

---

## **FY16 Q1 Quarterly Report**

**October – December 2015**

**Resources to Improve Food Security in the Eastern DRC (RISE)**

**“SIMAMA”**

AID-FFP-A-11-00008



*SIMAMA Farmer Field School participants practicing conservation agriculture techniques in Birambizo. Photo: Mercy Corps*

### **PROJECT SUMMARY**

AID-FFP-A-11-00008  
Start Date: Sept. 1, 2011  
End Date: Aug. 30, 2016  
Report Date: January 29th, 2016  
Total Award: \$26,174,500

## **Executive Summary**

Mercy Corps, in partnership with Catholic Relief Services (CRS), is implementing the five-year Resources to Improve Food Security in Eastern DRC (RISE) or SIMAMA program, aimed at ensuring that vulnerable households and communities in North Kivu build and sustain their food security. The program focuses on improving agricultural production, controlling and eradicating crop disease, increasing household incomes, and preventing childhood malnutrition. Activities specifically address the challenges that vulnerable households face regarding food availability, access, and utilization. SIMAMA aims to build communities' resilience to shocks by introducing and encouraging the adoption of sustainable household coping mechanisms, while being able to engage more efficiently in market activities. The program includes a substantial focus on good governance to ensure that the results achieved are sustainable. This report presents the achievements and challenges during the period of October to December 2015, which correspond to FY 2016, Quarter 1.

The program encountered sound results during the quarter with intensive activity implementation, especially within the SO1 agriculture component, as the reporting period corresponded with the planting season. The Health and Nutrition component (SO2) and Governance component (SO3) carried on their activities according to each detailed implementation plan. Details for each specific component are provided in this report.

### **Exit strategy**

During the period, SIMAMA submitted its FY15 ARR to FFP and started mainstreaming the program exit strategy in each SO. The teams analyzed all key activities that must be sustained and identified the obstacles that could prevent stakeholders from continuing the development process, along with specific corrective measures. One of the key obstacles is the lack of leadership and resources that governmental offices in the field have to perform their duties. For instance, motivated governmental agents (from IPAPPEL, CARG or other structures) will have limited resources to visit villages and conduct extension services to rural farmers. Also, given limited resources, it's unsure whether the services of DVDA and Senaqua will continue regular technical follow up of user committees on the road rehabilitation or fishpond maintenance.

In addition, the lack of trust that communities place in their leaders may be a barrier for the development and growth of certain program-supported initiatives. For instance, it is common that a farmer accessing the local market sees his production taxed several times on the road by different bodies. Finally, the prevailing insecurity in the overall Rutshuru territory is a disincentive to value chain investments. To mitigate these risks, in parallel to building the capacity of local administrations (through SO3), SIMAMA has been investing in the development of social and human capital with an emphasis placed on a community development driven approach, the aim being that households and communities gain awareness of their existing resources and potential to achieve progress together even with the limited support from the state. SIMAMA is in addition working at the most decentralized level of the administration, where local leadership is still connected with citizens and civil society.

### **Program close out**

During the month of December, SIMAMA (Mercy Corps and CRS/Caritas) conducted a review of their human resources plan to anticipate staff notification on their contract's termination. Staff phasing down will start gradually at the end of March 2016. The food commodity pipeline has also been revised to ensure all food distributions are completed during April 2016 at the latest. A comprehensive Close Out Plan will be prepared and submitted to FFP by the end of February 2016.

### **PM2A fraud case**

The consortium pursued its effort to finalize the investigation on the PM2A fraud case. Following review of the investigation report by Mercy Corps, CRS, FFP and the OIG, the final report was submitted to the OIG and FFP. The disallowance process, based on the determined number of non-eligible beneficiaries and total value of food commodities diverted, is now underway.

### **Finance**

To date, only 50% of SIMAMA year 5 budget has been approved. Although program activities are maintained, the situation is disruptive for the program staff and affecting their motivation since their employment contracts are renewed every quarter.

### **Security Update**

Security remains stable in Butembo, but the program continues to face challenges in Birambizo. The Katwe base (Birambizo) closed preemptively by mid-December to limit the risks of aggression on the roads, as the holiday period has traditionally been characterized by increased banditry. The office re-opened and activities resumed on January 5<sup>th</sup>, 2016.

## **Strategic Objective 1: Agriculture and Livelihoods**

October to December is the principle rain season in North Kivu. As such, this period is traditionally focused on preparing the fields and seeds of different varieties. To support the activities of the different Farmers Field Schools (FFS) and Common Interest Groups (CIG), SIMAMA held a final delivery of seed supplies for members. This support helped the groups to revitalize their activities and allowed for the completion of training courses for the benefit of 4,675 farmers engaged in the FFS for market production and of 1900 farmers engaged in commercialization grouped in the CIG.

With respect to with the management of plant diseases, CRS continued the strategic shift from the traditional Farmer Field School (FFS) approach to the whole village approach to ensure global eradication of diseases and prevent transmission.

### **Agriculture Production**

#### **Farmer Field Schools - homestead gardens**

The FFS market production groups created in FY15 were revitalized in order to sustain the technical achievements of various actors (farmers, pilot farmers and AVA). This second cycle of FFS saw an important mobilization and arrival of new farmers, notably beneficiaries from the SO2 component of Birambizo and Butembo. The level of participation of women was stable at 63%. 187 FFS continue to function today in preparation for the harvest that will take place in March 2016.

The program provided seeds to the FFS members - onions, carrots, leeks, and cabbage – and roughly 0.12kg was given to each of the 4,675 members for a total of 600kg of seeds distributed. Farmers are confident that the awaited harvest will be of a good quality and in high quantity. However, in Bambo, in Birambizo, heavy rain destroyed some seedling nurseries (roughly 30% of the nurseries in Bambo).

The 187 nursery gardens covered a surface of 5.12 ha total. After transplanting into the farmers' fields, we can estimate the total surface area sown to be 76 ha for a total expected production of 176MT, or 376 kg of vegetables per household. This will contribute to an increased and diversified supply of nutritious vegetables for participating households.

SIMAMA continues its efforts in agricultural technical training and members of the FFS have received trainings in the following domains: planning and digging beds, choosing suitable land, conservation agriculture, fight against plant disease and the production of bio fertilizers. These trainings were given by the AVA under the supervision of SIMAMA staff. The curricula developed during the FY15 were refined and translated into Swahili during the reporting period – this included the FFS manual and technical documents on pest management, as well as the production of organic fertilizer.

#### Farmer Field Schools - banana and cassava

Regarding BXW and Cassava Mozaic Disease, the FFS continued in their efforts to share information on the fight against these crop diseases. To completely eradicate the risk of contamination from one parcel of land to another, in addition to the FFS approach, SIMAMA adopted the village campaign approach mobilizing the Government Chefferie of agriculture and management staff to sensitize every village within the Chefferie to adopt the methodology of fighting the diseases. A similar campaign has already been conducted in the Bwito Chefferie, which has set up 200 groups who together are fighting against BXW. The approach was also launched in the Baswagha Chefferie in December 2015.

#### Prevention of crop disease (banana and cassava)

CRS and Caritas, with existing FFS, and six additional farmer associations engaged in soy production, increased the production of disease-tolerant seed varieties in order to have appropriate materials ready for farmers who want to access disease-tolerant seed varieties. During the quarter, participating farmers' associations multiplied seeds of the following crops (at a rate of 1 HA per crop per association):

- 25 for disease-resistant banana,
- 8 for disease-resistant cassava,
- 9 for disease-resistant maize, and

- 6 for disease-resistant soya.

