



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

QUARTERLY REPORT

(April – June 2013)

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Acronyms

ACTED	Agency for Technical Cooperation and Development
ANC	Antenatal Care
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
FTG	Farmer Training Group
HC	Health Center
HICAP	Health Institution Capacity Assessment Process
HQ	Headquarters
IEC	Information, Education, and Communication
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
MoU	Memorandum of Understanding
MT	Metric Ton
NAADS	National Agricultural Advisory Services
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
TOT	Training of Trainers
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
WLG	Women Livestock Group

Introduction

This report highlights the implementation progress of the USAID funded Resilience through Wealth, Agriculture and Nutrition in Karamoja (RWANU) Development Food Assistance Program (DFAP) managed by ACDI/VOCA under Cooperative Agreement AID-FFP-A-12-00011 over the period April to June 2013. The report also outlines specific achievements, challenges, recommendations and planned activities for the following quarter – August to October 2013.

From March to mid-April, heavy rainfall resulted in waterlogging and seedling damage in lowland areas, particularly in Namalu and Karita subcounties. The remainder of April was characterized by erratic rains, followed by an early onset to the dry season during the months of May into June that resulted in atypical dry conditions and water stress, and more severely in Napak and Moroto district. Generally the dry spell resulted in shortening of the crop maturation period and reduction in soil water availability compared to the normal seasonal calendar. Crop areas in the region were mostly planted with maize, beans and sorghum, which are at different stages of growth and health, ranging from stressed, near-knee-high crops to stunted, flowering crops, as farmers responded to erratic rainfall with uneven planting. Crops that were planted early had a better chance of maturing than crops planted in or after April.

The USAID team visited south Karamoja to monitor and provide support to the RWANU program from June 17-21, 2013. The team visited farmer demonstration gardens, women's livestock groups (WLG), commodity warehouses in Tokora and Matany (in Nakapiripirit and Napak districts, respectively), a maternal and child health and nutrition (MCHN) outreach post at Nadunget subcounty in Moroto, and witnessed the formation of household care giver groups and identification of Lead Mothers in Namalu subcounty in Nakapiripirit District. USAID also visited the Nabuin Zonal Agricultural Research and Development Institute (NabuZARDI) in Lorengedwat subcounty in Nakapiripirit. During the visit, the team paid courtesy calls to the leadership of all four RWANU districts. The monitoring visit culminated with a debrief from RWANU staff and observations and recommendations by the USAID team at RWANU's office in Moroto.

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

Farmer enrollment: Working with community leaders, the field extension workers successfully identified able and willing individuals that were enrolled into farmer training groups (FTG). A total of 4,073 farmers were registered into FTGs and signed memorandums of understanding that explained the relationship between and the expectations of the group members and the project, including distribution of seeds and establishment and care of the demonstration plots. Each farmer identified a suitable piece of land for their household garden.

Demonstration plot establishment: A total of 163 demonstration plots were established across the 16 RWANU sub-counties. The demonstration plots are a focal site for introducing improved agronomic practices and locally adapted varieties of principal field crops. Each RWANU Field

Extension Worker (FEW) formed 6 to 7 FTGs, with each composed of about 25 farmers. In turn, each FTG member sited and opened his/her own garden where they practice the agronomic practices learned. The FEWs were trained on farmer group dynamics, garden preparation and planting, and crop management. Each FEW helped their farmers establish group-managed demonstration plots and individual household gardens of about half an acre in size. The demonstration gardens were planted with selected varieties of beans, maize, ground nuts and sorghum.

Seed procurement and distribution: RWANU provided in-kind grants of seeds as starter kits to 3,786 individual farmers to kick start increased production and improve the chances of a successful cropping season. The seeds were of selected improved varieties recommended by the Nabuin Zonal Agricultural Research and Development Institute (NabuZARDI) for the Karamoja region, and were characterized by high-yielding potential and disease tolerance. Seeds were also provided as training support for the demonstration plots. The seeds were procured in bulk from Victoria Seeds Limited, a Ugandan firm that supplies certified seeds. The table below summarizes the crop varieties and quantities that were received at RWANU's Matany warehouse for distribution. Following the distribution of seeds, staff conducted the monitoring.

Crop	Variety	Quantity (kilograms)
Beans	Nabe4	20,780
Sorghum	Seso3B	6,255
Groundnuts	Serenut6T	105
Maize	Longe5	1,600
Maize	Longe7H	2,600
Maize	MM3	1,210

During the first rains, flooding affected the farmer fields and demonstration plots in the subcounty of Karita in Amudat district. Three demonstration plots for beans and maize were affected by the floods, as were the individual plots owned by the group members (75 farmers total). RWANU purchased additional sorghum (seso3B, 180kg), beans (Nabe4, 180kg), and maize (MM3, 160kg) to backfill the flooded gardens. Seeds were also procured for three additional FTGs that were registered after the initial registration process.

Seed planting: FEWs facilitated land preparation for the demonstration plots and farmers' gardens prior to planting. On average the demonstration gardens planted with improved seed varieties measured about 0.5 acres of land. In total 82 acres were opened and planted with improved seed varieties. Farmers were trained in new farming practices for planting including hydro priming seeds, row planting, contour alignment, spacing, and inter-cropping.

At the time of planting, the rainfall pattern became erratic, with too much rain leading to flooding in Namalu and Karita sub counties. About 350 farmers were affected by the flooding in Namalu and 170 were affected in Karita. The rains were however short lived and a long dry spell started in May and continued through the end of June, causing significant damage to crop growth and survival.

The table below shows subcounties in particular districts where demonstration plots were seriously affected by the dry spell.

S/n	District	Subcounty	Crop	Remarks
1	Napak	Lotome, Lopeei, Iriiri, Lokopo, Ngoleriet	Beans, Maize, Sorghum and Groundnuts	100% affected
2	Nakapiripirit	Lorengedwat, Loregae, Lolachat & Nabilatuk	Beans, Maize, Sorghum	About 60%
3	Moroto	Nadunget	Beans, Maize, Sorghum	Four of six demos were destroyed
4	Amudat	Karita	Beans, Maize, Sorghum	Four demos out of six were destroyed. Three demos were destroyed by floods and one was affected by the dry spell.

NB: Verification of the data above is ongoing

Beans were observed as the crops most affected by the dry spell, followed by maize and groundnuts, and lastly sorghum.

FEWs introduced the following farming practices to farmers in hands-on training sessions:

Field preparation: Farmer groups were trained on different aspects of proper field preparation such as bush clearing, contour alignment, plant residue retention, first plowing, second plowing, and environmental factors that influence the choice of land preparation method.

Planting: Farmer groups that were registered in April were trained on crop planting practices such as row alignment, gap filling, crop spacing, intercropping and sole cropping and seasonal crop sequencing.



RWANU farmer in Matany demonstrates simple but effective technique for measuring seed spacing

Crop field management: Farmers were taught crop management practices including thinning, timely and proper weeding, integrated pest management (since the threshold level of the pests had gone above that of the natural enemies due to the dry spell), and soil fertility management.



