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USAID/OFDA Quarterly Performance Report

Restoring livelihoods and health of conflict-affected communities in South-western Central African Republic (IDPs, Returnees, and Host Communities)

Project Dates: Jul 21, 2014 – Sept 19, 2015 (includes a 2-month NCE)

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Country/Region:	Central African Republic (CAR) / Lobaye	
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Executive Summary

This report captures progress against planned activities, Indicators and Objectives from April 1st 2015 to June 30th 2015. The main activities completed within the reporting period were:

- **Sector 1: AGRICULTURE AND FOOD SECURITY:** Staple crop seed was distributed to 1996 vulnerable households. Each beneficiary household received 27kg of staple crop seed consisting of maize, rice and groundnuts. Additionally, cross-cutting training and agricultural techniques training was conducted with 250 beneficiaries.
- **Sector 2: WASH:** In Boda, 10 traditional wells have been protected and new hand-pumps installed providing 7,053 people with safe water. In addition to the 10 traditional wells, water samples from 14 boreholes have been analysed for physicochemical and bacteriological assessment. Work on the re-construction of concrete pads and drainage troughs on 12 boreholes is completed. Hygiene and sanitation promotion campaigns were carried out in 25 beneficiary communities, as well as in the IDP camps in Boda. 2 radio spots in the local language were broadcast across Lobaye prefecture. A total of 14, 929 people gained access to improved latrines. Each month cleaning materials were provided to the IDPs in Boda. Each of the 9 beneficiary schools have been provided with 2 hand washing stations and soap to encourage hand washing practices.

A two month no-cost extension was approved for the project to extend to the September 19. This will allow for the completion of WASH infrastructure, water quality testing, and monitoring of agricultural production.

SECTOR 1: Agriculture and Food Security

Objective 1: Targeted beneficiary households have restored crop production and consumption

The main activity for this quarter was crop seed distribution for the second agricultural season. Tearfund staff together with Village Beneficiary Committees (VBCs) assisted 1996 beneficiary households with distribution of crop seeds in April and May. Beneficiary lists in the 78 communes were checked with VBCs and local leaders and it was found that 102 beneficiary households who had received vegetable seeds and tools during the previous seed distribution had moved away and left the target beneficiary village. 102 new households were therefore selected to receive crop seeds during this seed distribution. 94 of these households are IDPs living in Boda.

Prior to seed distribution seed quality was confirmed by the Institut Centrafricain de Recherche Agronomique (ICRA) and germination tests conducted at the Mbaiki field base by Tearfund staff.

During the distribution period, each beneficiary household received 27kg of seed in total; 5kg of rice, 7kg of maize and 15kg of groundnuts. In total 53,892kgs of crop seed were distributed; 29,940kgs of groundnuts, 13972kg of rice, 9,980kgs of maize.

The majority of households have sown their seed and will be harvesting groundnut in early August. Field reports indicate that the rice seed is at tailing stage and maize is growing well. Rains have been irregular in Lobaye with less rainfall than average during the rainy season but no negative impact is currently expected on crop production.

During this quarter, three weeks after crop seed distribution, beneficiaries were mobilised to prepare the land for planting the staple crop production. 250 beneficiary households received training from Tearfund field staff on large scale crop production and soil conservation techniques. The same 250 beneficiary households were also trained on cross cutting issues such as gender and child protection. The remaining training on cross cutting issues will take place during July and August and will be carried out by the 250 beneficiary households which have received training by Tearfund staff during this quarter. This training will take the form of peer-to-peer training supervised by Tearfund field staff.

An Acceptable Food Consumption Score (FCS) household survey was conducted in June, the results of which are in the table below. 105 beneficiary households participated in the survey. FCS varied according to geographical area. In the village of Bogongo only 7.7% of beneficiary households had acceptable FCS's. This was considered an outlier and field staff will conduct follow-up research to understand the particular reasons for the low scoring. When calculating the FCS the outlier was discounted and the percentage of the target population who achieved Acceptable Food Consumption Score (FCS) was calculated at 50%.

