

April 30, 2014



Agreement Officer, USAID

Subject: Quarterly Report for Cooperative Agreement No. AID 696-A-11-00008—Rwanda Integrated Improved Livelihoods Program.

Dear ,

On behalf of Global Communities I am pleased to submit our quarterly report for the above mentioned agreement. This report summarizes activities undertaken from January 1, 2014 – March 31, 2014.

Please do not hesitate to contact me or our Chief of Party should you have any questions.

International Operations

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Quarter 2 Report FY 14 January to March 2014



Program Name:

Integrated Improved Livelihoods Program (IILP)

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Donor: USAID Feed the Future

Award Number:

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Reporting Period:

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Agreement Officer, USAID/East Africa

Agreement Officer's Representative USAID

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1 Acronyms and Abbreviations

AEE:	African Evangelical Enterprise
ADEPR:	Association des Eglises des Pentecotes au Rwanda
BCV:	Be the Change Volunteer
BCC:	Behavior Change and Communication
BDC:	Business Development Center
BDS:	Business Development Services
COP:	Chief of Party
CBOs:	Community Based Organizations
DQA:	Data Quality Assessment
DUHAMIC:	Duharanire amajyambere y'icyaro
EDPRS II:	Economic Development And Poverty Reduction Strategy II
FFS:	Farmer Field Schools
FtF:	Feed the Future
FI:	Financial Institution
FGD:	Focus Group Discussion
GOR:	Government of Rwanda
Ha:	Hectares
ICT:	Information Communication and Technology
IILP:	Integrated Improved Livelihood Program
ISLG:	Integrated Savings and Lending Groups
CIAT:	International Center for Tropical Agriculture
IFDC:	International Fertilizer Development Center
KCBR	Kenya Commercial Bank Rwanda
MFIs:	Microfinance Institutions
MFO:	Microfinance Opportunities
MINAGRI:	Ministry of Agriculture
MINEDUC:	Ministry of Education
MINECOFIN:	Ministry of Finance and Economic Planning
MINISANTE:	Ministry of Health
MEMS:	Monitoring and Evaluation Management Services
MES:	Monitoring and Evaluation Specialist
MIS	Management Information Systems
MOH	Ministry of Health
NFNP	National Food and Nutrition Policy
NFNSP	National Food and Nutrition Strategic Plan
PAJER:	Parlement des Jeunes Rwandais
PMP:	Performance Management Plan
PHHS:	Post-Harvest Handling and Storage
RIM:	Réseaux inter-diocèse des Micro finance

RAB:	Rwanda Agriculture Board
RCA:	Rwanda Cooperatives Agency
Rwf:	Rwanda Francs
RPO:	Rwanda Partner Organization
SACCO:	Saving and Credit Cooperative
SAVIX:	Savings Groups Information Exchange
SMS:	Short Message Service
SSFTRP	Scaling up Successful Famer Training in Rwanda Program
PSTA	Strategic Plan for the Transformation of Agriculture in Rwanda
TWG:	Technical Working Group
TOT:	Training of Trainers
USAID:	United States Agency for International Development
USG:	United States Government

2 Executive Summary

USAID Ejo Heza continues to be on track with implementation of activities in all its program areas. The second quarter of FY14 was quite eventful with staff of the program making presentations at three major conferences. These included the Cracking the Nut Africa (CTNA) Conference, held in January in Kigali, during which the Program Coordinator and the Senior Nutrition Advisor made presentations on “An Integrated Approach to Sustainable Rural Livelihoods in Rwanda.” The same staff made presentations at the Third National Food and Nutrition Summit held in Kigali in February and the Senior Nutrition Advisor made a presentation at the Save the Children Program Learning Group Workshop in Kathmandu, Nepal during March.

Several staff joined the program during the quarter, including the Chief of Party (COP), the Database Officer, and the Behavior Change Communications (BCC) Officer. The Financial Services Specialist left the program and joined the Central Bank as a Senior Economist. The position is currently being recruited for.

Two visits were made by the USAID Mission staff to the program, one being a visit by the AOR, the Rural Enterprise Development and Entrepreneurship Specialist, and a guest from Feed the Future in Washington. The second visit was a Press Tour to celebrate the USAID/Rwanda Mission’s 50th Anniversary. During the tour a Press Release was issued on the Walmart Foundation’s \$1 million grant to expand activities under the USAID Ejo Heza program.

The Walmart Foundation grant will expand the program’s reach to an additional 50,000 beneficiaries, 60% of whom will be women. Recruitment of Field Officers by the three Rwanda Partner Organizations, AEE, CARITAS, and DUHAMIC ADRI was completed and sixteen field officers received training from the USAID Ejo Heza staff and are now mobilizing the community. The Annual Work Plans and Budgets were also completed.

The program hosted a meeting of implementing partners under the USAID Rwanda Economic Growth Unit on the 13th of March. These are periodic meetings whose purpose is to get implementing partners to meet, share experiences, and find out ways in which the programs funded under the unit can collaborate.

Production of maize and beans continued to increase through extension services provided by the program and the application of improved technologies. Bean production averaged 2,080 Kg/ Ha while Maize yields were in the range of 2,300 – 3,000 Kgs/Ha in the last season. Production in the beans and maize cooperatives has doubled since the start of the program.

Savings and Lending activities continued with the formation of 23 new groups being formed. The amount of savings within the Integrated Savings and Lending Groups (ISLGs) totaled USD \$330,624 while the value of informal loans to members was USD \$268,600. The value of formal loans this Quarter was USD \$82,985.

Under the program activities related to the financial, sector, the financial services team conducted a concept testing exercise for the Group Investment Account, a savings program developed in partnership with Kenyan Commercial Bank Rwanda (KCBR) which targets informal groups. This product is set to be launched in May.

The Life of Program target of 11,000 kitchen gardens was achieved within the quarter. The program however will focus on making the kitchen gardens productive all year round and increase the variety of vegetables grown on these gardens for improved nutrition.

A major milestone in literacy during the Quarter was the graduation of learners who entered the program through the 3rd intake since the inception of literacy activities. The program also hired a consultant to support the review of a new Functional Adult Literacy module that the program has developed based on the Ministry of Education (MINEDUC) curriculum.

Staff of the program continued to participate in various government technical working groups and meetings organized by the local authorities.

As part of new business development, USAID Ejo Heza has submitted a proposal on the scaling up of bean activities to USAID Rwanda. This submission was in response to a mission request that Ejo Heza respond to a USAID Bureau of Food Security call for scaling up proposals.

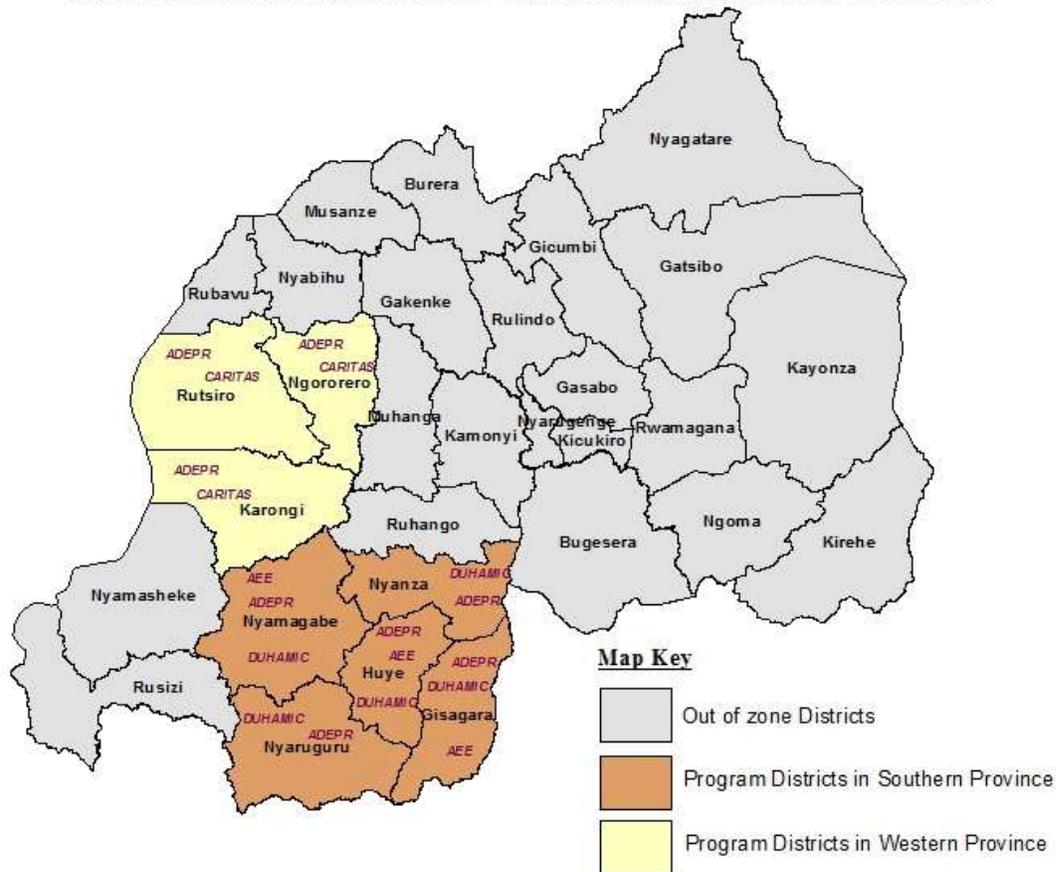
3 Introduction

Global Communities' USAID Integrated Improved Livelihoods Program (IILP), locally known as USAID Ejo Heza (Kinyarwanda for "Brighter Future"), is a five year program (2011 – 2016) funded by the USAID Feed the Future initiative which seeks to improve the livelihoods and food consumption of 75,000 of Rwanda's very poor, particularly women. The program's activities are centered around four main components: Program Component 1: Increase demand for financial services, Program Component 2: Increase supply of financial services, Program Component 3: Behavior Change and Social Marketing, Program Component 4: Health and Nutrition

Geographic Coverage:

The IILP Program covers eight districts of the Southern and Western Provinces of Rwanda as shown in the map below; Nyaruguru, Nyanza, Huye, Nyamagabe, Gisagara in the Southern Province and Rutsiro, Karongi and Ngororero in the Western Province.

