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Resiliency through Wealth, Agriculture, and Nutrition in Karamoja (RWANU)



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For a world without hunger

ACRONYMS

ACF	Action Contre la Faim (Action against Hunger)
ACTED	Agency for Technical Cooperation and Development
CAO	Chief Administrative Officer
CBO	Community Based Organization
COOPI	Cooperazione Internazionale
CSB	Corn Soy Blend
DFID	Department for International Development
DRR	Disaster Risk Reduction
FANTA	Food and Nutrition Technical Assistance III Project
FEW	Field Extension Workers
FFP	Food for Peace
GIZ	German Agency for International Cooperation
HICAP	Health Institution Capacity Assessment Process
IPTT	Indicator Performance Tracking Table
KAPFS	Karamoja Action Plan for Food Security
KIDDP	Karamoja Integrated Disarmament and Development program
LCV	District Elected Chairperson
MOU	Memorandum of Understanding
NAADS	National Agriculture Advisory Services
MCHN	Maternal and Child Health and Nutrition
MOH	Ministry of Health
MT	Metric Ton
NabuZARDI	Nabuin Zonal Agriculture Research and Development Institute
NGO	Nongovernmental Organization
NRM	Natural Resource Management
PLW	Pregnant and Lactating Women
PMP	Performance Monitoring Plan
POD	Program Operations Division
PREP	Pipeline Resource Estimate Proposal
PVoC	Pre-Export Verification of Conformity
RDC	Resident District Commissioner
RWANU	Resiliency through Wealth, Agriculture, and Nutrition in Karamoja
SBC-SAP	Social and Behavior Change Strategic and Action Plan
SVI	Servizio Volontario Internazionale
UCCO-SUN	Uganda Civil Society for Scaling Up Nutrition
UNBS	Uganda National Bureau of Standards
USAID	United States Agency for International Development
VHT	Village Health Team
WASH	Water, Sanitation and Hygiene
WFP	World Food Program
WHH	Welthungerhilfe

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1.0 INTRODUCTION

On August 17, 2012, USAID awarded ACIDI/VOCA a five-year, \$50 million Development Food Assistance Program called Resiliency through Wealth, Agriculture, and Nutrition in Karamoja (RWANU). The project goal is reduced food insecurity among vulnerable people in South Karamoja. ACIDI/VOCA is the prime recipient and is responsible for overall program management, commodity management, and activities under Strategic Objective (SO) 1, improved access to food for men and women, which address agricultural production, marketing, and savings and credit. Sub-recipient Welthungerhilfe (WHH) contributes to the same objective with their activities improving smallholder livestock management. Sub-recipient Concern Worldwide (Concern) is responsible for SO2, reduced malnutrition in pregnant and lactating mothers and children under five. This report summarizes the project's progress and accomplishments during the first quarter of Fiscal Year 2013 (October - December 2012), and highlights planned activities for Quarter 2.

2.0 PROGRESS TO DATE

2.1 Geographic Targeting and Local Government Relations

District Memoranda of Understanding (MOU): The RWANU Chief of Party signed MOUs with the districts of Amudat, Nakapiripirit, Moroto and Napak which stipulated areas of collaboration and roles and responsibilities for each party. The signing ceremonies were witnessed by the respective districts' Chief Administrative Officer (CAO), and in certain cases the district-elected Local Council V Chairperson (LCV) and the Resident District Commissioner (RDC) were present. Each of the three authorities received an original copy of the MOU. These MOUs sanction the presence and operations of RWANU in the project's four districts. In addition to establishing responsibilities, the MOU provides the district with a district-specific first year work plan and activities budget for coordination purposes. During these initial meetings the district leadership (CAO and District Internal Security Officer) in Amudat advised the program to shift from the planned sub county of Loroo to Karita. The primary reason for this was that Loroo is the principal corridor for movement of cattle raiders and thieves between Kenya and Karamoja. Staff working there would be at greater risk of harm and would experience frequent disruption of activities. Furthermore, Karita has more conducive agro-ecological conditions for crop production than Loroo. ACIDI/VOCA agreed to this change after consulting with USAID/Uganda and Food for Peace (FFP)/Washington, and will be submitting a letter requesting formal approval for this change to our geographic targeting. The change will also be reflected in our FY13 Pipeline Resource Estimate Proposal (PREP).