Food Consumption Scores (FCS) in Target Villages in Lobaye: (Source: Tearfund household survey, June 2015)

Class	Weak	Limit	Acceptable	Total
BOGONGO	0,0 %	92,3 %	7,7 %	100,0 %
LESSE	28,6 %	36,7 %	34,7 %	100,0 %
MBATA	9,1 %	27,3 %	63,6 %	100,0 %
NOLA	25,0 %	21,9 %	53,1 %	100,0 %
Average	21,9 %	38,1 %	40,0 %	100,0 %

One explanation for the lower than expected FCS's is due to the timing of the survey coinciding with the season for collecting caterpillars in the forest. During this period, people eat fewer meals per day and a less diverse diet as they spend more time in the forest. The gathering season which occurred during this quarter also accounts for the lower percentage of trained farmers applying soil conservation techniques and the number of households cultivating vegetable gardens declining as field reports indicate that vegetable gardens have been neglected as beneficiaries go to the forest to gather caterpillars during this period rather than tend to their gardens.

Table 1: Summary of project activities planned and executed

Activity	Completion
Sub sector 1: Improving Agricultural Production / Food Security	
Seed crop distribution for 2,000 farmers	1996 HHs (9980 individuals) benefited from staple seed distribution during the reporting period. A total of 10490 individuals have now benefited from seed distributions on this project. This includes 1996 HH who received vegetable assistance in December and 102 new beneficiary HHs selected to replace those HHs who left targeted villages.
Training on cross-cutting issues (1,000 HH)	250 HHs were trained during quarter 3, on crossing cutting issues including gender and child protection. The remaining training for households will take place during July and August and will take the form of peer-to-peer training.
Training of 10 VBCs on income optimization	All the plans were made and modules in place. The training was postponed in July due to heavy work load for famers during the distribution period.

Table 2: Impact Indicator Progress

Sub-Sector 1 : Improving Agricultural Production/Food Security		Baseline	Target	Progress this quarter	Cumulative Progress to date	Comments
FS1	Projected increase in number of months of food self-sufficiency due to distributed seed systems/agricultural inputs for beneficiary households.	0	5	0	0	This indicator will be calculated at the end of the project.
FS4	% of the target population who achieve Acceptable Food Consumption Score (FCS)	53%	80%	50%	50%	Drop in FCS of 3% due to seasonal gathering (caterpillars) affecting consumption patterns. This indicator will be checked in September.
FS2	Number of people benefiting from seed systems/agricultural input activities, by sex.	0	Total: 10,000	9980	10,490	Indicator achieved.
			Male: 4900	4520	4720	
			Female: 5100	5460	5770	
FS3	Percentage of vegetable seed beneficiary households cultivating vegetable gardens by the end of the project period	0	80%	65%	65%	Seasonal gathering in the forest and staple crop production takes precedence over vegetable gardening during this period. We expect this indicator to increase from August to September.
	Percentage of trained farmers who are applying soil conservation techniques	0	80%	65%	65%	Seasonal gathering (caterpillars) and slow behaviour change in agricultural practices resulted a reduced percentage of trained farmers applying soil conservation techniques. Additionally as we have trained more farmers the number as a % practicing taught techniques has reduced as a % of total farmers trained.

SECTOR 2: Water, Sanitation and Hygiene (WASH)

Objective 2: *To increase access to safe water and sanitation and improve knowledge of good hygiene practice in the Lobaye prefecture.*

Water Supply Infrastructure:

During this quarter, the protection of 10 shallow wells in Boda was completed, and new hand-pumps installed to provide 7,053 people with safe water. Work on the remaining 10 wells in returnee and host communities is nearing completion - the wells have been lined, and concrete pads and drainage troughs have been constructed. Pumps will be installed immediately after the water quality assessment currently underway is completed and the wells disinfected. Water samples from 14 boreholes, which have been air-lifted and cleared of debris, have also been analysed for physicochemical and bacteriological assessment. Work on the reconstruction of concrete pads and drainage troughs on 12 boreholes is completed, and work on the others is on-going. Disinfection and installation of pumps will be completed in July. Two ferro cement tanks were constructed for 2 schools. Additional work is being done on the remaining 2 tanks for commissioning.

The results from the analysis of the water quality of 10 shallow wells and 14 boreholes indicated that 6 of the shallow wells had zero faecal coliforms per 100 ml of water sample (as required by the WHO drinking water quality standards), while the remaining 4 had coliform bacteria ranging from 13 to 300 coliforms. The water samples from the 14 boreholes indicated zero coliforms and thus met the recommended WHO standards. All the water points being rehabilitated will be disinfected prior to pump installation and commissioning for use.

