



Emergency Assistance to Internally Displaced Conflict-Affected Households in Rutshuru Territory.

FINAL REPORT.

Submitted to USAID/OFDA

Country/Region: Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC)

Rutshuru Territory, North Kivu Province.

Submitted to: USAID / OFDA: June 9, 2015

Submission/Revision date: February 4, 2014.

**Program title: Emergency Assistance to Internally Displaced Conflict-Affected Households in
Rutshuru Territory.**

Start date: April 2014

Program duration: 12 months



LIST OF ABBREVIATIONS/ACRONYMS

DRC	Democratic Republic of the Congo
CG	Contact Group
ECHO	European Commission Humanitarian Aid and Civil Protection
FAO	Food and Agriculture Organization
FARDC	Forces Armées de la République Démocratique du Congo
FDLR	Democratic Forces for the Liberation of Rwanda
FIB	Forces of International Brigade
HH	Household
HIV/AIDS	Human Immunodeficiency Virus infection and Acquired Immune Deficiency syndrome
IDP	Internally Displaced Person
IPAPEL	Inspection de l'Agriculture, Peche et Elevage
OFDA	International Humanitarian Assistance
LOA	Life of Activity
M&E	Monitoring and Evaluation
MONUSCO	United Nations Organization Stabilization Mission in DR Congo
MOU	Memorandum of Understanding
NFI	Non-Food Item
NGO	Non-Governmental Organization
RECO	Relais Communautaires
SENASA	Service National de Semence
UNOCHA	United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs
USAID	United States Agency for International Development
WFP	World Food Program
WHO	World Health Organization
WR	World Relief
WRC	World Relief Democratic Republic of Congo

1. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY.

World Relief started the implementation of this program in April 2014 and has since improved food security for 8,750 households of returnees (52,500 individuals) in Rutshuru territory in North Kivu province. This program targeted conflict-affected households in areas where field assessments had identified extremely high food insecurity for both returnees and host families, as well as where other Internal Non-Governmental Organizations (INGOs) had indicated areas in need of food security intervention.

WR assisted food insecure families in four chiefdoms (Rugari, Bweza, Jomba, and Busanza) by providing them with the means to achieve viable levels of household food production and consumption. This program, accompanied by the support of *Inspection de l'Agriculture, Peche et Elevage* (IPAPEL), an institution within Ministry of Agriculture in North Kivu to empower small farmers through improved agricultural practices, focused primarily on distributing seeds, tools, and NFIs. The program also helped Contact Groups (CGs) with seeds, tools, and trainings to improve agricultural practices and production. Through the realization of these program activities, WR Congo was able to achieve the majority of the program's expected results.

The security situation in Rutshuru and especially in the four chiefdoms (Rugari, Bweza, Jomba, and Busanza) where the project was implemented has not improved very much in the last year. Since December 2014 the DRC government commenced an operation called Sokola II, where government troops have been fighting the rebel groups and chiefly the Democratic Forces for the Liberation of Rwanda (FDLR). This has caused some population displacements in certain parts of Rutshuru Territory, although not at the magnitude experienced two years ago when Forces Armées de la République Démocratique du Congo (FARDC) was assisted by the Forces of International Brigade (FIB).

However, the households (HHs) targeted by this operation were able to complete their agricultural farming cycle and did harvest some food to enable them to begin addressing immediate needs caused from unrest in the past.

2. PROGRAM OVERVIEW

a. Program goal:

The goal of this program was to contribute towards the emergency relief, food, and livelihood needs of IDPs and conflict-affected households in the villages and camps of Rutshuru Territory by providing essential non-food items (NFIs) and agricultural support. To this extent, the following were achieved:

- 8,750 households (52,500 Individuals, with average household size of 6) as the total number of beneficiaries targeted in the Agriculture and Food Security sector participated in the project
- 5,875 households (35,250 Individuals, with average household size of 6) as the total number of beneficiaries targeted and reached through the Logistics Support and Relief Commodities sector
 - Non-Food Items (NFIs)

b. Synopsis:

The design of Emergency Assistance to Internally Displaced Conflict-Affected Households in Rutshuru Territory was to contribute towards emergency relief, and food and livelihood needs of the IDPs and conflict-affected households in the villages and camps of Rutshuru. To meet this goal, World Relief assisted both IDPs and formerly displaced persons through direct distribution of NFI items which included blankets, pans, soap, etc. Assorted seeds were also distributed to the beneficiaries with an emphasis on training in different agricultural techniques. The project used the Contact Group approach where about 10% of the beneficiaries were trained in demonstration gardens. These members were in turn encouraged to disseminate the same information to the other village members close to them as a way of replicating the lessons learned from the gardens.