SIMAMA continued the dissemination of improved seed varieties, giving priority to the SO2 participant families for better impact, but also opening up to other interested families for a wider reach and optimal use of the resources. As a result, 84,700 healthy banana suckers were distributed to around 8,400 families; 42,050 linear meters of cassava cuttings were distributed to 1,082 families; and 4,575 kg of maize seeds were distributed to 2,200 families.

In Birambizo, 200 community groups, organized by proximity, actively participate in the campaign to fight against the BXW. They included local authorities, technical staff from the government agriculture service and farmers. The campaign against BXW started in Butembo on December 23, 2015.

### **Agriculture commercialization**

#### **Common Interest Groups**

The program continued in its effort to professionalize the 76 CIGs created in the third quarter of FY15. The 76 CIG (33 in Butembo and 43 in Birambizo) are engaged in the production and commercialization of potatoes (7), beans (32), and onions (37).

Below are the principle economic activities in which the CIGs are engaged:

- Beans: 3,960 kg of seeds were planted on a surface of 66 ha. The expected production is 52,800 kg for an estimated market value of \$63,300.
- Potatoes: 10,700kg of seeds were planted on a surface of 4.5ha. The expected production is 112 MT for an estimated market value of \$56,000.
- Onion: 111 kg of seeds were planted on a surface of 2.2 ha. The expected production is estimated at 509MT for an estimated market value of \$254,600.

During the period, the CIGs were trained by the cooperative Coocenki on organizational management as well as on the theme of farmer entrepreneurship. Coocenki, a key partner of SIMAMA for the support of CIGs, is a well-established and connected agriculture cooperative operating in and around Butembo.

The CIG are constituted mostly of farmer members of the FFS. Overall, female membership is approximately 58%, and 56% of leadership positions on the CIGs are women.

In terms of economic markets, the principle purchasers of the CIGs' agricultural production are the farmer members of the FFS in the framework of their activities of traditional farming. Wholesalers (including Coodeprovi, Caub, Centadei or also the Coopérative Coocenki), which are very active players in the supply of food commodities in the North Kivu market, have also demonstrated interest in purchasing the CIG production.

#### **Seeds production and multiplication**

SIMAMA supported 26 producer/multipliers (PM) during the second quarter of 2015, of which 22 are still active (13 in Butembo and 9 in Birambizo), who produce seed for selected value chains including potato, beans and onion.

During the reporting period, 17 PM have sown 11.9 ha of land with 705 kg of bean seeds. The expected value of the production is estimated to be \$11,400. For potatoes, 5 PM have sown 3 ha of land with 7.4MT of seeds. The expected value of this production is estimated to be at \$22,500. This production is intended for the CIG and for farmers in general. To ensure a sound marketing strategy for the seeds producers/multipliers, SIMAMA connects these PMs with CIGs and FFS members who represent their main clients. CIGs and FFS members (as well as other farmers) are interested in buying seeds from the PMs since their offer is consistently high quality, even if the prices are a bit higher than the traditional prices on the local market.

In Butembo, the program organized refresher trainings for the PMs on the theme of the seed process in DRC. This training was organized by SENASEM in December 2015 and will be conducted in Birambizo during the month of January 2016. An additional 9 PMs were further trained on the development of business plans.

The PMs obtained certification during the quarter; however, support from SIMAMA will still be necessary for several months. The 22 PMs reported having earned a profit during their last cycle, however this was while they were being supported by the program. In the framework of reinforcing linkages with the private sector, three PMs travelled by their own means to Rwanda to stock up on potato seeds.

#### Seed certification

During the quarter, SENASEM organized a training in order to prepare for the certification process in the production of seeds. During the 2<sup>nd</sup> quarter of FY16, SENASEM will conduct inspection visits to the fields to continue the process of certifying seed multipliers. With the registration of the organizations as certified seed multipliers, they will be better positioned to sell their products within North Kivu.

#### Identification of the value chain actors

During the quarter, SIMAMA reinforced connections between the PMs, agricultural leaders within the CIG and other actors (transport actors, potential produce purchasers, and produce transformers) identified in the program in 2015. Meetings among these actors are planned for the next quarter in order to develop and define a quality charter for products that will be sold on the market.

#### Price information system

In Birambizo, 2 workshops on Market Information Systems were held by the program for various actors in the value chain, including leaders of the CIG, members of the CARG, local authorities, radio partners, managers of local markets and the Congolese Business Association (*Fédération des Entreprises du Congo*). In total 104 people – 95 men and 9 women -- actively participated in these workshops. At the end of the workshops, committees, composed of market managers, members of the CARG and farmers, were established in localities with dynamic markets. These committees set weekly prices for products and communicate these to the producers (AVA and the leaders of the CIG) during training sessions. SIMAMA believes that this approach can be sustained given that the AVA and the leaders of the CIGs have telephones and are well-connected in their communities. This approach allows for the understanding of the

sales price at the local level, but not beyond. However, considering the state of road infrastructure in Birambizo, a large part of the economic output of production from the CIGs stays within a 20 km radius, which is compatible with the approach.

### Rural saving and loans

In Butembo, the 120 AVEC/VSLA groups established by the program in 2013 finished the training cycle and now operate with minimal supervision from the Village Agents (AV) and SIMAMA program staff. After the final evaluation, a qualitative study will be conducted in order to better understand the purpose of loans. As part of the exit strategy of the program, contact has been made with agricultural finance cooperatives that are willing to develop business ties with these groups.

The 162 VSLA groups self-established by the communities received support from the AV and SIMAMA in order to encourage success for their initiatives. The program continues to promote the role of AVs in the coaching of VSLA groups in the management of their savings and loan activities.

In Birambizo, the AVs supported 3,309 SILC group members (885 men and 2,424 women) in the final stage of SILC (end of the cycle). The assessment of AV skills will be conducted in January 2016 ahead of obtaining the necessary certifications in order for them to act as private service providers.

## **Strategic Objective 2: Nutrition**

SIMAMA continued to implement SO2 health and nutrition activities in the 33 health areas of the 4 targeted health zones during this quarter. The 4 health zones are Birambizo (19 health areas) and Bambu (10 health areas) in Rutshuru Territory, Kalunguta (2 health areas) in Beni Territory and Musienene (2 health areas) in Lubero Territory. The program focused on several key activities during the reporting period, notably the training of health agents and community volunteers on health related topics, and cooking demonstrations focusing on utilizing locally available foods. As part of the cooking demonstrations, SIMAMA promoted simple and affordable recipes, including one for homemade CSB, as well as the importance of balanced diet. Further, SIMAMA RECO's conducted targeted household visits in order to detect cases of malnutrition early on, and refer malnourished children to health centers.

### **Support for improved access to better quality health and nutrition services at the community level**

In order to ensure sustainability, activities were reoriented to involve the existing MoH community health workers (RECOs) and to integrate Mother/Father Leaders (MLs/PLs) to a greater extent into the public health structure that includes the RECOs. In fact, MLs/PLs were identified and trained early in the program to complement existing RECOs, who lacked a high level of motivation to conduct the requested community mobilization for the program. The community-elected RECOs that were in place at the time were around 90% male and less suited to teach women about breastfeeding, child feeding and nutrition. Thus, SIMAMA decided to focus on increasing training for the existing RECOs as well training and integrating new Mama

Leaders in order to ensure the nutrition strategy moved forward. The integration of new actors, including RECOs, later expanded to include men, as they also play a key role in decision making around child-care and nutrition.

During the reporting period, SIMAMA provided increasing support to RECOs to ensure they can perform their activities effectively. This included IEC materials (290 cloths with project messages) and conducted 104 focused meetings. The meetings aimed at assessing how the Essential Nutrition Actions (ENA) and Essential Hygiene Actions (EHA) are conducted in their respective communities, what can be done to increase the adoption of these suggested actions, and what they can do to ensure that community members adopt the promoted preventative practices.