Water Quality Data- Shallow Wells.

Commune	Community	Faecal Coliforms (per 100 ml)
Boda	1. SARAKPORO	13
	2. KASSAI	0
	3. GATORO	0
	4. COTONAF	300
	5. KOLONGO	0
	6. GBAORO	0
	7. KOUDOUM	10
	8. KPETENE	0
	9. ALI	0
	10. QUARTIER CLAIRE	18

Analysis by Chemistry Dept., Bangui University (May 24, 2015)

Water Quality Data- Boreholes.

Commune	Community	Faecal Coliforms (per 100 ml)
BODA	1. BOMANGO	0
	2. HOPITAL	0
	3. BRUXELLES	0
MBATA	1. BELOU 1	0
	2. NDONGO	0
	3. BOYOBA 1	0
	4. MOKPOTO	0
LESSE	1. GBABILI	0
	2. MBANZA 2	0
NOLA	1. BOUAKA 2	0
	2. BOKOMA 2	0
	3. BOBOUA 1	0
	4. BOBOUA 2	0
BOGONGO GANZA	1. BONGUENGUETE	0

Analysis by Chemistry Dept., Bangui University (May 24, 2015)

To ensure that communities protect their water sources from contamination and keep their water points environment clean, the 30 WASH committees formed and trained during quarter one, were assisted with the development of their water safety plans. To ensure the regular maintenance of the facilities, WASH committees' frequently engaged with their communities. Additionally, WASH Committee Associations between different WASH committees have been encouraged to meet regularly, exchange ideas and experiences, and remain active. Field visits in the next quarter will observe and follow-up with WASH Committee Associations to encourage these networks to meet regularly.

Hygiene and Sanitation Promotion:

To encourage improved hygiene practices, construction and maintenance of latrines, hygiene and sanitation promotion campaigns were carried out in the 25 beneficiary communities, as well as in the IDP camps in Boda. The community hygiene promoters continued with the house-to-house hygiene and sanitation promotion campaigns. Using standardized messaging for hygiene and sanitation promotion, 2 live radio broadcasts in the local language, were broadcast via Foundation Ndeka Luka; a local radio station with a reach further than Lobaye prefecture. This is evident from the phone-in sessions with calls coming from further than the target communities, such as Bouar (460 km from Bangui) in the Nana Mambere Prefecture. These campaigns, coupled with the distribution of latrine digging tools kits to beneficiary communities, have motivated householders to construct and use latrines. During the quarter, 1,020 household latrines were

completed and assessed as clean, while 663 latrines were under different stages of completion. A total of 14,929 people now have access to improved latrines.

Cleaning materials were provided to the IDPs in Boda every month to enable them to keep their latrines, bathrooms and the surroundings clean. Additionally, 4 blocks of latrines (each block consisting of 4 latrine cubicles) with hand washing stations have been constructed at St. Michel Camp to provide improved latrines for 975 IDPs.

School-based hygiene and sanitation activities continued in the 9 schools with the implementation of action plans designed by the school health clubs. During this period, hygiene and sanitation promotion training was conducted with the student health clubs and focus was given to both behaviour change and latrine development in the school catchment areas. Each of the 9 beneficiary schools have been provided with 2 hand washing stations, and monthly rations of soap are given to them to encourage hand washing practices at school and home.

Table 3: Summary of project activities planned and executed during Quarter 3

Activity	Progress / Achievements
Sub-sector 1: Sanitation Infrastructure	
School-based Hygiene and Sanitation	Activities are ongoing.
Household latrines construction	1,020 household latrines were completed, clean and being used. 663 latrines are under different levels of construction
Sub sector 2. Hygiene Promotion	
Water Safety plans and Water Quality Monitoring	30 WASH Committees have completed water safety plans Water quality assessment was conducted on 24 water points. Sampling for water quality analysis on the remaining water points will be carried out in July.
Establishment of WASH Committees (25)	30 WASH committees established.
Hygiene Promotion Training (50 promoters in 25 communities)	Complete and campaigns are ongoing.
Sub Sector 3. Water Supply Infrastructure	
Rehabilitation of Boreholes (15)	1 borehole is fully rehabilitated and in use. Rehabilitation of the remaining 14 boreholes is ongoing and will be completed in July.
Water point maintenance & repair	Ongoing.
Protection of Shallow Wells (20)	10 shallow wells in Boda have been fully protected. Work on the remaining 10 wells is nearing completion.
Construction of 4 Ferro-cement tanks for rain water harvesting	2 Ferro-cement tanks have been completed for 2 schools. Additional work is being done on the remaining 2 tanks for commissioning.
Training of Pump Mechanics (18)	Training of the 18 pump mechanics identified will take place in July.