Sector Table

Sector Name:	Agriculture and Food Security
Objective:	To improve the capacity of conflict-affected households to meet their food needs through agricultural inputs
Dollar Amount Requested:	\$929,333
Number of People Targeted:	52,500 (8,750 households, with average household size of 6)
Number of IDPs Targeted:	1,296 (216 households)
Geographic Area(s):	Rutshuru Territory of North Kivu Province, Eastern DRC
Keyword(s):	Livelihoods
Sub-sector Name:	Improving Agricultural Production/Food Security
Indicator 1:	Projected increase in number of months of food self-sufficiency due to distributed seed systems/agricultural input for beneficiary households
Indicator 2:	Number of people benefiting from seed systems/agricultural input activities, disaggregated by sex
Indicator 3:	Amount and types of seeds distributed
Indicator 4:	Amount and type of tools distributed
Sector Name:	Logistics Support and Relief Commodities.
Objective:	To ensure displaced households have access to adequate essential Non-Food Items
Dollar Amount Requested:	\$417,527
Number of People Targeted:	35,250 (5,875 households)
Number of IDPs Targeted:	1,296 (216 households)
Geographic Area(s):	Rutshuru Territory of North Kivu Province, eastern DRC
Keyword(s):	None
Sub-sector Name:	Non-food Items
Indicator 1:	Total number and per item USD cost of NFIs distributed, by type
Indicator 2:	Total number of people receiving NFIs, by sex and type

Indicator 3:	Percentage of beneficiaries retaining NFI items two months after distribution
--------------	---

3. Program Location and Profile of the targeted and reached Population

The Emergency Assistance to Conflict-Affected Households was implemented in the four chiefdoms of Rugari, Bweza, Jomba, and Busanza—these chiefdoms are located in Rutshuru Territory, North Kivu province in the Democratic Republic of Congo. During the needs assessment conducted by World Relief field staff these chiefdoms were most affected by the conflicts and the level of household vulnerability was high. It will be noted that in most of these villages, families who had been displaced had also lost their harvests either directly from their fields or from stocks in homes as rebels harvested or looted crops for themselves.

4. Methodology for Program Monitoring and Evaluation

After the project was approved, World Relief involved all the beneficiaries in the implementation of the project to attend it objectives. Output indicators were measured using program records and reports including weekly field reports by the field agronomist and program department’s monthly and quarterly reports.

Monitoring methodologies were focused on each indicator as outlined in the proposal. During the life of this project, monitoring was completed through initial assessments and many field visits were conducted by World Relief Field Agronomist and the Program Supervisor to determine progress of the activity. Observations and information collected from these visits were later used to inform implementation approaches as changes were made to ensure quality engagement of the participants and staff who worked in these communities. Such an approach, and working jointly with SENASEM, encouraged the CG members to adopt new agricultural techniques with the aims of increasing the quality of seeds and quantity of harvests. The project staff also collected data on harvest as part of monitoring and evaluation of the project activities (See table 7 below).

Various tools for data collection were used, such as survey questionnaires, focus groups, general field observations, and interviews from review documents, Contact Groups’ records, household and field visits. A random sample of 137 beneficiary households was interviewed when collecting the data using a web-based free survey software called Raosoft. With the population size of approximately 8,750, the response distribution about 10%, and the confidence level of is about 95%. About 92.7% of the respondents said they have enough food in their households one month after the harvest period.

Field visits were completed for each contact group and documented to track performance of Irish potatoes, vegetables, bananas, and other crops planted by beneficiaries. Other documentation was completed, including follow up forms for each contact group, bi-weekly agricultural trainings forms, vegetable distribution (from seedbed until distribution to association members), follow up forms on seed multiplication, attendance forms from beneficiaries participation in training.