Demonstration plots with sprouts of sorghum in Lopoko



On this demonstration plot in Matany, bean seeds sprouted before being seriously affected by the dry spell

Capacity needs assessment: RWANU carried out a capacity needs assessment of subcounty agricultural extension staff in Nakapiripirit and Amudat to identify agricultural skill gaps and training needs. RWANU is using the findings of the assessment to formulate a capacity development program targeting National Agricultural Advisory Services (NAADS) and subcounty government extension workers. A report from this assessment will be completed in the next quarter.

Planned activities for the next quarter

- Pilot conservation farming in six subcounties (three of Napak and three of Nakapiripirit) employing lessons learned through the past MYAP and from the CLUSA International intervention
- Exchange with the CLUSA International conservation agriculture project.
- Organize training of trainer (TOT) for the FEWs on conservation agriculture using the ongoing experience in Lira district. RWANU will take advantage of established conservation agriculture.
- Complete the capacity needs assessment of the NAADS and district extension staff in Napak and Moroto.
- Begin training of NAADS and district extension staff on agronomic practices and post-harvest handling
- Work closely with NabuZARDI in the procurement of foundation seed and start planting on research station.
- Work with NabuZARDI to select farmer groups in target subcounties to host on-farm trials.
- Follow up with FEWs to assess delivery of trainings and uptake of training messages by farmers.
- Organize a study visit for key staff and District Production Officers to the National Agriculture and trade show in Jinja.
- Orient and put in place new extension supervisory staff and rigorous formative supervision.

Collaboration with NabuZARDI: RWANU will work with NabuZARDI to identify improved drought- and pest-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 conducted an initial crop zone survey under a purchase order contract and submitted a report to RWANU for review. In addition, NabuZARDI was awarded a six-month Fixed Obligation Grant, signed on June 22, 2013, to carry out on-station and on-farm varietal trial evaluations and foundation seed multiplication. The signing ceremony was attended by David Mutazindwa and Lawrence Oroma of USAID. The USAID team promised to facilitate NabuZARDI with a vehicle to support its work with RWANU. They also recommended fencing of the Nabuin station perimeter in Lorengedwat. The station currently lies on 526 hectares (1,300 acres) of un-fenced land, leaving the fields vulnerable to theft and animal destruction.

Based on regional experience and previous research, NabuZARDI recommended four crop varieties for foundation seed multiplication. RWANU will procure the following quantities of foundation seed to be multiplied on-station:

Foundation seed Variety	Quantity (kg)	Germination %	Acreage
Maize variety MM3	25	90%<	0.809 hectares (2 acres)
Sorghum variety SESO 3B	10	85%<	0.405 hectares (1 acre)
G.Nut variety Serenut 2	80	90%<	1.01 hectares (2.5 acres)
G.Nut variety Serenut 4	80	90%<	1.01 hectares (2.5 acres)

Planned activities for the next quarter

- Finalize procurement of foundation seed for multiplication at Nabuin station
- Finalize branding strategy for NabuZARDI
- Select six farmer groups to participate in NabuZARDI on-farm trial evaluations

IR 1.2: Improved smallholder livestock management practices

Selection and training of women's livestock groups: During the last quarter, RWANU staff coordinated with Samaritan's Purse to carry out a census simultaneously in Napak and Nakapiripirit districts. Using census data for parishes in Napak and Nakapiripirit (Narengemoru and Kautakou in Napak and Loasam, Kaiku, Kokuwam, Sakale, Nakuri and Moruita in Nakapiripirit), RWANU pre-selected eligible women for participation in 19 livestock groups. Of the 19 groups, 13 have received trainings in group dynamics, organization, and goat management. Trainings were open to husbands of group members and local government leadership. In total, 257 participants (151 women and 106 men) attended. Prior to distribution of goats, RWANU held meetings with the community leadership of the selected villages and signed MoUs with the community leadership defining their roles in the goat restocking activities.



RWANU livestock staff engage community leaders in signing an MoU as a demonstration of commitment and shared responsibility to monitor women livestock groups in their parishes

Goat distribution to WLGs: Six suppliers were each engaged to deliver 100 local female goats. The project procured male goats of 50% Toggenburg/50% local breed were procured for cross-breeding with the local variety. A total of 180 goats were delivered and distributed to 7 of the 13 groups that were trained. The intent is for each group to receive a total of 50 female goats and one male breeder each (in the first year of the group's existence only 30 of the 50 goats will be provided as an intermediary measure while groups master management practices). As distribution rolled out in Napak, the first four groups received 30 females and one male each. Because the suppliers of female goats were slow in providing goats the number for the remaining groups was reduced to 20. Thus the three groups in Nakapiripirit each received 20 female goats and one male. All groups will receive the full complement of goats when deliveries of the remaining 420 goats are received in the next quarter.

Each WLG is linked to the Community Animal Health Workers (CAHWs) who will be conducting health monitoring.

Strengthening of CAHW's Service Provision: CAHWs provide crucial services in communities including vaccination, animal disease diagnosis, treatment, and surveillance but their effectiveness is constrained by their weak capacity. RWANU conducted a training needs assessment for the CAHWs' association of Lolachat subcounty and the District Veterinary Officer for Nakapiripirit District.

A mapping exercise for CAHWs in Napak highlighted technical gaps and opportunities for improvement. RWANU will collaborate with the District Veterinary Office to organize a stakeholders' planning meeting to convey to communities how RWANU can provide support in this field.

Planned activities for the next quarter

- Organize training for CAHWs in Napak District in Ngoleriet subcounty in collaboration with the District Veterinary Office and other development agencies.
- Carry out training needs assessment for additional CAHWs' associations in Nakapiripirit.
- Monitor the established women livestock groups in order to ascertain progress and particular livestock management training needs.
- Establish, train, and distribute animals to new WLGs; provide training to groups.
- Publish tenders for supply of an additional 900 local female goats, and 50 bucks of 50% Toggenburg breed for cross-breeding program.
- Procure veterinary pharmaceuticals in line with USAID regulations.
- Organize training of identified pastoral field school facilitators/CAHWs in Agro Pastoral Field School (APFS) modules to support the established WLGs.

IR 1.3: Increased linkages to markets

The IR 1.3 team took the lead to begin preparation of training materials for all IRs suitable for low literacy adults. In this regard, RWANU held meetings to learn from experiences of other implementing partners in Karamoja (e.g. Save the Children, Vision Care and ZOA International) who support functional adult literacy training. RWANU is working to contract a firm for the development of these training materials. RWANU conducted pre-testing of training materials for Farming as a Business (FaaB), savings, agronomy, gender, natural resource management (NRM) and conflict mitigation.

RWANU conducted a FEWs training needs assessment to evaluate technical gaps in knowledge in IR 1.3 technical areas. Based upon the results from the assessment, RWANU trained 25 FEWs in FaaB and marketing.

Honey sector: RWANU completed the first draft of its honey training manual during the quarter.

Ten apiary groups of 20 members each were formed; two in Amudat district (in Karita subcounty) and four in Nakapiripirit District (two in Namalu, one in Kakomongole, and one in Morita subcounty) and four groups in Napak (two in Iriiri, one in Lotome, and one in Lopei subcounty). A total of 80 apiary farmers including 40 in Amudat (22 males and 18 females) and 40 in Nakapiripirit (26 males and 14 females) have been trained on introductory beekeeping. The topics of the training included honey bee biology and behavior, advantages of beekeeping, pollination, bee system, beekeeping equipment, apiary management, site selection, the floral calendar of bee keeping, as well as participatory gender awareness. The remaining apiary farmers will be trained in the following quarter. Below is the number of bee farmers who were trained in introductory beekeeping in this quarter.