USAID/EJO HEZA - Rwanda Partner Organisation by program interventions area



Partnerships with local and international civil society organizations

USAID Ejo Heza is in partnership with four local organizations: DUHAMIC-ADRI, CARITAS, AEE and ADEPR, and one International Organization, Save the Children, which leads nutrition activities. Global Communities and Save the Children provide technical leadership to the program, transferring knowledge, skills, and tools to assure consistent, quality services to program beneficiaries across the area of operation. The local Rwanda Partner Organizations (RPOs) implement the program on the ground and work directly with local authorities and community volunteers to deliver services through the program entry points: Literacy Centers, Integrated Savings and Lending Groups (ISLGs), Cooperatives and Nutrition Groups.

Mobilization of the community by RPOs: The RPOs mobilize and organize the community members into these various groups for entry into and participation in program activities.

Financial services: Activities focused on increasing demand for financial services are conducted through Integrated Savings and Lending Groups (ISLGs). These are savings groups composed of about 25 members who voluntarily come together to save and borrow among themselves. Currently the program has 1,548 ISLGs in its districts of operation, 23 having been created this Quarter.



Agriculture: Agriculture activities are conducted through cooperatives focused on the three main value chains of maize, beans and dairy. Currently the program has 44 cooperatives participating in these value chains. Farmer Field Schools (FFS) that average about 30 members each are found within each cooperative. FFS is a method used to provide practical demonstration to the community on improved agriculture and extension techniques.

An expansion of the program through a \$1 million Walmart Foundation grant has added horticulture to the programs value chains.

Literacy: Adult learners are taught how to read and write through 400 literacy centers organized in the eight districts. ADEPR is the lead implementing organization in literacy and now has 800 teachers committed to the program across the literacy centers. Each center averages 50 learners per intake with the program facilitating two intakes per year. The fourth intake under the program started this Quarter in the month of January. Basic literacy incorporates learning into all the program components; agriculture, nutrition, financial education and financial services. Practical lessons such as cell phone literacy are also incorporated. A standard Ministry of Education (MINEDUC) module is in use. The program has also developed a new module based on the same curriculum that incorporates more functional learning. The module is under review.

Nutrition: Activities in nutrition are organized around nutrition groups. These groups provide a channel through which community members can learn about better methods of food utilization and cooking for healthier diets. They use the knowledge within their own households and share it with their neighbors through establishment of kitchen gardens. Each nutrition group has on average 30 members. Nutrition groups once established later transform into ISLGs since these are more sustainable groupings.

Be the Change Volunteers (BCVs): BCVs are typically community members who are volunteers and self-selected to take a leading role in facilitating change within the communities. All BCVs are selected from these community groupings and are then trained to support their groups in training and mentorship. The program to date has about 2,000 BCVs supporting the implementation of program activities. Use of BCVs is a sustainability strategy that assures continuity even after the USAID Ejo Heza program ends since skills and knowledge are already transferred to capable community members.

Expansion of the program through Walmart Funding

USAID Ejo Heza has expanded through a \$1 million grant to reach an additional 50,000 community members in our regions of operation through the *Scaling up Successful Farmer Training in Rwanda Program (SSFTRP)*. The additional beneficiaries, 60% of who will be women will receive agricultural training in maize, beans, dairy and horticulture. Expansion will be in different sectors within our eight districts of operation. The distinction of this expansion from our current operations will be a focus on horticulture and establishment of Farmer Field Schools (FFS) as the main community grouping through which the beneficiaries are served. Implementation will continue to be through our current RPOs with the exception of ADEPR.

4 Implementation of Activities by Program Objective and Expected Results

USAID Ejo Heza activities are implemented based on four program components. These are: increased demand for financial services, increased supply of financial services, Behavior Change Communication (BCC), and Health and Nutrition.

1. Program Element 1: Increased demand for financial services

USAID Ejo Heza addresses the demand-side issues that limit the use of financial services to improve livelihoods and food consumption by promoting Integrated Savings and Lending Groups, financial literacy, and basic literacy and numeracy while expanding access to business development and agricultural extension services. Efforts by the program in increasing financial literacy and increasing access to business development and extension services results in increase in the demand for financial services.



Promoting Integrated Savings and Lending Groups: In FY14, Quarter two, 23 ISLGs were created and supported by the program with a total of 483 members. Group committee members and BCVs continued to receive training on the Global Communities ISLG methodology in order to promote quality. In order to simplify procedures and record keeping for ISLGs and ensure data quality, the program is piloting a simplified record keeping system that is based on information collected from the Passbooks and not the Central Ledger as before. The training and pilot phase with 41 ISLGs began in February and is called the “Passbook Only” pilot. It will be conducted over the first group cycle which is usually 12 months. USAID Ejo Heza continues to use the SAVIX MIS system for management of data from the ISLG’s. During this Quarter each RPO collected data as planned. Global Communities can now provide data on all savings through the SAVIX Network reports. This initiative provides an opportunity for Global Communities to exchange data globally in the future.

The current value of savings within the ISLG’s is USD \$330,624 while the value of informal loans to members is USD \$268,600.

Promoting financial education: The final two Financial Education modules, Budgeting and Bank Services were piloted by the Field Officers this Quarter and will now be used for training of BCVs and the beneficiaries. All the four modules have also been shared with financial education practitioners and Ministry of Finance (MINECOFIN) with an aim of having them used more broadly in the country.

Improving basic literacy and numeracy

USAID Ejo Heza, in partnership with ADEPR, has developed a new Functional Adult Literacy (FAL) module that seeks to improve the existing Ministry of Education (MINEDUC) module that is in use in the literacy classes. During the Quarter DevConsult was hired to support the piloting of the module, make recommendations on how the program can improve delivery at our literacy centers, and support the presentation of the module to stakeholders and the Rwanda Education Board (REB) for approval. The program seeks to use this more comprehensive module in future intakes.

Access to business development and extension services

The program aims to promote income generation activities and link beneficiaries to markets and service providers. During this Quarter, the Agribusiness Officer, together with the Financial Services team, conducted Master Training on Income Generation for 28 of the field officers and their assistants. Training focused on Generation of Business Ideas, Business Planning, and Accounting for Small Enterprises. The program is in the process of developing an entrepreneurship module that will be simple and tailored for low-literacy audiences.

Agriculture extension to the farmers remains a key focus for the agriculture team. This season, production of climbing beans increased by 16% with a production of 2,080 kgs/ha. With increased production the program is now focusing on promoting enterprise and linkages to markets for the cooperatives. A module on “Farming as a Business” has been developed and the BCVs trained. During the next Quarter a market assessment is planned in order to identify buyers of produce in our value chains of maize, beans and horticulture. This will help the cooperatives in business planning each season.

In the dairy value chain, 36 BCVs were trained on cattle management, milk handling, and testing. The cows at the Nyanza Kraal gave birth and there are now 13 calves, four of which are bulls. DUHAMIC-ADRI continues to provide training on management of the cows and the growing of fodder.

Program Element 2: Increase supply of financial services

USAID Ejo Heza seeks out, engages and provides targeted support to those financial service providers, including MFIs, SACCOs and commercial banks with the interest and capacity to expand their outreach and develop products that meet the needs of the rural market, ensuring a more inclusive and holistic financial service sector.

After conducting market research with KCBR, a Group Investment Account (GIA) was developed that provides a savings channel for groups. During this quarter the sample product was tested with members of ISLGs in Huye and Ngororero to assess acceptability of the product. Development of the GIA product with the bank will support the program in its target of promoting the use of mobile money and agency banking which have proven to be important channels for financial inclusion. Piloting of the product will begin in May.

An Education Savings product developed in partnership with Duterimbere MFI last year continues to be in use with a total of Rwf 8,292,591 (USD \$12,377) as of 16 April, 2014.

Program Element 3: Behavior Change and Social Marketing

Behavior Change and Social Marketing (BCSM) approaches sensitize the population on the benefits of financial services, improving production practices, working cooperatively, and improving access to health and nutrition services. Use of radio continues to be an important communication channel for our target population. During the Quarter themes that were focuses on during broadcasts included agriculture and highlighted lessons from the Cracking the Nut Africa (CTNA) Conference.

To better inform the program on the usefulness of radio as a BCC channel for USAID Ejo Heza, an assessment will be conducted in the coming Quarter on the impact of the radio program, as well as other elements of Ejo Heza’s BCC approach. This will inform our radio and overall BCC strategy moving forward.

Program Element 4: Health and Nutrition

USAID Ejo Heza implements complementary short-term and long-term actions to ensure that the most vulnerable populations attain skills and knowledge that lead to greater food security and greater understanding of diet, nutrition and hygiene, especially within the critical first 1,000 days for newborn children and their mothers.

During this quarter, the team did a mapping of nutrition activities to verify their existence and whether they continued implementing nutrition activities as planned. Findings from the exercise should that nutrition groups had more knowledge on nutrition when compared to other groups. The technical team agreed to reinforce the creation of more nutrition groups and the inclusion of more nutrition activities when ISLGs or Cooperative groups meet. The focus of the program with regard to Kitchen Gardens is to have them produce all year round and produce a greater variety of vegetables for household consumption.

5 Progress Report by Program Objective or Result Areas

5.1 Program Element 1: Increase Demand for Financial Services

Under this component USAID Ejo Heza addresses the demand side issues that limit the use of financial services to improve livelihoods and food consumption by promoting savings and use of credit; financial literacy, and basic literacy and numeracy, while expanding access to business development and agricultural extension services. Results and progress for Quarter two, FY14 under this element are provided below:

Program Element 1.1: Promoting Integrated Saving and Lending Groups (ISLGs) Formation



Passbook based pilot training



An ISLG in session

Creation of new ISLG's

During this Quarter the RPOs mobilized the community and created 23 new ISLGs. A total of 300 ISLGs were created in Quarter 1 and Quarter 2 of this year which equals the target for the whole year. The value of savings to date within the ISLG's is USD \$330,624 while that of loans is USD \$268,600.

Passbook- based record keeping Pilot Exercise

Feedback gathered from the BCVs and Field Officers indicated that the Central Ledger record keeping system used by the ISLGs was not suited to their level of knowledge and skills. USAID Ejo Heza decided to pilot a simplified data collection method that would primarily rely on the Passbooks as opposed to the Central Ledgers.

A total of 41 newly created ISLGs of about 1,025 members are participating in the pilot that began in March and will run over a period of 52 weeks that correspond to the ISLG cycle. The ISLGs have been formed by our RPOs; six ISLGs from AEE, two in each of three Districts, 16 ISLGs from ADEPR, two in each of eight Districts, nine ISLGs from CARITAS, three in each of three Districts, and ten ISLGs from DUHAMIC ADRI, two in each of their five Districts.