SIMAMA thus supported the RECOs to conduct 4,571 household visits during the reporting period. They detected 3,686 case of moderate acute malnutrition and referred patients to the appropriate health centers. PRONANUT, Caritas and JOHANNITER (a German INGO working on Nutrition) provide medicines and therapeutic food those health centers so that they can take care of malnourished children.

At the community level, the project noted – during household visit and meeting with communities an increased adoption of good nutritional practices including more diversified diets (use of vegetables like carrot, cabbage, onions, and fruits), better use of local food (palm oil are now added late to the food to preserve the Vitamin A), greater participation in nutrition activities (food distribution, cooking demonstration, nutrition education for producers, vegetable gardening) and improved use of tippy taps and raised drying racks for dishes.

### **Collaboration with Health Structures**

Over the reporting period, collaboration between the SIMAMA team and the government health structures continued to improve. Together, SIMAMA and the BCZ at the Health Zone level continue to train health agents on key health and nutrition topics (ENA, EHA, PNC, and IMCI) as well as on gender. Joint Supervision visits continued during the quarter allowing the team to note the increased number of people coming to health centers and the inclusion of some nutrition and health activities into routine activities for the health agents. SIMAMA unfortunately noted the lack of medicines in the health centers, which is a regular situation.

Finally, SIMAMA is continuing its active participation in monthly Nutrition Cluster meetings held monthly in Goma. These meetings allow the program to improve coordination, share information and know what actions the cluster members are planning or implementing in the program catchment area.

### **Promotion of food and dietary diversification**

During the reporting period, SIMAMA continued efforts to promote diversified and improved diet for its participants, notably pregnant and lactating mothers and children under 2, through targeted household visits and cooking demonstration sessions. 2 themes were promoted during the quarter: the recipe for homemade CSB porridge (for PLW and children) and the importance of a balanced diet using locally produced vegetables, banana soya and palm oil for children.

In parallel, SIMAMA supported SO2 participants to produce more nutritious food through agriculture training (setting up farmer field schools where they learn how to grow vegetables), and support to set up their own kitchen gardens (by providing vegetable starts and other inputs). During the reporting period, 1,239 SO2 participants participated in vegetable garden trainings.

Also during the reporting period, 300kg of the Imperial variety of soya seeds were purchased from the *Centre d'Adaptation et de Production de Semences Améliorées* (CAPSA) based in Luotu and then distributed to 6 seed multipliers. Expected to be harvested around March, (between 5,000 to 6,000kg are expected) 80% of these seeds will then be distributed to SO2 family participants to increase their access to nutritious food. The 20% remaining will be kept by the seed multipliers which will use them for future production and sale.

Finally, SIMAMA distributed rabbit cages to participants in the rabbit program and provided training on rabbit rearing during the reporting period. Rabbits will be distributed during FY16 Q2. Guinea pigs will also be distributed during the second quarter to the beneficiaries that were selected during the quarter. They will be purchased locally to minimize the risk of high death rates associated with long transportation, following the lessons learned from this experience in FY14.

## **PM2A**

During the review period, 283.106 MT of CSB and vegetable oil were distributed between October and November 2015. The distribution for December 2015 was conducted directly after the November distribution (at the end of November) in order to avoid staff movement during the month of December when insecurity increases (due to the holiday season) within the zone of intervention. Also during the reporting period, to economize program resources, the CRS management staff decided to combine the:

- Bishusha storeroom with that of Kizimba;
- Kabizo storeroom with that of Mushababwe;
- Nyanzale storeroom with that of Buhondwa.

The decision to merge these storerooms came in response to the declining numbers of beneficiaries still enrolled in the program, since most PM2A beneficiaries have now graduated. Savings will be seen in rent (Bishusha, Nyanzale and Mushababwe) and salaries for storekeepers and cleaners.

For a summary of PM2A beneficiaries served and commodities distributed during the quarter, see the commodities section below.

The M&E Team conducted regular updates of distribution data including removing graduated beneficiaries, continued inclusion of Mama Leaders' (ML) names', and syncing of iPads to provide up-to-date information for the distribution team. All 29 PM2A distribution sites are entirely covered by the ICT4D system and CRS currently has a reliable database of verified eligible PM2A beneficiaries. Complaints from each help desk set up at distribution sites were

analyzed on a monthly basis, and the Post Distribution Monitoring surveys carried out provided very positive feedback from the PM2A participants on both quantity and quality of food delivered.

### **Strategic Objective 3: Governance**

As a part of its objectives, the SO3 component of SIMAMA aims to ensure the proper functioning and accountability of development structures (CLD, Comités de Gestion d'infrastructures, CARG) with the goal of reinforcing proper governance in matters of food security as well as ensuring sustainability in community led efforts to address local priorities.

During the quarter, the first elements of reflection relative to the exit-strategy of the program were initiated internally by the consortium. These conversations began in order to identify the critical activities that needed to take place with key stakeholders to ensure the sustainability of progress achieved in agriculture, nutrition and governance. Specifically for governance, the SO3 component has initiated the first refresher trainings for the benefit of key local actors including the Local Development Committees (LDC), DRR committees, and CARGs.

#### **Support in the Implementation of the Local Development Plans (LDP)**

The 29 LDCs (12 in Butembo and 17 in Birambizo) received refresher trainings during the reporting period on local planning including updates on the local development plans as well as the roles of the LDC and decentralization institutions in the implementation of the decentralization policy. These training were held by the Division Chief of Decentralization of North Kivu Province.

The Division Chief noted the successes of the LDC's activities in the development process which took place over the quarter, notably the completion of 16 community projects (6 in Birambizo and 10 in Butembo), which were carried out without any resources provided by SIMAMA, including the construction of schools, markets, a health center, a training center, road reparations, and the distribution of seeds.

#### **Resolution of conflicts over land**

SO3 also organized 5 waves of training in Birambizo on the subject of Congolese inheritance rights for 180 members of the 12 conflict management structures implicated in the project, in association with religious and customary authorities. The objective was to better equip local structures with the tools and know-how to face challenges and shed light on the role of local customary authorities in the application of legal texts relating to land management.

For this period, 32 mediation sessions were conducted by local conflict management structures and 21 cases of conflict (15 in Birambizo and 6 in Butembo) - specifically conflicts on the borders of parcels of land, inheritance rights, illegal occupation and conflicts between pastoralists and farmers – were pacified.

The conflict resolution activities carried out showed encouraging results; however, conflicts over land inheritance and customary practices remain prominent in land management and continue to present challenges to resolution structures in the framework of their mediations.

### **Assistance to the CARG**

In this quarter, SIMAMA supported Butembo and Birambizo in the organization of two quarterly workshops on the coordination of the CARG, during which their members reflected on planning and the strategy for the sustainability of the CARG after the close of the program. Following these workshops, an action plan for the year 2016 was developed and validated in the presence of the Minister of Agriculture and the Provincial level CARG.

As a part of their planning, the CARGs have to deliver agricultural extension services to local producers. In this light, SIMAMA provided trainings on agricultural entrepreneurship and business planning to CARG agents in Butembo, so they can provide quality assistance to different CIGs created under SO1.

In terms of significant activities, the CARG in Bwito conducted advocacy activities with the head of the chiefdom in order to obtain land for the CIG. Following this initiative, the chiefdom circulated a public notice instructing the leaders of associations and chiefs of various towns to support the initiatives of the CIG within their jurisdictions' and to help them access land as well as improving access to markets – specifically addressing issues of taxation. As a result, 3.5 hectares of cultivatable land were granted to the three CIGs and two FFSs for the expansion of their activities.

