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



QUARTERLY REPORT October–December 2013

Cooperative Agreement Number: AID-FFP-A-12-00011
Submitted: January 31, 2014

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¹ Cover photo: Women Livestock group members in Nabilatuk sub county after receiving Galla goats. Photo taken by Lolem Daniel, Livestock officer, WHH/RWANU on December 12, 2013. Courtesy of Welthungerhilfe

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Acronyms

ANC/PNC	Antenatal care/Post natal care
CAG	Community Action Group
CAHW	Community Animal health Worker
CLTS	Community Led Total Sanitation
CSC	Community Score card
DHO	District health officer
DHT	District health team
DRR	Disaster Risk Reduction
FaaB	Farming and a business
FAO	Food and Agricultural Organization
FDP	Food Distribution Point
FEW	Field Extension Worker
FMNR	Farmer Managed Natural Regeneration
FTG	Farmer Training Groups
FY	Fiscal Year
GAM	Global acute malnutrition
GIZ	German Technical Cooperation
GMP	Growth Monitoring and Promotion
HC	Health Centre
HE	Health Educator
HF	Health facility
HHCG	Household Care Group
HICAP	Health Institution Capacity Assessment Process
HP	Health promoters
IY	Implementation Year
KAPB	Knowledge, attitude, practice and behavior
kg	Kilogram
MCG	Mother Care groups
MCHN	Maternal child health and Nutrition
MoH	Ministry of Health
MoU	Memorandum of Understanding
MT	Metric Ton
NAADS	National Agricultural Advisory and Development Services
NabuZARDI	Nabuin Zonal Agricultural Research and Development Institute
NRM	Natural resource management
OPV	Open Pollinate Varieties
PHAST	Participatory Hygiene and Sanitation Transformation
PHH	Post-harvest handling
Q	Quarter
SAM	Severe acute Malnutrition
ToT	Trainer of trainers
TSO	Technical Support officer
UGX	Uganda Shillings
VHT	Village health team

Introduction and Executive Summary

RWANU Program Description

The Resiliency through Wealth, Agriculture, and Nutrition in Karamoja (RWANU) project (Cooperative Agreement #AID-FFP-A-12-00011), a five-year USAID Food for Peace Development Food Assistance Program (DFAP), was awarded to ACDI/VOCA on August 10, 2012. The overall goal of the program is reduced food insecurity among vulnerable people in Southern Karamoja and the program has two strategic objectives (SO): 1) Improved access to food for men and women; and 2) Reduced malnutrition in pregnant and lactating mothers and children under five. In addition to overall management, ACDI/VOCA is responsible for overall program management and leads implementation of most activities under SO1, and in particular activities related to crop production, alternative livelihoods, increasing resiliency through the promotion of group savings and improving market linkages. Welthungerhilfe (WHH) carries out the technical training and input provision related to livestock. Concern Worldwide (Concern) has primary responsibility for the nutrition, health and hygiene activities covered under SO2, while ACDI/VOCA manages the distribution of food rations. ACDI/VOCA and partners work together to ensure integration across activities and promotion of gender equity and women's empowerment, environmental stewardship, and conflict mitigation.

Table 1 Districts and sub-counties served by RWANU

District	Sub-counties
Napak	Lokopo, Ngoleriet, Lotome, Iriiri, Matany, Lopeei, Lorengechora
Nakapiripirit	Lorengedwat, Nabilatuk, Lolachat, Namalu, Moruita, Kakomongole, Loregae
Moroto	Nadunget
Amudat	Karita

Executive Summary

This report highlights the implementation progress of the ACDI/VOCA's Resilience through Wealth, Agriculture and Nutrition in Karamoja (RWANU) DFAP funded by USAID under Cooperative Agreement AID-FFP-A-12-00011 over the period October to December 2013. The report presents progress in the implementation of planned activities.

Major accomplishments included forming Farmer Training Groups (FTGs) and preparing for the 2014 crop campaign. RWANU also continued to serve lean season rations during the quarter given need in target communities even as it continued to scale up distribution activities. RWANU faced challenges during the quarter, including two thefts at its Kampala office.

Detailed information is provided below.

1.0 STRATEGIC OBJECTIVE 1: IMPROVED ACCESS TO FOOD FOR MEN AND WOMEN

Intermediate Result 1.1: Improved smallholder farm management practices adopted

RWANU provides direct agricultural extension support through 25 field extension workers (FEWS) working in all 16 sub counties in the program area. Four Technical Support Officers (TSOs) were recruited to supervise the FEWs and provide technical assistance and coordination support. Overall technical oversight for the agriculture extension activities is provided by the agriculture extension team leader and the assistant extension coordinator.