Table 4: Impact Indicator Progress

Sub-Sector 1 : Sanitation Infrastructure		Baseline	Target	Progress this quarter	Cumulative Progress to date	Comments
	Number of people directly benefitting from the sanitation infrastructure program	0	40000	14,929	28,045	Through intensification of hygiene promotion and community surveys, it is expected that these figures will substantially increase during the last 3 months of the project.
S1	Number of households with no evidence of faeces in the living area	4560	8000	1020	7137	
S2	Number of people who report proper disposal of faeces the last time they defecated	Total Observed: 24000 Total Reported: 39600	40000	12,715	25,011	Due to questions on the baseline figure, we did not add this to the cumulative progress figure. The figure is updated each quarter to avoid possible double counting.
		Male Observed: 11670 Male Reported: 10404	16400	7,541	13,609	
		Female Observed: 12240 Female Reported: 20196	20400	5,174	11,402	
S3	Number of people who report using a latrine the last time they defecated	Total Observed: 24000 Total Reported: 39600	40000	12,715	25,011	Due to doubts on the baseline figure, we did not add this to the cumulative progress figure. The figure is updated each quarter to avoid possible double counting.
		Male Observed: 11670 Male Reported: 10404	16400	7,541	13,609	
		Female Observed: 12240 Female Reported: 20196	20400	5,174	11,402	
S4	Number of clean HH latrines completed.	3520	8000	1,020	4,940	Several completed latrines did not qualify as clean. Additionally, 663 latrines are still under construction. Hygiene promotion is being intensified to ensure more completed latrines are sufficiently clean.
S5	Number of people per usable latrine	12	6	9	9	
S6	Number of hand washing facilities in use	200	5000	362	765	An intensive hygiene promotion campaign is being conducted to augment this indicator.

Sub-Sector 2 : Hygiene Promotion		Baseline	Target	Progress this quarter	Cumulative Progress to date	
	Number of people receiving direct hygiene promotion (excluding mass media campaigns and without double-counting)	0	50000	34,762	34,762	
HP1	Number of respondents who know 3 of 5 critical moments to wash hands	Total: 540	27000	-	1454	No data collected in Q3. This will be done during the survey in July.
		Male: 275	13230	-	679	
		Female: 265	13770	-	775	
HP2	Number of HH with soap and water (or ash) at a hand-washing location	160	4000	78	441	
HP3	Number of households who store their drinking water safely in clean containers (Safe Water Handling)	No baseline data	7000	2,084	4,577	
HP4	Number of HH drinking water supplies with 0 faecal coli forms per 100 mL sample	853	7000	0	853	HH water quality survey to be conducted in August, when HHs are accessing improved water facilities.
HP7	Number of village water user committees active at least 3 months after training	0	10	3	30	
HP8	Number of water points that are clean and protected from contamination	0	10	11	11	
Sub-Sector 3: Water Supply Infrastructure		Baseline	Target	Progress this quarter	Cumulative Progress to date	
	Number of people directly benefiting from the water supply program.	0	15,500	7,053	7,053	Target figure of unique beneficiaries as provided in proposals should be 15,500. Figure in previous indicator tables (45,000) has been incorrect and has now been corrected.
WS1	Average litres/person/day collected from all sources for drinking, cooking and hygiene	2,9	15	-	2.9	
WS2	Estimated water supplied per beneficiary in litres per person per day	11	15		11	
WS3	Number of test results with 0 faecal coli forms per 100 mL sample	16	90	20	36	24 tests were conducted by the University lab so far; 20 water points registered 0 faecal coliforms. Additional sampling and analysis will be conducted in August when all water facilities under rehabilitation are completed.
WS5	Number of HH collecting water for drinking, cooking and hygiene from improved water sources	4240	8000	1,724	5,964	Beneficiary HHs to increase upon completion of all water facilities currently under rehabilitation.
WS6	Number of water points which are actively utilising their Water Safety Plan	0	20	11	11	

BUDGETARY PROGRESS

A two month no-cost extension was approved in June 2015, to allow for the completion of WASH infrastructure, water quality testing, and monitoring of agricultural production. Overall spending is now on track for this quarter. Spending was behind in previous quarters however key implementation activities such as crop seed distribution and the construction of WASH infrastructure have taken place during the current quarter and spending is now on target. The overall expenditure at the end of Q3 is \$981,610.17.