S/N	Location	Male	Female
1	Moruita	14	06
2	Namalu Kaiku	14	06
3	Lomodokoupal	12	08
4	Karita Arupe	10	10
5	Okilime	13	07
6	Kakomongole	13	07

	Total	76	44
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The table shows that there are a greater percentage of registered and trained men (63%) than that of women (37%). In Karamoja, female farmers have not traditionally been involved in beekeeping as it is believed that apiculture is a role played by only males. There is however, hope that as the years go on with the implementation of RWANU program, more women will be involved in apiculture activities within the region.

Using best value determination criteria, Golden Bees Ltd was selected to supply honey starter kits to 200 RWANU honey producers. The distribution of honey starter kits will begin in July.

RWANU held meetings with honey private sector players including Bee Natural Uganda, Golden Bees Limited and The Uganda National Apiculture Development Organization (TUNADO) to explore opportunities for marketing honey. Bee Natural Uganda agreed to visit RWANU implementation areas in the final quarter of FY13 to explore opportunities for collaboration. They expressed willingness to support the training of RWANU beneficiaries and subsequently buy the honey produced by RWANU farmers.



RWANU Honey Officer demonstrates how to use bee equipment

Planned activities for the next quarter

- TOT for FEWs on post-harvest handling (PHH) activities including timely harvest, proper on-farm drying, shelling/threshing, and cleaning/sorting and storage to be carried out in August.
- Train farmers on PHH topics mentioned above.
- Procure and distribute PHH materials and equipment to farmers.
- Prepare analysis of honey market and devise appropriate strategies to respond to current conditions (analyze honey supply and margins for producers, bulkers, and intermediaries, and project total output for RWANU zone).
- Monitor crop surplus of farmer beneficiaries; analyze and advise farmers on marketing options.

- Monitor FaaB, savings and credit, honey and marketing activities and provide support at the household and farmer group levels.
- Assess the training needs of government extension staff (NAADS) and subsequently train them in FaaB, savings and credit, agronomy and all RWANU cross-cutting technical areas.
- Distribute honey starter kits and train honey producer groups in honey bee biology and behavior, advantages of bee keeping, pollination, bee system, bee keeping equipment, apiary management, site selection, as well as floral calendar of beekeeping.
- Assess beekeeping areas and potential beneficiaries for FY14 beekeeping activities.
- Facilitate meetings between honey private sector players and RWANU honey producers for marketing their products.

IR 1.4: Access to credit increased

The Association Development/Savings and Credit Officer provided support to FEWs as they formed Savings and Credit groups in seven sub-counties: Karita, Moruita, Kakomongole, Namalu, Ngoleriet, Iriiri and Nadunget. In total, 73 groups were formed with 1,917 beneficiaries (868 male and 1,049 female).



RWANU Savings and Credit Officer meets with farmers during group formation

In March, RWANU held meetings with the Karamoja Private Sector Promotion Centre, the Microfinance Support Centre and the Nakapiripirit District Commercial Officer to ascertain whether they could provide savings and credit kits at no cost to RWANU FTGs and WLGs (including passbooks, savings boxes, and ledgers). Currently, they do not have resources to provide these kits. Consequently, RWANU procured 184 savings and credit kits from Kampala vendors for FTGs and WLGs.

Savings and Credit TOT training: The Savings and Credit training was conducted for all the RWANU FEWs in May. The primary purpose of this training was to strengthen the capacity of and equip RWANU FEWs with the skills necessary for the registration, mobilization and training of beekeepers, FTGs and WLGs on savings and credit.

The training covered topics around best practices of group dynamics (group governance and group constitution-making, etc.), record keeping, savings mobilization skills, and how to promote a savings culture in the community.

Planned activities for the next quarter

- Distribute savings and credit group starter kits.
- Train the FEWs on the use of savings and credit kits.
- Provide supervision and monitoring of groups.

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

IR 2.1: Improved health and nutrition practices at household level

Develop Social and Behavior Change Strategic and Action Plan through formative research

Barrier Analysis: The barrier analysis took place in January and addressed 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. Following the barrier analysis the team developed the Social and Behavior Change - Strategy and Action Plan (SBC-SAP). A behavior/activity matrix has been finalized to map out all the behaviors planned over the five years of the project, and which behaviors will be targeted by which activities, such as Mother Care Groups (MCGs) or working with male change agents or religious leaders.

Cost of a Healthy Diet: The SBC-SAP will be further supplemented by two additional studies. The first is the research on the Cost of Healthy Diet. The research took place in May and June. The Cost of Healthy Diet assessment is used to develop a more in-depth understanding of the estimated (monetary) amount and combination of local foods that are required for the provision of an adequately nutritious diet in a selected livelihood zone of Karamoja. It will inform the adaptation of existing livelihoods/nutrition interventions and strategies and provides data for policy and advocacy strategies. The report is currently being drafted and will be finalized early in the next quarter.

Trials for Improved Practices: The second research activity is the Trials for Improved Practices (TIPS). This research started in June. The basic process started with an initial home visit to gather background information and interview the caregiver about the diet of her young child; a second visit was held



RWANU health & nutrition team training on Mother Care Group Formation

with the caregiver to present several options for improving her child's feeding, to record her reactions to the options, and to negotiate with her to choose one or more options that she is willing to try during the following week. A follow-up visit to see how the caregiver has progressed and address challenges found will be conducted. The consultant will return in late July to complete the evaluation phase, and then adapt and update the SBC-SAP and activity matrix based on the results.

Establish Mother Care Groups

Develop/adapt print materials for module 1: The SBC-SAP and behavior matrix informed the development of the first module of the Infant and Young Child Feeding (IYCF) counseling cards to be used by Lead Mothers in the Mother Care Groups. The procurement of 1,900 sets of IYCF -Module 1 counseling cards are in progress, pending technical and branding approval. The cards use real photographs to illustrate positive behaviors. This decision followed a pilot test which was conducted to look at the feasibility of using photographs instead of drawings for Mother Care Group 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. Photographs were selected, edited and draft counseling cards were designed, and 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 developed in March, and is in technical review. The final draft will be circulated in July for finalization.

The RWANU Mother Care Group Training Guide has been completed and describes the Mother Care Group methodology. It informs Health Promoters how Household Care Giver groups are formed and the criteria for selecting Lead Mothers as well as the process for mobilizing the community.

Recruit and train Health Promoters: RWANU has recruited and trained 27 Health Promoters (five men and 22 women). RWANU senior staff trained new Health Promoters on the Mother Care methodology using the RWANU Mother Care Group Training Guide mentioned above. This training described the MCG methodology, the process for selected Lead Mothers, the characteristics necessary to be a Lead Mothers and factoring the time consideration in being a Lead Mother.

Sensitizing community leaders: RWANU has sensitized community leaders on the project at the clan, village council levels and subcounty levels in the areas where Mother Care Groups are currently being formed; Nabilatuk and Namalu. All sub counties in Nakapiripirit, Amudat and Napak were also sensitized on the census process prior to data collection commencing.

