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Livelihood Assistance for Eastern DRC

Democratic Republic of Congo

Agreement No. AID-OFDA-G-13-00072

Period: June 5, 2013 – June 4, 2014

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Executive Summary

Samaritan's Purse (SP) is seeking to increase food security and household resiliency of conflict-affected communities on the Faradje-Aba axis and Mambasa Territory by improving livelihood capacity through increased and diversified agricultural production.

Samaritan's Purse will accomplish this objective by organizing agricultural training groups (ATGs), offering capacity building and technical support, and by providing agricultural inputs through seed and tool fairs, income diversification support, community sensitization, and livelihood empowerment for women. Farmer-training groups will use a participatory approach to encourage experiential learning and sustainability.

Although this project includes the agriculture and food security, logistics support, and relief commodities sectors, the baseline survey only covers the agriculture and food-security sector and related indicators.

Project Summary

To improve livelihood capacity in the target populations, SP will use a participatory approach with the agricultural training groups (ATGs) to implement the following activities: training on improved agricultural techniques; distribution of robust seeds and farm inputs through seed and tool fairs; and nutrition demonstration gardens.

The households (HHs) eligible for the ATGs, selected with the use of a vulnerability survey, will be able to benefit from activities that are designed to directly enhance productivity and diversify livelihoods; while capacity building through nutrition demonstration gardens (with a maximum of 50 participants per garden) will be extended to interested members of the targeted communities who meet vulnerability criteria.

In addition, to improving the food security of the most vulnerable in the targeted areas, the project will distribute goats to vulnerable households and provide capacity building on animal husbandry.

Two hundred HHs will be targeted for goat distributions. Each farmer will be provided with three female goats. To increase the speed of project success and beneficiary motivation, the female goats will be at reproductive age and, if possible, already pregnant. Through a cooperative sharing agreement, one male goat will be distributed for every five households.

Introduction

The baseline survey detailed in the following report was conducted along the Faradje-Aba axis and the four axes of Mambasa Center, targeting selected beneficiaries for this livelihood-assistance project. The purpose of this study was to identify the food-security needs and to understand the deficiencies of the target beneficiaries in order to effectively implement this project and measure its progress. Using the baseline survey created by

Samaritan's Purse, the questionnaire (see Appendix A) measures core indicators for the project and provides information necessary for reporting project impact to OFDA.

Faradje Territory

Since 2009, SP has been heavily involved in humanitarian assistance in Faradje Territory, with a base in Faradje since 2010 to oversee activities along the Faradje-Aba axis. Samaritan's Purse's long-term presence in the area and strong relationship with the local community have enabled it to develop an intimate knowledge of the people and their needs. Faradje Territory has been one of the areas most affected by LRA activity since December 2008, resulting in repeated movement of the population; which has led to inadequate access to, and poor utilization of, available land for cultivation. Following food distributions in partnership with the World Food Programme (WFP) in 2010 and 2011, SP carried out a community survey in Faradje in March 2012 to assess community needs. Among the objectives of the survey was to clearly define food-security needs and identify practical solutions for addressing them. In particular, SP was interested in identifying steps that can be taken to move communities in the Faradje-Aba axis toward greater food security, self-sustainability, and resiliency in spite of the uncertain security. The OFDA-funded project "Livelihood Assistance for Conflict-Affected Populations in Haut-Uele" (AID-OFDA-G-12-00129) targeted 1,375 households. The success of the project's methodology to improve food security and self-sufficiency for targeted households encouraged SP to increase the scope of impact in the zone. Recognizing the extent of displaced and conflict-affected households living in food insecurity in Faradje Territory, this project seeks to target vulnerable households who did not previously benefit from last year's OFDA grant.

Mambasa Territory

With UN OCHA funding, SP responded to the conflict-affected populations in the Mambasa territory during April-June of 2013 with non-food item (NFI) fairs to provide support to the most vulnerable as they recovered from the shock of displacement. Throughout 2012 and 2013, the Mai-Mai rebel group in the zone has attacked multiple villages looking for food, causing displacements of thousands of people. After working in the zone and collaborating closely with local leaders, SP learned that households, especially the displaced, are facing acute food insecurity in the zone. To identify beneficiaries for this project, SP conducted a food-vulnerability survey of households in the zone, which revealed 89% of the surveyed population is at risk.

Objectives of Baseline Survey

The objectives of the baseline survey are as follows:

- Determine the level of household food insecurity by using the *Food Consumption Score* and the *Household Hunger Scale*
- Determine what agricultural techniques are known and practiced to have an idea of key topics to emphasize in the training groups
- Determine the main challenges faced by beneficiary households to effectively address their food insecurity during the project
- Obtain baseline data for the project results indicators in target communities

Beneficiary and Site Selection

Beneficiary households were selected by using a vulnerability survey created by WFP (see Appendix B), specifically targeting women-headed households, internally displaced people, and other food-insecure households. Because of the existing tension between displaced people and native people, it was necessary to select vulnerable beneficiaries from each group in order to prevent further tension due to jealousy. The beneficiaries are families who have little to no access to their land, if they have any; have lost livestock due to insecurity; and are unable to provide adequate food to support their families.

In the Faradje territory, the villages of Faradje, Djabir, Doya, Kurukwata, Nyari, and Aba were among the sites selected for this project. In the Mambasa territory, 80 villages were selected for the survey in a radius of 26 kms. Sites were targeted because they have a large number of displaced and vulnerable households. The villages along the Faradje-Aba road and the Mambasa main axis have provided a refuge to people displaced as a result of the rebel group's activity in the surrounding region.

Baseline Survey Methodology

Upon completing the vulnerability survey, the beneficiaries were selected for the baseline survey. This survey included a sample of 362 beneficiary households. A systematic sampling methodology, selecting every tenth beneficiary household, was used to ensure an accurate, unbiased, sample group. At the household level, surveys were conducted with the heads of households, whenever possible, or a responsible adult living in the household who was able to respond adequately to the survey questions on behalf of the household.