All four RPOs have begun implementing the pilot that started in March. In total 890 members from 39 ISLGs out of the proposed 41 have been trained on How to Establish an ISLG, Fund Management, and Group Bylaws and Savings. USAID Ejo Heza provided the necessary materials for the pilot which included 1,028 member Passbooks, 41 stamps and the English version of the Passbook based curriculum.



A BCV with material on Savings



A learner practicing

Program Element 1.2 Increasing Financial Literacy

Financial Education Activities

Financial Education Module Development

Work on development of the Budgeting and Bank Services Modules was completed including all content and illustrations. The two modules were piloted in March by 15 Field Officers and 13 Assistant Field Officers who will then train the BCV's. They provided edits and comments to the modules which have been incorporated.

Business Development Services Strategy

USAID Ejo Heza conducted an assessment of 54 medium and small entrepreneurs sampled out of 517 who had received business training in 2013. The assessment aimed at reviewing any progress made in the

businesses and lives of the entrepreneurs as a result of the training. Most of those served by the program were engaged in small shops, selling handicrafts, tailoring, buying and selling of agricultural produce such as beans, maize, and sorghum and rearing of small animals such as pigs and goats. The results showed progress in the growth of existing businesses and the establishment of new businesses.

As a follow up to the assessment of 54 entrepreneurs done in February, a draft business development strategy was developed that focused on four main areas:

- Sensitization of stakeholders such as local authorities, financial institutions and service providers involved in business development.
- Capacity building of beneficiaries
- Coaching and mentoring
- Monitoring and evaluation

Income Generating Activities (IGA) Master Training - The team conducted Income Generating Activities (IGA) Master Training from the 11th to the 13th February 2014 which focused on Basic Accounting for small enterprises and Business Planning. The 30 RPO staff trained included Coordinators, Field Officers and Assistant Field Officers.

Program Element 1.3: Increasing Basic Literacy and Numeracy

The following were the key adult literacy activities that were conducted during this quarter:

- Recruitment of a consultant to review the new Functional Adult Literacy (FAL) module that has been developed by the program
- The cell phone literacy training workshop
- Graduation ceremonies in Huye and Karongi districts
- Workshop on the new literacy module
- Radio Design workshop for Gira Ejo Heza that would focus on literacy



USAID Ejo Heza COP and Save the Children Country Director handing over certificates to learners

Adult Literacy Consultancy

A local consulting firm DevConsult was hired in March 2014 to review the existing materials related to adult literacy, provide technical support to ADEPR in piloting the new literacy modules, support the module's approval process by the Ministry of Education (MINEDUC), provide recommendations on how teachers can improve their teaching methodology, and document the use of information and communication technology in the literacy program (Cell Phone Literacy). The consultancy began in March with an inception report. Findings and recommendations from this exercise will be shared in the Third Quarter report.

Cell phone literacy workshop

The pilot of the cell phone literacy program has now been rolled out in all 50 literacy centers of Huye District, with a total of 100 teachers participating. Two two-day workshops for the literacy teachers were

held at Four Step Hotel (formerly Petit Prince) in Huye on the 4th-7th of March. The purpose of the workshops were to sharpen the teachers' skills and knowledge in using mobile phone technology in literacy teaching. Fifty teachers attended, 23 of whom were women. Materials provided to the teachers included the Cell Phone Literacy Training Module, training posters, and solar charging units from Barefoot Power. As an incentive, the teachers are allowed to charge phones using the solar charging system for a fee. The program is purchasing solar charging units for the pilot classes but will expand these services through an entrepreneurial approach where beneficiaries buy and sell these units.

Literacy Graduation Ceremonies

The 3rd Phase of Graduation Ceremonies for learners under the program took place this Quarter in Huye (Southern Province) and Karongi (Western Province). Recognizing that graduation is an important milestone in the learners' lives, the program organizes graduation events to recognize not only the learners but also the teachers and other partners such as the local government that contribute to the success of the literacy program. Some of those who attended the graduation event included the Governor of Southern Province (who was the Guest of Honor), MINEDUC Representatives, the Mayor of Huye district, literacy graduates, teachers, ADEPR Pastors, ADEPR Field Officers and Field Officers Assistants, local authorities at sector and district levels, and Ejo Heza staff. A total of 493 people graduated in South province, 305 of them women, and 505 in Western Province, including 299 women.

See link on media coverage: <http://www.newtimes.co.rw/news/index.php?i=15634&a=74566>

a. Workshop on the New Literacy Module:

USAID Ejo Heza has been in the process of developing a FAL module based on the MINEDUC curriculum. The module will enhance the current MINEDUC module in use by incorporating knowledge on agriculture, health, nutrition, and financial services.

Twenty six participants, most of whom were teachers and monitors of the literacy classes from ADEPR, attended the two day workshop on March 5th-6th, 2014 at Classic Hotel, Kicukiro District, Kigali.

Day one focused on a review of the structure of the module and the pictorial illustrations. Participants were grouped into four groups with each group assigned to discuss the illustrations:

- Group one and Group two: Financial services and good governance
- Group three and Group four: Agriculture and nutrition

Both the literacy consultant from DevConsult and the Artist/Graphic Designer attended the workshop and listened to the feedback provided.

Gira Ejo Heza Radio Literacy Program Design Workshop

Day two of the workshop focused on Radio Series Design for the Literacy theme that would be aired starting in April for a period of nine weeks. The theme chosen for the nine week literacy series was **“Literacy as a channel to raise the status of the family and the country as a whole.”** Topics chosen to be covered over the nine weeks included the contribution of literacy to improved social economic status, agriculture, health and nutrition, cooperative development and governance, women and household welfare and lastly democracy. Within this second Quarter, four out of the nine episodes have already been aired.

Program Element 1.4: Expanding Economic Opportunities through Business Development and Extension Services

1.4.4 Enhancing productivity through extension services

During the quarter, through trainings provided by the BCVs, 5,959 farmers were trained in livestock and crop and soil management. Topics covered included cattle management for improved milk production, cultivation of fodder, Artificial Insemination, bio intensive techniques for establishing kitchen gardens, importance of using improve/selected seeds, soil erosion, and water management

USAID Ejo Heza provided technical support to three cooperatives that had grown beans during the short rainy season (September to December referred to as Agricultural Season B, 2014) on Post-Harvest Handling and Storage (PHHS). Harvesting of beans for this season took place in January. Follow up with the cooperatives was done so as to minimize losses during harvest and storage.

Among the 616 hectares under cultivation this Quarter, 210 hectares was newly cultivated land and was therefore reported as additional hectares under improved technologies. Technologies applied to maize and beans included: soil erosion control, water management, application of fertilizer, PHHS, use of the drying sheds, maize shelling techniques and grading of beans.

Production of Maize and Beans

Production of beans increased from 1,800 kgs per ha to 2,080 Kgs/ha this season when compared to the last season. The production was for climbing beans as there were no bush beans produced this season. The increase in production was a result of continued extension services provided to the farmers and greater effort by the program in training farmers on making and using organic manure (compost).



A woman using a maize shelling machine



Drying maize at a Cooperative's maize drying shed

Currently the program works with 19 bean growing cooperatives, seven of which grow climbing beans and 12 which grow bush beans. These 19 cooperatives cover 1,267 ha of land.

Type of Beans	Baseline/ Season B,2012 (kg/ha)	Production Season A, 2014 (kg/ha)	Production Season B, 2014 (kg/ha)	Ideal yield (kg/ha) - RAB
Bush beans	600-650	1100-1380		1,500-2,500
Climbing beans	800-1000	1650-1800	2,080	3,000-5,000

Production of maize – The margin on production of maize did not change much this season as it remained in the range of 2,300-3,100 kgs/ha while it was in a range of 2,300-3,000 kgs/ha last season. This remains a great improvement in production when compared with the performance of the cooperatives at the start of the program. This was caused by a drop in rainfall shortly after planting especially in the Southern part of the country, which included the largest numbers of maize growers this season. The second reason was as a result of delays in distribution of seeds by the government this season as a result of problems experienced with the batch that had been imported.

Technologies applied in dairy included making of compost, animal feeding, fodder cultivation, milk handling & testing, artificial insemination, and construction of improved cow sheds. Bio-intensive techniques were also applied in establishing kitchen gardens.

Supporting the Dairy Value Chain

During this Quarter, 282 farmers (134 females and 148 males) were trained on better cattle management techniques and milk handling with 191 of these farmers (98 females and 93 males) applying the technologies taught within the Quarter. Some of the reasons some may not have been applied are that some of the cows were not yet being milked, other cows were not be ready for insemination while some farmers had not yet purchased seed for fodder.

In order to provide proper extension support to the dairy farmers, 36 BCVs from the dairy cooperatives and cattle breeders' clusters were trained on cattle management, hygienic milk handling, and milk testing and handling at the farm level and the Milk Collection Centers (MCCs).

Update on the Nyanza Village Kraal – the pilot village kraal of Nyanza continued to receive technical support from the program through DUHAMIC ADRI. Four calves have now been born; 4 female cows and 9 bulls.

Program Element 1.4.5 Supporting income diversification through business development services

The Business Development team developed a Business Planning Tool that supports cooperatives in planning for an agricultural season and collecting vital data on inputs, costs, and projected sales. The tool was used by the cooperatives in the Agricultural Season B that ended in January of this year.



BCV Training



A member of the Village Kraal milking a cow

The larger goal is to build the capacity of the farmers to progressively farm as a business. Projections of yields/harvest and expenditures will help in marketing and price negotiation with buyers. Proper record keeping will also help in calculating gross margin which is a program indicator.

Farming as a Business Training

Training on Farming as Business (FAB) was conducted for 112 committees' members from 8 cooperatives operating in Karongi and Rutsiro Districts under CARITAS. The training focused on market-oriented agriculture, preparing a crop-based work plan, bankable business plans, calculating gross margins of production, market segmentation, identifying competitors, and value addition. Another group of 56 cooperative members from Ngororero will be trained May 2014.

Adoption of USAID module by the ASWG - On 5th of March the Agriculture Specialist presented USAID Ejo Heza module on Farming as a Business to the Agriculture Sector Working Group (ASWG) and it was adopted for use by the sector. One of the partners in the working group, the SPARK Project, committed to hire a consultant to harmonize existing materials on agricultural entrepreneurship, including the USAID Ejo Heza module. The first draft is expected to be discussed during the ASWG meeting scheduled in the 1st week of May, 2014.

