

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



## QUARTERLY REPORT

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## Acronyms

ACTED	Agency for Technical Cooperation and Development
CAG	Community Action group
CAHW	Community Animal Health Worker
CSC	Community Score Card
DRR	Disaster Risk Reduction
FaaB	Farming as a Business
FANTA	Food and Nutrition Technical Assistance III Project
FEW	Field Extension Worker
FFP	Food for Peace
FMNR	Farmer Managed Natural Regeneration
HC	Health Center
HICAP	Health Institution Capacity Assessment Process
HQ	Headquarters
IMAM	Infant Moderate Acute Malnutrition
IPTT	Indicator Performance Tracking Table
IR	Intermediate Result
MCG	Mother Care Group
MoU	Memorandum of Understanding
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
PMP	Performance Monitoring Plan
PREP	Pipeline Resource Estimate Proposal
RWANU	Resiliency through Wealth, Agriculture, and Nutrition in Karamoja
SBC-SAP	Social and Behavior Change Strategic and Action Plan
SO	Strategic Objective
UNICEF	United Nations Children Fund
USAID	United States Agency for International Development
VHT	Village Health Team
VSLA	Village Savings and Loan Association
WASH	Water, Sanitation, and Hygiene
WFP	World Food Program

*Cover page photo credit: Concern Worldwide*



For a world without hunger

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## **1.0 Introduction**

This report highlights the implementation progress of the ACDI/VOCA's Resilience through Wealth, Agriculture and Nutrition in Karamoja (RWANU) development food assistance program funded by USAID under Cooperative Agreement AID-FFP-A-12-00011 over the period January to March 2013. During this quarter, implementation of planned program activities has gained momentum following the initial period of program start-up and office set-up. The report presents progress in the implementation of planned activities related to specific program outcomes reflected under the respective two strategic objectives (SOs), monitoring and evaluation and program management including staffing. The report outlines specific challenges, opportunities and next steps for the following quarter – April to June 2013.

The RWANU program office was established in Moroto, housing the core technical team. The Moroto office is at full operational capacity -- fully furnished and with a functioning local area network and communication infrastructure. Premises for sub offices were identified in Nakapiripirit and Matany to coordinate field activities and serve as RWANU representation bases in the districts. The Matany sub-office will serve as a supervision center for commodity distribution and a base for Napak field staff.

Staffing was nearly complete by the end of the quarter with most staff brought on board before the end of January. Program induction and orientation was conducted for all staff. Organizational internal policies were discussed, including human resource policies, ethics and compliance standards, financial and accounting procedures, procurements, gender, information communication technology (ICT) policies, organization structure and procedures. During the quarter, a team building workshop was organized in Mbale, eastern Uganda, and drew together program consortium partners. This exercise provided avenues for RWANU staff to become acquainted and begin building collaborative relationships across the consortium for effective implementation of the program.

RWANU has established strong collaboration with the district and community authorities in Moroto, Napak, Amudat and Nakapiripirit. Formal program introductions were conducted within the region among district leadership and line ministry technical teams in the program districts. Thereafter, the program was introduced to the targeted 16 sub-counties in meetings comprised of sub-county and community leadership. In these meetings the Field Extension Workers (FEWs) were officially introduced to their respective sub-county authorities and community leaders. The FEWs will support the program in building the capacity of local farmers and promoting the adoption of improved agricultural practices. Other community based staff will be introduced as they are phased in. The district heads welcomed RWANU's timely entrance to the region given the departure of a number of nongovernmental organizations (NGOs) engaged in livelihoods and food security programs, and pledged to collaborate with RWANU staff and local community members to ensure accountability and transparency.

## 2.0 Progress to date

### Strategic Objective 1: Improved access to food for men and women

#### Intermediate Result (IR) 1.1: Improved smallholder farm management practices adopted by men and women

**Field Extension Support:** RWANU's strategy involves provision of direct agriculture extension support through FEWs. Twenty-five (25) FEWs were recruited and assigned to the 16 program sub-counties. During the quarter, the FEWs were trained in group formation and group dynamics, basic improved agronomic practices, gender mainstreaming and safe motorcycle riding. FEWS learned how to establish a demonstration plot for field crops and participated in planning sessions where they developed work plans for farmer group formation, community sensitization and performance reporting.



Figure 1: FEWs during training, participating in establishment of a crop demonstration plot

On a visit from ACDI/VOCA headquarters (HQ), the Director of Environmental Compliance conducted training for NabuZARDI<sup>1</sup> staff, FEWs, and other RWANU staff in safe pesticide use and waste management.