Identification of Honey Production Target Areas: In an effort to identify the sub-counties with the highest potential for honey production and to better understand honey market opportunities, the RWANU team visited individuals, farmer groups and NGOs/CBOs that have been successful in honey production activities in South Karamoja. The five farmer groups that were visited include: Kaatub–Alem bee keeping group; Koputuiro bee keeping group; Nakurobuin group; Akomion group; and Lopuu group, all located in Lotome sub-county Napak district. These groups are supported by WHH. The team met with other groups supporting honey production including Matheniko Development Forum (MADEFO) and the Karamoja Agro-Pastoral Development Program (KADP), which have received technical and

marketing support from Golden Bees (U) Limited. Other key players identified include international NGOs such as SVI, GIZ and ACF. Potential buyers for the honey include Golden Bees (U) Ltd, SVI, SOCADIDO¹, Soroti District Farmers Association, Mbale Bee Keepers Association, Malaika Honey, Masaba bee keepers and Elgon bee keepers associations. The assessment revealed the following sub counties to be the most suitable for honey production: Karita (in Amudat district), Kakomongole and Moruita (in Nakapiripirit district) and Lotome, Iriiri, and Lorengechora (in Napak district).

Samaritan’s Purse: At the onset of the program, RWANU recognized that there is potential for duplication of project activities in Napak district, where Samaritan’s Purse began implementing a DFID-funded project in mid-2012 with objectives that mirror parts of RWANU’s SO2 strategy. The Samaritan’s Purse activity is limited to behavior change communications and training targeted pregnant and lactating women (PLW) using the mother care group approach and does not include the broad array of supporting activities such as targeted food rations, home gardening, goat rearing and health services strengthening included in the RWANU program. Furthermore, the Samaritan’s Purse intervention is planned to end in mid-2015. RWANU team members have had a series of meetings with Samaritan’s Purse to align project activities and ensure that the two projects are leveraging each other’s efforts to the extent possible, while avoiding duplication of effort. RWANU is currently drafting an MOU to be signed among all parties which details how the two projects will work together in Napak district. Although the project is starting operations in Nakapiripirit in 2013, RWANU considers that it is important to finalize the key points of the working arrangement with Samaritan’s Purse now in order to take a common approach in all districts on communication with local authorities and beneficiaries (particularly with regard to the criteria for receipt of food rations). The Napak District authorities will be informed of this process and enjoined to facilitate in implementation.

2.2 Partner/Sub Recipient Management

Partner Coordination Meeting: ACDI/VOCA held monthly meetings with partners Concern and WHH for coordination of activities and overall planning and target setting. A detailed program implementation plan was developed for the first year of program operation.

Linking Project Activities and Learning: Concern continues to participate and engage members of the Uganda Civil Society for Scaling Up Nutrition (UCCO-SUN) and has shared summary information regarding the RWANU project at this forum.

Consultative Meetings: RWANU held consultative meetings with livelihood NGOs and other stakeholders in the region, including ZOA, Cooperazione Internazionale (COOPI), Agency for Technical Cooperation and Development (ACTED), Action Contre la Faim (ACF) and GIZ. At the district level, the project team met with district production officers, National Agriculture Advisory Services (NAADS) coordinators, and district forestry officers to discuss aspects related to proper production systems and techniques suitable to the program’s agro-ecological zone.

¹ SOCADIDO is the development arm of the Catholic Church in Soroti, Uganda.

2.3 SO 1: Improved access to food for men and women

Assessment of Stakeholders' Roles: RWANU conducted a mini survey in the project's sub-counties to learn about the activities currently being carried out by various organizations involved in livelihood support, food distributions, health, nutrition, honey production, and training of farmers in enterprise skills. The exercise involved a review of the target areas, number of villages reached, accessibility and population distribution, and manyatta distribution in the villages.

