo field staff were engaged in activity harmonization meetings with CRS/Caritas/CEDRU
Agriculture PM organized a workshop with field staff to review and incorporate MTE observations and recommendations	April 2-4	Developed an action plan for IY3 based on MTE recommendations.
RISE partners made progress towards the implementation of a RISE integration and harmonization strategy in Butembo, as well as monitor progress on program startup.	April 5-11	Representatives from all partners and all sectors participated in the harmonization meeting.
Assistant Agriculture PM provided technical assistance to field teams in Birambizo including support to the establishment of macro-propagators	May 20-29	Routine support and trouble-shooting provided
Consultative meetings with project participants	June 2 – June 6	SO1 PM met with smallholder producers in Bwalanda, Katolo, Kirima and Kibirizi to discuss the planning of the coming production season
The SO1 PMs held a meeting to discuss the Post-MTE Action Plan, feedback from meeting with FFP (Kinshasa) and inputs for the revision of the Results Framework based on MTE recommendations	June 4, 2014	Meeting in Katwe to discuss the post-MTE action plan submitted to FFP on May 30, 2014 and matters arising from the meeting with FFP to get input and ideas from the team members for the revision of the Results Framework.
The SO1 PM visited 10 households that had received breeding rabbits distributed during April and May in Kirima, Kashalira, and Kibirizi	June 11- June 13	To observe the status of the rabbit housing units and the status of the animals as well as listen to the sentiments of the recipients the rabbits.
Finalize and support the Butembo Agriculture team in the selection of 60 new Producer Groups (PGs)	June 25 – July 14	The SO1 PM supported the team in completing the selection of 60 new PGs; participated in the launching of VSLA

		trainings; and held meetings with project participants.
Nutrition		
PM carried out supervision visit to investigate food theft	April 22-30	PM supervised field staff and carried out Butare food theft investigation. Stolen food was recovered.
PM oversaw commodity distribution	May 14-June 4	PM oversaw distribution of food at various sites and attended the piloting of distribution using ICT4D technology at two sites.
CRS-MYAP Coordinator carried out a joint visit with nutrition team to Birambizo and Butembo to track activities and meet with partners.	April 2 - 10	Tracking Nutrition MYAP-field activities and coordinate resuming operations in Butembo
		Multiple meetings were conducted during the visit with Mercy Corps, Butembo Health District and Health Zone staff in Musienene and Kalunguta.
Nutrition team and Birambizo ECZS carried out joint supervision monitoring visit with the Birambizo ECZS and Caritas to visit RISE SO1 activities.	May 15-30	The team visited five health centers with the aim of improving the nutrition and health status of women and children under 5 in particular pregnant women, nursing mothers and children 6 - 23 months Health Areas covered by the project. This will also allow for better involvement of ECZ Birambizo and strengthen collaboration between partners
Governance PM carried out FFW supervision visit in Birambizo	3-6 June 2014	6 micro-projects visited in Kibirizi, Kikuku, Katwe. Some recommendations shared with FFW team: Enhance RISE visibility for each micro-project (branding), integration with SO1 (eg: tree nursery), accelerate the establishment of Maintenance Committees
Governance PM organized a methodology orientation session for staff members of two consultants in charge of elaboration of 12 Local Development Plans in Butembo	25 June 2014	RISE approach on local development plan shared with consultant. Review of consultant methodology and validation of the tools to be used for collecting information and data
Behavior Change Communication		
BCC agents visited radio stations to reinforce partnership with radio	May 5-7	Radio stations recommenced airing spots in May

hosts and prepare for the renewal of contracts with RISE		
CRS nutrition and M&E staff carried out an LQAS training and monitoring visit	May 20-21 (training) May 25-31 (data collection)	The BCC Program Manager, Assistant Nutrition Program Manager, and 2 members of the CRS M&E team supervised the collection of survey data.
<i>Monitoring and Evaluation</i>		
M&E team monitored iPod registration of participants	March 24- April 3	17% of participants registered
M&E team monitored distribution and carried out focus groups regarding the commodity distribution process in 7 sites.	May 15-30	Update database of distribution and participating group into mothers groups, each led by a Mother Leader.
M&E team provided technical support for the LQAS training and survey, including iPod training for enumerators and ongoing technical assistance related to iPod usage		Training nutrition field agents on the use of iPods for survey data collection.
M&E team tested the use of iPods during registration in Mushababwe and Kasoko.		Cards for these two sites have been printed with bar codes for scanning.