**Formation of farmer training groups:** Establishment of farmer training groups is an entry point into communities including identification of able and willing farmers to receive agronomic training under the program. The FEWs registered farmers and formed 82 farmer training groups, representing 51% of the 160 targeted farmer groups to be formed in year 1. Groups average 25 farmers in size, representing 25 households. Seventy-two (72) of the 82 registered farmer groups identified suitable land for community demonstration gardens. Bush clearing and first tilling of the demonstration plots is complete and farmers are ready for the seeds. Procurement of farmer starter kits was initiated through an RFQ. Victoria Seeds Company was selected and approvals

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<sup>1</sup> NabuZARDI is the Nabuin Zonal Agriculture Research and Development Institute, a Karamoja based GOU-affiliated organization, with which RWANU is developing an important collaboration.

sought from the AOR. Seeds should be distributed in early April and be available for planting within the normal early rainy season planting period.

**Farmer Starter Kit Projected Composition**

S/N	Crop	Number of farmers to receive	Acreage/ farmer	Quantity/ farmer (kg)	Total acreage	Total quantity (kg)
1	Sorghum	4,000	0.50	1.5	2,000	6,000
2	Maize	1,500	0.50	5.0	500	5,000
3	Beans	2,000	0.25	10.0	500	20,000
4	G/nuts	2,000	0.25	12.0	533	24,000 in-shelled
<b>Tot</b>		<b>4,000</b>			<b>3,750</b>	<b>49,000</b>

NB – this was the basis for the seed order.

**Honey sector:** The program intends to promote honey production to ensure that both men and women have alternative sources of incomes. While crop production and goat rearing activities will favor women, beekeeping will target priority young men who are no longer fully engaged in livestock raising due to years of decline in livestock population. Nonetheless, older, experienced bee keepers and interested women will be included in the groups. Bee keeping is most successful in areas with a high density of flowering plants. In Karamoja, the highest quality light colored honey is derived from acacia tree forests. With this and other criteria in mind, an assessment of the potential honey producing areas was conducted by RWANU. Six sub-counties were identified having high potential to produce high quality honey: Namalu, Iriiri, Karita, Kakomongole and Lotome. Within those sub counties, honey production sites were identified and planning was initiated for the selection of beekeeping group participants to take place in April.

In the previous quarter, RWANU had signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the Kampala-based honey enterprise, Malaika Honey, to facilitate establishment of a honey supply chain benefiting RWANU honey beekeeping groups. Discussions on collaboration with Malaika ended because of significant differences in the perceived nature of the relationship. Malaika was interested in a sub recipient relationship where it would receive a significant sub grant to play both private sector and an NGO type role integrated into the RWANU team. It was not the intention of ACDI/VOCA, nor was it budgeted, to engage another consortium partner. RWANU’s intent is to take a value chain facilitation approach leveraging the investment of the private sector by focusing RWANU team’s efforts and resources on bridging the gap on the side of beneficiary producers through building their capacity to engage the private sector. RWANU has annulled the MoU and is preparing to contact other honey enterprises.

**Collaboration with the Nabuin Zonal Agricultural Research and Development Institute (NabuZARDI):** RWANU will work with NabuZARDI to identify improved resistant seeds and conduct field trials of their suitability for local conditions. After successful trials, the improved seeds will be demonstrated and provided to farmers. During the quarter, NabuZARDI submitted

a work plan and a budget for year 1. ACDI/VOCA also engaged NabuZARDI to conduct an initial crop zone survey through a fixed-price contract, as described below. That initial survey will be completed in the next quarter and the agreement will be finalized by the two parties.

Based on regional experience and previous research, NabuZARDI has recommended four crop varieties for trials. These are: (i) Sorghum--Seso 3B, (ii) Groundnuts--Serenut 5R & 6T, (iii) Maize--MMM3 and (iv) Beans--Nabe 5. The program sought and obtained concurrence on these varieties from the District Production Officers in the respective RWANU districts. RWANU subsequently procured seeds to be used by farmers and on demonstration plots prepared by farmer groups with FEWs' guidance.

### **Planned activities for the next quarter**

- Prepare in-kind grants for RWANU farmer groups for starter kits
- Finalize procurement and distribution of seeds to farmers and for demo plots to be established for training purposes
- Complete the registration of farmer groups
- Provide detailed training of FEWs in agronomy, and establish 78 demo plots - the balance of the planned 160 to be established in IY 1
- Train 160 farmer groups (4,000 farmers) in basic agronomic practices
- Develop pictorial training materials in agronomy for low literacy communities
- Formalize collaboration with NabuZARDI to increase availability of appropriate seed varieties and planting materials under a Fixed Obligation Grant (FOG) agreement
- NabuZARDI will complete the survey started on March 25, 2013, in the RWANU sub-counties. The survey will determine the current farming practices, cropping patterns, and constraints to production in the program areas of operation. The objectives of the survey are to analyze agronomic practices, production and farming systems, and identify the most important crops grown. The survey will further obtain qualitative information on community-perceived problems and coping strategies. It will also determine preferred crop varieties and production practices, as well as identify village-level sites that are most suitable for agronomic activities. The survey will inform RWANU of areas of high agricultural production potential; technical, logistical, material, and training needs; appropriate tools, production and processing techniques; farmer operating costs; and opportunities for market integration and commercial links.