Conduct census/community mapping and identify and register PLW into care groups: The three consortium partners agreed that a census would be needed to document all the households in the area of implementation. This documentation would form the foundation of the project database, ensure the project has accurate population data and ultimately help to form the household caregiver groups. The census also allowed for the collection of additional information that will be used by the livelihoods and livestock teams to target activities.

Following the incorporation of all of the data needs of all the partners, the census questionnaire was digitized. The Health and Nutrition Director and Senior Nutritionist trained Health Promoters and other field staff on the digital data gathering process and the census data collection process began in April. By the end of the current reporting period the census had been completed in Nakapiripirit, except for five villages in Loregai subcounty and partly in Amudat. The omission of the five villages became apparent during the verification process and following complaints from the village leaders. It is expected that the census will have to be continually updated as villages move.

In Napak RWANU will collect census data in two sub counties (Iriiri and Lorengachura). Samaritan's Purse (SP), which is currently running a DFID funded maternal child health project in the district, has committed to completing the census in three sub counties (Lopei, Ngoleriet and Lotome) by the end of July. After finishing the three sub counties in July, SP will evaluate its programming priorities to determine if they are able to undertake the census in the two remaining sub counties (Lokopei and Matany). RWANU will finalize the census in the event that SP is unable to undertake the activity in the remaining sub counties. Currently RWANU has partial data from SP and is cleaning, reconciling, verifying and consolidating the census data collected by SP. RWANU expects to be finished with the census in Napak by September.

Men as Change Agents: Originally the plan was to identify potential men to act as change agents in May and then begin training in June and July. This activity has been delayed principally because the census took longer than expected: it is necessary to form care groups and select Lead Mothers first. It is expected that all male change agents will be selected and trained in Nakapiripirit by September, and then the selection and training process will move to Karita subcounty in Amudat and then into Napak as the care groups are formed and Lead Mothers selected.

Promote health and nutrition messages through media

Develop Information, Education, and Communication (IEC) materials: The development and procurement of IEC materials is on track. Currently, RWANU is finalizing the procurement of 4,100 t-shirts for Lead Mothers and Health Promoters. The IYCF, antenatal care (ANC), vitamin A and immunization counseling cards (1,100 X 11 cards= one set) for Lead Mothers were prepared, edited, submitted and commented on by Concern's Head Office Nutritionist; and will later be translated into ngKaramojong and Pokot. The project planned to identify a number of drama groups to work with and support with the development of community dramas providing messages identified in the SBC-SAP. This activity has not yet started and has been re-scheduled to the last quarter 2013; training will be ongoing.

Develop radio show: This activity has not yet started and is scheduled to begin in November 2013.

Improve waste management

Determine barriers to latrine use: In March, a doer/non-doer survey on latrine usage was carried out to assess barriers to using latrines. The survey was carried out in the four districts of Napak, Moroto, Nakapiripirit, and Amudat in places where existing latrines had been constructed

previously by IRC with UNICEF funding. The results of that survey have informed the updates to the SBC-SAP. Findings from the final report were incorporated into the draft MCG curriculum and counseling cards. The report will be referred to going forward with the sanitation support roll out.

Discuss with UNICEF priority areas of intervention: RWANU has shared the Barrier Analysis report with USAID and held a general dissemination meeting to share the report findings with other stakeholders in Karamoja. The program has identified the villages that have been declared as Open Defecation Free as well as identified areas where UNICEF has supported latrine construction. This will enable the program to identify priority areas for supporting increasing use of latrines and decreasing open defecation.

Encourage adults to use a designated defecation zone: The Trials of Improve Practices (TIPs) study is undertaking further research on using dig and bury in a designated area. Selected households have been introduced to the process and counseled to do so. The TIPs enumerators will return in late July to evaluate progress. The TIPs process is very important in helping RWANU build on the barrier analysis on latrine usage particularly given the cultural concerns Karamojong have in using a latrine. Health Educators will work with communities to designate defecation places and encourage the use of dig and bury.

Handwashing with soap

Demonstrate how to use tippy taps: Supporting increased hand washing with soap and the use of tippy taps or other means of delivering water will be incorporated in the Module 3: WASH Mother Care Group curriculum. Additionally, the TIPs study is looking at the installation and use of tippy taps. RWANU is also currently procuring jerry cans to distribute to Lead Mothers, and in year two the project will procure 5 liter jerry cans for the installation of tippy taps.

Provide conditional food rations to PLW and children under 2 years old

- During the quarter, RWANU developed food commodity distribution guidelines, mapped beneficiary communities and established a list of eligible households in areas where the census has been completed.
- RWANU has gathered demographic data on an estimated 100,000 persons in 21,000 households in the community census that was completed in Nakapirpirit district from the seven sub-counties of Namalu, Loregae, Nabilatuk, Lolachat, Lorengdwat, Kakamongole and Moruita. Karita subcounty community census also commenced in early June 2013. The exact number of PLW and 6-11 months beneficiaries for conditional food rations is still being finalized.

Link project activities with UNAP

Participate in national and regional meetings/ Uganda Civil Society Coalition for Scaling Up Nutrition (UCCOSUN): RWANU staff participated in the following meetings during the reporting period:

- Uganda Action for Nutrition (UGAN): A meeting was held on April 11th in Kampala to finalize the strategic planning process. The meeting came to a consensus on the strategic

direction of UGAN, as developed by the board, and discussed the implications of the UGAN situation analysis. Critical issues and levers for the strategy period were covered and strategic objectives, indicators and milestones agreed upon. On May 30th the steering committee of UCCOSUN, of which Concern is a member, met to discuss UCCOSUN input to the Global Day of Action (June 7th) and the week of activities planned around the Global Day to highlight issues of malnutrition in Uganda. Uganda Global SUN Weeklong activities, UCCOSUN (June 4-7, 2013). The Uganda Civil Society Coalition on Scaling UP Nutrition (UCCO-SUN) with the leadership of the focal point organization (World Vision) and the interim coordinating organization (UGAN) joined other SUN platforms in a weeklong of activities to highlight the problem of malnutrition in Uganda and the need for government and world leaders to ambitiously tackle the problem.

Planned activities for the next quarter

- Update SBC-SAP with the results of Cost of Diet and TIPs research (August)
- Train HPs on adult education principals (August)
- Train HPs on Module 1: IYCF in Nakapiripirit and Amudat Districts (July-September)
- MCGs trained by HPs on Module 1: IYCF (August-November)
- Third phase of the Trials on Improved practices (TIPS) and stakeholders' sharing of findings (August)
- Sharing the Cost of Diet (COD) and Doer-Non-doer Latrine Usage results (August)
- Prepare for development of Module 2: Maternal Health and Nutrition counseling cards and curriculum (September)
- Strategy for mass media finalized (August)
- Form and train drama groups (September)
- Identify potential male change agents (August-September)
- Work with religious leader to develop sermon topics in coordination with SBC-SAP (September)
- Equitable access to health care qualitative research (August)
- Recruit Health Promoters and Health Educators for Moroto, Napak and additional ones for Nakapiripirit District (August)
- Develop local recipes from the findings of the TIPs and the COD research (September)
- Initiate the census in Moroto and completion of Napak census (September)
- Begin distribution of PLW and child rations with lean season protective in Nabilatuk subcounty of Nakapiripirit (August)