All the surveyors were SP staff, and prior to conducting the survey, they received comprehensive training that covered confidentiality, respondent eligibility, proper recording of responses, and probing techniques, as well as the sampling methodology of the survey. The team was taught how to identify households to survey using the interval/skip pattern, and to ask the questions in a neutral manner. Responses to the questionnaire were coded directly on the survey form (see Appendix A). Data entry was done by experienced staff on a standardized Excel spreadsheet with predetermined parameters in each field to minimize data-entry errors. The data were then analyzed in Excel.

Results of the Survey

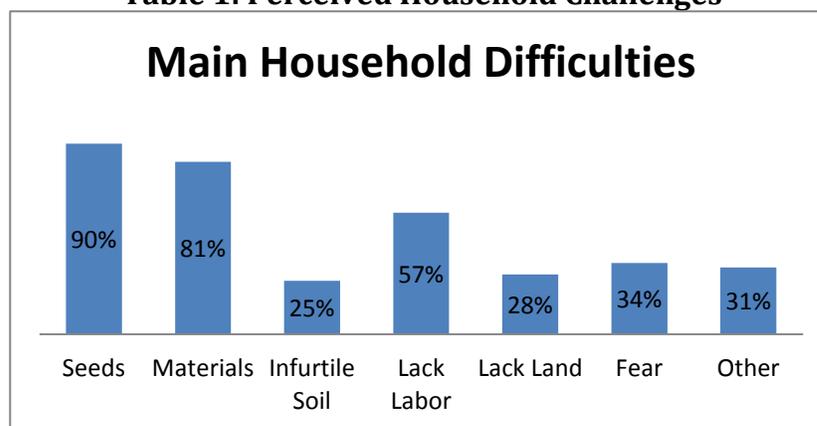
Demographics

Because our surveyors were informed to interview the female head of the household, if available, respondents were 58% female and 42% male. The average household size was seven, with 21% of HH members less than five years old, 31% ages 5-15, 40% ages 15-65, and only 4% older than 65.

Beneficiary Challenges

As outlined in Table 1, the principal challenge facing 90% of the households is a lack of seeds for planting, while eighty-one percent of households lack sufficient tools and materials to work in their gardens. Both a lack of seeds and agricultural tools might be attributed to recent displacement and shocks for households fleeing conflict in the zone. Furthermore, when a harvest is not sufficient to feed the family, seeds are occasionally eaten, resulting in a lack of seeds for the following planting season.

Table 1: Perceived Household Challenges



The third greatest difficulty, challenging 57% of the beneficiaries, is the lack of people to work in their gardens. However, when specifically comparing Mambasa beneficiaries to those in Faradje, there is some variance in results. In Faradje, only 48% said they lack available laborers, but 52% of those surveyed said they fear going to their gardens where insecurity remains a constant threat due to the LRA rebels. In Mambasa, 75% mentioned a lack of labor force and only 1% fear going to their fields. SP will be using agricultural training groups (ATGs) to help combat the challenges faced by beneficiaries. An ATG is a group of twenty households that work on individual gardens that are located in the same area in order to facilitate hands-on learning opportunities. Beneficiaries from the current project in Faradje have testified that the ATGs promote security because beneficiaries go to work on the gardens in groups. The ATG methodology also encourages households to increase the work done in the garden by multiple family members to ensure that the land is worked in a manner that will achieve the desired harvest.

Livestock

Of those surveyed, 32% raise livestock, showing an accurate reflection of both Faradje and Mambasa territories. The survey also tested their knowledge of goat breeding so SP would know what aspects are most necessary for training purposes. Table 2 reveals the combined data for Mambasa and Faradje territories. Of the possible 11 breeding principles (see question 7.2 in the baseline-survey), beneficiaries were graded by their knowledge of how many principles they could mention. The “#” column shows how many beneficiaries could mention the number of questions within the scoring scale. Only 2% have an excellent knowledge of breeding goats, while 83% have a poor level of knowledge.

Table 2: Knowledge of Goat Husbandry

COMBINED SURVEY		
#	Scoring	%
5	Excellent (9-11)	2%
14	Good (6-8)	7%
16	Fair (4-5)	8%
175	Poor (1-3)	83%

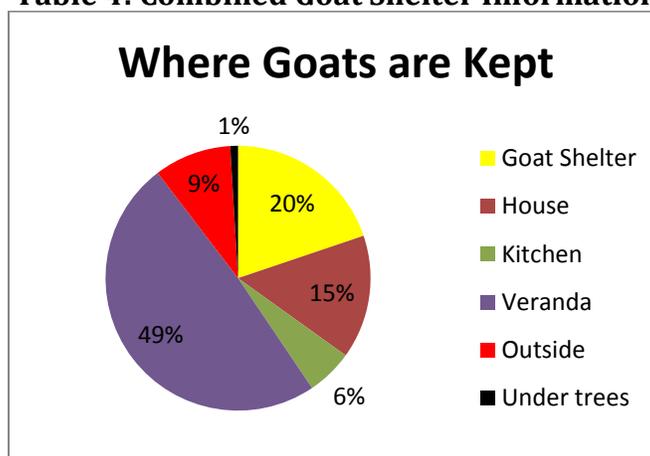
When comparing the goat-husbandry data for Mambasa and Faradje territories, the outcome is quite different. Faradje beneficiaries show a more advanced knowledge of breeding goats, whereas 100% of the Mambasa beneficiaries in the baseline survey know only one to three principles of goat breeding.