### **Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR) and Early Warning Systems (EWS)**

Also during the reporting period, the SO3 component revitalized DRR and EWS committees to improve the efficacy of their activities, which mitigate the risks and catastrophes, identified within their respective DRR plans. 11 initiatives and actions of risk reduction (4 in Birambizo and 7 in Butembo) were conducted during this quarter. These activities focused on reforestation and water basin protection, the construction of small bridges, the implementation of anti-erosion hedges and community training on the fight against crop disease and bug infestations.

### **Food For Assets**

For this quarter, the activities of the FFA reached 3712 participants with 263.579 MT of food delivered.

- *Road Rehabilitation:*

Two new road maintenance committees were put in place and received theoretical and practical training on maintenance techniques and technical standards for road reparations from the DVDA. For the 8 new road rehabilitation projects launched at the end of year 4, 16 km of roads have been rehabilitated through technical partnership with the DVDA team.

To start the end-of-program transition, meetings took place with 23 road maintenance committees in the towns of Tongo and Mutanda. These committee visits allowed for the exchange and sharing of best practices on the subject of the operation of committees as well as the execution of maintenance work.

- *Fish Ponds:*

The seventh and last pond, situated in Bwalanda, was certified by technicians from SENAQUA during their last monitoring visit. The SIMAMA project supplied 8200 fry (Nile Talapia – recommended by SENAQUA) to stock all the ponds, and the first cycle of production will take place in the 3rd quarter of 2016. In order to meet breeding standards, the 7 committees of pond management (105 members) were trained by SENAQUA on the codes of conducts of breeding, including feeding and water management.

## Commodity Management

In October 2015, the SIMAMA Commodity Manager attended in Dakar, Senegal a five-day Commodity Management Training organized by TOPS, which was followed by a two-day USAID QWICR Training. Upon his return the Commodity Manager trained the commodities and logistics team, and a specific focus was placed on USAID reporting and filing requirements and the QWICR system.

During the period, SIMAMA finalized the second transfer of PM2A excess commodities to WFP's school feeding program in Goma (transferred 710 MT of CSB and 100 MT of vegetable Oil).

### Commodities received during the quarter

The program received from the port of Dar Es Salaam a total of 799.250 MT of cornmeal, 118.955 MT of yellow peas and 59.664 MT of vegetable oil between October and December 2015 as a part of the FY16 approved AER for direct distributions.

SIMAMA faces serious challenges with the importation of food commodities with the DRC customs administration due to the renewal of Mercy Corps' exoneration agreement, which has been delayed for months by Government of DRC. Mercy Corps is following up the issue with the highest priority.

### Commodities distributed during the quarter

We also conducted FFW distributions during period and continued with PM2A distributions in all of the 28 distribution sites.

### Direct distribution commodity stocks available in country during the quarter.

Period (End of)	Corn Meal (MT)	Yellow Split Peas (MT)	Corn Soy Blend (MT)	Vegetable Oil (MT)	Total (MT)
October-16	289.135	63.852	895.22	115.16731	1,363.37
November-16	608.8295	66.033	459.77	92.16906	1,226.80
December-16	608.8295	66.033	340.91	83.9532	1,099.73

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

Period	PLW	Children under 2	Total beneficiaires served	CSB (MT)	Veg. oil (MT)	Total (MT)
--------	-----	------------------	----------------------------	----------	---------------	------------

15-Oct	0	15,020.00	15,020.00	90.12	9.01	99.13
15-Nov	0	14,188.00	14,188.00	85.13	8.51	93.64
15-Dec	0	13,687.00	13,687.00	82.12	8.21	90.33
TOTAL				257.37	25.73	283.10

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

Period	Households reached	Veg. oil (MT)	Split yellow peas (MT)	Cornmeal (MT)	Total (MT)
15-Oct	0	-	-	-	0
15-Nov	4,056	14.41	56.794	192.375	263.579
15-Dec	0	-	-	-	0
TOTAL		14.41	56.794	192.375	263.579

**Commodity losses**

Minor food commodity losses occurred during the period mainly during the internal transportation, however no DMCR were issued during the quarter.

Mercy Corps DRC SIMAMA / RISE FY16 Q1 Quarterly report submitted 29 January 2016  
Annex 1. Activity Progress

Description of Activities	Achievement			Quantitative and Qualitative Description
	Achieved	On-Going	No	
<b>SOI: Smallholder farming households in target areas have increased and diversified production and profit</b>				
<b>IR 1.1: Smallholder farming households adopt integrated and sustainable farming practices</b>				
1.1.1.1. Establish demonstration fields and test sites for seed multiplication.	X			<p>- 187 Farmers Field School (FFS) created during 2015 (96 in Birambizo and 91 in Butembo) were revived in the health zones of Birambizo, Bambu (Rutshuru), Musienene, Masereka (Lubero) and Kalunguta (Beni)</p> <p><b>- Birambizo :</b>            FFS received vegetable seeds of cabbage, carotte and leek. Vegetable nurseries total 1.2 ha – starts will be distributed to producer households and PM2A participants for planting in household gardens.            -21 CIGs set up a 1.38 ha nursery of red onion that will generate a cultivated area of 115.2 ha after transplantation. The expected production volume is 277.2 MT (estimated value of \$70,000).            -17 CIGs planted 51.38 ha of beans. The expected commercial production is estimated at 41 MT (estimated value of \$20,500).            - 9 producer/multipliers (PMs) planted 9 ha of bean seed (7.2MT expected production of seeds for a market value of \$8,640)            - 1 PM planted 1 ha of potato seed (15MT expected production of seeds for a market value of \$7,500)            - 8 ha of tertiary multiplication of cassava cuttings were set up by 8 producer associations.            - 7 farmer associations planted 7 ha for maize seed multiplication            - 4 associations planted 4ha for soya seed multiplication</p> <p><b>- In Butembo :</b>            - 1.54 hectares of cabbage planted in nursery, which generate a production of 69MT on a cultivated area of 18.09 hectares with 536,276 transplanted seedlings.            - 1.72 ha of leeks planted in nursery            - 1.04 hectares of carrots with expected production of 30MT            - 0.826 ha of white onion planted in a nursery by 11 CIG for an expected production by the end of March 2016 of 232MT and a market value of \$69,295            - 14 ha of bean planted by 15 CIG in 44 fields for an expected production of 11.2 MT (market value \$4,400).            - 165 kg of bean seed certified by SENASEM (Namulenga and G59) were planted on on 2.9 ha by 8 PM. and then</p>

Mercy Corps DRC SIMAMA / RISE FY16 Q1 Quarterly report submitted 29 January 2016  
Annex 1. Activity Progress