Nabuin Zonal Agriculture Research and Development Institute (NabuZARDI):

ACDI/VOCA signed an MOU with NabuZARDI, establishing a collaborative framework in which each organization will contribute toward shared objectives to increase the availability of locally suitable improved crop varieties and planting materials in the region. NabuZARDI will provide technical assistance, training and research services in support of on-farm trials and testing of suitable varieties of seeds and planting materials with selected RWANU farmer groups. Activities will include identifying and distributing appropriate varieties adapted to agro-pastoral and pastoral areas with desired characteristics, and wider-scale seed multiplication at both the NabuZARDI research station and at selected RWANU farmer group sites.

Malaika Honey: RWANU signed an MOU with Malaika Honey as a strategic partner in promoting local honey production and marketing. [REDACTED], on assignment from ACDI/VOCA headquarters, prepared technical assumptions, a cost benefit analysis, and a plan for the honey production activity. Over the next quarter, RWANU staff and Malaika will analyze local honey production, marketing opportunities and the socio-economic environment in south Karamoja. Using this information, we will prepare a business plan to develop honey production in the targeted sub-counties, incorporating a value chain approach for linking producers to profitable domestic markets and leading to a profitable, operationally viable enterprise for local RWANU beneficiaries.

Market Assessment: RWANU seeks to orient beneficiaries' production and post-harvest practices to meet specific markets requirements. Thus RWANU initiated a market assessment, which will inform RWANU stakeholders' marketing strategies for crops, honey, livestock, and value-added animal products. An independent marketing consultant was selected to assess the feasibility of crop and livestock marketing activities and strategies. The consultant, working with RWANU livelihoods team members, will develop data collection tools for the crop and livestock market assessment. The market assessment field investigations, including interviews of market actors—intermediaries, distributors, producers, transporters, government regulators and promoters, traders and crop vendors—will be carried out in January and February 2013.

2.4 SO 2: Reduced malnutrition in pregnant and lactating women and children under 5

Health Center and Outreach Services Assessment: RWANU staff met with the World Food Program (WFP) to discuss coordinating health and nutrition activities and confirm coverage of WFP's maternal and child health and nutrition (MCHN) program. Two RWANU staff undertook an assessment of 15 health centers not included in WFP's MCHN program. The following health centers were assessed²:

²In Uganda, an HC IV is a hospital that provides life-saving medical, surgical and obstetric care. An HCIII provides the next level of care, including basic preventive and curative care, supervision of community and HC

District	#	Health Centre (HC)
Napak		
	1	Lotome HC III
	2	Morulinga HC II
	3	Ngoleriet HC II
	4	Apeitolim HC II
	5	Iri-iri HC III
	6	Amedek C II
	7	Nabwal HC II
	8	Matany Hospital
Nakapiripirit		
	1	Lorengedwat HC III
	2	Nabulenger HC II
	3	Tokora HC IV
	4	Nabilatuk HC IV
	5	Amaler HC III
Moroto		
	1	Nadunget HC III
Amudat		
	1	Karita HC III

The assessment included a review of each health center's infrastructure, available non-recurring supplies and equipment, ability to comply with USAID/MOH Uganda environmental compliance regulations, staffing levels and current service provision capacity. Four more health centers not covered by WFP's MCHN program that have outreach services are yet to be assessed.

Barrier Analysis: During the reporting period RWANU finalized the terms of reference and recruited a consultant to undertake formative research and produce the Social and Behavior Change Strategic and Action Plan (SBC-SAP) strategy. In December, in consultation with the consultant, project staff developed the research outline and the tools/questionnaires which were translated into Pokot and NgaKaramajong. The research is scheduled to start January 2013 and will target four behaviors: (1) hand washing with soap or ash; (2) continued breast feeding until 2 years of age; (3) complementary feeding (meal frequency) for children 6-23 months; and (4) meal frequency for lactating women.