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

Health Center Assessment: RWANU conducted a gap assessment in material, logistic and staff capacity at the project target health centers in the previous quarter and reporting period. The preliminary results has been summarized in a power point presentation during the current reporting period and shared with the USAID mission. RWANU also proposed to increase the number of health centers supported by the project from 15 to 25 based on consultative meetings principally with the District Health Offices. The increase in the proposed number of the health facilities to the current selection is justified for the following reasons:

- During consultative meetings with the DHOs, some specific health facilities that had previously not had MCH services were now earmarked for provision of the maternal and child health services. For example in Napak district, the Iriiri health facility is planned for an upgrade to a HCIV. Apeitolim, Ngoleriet and Nabwal HC IIs were planned to get upgraded to health facility level three.
- Four HC IIs in Napak district (Morulinga, Apeitolim, Nabwali and Ngoleriet) that had just established maternity health services and had structurally completed maternity units required extra materials as well as equipment support. In addition, technical start up support was necessary.
- Distances travelled to the next available health facility for maternal health services was greater than the recommended 5km radius. For example Lemsui in Nakapiripirit, is about 60km away from the next level referral center, Apeitolim subcounty Lokopo in Napak is more than 4km away and in Cheptapoyo in Amudat district, the next level health facility is more than 30km (its reference point is Karita).
- Some additional health facilities exist as the lone health facility providing maternal and child health services in the subcounty; with a wide gap between the next available facility. A case in point is Lopei in Napak and Lorengdwat in Nakapiripirit district.

For these reasons RWANU will support the following health facilities:

Nakapiripirit	Amaler HCIII, Namalu HCIII, Tokora HCIV, Nabulenger HCIII, Lolachat HCIII, Natirae HCII, Nabilatuk HCIV, Nayonai-angakalio HCII, Lorengdwat HCIII, Karinga HCII, Lemsui HCII
Napak	Iriiri HCIII, Ngoleriet HCII, Nabwal HCII, Lorengechora HCIII, Lotome HCIII, Morulinga HCII, Matany Hospital – ITC, Lopei HCIII, Lokopo HCIII, Apeitolim HCII,
Amudat	Cheptapoyo HCII, KaritaHCIII
Moroto	Nadunget HCIII, Loputuk HCIII

HICAP and Community Score Card: RWANU staff is developing a contextually relevant Health Institution Capacity Assessment Process (HICAP) by adapting tools from Concern HICAP processes in Malawi and Bangladesh. RWANU staff is also coordinating closely with other organizations supporting health services in Karamoja, particularly CUAMM, who have undertaken health service assessments in previous years. RWANU has also met with Uganda National Health Consumers Organization (UNHCO) to adapt the proposed Community Score Card (CSC) process in line with its systems. UNHCO is Uganda’s leading health consumers’ rights organization and RWANU needs to ensure the process and the data collected can be submitted to UNCHO and aggregated to form part of its national data. The actual process for undertaking the HICAP/CSC has been postponed following the publication of the nutritional surveillance undertaken in May. The results showed extremely high severe acute malnutrition and global acute malnutrition rates in all of the target area exceeding emergency thresholds. The short term response to this situation will require clinical staff to be at their posts rather than undergoing the HICAP training and assessment process.

Collaborate with MoH to improve services

Procure non-reoccurring health supplies: Following the health center gap assessment, a list of non-recurring health supplies was prepared and shared with other stakeholders in the target project area as well as the Ministry of Health at the national level. The list of proposed equipment was discussed with each District Health Officer and approved and then submitted for national approval. The procurement has been finalized and RWANU is awaiting delivery by the end of July. Distribution to health facilities is planned to begin mid-August.

Provide training on MCHN based on the HICAP: This has not started yet as the HICAP process is delayed as a result of the current nutritional emergency in southern Karamoja.

Village Health Team (VHT) Maternal Nutrition Training: VHT maternal nutrition training for Nakapiripirit and Amudat districts began in February 2013 with a Training-of-Trainers for Health Assistants, followed by the start of training of VHTs with two sub-counties covered each day and supported by the Health Facilities Coordinator and two Nutritionists. In total over the course of the VHT Maternal Nutrition Training from February 27 –March 13, 331 VHTs were trained (171 men and 160 women).

The VHT Maternal Nutrition Training job aid cards and curriculum were developed in February-March 2013. Job aid cards and the Facilitator’s Guide were developed and finalized in consultation with the District Health Teams and Health Assistants of Nakapiripirit and Amudat Districts, and had input from Concern US and ACDI/VOCA technical advisors. Maternal nutrition training materials were based on the Government of Uganda Ministry of Health Maternal Nutrition Guideline (First Edition 2010), IMAM Guideline 2009, VHT Participant Manual 2010 and National Nutrition Package for VHTs 2011.

Training to Health Assistants: RWANU has not completed the training for Health Assistants and VHTs in Moroto and Napak. This is in line with the phasing of the project activities into Napak and Moroto. This is planned for year 2, and most likely November 2013 (Q2 in year 2).

Support to Outreach Services: Starting May 2013, RWANU began supporting community outreach services by providing fuel for the outreach vehicle, and providing payment of per diems to MOH staff conducting the outreach and supervision. This will be conducted on a monthly basis. Several harmonization/coordination meetings with the offices of the District Health Officers of Moroto, Napak, Amudat and Nakapiripirit and Doctors with Africa- CUAMM were also held. As a result of these meetings, it was mutually agreed with the DHOs and CUAMM that RWANU supports outreach services in Matany, Ngoleriet, Lotome, Lokopo and Lopei in Napak and Namalu; Loregae, Moruita, Kakamongole, Lolachat, Nabilatuk and Lorengdwat in Nakapiripirit; and Nadunget in Moroto and Karita in Amudat. RWANU supports outreach services focusing on remote areas; beyond the 8 km radius of a health center. The outreach is conducted by existing health facility staff comprising of a team of five clinical staff (clinical officer, midwife, 2 nurses and laboratory staff) and two Village Health Team members for mobilization. Weekly supervision is done by the RWANU Health Facility Coordinators for the Village Health Teams that support outreach posts. Services offered through outreaches include provision of comprehensive ANC services including prevention of mother-to-child transmission, post natal services, immunization services, Vitamin A supplementation and deworming, nutritional screening by measuring Mid-Upper Arm Circumference (MUAC), growth monitoring, and health education services. During this reporting period, RWANU supported the

two health facilities of Nadunget and Loputuk in Nadunget subcounty, Moroto district and conducted two rounds of outreach services to the communities at all targeted 15 duty posts (eight supported by Nadunget health facility and seven from Loputuk health center). A total of 479 pregnant mothers were seen for ANC services, 251 attended post natal services, and 313 and 193 children under one received measles and DPT3, vaccines respectively, 1,785 children under-one received vitamin A supplementation, 2,160 received deworming tablets and 675 children were screened for malnutrition using MUAC tape (468 classified as not malnourished, 176 under yellow zone as moderately malnourished and 31 children as severely malnourished and hence referred either to supplementary or therapeutic feeding programs).