Table 3: Difference Between Faradje and Mambasa Breeding Knowledge

MAMBASA BREEDING KNOWLEDGE			FARADJE BREEDING KNOWLEDGE		
#	Scoring	% of 122	#	Scoring	% of 88
0	Excellent (9-11)	0%	5	Excellent (9-11)	6%
0	Good (6-8)	0%	3	Good (6-8)	15%
0	Fair (4-5)	0%	16	Fair (4-5)	18%
122	Poor (1-3)	100%	54	Poor (1-3)	61%

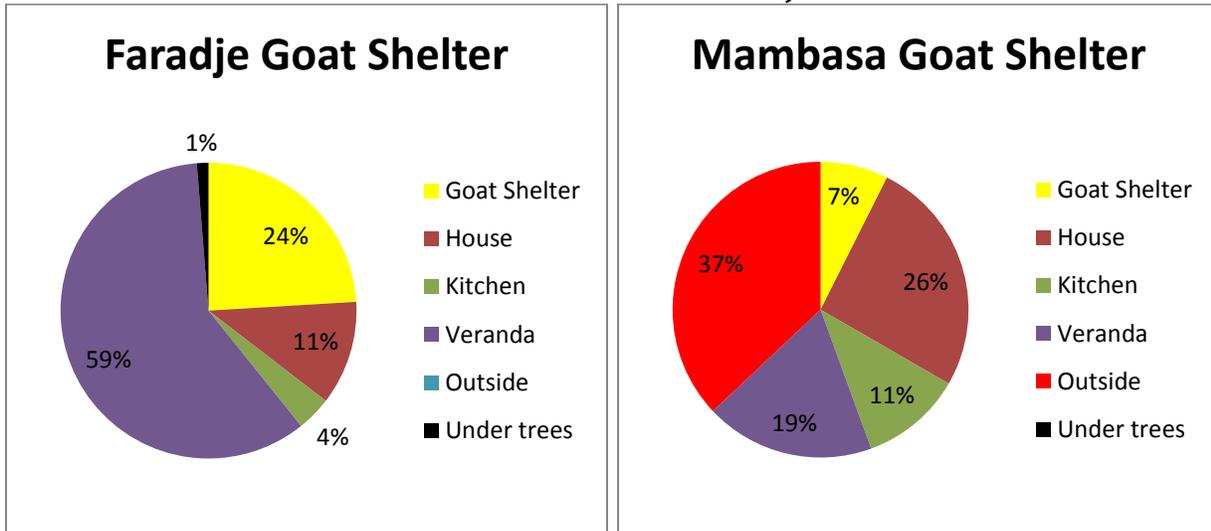
Samaritan’s Purse asked the baseline beneficiaries where they keep their goats. Table 4 shows the combined information for Mambasa and Faradje territories. Only 20% shelter their goats in a proper place and 49% keep them under the grass roof of their house.

Table 4: Combined Goat Shelter Information



Data for sheltering goats in Faradje is quite different from Mambasa Territory. In Faradje, 59% keep their goats under the grass roof of their house, where only 19% in Mambasa do the same. In Mambasa, 37% keep their goats outside without shelter, and no one in Faradje does the same. The reason for this difference can be explained by the impact of the SP trainings in Faradje during 2012 and 2013.

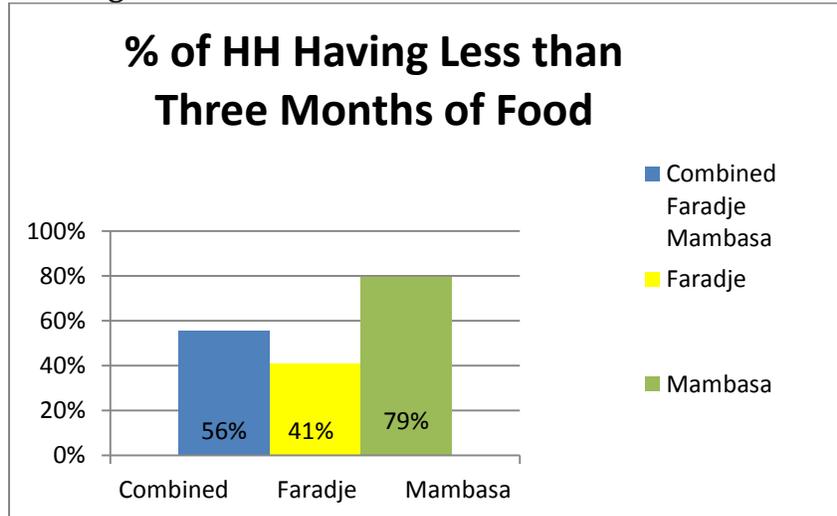
Table 5: Different Between Goat Shelters in Faradje and Mambasa Territories



Food Consumption

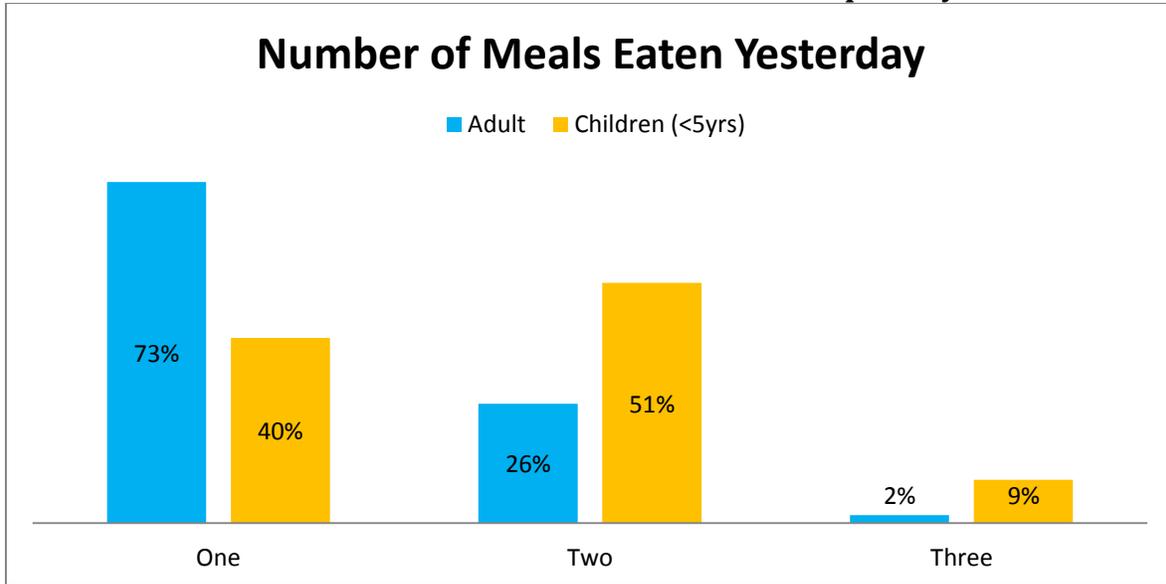
Limited seeds and agricultural materials hinders the ability of a family to sustain itself with adequate food. Surveyed households had a combined average of 2.6 months where they were able to provide enough food for their families from last year’s harvest. Mambasa’s average was only 1.7 months, whereas Faradje territories average was 3.1 months. Fifty six percent of the households have less than three months self sufficiency from last year’s harvest.