Summary of performance against targets for Program Element 1

Indicator Name	LOP Targets	FY13 Achievement	FY14 Target	Q1 Achievement	Q2 Achievement	Result to date
IR 1: Improved Agricultural Productivity(USAID IR 7.1)						
# of hectares under improved technologies or management practices as a result of USG assistance (CA, FTF 4.5.2-2)	1176	526	830	81	210	817
Gross margin per unit of land, kilogram, or animal of selected product (FTF 4.5-4).	5%		3%			
IR 1.1: Improved access to production and processing practices (USAID IR 7.1.1)						
# of farmers and others who have applied new technologies or management practices as a result of USG assistance (FTF 4.5.2-5)	52,500	14,104	30,000	1,296	6,207	21,607
# new technologies or management practices in one of the following phases of development: (CA, FTF)	17	12	16	0	3	15
# farmers accessing agricultural extension services (CHF)	45,000	34,367	42,000	4,559	5,959	44,885

IR 1.2: Improved access to business development services (USAID IR 7.1.2)						
# of MSMEs receiving business development services from USG assisted sources (FTF 4.5.2-37)	2,000	529	1,200	28	646	1,203
IR 2.1: Improved institutional capacity of service providers (USAID IR 7.3.1)						
# of private enterprises, producers organizations, water users associations, trade and business associations, and community-based organizations (CBOs) receiving USG assistance (FtF 4.5.2-11)	2,000	1,248	1,500	277	23	300
IR 2.2: Improved capacity of borrowers to access and manage financial services (USAID IR 7.3.2)						
# people trained in one or more forms of literacy, including basic literacy, basic numeracy, financial literacy (CHF)	76,420	37,466	48,420	5,755	7,794	51,015

5.2 Program Element 2: Increase Supply of Financial Services

USAID Ejo is providing targeted support to financial service providers including MFIs, SACCOs and Commercial Banks with the interest and capacity to expand their outreach and develop products that meet the needs of the rural sector, ensuring a more inclusive and holistic financial sector.

Program Element 2.1 Supporting linkages between ISLGs and MFIs

Linkage of ISLGs to formal financial institutions

During this reporting period, the program, through its partners, reached its target of creating 300 ISLGs in FY14. Out of 300 new ISLGs created from Q1 up to Q2, 62% have accounts with formal institutions, especially SACCOs.

Program Element 2.2 Facilitating financial sector innovation

Update on performance of the Iga Nawe education product – Duterimbere MFI

The education savings product called Iga Nawe continued to make progress in levels of savings. At the end of this quarter the savings amount was Rwf 8 292 591 (USD 12,195) from 80 clients. This shows an increase of 74% compared to Q1 savings of Rwf 2,177,781 (USD 3,203).

Education Savings	Number of accounts	Amount in Rwf	Amount in USD
Males	26	2,000,171	2,941
Females	49	1,417,380	2,084
Cooperatives	4	2,062,040	3,032
Solidarity Groups	1	2,813,000	4,137
Total	80	8,292,591	12,195

Data from Duterimbere MFI as at 16th April 2014

Concept Testing Exercise for the Group Investment Account (GIA) for Kenya Commercial Bank Rwanda (KCBR)

USAID Ejo Heza Financial Services team, together with the KCBR Microbanking team led by , carried out a concept testing exercise on the Group Investment Account among members of ISLGs in Huye and Ngororero. The concept testing exercise was done on the 25th and the 26th of March 2014 to obtain reactions to the product from potential clients and determine the levels of acceptability of the proposed product concepts.

The concept testing exercise used Focus Group Discussions (FGD) with guided questions administered by a team from USAID Ejo Heza and KCBR. Each FGD was composed of 8 members from an ISLG. Three discussions were held per day in two locations: Huye in the Southern Province and Ngororero in the Western Province. The ISLGs chosen for the exercise were those that had been in operation for at least 2 years and located near town centers and therefore had more exposure to banks and bank agents. A total of 48 savings group members participated in the exercise.

Some of the findings from the exercise were that most of the groups operated accounts with SACCOs and few had MFI accounts. The respondents complained of high account management fees, commission charges, and delays in loan processing at the SACCO. They felt positively about the features of the GIA, especially the opportunity to get higher loan amounts with faster service.

Most had only seen a branch of KCBR and were not familiar with the bank agents. In order to gauge possible adoption of the KCBR mobile-based products, respondents were asked whether they used MTN or Tigo mobile money services. Very few did. Out of eight members in an FGD, only two had used the service. The main reason was that they did not have mobile phones. These initial findings reveal a need for greater awareness of mobile-based financial products and Agency banking. The launch of the pilot phase of the GIA product is slated for May 2014.

Collaboration with other Financial Institutions

The Financial Services Officer conducted a one-day workshop organized by financial education consultant , under the UNCDF Youth Start program. The purpose of the workshop was to share with financial education practitioners the Financial Education modules available and in use in other countries. It focused on providing Financial Education training to people of varying ages and educational level.

Program Element 2.3 Supporting capacity building

The financial services team continued to provide training and mentorship to RPO and KCBR Microbanking staff on financial education, reporting through the SAVIX MIS and market research.

Program Element 2.4: Supporting the expansion of mobile money

Through its partnership with KCBR, USAID Ejo Heza has in this quarter conducted a concept testing exercise for the group-based savings product developed for KCBR. The product will support the expansion of mobile money through Agent Banking. Clients can access the products through KCBR Agents in our regions of operation. The savings and withdrawals are made through the bank's mobile platform.

This product will increase awareness and use of mobile-based solutions in financial services, which is a practical solution for most of our beneficiaries who are located far from major administrative centers. An orientation to Bank Agents such as shop keepers and hardware shops at their town centers will expose communities where we serve to a broader range of financial service providers and increase choice. The product Group Investment Account (GIA) will be launched in May 2014.

Summary of performance against targets for Program Element 2

INDICATOR NAME	LOP targets	Achievement FY13	FY14 Targets	Q1 Achievement	Q2 Achievement	Achievement to date
IR 2: Increased access to Agricultural Finance (USAID IR 7.3)						
Value of agricultural and rural loans (FTF 4.5.2-29)	\$ 151,000	\$82,736	\$110,000	\$ 12,592	\$ 82,985	\$95,577
IR 2.1: Improved institutional capacity of service providers (USAID IR 7.3.1)						
% of created and/or supported ISLGs with linkages to financial institutions (CHF)	70%	818	60%	76	66	960
# of New financial products developed (CHF)	5	1	2	0		1
# of Loans made by MFIs (CHF)	3,600	421	2,400	39	305	765
IR 2.2: Improved capacity of borrowers to access and manage financial services (USAID IR 7.3.2)						
# of beneficiaries accessing financial services (CHF)	40,000	21,931	30,000	5,054	3,173	30,158
# MSMEs receiving USG assistance to access bank loans (CA, FTF 4.5.2-30)	3,600	1,150	2,400	39	134	1,323

5.3 Program Element 3: Behavior Change Communication (BCC)

The BCC team supported by temporary staff focused on preparation of radio episodes and distribution of gifts to the winners of our radio program competitions.

Gira Ejo Heza radio program

A total of 13 episodes have been aired this Quarter beginning January 2014: 3 episodes on Savings and Lending, 5 episodes on Cracking The Nut Africa Conference which included feedback from listeners, 2 episodes on Agriculture Season 2014 B in collaboration with Gisagara District of Southern Province, and 3 episodes on Radio Program winners and distribution of prizes for previous series covering Nutrition, Agriculture, and Financial services.

Out of 40 winners, 25 received their prizes of bicycles, maize shellers, radios and phones. Plans have been made to distribute prizes to the remaining 15.

Supporting the preparation of field events

The events that were supported in this quarter include: 2 literacy graduation ceremonies in Southern and Western Provinces, District Open Days in Nyanza, Nyaruguru, Nyamagabe, Joint Action Development Forum (JADF) General Assembly organized in Gisagara, Huye, and Nyanza, and the USAID Press Tour in Huye.

5.4 Program Element 4: Health and Nutrition

Under Health and Nutrition USAID Ejo Heza, in partnership with Save the Children, implements complementary short-term and long-term actions to ensure that the most vulnerable populations attain skills and knowledge that lead to greater food security and greater understanding of diet, nutrition, and hygiene, especially within the critical first 1,000 days for newborn children and their mothers. All nutrition activities are linked closely with both education and extension services within the program as well as with the stringent approval requirements of the Government of Rwanda to achieve the following objectives:

- 1) Incorporating Nutrition into Adult Literacy education,
- 2) Improving Production, Storage and Handling,
- 3) Establishing kitchen gardens and Promoting better food utilization.

Some key activities conducted in this quarter were: mapping of Nutrition Groups, Basic Health and Nutrition Refresher training, validation of the Food Recipes Booklet and Advanced Nutrition Master Training on Food Processing.



Winner of a radio



Winner of a bicycle

Program Element 4.1 Incorporating nutrition into adult literacy education

The following nutrition topics continue to be covered in the 6 months adult literacy course: exclusive breastfeeding, complementary feeding, balanced and diversified diet, food recipes, general hygiene including hand washing and knowledge on different models of kitchen gardens.



A BCV managing their kitchen garden

Program Element 4.2: Improving Post-Harvest Storage and Handling (PHHS)

USAID Ejo Heza cooperatives received technical support in PHHS while from Season B 2014. The support to cooperatives in harvest and post-harvest activities has considerably helped farmers to increase the quality of their production. Cooperatives with access to drying sheds were able to dry their harvest using these facilities. Each of the cooperative members tags their drying space to differentiate it from his/her fellow members' production when using the drying sheds.

See section 4.1 under Agriculture Extension Services.

Program Element 4.3: Establishing kitchen gardens

During Q2 FY14, the creation of new kitchen gardens was intensified at the household level. A total 2,017 kitchen gardens were established in the 8 districts. Of these, 48 model kitchen gardens were established for the most malnourished household members in Karongi, Rutsiro and Ngororero Districts who were identified in collaboration with the sector authorities.

The program has now achieved the Life of Program (LOP) target of 11,000 kitchen gardens. A few challenges, however, remain. There is need to improve water management and storage to ensure year-round production and a need to increase the variety of vegetables grown in these kitchen gardens for improved diversification. This year the program is focusing on these two areas.

Program Element 4.4 Promoting better food utilization

Mapping of Nutrition groups:

In the month of February the M&E and Nutrition teams conducted a field exercise to verify the location and existence of Nutrition Groups, confirm whether they were still actively conducting nutrition activities, and cross check and validate the data submitted by the RPOs. The three districts of Gisagara, Nyamagabe, and Ngororero were chosen randomly with 3 groups being picked per district.

Some of the findings from the exercise were that: i) The nutrition groups had more knowledge regarding nutrition than the ISLGs because they met once a week to discuss issues around nutrition ii) Some of the groups were yet to be formal trained on basic health and nutrition.