				<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- 3 PM planted 4,8 MT of potato seeds certified by the SENASEM on 2.4 hectares for seed multiplication. The expected production of seeds is 40,8MT</li> <li>-7 CIGs planted 10.7 MT of certified potato seed on 4.5 Ha ( expected production of 112 MT with a market value of \$56,000).</li> <li>- 2 farmer associations planted 2 ha for maize multiplication</li> <li>- 2 associations planted 2.25 ha for soya seed multiplication</li> </ul>
1.1.1.2 Facilitate the establishment of seed bulking plots linked to existing schemes, research organizations and seed companies.		X		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Certification by SENASEM of all fields of production and multiplication of seeds of bean and potato. The 22 PM received their certification</li> <li>- SENASEM North Kivu continues its monitoring visits to the PM sites established for bean and potatoes seeds.</li> <li>- 4,575 kg of maize seeds (Mudishi III variety) produced and distributed to 2,200 participants in 11 PM2A Health Areas of Birambizo, Bambu and Kibirizi.</li> <li>- 300 kg of soya seeds purchased from the Centre d'Adaptation et de Production de Semences Améliorées (CAPSA)/Luoto and distributed to 4 associations in Birambizo and 2 in Butembo covering 4 ha in Birambizo and 2,25 ha in Butembo, for seed multiplication.</li> <li>- 42,050 linear meters of cassava cuttings from multiplication fields certified by SENASEM disseminated to 1,682 families in Munoli, Kalunguta and Kabasha covering a total of 21,025 ha</li> </ul>
1.1.3 Conduct formative research and analyze barriers that affect men and women's adoption of improved agriculture practices of targeted farmers in project area.	X			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Completed in March 2015</li> </ul>
1.1.1.4 Create or modify training material to address identified barriers to adoption of improved agricultural practices		X		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Technical pamphlets on vegetable crops (cabbage, white onion, red onion, carrot, leek), beans, potatoes, breeding rabbits and guinea pigs breeding completed and distributed.</li> <li>- Technical manuals on cassava, maize, banana and soya are currently under finalization with the BCC Team.</li> </ul>
1.1.1.5 Train community-based technical focal points	X			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- In the health areas of Birambizo and Bambo, 10 AVA and 96 farmer leaders (32 women and 64 men) followed refresher trainings in conservation agriculture techniques, integrated control against pests for the cultivation of red onion, cabbage carrot.</li> <li>- In Butembo, 19 AVA and 35 CIG members (38 men and 16 women) were trained by the SO1-Microfinance</li> </ul>

Mercy Corps DRC SIMAMA / RISE FY16 Q1 Quarterly report submitted 29 January 2016

Annex 1. Activity Progress

				<p>team on agricultural entrepreneurship and agribusiness.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- In Butembo, 14 additional AV (9 men and 5 women) were trained on the 7 modules of the VSLA approach. They provide support to 162 VSLA groups self-created by communities.</li> <li>- 726 trained farmers, including 297 women, assisting farmers with banana cultivation</li> <li>- 448 trained farmers, including 265 are women, advising on cassava cultivation</li> <li>- 235 focal points on maize including 112 women</li> <li>- 139 farmers on soya including 90 women</li> </ul>
1.1.1.6 Establish on-farm trials and community site demonstration for locally available crops that are resilient to local conditions in collaboration with research organizations	X			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- The variety testing stage is now over and SIMAMA is at the adoption stage. All the promoted varieties (8 varieties for cassava and 23 for banana) were adopted by local farmers according to their choice.</li> </ul>
1.1.1.7 Train male and female farmers on the use of new varieties and crop, disease and pest management techniques compatible with their farming practices		X		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Birambizo and Bambo: 2,400 household members of the 96 FFS (1,608 women and 792 men) received training by AVA on seeds selection, integrated pests control, soil conservation, and mulching.</li> <li>- 340 cassava producers were trained on Cassava Mosaic Disease (CMD)- tolerant varieties cassava cultivation.</li> <li>- 726 banana producers are trained on banana cultivation, IPM and BXW management.</li> <li>- 226 maize producers were trained on improved cultivation techniques.</li> </ul>
1.1.1.8 Train female care givers (SO2 beneficiaries) in smalllivestock, Soya Beans and vegetable production to support nutritional needs and income diversification among SO2 and the most vulnerable participant households		X		<p><b>Birambizo :</b></p> <p>1,343 PM2A households trained in FFS on vegetable gardening (preparing beds, germinating seedlings, transplanting, weeding and care of cabbage, carrot, onion).</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- 70 PM2A households (60 breeder rabbits and 10 guinea pigs breeders) trained by SIMAMA on sanitary and veterinary care.</li> </ul> <p><b>Butembo :</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- 1,636 SO2 households (1,559 women and 77 men) trained on rabbit husbandry by 7 extension agents of Veterinarians Without Borders (VSF).</li> <li>- 818 double rabbit cages distributed to 409 groups of four beneficiaries by VSF.</li> <li>- 1,820 fruit plants (696 guavas, 272 passiflora and 852 plum) distributed to 364 households identified to receive the rabbits</li> </ul>
1.1.1.9 Integrate nutrition education within trainings of producers and extension		X		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- 1,404 farmers producing banana, maize, soya and cassava received training on food diversification and</li> </ul>

Mercy Corps DRC SIMAMA / RISE FY16 Q1 Quarterly report submitted 29 January 2016  
Annex 1. Activity Progress

services				on nutrition.
1.1.1.10 Conduct open field days and input fairs for wider dissemination of extension messages and for promotion of the input supply side of the market in the target areas		X		Planned for 2 <sup>nd</sup> quarter 2016
1.1.2.1 Conduct training of trainers for government extension officers on sustainable control of Banana Xanthomonas Wilt (BXW) and Cassava Mosaic Disease (CMD)		X		- On going in Butembo.
1.1.2.2 Test new disease resistant varieties using trial systems under output 1.1.1 guided by participatory variety selection practices.	X			- The Participatory Variety Selection (PVS) stage is now over for SIMAMA. Farmers adopted the varieties that fit their choice.
1.1.2.3 Train male and female farmers using the Farmer Field School Approach on Integrated Pest Management (IPM), the use of bio-pesticides and traditional disease and pest management practices		X		- In Birambizo, 2,400 household members of FFS (1,608 women and 792 men) guided by 10 AVA continued refresher trainings on integrated pest management on onion, cabbage and carrot cultivation. - In Butembo, 3,304 farmers (2,385 women and 919 men) were trained by 20 AVA on crop protection and pest control. - 1,041 banana producers were trained on Integrated Pest Management (IPM) and BXW management.
1.1.2.4 Train male and female farmers, based on FFS approach and using local technical focal points, on Conservation Agriculture practices		X		- 23 community based technical advisors (8 for cassava, 9 for maize and 6 for soya) from 23 farmer associations were trained on soil management.
IR 1.2 Male and female smallholder farmers and other targeted value chain actors improve their practices along the selected value chains				
1.2.1.1 Conduct a detailed value chain analysis and market research for selected commodities (crops and animal)			X	- Completed in year 3
1.2.1.2 Sensitize producers on new opportunities using profitability (Gross Margin) analyses.		X		- <b>Birambizo</b> : A seed producer/multiplier in Tongo connected to a potato seed production cooperative in Rwanda from whom he bought 2,600kg of potatoes certified seed that he planted on an area of one hectare. - The cooperative COOCENKI trained 175 members from 7 CIGs on two topics: (i) how to set up and

Mercy Corps DRC SIMAMA / RISE FY16 Q1 Quarterly report submitted 29 January 2016  
Annex 1. Activity Progress

				<p>successfully run a CIG and (ii) on market oriented agriculture.</p> <p>- <b>Butembo</b> : 2 PM connected to a cooperative of potato seed production in Rwanda. They bought a total of 5,000kg of certified seeds planted later on an area of 2 ha.</p>
1.2.1.3 Train producer groups, SO2 beneficiary households, and other selected market actors on improved post-harvest preparation and handling, storage and value-adding processes (including sorting, cleaning, chipping and drying) to maintain nutrient content and respond to market demand as identified in 1.2.1.1.		X		<p>- A training of trainers organized in Goma by SIMAMA on the post-harvest handling, drying and storage of crops promoted in the value chains.</p>
1.2.1.4 Select and structure local associations to form gender equitable Producer Groups (PGs) and strengthen their governance		X		<p>- In Butembo, 153 participants (76 men and 77 women) trained on gender &amp; positive masculinity and women's leadership.</p> <p>- In Butembo and Birambizo, all the 23 farmers associations working with CRS-Caritas received a training and at least one refresher training related to gender. 65% of their members are women among which at least 3 are part of the management staff.</p>
1.2.2.2 Provide training opportunities to selected producer groups and VSLAs in improved business capacity (including financial skills) and governance (linkage to SO3)		X		<p>- <b>Birambizo and Bambo</b>, 9 seeds producers/multipliers trained in business plans preparation. Each producer developed his personal business plan on the local production and marketing of certified bean seed.</p> <p>- <b>Butembo</b> : 589 CIG members (412 women and 177 men) trained by COOCENKI on organizational and functional management of an Agrobusiness structure</p> <p>- 19 AVA and 35 CIG members (38 men and 16 women) trained on farmer entrepreneurship and Agrobusiness.</p> <p>- 141 members from 12 CIG (99 women and 42 men) were trained on book-keeping</p> <p>-Local authorities (Director of the territory, the inspector of agriculture, rural development inspector and the inspector of the economy) received awareness on tax relief for small producers</p>
<b>IR 1.3 Male and female smallholder farmers and other targeted value chain actors create an enabling business environment</b>				
1.3.1.1 Support Local Development Committees (LDCs) to identify priority	X			- Completed in FY15