2.5 Development of Manuals and Training Guides

Grants Manual: RWANU finalized its grants manual in December 2012. The grants manual is the result of several years of practical experience in the management of grants to local and international NGOs and is designed to provide guidance on small grant funding in Uganda. It is based largely on the ACDI/VOCA-Awards and Contracts (A&C) Policy and Procedure Manual, and adapted to suit anticipated grants using fixed price, simplified and cost reimbursable instruments.

Agronomy Training Manual: A draft agronomy training manual to guide the training of farmers on agronomic practices was developed. The manual will be used by the field

IIs, and laboratory services. HC IIs provide ambulatory services only, and in some areas lacking access to HC IIIs or IVs, they provide some maternity services.

extension workers (FEWs) to provide knowledge and skills in productive farming practices for optimizing crop yields within the local resource context.

Farming as a Business Manual: The livelihoods team developed a draft training guide for field extension workers on Farming as a Business, adapting the guide to the context of South Karamoja. The FEWs will use the guide to train farmer groups in incorporating business practices into production and the formation of savings and loans groups.

Mother Care Group Training Modules: RWANU plans to train Health Assistants and Village Health Teams (VHTs) on water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH) and maternal nutrition in March and April 2013, respectively. In preparation, RWANU has collected currently available training materials covering the following topics: antenatal care and postnatal care, maternal nutrition, health service entitlements, infant and young child feeding, essential nutrition actions, maternal and reproductive health and linking nutrition and agriculture. RWANU is currently finalizing the Mother Care Group training topics after which specific training modules under each broad topic will be refined (informed by the formative research), and the final curriculum and visual aids developed.

2.6 Commodity Operations

A total of 600 metric tons (MT) of direct distribution commodity was called forward in August 2012. The first tranche of commodities, including 150MT of Corn Soya Blend (CSB) and 40MT of vegetable oil, arrived at the port of Dar es Salaam in December, and is scheduled to arrive in Matany in January 2013. The 280MT of cornmeal and 130MT of split green peas will arrive in Dar es Salaam in January. This commodity will be used to provide conditional food rations to PLWs and children under 2 in the target area as part of the “first one thousand days” approach.

During the reporting period, the program leased a 1,200MT capacity warehouse situated in Matany. Repairs on this facility were conducted in order to make it ready by January 2013. The warehouse will be the primary destination for most RWANU commodities shipped from the United States. It is also intended to serve the two districts of Napak and Moroto during distribution activities. RWANU’s Commodity Operations Manager met with WFP to discuss the possibility of sub-letting a 300 MT capacity Rubb Hall in Nakapiripirit town within its guarded compound. As a backup, a suitable property has been identified in Nakapiripirit town and inspected by project management for installation of a warehouse facility. The Nakapiripirit facility will serve as a forwarding position for distribution in Amudat and Nakapiripirit districts as necessary.

RWANU conducted competitive procurements to hire an inland freight service provider and a discharge surveyor. RWANU ultimately selected Kenfreight Uganda Limited to transport the 600MT of commodity from Dar es Salaam to Matany; SGS Limited has been providing commodity surveillance at the port.

During the first quarter of FY13, the Government of Uganda, through its agency responsible for overseeing the quality standards of products throughout the country, the Uganda National Bureau of Standards (UNBS), introduced a new pre-shipment inspection system referred to as Pre-Export Verification of Conformity (PVoC). The intention of this program is to substantially reduce the amount of sub-standard products imported into the Ugandan market. As of June 2013, all products falling within the category of high-risk goods including but not

limited to food and food products will have to be inspected and tested in their countries of origin before being shipped, and be issued with a certificate of compliance. During a conference call among FFP/Washington, FFP's Program Operations Division (POD), ACDI/VOCA, Mercy Corps, and each PVO's freight forwarder, it became clear that future shipments for Uganda will require a certificate of conformity and as result, ACDI/VOCA's freight forwarder agreed to coordinate with the clearing agent and inland freight forwarder to acquire such a certificate.

2.7 Cross-cutting Issues

Gender Assessment: The RWANU team recognizes that many households are dependent on women for livelihood support, and women do not share equal power or control over household resources or decision-making. A gender analysis was initiated to better understand the constraints on intra household relationships and the status of women and men in our intervention areas to inform training modules, behavior change communications and staff-beneficiary interactions. Terms of reference for a gender assessment consultancy in the region were developed and advertised. The south Karamoja gender assessment will be completed in the next quarter. Among its deliverables are a gender intervention strategy and gender training of program staff.