Annex 6: Key Challenges

Key Challenge	Recommendation or Way Forward
<i>Operations & Finance</i>	
Change in leadership	Two interim CoPs ensured the coverage of the CoP position until the new RISE CoP arrival in July 2014, including an overlap of 6 weeks with the new CoP to ensure a smooth transition.
Local partner does not always produce timely expense reports.	Strengthen the capacity of the partner in financial reporting.
The relocation of the field office from Nyanzale to Katwe disrupted field activities	Operational support from Mercy Corps office will assist in the rapid establishment and functioning of the office.
Recurrent insecurity incidents involving robberies along the main routes particularly on market days	The head of sub-offices keep regular contact with the head of security in Goma.
<i>Agriculture</i>	
A drought in March, April and May 2014 delayed the cultivation of maize seeds.	Maize cultivation will take place in September rather than March, as was originally planned. Staff have adapted their IY4 planning to account for this delay.
<i>Nutrition and Commodities</i>	
Commodity theft between facility warehouse and distribution.	New measures have been taken, including: 1) Involve Goma-based staff in distributions 2) Ask warehouse managers to reinforce doors/windows/locks. 3) Take stern measures against staff involved in theft 4) Continue informing participants on correct rations and purpose of the program.
Due to delays in seed distribution, women face difficulties in contributing food to culinary demonstrations. This will likely impact the nutrition indicators related to dietary diversity and consumption of vitamin A rich foods, including indicators # 14, 49, 50, 52, 53 and 54.	After an evaluation of the seed distribution strategy indicating that the seeds were not used by the Mother Leaders given their workload, Mercy Corps and CRS have changed their distribution strategy. Distribution will accelerate in IY4.
Livestock distribution was delayed, and the distribution strategy adopted is not providing the expected results.	Given the potential that this activity has to improve the nutritional status of the population, CRS and Mercy Corps are revising their distribution strategy to accelerate the uptake. By the end of IY4, 4,000 households will

	have received rabbits and guinea pigs.
Nutrition agents have a heavy work load, particularly due to the fact that commodity distributions have been taking up a significant amount of the nutritionists' time	CRS plans to reduce the participation of nutrition agents in commodity distributions and increase other community leaders' participation, including Mother Leaders, to maintain tight controls and reduce the risk of fraud.
Activity implementation in Butembo has made slower progress than was anticipated.	Those activities which have been accomplished include multiple preliminary planning meetings with RISE and external partners and communities. Furthermore, the MOU for collaboration with RISE has been signed by the Health Province. Data was collected for each Health Area in the 2 Health Zones on health indicators in order to select the four intervention health areas. These are Kalunguta, Kabasha (in Kaluguta) and Munoli, Ngeleza for (Musienene). Additionally, in June Caritas and the District Health Office trained the Equipes Cadre de Zone de Sante for the two Health Zones, as well as health care providers. Though activities are delayed, Caritas/CRS monitoring visits and meetings are continuing to be held to accelerate progress.
Growth monitoring indicators are often not taken by health center staff due to staff reportedly not having time and lack of capacity in taking anthropometric measurements	Identify possible solutions during joint supervision with ECZS and in IY4 to organize training sessions in anthropometric measurements and growth monitoring for health staff. Nutrition staff will facilitate health center staff in finding strategies to carry out this regular task quickly and efficiently.
Wait time for participants at distribution centers is too long, which may lead to apathy and may compromise program reputation.	Participants are being grouped to attend distribution on a certain day to limit their waiting time. The use of iPods, when fully integrated, will also contribute to reduce time.
<i>Governance</i>	
The FFW activities are not perceived as fully equitable and transparent	The FFW procedures are being revised, and will be shared with local development and local association partners, who will be trained to ensure efficiency.
The capacity of Local Development Committees remains low	Further trainings will be conducted to ensure the LDCs facilitate meaningful interactions between community leaders and the community
<i>BCC</i>	
The RISE BCC team needs to improve coordination, collaboration	Regular coordination meetings between CRS and Mercy Corps BCC teams, as well as other sector teams, will