Recommendations made to the RPOs following the exercise were: i) To create new Nutrition Groups as it was a recognized entry point for health and nutrition education. It also had the advantage that beneficiaries from the Nutrition Groups graduated into ISLGs after being together for some time ii) ISLGs and cooperatives should take 15-30 minutes during their meeting time to discuss nutrition topic. iii) Training of the remaining BCVs to ensure that all beneficiaries received training.

Basic Health and Nutrition Refresher training:

The monitoring exercise mentioned above revealed that some of the BCVs had not yet received health and nutrition training. Training was therefore organized in March for 177 BCVs that supported cooperatives and ISLGs. Of these 61 were from Gisagara and 116 from Huye. The BCVs were to then train 3,540 beneficiaries in two months; March and April. The trainings was facilitated by USAID Ejo Heza staff assisted by one of the Field Officers and an experienced BCV.



Health and Nutrition refresher training



Complementary feeding

Advanced nutrition master training on food processing:

A four-day nutrition training on food processing was held from the 24th to the 27th of March 2014 at Saint Andre, Muhanga District. The food processing training attended by 45 staff of RPOs and staff of health centers was aimed at providing knowledge and skills on preservation of food through value addition. The participants also learned different methods of cooking and presenting food. Skills learned will be passed on to the programs beneficiaries. Some of the training received included:



- Making juice from carrots, pineapples, passion fruits and beetroots, which are all available locally
- Production of milk and tofu from soya beans
- Making doughnuts from yellow or orange sweet potatoes

Validation of the Food Recipes Booklet

USAID Ejo Heza among other partners, was commissioned by the MOH through the Nutrition Technical working Group (NTWG) to develop a booklet on simple food recipes from easily available foods that could be used for nutrition training. A one-day workshop was held on March 19th, 2014 at Global Communities' office to review the booklet. The 17 participants of the workshop were members of the nutrition working group and Nutritionists from district hospitals. The main purpose was to review the content and illustrations in the booklet and provide feedback to the graphic artist. The booklet was accepted but participants suggested that all recipes be tested and pictures of final product be used in the booklet. Gardens for Health International (GHI) agreed to host the testing exercise for three days while USAID Ejo Heza would meet the cost of transporting participants from MOH offices to the site in Gasabo District. GHI is an organization working in Rwanda to provide lasting agricultural solutions to chronic malnutrition (see website www.gardensforhealth.org).

Summary of performance against targets for Program Element 4

Indicator name	LOP targets	FY 13 Achiev ement	FY14 target	Q1 Achiev ement	Q2 Achiev ement	Achiev ement to date
IR 3: Improved nutrition among rural poor						
% of beneficiaries consuming a diet with increased diversification (CHF)	85%	24%	75%	0		
% of beneficiaries with increased knowledge about balanced & diversified diet (CHF)	90%	84%	85%	0		
# of people trained in child health and nutrition through USG supported programs (FTF 3.1.9-1)	75,000	42,123	55,397	7,666	4672	54461
# kitchen gardens established (CHF)	11,000	7,233	8,000	1,750	2017	11000

5.5 Cross Cutting Element – Gender

International Women’s Day Celebrations

On February 21, 2014 USAID Ejo Heza hosted a training to prepare for International Women's Day. a Peace Corp Volunteer with USAID Ejo Heza was one of the trainers and a key organizer of the initiative. The training was held in Kigali and hosted by Rwandan Partner Organization AEE at their training hub. A total of 73 people received the training, participants included beneficiaries from the eight districts, staff of the four partner organizations Ejo Heza works with and government officials from The Ministry of Gender and Family Promotion. The training was on a women's empowerment toolkit developed by Global Communities and Peace Corps. The training and its manual focuses on the history and importance of women's day and activities to empower women as well as create a gender-balanced community.

6 Monitoring and Evaluation Activities

Quarter 1, FY 14 report: The team compiled and submitted the first quarter report for financial year 2014. All RPOs are on track in program implementation and most activities have been implemented as planned in FY14 work plan.

Other activities conducted within the quarter:

Household survey:

The program organized a household survey in the month of March in two districts, Huye and Karongi, to establish whether there were: any households served by more than one program under Global Communities, households with more than one beneficiary in the program, the average size of a household members, and the average number of children under 5 years and from 5 – 12 years. The findings from the survey were: average number of members per household was $4.9 \approx 5$, children between 5 – 15 years old was 30 % per household, and children below 5 years old were 14 % per household.

Literacy Graduates data collection exercise:

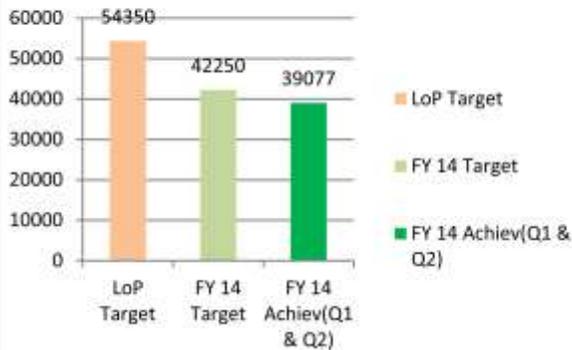
The aim of this exercise was to collect data on all the graduates of the three intakes conducted since the inception of the program. The exercise will establish the number of household members in each of the graduates' family and provide a database for the distribution of shoes under the Tom Shoes/Global Communities partnership. Literacy teachers supported the data collection exercise. The M&E team is now completing data entry.

Walmart PMP: The M&E Team prepared and presented the Walmart Program metrics to the RPO staff during the first training session of the newly hired Field Officers from 3 RPOs. Program indicators and reporting tools were presented and explained to the staff.

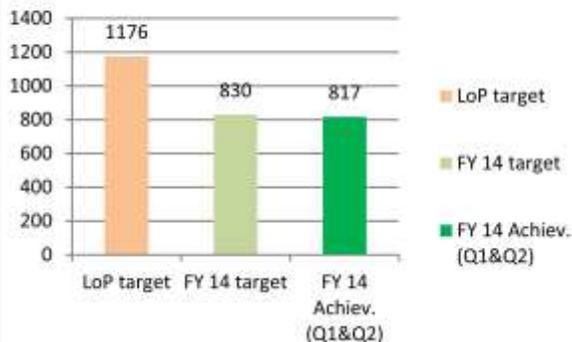
MRR reporting for FY12 & FY13: USAID Ejo Heza is one of the USAID-funded programs that report to Microenterprise Results Reporting (MRR). The information collected from this data call is a requirement of the Microenterprise Results and Accountability Act 2004 (Public law 108-484) and is used to produce a Congressional report and an accompanying public website (<http://mrr.devtechsys.com/partner/>). The M&E team uploaded the required data into the system for FY12 & FY13 and one success story.

7 Summary of achievements along Key Indicators

of rural households benefitting directly from USG interventions (CA, F, FTF 4.5.2-14)



of hectares under improved technologies or management practices as a result of USG assistance (CA, FTF 4.5.2-2)



Number of new technologies or management practices in one of the following phases of development: (CA,FTF 4.5.2-39)



1. Number of rural House Holds benefiting directly from USG interventions (FTF 4.5.2-13)

This is a composite indicator that covers households benefiting from activities under different program elements. We considered households that benefited from nutrition training, agriculture extension services trainings, integrated saving and lending groups, literacy learners, and those grouped in cooperatives. 460 new households have been reached during this reporting period through the ISLG entry point. Learners of intake four will be reported on during next quarter report.

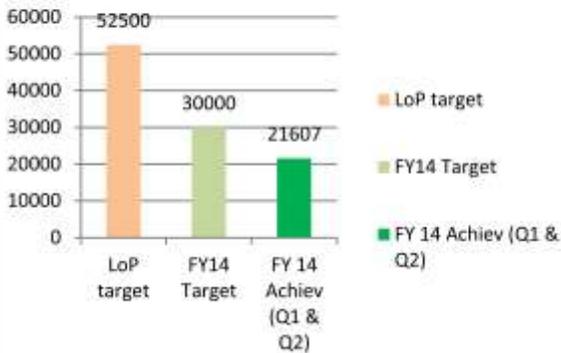
2. Number of hectares under improved technologies or management practices as a result of USG assistance (CA, FTF 4.52-2).

The indicator captures only the land surface where new improved technologies or management practices have been applied. In this quarter, new agriculture technologies were applied on 210 ha.

3. Number of new technologies or management practices in one of the following phases of development: (CA, FTF 4.5.2-39).

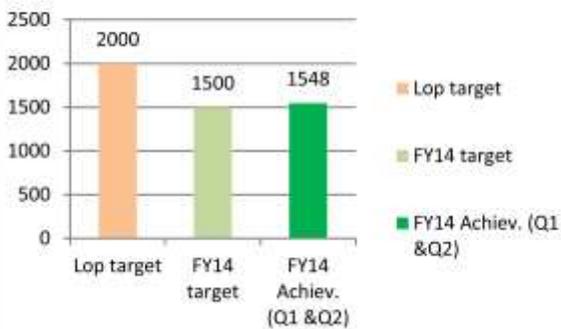
In order to empower the dairy value chain, three new technologies have been applied during this quarter (Improved fodder utilization, artificial insemination, and milk handling and testing).

of farmers and others who have applied new technologies or management practices as a result of USG assistance (FTF 4.5.2-5)



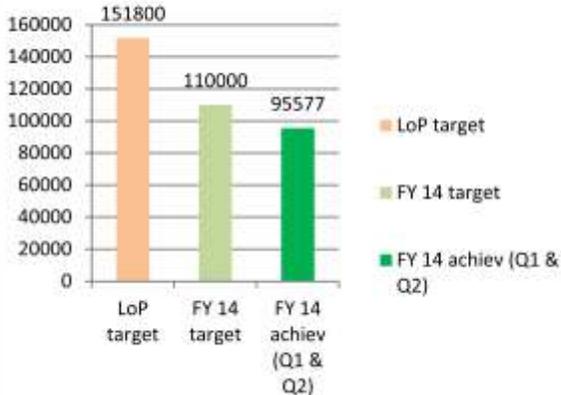
4. **Number of farmers and others who have applied new technologies or management practices as a result of USG assistance (FTF 4.5.2-5).** This indicator reports on the number of farmers who applied new technologies or management practices. The beneficiaries counted were those in cooperatives and in ISLGs that applied new technologies or management practices. 6,207 farmers have applied new technologies in Quarter 2.

of private enterprises, and community-based organizations (CBOs) receiving USG assistance (FtF 4.5.2-11)

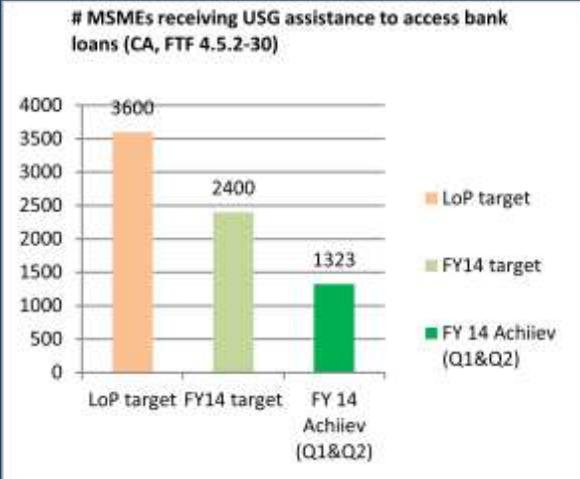


5. **Number of private enterprises, producer organizations, water users associations, trade and business associations and community based organizations receiving USG associations (FTF4.5.2-11).** During quarter 1, 277 ISLGs out of 300 targeted for FY14 have been created. In quarter 2, only 23 ISLGs were created. The reason to create ISLGs earlier is to gain enough time to train their members and follow up on saving and lending activities for the remaining period.