**IR 1.2: Improved smallholder livestock management practices adopted by men and women**  
RWANU will use Community based Animal Health Workers (CAHWs) to provide veterinary services such as disease diagnosis, treatment, and supply of drugs. Building on the work of previous organizations operating within the sub-counties to establish community based veterinary services, RWANU conducted a mapping of CAHWs and identification of capacity

needs in Ngoleriet sub-county, Napak. A checklist was developed and shared with the Napak District Veterinary Officer (DVO) to provide information on the status of the livestock sector.

RWANU will support women's goat raising groups. Goat milk is traditionally used to feed young children. Goats are kept near the manyatta even during the dry season. Local goats are well-adapted to the climatic and fodder conditions in Karamoja, but they are small, slow growing and have low milk production. Furthermore, there is no controlled breeding: herd owners keep females together with a high number of male goats. RWANU is thus focusing on restocking and better management of small ruminants to increase availability of milk for children, through creation of women's goat raising groups. Initially the groups will receive 50 local breed females plus a Uganda bred bucks that are 50% Toggenburg /50% local breed.

This past quarter, the program livestock team prepared a standard MoU template which spells out the group ownership criteria, group responsibilities and program expectations and standards for goat groups. Preliminary discussion between a sample of target community leadership and the program livestock team was held. A statute for women groups owning goats collectively was prepared; this was based on a model statute used successfully by WHH for its farmer field schools. The statute indicates the organs of the group (chairperson, treasurer, assembly of members), the rights and duties of each member, the savings- and-loans' aspects and the sharing of the group's profits. Goat restocking activities shall only start if the representatives of the Communities (village chief, respected elders, opinion leaders) agree to the concept of group ownership of these animals by women. This is necessary as traditionally the male household head is the owner of all domestic animals.

RWANU team members met with Samaritan's Purse and agreed on the approaches to take in integrating the existing mother care groups (MCGs) into the goat restocking program in Napak District. Samaritan's Purse provided information on the existing beneficiaries currently served. It was agreed that members of Samaritan's Purse MCGs shall benefit as well from RWANU's livestock component.

#### **Planned activities for the next quarter**

- Carry out a mapping exercise for the CAHWs in the remaining Napak sub-counties and ascertain appropriate support that can be provided to them in coordination with other agencies
- Identify reputable livestock traders and livestock input suppliers
- Conduct first procurement of goats
- Identify CAHWs or other suitable local persons and train them in Agro Pastoral Field School (APFS) modules to support the women's goat groups in Napak District

- Hold meetings with communities at the village and manyatta levels to get consent from the leadership on the women’s group goat restocking in Napak District, and thereafter sign MoUs
- Identify and verify women’s goat restocking beneficiaries
- Facilitate the creation of women goat groups in Ngoleriet sub-county of Napak District and train group members in goat keeping

### **IR 1.3: Increased linkages to markets**

Using the ACIDI/VOCA “End Market Research Toolkit”, RWANU carried out a market assessment in the operational area. The assessment examined existing market opportunities and prioritized marketable crop and livestock products for promotion among RWANU beneficiaries in South Karamoja. The assessment computed gross margin analysis of the selected value chains, analyzed and mapped the market segments. Nine prioritized value chain products were selected including sorghum, maize, and beans (key traditional food security crops); onions, kale, and cowpeas (horticulture crops); groundnuts and green grams (emerging marketable and profitable crops); and goats (livestock). The study findings showed that adopting improved technologies and improved farm husbandry management practices necessitated investment of more resources by the farmers. The gross margin analysis results showed that, whereas farmers incurred more costs to move away from the subsistence to commercial farming practices, these were more than offset by increased yields, lower unit cost of production, and better returns. This was attributed to the use of improved seeds and proper crop management practices, as well as devotion of more time on the farm.

Market assessment preliminary findings were disseminated to stakeholders in Nakapiripirit, Amudat, Moroto and Napak districts. Stakeholders included 51 participants’ (16 female and 35 male) that included district production staff from the respective districts, GOU project and INGO staff. This was done to share, gather feedback, and validate preliminary findings, and build consensus on possible marketing strategies and action plans.