Screening and referral: The project supports nutritional screening through Health Assistants and Lead Mothers in order to ensure malnourished children are in a treatment program. RWANU is very keen that Lead Mothers and Health Promoters do not duplicate or undermine the role of VHTs in nutritional screening. The plan is to complement the work of the VHT particularly as some manyattas are very remote. Health Promoters have been trained on how to undertake MUAC screening and they will impart this skill to Lead Mothers as they are recruited/selected. If Lead Mothers assess a child to be malnourished, they will refer them to the VHT to be assessed and they will refer them to a health center if needed. Health Promoters will provide continuous supervision and support to Lead Mothers to ensure they are using the MUAC tapes and undertaking the screening correctly. This plan is being discussed and coordinated with CUAMM and the District Health Teams.

RWANU with other partners is part of an immediate short term response to high levels of food insecurity, incorporating active case finding and referral and support to health centers to manage higher caseloads.

Growth Monitoring Pilot: In order to prepare for the growth monitoring pilot, an assessment of the current state of growth monitoring was undertaken at several health facilities, including discussions with health facility staff who are currently weighing children on a regular basis. 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 Child Health Cards. The National Growth Monitoring Curriculum and growth monitoring tools were collected. RWANU has also met with WFP to coordinate growth monitoring training as WFP is also supporting MCHN services at health facilities.

Planned activities for next quarter

- Continue with support to MoH maternal and child health and nutrition outreaches in Moroto, Napak, Nakapiripirit and Amudat districts.
- Start up the implementation of HICAP and CSC system in Nakapiripirit and scale up to Amudat, Nakapiripirit and Moroto districts.
- Distribute the procured health facility equipment to Moroto, Napak, Nakapiripirit and Amudat districts.
- Support growth monitoring activities at selected health facilities and through outreach.
- Support joint support supervision to health facilities for MCHN services
- Collaborate with VHTs on screening and referral of malnourished children; monitor admissions trend of Acute Malnutrition program at outpatient therapeutic care and inpatient therapeutic care providers.

Cross-cutting activities

Gender

Gender awareness trainings: During the quarter, gender awareness training was conducted for 32 WLG members with their spouses (26) in Narengemoru parish in Napak district. The purpose of this training was to raise awareness on the importance of joint, informed decision making between men and women in a household regarding productive assets, food security, and nutrition. This training was timely as the WLGs of Narangemoru parish were preparing for goat distribution.

Participatory gender awareness training was conducted for the RWANU commodity team. The main purpose for this was to create a common understanding on the importance of joint informed-decision making between men and women regarding choice of food distribution point/sites and the time of distribution. The training was also meant to help address key gender dilemmas in food distribution. The training emphasized the inclusion of men and women in the ration management committees and the value of the roles of both men and women when designing food management strategies.

In collaboration with the district local government, the Gender Officer actively participated in the development of the Moroto District local government gender-based violence and gender mainstreaming strategy and action plan. RWANU's contribution in the strategy development was seen as very crucial because its approach is very inclusive of both men and women, which is critical in achieving and sustaining communities free of gender-based violence.



RWANU Gender Officer listens as a male participant shares with the group the importance of working together as women and men.

The formation and development of a RWANU Gender Integration Committee has also been completed and the committee is to start their activities.

Planned activities for the next quarter

- Conduct gender training for the new staff including FEWs, Health Promoters, Health educators, commodity officers and support staff.
- Continue reviewing all program areas' training and extension material for gender mainstreaming.
- Conduct quarterly review meetings with the Gender Integration Committee.
- Network with other stakeholders in the districts.
- Continue participatory gender awareness raising for FTG, beekeeping and WLG leaders.

Natural Resources Management and Disaster Risk Reduction

Rapid assessment: A disaster risk reduction/natural resource management (DRR/NRM) rapid assessment was conducted in all the sixteen RWANU subcounties in order to:

- Identify and map out the potential natural risks and disasters that affect the livelihood activities of the communities
- Inventory current practices of response by communities to prevention, mitigation and coping mechanisms to natural hazards and disasters
- Identify the current roles being played and contributions being made by different civil society organizations, projects, local government and INGOs in relation to reducing natural disasters and promotion of natural resource management practices
- Inventory the natural resource base available across communities for disaster management and response for improved livelihoods
- Assess access to early warning information to communities, and assess the ability of communities to interpret and appropriately respond to the early warning information



The DRR/NRM Officer with farmers carrying out the field DRR/NRM assessment in Lolachat Subcounty

The assessment confirmed that the principal risks for communities include prolonged droughts, floods, insecurity, uncontrolled fire outbreaks, food and water scarcity, livestock, crop and human diseases. At the same time communities have resources that can be managed to build community-level resilience to these livelihood shocks. Early warning information dissemination is uneven across communities. The ability of communities to interpret that information, make decisions and plan in relation to that information is limited. There is a rich tapestry of traditional and recent community organizational and decision making bodies. None appear to have a definitive mandate to lead in DRR and NRM decision making and planning. This will be a challenge going forward. There was interest expressed in some villages visited to create a new body that would have as its role community DRR and NRM decision making and planning. There is scope for introduction of community actions groups (CAG) in many circumstances. In others these decision and planning functions as concern DRR and NRM might be spread over more than one traditional and modern organizational structure. RWANU will use the findings of this rapid assessment as well as the learning and experiences of other projects, local government and civil society to adapt its strategy. Feedback during the planned stakeholder workshop will be critical.

The assessment also found evidence that environmental mismanagement and poor natural resource management practices by individuals and communities and the resulting degradation of these resources are contributing to poverty and hunger. Interaction with local leaders,

communities and other implementing agencies yielded recommended areas of intervention including:

- Strengthening community planning and decision-making processes for disaster risk reduction, disaster mitigation and natural resources management. Drawing upon local knowledge and capacities in community-based DRR/NRM strategies, including upholding and using the council of traditional elders to protect the environment and enforce bylaws that conserve the environment.
- Supporting sustainable and appropriate irrigation systems and appropriate simple water harvesting techniques that can be used for watering short maturing crops and vegetables in periods of water scarcity.
- Strengthening early warning information dissemination to both women and men. Provision of timely and effective information through identified institutions and community structures and groups including local leaders, elders, churches, and radios.
- Supporting and encouraging sustainable Integrated Pest Management (IPM) techniques in controlling crop pests and diseases with emphasis on culturally-acceptable methods that include crop rotation, proper spacing, timely planting, hand-picking of insects, and good seeds. These methods of pest and disease management are more sustainable and relatively less expensive compared to use of inorganic pesticides.

RWANU held meetings with the Agency for Technical Cooperation and Development (ACTED) to initiate collaboration disseminating early warning information in RWANU target districts. RWANU reached an agreement with ACTED to share the Drought Early Warning System (DEWS) information. ACTED compiles the information and shares it with the stakeholders in their monthly coordination meetings. Initially RWANU will disseminate these reports through its DRR officer and Field Extension Workers to the CAG and other identified community structures. In return through the same channels, feedback and new information from communities through CAGs and project officers will be shared with ACTED.

The DRR Officer attended the Moroto district emergency disaster management committee (DDMC) meeting which brought together all the civil society organizations (CSOs) engaged in food security in the district. The DDMC gave an overview of food insecurity resulting from a prolonged dry spell from the months of April to June 2013. During the meeting, the district requested that all CSOs reach out to the most neglected areas like Tapac and Rupa subcounties in Moroto to promote quick maturing crops and vegetables in the communities and to conduct a quick food security assessment in the region to map out the extremely vulnerable areas in the region to hunger.