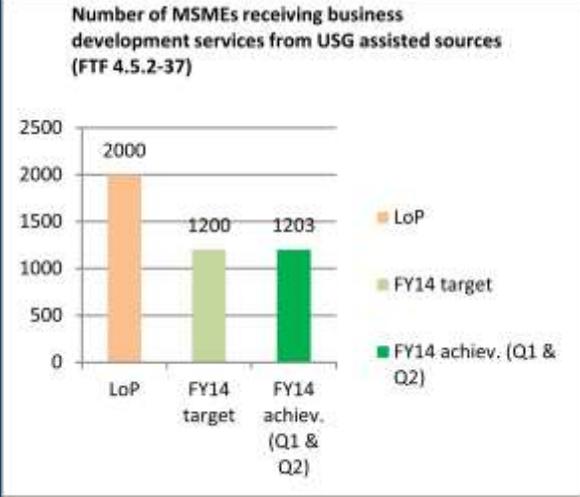
Value of agricultural and rural loans (FTF 4.5.2-29)



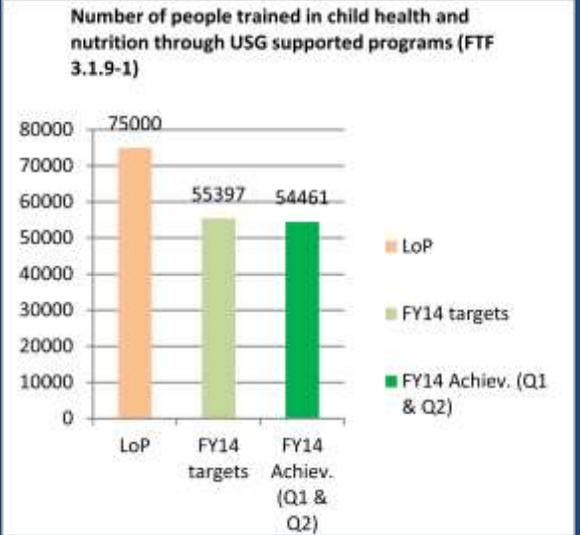
6. **Value of Agricultural and rural loans (FTF 4.5.2-29).** Under this indicator, we count only formal loans disbursed by registered financial institutions and do not therefore consider informal loans disbursed within the ISLGs. A total of USD 82,985 was disbursed from financial institutions where our ISLGs and cooperatives are linked.



7. **Number of MSMEs receiving USG assistance to access bank loans (CA, FTF 4.5.2-30).** This indicator collects data on MSMEs accessing bank loans as a result of the program intervention. Up to 134 MSMEs received loans.



8. **Number of MSMEs receiving business development services from USG assisted sources (FTF 4.5.2-37).** This indicator measures the individual entrepreneurs from cooperatives and ISLGs. 646 MSMEs have been trained on BDS.



9. **Number of people trained in child health and nutrition through USG supported programs (FTF 3.1.9-1).** This indicator captures all program beneficiaries trained in health and nutrition. A total of 4,672 received health and nutrition training during quarter 1.

Cracking the Nut Africa Conference (CTNA)

The USAID Ejo Heza-sponsored Cracking the Nut Africa Conference (CTNA) was successfully held on the 13th to 15th January 2014 at Serena Hotel Kigali with over 400 participants both local and international in attendance. Global Communities Headquarters also sent staff to the conference. The purpose of the conference was to highlight innovations in the development of rural and agricultural livelihoods, financial inclusion, and increasing rural food security and nutrition in Africa.

The Minister of Agriculture and Animal Resources, the CEO of the Rwanda Development Board and the Mission Director of USAID Rwanda attended the opening session. Some of the highlights of the conference were a match-making forum hosted by the Rwanda Development Board that brought together agri-entrepreneurs, financial institutions and food companies.

On the first day of the Conference, participants had a chance to visit various field sites. The USAID Ejo Heza site exposed visitors to our integrated approach to improving livelihoods. Participants visited a maize growing cooperative, an ISLG, a nutrition group, and a literacy center in Huye district. On their way back to Kigali participants were given an opportunity to visit the Huye National Museum to learn about the rich cultural history of Rwanda and were treated to traditional dances. The USAID Ejo Heza site visit received the greatest number of visitors, 40 in total.

In collaboration with Belgium Technical Corporation (BTC) Rwanda and Save the Children, Global Communities' session was an innovative "Talk Show" that focused on the topic "An Integrated Approach to Sustainable Rural Livelihoods in Rwanda". The talk show panel was made up of the BTC Co-Manager of the Market Oriented Advisory Service and Quality Seeds Program, the USAID Ejo Heza Program Coordinator, the Senior Nutrition Advisor on the USAID Ejo Heza program, a Farmer Field School Facilitator, and



Minister of Agriculture, RDB COO, and USAID Rwanda Mission Director (Left to Right)



Global Communities Rwanda Country Director



the Governor of the Southern Province of Rwanda (seated left to right on picture). The panel highlighted the value and challenges of working through community volunteers and facilitators when implementing integrated livelihood programs. It also provided an opportunity for participants to interact with the panelist directly and get perspectives on the subject.

The session received some of the highest ratings in the Conference with all speakers being awarded an average score of 4 on a grade of 1 to 5 with 5 being excellent.

See site for conference report: <http://www.crackingthenutconference.com/>

Some links to the event coverage: **Government of Rwanda**

Rwanda Hosts Conference on Improving Rural Livelihoods and Food Security

<http://www.gov.rw/Rwanda-hosts-conference-on-improving-rural-livelihoods-and-food-security>

Republic of Rwanda - Ministry of Agriculture and Animal Resources

Cracking the Nut Conference kicks off with business opportunities highlights

http://www.minagri.gov.rw/index.php?id=469&tx_ttnews%5Btt_news%5D=526&cHash=f055ff26aae8208055f8152d4c3b669c

High Commission of the Republic of Rwanda in Kenya

Govt partners private sector on agriculture

<http://www.kenya.embassy.gov.rw/index.php?id=406>

Embassy of the United States - Kigali, Rwanda

USAID, Global Communities, and Government of Rwanda Launch First 'Cracking the Nut' Global Food Security Conference in Africa

http://rwanda.usembassy.gov/news_01142014.html

East African Business Week

Rwanda Talks Tackle Food Security

<http://allafrica.com/stories/201401140040.html>

The New Times

Food security conference opens today

<http://www.newtimes.co.rw/news/index.php?a=73669&i=15601>

3rd National Food and Nutrition Summit

As a member of the Nutrition Sector Working Group under the Ministry of Health (MOH) USAID Ejo Heza participated in the organization of the National Food and Nutrition Summit held on the 18th to the 20th of February 2014 at the Serena Hotel, Kigali. USAID Ejo Heza provided participants' badges, pens and sponsored a song on nutrition from one of the leading local artists.

The theme on the conference was *Promote the 1st 1000 Days to Prevent Child Stunting*. The opening remarks were made by the Minister of Health who highlighted the government's efforts in the fight against malnutrition. The specific objectives of the Summit were: i) To provide a forum for presentation and discussion of major national and international developments in food and nutrition policy and strategic planning including the Rwanda NFNP and NFNSP 2013-2018 ii) To provide a national forum to learn and discuss several existing and newly funded programs and innovative projects that will be used to implement the NFNSP 2013-2018 iii) To help identify strategic and intervention gaps that need to be filled in order to successfully achieve national food and nutrition objectives through decentralized action.

Global Communities participated at the conference and made 3 presentations:

- a. Improving Maternal, Infant and Young Child nutrition to prevent all forms of malnutrition in Rwanda – Senior Nutrition Advisor, USAID Ejo Heza/ Save the Children
- b. Linking agriculture with nutrition to improve household food security in Rwanda – Program Coordinator USAID Ejo Heza
- c. Economic Strengthening leads to improved health outcomes for vulnerable households – Program Coordinator USAID Higa Ubeho

Some of the recommendations from the Summit that would be incorporated in USAID nutrition activities include: improvement of kitchen gardens to provide a variety of vegetables to fight micro nutrient deficiency including Iron and Vitamin A, integrating cooking best practices to gain Vitamin C and facilitate absorption of iron, continue to sensitize people to consume balanced diets rich in animal proteins (fish, meat and eggs) as these are largely lacking in rural household diets, facilitate promotion of the 1st 1000 Days to prevent child stunting, and the formation of specific nutrition groups of mothers (pregnant, lactating mothers with children under two years).



USAID Ejo Heza AOR and USAID Ejo Heza COP during the tour



A BCV explains what they have learned about food groups in nutrition during the tour



A literacy class in Huye that is piloting cell phone literacy - one of the sites visited

Some of the media coverage on event

<http://allafrica.com/stories/201402181262.html>

See link to the presentation by USAID Ejo Heza:
http://www.moh.gov.rw/fileadmin/templates/summit2/5.6_Linking_Agriculture_to_Improved_Hhld_Food_Security_Global_Communities.pdf

Hosting of Implementing Partners under the Economic Growth Unit

On 13th March, USAID Ejo Heza hosted a meeting of implementing partners under the USAID Rwanda Economic Growth Unit. These are periodic meetings whose purpose is to get implementing partners to meet, share experiences, and find out ways in which there can be collaboration. As a result of the meeting, the USAID-funded Wildlife Conservation Society that is implementing the 'Sustaining Biodiversity Conservation in and around Nyungwe National Park' program expressed interest in learning and partnering with us on expansion of savings group and linkages with SACCO's among communities served along the Nyungwe forest.