### **Planned activities for the next quarter**

- Facilitate the orientation of the Farming as a Business (FaaB) Officer who is expected to join RWANU in April 2013
- Make contacts with NGOs and/or firms (Save the Children, Vision Care, Mango Tree) that support Functional Adult Literacy to provide input on RWANU training materials and support integration of gender messages suitable to the low level literacy farmers in Karamoja
- Translate training materials to local Karimojong dialects
- Pre-test training materials for (FaaB and honey production)

- Assess existing market infrastructure including identifying potential village aggregation (bulking) centers that can be rented for possible use as honey resource and collection centers
- Form ten (10) honey producer groups comprised of 20 members each
- Procure and distribute honey starter kits using established criteria
- Train honey producer groups
- Identify one or more honey firms interested in developing their supply chain in Karamoja in conjunction with RWANU
- Support FEWs during the formation and training of the farmer groups in their respective sub counties

#### **IR 1.4: Access to credit increased**

A beneficiary sensitization guide has been developed and used in training of the 25 newly recruited FEWs. The guide will primarily help the FEWs to identify eligible beneficiaries for savings and credit association, and orient the beneficiaries into group operational functions and best practices in savings and credit associations.

#### **Planned activities for the next quarter**

- Translate training materials to local Karimojong dialects
- Pre-test and adapt training materials for savings and credit
- Assess the best methodology for providing village savings and loan (VSLA) kits to RWANU farmer and other groups

#### **Strategic Objective 2: Reduced malnutrition in pregnant and lactating women and children under 5**

During the reporting period, SO2 activities progressed in line with the detailed implementation plan. The main program activity was the barrier analysis and the development of the Social and Behavior Change Strategic and Action Plan (SBC-SAP).

RWANU continued recruitment for positions still remaining to be filled, including the Health Manager and Field Accountant. Recruitment for Health Promoters commenced in the previous quarter in preparation for the census which started during the reporting period. Procurement for office supplies and furniture was finalized in the previous quarter and the team moved into the new RWANU office.

The baseline, conducted by the external contractor, was ongoing during the reporting period. The SO2 team had participated in the development of the questionnaires in December 2012. RWANU provided logistical support to the contractor in Moroto and facilitated links with technical trainers from the technical nutrition support unit at Mulago Hospital.

RWANU continued coordinating project activities with international agencies operating in the health and nutrition sector in Karamoja. The major focus has been on working with Samaritan's Purse to avoid duplication of MCG training activities in Napak district. RWANU is currently finalizing an MoU with Samaritan's Purse to guide operations in that district.

## **IR 2.1: Improved health and nutrition practices at household level**

***Formative research - Barrier Analysis:*** The Barrier Analysis took place in January and was led by a consultant, Ms. Bonnie Kittle, an expert in designing behavior change messages. The barrier analysis looked at four behaviors: 1) hand washing with ash or soap, 2) continued breastfeeding until 2 years of age, 3) complementary feeding: meal frequency for children 6-23 months, and 4) an extra meal a day during lactation. Six RWANU staff and 23 enumerators were trained on the barrier analysis methodology. The barrier analysis surveyed 45 Doers and 45 Non-Doers of each behavior across the four districts of South Karamoja, looking at 12 determinants of behavior including self-efficacy, positive and negative consequences, social norms, susceptibility and severity, cue for action and divine will, in order to understand which barriers were significant. For each behavior, four to six determinants were found to be significant, the details of which can be found in the Designing for Behavior Change Framework in the SBC-SAP and the Barrier Analysis Report. Following data analysis, the consultant worked with the team to develop the designing for behavior change frameworks and the SBC-SAP. A stakeholder meeting was held on January 28th to disseminate the results of the barrier analysis and obtain stakeholder input on the suggested activities in the SBC-SAP.

A draft behavior/activity matrix was developed to map out the behaviors targeted for change over the five years of the project, and which activities will be used to target each behavior, such as MCGs or working with male change agents or religious leaders.

***Formative research: Doer/Non-Doer Analysis on Latrine Usage:*** In March, a doer/non-doer survey on latrine usage was carried out by RWANU staff to assess barriers to using latrines among populations. The survey was carried out in the four districts of Napak, Moroto, Nakapiripirit, and Amudat in places where existing latrines had been constructed by the International Rescue Committee with UNICEF funding. The results of the survey will inform the SBC-SAP and will inform the water, sanitation, and hygiene (WASH) component of the project in the coming year. Results of the survey will be shared with relevant stakeholders and a meeting will be held with UNICEF to prioritize intervention areas.