Table 6: Percentage of Households with Less than Three Months of Food Sufficiency



The majority of households rarely have enough food for more than one meal per day. Table 7 shows that 73% of adults and 40% of children under 5 years old eat one meal per day.

Table 7: Number of Times Households Eat per Day



Food-Consumption Score

The *food-consumption score* (FCS) is a proxy indicator of household food security that measures both quality (different food groups/dietary diversity) and quantity (food frequency) elements of food security by analyzing the amount of calories or nutrients consumed by an individual in a given time period. The overall FCS for all households surveyed is 18.9, which is a poor level of food consumption. In analyzing the FCS, the survey also found that the main source of food for households is vegetables, as the average household eats them a bit more than 5 times per week, as shown in Table 8. The average household cooks with oil 4.5 days per week.

Table 8: Food Consumption



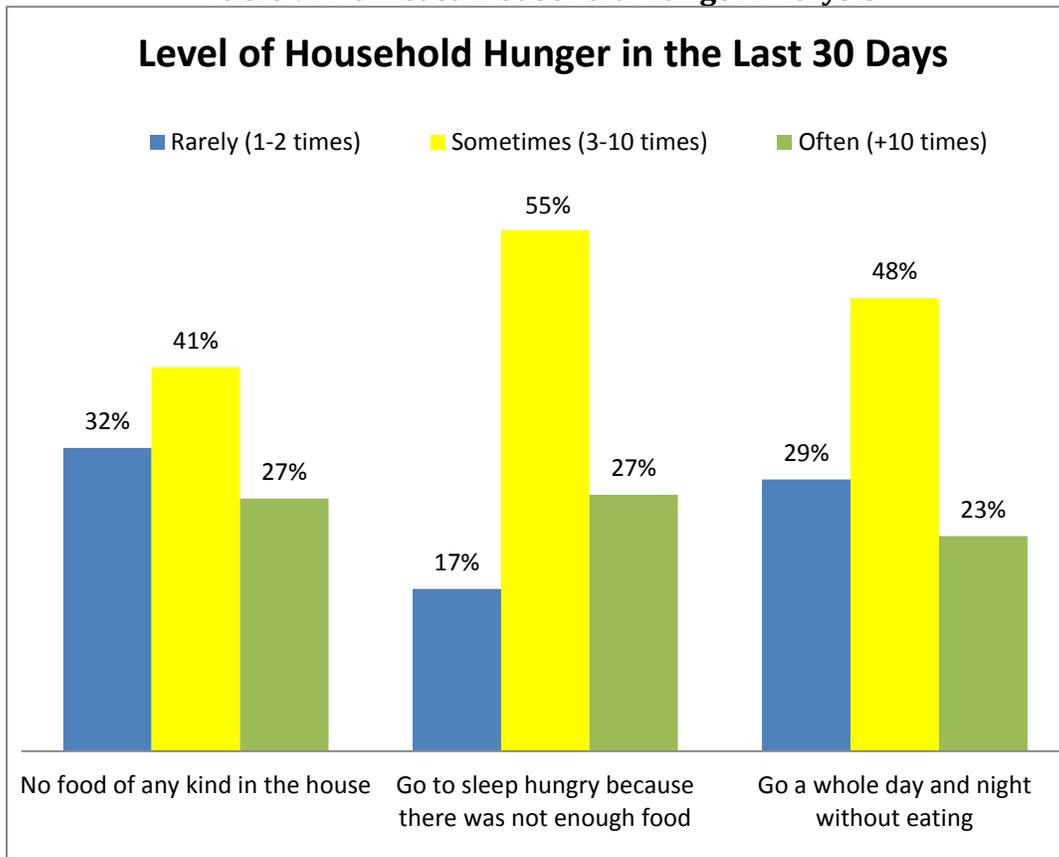
Household-Hunger Scale

In an effort to effectively measure food insecurity with regard to hunger, the survey asked several questions, as seen in Table 9 below, about household hunger. Each question was asked to determine household hunger by the frequency of the following conditions:

- ‘No food of any kind in the house.’ This question shows the insufficiency of food intake and the situation of all household members without distinguishing adults or children.
- ‘Go to sleep hungry because there was not enough food.’ This question asks whether the respondent or other household members felt hungry at bedtime because they did not have enough food to eat during the day and evening.
- ‘Go a whole day and night without eating.’ This question asks whether the respondent or household member did not eat from the time they awoke in the morning to the time they awoke the next morning due to lack of food.