and communication across agencies and sectors.	improve integration and coordination.
Given the limited capacities of local media production agencies, the results of the procurement process for theater and video production were poor, and resulted in delays.	Mercy Corps is in the process of finalizing the procurement process and checking on past references to include in its choice of supplier.
<i>Monitoring and Evaluation</i>	
Most of participants in PM2A commodity distribution are delegates.	Require attendance of the direct participants to collect food.
Participant cards are not up to date	Fill and update participant cards during registration
83% of PM2A participants have yet to be registered electronically using iForm. The initial registration is time consuming.	Recruitment of external person to help the process of participants' registration on iForm.

Annex 7: Success stories

Hamuli's Story



Hamuli cleansing his banana trees

Hamuli Kahati, a widowed father, lives in the village of Bambo in in Rutshuru Territory in the eastern part of the Democratic Republic of Congo, with his three daughters. The North Kivu Province has been plagued by armed conflict for over 20 years. This has led to widespread displacement, malnutrition and poverty.

When the “Banana Xanthomonas Wilt (BXW)” crop disease reached his banana plantation,

due to conflict, he could only provide one meal per day to his three daughters. In Rutshuru Territory, where banana makes up a critical part of the diet, 80% of the producers have been affected by the disease.

Kahati was devastated. His revenues dropped from \$150 a month to \$7. Having lost his wife

In 2011, Mercy Corps and CRS launched the USAID-funded Food-for-Peace *Resources to Increase Food Security in Eastern DRC (RISE)* project. Kahati says: “With the assistance of CRS, we created ‘Amkeni’ (“Wake Up”) a group of 35 families in the village. CRS organized trainings for the group with agronomists on managing the disease and protecting our plantations.” The techniques were first practiced in the farmer field school and then the group visited every member’s field to help each other apply the new methods.

Kahati’s banana plantation has been restored to health and his family is consuming between two and three meals a day. Now with a \$40 monthly revenue, he is also able to afford basic medical care and pay for his daughters’ school fees. By working in solidarity to protect their banana plantations, the *Amkeni* members’ families have grown together in dignity and health.



Hamuli with Amkeni’s members, transforming bananas in vine banana to sell

Safi Kihokolo's story



Safi and Hope Boaze

Safi Kiholo lives with her family in Rutshuru Territory in the eastern part of the Democratic Republic of Congo, where decades of repetitive armed conflicts have led to the massive displacement of populations, contributing to a high prevalence of food insecurity, poverty, and malnutrition.

Hope Boaze, Safi's seventh child, weighed four kilograms (8.8 pounds) at birth. Her first six children had all been born weighing less than 2.5 kilograms (5.5 pounds). She breastfed her first six children for only three months (rather than the recommended six months of exclusive breastfeeding and 18

months of continued breastfeeding) and did not seek prenatal services at the clinic. She mainly cultivated cassava, a labor intensive and nutrient-poor food, rather than farming a diversity of crops.

In 2011, Mercy Corps and CRS launched the USAID-funded Food-for-Peace *Resources to Increase Food Security in Eastern DRC (RISE)* project, aiming to promote food security, improve agricultural livelihoods and enhance maternal and child health and nutrition status in vulnerable communities.

With RISE's integrated approach, Safi benefits from agricultural and nutrition support. She participates in agriculture trainings and receives seeds for improved crop varieties through the program. Thanks to the nutrition activities, which seek to reduce the incidence of malnutrition among children from conception until the age of two, she adopted improved pre and post natal behaviors and received enriched corn-soy blend and oil for her and her child from six to 24 months of age. Her husband also participates in RISE's Food for Work Program to rehabilitate community roads.

RISE's comprehensive approach is helping a family which has been trapped in the cycle of poverty. At 15 months of age Hope now weighs 13 kilograms, the family's production and income has increased, and the family is aware of good dietary practices to ensure that meals are healthy and balanced.



Safi with Hope Boaze and their ration of "Corn Soya Blend" (CSB), a nutrition complement provided by CRS