### ***Community census to form Mother Care Groups***

Meetings of all three consortium partners took place to develop census questions and incorporate the needs of the livelihoods and livestock teams into the census. The primary purpose of the participatory door-to-door census is to form household caregiver groups. The secondary purpose

of the census is to form the foundation of the project database and to ensure that the project has accurate population data down to the village level. The tertiary purpose of the census is to collect additional information that can be used by the livelihoods and livestock teams to target activities.

Census planning and digitizing to be conducted on smartphones was underway at the end of the reporting quarter, with the aim of training health promoters in early April and conducting the census in April and May. RWANU staff coordinated with Samaritan’s Purse to carry out the census simultaneously in Napak.

**Planned activities for the next quarter**

- Conduct the community census in Nakapiripirit and Amudat Districts
- Formation of household caregiver groups and selection of lead mothers
- Hold the first month of MCG meetings to introduce RWANU, the care group approach and the Program Participant Protection Policy
- Conduct formative research regarding cost of a healthy diet and trials for improved practices
- Conduct formative research regarding equitable access to health care (the obstacles faced by women and children in accessing health care services and identifying possible strategies within the scope of the RWANU project to address these obstacles)
- Finalize MCG counseling cards and curriculum for Module 1: Infant and Young Child Feeding (IYCF)
- Develop information, education, and communication (IEC) materials and media messages as per the SBC-SAP

**Commodity operations:**

During the quarter, the program received all Year 1 direct distribution commodities which were transported to RWANU’s Matany warehouse in Napak district where they are currently stored.

Commodity	Metric Tons
Corn soy blend	148.875
Cornmeal	276.750
Vegetable oil	39.987
Split green peas	128.364
Total	593.976

Table 1: Direct distribution commodities in stock at Matany warehouse as at March 2013.

Out of the total 600 metric tons (MT) of commodities that was called forward, 593.976MT was received by the program. The balance of 6.024MT consists of an ocean freight loss of 5.014MT and an inland freight loss of 1.01MT. The inland transit loss claim of USD \$786.27 was issued to Kenfreight Limited (inland carrier) for payment.

RWANU is in discussion with the World Food Program (WFP) in Uganda to expedite the leasing of its rubb hall in Tokora in Nakapiripirit district. A lease agreement is expected to be signed in the next quarter.

During visits from HQ, ACDI/VOCA's Deputy Director of Commodity Management and Director of Environmental Compliance worked with program staff to develop commodity manuals, commodity tracking and reporting tools, and the Pesticide Evaluation Report and Safe Use Action Plan (PERSUAP).

The Uganda Bureau of Standards did extend the implementation date of the Pre-Export verification of conformance from December 03, 2012 to June 01, 2013 in order to consult with all the stakeholders on how to successfully roll-out this scheme.

#### **Planned activities for the next quarter**

- Develop the program beneficiary database
- Attend the USAID/Food for Peace-funded Technical and Operational Performance Support (TOPS) Program Commodity Management and separate Quarterly Web Interfaced Commodity Reporting (QWICR) training
- Procure commodity prepackaging materials
- Map beneficiary communities and identify final distribution points
- Recruit the commodity distribution team
- Conduct commodity training for the program commodity and distribution team
- Finalize and submit the program Year 2 Pipeline Resource Estimate Proposal (PREP)

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

*Health Center and Outreach Services Assessment:* During the reporting period, a health center assessment was conducted to provide an overview of equipment and technical support needs in the project area. It covered all Health Center (HC) IIs, IIIs and IVs in Napak and Nakapiripirit, Karita (Amudat) and Nadunget (Moroto). The assessment included a review of each health center's infrastructure, available non-recurring supplies and equipment, ability to comply with USAID/Ministry of Health (MoH) Uganda environmental compliance regulations, staffing levels and current service provision capacity. In total, 30 health facilities were assessed, and analysis of the results began at the end of March. The district health officers of the four districts were consulted to understand their priorities for support to health centers in their districts, and to understand which HC IIs have begun or are about to begin to provide maternal and child health and nutrition (MCHN) services. A meeting was held with Doctors with Africa (CUAMM) and information collected on the current status of outreach services.

*Village Health Team (VHT) Maternal Nutrition Training:* VHT maternal nutrition training for Nakapiripirit and Amudat districts began on the 26th of February with a training-of-trainers for health assistants, followed by the start of training of VHTs on the 27th of February. Two sub-counties were covered each day and supported by the RWANU health facilities coordinator and

two nutritionists. Over the course of the VHT maternal nutrition training from 27 February – 13 March, 331 VHTs were trained (171 men and 160 women).