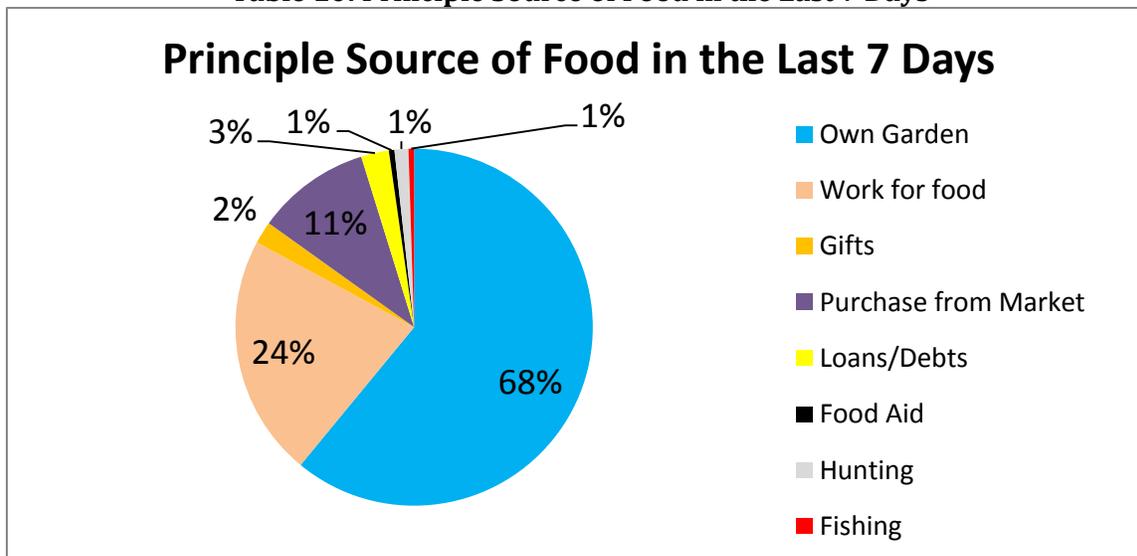
Mambasa respondents said that 41% of households lacked something to eat between 3-10 times in the last 30 days because they didn’t have enough resources. Fifty-five percent of the households spent 3-10 nights unsatisfied because of the lack of food. And 48% of households did not eating anything at all 3-10 days in the past month.

Table 9: Mambasa Household Hunger Analysis



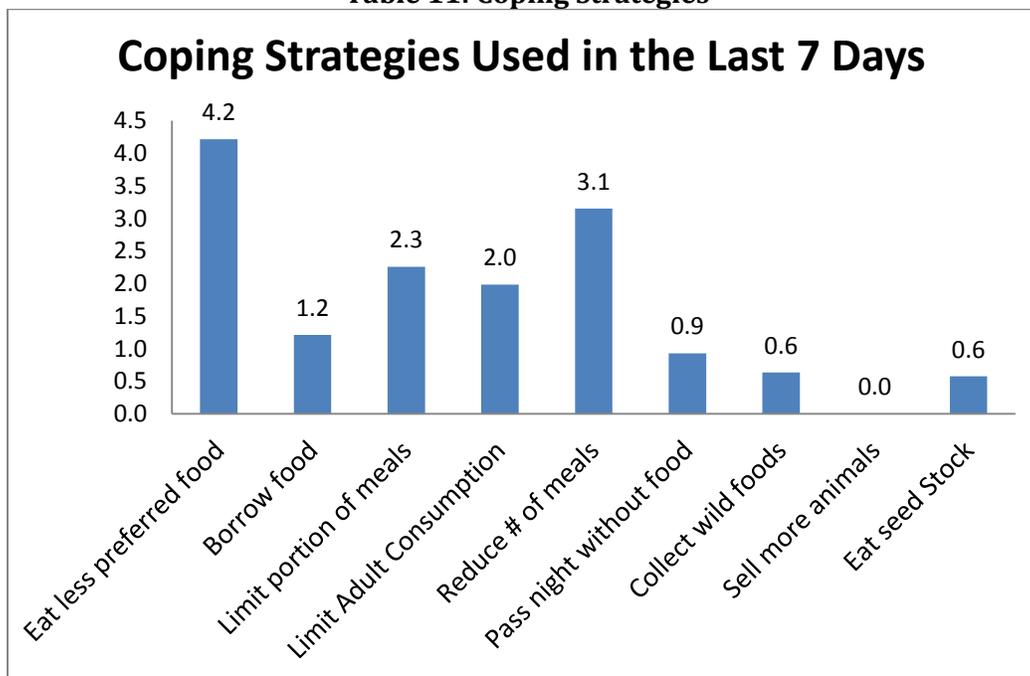
Although the baseline survey revealed that the households’ greatest challenge is sufficient seeds, it’s important to note that 68% of households depend on their gardens as their principle source of food. Another 24% try to work for their food outside of their gardens, as Table 10 shows below.

Table 10: Principle Source of Food in the Last 7 Days



The vulnerable households have various coping strategies for surviving their hunger to adapt to the presence or threat of food shortages. Table 11 shows that the majority of households rely on dietary change, by eating the less preferred or cheaper foods, as their main strategy. More households attempt to eat fewer meals than they do by limiting the amount of food they eat per meal. No beneficiaries either have livestock to sell or view selling livestock as an option of a coping mechanism.