CHALLENGES AND CONSTRAINTS

Logistical constraints:

The procurement of 54 tonnes of crop seeds was completed in May after a long delay due to poor road conditions as a result of the onset of the rainy season and difficulties with in-country suppliers due to challenges sourcing cereal seeds from the northern part of the country. The contract for the WASH contractors were completed during the previous quarter and rehabilitation and constructions works have been ongoing during Q3. The two month no-cost extension will enable the completion of all WASH activities and thorough water quality testing to be carried out on all rehabilitated water points. Half of the required pump repair tool kits have been procured but availability in-country is a challenge and seven tool kits still remain to be purchased. We will be making an official request to UNICEF's local partner to enable us to meet the requirement of the remaining kits.

Human Resources:

National staff capacity remains a challenge with many national staff members struggling to meet the capacity level required for our programmes. Additional support and training is being provided when possible. A new Food Security Manager began at the beginning of May and a temporary Programme Effectiveness Manager arrived mid-May and will work with the team until the end of July. We are currently re-recruiting for the roles for Human Resources Manager and Logistics Manager. The persons currently in these roles will leave the programme at the end of July. The contract of the WASH Officer was terminated in May which has reduced the number of national staff working under the WASH component of the project. Recruitment for this position is ongoing.

PHOTOS

Seed germination testing



Shallow Well Protection



Sanitation Awareness activities and Latrine Construction



BENEFICIARY STORY – [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] lives in Bobekiti, in the Central African Republic, a village shaded by an edge of deep forest spread out along a clay road. She is 52 years old, married and a mother to 7 children; 1 boy and 6 girls. [REDACTED] and her family have been displaced since the crisis began in December 2013, when they were forced to move to Bobekiti due to the violent conflict. The family has been living in the village of Bobekiti for 18 months as subsistence farmers. Conditions have been very difficult for [REDACTED] and her family. There is

very little meat and fish available in the village and no nearby health clinic and school for children to attend. The family have struggled with lack of food and poor hygiene facilities resulting in poor health and sickness particularly affecting the children in the family. The family live off an annual income of less than 100,000 XAF (\$160) and have little in the way of a revenue stream.

Since July 2014 [REDACTED] started receiving seeds, tools and training from Tearfund. To begin with [REDACTED] husband was the beneficiary, however when her husband became sick and was unable to work [REDACTED] then became the recipient of the assistance.

[REDACTED] has attended both agricultural techniques training and cross-cutting issues training; and was particularly interested in gender equality as the lives of women can be very difficult in CAR. From attending the training she has learned and was encouraged and hopeful that another way is possible in the Central African Republic, with both men and women participating in daily household chores and childcare.

Furthermore, the assistance of seeds and tools has been transformative for Lucienne and her family.

[REDACTED] received both vegetable and crop seeds such as spinach, lettuce, maize and groundnut seeds. The family consume many of the produce and sell any additional vegetables. From the vegetables which Lucienne sells, the family make approximately 500 XAF per day (\$0.75), and within two months she had made 17,700 XAF (\$30). This income has had a huge impact on the way in which the family live. With the additional money, [REDACTED] is able to buy medicine and household necessities such as soap, salt, coffee and sugar.

The crop seeds which Tearfund distributed were particularly welcome as there have been no seeds available to buy in market for many months and those seeds that have been available are of poor quality and low yielding varieties. From the 0.5 hectare of land which the family use to grow crop, [REDACTED] produced 10 bowls of peanuts and seven bowls of maize. She then sold 8 bowls of peanuts for 24 000 XAF (\$40) and sold all 7 bowls of maize for 14 000 CHF (\$23). From the crop seeds alone almost half of the family's annual income was obtained. The family are incredibly grateful for the assistance Tearfund and OFDA have been providing, as it has had a truly transformative impact on their lives.