***Growth Monitoring and Promotion Pilot:***

As part of its strategy and as planned in the FY2013 detailed implementation plan under SO2, RWANU will support growth monitoring and promotion in target health facilities through training and mentoring. This is being done in support of implementation of the Ministry of Health Guidelines for Planning and Implementation of Maternal and Child Health and Nutrition Monthly growth monitoring and promotion at health facilities involves plotting the weight against the age of a child on MoH standard child health cards (CHCs) and weight for height/length and health staff provide promotional talks on general nutrition and health education including available services. For example, children found to be malnourished will be referred to the appropriate services (e.g. integrated management of acute malnutrition- out patient therapeutic or the supplementary feeding program). Clinical staff and mothers are very familiar with and often use the MoH CHCs. In order to prepare for the growth monitoring and promotion support by the RWANU project, starting with a several selected pilot health facilities, an assessment of the current state of growth monitoring in these facilities was undertaken, including discussions with health facility staff who are currently weighing children on a regular basis. The assessment indicated that mothers generally keep these cards in good condition at home, and bring them to health centers when they attend. However, it was found that in general, growth monitoring cards are not being filled out because WFP MCHN health/ration cards are being prioritized over the MoH CHCs. Observations at health centers also indicated that children are already being weighed properly, but that clinical staff do not mark this weight in the MoH CHC. RWANU will work with clinical staff, and in particular, clinical supervisors, to ensure that this happens in the pilot health centers (selected based on higher than average clinical staff capacity and motivation), and that clinical staff are delivering related health promotional messages on balanced diets containing micronutrients such as vitamin A and iron, and infant feeding or weaning practices.

During the reporting period, RWANU has collected and reviewed the MoH national growth monitoring curriculum as well as growth monitoring tools. These documents will guide the training, mentoring and support that RWANU will provide clinical staff to support growth monitoring and promotion.

***Family Health Days:*** Logistical support was provided to move staff and supplies for Family Health Days in the Health District of Amudat on the 23<sup>rd</sup> and 24<sup>th</sup> of March. As Family Health Days are part of the overall outreach services package, modalities for supporting the quarterly Family Health Days in each District were discussed with the RWANU team and District Government Health Teams.

## **Development of Manuals and Training Guides**

***Mother Care Group Counseling Cards & Curriculum:*** A pilot test was conducted to look at the feasibility of using photographs instead of drawings for MCG counseling cards, an approach starting to be adopted in several countries. The results of the pilot test showed that photographs were better understood than drawings. Following these results, a semi-professional photographer was engaged as a volunteer to take photographs for Module 1: Infant and Young Child Feeding, as well as photographs for introducing the care group approach and explaining food ration conditionality requirements. Photographs were selected, edited and draft counseling cards were designed. Two to three versions of each counseling card were printed in A3 format for the initial pilot test. A first draft of Module 1 curriculum was drafted, and will be further developed and finalized in April and May prior to the start of Care Groups.

## ***VHT Maternal Nutrition Training Facilitator's Guide and Job Aid Cards***

The VHT maternal nutrition training job aid cards and curriculum were developed during the course of the reporting period. Job aid cards and the facilitator's guide were developed by RWANU and finalized in consultation with the District Health Teams and health assistants of Nakapiripirit and Amudat Districts, as well as consortium partners' technical advisors. Maternal nutrition training materials were based on the Government of Uganda Ministry of Health Maternal Nutrition Guideline, First Edition 2010, Infant Moderate Acute Malnutrition (IMAM) Guideline 2009, VHT Participant Manual 2010 and National Nutrition Package for VHTs 2011.

## **Planned activities for the next quarter**

- Participatory development of Health Institution Capacity Assessment Process (HICAP) and Community Score Card (CSC) tools and planning
- Carry out HICAP and CSC in selected health facilities
- Begin supportive supervision to health facilities for MCHN services
- Continue logistical and technical support to outreach services
- Begin growth monitoring pilot in selected health facilities, including training
- Procure and distribute non-recurring health supplies and equipment
- Collaborate with VHTs on screening and referral of malnourished children; monitor admissions trend to UNICEF Intensive Management of Acute Malnutrition program

## **3.0 Cross-cutting activities**

### **3.1 Gender**

RWANU's gender objective is to increase joint informed-decision making between men and women in a household regarding productive assets, food security, and nutrition. The program will promote gender equity by including *both* men and women in project activities, facilitating women's participation without overburdening them, and ensuring that both men and women will

engage in remunerative production for the market. In order to understand the gender context in Karamoja region, RWANU procured services of a gender specialist – Ms. Danny Harvey to conduct a comprehensive gender assessment. The assessment was conducted in the four program districts and included interviewing community and district leaders, elders, youth and men and women. The findings of the gender assessment were shared with RWANU stakeholders that included district officials, staff from civil society organizations and UN agencies. Discussions and opinions were solicited to enrich the findings while providing an opportunity for RWANU to establish gender collaboration and learning with regional stakeholders.