USAID Rwanda Mission Field Visit – On the 21st of February the USAID Ejo Heza team took staff from the Mission on a field visit to see our operations in the Western Province of the country. The team visited Mutuntu Sector in Karongi District, Western Province and was comprised of the AOR, the Rural Enterprise Development and Entrepreneurship Specialist and a guest from Feed the Future in Washington. The team visited Abakomezamihigo, a maize growing cooperative, an ISLG and a Nutrition Group.

USAID Rwanda 50th Anniversary Celebrations Press Tour

On 26th March 2014, USAID Ejo Heza participated on a press tour that was part of the USAID Rwanda 50th anniversary celebrations. The press tour focused on two of the missions programs, USAID Ejo Heza and the Land o Lakes-managed Rwanda Dairy Competitiveness Project (RDCP) II. Participants who were mainly journalists visited a Milk Collection Center supported by Land o Lakes and USAID Ejo Heza activities in cooperatives, savings groups, and nutrition and literacy groups in Gishamvu Sector of Huye district. A press release was also issued on Walmart funding to expand USAID Ejo Heza and USAID's injection of an additional \$ 1 million to the program.

See various media links on the tour: Reuters: Walmart Foundation, USAID, and Global Communities Join Forces Through a \$1 Million Expansion of a "Brighter Future" in Rwanda

Link in Kinyarwanda: <http://www.umuseke.rw/huye-usaid-irakataje-mu-bikorwa-byo-gukura-abaturage-mu-bukene/>

Write-up on Huye District website

[http://www.huye.gov.rw/index.php?id=2261&tx_ttnews\[tt_news\]=5956&cHash=11c320662ee1235abe0d08ad330670de0](http://www.huye.gov.rw/index.php?id=2261&tx_ttnews[tt_news]=5956&cHash=11c320662ee1235abe0d08ad330670de0)

Save the Children Program Learning Group Workshop

USAID Ejo Heza Senior Nutrition Advisor attended the Save the Children Program Learning Group (PLG) workshop in Kathmandu, Nepal from March 10th to 14th, 2014. She made a poster presentation on nutrition work under USAID Ejo Heza. The Program Learning Group (PLG) was the first global conference hosted by the Health and Nutrition Global Initiative and aimed to: 1) Communicate best practices and program learning in order to better deliver results at scale, 2) Inspire innovation by showcasing SCI signature programs, 3) Strengthen SCI strategy 4) Share on-the-ground learning to inform global level practice and policy and 5) Foster SCI commitment to thought leadership across the movement.

Participation in meetings under Government Ministries

Nutrition Sector Working Group (NSWG) – MOH

The Senior Nutrition Advisor participated in the NSWG meeting organized by Ministry of Health in January. The focus on the meeting was preparation for the 3rd National Food and Nutrition Summit held in February 2014. USAID Ejo Heza sponsored the costs of badges, pens and hired a local artist. Global Communities made three presentations at the summit.

Agriculture Sector Working Group AWSG – MINAGRI

The Rural Livelihoods Team leader participated in the Agriculture Sector Working Group meeting held in February. The meeting focused on feeder roads and irrigation schemes. During the March Meeting the Agriculture Specialist presented USAID Ejo Heza's "Farming as a Business" training module to the forum. The group adopted the module which will be used as a reference module as the Working Group embarks on harmonizing training modules in agribusiness.

Financial Sector Meeting – MINECOFIN

On the 4th of March MINECOFIN invited Global Communities to participate in a review meeting on the implementation of activities under the National Financial Education Strategy. Partners were divided into different groupings to look into ways to speed up implementation of activities under the Strategy. The USAID Ejo Heza Program Coordinator was selected to lead the group that will look into activities targeting the adult segment of the population. The program hosted three meetings of stakeholders and provided recommendations which were presented to the Ministry.

Meeting with Ministry of Commerce - MINICOM

On 19th March, USAID Ejo Heza was invited by UNCDF – Building an Inclusive Financial sector in Rwanda (BIFSIR) to discuss how the program can partner with BIFSIR and MINICOM in providing Business Development Services. The USAID Ejo Heza Program Coordinator together with the Agribusiness Officer met with the BIFSIR Manager, and from MINICOM. Participants were informed that MINICOM had received funds under BIFSIR for Business Development and was exploring channels through which enterprise development training would be offered to community members in savings groups and those in technical and vocational training.

It was found however not possible to continue with the engagement because the structure through which contracting and payments were to be done and the timeframe of the project would not fit easily within Global Communities procedures.

Participation in meetings under Local Government

Joint Action Development Forum (JADF)

The JADF is a forum of community based and non-governmental organizations that aims at coordinating activities of all development actors so as to promote efficiency and avoid duplication of efforts.

During this quarter USAID Ejo Heza and its partners participated in the Joint Action Development Forums for Huye and Nyamagabe Districts. The meetings focused on the implementation of the 2013-2014 Work Plans and election of officials.

District Open Days - During the month of February Ejo Heza participated in Open Days, organized by Nyanza and Nyaruguru Districts in the Southern Province.

District Access to Finance Forums

In the month of January the Financial Services Specialist attended the Access to Finance Forum for Nyanza District. The program provided support in hosting the forum that brought together 60 participants from financial service providers from the district.

9 USAID Ejo Heza Staff Development

Trainings

Agriculture Value Chain Finance Training – The Rural Livelihoods Team Leader attended the Agriculture Value Chain Finance Training organized by AZMJ on the 16th to the 17th January 2014 at Serena Hotel in Kigali.

Cooperative Development Training

In February, USAID Ejo Heza Financial Services Officer and Agribusiness Officer attended a Cooperative Development, Governance and Financial Management workshop conducted by Global Communities HQ /VIP and Green Zebra Company.

Program Tracker Refresher training

The Monitoring and Evaluation team organized training on Program Tracker for the Technical Team that focused on Program Tracker's new structure, program elements, setting milestones, and uploading notes.

USAID Evaluation for Evaluation Specialists (EES) Course

From 13th – 24th January, 2014, the M&E Specialist and the Senior M&E Team Leader attended a USAID training for two weeks at Lemigo Hotel, Kigali. The training focused on USAID evaluation policy including guidelines for evaluation management (developing evaluation SOW, evaluation questions, budgets etc.) and the technical side of evaluations (evaluation methods and tools, Performance and Impact evaluations, gender in evaluations etc.).

USAID Rules and Regulations Training

Staff from the program including the COP, the Administration Officer and the Accountant attended a USAID Rules and Regulations training from the 18th to the 20th of February in Kigali.

Recruitments

Chief of Party; Meetings were held in the last week of January with partners to introduce the USAID EH Chief of Party. These included meetings with the USAID Mission Economic Growth staff, Partner staff of ADEPR and DUHAMIC-ADRI, CARITAS and AEE, key Government Ministries and Save the Children. The COP visited RPO offices accompanied by the Country Director and EH staff.

Database Officer: He holds a postgraduate degree in Medical Informatics from the Kigali Institute of Science and Technology and a Bachelor's degree in Information Management from Adventist University of Central Africa. He has strong experience in software development and has worked with the National Land Center as a Database Officer. Prior to joining Global Communities he worked in software development and database administration at a leading insurance company, SORAS.

Walmart Program Manager – A decision was made to promote the current Rural Livelihoods Team Leader to manage Walmart Program activities instead of hiring a new person to head the Program.

BCC Short - Term staff – the contract of was extended to the end of March 2014. This allowed a smooth transition to the new BCC officer who reported on 17th March.

BCC Officer : holds a Masters degree in Public Health from the Mount Kenya University and a Bachelor's degree in Chemistry, Biology and Education from Kigali Institute of Education (KIE). He has strong experience in Behavior Change Communication (BCC) having worked with various organizations in a similar position. Prior to joining Global Communities he worked in an Indoor Residual Spraying Project funded by USAID as a BCC Coordinator.

Pending Recruitments

Financial Services Specialist – following the exit of who joined the Ministry of Finance as a Senior Economist the program has advertised and is in the process of hiring for this position.

Walmart Positions

The following Walmart recruitments are underway; Program Officer, M&E Officer, Grants Manager and Nutrition Training Specialist.

10 New Development Impacting Implementation

USAID Bureau of Food Security Scaling Up Beans Initiative

USAID/FTF requested USAID Ejo Heza to develop a plan to scale up activities to address the Rwanda Agriculture Board's bean initiative. The plan in line with recommendations from USAID's Bureau for Food Security (BFS) would expand the program's reach into new (geographic) sectors within the districts where it is already working in order to increase bean harvest yields per hectare and increase nutritional quality of those harvests by introducing bio fortified bean seeds. It would mean the program would expand what it is already doing with bean growing cooperatives and expand the geographic reach of that intervention.

The proposed project targets 200,000 households in 11 districts, 8 being those already served by USAID Ejo Heza and 3 new located in the Western Province (Rusizi, Nyamasheke and Nyabihu)

11 Summary of Program Indicators

INDICATOR NAME	LOP targets	Achievement FY13	FY14 Targets	Q1 Achievement	Q2 Achievement	Achievement to date
Goal: Improve livelihoods of Rwanda's very poor						
Prevalence of Poverty: % of people living on less than \$1.25/day (FTF 4.16)	85%		95%			-
% change in income of targeted population (RFA)	35%		20%			-
# of rural households benefitting directly from USG interventions (CA, F, FTF 4.5.2-14)	54,350	33,314	42,250	5303	460	39,077
IR 1: Improved Agricultural Productivity(USAID IR 7.1)						
# of hectares under improved technologies or management practices as a result of USG assistance (CA, FTF 4.5.2-2)	1,176	526	830	81	210	817
Gross margin per unit of land, kilogram, or animal of selected product (FTF 4.5-4).	5%		3%			-
IR 1.1: Improved access to production and processing practices (USAID IR 7.1.1)						
# of farmers and others who have applied new technologies or management practices as a result of USG assistance (FTF 4.5.2-5)	52,500	14,104	30,000	1,296	6,207	21,607
# new technologies or management practices in one of the following phases of development: (CA, FTF)	17	12	16	0	3	15
# farmers accessing agricultural extension services (CHF)	45,000	34,367	42,000	4,559	5,959	44,885
IR 1.2: Improved access to business development services (USAID IR 7.1.2)						
# of MSMEs receiving business development services from USG assisted sources (FTF 4.5.2-37)	2,000	529	1,200	28	646	1,203