Table 11: Coping Strategies

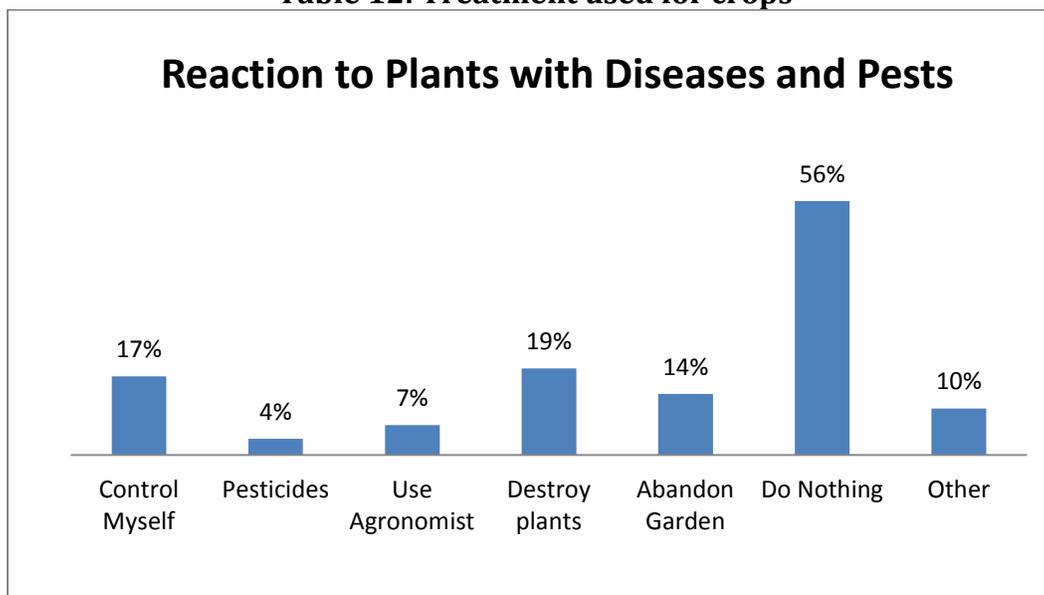


Agricultural Techniques Employed

In order to best train beneficiaries and to effectively evaluate what they have learned during the project, it is important to study what agricultural techniques are known and

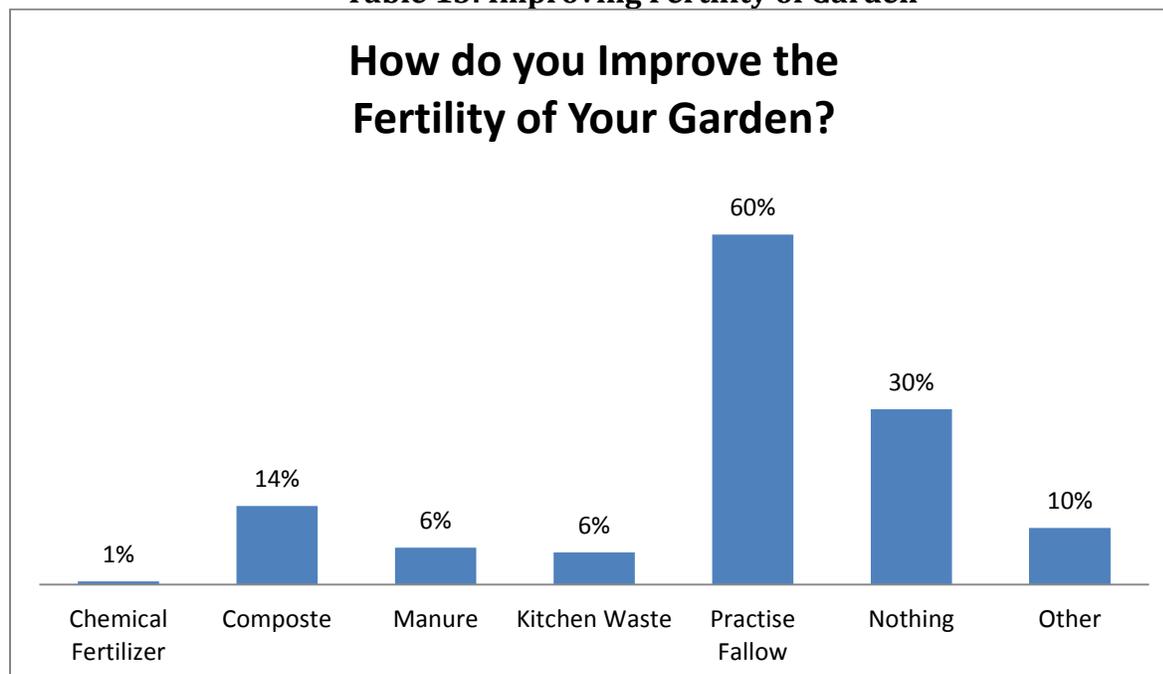
practiced. As seen in Table 12, few beneficiaries treat the gardens for pests or to control diseases, contributing to poor harvest yields.