2.8 Monitoring and Evaluation (M&E)

The program submitted a comprehensive results framework, performance monitoring plan (PMP) and indicator performance tracking table (IPTT) to USAID/FFP for approval, based on feedback received from Food for Peace and FANTA III in a September workshop). RWANU is currently revising the M&E materials in response to comments from FFP and FANTA. In addition, RWANU has been collaborating with USAID in planning for the program baseline study. USAID hired ICF International to execute the baseline, and sought input from RWANU during the development of survey tools. Data will be collected on all outcome and impact level indicators relevant for program evaluation. Field data collection is due to start in February 2013.

2.9 Administration and Start-Up

Timeline: During the reporting period, RWANU was informed that the baseline survey field work would not begin until early 2013. Given that RWANU cannot engage the beneficiaries in formative activities before the baseline survey field work is completed, RWANU recognizes that there will be an impact on the timeline for activities as well as on anticipated results. For example, this later than scheduled startup will impact project results in year one. In particular, the rainy season normally begins in March and farmers must plant. RWANU training of farmers and development of on-farm trials must be done before planting. Among RWANU adjustments to the schedule are: 1) a delay in hiring the bulk of staff, including FEWs; and 2) resetting of targets for the number of farmer groups each FEWs will work with in year one. The total consequence of this delay will be evaluated later in the year.

Staff Recruitment: As of the end of the quarter, most key program management positions were filled and staff was on board. These included the Finance Manager, M&E Manager, Commodity Operations Manager, Livelihood Director, Health Services Coordinator, and Senior Nutritionist. The Health and Nutrition Director was also identified and the successful candidate ██████████ is expected to start on April 15, 2013. In the interim, Concern

Worldwide has fielded [REDACTED] from its headquarters as an interim lead on the SO2 activities. The recruitment of the FEWs was completed and they are scheduled to start in mid-January 2013. The FEWs will be stationed in their respective sub-counties of residence. This recruitment was done at the sub-county level with the support of sub-county Chiefs.

Office Set Up: The project secured a temporary office in Moroto that is serving as an operational base while the team located a larger and more convenient office. The larger office space was identified and is currently being renovated, with completion anticipated by February 2013. The office will accommodate the approximately 30 program staff members that form the core technical team. An out building in the Matany warehouse complex will serve as a sub office for Napak field staff. A building has also been identified in Nakapiripirit that can serve as a sub office though some health and nutrition staff may be housed in the Ministry of Health offices.

Procurement: The project procured five vehicles in the first quarter, which are due to arrive in April 2013. Other major procurements have been conducted for security, telecommunications, furniture, and computers. Staff members of ACIDI/VOCA and sub recipients were trained in financial and compliance issues. ACIDI/VOCA HQ staff [REDACTED] and [REDACTED] conducted this training in Kampala in the first half of December 2012.

3.0 OPPORTUNITIES AND CHALLENGES

The district and sub-county leadership of the participating districts of South Karamoja have expressed goodwill and support for RWANU. The key district officials have welcomed the program and are ready to collaborate, as evidenced during introductory meetings and the subsequent signing of MOUs.

Samaritan's Purse MCG intervention in Napak District, while limited to communication and training activities, has the potential to be leveraged and could result in freeing some resources to enhance the overall SO2 activities. However, time is needed to work out an effective leveraging arrangement and to seek all stakeholders' agreement on appropriate attribution of results. It is critical nonetheless to avoid duplication of activities. RWANU envisages starting the MCG intervention in Nakapiripirit with Napak being rolled out later.³ This will allow time to work through the mechanics of the collaboration with Samaritan's Purse.