5. OVERALL PROGRAM PERFORMANCE

Sector 1: Agriculture and Food Security

Sub-sector Name: Improving Agriculture Production/Food Security

Cumulative Achievement Indicator 1: Projected increase in number of months of food self-sufficiency due to distributed seed systems/agricultural inputs for beneficiary households.

Planned	Achieved	Achieved Cumulative	Comments
Increase in number of months of food self-sufficiency	Post-harvest surveys conducted showed that 88% of the households surveyed increased their food stock by 2 months of food self-sufficiency and diversified food from their yield.	88 % of family farmers have improved food and staple seeds.	88 % of households had increased their food self-sufficiency and eaten 2 diversified meals per day during two months since the harvest started.

Cumulative Achievement Indicator 2: Number of people benefiting from seed systems/agricultural input activities, disaggregated by sex.

Planned	Achieved	Achieved Cumulative	Comments
Distribution of Agricultural inputs to 8,750 households	The total targeted number of 8,750 households (52,500 persons) was reached from this sector. Of these households, there were 6,247 headed by Females and 2,503 headed by Males	The total targeted number of 8,750 households (52,500 persons) was reached from this sector. Of these households, there were 6,247 headed by Females and 2,503 headed by Males	Activity performed at 100%.

Cumulative Achievement Indicator 3: Amount and types of seeds distributed.

Planned		Achieved		Achieved Cumulative	Comments
Type of Seed	amount	Inputs purchased:		100 % of the planned inputs were purchased.	Activity performed at 100%.
Beans	175,000 kgs	Type of seed	amount		
Maize	87,500 kgs	Beans	175,000 kgs		
Sweet Potato Cuttings	250,000 pcs	Maize	87,500 kgs		
Cassava Cutting	3,600 pcs	Sweet Potato Cuttings	250,000 pcs		
Tomato	87.5 kgs	Cassava Cutting	3,600 pcs		
Onion	87.5 kgs	Tomato	87.5 kgs		
Cabbage	87.5 kgs	Onion	87.5 kgs		
Eggplant	87,5 kgs	Cabbage	87.5 kgs		
Carrots	87.5 kgs	Eggplant	87,5 kgs		
		Carrots	87.5 kgs		

Cumulative Achievement Indicator 4: Amount and types of tools distributed.

Planned	Achieved	Achieved Cumulative	Comments
Purchasing 17,500 hoes	Distribution of 17,500 hoes	Purchase and distribution of 17,500 hoes	Each household received 2 hoes during the distribution undertaken in the 4 sites

SECTOR 2: LOGISTICS SUPPORT AND RELIEF COMMODITIES

Sub-sector name: NON- FOOD ITEMS (NFI).

Cumulative Achievement Indicator 1: Total number and per item USD cost of NFIs distributed, by type.

Item	Per Item USD cost	Total Number	Total Cost
Jerry Cans	\$ 4.00	5,875	\$ 23,500.00
Bars of Soap	\$ 0.88	11,750	\$10,340.00
Pans	\$ 6.00	11,750	\$ 70,500.00
Blankets	\$ 10.00	11,750	\$ 117,500.00
Plates	\$ 0.15	35,250	\$ 5,287.50
Cups	\$ 0.30	35,250	\$ 10,575.00
Total			\$ 237,702.50

Cumulative Achievement Indicator 2: Total number of people receiving NFIs, by sex and type

Planned	Achieved	Achieved Cumulative	Comments
5,875 households receiving NFIs kits	Distribution of NFI kits to 5,875 households, 4,013 of which were female-headed and 1,862 were male-headed.	Distribution of NFI kits to 5,875 households, 4,013 of which were female-headed and 1,862 were male-headed.	Each NFI kit consisted of one jerry can, two bars of soap, two pans, two blankets, six plates, and six cups.

The evaluation survey showed that over 94% of households were retaining NFIs two (2) months after the distribution. When asked the rationale for retention of the items, the majority of the households surveyed said that they lacked blankets, pans, plates, jerry cans, and cups so they kept these exclusively for family use.