Mercy Corps DRC SIMAMA / RISE FY16 Q1 Quarterly report submitted 29 January 2016  
Annex 1. Activity Progress

infrastructure projects				
1.3.1.2 Support the LDCs to implement sustainable priority and market-access supporting infrastructure actions through Food for Assets activities	X			<p><b>Birambizo</b> : 3,304 agroforestry plants (Grevillea) produced by SO3 and distributed to participants of SO1 activities to protect sensitive watersheds and control erosion (total of 3 ha).</p> <p><b>Butembo</b> : 33 leaders of CIG were connected to the presidents of the various markets in the health zones of Musienene and Masereka to exchange information on the prices of local agricultural products.</p>
1.3.2.1 Develop a sustainable market information systems based on results of feasibility study		X		<p><b>Birambizo</b> : Two workshops were organized by Simama for value chains stakeholders on the price information system (described in the narrative report) . Journalists from community radio stations partnering with SIMAMA, CARGs' representatives, and Rutshuru local authorities took part in these workshops. In total 104 people, including 9 women, actively participated in these workshops.</p> <p>- 14 members from 7 CIGs in Bambu and Kikuku were trained and implemented a market information system in their area.</p>
1.3.3.1 Facilitate the formation and development of Village Savings and Lending Groups (VSLA)		X		<p><b>Butembo</b> : 162 self-created community VSLA groups were trained by SIMAMA.</p> <p>- 14 additional AV identified and trained to skill the new VSA groups</p> <p><b>Birambizo</b> : the AVs supported 3,309 SILC group members (885 men and 2,424 women) on the final stage of SILC (end of the cycle).</p>
1.3.3.2. Facilitate the establishment of private services providers for VSLA sustainability			X	<p>- Assessment of AV skills will be conducted in January 2016 to proceed to their certifications so that they become private service providers</p>

Mercy Corps DRC SIMAMA / RISE FY16 Q1 Quarterly report submitted 29 January 2016  
Annex 1. Activity Progress

Description of Activities	Achievement			Quantitative and Qualitative Description
	Achieved	On-going	No	
<b>SO2 Improved nutritional status among pregnant and lactating women and children under 5 in target areas</b>				
<b>IR 2.1: Pregnant and lactating women and caregivers of children under 5 increase their utilization of counseling and health services in accordance with GODRC standards.</b>				
<b>Output 2.1.1.: Trained and equipped health providers deliver quality IMCI, pre- and post-natal services, and counseling on ENAs and hygiene</b>				
2.1.1.1 Train health care providers and community volunteers in health and nutrition.			X	Planned for January 2016 because the PRONANUT staff were not available during the quarter.
2.1.1.2 Conduct refresher trainings for health care providers and community volunteers in health and nutrition.	X			500 MLs/PLs received refresher trainings on ENA and EHA.
2.1.1.3 Conduct joint supervision and quality monitoring visits with the government to health centers in project area.		X		4 joint supervisions conducted in 8 health centers with the ECS.
2.1.1.4 Advocate to key stakeholders and project catchment areas to ensure adequate provision of medication and supplies		X		SIMAMA attended 2 nutrition cluster meetings.
<b>Output 2.1.2: Pregnant and lactating women and caregivers of children under 5 improve knowledge, awareness, and perceptions of appropriate care-seeking behavior.</b>				
2.1.2.1 Conduct formative research and analyze barriers that affect timely care seeking behaviors of population in project area.	X			Completed in a previous quarter.
2.1.2.2 Create or modify campaign materials to address identified barriers to timely care seeking behaviors			X	500 posters on the importance of the fourth prenatal visit (ANV 4) planned to be distributed in Q2 as part of exit strategy.

Mercy Corps DRC SIMAMA / RISE FY16 Q1 Quarterly report submitted 29 January 2016  
Annex 1. Activity Progress

2.1.2.3 Implement SBCC campaign focusing on key messages on timely access and utilization of services, targeting men and women strategically.		X		Conducted before starting each PM2A distribution or cooking demonstration.
<b>Output 2.1.3: Improved timely detection of moderate acute malnutrition among children under 5.</b>				
2.1.3.1 Provide tools and follow-up training to community volunteers for monitoring of moderate acute malnutrition (MAM)		X		During the quarter and owing to specific support provided to them by the SIMAMA nutritionists, the RECOs detected 3,686 cases of moderate acute malnutrition and referred them to appropriate Health Centers.
2.1.3.2 Establish accountability mechanisms for households to ensure government implementation of CMAM services		X		The RECOs, through increased home visits were able to detect malnourished children and successfully referred them to Health Centers.
2.1.3.3 Monitor the quality of community volunteers and government's growth monitoring activities among children under 5			X	SIMAMA is not conducting growth monitoring activities itself. It is the government health centers who does it and reports every 6 months. The next report will be available in February 2016.
2.1.3.4 Advocate to key stakeholders in project catchment area to ensure adequate coverage of CMAM services		X		SIMAMA attended 2 nutrition cluster meetings where participants discussed priorities for 2016.
<b>IR2.2: Pregnant and lactating women and caregivers of children under 5 adopt key preventive nutrition and health behaviors.</b>				
<b>Output 2.2.1: Pregnant and lactating women and caregivers of children under 5 improve knowledge of GODRC and locally-appropriate preventive practices for select maternal and child illnesses</b>				
2.2.1.1 Produce and promote use of fuel-efficient cooking stoves to reduce indoor air pollution contributing to Acute Respiratory Infections.			X	This activity was discontinued as reported in previous reports.
2.2.1.2 Train communities in the construction and usage of low-cost appropriate household tools (such as tippy taps or drying racks for dishes) to reduce the risk of hygiene related diseases and contaminants		X		Targeted communities set up 188 tippy-taps and 576 drying racks during the quarter.