Planned activities for the next quarter

- Support 8 interested communities to organize Community Action Groups (CAGs) where no other structure exists that can make decisions and plan for DRR and NRM.
- Conduct DRR/NRM and Farmer Managed Natural Regeneration (FMNR) trainings in all four districts.
- Establish four demonstration sites for FMNR, one in Amudat (Karita), one in Napak, and two in Nakapiripirit.
- Train technical staff, FEWs and lead farmers on DRR/NRM.
- Support communities to launch community disaster management planning in four subcounties namely; Karita, Namalu, Iriiri and Lopeei. These particular four sub counties

have been constantly prone to hazards and disasters such as flash floods, droughts, high environmental degradation and crop pests and diseases.

- Train the DDMC in DRR/NRM and in dissemination of early warning information
- Network with other actors such as ACTED, GIZ and the district early warning focal persons in enhancing current systems for collecting and disseminating the EWS information to the communities

Conflict Mitigation

A conflict mitigation assessment was conducted to understand the history, nature, causes and consequences of conflict, particularly examining the impacts of livestock and changing gender roles. The assessment was also intended to assess the potential of RWANU's livelihood interventions as triggers of conflict. The result of the assessment shall be used to develop an appropriate RWANU conflict mitigation strategy with action plans to guide community staff, CAGs, and stakeholders playing an active role in conflict mitigation.

The assessment was carried out in eight sub counties; three in Napak, three in Nakapiripirit, and one each in Moroto and Amudat districts). Further discussions were held with local government and development partner staff implementing activities related to conflict mitigation within southern Karamoja. The purpose was to understand their approaches, area of coverage, and existing structures at the regional, district, and community levels to share lessons learned and create synergies. The draft conflict mitigation assessment report is in internal circulation with the relevant RWANU experts for review.

The preliminary findings indicate that conflicts in Karamoja are resource-based and major conflicts, like raids, have significantly declined compared to 5-10 years ago. The most common conflict identified during the assessment was related to land. This is in the form of struggle for boundaries, land grabbing, and government claims over the land for game reserves and institutions like prisons. The assessment also showed that most communities in Karamoja have now appreciated the value of land and have embarked on agriculture as the alternative livelihood option to pastoral livestock herding. This implied that most communities formally displaced due to insecurity have come to settle in their ancestral lands, which in most circumstances have since been occupied by others, in turn creating more conflicts.

An agreement was reached to include RWANU in the subcounty, district, and regional coordination mechanisms to share lessons learned, good conflict resolution practices, and review progress and plans for the next quarter. Specifically, International Rescue Committee, under its new funding and in partnership with civil society organizations subgrantees OCHODI (in Napak) and RIAMIRIAM (in Moroto), has committed to work with RWANU to reactivate and make the subcounty and district security committees functional by strengthening their capacities to mitigate conflicts. DDG (Danish Deming Group) also promised to work with RWANU through its "small arms reduction" project in the communities of Moroto, Napak, Nakapiripirit and Amudat.

Planned activities for the next quarter

- Provide training on practical tools in conflict mitigation and give technical direction to the field extension staff in integration of conflict mitigation strategies through mentoring and guidance
- The Conflict Mitigation Officer will work with the 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 capacity-building sessions for field extension staff to support the CAGs.
- Collaborate with other partners implementing conflict mitigation through use of district and subcounty coordination mechanisms.

Challenges Encountered During Program Implementation

- Erratic weather pattern and the prolonged dry spell in the region are posing a threat to farmers. This has led to poor performance of crops in all of South Karamoja
- Dissemination of early warning information to the community has been challenging due to irregularities and delay of the drought early warning bulletins from ACTED. This has made it very difficult for RWANU to constantly disseminate timely and appropriate early warning information to the communities.
- There's need for ACTED and RWANU to further strengthen the early warning information system in the region to ensure timely and appropriate early warning information is disseminated to the communities using the common and the appropriate media and at the right time. This will help in building resilience to hazards and disasters among communities.
- RWANU continues to clean and verify the data collected through its census of the subcounties. There was late arrival of the census data from Napak which delayed progress in the selection and verification of the women goat rearing groups.

Recommendations

- Continuous coordination with ACTED to enhance timely acquisition of EWS information that will help in further programming
- Persistent follow-up of the census data with Samaritan's Purse to speed up the process of data verification and proceed with the formation of WLGs in Napak.
- RWANU to involve the District Production Office and Food and Agriculture Organization to forge ways of addressing the gaps sited with the CAHWs in the Agropastoral Field School approach for sustainability of the program.

Monitoring and Evaluation

RWANU conducted a mid-year progress review followed by adjustments to implementation planning for the period of April to September 2013 to ensure targets are met. The planning process was guided by the contents of the DIP, IPTT, PMP, RF and the RWANU program proposal.

The program intends to strengthen its information management system for monitoring and reporting. A local firm, Data Care Limited, was identified through a competitive procurement process and contracted to develop and deliver a user friendly, secure and cost efficient program database for RWANU. Data collection tools will be integrated into the database, to facilitate direct field based reporting into the database.

Review of the program Performance Monitoring Plan (PMP) and Indicator Performance Tracking Table (IPTT) has been on going and additional monitoring indicators were proposed by FFP and included into the PMP. Members of the M&E team were invited to a FFP and FANTA organized workshop in Washington DC, for training on new and revised indicators.

The M&E team developed monitoring and reporting tools for various program activity components. A comprehensive tools guide is being developed which will serve as a training manual for data collectors. Pilot testing of the tools was conducted with the FEWs particularly for the tools on beneficiary registration, garden preparation, planting and crop management. Feedback from the pilot will help in the review and finalization of the data collection tools.

A full census was completed in Nakapiripirit district in which individual registration at the household level was conducted. The census data was used to identify and select eligible beneficiaries for the program. Beneficiaries identified include household mother care group members, WLG members, and food beneficiaries (pregnant, lactating and children 7 to 11 months).¹ The census data shall be used as a primary data source for the selection and referencing of program beneficiaries. The data collected in the census include but is not limited to individual household details, household members, assets owned, and pregnancy status for women, and economic activities of the household. Mobile devices were used in the data collection and thus real time update of the census database took place.

Data on farmer registration, farmer receipt of seeds, honey producer registration was collected and entered.

Planned activities for the next quarter

The following activities are planned for the next quarter:

- Prepare required reports for USAID.
- Refine the monitoring tools that will be used by SO1 and SO2 team members as they carry out activities within the RWANU program.
- Develop the tool guides and train users so that staff can be guided on how best to collect data and fill out the forms.
- Work with the Data Care consultants to develop a reliable, cost-effective and user-friendly database system that will best suit the RWANU program.
- Digitize the monitoring tools in conjunction with the developed RWANU database.
- Provide technical assistance to program staff in conflict assessment and disaster risk assessment.

¹ Although children will continue to receive rations until they are 24 months old, initial enrollment is limited to children less than one year of age, to ensure they receive the maximum possible benefit from the First 1,000 Days approach.