Table 12: Treatment used for crops



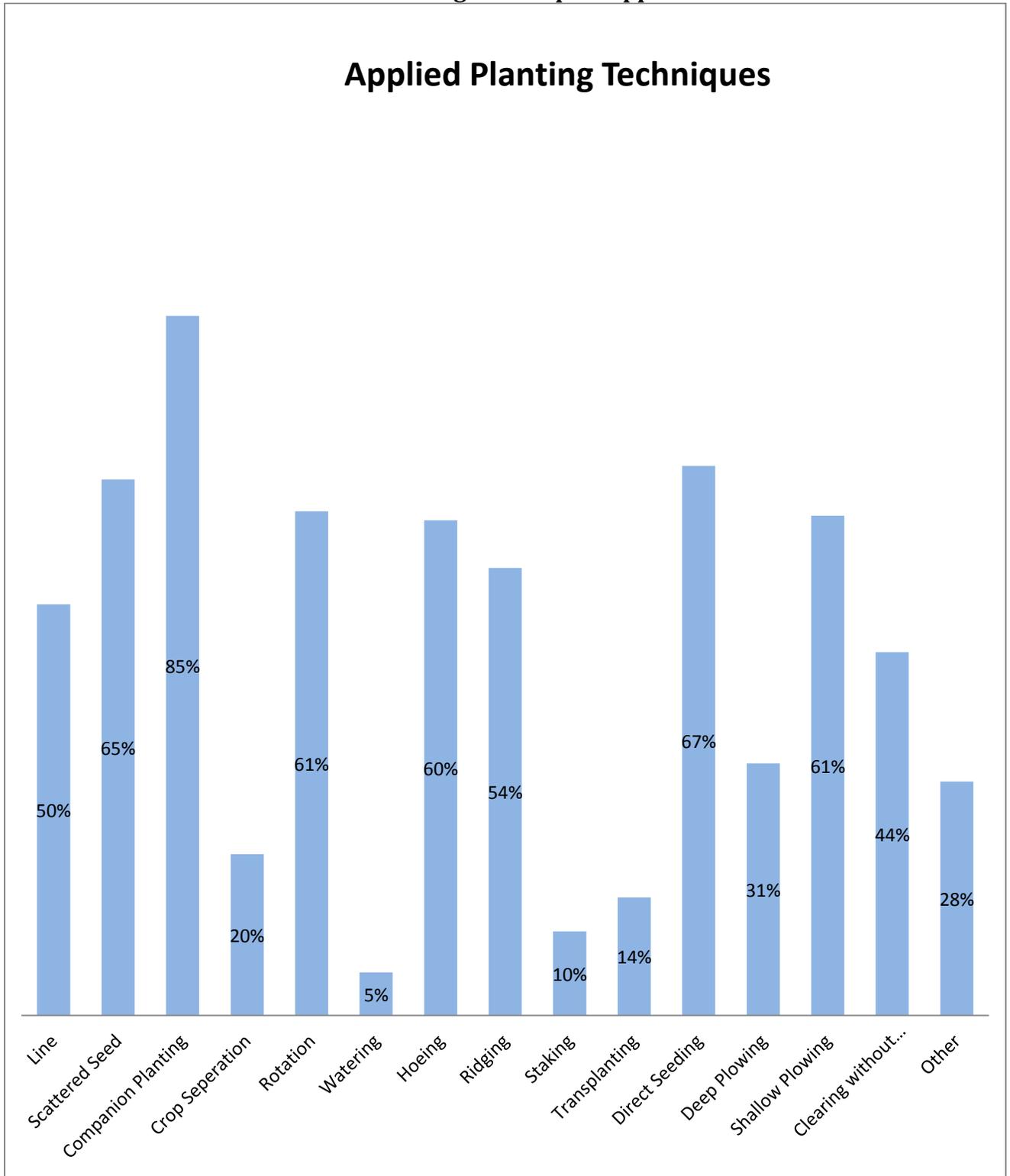
In spite of most households doing nothing to fight plant diseases, 60% leave fields fallow for a season to improve the fertility of their gardens, as shown in the table below. Most of the other households surveyed don't do anything to improve their crops.

Table 13: Improving Fertility of Garden



Over 50% of the respondents use at least 8 of the 15 planting techniques found in Table 14. Companion planting is the most popular technique, used by 85% of the households.

Table 14: Planting Techniques Applied



Project Results Indicators

Indicator	Projected	Baseline
Projected increase in number of months of food self-sufficiency due to seed systems activities/agricultural input for beneficiary households.	A 2.4 month increase to 5 months self-sufficiency	2.6 months
Number of people benefiting from seed systems/agricultural input activities.	18,000	0
Number of people benefiting from training on agricultural techniques and basic nutrition.	28,500	0
Number of animals benefiting from or affected by livestock activities.	640 goats	0
Number of people benefiting from livestock activities, also shown by sex	1000 (600 females, 400 males)	0
Number of veterinary interventions (e.g., treatments, vaccinations, etc.)	640 vaccinations	0
Number of animals treated	640 goats	0

APPENDIX A: Baseline Survey Questionnaire



BASELINE EVALUATION FOR FOOD SECURITY				
GEOGRAPHIC SITUATION				
Collectivity: _____		Group: _____		
Village: _____		Locality: _____		
PERSON AND TIMING OF SURVEY				
Date of Survey:	Surveyor:		Team Leader:	
INTRODUCTION AND CONSENT				
GREETINGS/INTRODUCTION: Hello, my name is: and I work with Samaritan's Purse. We are conducting a survey and would like your participation. We want to ask you questions regarding your household. SP projects will consider the results of its investigations in the planning and execution of our projects in your community.				
INSTRUCTION: The primary person to question must be women or the mother of the house. If absent and the father isn't available, an adult (15 years and above) who can provide information on the family can be interviewed.				
CONSENT: The interview will take about 20 minutes. I will not take your name and your answers will remain confidential. Do you accept? YES or NO				
SECTION 1: GENERAL INFORMATION				
1.1	How old are you?	Age		
1.2	Gender of the respondent	Male	1	
		Female	2	
1.3	How many people live in this household (by age group)? Include yourself, displaced families, and host family.	M	F	
		65 years or +		
		15-65 years		
		5-15 years		
	0-5 years			
SECTION 2: HOUSEHOLD FOOD SECURITY AND LIVELIHOOD				
2.1	What are the principle difficulties your household faces?		Yes	No
		2.1.1 Lack of Seeds	1	2
		2.1.2 Lack farming tools	1	2
		2.1.3 Non-fertile soil	1	2
		2.1.4 Lack labor	1	2
		2.1.5 Insufficient land	1	2
		2.1.6 Fear of armed groups/Insecurity	1	2
2.1.7 Other	1	2		
2.2	What farming techniques do you apply?		Yes	No
		2.2.1 Sowing in a line	1	2
		2.2.2 Scattering Seed	1	2
		2.2.3 Companion Planting	1	2
		2.2.4 Crop Separation	1	2
		2.2.5 Crop Rotation	1	2
		2.2.6 Watering	1	2
2.2.7 Hoeing	1	2		

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	2.2.8 Ridging	1	2
	2.2.9 Staking	1	2
	2.2.10 Transplanting	1	2
	2.2.11 Direct Seeding	1	2
	2.2.12 Deep Plowing	1	2
	2.2.13 Shallow Plowing	1	2
	2.2.14 Clearing without plowing	1	2
	2.2.15 Other	1	2