Mercy Corps DRC SIMAMA / RISE FY16 Q1 Quarterly report submitted 29 January 2016  
Annex 1. Activity Progress

2.2.1.3 Train community volunteers in essential health and hygiene behaviors to encourage the uptake of positive health behaviors.		X		500 ML received refresher trainings on EHA. They sensitized 6,227 households to construct tippy taps and provided them with 1,262 small jerry cans.
2.2.1.4 RECOs promote the GoDRC's key family health practices in the community		X		The RECOs conducted 4,571 household visits to promote ENA and EHA during the quarter.
<b>Output 2.2.2 : Pregnant and lactating women and caregivers of children under 5 improve knowledge of Essential Nutrition Actions</b>				
2.2.2.1 Conduct formative research and analyze barriers that affect the uptake of key ENAs of population in project area	X			Completed in a previous quarter.
2.2.2.2 Develop a SBCC campaign based on the results of the formative research			X	N/A because no research has been conducted during the quarter
2.2.2.3 Develop IEC materials for adoption of Essential Nutrition Actions		X		The GoDRC's poster on ANV 4 in Swahili will be multiplied and distributed in January 2016.
2.2.2.4 Recruit a network of committed Mother Leaders to support the target population in adopting positive nutrition behaviors	X			Completed in a previous quarter.
2.2.2.5 Train Mother Leaders in Essential Nutrition Actions to encourage the uptake of positive nutrition behaviors	X			Refresher training for 500 MLs/PLs conducted during the quarter.
2.2.2.6 Form Mother Support Groups using a network of Mother Leaders to reinforce positive infant and young child feeding practices through group education	X			The 14 IYCF support groups in Butembo and 136 neighbors' groups in Birambizo are fully operational.
2.2.2.7 Mother Leaders carry out targeted home visits using IEC support materials		X		5,969 home visits were conducted during the quarter.
2.2.2.8 Pilot Father Leader and Father Support Groups to increase integration of men into family health and nutrition issues	X			Activity completed during Y4 (171 Papa leaders available).
<b>IR 2.3 Pregnant and lactating women and children under 5 consume a diet in accordance with national GODRC guidelines.</b>				

Mercy Corps DRC SIMAMA / RISE FY16 Q1 Quarterly report submitted 29 January 2016  
Annex 1. Activity Progress

<b>Output 2.3.1.: USAID Title II PM2A rations distributed by the project are appropriately consumed by eligible pregnant and lactating women and children 6-23 months.</b>				
2.3.1.1 Distribution of PM2A ration commodities to eligible women and children		X		3 months PM2A food distribution conducted in October (1 month) and November (1 for November and 1 for December).  3,058 beneficiaries graduated.
2.3.1.2 Monitor exclusive consumption of PM2A ration among eligible participants through post-monitoring distribution surveys		X		2 PDMs conducted on October and November showed 94% satisfaction on the quality of the food, 100% satisfaction on the quantity distributed and 100% consumption rate.
2.3.1.3 Conduct formative research to identify barriers and enablers to consumption of PM2A ration among eligible participants.	X			The last research was completed in March 2015.
2.3.1.4 Develop and disseminate key messages to ensure participants understand the importance of consumption of PM2A ration exclusively by PLW and children 6-23 months		X		Conducted systematically before, during and after food distribution.
<b>Output 2.3.2.: Pregnant and lactating women and caregivers of children under 5 accesses adequate locally produced micronutrient-rich foods.</b>				
2.3.2.1 Community volunteers support household gardening to produce micronutrient-rich vegetables, legumes and grains through subsidies for seeds to PM2A participants, prioritizing households with undernourished children. (Link to 1.1.1.7)		X		During the quarter, 1,239 SO2 participants received support from SO1 on vegetable gardening (training, cultivation and seedlings).
2.3.2.2. Support rabbit and guinea pig breeding among women in households with pregnant and lactating women and children under five. (Link to 1.1.1.7)		X		The beneficiaries are identified and grouped by 3 for guinea pigs and by 4 for rabbits. 3 families (4 for rabbits) will receive a set of genitors (1 male and 2 female for guinea pigs and 1 male and 3 females for rabbit). The first family of the group will raise the genitor, and when they reproduce, they will then pass on the cobs from the first family to the second then to the 3 <sup>rd</sup> (and 4 <sup>th</sup> for rabbit). Actual distribution will occur in Q2.

Mercy Corps DRC SIMAMA / RISE FY16 Q1 Quarterly report submitted 29 January 2016  
Annex 1. Activity Progress

2.3.2.3 Develop and disseminate key messages on the process of transforming locally produced corn and soy beans into “home-made” corn-soy blend		X		The practical protocol for homemade CSB validated by the PRONANUT is promoted during each cooking demonstration.
<b>Output 2.3.3: Pregnant and lactating women and caregivers of children under 5 know how to prepare micronutrient-rich foods.</b>				
2.3.3.1 Collect and promote locally appropriate recipes that meet the nutritional needs of pregnant and lactating women and young children		X		2 recipes were promoted during the quarter: - homemade CSB porridge (for PLW and children)  - Balanced diet using locally produced vegetables, banana, soya and palm oil for children.
2.3.3.2 Culinary demonstrations carried out by Mother Leaders to promote healthy foods for children 6-59 months, including “home-made” corn soy blend porridge made with commodities as well as locally grown maize and soy		X		1,551 cooking demonstration using the 2 above-mentioned recipes conducted during the quarter.
2.3.3.3 Culinary demonstrations carried out with producer organizations to promote household consumption of diverse micronutrient-rich foods			X	Not conducted specifically for them but we opened up the usual cooking demonstration to all who wanted to attend, including farmers.

Mercy Corps DRC SIMAMA / RISE FY16 Q1 Quarterly report submitted 29 January 2016  
Annex 1. Activity Progress

Description of Activities	Achievement			Quantitative and Qualitative Description
	Achieved	On-going	No	
<b>SO3 - Strengthened community governance of food security in target areas</b>				
<b>IR 3.1: Local Leaders, Local Development Committees, civil society, and government service providers collaborate to maintain accountability and transparency in regards to community food security concerns</b>				
3.1.1.1 Reconstitute the Local Development Committees (LDCs) in line with Decentralization Laws	X			All LDCs have already been reconstituted in Butembo and Birambizo
3.1.1.2 Train LDCs on decentralization and elaboration of Local Development Plans and inclusion of gender and vulnerable populations when prioritizing and designing projects.		X		In collaboration with the Provincial Division of Decentralization of North Kivu, SIMAMA organized six refresher training sessions for LDCs members in Tongo, Bambou, Mutanda (Birambizo) and Lukanga, Masereka, Musienene (Butembo) on decentralization, local planning and technical tools and on updating community development plans: <b>306</b> members of 29 LDCs (210 men and 96 women) trained (132 participants in Butembo and 174 in Birambizo)
3.1.1.3 Support LDCs and other community structures in the development of local development plans (focused on sustainability of SO1 and SO2 priorities and on reduction risks to food security of natural or man-made disasters).	X			NA: Completed during the last period
3.1.1.4 Support LDCs to implement and monitor FFA projects in accordance with the plans identified		X		<b>30</b> Road Maintenance committees involving LDCs in Birambizo received capacity building on Technical Road maintenance, role and responsibility of Maintenance Committees during the field monitoring conducted by DVDA (Division Provinciale de Voies de Desserte Agricole). 7 Fishpond Management committees (with 105 participants) received training on Technical fish breeding by SENAQUA
3.1.1.5 Support the LDCs to hold tenders for association projects that address the food security action plans (which should address sustainability of SO1 and SO2 priorities) and/or the needs of women and youth or other vulnerable groups	X			SO3 Team has supported LDCs in the constitution of tender committees and during analysis process for selecting associations. Eight new FFA projects started at the end of FY15.
3.1.1.6 Provide training and resources to implement micro-projects to associations that are selected through a clear and transparent LDC tendering	X			The eight newly selected association and maintenance committees for these new projects benefited from capacity building