Gender assessment results showed that following the decline in cattle stock men are increasingly joining women in their traditional roles of cultivation particularly land clearance and plowing. Women are responsible for virtually all domestic work, house construction and finding food for the households. On review of gender roles men acknowledged that women were working harder. Women do not have control over valuable assets such as land, livestock and profits generated from sale of surplus harvest, except for cash from sale of local brewed beer, chicken and earnings from own labor. Traditionally older men have the representational and decision making role for households, while women and youth have no say.

A responsive RWANU gender and social behavior change strategy was developed through which the program will engage with women to build their skills, knowledge and confidence to make informed decisions about production, marketing and investments and demonstrate that they are capable financial managers. These documents will guide RWANU in ensuring the integration of gender issues into the entire implementation. The program will provide goats to women groups, and build capacity of farmer groups in marketing, savings, and horticultural production. Pregnant and lactating women will be educated on nutrition and health, and receive food commodities to supplement their nutrition needs.

The majority of RWANU program staff on board at the time (52 of which 38 were male and 14 female) including senior managers and field extension workers, were trained on issues related to gender. The purpose of this training was to empower the program team with skills necessary to integrate gender into all program activities, sensitize them on gender issues in Karamoja, and orient them on strategies to promote gender equity in their activities. Subsequent gender training will be planned to capture staff not included or not yet recruited in time for the first two training sessions.

### **Planned activities for the next quarter**

- Form project team gender integration committee
- Review SO1 and SO2 training materials and messaging for gender sensitivity and equity promotion
- Develop training materials and translate them into the local dialects

- Train group leaders on gender mainstreaming
- Conduct gender training for staff not yet included in first two sessions

### **3.2 Conflict mitigation**

Conflict mitigation activities were planned to begin in January and February. This was adjusted due to a request by USAID to delay engaging communities until the baseline field work was completed (expected in March). Nevertheless, further delays were encountered in recruiting the Conflict Mitigation Officer. His contract was signed in March and he will come on board and initiate activities in mid-April. The COP held a meeting with the Moroto IRC Office to initiate discussions on sharing of lessons in GBV and conflict mitigation.

### **Planned activities for the next quarter**

- Meet with other organizations that have conflict mitigation related interventions to: share best practices and approaches; leverage their activities and collaborate effectively; and sign MoUs or other communications to formalize intentions to collaborate
- Review RWANU training materials and extension work for conflict sensitivity and integration of conflict mitigation messaging and strategies
- Provide technical direction to the field extension staff in integration of conflict mitigation strategies through mentoring and guidance
- Work with RWANU Natural Resource Management/Disaster Risk Reduction (NRM/DRR) Officer in identifying or creating pilot Community Action Groups (CAGs) comprised of government and traditional leaders as well as community members
- Educate CAG members on RWANU's objectives, activities, inclusion criteria for beneficiaries, exit strategy and sustainability strategy
- Conduct participatory assessment with CAGs of resource-based conflict drivers and initiate dialogue on measures to mitigate potential conflict

### **3.3 Natural Resource Management/Disaster Risk Reduction (NRM/DRR)**

During the reporting period, there was an orientation of field extension workers and other technical staff on NRM/DRR. A data collection tool for conducting a mini rapid DRR/NRM assessment was developed and will be used to guide RWANU DRR/NRM interventions. In conjunction with the Monitoring and Evaluation (M&E) team, NRM/DRR monitoring tools were developed for all sub counties in all four districts.



**Figure 2: RWANU NRM officer attending FMNR training organized by World Vision-Kotido**

The NRM/DRR Officer attended the Farmer Managed Natural Regeneration (FMNR) training in Kotido for two days with the main objective of developing strategies to be adopted for improved agricultural systems and an FMNR approach in Karamoja. He also attended the Karamoja Regional Protection Meeting (KRPM) and represented RWANU in the National Consultative meeting on the African

Union Intergovernmental Authority on Development Drought Disaster Resilience and Sustainability Initiative in Uganda, held in Moroto town.

#### **Planned activities for the next quarter**

- Establish collaboration with the Agency for Technical Cooperation and Development (ACTED) to obtain information from the Drought Early Warning Systems (DEWS)
- Conduct DRR/NRM rapid assessment in all 16 RWANU sub-counties to guide the development of planned interventions
- Establish sites for FMNR
- Form CAGs and the Community Disaster Management Groups (CDMGs) jointly with the Conflict Mitigation Officer
- Train technical staff, FEWs, and lead farmers on NRM/DRR and develop disaster management plans and strategies

#### **4.0 Monitoring and Evaluation**

RWANU revised its year 1 targets in response to delayed implementation of activities due to delayed baseline completion and a subsequent extended period of program start up.