6. QUANTITATIVE AND QUALITATIVE RESULTS OF THE PROGRAM

The Emergency Assistance to Conflict-Affected Households implemented in Rutshuru focused primarily on sensitization of the local leaders, selection of beneficiaries, distribution of seeds, tools, and NFIs, and finally formation of contact groups.

Beneficiary selection was conducted through the use of door-to-door surveys in the target communities and was cross-checked with local census rolls. Seeds and tools were distributed to 8,750 households, and

NFIs were distributed to 5,875 households. The survey helped to identify the most vulnerable, including female headed households, child headed households, and other heads of vulnerable households.

World Relief formed 31 Contact Groups. Training was organized by World Relief in collaboration with the Ministry of Agriculture of North Kivu (IPAPEL) to empower small farmers in improved farming techniques with the objective of increasing their yields. During the Life of Activity (LOA), World Relief worked hand-in-hand with the Ministry of Agriculture of North Kivu called IPAPEL to ensure the acquisition of quality seed, provision of training and field follow up with beneficiaries in conjunction with World Relief’s field Agronomist. Contact Groups received Irish potato seeds, vegetable seeds, hoes, water sprinklers where they worked as a group in a “demonstration plot.” Other training sessions were also organized in vegetable gardening techniques with the goal of encouraging farmers to produce vegetables and diversify their daily meal.

World Relief purchased all direct input materials and tools for the project and was responsible for all associated transportation costs.

a. Total Beneficiaries

Table 1: Number of targeted and reached beneficiaries.

No	Sites (Chiefdom)	Seed and Farming Tools.		Non-Food Items.	
		Number of households/ beneficiaries provided in the proposal	Number of households/ beneficiaries reached	Number of households/ beneficiaries provided in the proposal	Number of households/ beneficiaries reached
01	BUSANZA	2,750/16,500	2,750/16,500	2,238/13,428	2,238/13,428
02	JOMBA	2,500/15,000	2,500/15,000	2,237/13,422	2,237/13,422
03	BWEZA	1,750/10,500	1,750/10,500	600/3,600	600/3,600
04	RUGARI	1,750/10,500	1,750/10,500	800/4,800	800/4,800
	TOTAL	8,750/52,500	8,750/52,500	5,875/32,250	5,875/32,250

Comments: The number of beneficiaries targeted was reached and Busanza, the largest chiefdom, had the greatest number of returnees.

Table 2: Number of beneficiaries reached by activity

Activity	Target	Achieved	Difference	% complete
Distribution of seeds and tools to beneficiaries	8,750 households	8,750 households	0	100 %
Distribution of non-food items to beneficiaries	5875 households	5,875 households	0	100 %
Irish potato seed multiplication (Rugari, Bweza and Jomba chiefdoms).	24 contact groups	23 contact groups	1 contact group	96 %
	690 households	926 households	+ 236 households	134 %
Banana improved seed multiplication (Busanza).	8 contact groups.	8 contact groups	0	100 %

	240 households	279 households	+ 39 households	116 %
Vegetable seeds distributed to contact groups.	32 contact groups	31 contact groups	1 contact group	97 %
	960 households	1,205 households	+ 245 households	126

b. Distribution of seeds and Agricultural tools to the Beneficiaries.

Table 3: Data on seeds and tools distribution

Chiefdom	No of beneficiaries reached in each chiefdom	Quantity of seeds and tools distributed in each chiefdom									
		Hoes	Beans /kg	Maize/kg	Pieces of sweet Potato cuttings	Cassava Cuts/MLS	Vegetables / kg				
							Tomato	Onion	Cabbage	Egg plant	Carrots
BUSANZA	2,750	5,500	55000	27,500	77,000	1,800	27.5	27.5	27.5	27.5	27.5
BWEZA	1,750	3,500	35000	17,500	51,500	1,800	17.5	17.5	17.5	17.5	17.5
JOMBA	2,500	5,000	50000	25,000	70,000	00	25	25	25	25	25
RUGARI	1,750	3,500	35000	17,500	51,500	00	17.5	17.5	17.5	17.5	17.5
Total	8,750	17,500	17,500	87,500	250,000	3,600	87.5	87.5	87.5	87.5	87.5

Comments: The number of targeted beneficiaries was reached. That is, 8,750 households under four chiefdoms were reached with 175 MTs of beans (175,000kg) and 87.5 MTs of maize (87,500kgs), and 8,750 bundles of sweet potato stems (consisting of 50 stems each). Vegetable seeds of 87.5kgs of different seed type (Eggplant, Cabbage, Onion, Carrots and Tomato) were also distributed to the beneficiaries.

c. Distribution of Non-food items to beneficiaries.