Mercy Corps DRC SIMAMA / RISE FY16 Q1 Quarterly report submitted 29 January 2016  
Annex 1. Activity Progress

process				from the SO3 team on the management of resources and FFA projects, on criteria and participatory process for selecting beneficiaries
3.1.1.7 Train beneficiary associations on gender approach for inclusive participation and increased female leadership		X		<b>4 training sessions</b> organized on “Gender approach - Leadership and Self-confidence, Positive masculinity” for women’s associations, CIG, FFS group members in Luhoto, Kasinga, Kabasha, Mambale (Butembo) and for LDCs, and CARG Members in Kikuku (Birambizo) . In total, <b>210 participants</b> (57 Birambizo and 153 Butembo) <b>trained</b> (97 women and 113 men )
3.1.2.1 Support LDCs and local chiefs to establish processes for posting public notices		X		In Birambizo, SO3 conducted sensitization campaign to support the participation of LCDs on monitoring of the implementation of the 8 new FFA projects, on selecting, validating and publishing systematically to the public the lists of FFA beneficiaries to ensure equity and transparency at community level.
3.1.2.2 Promote Social accountability through Community Score Cards related FFW implementation			X	According to the revised DIP, the priority of SIMAMA concerning the local accountability on FFA projects will be focused on Post Distribution Monitoring.
3.1.3.1 Conduct training for the local counterparts of the CARG on the management of land conflict		X		<b>1</b> training session on land conflict resolution held in Musienene, 48 participants trained: CARG members, local authorities, CSOs and local land conflict structures (34 men and 14 women)
3.1.3.2 Organize a series of dialogues with male and female community leaders and stakeholders on local strategies aimed at improving access to land		X		A discussion workshop focused on land conflict management and discussion related on coordination structures functioning in Butembo organized in Musienene with the support of “Chef de bureau des Cadastres”. 48 participants (CARG animators, Local authorities, LDC members, and locally land management structures) attended this workshop.
3.1.3.3 Conduct a review of the types of land conflicts and the frequency and consequences that emerge over the course of a year and hold a meeting with the chefferie CARG and chefferie	X			NA - completed during FY15. Two reports on types of conflicts and mapping of land disputes developed with communities in Butembo and Birambizo and shared to local authorities and the local counterparts of the

Mercy Corps DRC SIMAMA / RISE FY16 Q1 Quarterly report submitted 29 January 2016  
Annex 1. Activity Progress

authorities to develop an action plan				CARG. The action plan related on land conflict resolution for Butembo and Birambizo is developed and available.
3.1.4.1 Support the constitution of Local DRR and EWS-R sub-committees within the LDCs	X			NA: Completed during FY15: All of DRR and EWS-R sub committees within the LDCs are established and operational (17 in Birambizo , and 12 in Butembo) and received the tools on collecting data on potential risk and disaster, and benefited from technical support on sharing information mechanism with local authorities, LDCs and community members and the preparedness of communities to identify mitigation measures
3.1.4.2 Organize cascade trainings on disaster risk reduction and EWS-R		X		1 refresher training on DRR and EWS-R conducted during this period for DRR and EWS Sub-Committees in Bambou and Bugina (Birambizo) In total, <b>40</b> participants trained (31 men and 9 women)
3.1.4.3 Organize workshop to help community develop DRR and EWS-R plans for responding to food security shocks	X			Completed in FY15
3.1.4.4 Establish mechanism and procedures for identifying a way to review the effects of the shock and the preparedness of communities to identify future mitigation measures			X	NA for this period
<b>IR3.2: Communities reinforce linkages with territory and provincial food security structures</b>				
3.2.1.1 Conduct needs identification and capacity assessment of CARGs	X			NA: Completed during FY15

Mercy Corps DRC SIMAMA / RISE FY16 Q1 Quarterly report submitted 29 January 2016  
Annex 1. Activity Progress

3.2.1.2 Support CARGs at community level on development of action plan	X			<p>During the awareness campaign conducted by the CARGs of Baswagha, Ruwenzori and Bwito, 23 Community actions plans were developed jointly between the CARG and local communities in 23 localities (including 14 localities in Butembo and 9 localities has Birambizo). These action plans help communities to strengthen their relationship with locally CARG and to ensure the implementation of local priority actions in link with the roles and responsibilities of the CARG (land conflict resolution; support the structuring of small producers associations, value chain activities...)</p>
3.2.1.3 Provide CARGs with processes and skills required for advocacy/lobbying and conflict resolution		X		<p>To provide support closely with local land conflict mediation structures, 7 small structures of CARG at locality level composed of civil Society, local authorities, and small producers groups are established in 7 localities of Birambizo (Nyanzale, Kikuku, Bwalanda, Kashalira, Kabanda Kibirizi Kishishe, Bambo and Bugina) to improve the coordination of land disputes mediation and to ensure the implementation of local CARG actions plan.</p>
3.2.2.1 Provide small grants for CARGs' information sharing activities at Provincial and local level			X	<p>NA: No small grants will be allowed for CARG. The CARGs activities (training, workshop, monitoring visits) are funded and managed directly by Mercy Corps.</p>
3.2.2.2 Sensitize communities regarding the role and responsibilities of CARGs		X		<p>The CARGs of Bwito, Baswagha and Ruwenzori have conducted <b>23</b> community sensitization sessions regarding the roles and missions of CARGs. In total, <b>1329</b> participants from CIG, FFS group, local authorities, civil society, local land management structures benefited this awareness campaign in 14 localities of Butembo (Muhangi, Munoli, Kasinga, Vusamba, Luhotu, Ngeleza, Mageria, Musienene, Lukanga, Kitsimba, Nyabili, Kilalo, Ngumbati and Kaniyi) and 9 localities in Birambizo (Bwalanda,</p>

Mercy Corps DRC SIMAMA / RISE FY16 Q1 Quarterly report submitted 29 January 2016  
Annex 1. Activity Progress

			<p>Kashalira, Kabanda, Kishishe, Bugina, Kirumba, Butare, Kabizo and Rushege),</p> <p>Each locality developed an action plan to reinforce collaboration and relationship between CARG and community members at local level.</p> <p>In collaboration with BCC team, the local journalists (focal points) are involved in awareness sessions and the production of broadcasts related on the roles and responsibilities of CARG.</p>
3.2.2.3 Sponsor CARG visits to constituent communities and other initiatives aimed at planning and information-sharing		X	<p>Two field visits conducted by the coordinator of provincial CARG with the support of SIMAMA in the localities of Lukanga and Musienene ( Butembo). The objective of these visits is to collect CARG and local association's needs in terms of capacity building and advocacy support, to assist CARG members on reporting, and capitalization of CARG's good practices, and to revitalize CARG members according to their missions.</p>
3.2.3.1 Organize CARG quarterly workshops aimed at fostering links between territory and provincial stakeholders and discuss on food security concerns		X	<p>For this period, 2 quarterly workshops for CARG organized in Butembo and Goma on December 15, conducted by Provincial CARG and the Ministry of Agriculture representative: <b>74</b> CARG members and technicians from the ministry of agriculture attended this workshop.</p> <p>CARG members in Butembo benefited during this workshop capacity reinforcement on agricultural entrepreneurship and elaboration of business plans. In Goma, CARG members from Bwito and others CARG in Rutshuru territory discussed sustainability strategy and developed the CARG sustainability plan with the support of Ministry of Agriculture.</p>

Mercy Corps DRC SIMAMA / RISE FY16 Q1 Quarterly report submitted 29 January 2016  
Annex 1. Activity Progress

3.2.3.2 Support the wide dissemination of provincial agriculture development strategies		X	During the two CARG quarterly meetings held in Butembo and Goma. Information sharing sessions and discussion regarding Provincial agriculture policy and strategy in North Kivu was conducted by the Provincial Coordinator of CARG and the representative of the Ministry of Agriculture. The participants for this session are CARG and CIG members.
3.2.3.3 Support joint monitoring of market trends and its implications on food security		X	As part of the empowerment for local stakeholders on the monitoring of market trends, two training sessions conducted by SO1 on market price information system were organized in Bambou and Kikuku (Birambizo) for CARG members, CIGs, agents from the Ministry of Economy and journalists focal points. 103 participants attended this workshop. For Butembo, this training for CARG on information system and the market price was completed during FY15.
3.2.3.4 Hold a final meeting with the CARGs to review the systems in place and the challenges to identify realistic priorities and appropriate mechanisms for CARGs to function at community and at chefferie and territory level		X	Planned for FY16 Q3