IR 2: Increased access to Agricultural Finance (USAID IR 7.3)						
Value of agricultural and rural loans (FTF 4.5.2-29)	\$151,800	\$ 82,736	\$110,000	\$12,592	\$82,985	\$ 95,577
IR 2.1: Improved institutional capacity of service providers (USAID IR 7.3.1)						
% of created and/or supported ISLGs with linkages to financial institutions (CHF)	70%	818	60%	76	66	960
# of private enterprises, producers organizations, water users associations, trade and business associations, and community-based organizations (CBOs) receiving USG assistance (FtF 4.5.2-11)	2,000	1,248	1,500	277	23	1,548
# of New financial products developed (CHF)	5	1	2	0		1
# of Loans made by MFIs (CHF)	3600	421	2400	39	305	765
IR 2.2: Improved capacity of borrowers to access and manage financial services (USAID IR 7.3.2)						
# of beneficiaries accessing financial services (CHF)	40000	21,931	30,000	5,054	3,173	30,158
# MSMEs receiving USG assistance to access bank loans (CA, FTF 4.5.2-30)	3,600	1,150	2,400	39	134	1,323
# people trained in one or more forms of literacy, including basic literacy, basic numeracy, financial literacy (CHF)	76,420	37,466	48,420	5,755	7,794	51,015
IR 3: Improved nutrition among rural poor						
% of beneficiaries consuming a diet with increased diversification (CHF)	85%	24%	75%	0		
% of beneficiaries with increased knowledge about balanced & diversified diet (CHF)	90%	84%	85%	0		
# of people trained in child health and nutrition through USG supported programs (FTF 3.1.9-1)	75,000	42,123	55,397	7,666	4,672	54,461
# kitchen gardens established (CHF)	11,000	7,233	8,000	1,750	2,017	11,000

12 WALMART FOUNDATION - SCALING UP SUCCESSFUL FARMER TRAINING IN RWANDA PROGRAM (SSFTRP)

Background

Walmart Foundation awarded a \$1 million expansion to the USAID Integrated Improved Livelihoods Program (IILP) or USAID Ejo Heza 'Brighter Future' in Kinyarwanda as commonly known, through a Grant Agreement that was signed on October 2013. The funds from Walmart (\$1 million) will support 50,000 additional farmers with Ejo Heza training in bio-intensive gardening. These 50,000 farmers, of which 60% will be women, will receive support through Farmer Field Schools (FFS). Through this initiative, 10,000 women will be trained in maize and beans production, 15,000 will receive horticulture production training, and 25,000 will receive training on improved dairy production.

The additional funding from Walmart will complement \$12.3 million already invested by USAID in the Ejo Heza program and will allow smallholder farmers, especially women, to acquire practical farming knowledge through cooperatives, Income Saving and Lending Groups and FFS. The new funding from Walmart Foundation will enable Global Communities to reach additional Rwandan farmers with improved agricultural techniques emphasizing the production of corn, beans, dairy farming and bio-intensive gardening and horticulture. The program will also include intensive trainings that will enable top-performing farmers to train others. Of the additional 50,000 farmers reached, about 15,000 will be trained in improved milk production and at least 15,000 female farmers will enter horticulture programs.

USAID is injecting an additional \$ 1 million to the program to support nutrition training to the 50,000 new beneficiaries. With the additional funding from the Walmart Foundation, USAID Ejo Heza will reach 125,000 Rwandans.

Update on activities conducted in the Quarter

The main activities conducted within this period under the Walmart SSFTRP include: Recruitment of staff and Program Planning, Introduction of the program to Local Government, Training of Field Staff and the Press Release

a. Recruitment of staff and Program Planning

USAID Ejo Heza Rural Livelihoods Team Leader together with the USAID Ejo Heza Agriculture and M&E staff met with the RPO Coordinators to develop the Annual Work Plan (FY14-FY15) and conducted training for the Field Officers recruited from the RPOs.

Recruitment by RPO's: A total of 16 Field Officers were recruited under SSFTRP by the 3 implementing partners AEE, DUHAMIC ADRI and CARITAS. Most of the staff recruited have agriculture and livestock management and have worked with agriculture focused programs previously.

Recruitments in process: The following recruitments are underway: Program Officer, M&E Officer, Grants Manager and Nutrition Training Specialist.

Work Plans and PMP - Together with the RPO Coordinators and M&E Staff the USAID Ejo Heza team supported new staff recruited to prepare their FY 14 activities and targets. As a result each RPO now has a clear individual annual plan with key activities and targets. The Performance Monitoring Plan was also developed.

b. Presentation of SSFTRP activities to the Districts

The Program Manager accompanied by RPO Coordinators presented the new Walmart Program to the districts where USAID Ejo Heza operates. Seven districts were visited being Gisagara, Huye, Nyamagabe, and Nyaruguru in Southern Province, Karongi, Rutsiro and Ngororero in Western Province. The officials appreciated the expansion of USAID Ejo Heza activities in agriculture and nutrition. Horticulture was particularly attractive to all the district authorities. In each of the district at least 2 new administrative sectors were added where Global Communities was not serving either through Ejo Heza or Higa Ubeho, as expansion sectors for Walmart activities.



RPO's Staff establishing a FFS

c. Master training in Horticulture and Dairy

USAID Ejo Heza agriculture staff prepared and conducted a 5 day Master Training on Horticulture and Dairy Cattle Husbandry for the 16 newly recruited Field Officers on the 24th to the 28th of March 2014. The training was both theoretical and practical and covered agricultural practices on horticulture and dairy. Participants to the training attended a practical session on establishing Farmer Field Schools at a Rwanda Agriculture Board (RAB) site.



Practical lesson on management of dairy cows

d. Walmart Program Press Release

During the USAID Rwanda 50th Anniversary Press tour on the 26th of March a Press Release was issued on Walmart Funding to expand USAID Ejo Heza activities.

See link for more information:

Reuters: [Walmart Foundation, USAID, and Global Communities Join Forces Through a \\$1 Million Expansion of a "Brighter Future" in Rwanda](#)

SSFTRP Performance Monitoring Plan		Walmart + USAID Match targets						
	Indicator title	Year 1			Year 2			LOP target
		Male	Female	Total	Male	Female	Total	
1	% of change in income of targeted population (RFA)			30%			44%	
2	# of rural households benefitting directly from USG interventions (CA, F, FTF 4.5.2-13)			20,000			30,000	
3	# of hectares under improved technologies or management practices as a result of USG assistance (CA, FTF 4.5.2-2)			300			700	1000
4	Gross margin per unit of land, kilogram, or animal of selected product (FTF 4.5-4).			TBD			TBD	
5	# of farmers and others who have applied new technologies or management practices as a result of USG assistance (FTF 4.5.2-5)	4500	13500	18000		4500	197500	37500
	Female beneficiaries trained to implement horticultural activities	0	6750	6750	0	4500	4500	11250
	Maize & Beans	0	0	0	3000	4500	7500	7500
	Dairy	4500	6750	11250	3000	4500	7500	18750
6	# farmers accessing agricultural extension services (CHF):	8,400	21,600	30,000	5,600	14,400	20,000	50000
	Female beneficiaries trained to implement horticultural activities	0	9000	9,000	0	6,000	6,000	15000
	Maize & Beans	2400	3600	6,000	1,600	2,400	4,000	10000
	Dairy	6000	9000	15,000	4,000	6,000	10,000	25000
7	# of MSMEs receiving business development services from USG assisted sources (FTF 4.5.2-37)	400	600	1000	400	600	1000	2000
8	% of beneficiaries consuming a diet with increased diversification (CHF)			TBD			TBD	
9	% of beneficiaries with increased knowledge about balanced & diversified diet (CHF)			TBD			TBD	
10	# of people trained in child health and nutrition through USG supported programs (FTF 3.1.9-1)	8000	12000	20000	12000	18000	30000	50000
11	# FFS Created (CHF)			800			1200	2000
12	# kitchen gardens (model) established			200			280	480

TBD : This will be set after the baseline



, a graduate from a literacy class

lives in Mufe village, Gasarenda cell, Tare sector, Nyamagabe district. He joined the Gasarenda literacy class in July 2013 and graduated in December 2013 after 6 months. He is married and has two children, a boy and a girl. His wife was literate while he was not, which was one of the major motivations of signing up for literacy classes. realized that he was limited in his day to day activities and business because of not knowing how to read, write, and count. After graduating from the literacy class he enrolled in driving classes. He successfully passed his written and practical tests and now holds a valid driving license. He runs a motorcycle transport business.

“After learning how to read, write, and count, I made a decision to join driving school. I have now completed my classes and have a license. I got a Motorcycle from my neighbor which gives me a monthly income of Rwf 120,000 (USD 176 equivalent to USD 6 a day). From this income, I built my own house, all my children started primary school and I’m very happy when I see my children going to school and getting the chance I missed when I was young. My future plans are to increase my monthly savings and buy my own motorcycle as soon as possible”.

“Through our savings groups in Gisagara District, people are constructing houses.”

is a widow; aged 42 years and a mother of three living in Gisagara District, Save Sector, Gatoki Cell. After the death of her husband, decided to return to her family because he had left her with no home. She sold casual labor and got an income by working on other people’s farms.

She later got an opportunity to work on the Vision 2020 Umurenge Program (VUP), a government program that recruits labor among low income community members. In 2012 she joined and Integrated Saving and Lending Group (ISLG) together with her friend and she received training on establishing income generating activities. One day when she was going home coming from a USAID Ejo Heza training, decided to start a small business with the Rwf 4,000 (6.25 USD) that she had. She would buy and ripen avocados and bananas and sell around the village carrying them in a small basket. After few weeks, realized that the business was doing well and decided to borrow Rwf 50,000 (USD 78.1) from her ISLG to rent a small room (kiosk). She managed her income well and was able to buy a pig at Rwf 15,000 (USD 23.4 USD) which she reared and later sold for Rwf 50000 (USD 78.1). After this experience and training received on financial education from USAID Ejo Heza, requested a loan of Rwf 100,000 (USD 156) from the VUP program which she added to her savings and bought a plot of land at Rwf 250,000 (USD 391) within her village. She has now constructed a rental property that will house her and her kiosk. She has also opened an account with the Intwari Savings and Credit Co-operative (SACCO) in Save sector where she lives and has saved Rwf 180,000 (USD 281) at the SACCO.

Through my ISLG I have constructed my own house and have a kiosk” said



serving one of the members of her ISLG at her kiosk



Her rental buildings in Save Sector