Table 4: Non-food Items

Chiefdoms	No of beneficiaries reached in each chiefdom	Quantity of non-food distributed					
		Jerry can	Bars of Soap	Pans	Blankets	Plates	Cups
BUSANZA	2,238	2,238	4,476	4,476	4,476	13,428	13,428
JOMBA	2,237	2,237	4,474	4,474	4,474	13,422	13,422
BWEZA	600	600	1,200	1,200	1,200	3,600	3,600
RUGARI	800	800	1,600	1,600	1,600	4,800	4,800
	5,875	5,875	11,750	11,750	11,750	35,250	35,250

d. Training of beneficiaries in contact groups

Thirty-one contact groups were created with the goal of teaching beneficiaries in improved farming techniques in different demonstration plots.

Table 5: Irish potato seed, vegetable seed, banana seed and farming tools distributed to contact groups

Chiefdom	No of C.G	Quantity of seeds distributed									Tools distributed			
		Leek Grs	Cabbage Grs	Eggplant Grs	Carrot Grs	Tomato Grs	Garlic Kgs	Onion Grs	Banana Sucks	Irish potato Kgs	Hoe	Jerry can	Sprayer	Fork
BUSANZA	8	400	400	400	400	400	0	400	400	0	80	80	48	40
BWEZA	8	400	400	400	400	400	40	400	400	4000	80	80	48	40
JOMBA	8	400	400	400	400	400	0	400	400	4000	80	80	48	40
RUGARI	7	350	350	350	350	350	0	350	350	3500	70	70	42	35
Total	31	1,550	1,550	1,550	1,550	1,550	40	1,550	1,550	11,500	310	310	186	155

Comments: All the associations were surveyed and all of them had made seed beds of all the types of vegetables seed received, also Irish potato seed were sowed in the association farm while contact groups members are receiving nursing seeds to sow in their family garden.

Table 6: Attendance of contact group members observed during the training in Irish potato seed multiplication vegetable seed and banana seed

Chiefdom.	Season B		Season A	
	# of Men	# of Women	# of Men	# of Women
BUSANZA	321	783	261	565
BWEZA	540	796	426	570
JOMBA	432	1009	290	891
RUGARI	367	517	250	414
TOTAL	1,660	3,105	1,227	2,440

Comments: Apart from the staple seeds (i.e maize and beans), vegetables seeds, sweet potato cuttings farming tools, and improved Irish potato seeds were distributed to 23 contact groups and 8 other contact groups that were selected for cleaned banana suckers with the objectives of strengthen smallholder farmers' ability to fight the banana wilt disease (BXW). The provision of clean banana suckers and the training that accompanied ensured farmers adopt new approaches to fight the disease and increase family income through banana produce.

Table 7: Number of beneficiaries' households visited during the implementation of the project.

Chiefdom	Season B	Season A
BUSANZA	2,700	1,314
BWEZA	1,788	804
JOMBA	2,395	1,251
RUGARI	1,788	1,005
TOTAL	8,671	4,374

Comments: Beneficiaries' field visits were completed for each chiefdom by World Relief field agronomist to track the performance of all the seeds distributed and their outcome among the beneficiaries' households.