4.0 PLANNED ACTIVITIES FOR JANUARY–MARCH 2013

General Start Up Activities

- Finalize office set up in Moroto, Matany and Nakapiripirit
- Finalize staff recruitment per program needs
- Conduct new staff orientation and team building in Moroto
- Procure furniture for the new Moroto office, set up local area network, and establish communication infrastructure

³ As described in the approved proposal, this intervention package will be rolled out incrementally across target sub-counties during the first two years of the project period.

- Introduce the RWANU program to district and sub-county GOU technical teams and other non-beneficiary stakeholders

IR. 1.1: Improved smallholder farm management practices adopted

- Orient and train FEWs and set them up in their respective sub-counties.
- Finalize guidelines for formation of farmer groups, demonstration plots, seed trials, seed multiplication arrangements, and training needs assessment.
- Select farmer groups and group leaders with a focus on equitable representation of men and women.
- Identify training needs with the beneficiaries (group members) and local leaders prior to training. This will enable the program to focus on what is most relevant to the farmers in Karamoja.
- Complete market assessment and share results with GOU and NGO stakeholders.
- Finalize training guides for Farming as a Business/Marketing, honey production, and association development.
- Select profitable crop enterprise for each agro-ecological zone based on market assessment findings and consultations with NabuZARDI.
- Train FEWs and farmers to establish on-farm trials.
- Develop on-farm trial plans and guides with NabuZARDI. Develop a detailed associated work plan and budget with NabuZARDI, followed by initiation of grant process.

IR 1.2: Improved smallholder livestock management practices adopted

- Conduct mapping of interventions by other actors in livestock management.
- Prepare working documents (group statutes, MOUs and other templates).
- Support formation of livestock groups.
- Identify reputable livestock and livestock input suppliers.
- Identify practicing community animal health workers at sub-county level and conduct needs assessment. Provide training as necessary.

IR 1.3: Increased linkages to markets

- Use market assessment to inform marketing strategies for crops, honey, and livestock, including value-added animal products.
- Conduct pre-test of training materials in the field with a few selected groups in selected sub-counties. This will be carried out in areas where the baseline will have been completed.
- Carry out a mini assessment on honey producing sub-counties with emphasis on assessing the potential of the prospective areas identified for start-up.

IR 1.4: Access to credit increased

- Develop and/or refine already existing guidelines and training materials for savings mobilization and management.

IR 2.1: Improved health and nutrition practices at household level

- Conduct barrier analysis and develop the SBC-SAP Strategy.
- Conduct mapping of beneficiary communities.
- Register PLWs in initial villages.
- Determine knowledge gaps and barriers to latrine usage using barrier analysis (doer/non-doer survey).

- Explore strategies to address cultural concerns around women using latrines (through Trials of Improved Practices).
- Discuss with UNICEF priority intervention areas for its latrine construction activities.

Provide conditional food rations to vulnerable PLWs and children under 2

- Finalize set-up of the Nakapiripirit warehouse.
- Develop beneficiary registration system and explore the use of smart technologies.
- Create beneficiary ration card.
- Develop commodity management manual and commodity tracking system.
- Participate in commodity management workshop by TOPS.
- Determine food distribution points.

IR 2.2: Improved service delivery for prevention and treatment of maternal and child illnesses and nutrition

- Conduct Health Institution Capacity Assessment Process (HICAP).
- Procure non-recurring health supplies and equipment.
- Work with District Health Offices to determine requirements for logistical support. Advocate with District Local Government to allocate funds for outreach services.
- Conduct screening and referral of acutely malnourished children (in collaboration with VHTs).
- Create/adopt training curriculum for HAs & VHTs on maternal nutrition and WASH. Provide training for HAs on maternal nutrition and WASH.

Monitoring and Evaluation

- Liaise with USAID contracted baseline team during the field data collection.
- Finalize PMP and submit for approval.
- Prepare and submit PREP to FFP.
- Develop information needs for the beneficiary database.
- Develop tools for monitoring beneficiaries.
- Develop program monitoring database and information management system.

Cross-cutting issues

- Conduct the gender assessment and gender training for program staff. Integrate gender into training manuals and program implementation strategies.
- Conduct community outreach to establish and map out key actors in DRR/NRM in the participating sub-counties.