- Participate in the joint monitoring of field activities in partnership with the district authorities of the four districts in which RWANU is being implemented.
- Conduct post distribution monitoring in collaboration with the commodity and SO2 team.
- Participate in the census in Napak and Moroto district and explore full utilization of data collected during the census process.
- Monitor implementation of the DIP, workplans and progress towards targets for both SO1 and SO2.
- Summarize program performance and disseminate reports to district stakeholders in Amudat, Moroto, Napak and Nakapiripirit districts.
- Recruit Data Entry Clerks, M&E Officer/Agricultural Economist, and Database Administrator.

Program Management

The Deputy Chief of Party (DCOP) and Agricultural Extension Coordinator resigned, leaving vacant two critical posts. Recruitment began for both positions immediately. A new Agriculture Extension Coordinator was brought on board on May 13, 2013. For the DCOP position, ACDI/VOCA launched recruitment for a local national, but did not find suitable candidates in the responses to the adverts. With support from the international recruiting department at Headquarters and a wider search, ACDI/VOCA identified several international candidates as well as potentially qualified Ugandans. Several candidates were interviewed in June, but the results were not conclusive. A second batch of candidates was interviewed after the COP returned from his annual leave (June 15-July 8).

Recruitment began in June for a handful of positions that were planned and budgeted to begin in IY2. These positions include field extension supervisors, an M&E officer/agricultural to handle additional workload created by added mandatory indicators across both SOs, and in particular the gross margin for a unit of land. Likewise a new regional administrative manager based in the Moroto office was brought on board.

RWANU initiated a process of result-based detailed planning by IR group, which will allow timely start of key procurement processes and the deployment of adequate level of effort to meet annual output and results targets.

RWANU participated in the first Karamoja interagency coordination meeting hosted by the OPM in Moroto on May 14th. RWANU presented highlights of SO1 and SO2 activities and accomplishments to update the assembled agencies.

RWANU attended the USAID Feed the Future partner meeting in Jinja from June 4th through 6th. Given the importance of the meeting and opportunity for networking RWANU was represented by the COP, the Livelihoods Director, and the IR.3 team leader. RWANU received useful information about other project experiences and strategies. Several contacts were made which led to agreement for a RWANU exchange visit to the CLUSA Conservation Farming Project scheduled for July.

In June, a building was identified and terms negotiated for the Nakapiripirit sub office. This office will house area supervisors and M&E staff and provide a work station for area FEWs to

prepare reports. It will allow enhanced communication and collaboration with Nakapiripirit and Amudat district governments.

RWANU participated in district government annual budgeting and planning workshops. RWANU presented SO1, SO2 and cross cutting activities and targets together with an investment budget (inputs, equipment, training, commodities, etc.) for each district. These workshops were organized in May. The COP and the SO2 Director attended the Napak and Nakapiripirit workshops and other senior staff attended workshops in Moroto and Amudat.

RWANU held several meetings co-organized by USAID with WFP and the Mercy Corps-led DFAP. During these meetings, agreement was made

- to harmonize beneficiary cards for PLW and child rations;
- on the effective area of WFP coverage and RWANU's zone of intervention; specifically the WFP MCHN program will continue working in the current Health Center (HC) III and IV levels and will not expand into RWANU's targeted HCIIIs that are being re-categorized as HC IIIs;
- to work toward harmonizing ration formulation; and
- to continue to meet regularly to coordinate activities to avoid competition among livelihoods interventions, to avoid duplication of beneficiaries and to harmonize program messages.

At the end of the USAID monitoring visit (June 17-21) a number of observations and recommendation were shared by the USAID team. Below are some highlights:

- A recommendation was made that for program sustainability, substantial involvement of district technical teams is needed.
- FEWs should site demonstration plots in more accessible locations for farmers and community members to learn new farming practices.
- RWANU should consider developing a block farm for each group. This block farm would serve as both joint group garden and demonstration site. The FEWS would provide all their technical assistance on one block farm thus lessening the burden. This presupposes that farmers should mobilize a sizeable chunk of land for a block farm.
- The USAID team felt that the program should consider forming a tag team with government workers at NabuZARDI and NAADS. NabuZARDI has significant experience in farming in Karamoja and in messaging on simple technologies to communities. Similarly the program should team up with community leaders and other stakeholders in the region such as NAADS, Veterinary, District production office, Health program, WFP, UNICEF, Mercy Corps and World Vision. Coordination should go beyond health and distribution of food commodities to include for example livestock activities, credit access and management, and harmonization of measurement.
- The NabuZARDI research site is open to random access from all sides. If the program intends to work with NabuZARDI for field trials, a perimeter fence or similar solution should be built to protect the land against vandalism or theft. NabuZARDI should study the best manner in which to protect the research area and could request funds from RWANU to protect the area.
- The USAID team noted that there is pressure from districts to reach certain areas in Amudat and Moroto. The program must consider utilizing the cost savings from year 1 to expand to neighboring subcounties. The expansion, if considered, could be partial,

involving a single activity. An example is expanding honey support to Tapac Sub-County in Moroto where there is a tradition of honey production.

- The program should consider integrating WASH into the farmer trainings conducted by the FEWS. Similarly, the messages communicated by health promoters should integrate some of those messages on livelihood or improving farm productivity.
- The USAID team explained USAID’s approach to program implementation incorporating “continuous learning and adaptation” (CLA). They encouraged RWANU to learn what makes the most sense in the field and if changes are needed, make them. If USAID concurrence is required, USAID will do its best to respond in a timely manner. This includes the program being responsive to unforeseen and disasters that may emerge. The program needs to capture emerging patterns and communicate these to USAID with implication for possible program adaptation.
- RWANU staff should think innovatively beyond the original scope and use current situations as learning opportunities to make a case to USAID for possible changes.
- The USAID team would prefer that discussions and implementation modalities between RWANU and SP should be coordinated by the district. District officials should invite stakeholders to jointly agree and coordinate their implementation.
- The program should involve district and subcounty staff in joint field monitoring and as much as possible remunerate them for their time and role in the form of providing per diems for field visits.
- Joint ownership of the program by the three consortium partners and use of one brand name versus individual organization’s names was recommended to avoid confusing other stakeholders and districts.
- Following due diligence, the program should consider evaluating seed quality from supply source to delivery of seeds to farmers. This will eliminate doubts resulting from non-complying seed quality, or low yield due to drought, etc.
- The USAID team stated that they feel it is too early in the program phase to focus on collection centers for marketing farm produce. There is need to support farmers to produce excess yield beyond their household subsistence needs in order for them to store the surplus. The current approach of small holder farmer garden does not generate surplus produce. To support the overall food security needs for households, the program should support farmers to balance household subsistence food needs and income generation.
- Since several partners have previously trained VHTs the program should assess the training needs of VHT in consultation with the health workers to focus on filling gaps and maximize knowledge transfer.

The RWANU COP attended two Karamoja Working Group (KWG) meetings. The May 29th meeting was the final meeting chaired by the Irish Embassy/ Irish Aid under the mandate by the larger northern Uganda recovery and development (NURD) donor group. To avoid a gap in the KWG monthly coordination meetings, the RWANU COP agreed to chair the meetings starting in July and until such time that a new mandate was obtained from the NURD donor group.