Table 8: Harvest of 31 contact groups

Chiefdom	Speculation	Quantity Harvested		Comments
		Season B	Season A	
Busanza: 8 contact groups	Onion	2,447 kg	3,782 kg	Season A farmers achieved good yield because many training sessions were accomplished and seeds were distributed at the beginning of the planting. Also, it was noticeable that farmers adopted new techniques in place of traditional farming practices.
	Tomato	1,157 kg	5,367 kg	
	Cabbage	8,865 kg	26,826 kg	
	Carrot	668 kg	205 kg	
	Eggplant	1,179 kg	7,330 kg	
	Leek	00	1,614 kg	
Jomba: 8 contact groups	Onion	1,608	711 kg	
	Tomato	751 kg	1,719	
	Cabbage	4,402 kg	4,567 kg	
	Carrot	512 kg	Not distributed	
	Eggplant	608 kg	6,635 kg	
	Leek	00	700 kg	
	Irish potato	00	127,080 kg	
Bweza: 8 contact groups	Onion	2,297 kg	4,588 kg	
	Tomato	917 kg	6,629 kg	
	Cabbage	10,900 kg	31,176 kg	
	Carrot	377 kg	740 kg	
	Eggplant	632 kg	25,201 kg	
	Garlic	225 kg	306 kg	
	Leek	00	1,667 kg	
	Irish potato	00	40,476 kg	
Rugari: 7 contact groups	Onion	2,129 kg	1,239 kg	
	Tomato	519 kg	2,635 kg	
	Cabbage	9,096 kg	23,782 kg	
	Carrot	321 kg	485 kg	
	Eggplant	444 kg	8,750 kg	
	Irish potato		39,000 kg	

7. CHALLENGES:

- Smallholder farmers in Rutshuru were facing many challenges due to unavailability of food at the beginning of this project, but the most difficult challenges encountered throughout the implementation of the program was the climatic changes attributed to deforestation generally observed in the eastern part of DR Congo. The season A was characterized with heavy rain in November and December which destroyed both staple crops and vegetables plants in the areas where farmers tilled land on the slopes.
- The security situation did not improve much and farmers adopted the technique of going to farm in groups of 5 up to 10 people and returning home earlier.

- Farmers lacked warehouses where they can germinate Irish potato kept for seed multiplication, some of them were using traditional methods to germinate seed but this brought a lot of loss.

8. LESSONS LEARNED

- Same farmers are very reluctant to bring manure to rented fields because when the land is improved the landlord increase the price of rental. However, with some counsel they started contributing to the well-being of the group and the synergy helped to increase their collective yield.
- While farmers were initially reticent to use compost these later adopted the technique and increased their yields after they compared yields of farms that used this approach to those which did not apply the method. This approach has a big impact as farmers are now able to produce more as they also improve the soil nutrients.
- Initially, farmers depended on maize and beans but these took a bit loner to harvest as opposed to vegetables that do yield quick gains in terms of meeting some household foodstuff as well as bringing income to the family. Farmers are now sowing both maize and beans crops as well as vegetables to ensure short and long-term family food support.
- In times of high production of vegetable farmers are unable to control the price on the market and many farmers sell at a low price. They are now being encouraged to spread their vegetable farming activities to ensure much gain from the produce

9. SUCCESS STORIES.

My name is NSENGIYUNVA KWISEKA. *"I'm the chairman of MUGATA contact group located in the high*



hills of Kabindi locality in Rutshuru territory in the eastern part of Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC). We received 500 kg of Irish potato seed and now we have harvested 6,145 kg. We are very grateful for this good yield we have received. This is the first time we are having such yield; the seed was of good quality. This contact group has more than 40 members and all the members are happy with the Irish potato cultivation. They say, they have enough food throughout the year as a result of the assistance received from USAID. In addition we are able to eat 3 diversified meals per day, our life have changed and we believe we will not experience malnutrition again in our locality. Our

children are now able eat adequate quantities and we are able to pay for their education."

My name is BWIRUKA MARTINE, “I’m a member of KINYAMBUNDU contact group. I’m married and a mother of even children. Before this project started the health of my children was not good and some of them were suffering with malnutrition we were in lack of improved vegetables seed and knowledge. It was also difficult to grow vegetables in our village. But since the implementation of this project my household diet has improved as I am now planting cabbages, carrots, and tomatoes. Interestingly, a number of families have adopted vegetable gardening and there are tomatoes grown in the area. I feel proud of this project because it is also focusing on nutrition.”