2.3	For how many months did last year's harvest support this household?	Months	
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2.4. Level of Household Hunger

2.4	2.4.1 During the last 30 days, did this household ever not have something to eat because of lacking resources?	Yes	1	→ 2.4.3
		No	2	
	2.4.2 How often did this happen?	Rarely (1-2)	1	
		Sometimes (3-10)	2	
		Often (more than 10 times)	3	
	2.4.3 Over the past 30 days, did you or any household member spend the night without being satisfied because there was not enough food?	Yes	1	
		No	2	
	2.4.4 How often did this happen?	Rarely (1-2)	1	
		Sometimes (3-10)	2	
		Often (more than 10 times)	3	
	2.4.5. Over the past 30 days, did you or any household member spend the day and night without eating because there was not enough food?	Yes	1	→ 2.5
		No	2	
2.4.6 How often did this happen?	Rarely (1-2)	1		
	Sometimes (3-10)	2		
	Often (more than 10 times)	3		

2.5	Yesterday, how many meals were consumed by:	Adult	Children under 5

3.0. Level of Food Consumption

Type of Food	During the past 7 days, how many days did you eat the following foods? (Enter 0-7)
3.1.1 Sorghum	
3.1.2 Maize	
3.1.3 Cassava	
3.1.4 Other cereals and tubers (root crops, potatoes, millet, rice, bread, wheat.)	
3.1.5 Pulses (groundnuts, legumes, beans, lentils, peas, sesame)	
3.1.6 Vegetables, including wild vegetables and leaves	
3.1.7 Fruits, including wild fruits	
3.1.8 Meat and Poultry, including bush meat	
3.1.9 Eggs	
3.1.10 Fish	
3.1.11 Milk, cheese, yogurt	
3.1.12 Sugar, honey, sweets	
3.1.13 Oil, fats	

3.2	What was the main source of food in the last 7 days? (Circle one source in the list below)
1 = Own crop, garden production	4 = Market/Shop purchases
2 = Working for money	5 = Loaning/debts
	7 = Hunting
	8 = Fishing

APPENDIX B: WFP Vulnerability Survey

Family Name:

Location:

Displaced household: 1 = Yes 2 = No; If yes, how long: up to 4 mo. = 1; 5 to 10 mo. = 2; more than 10 mo. = 3

A. Characteristics

Questions		Response code
1. What is the age of the head of household?	999 if unknown	<input type="text"/> <input type="text"/> <input type="text"/>
2. What is the sex of the head of household?	1 = Man 2 = woman	<input type="text"/>
3 How many people live in the household?		<input type="text"/> <input type="text"/>
3.1.How many males?		<input type="text"/> <input type="text"/>
3.2.How many females?		<input type="text"/> <input type="text"/>
3.3.How many children less than 5 years? 0-1 (1 pt) 2-4(2 pts) + 4 (3 pts)		<input type="text"/> <input type="text"/>
3.4.How many children 5 to 14 years?		<input type="text"/> <input type="text"/>
3.5.How many people from 15 to 64 years?		<input type="text"/> <input type="text"/>
3.6.How many people over 65? 0-1 (1 pt) 2-3 (2 pts) + 3 (3 pts)		<input type="text"/> <input type="text"/>
4.How many household members are suffering from chronic disease or disability?	00 if no 0-1 (1 pt) 2-3 (2 pts) + 3 (3 pts)	<input type="text"/> <input type="text"/>

B. Possessions (1-Yes 0-no)

Refrigerator	Mattress
Fan	Mobile Phone
Cabinet	Radio
Bed	Television
Chairs and Sofas	Bike
Table	Scooter/Motorcycle
Sewing Machine	Car

TOTAL SCORE: 0-5 (3 points); 5-10 (2 points) + 10 (1 point)

V. Strategies

In the last 7 days, if there were periods when the household did not have enough food or money to buy food, how many days your household has resorted to the following strategies: REGISTER 0-7 FOR THE NUMBER OF DAYS THE STRATEGY WAS ADOPTED	
Ate cheaper and less desirable food	1 <input type="text"/> number of days
Borrowed food or relied on friends, family, and/or neighbors for food	2 <input type="text"/> number of days
Reduced the amount of food during meals	1 <input type="text"/> number of days
Reduced consumption of adults/mothers for the benefit of small children	3 <input type="text"/> number of days
Reduced the number of daily meals (skipped 1 or 2 meals in the day)	1 <input type="text"/> number of days
TOTAL SCORE	

TOTAL SCORE: 0-5 (1 pts) 5-10 (2 pts) 10-15 (3 pts) 15-20 (4 pts) + 20 (5 pts)

D. Household Consumption

In the last 7 days, on how many days has your household consumed the following products as the main ingredient of a meal?			
Food consumed	Coef	(number of days)	Mult.
Cereals (millet, sorghum, rice, corn, bread, wheat)	2	<input type="text"/>	
Tubers (yams, cassava, sweet potato, taro, potatoe)	2	<input type="text"/>	
Legumes (peas, beans...) or Oilseeds (peanut, sesame)	3	<input type="text"/>	
Plant proteins (leaves and vegetables)	1	<input type="text"/>	
Fruit (mango, watermelon, passion fruit, orange, pineapple, banana)	1	<input type="text"/>	
Animal protein (meat, poultry, egg, fish/shellfish)	4	<input type="text"/>	
Sugar (sugar, sweet products)	0.5	<input type="text"/>	
Dairy products (milk, cheese, yogurt)	4	<input type="text"/>	
Oil and fat (cooking oil)	0.5	<input type="text"/>	

TOTAL SCORE:

Up to 28 = 3 points, from 29 to 41 = 1 point, 42+ = 0 points

The score is based in the sum of the following responses: question A.2; question A3.3; question A3.6; total score (B); total score (C); total score (D). The maximum score of vulnerability is 26: 1-8 = not vulnerable, 8-15 = vulnerable, and more than 15 = very vulnerable.