The RWANU baseline commenced in Karamoja, implemented by an external M&E contractor, ICF MACRO, on behalf of USAID. RWANU staff contributed to the design of the baseline data collection tools and updated village lists required for sampling. RWANU organized initial contact and information meetings between the ICF Baseline Supervisor and senior District

Officers and elected officials. The RWANU Livelihoods Director attended the first two of the meetings to introduce the ICF Supervisor.

A Deputy M&E Manager and an M&E Officer were recruited. RWANU responded to USAID Food for Peace's initial comments on the Performance Monitoring Plan (PMP), Indicator Performance Tracking Table (IPTT) and results framework. This involved changing some indicators, modifying definitions, and making several clarifications. The revised PMP and IPTT were re-submitted to USAID for review and approval.

The M&E team facilitated internal quarterly review meetings and planning in which both SO teams outlined priorities and generated consensus on the coordination needed for joint implementation.

The M&E team met with SO1 and crosscutting teams to develop data collection tools. The SO2 team rescheduled for April due to startup of the village census. A RFP was developed for a consultant to develop the database system. The selection will occur in April.

RWANU initiated meetings with WFP's team implementing an MCHN program in Karamoja to determine the extent of overlap between the two programs. It was realized that there is potential for a significant level of overlap and duplication so further work to define respective beneficiary populations is planned. A mapping of sites (health facilities) supported by WFP's MCHN program was generated for RWANU to identify areas underserved, however WFP does not have a beneficiary list but rather includes all villages considered to be covered by its targeted health centers. RWANU staff visits to these health centers on the level of coverage therefore reinforcing the necessity to closely coordinate to avoid gaps.

### **Planned activities for the next quarter**

The following activities are planned for the next quarter:

- Work with consultant to complete the RWANU database system and training of staff in its use
- Conduct mid-year progress review and semi-annual planning with SO teams
- Conduct regular monitoring of project activities
- Finalize the RF, PMP and IPTT with USAID
- Finalize all data collection tools with the technical teams
- Develop guidelines for monitoring tools and train all responsible staff in use of the data collection tools
- Participate in the household census under SO2, generate beneficiary groups and assign location codes
- Prepare quarterly, weekly reports and other required reports

- Provide technical assistance to program staff in conflict assessment and disaster risk assessment
- Attend the Food and Nutrition Technical Assistance III Project (FANTA) M&E workshop in Washington, DC

## **5.0 Program management**

**5.1 Short-Term Technical Assistance (STTA):** During this period, a number of STTA assignments were deployed related to supporting program staff in:

- i. Compliance with pesticide handling, pesticide evaluation and application and safe use of approved pesticides
- ii. Conducting the gender assessment and developing a gender strategy
- iii. Completing the Barrier Analysis
- iv. Conducting a market assessment in Southern Karamoja

**5.2 Staff Recruitment:** During the reporting period, the program recruited and filled over 60 positions. Among these, positions in SO2 included the key personnel Health and Nutrition Director (Rose Luz, due to start in April), health manager, and health facilities coordinator. Between February and March, 21 health promoters and three health educators were recruited. The regional commodity distribution coordinator based in Matany (Napak), and the warehouse officer to be based in Tokora, (Nakapiripirit) were recruited. The recruitment of Livestock Officers and Community Mobilizers was finalized. Under SO1, the FaaB/Marketing Officer was recruited and he will start in April. Twenty-five FEWs were hired, and the NRM/DRR Officer and Honey Support Officer started work.

## **6.0 Challenges and Opportunities**

- Program implementation is primarily on track. The major factor for modest delays experienced, i.e., adjusting our schedule to accommodate the baseline, is behind the project, though it will hinder the achievement of some year 1 targets.
- RWANU has recruited an enthusiastic team who are committed to sustainable positive change in Karamoja.
- RWANU has been well received for the most part by local leaders and other development project implementing partners; stakeholder workshops held to share findings solicited positive feedback and encouragement for RWANU strategies.
- The motorbikes issued to FEWs were generally in poor mechanical conditions. They were rolled over from the previous ACDI/VOCA Title II program. This slowed down field activities. Program administration is working on rectifying the problems.

- Lack of local seed and farm input suppliers in Karamoja results in an over-dependency on NGOs. There is need to support the private sector in developing an input supply system.
- Start of the rainy season has potential for disrupting movement to the field to support the FEWs and carry out planned activities.

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