The main focus of the extension services this quarter was to expand the agriculture extension coverage by enrolling new farmers for the implementation year (IY) 2 planting season. Major activities included formation of farmer training groups (FTGs), community mobilization, consultation and identifying plots for demo gardens² and securing community support for land allocation. The project also identified interested groups of farmers for block farming³, compiled the type and quantity of seeds needed for in-kind seed support and initiated the process for the procurement of seeds for the next planting season. Other activities implemented during the quarter included training of farmers in post-harvest handling (PHH) technologies and follow up of the seeds planted during the second rainy season.

1.1-1. Formation of Farmer Training Groups:

Together with community leaders and sub-county officials, the FEWs and TSOs successfully identified and formed 220 FTGs in all four districts of Amudat, Nakapiripirit, Napak, and Moroto. Each group was composed of 25 farmers, totaling 5,500 farmers (3,157 female and 2,343 male). Cumulatively the program has 383 farmer training groups including the new and continuing groups and a total of 9,582 farmers (5,511 female and 4,071 male). In targeting, RWANU prioritized female headed households and individuals willing to carry out farming.

Table 1 Groups formed per district in each of the sub-counties of project intervention

District	Sub county	New FTG formed (IY 2)	# of new farmers			Continuing FTG (IY 1)	Continuing # of Farmers (IY 1)		
			Male	Female	Total		Male	Female	Total
Amudat	<i>Karita</i>	14	138	212	350	7	64	108	172
Napak	<i>Lokopo</i>	22	232	318	550	14	131	218	349
	<i>Ngoleriet</i>	7	84	91	175	7	60	115	175
	<i>Lotome</i>	14	152	198	350	6	56	94	150
	<i>Iriiri</i>	16	163	237	400	14	162	188	350
	<i>Matany</i>	14	161	189	350	12	120	180	300
	<i>Lopeei</i>	7	76	99	175	6	51	99	150

²Demo gardens (demo plots): As the name indicates are small plots of land (0.5 acre per group) meant to demonstrate improved farming practices including new varieties of crops, and methods of farming so that farmers learn on how to do land scape design, planting and crop management and maintenance under the supervision and guidance of trained agricultural/extension staff. Then the farmers apply their learning in their individually owned gardens.

³Block farming: A group of kin and neighbors (10-20 farmers) coming together and opening up new land of up to 10-12 acre and perform farming tasks as a group. Farmers should have the experience of working in and observing the results of demo gardens before participating in block farms. The aim is to move farmers from demonstration farms to taking on increased acreage by opening up larger tracts of land. This will enable increased food production for household consumption and market.

District	Sub county	New FTG formed (IY 2)	# of new farmers			Continuing FTG (IY 1)	Continuing # of Farmers (IY 1)		
			Male	Female	Total		Male	Female	Total
	Lorengechora	14	138	212	350	14	168	182	350
Naka-piripirit	Lorengedwat	8	74	126	200	6	65	85	150
	Nabilatuk	16	159	241	400	6	59	91	150
	Lolachat	16	169	231	400	12	155	158	313
	Namalu	14	156	194	350	14	171	178	349
	Moruita	14	111	239	350	13	130	194	324
	Kakomongle	14	158	192	350	14	163	187	350
	Loregae	16	199	201	400	12	124	176	300
Moroto	Nadunget	14	173	177	350	6	49	101	150
	Total	220	2343	3157	5500	163	1728	2354	4082

1.1-2 Block farms

A total of 60 FTGs were identified to open block farms for grain crop production. Selection of FTGs eligible for block farming was based on the group performance in the demo plots and individual household production in the previous season, availability of a large piece of land, and interest shown by the members.

Each group will open 10 acres of land for their block farms. The groups will plant maize, sorghum, beans, groundnuts, and cassava on the block farms.

In IY2 RWANU will support farmers to grow cassava (NASE 14/MH4271). The need was identified in the course of monitoring farming activities during the first year of implementation. Many farmers showed an interest in producing cassava and requested RWANU to support them with cuttings. One major reason for promoting cassava is that some farmers already have experience in growing cassava and in fact indicated their experiences in the past were that cassava had helped most households survive during hunger times in Karamoja. The farmers also indicate that cassava is a good household food security crop for them. They can take it for meals, dry and make flour, sell tubers for income and also cuttings at a later stage of the crop growth. In addition, the Office of the Prime Minister has requested partners to promote cassava production among their beneficiaries.

The recommendation of the Minister for Karamoja Affairs is that all livelihoods partners in Karamoja region should engage farmers to open up more land and increase production in order to fight food shortages at the household level and for marketing. The assessment by the RWANU agricultural extension team showed that opening large plots of land for block farms using hand held hoes is not viable for farmers. In IY2, RWANU will provide each farmer group that will engage in block farms with a pair of oxen and ox-plough as well as the necessary training and follow up technical



Figure 1 Vegetable trial of Karer Nguny Chembe FTG in Karita Sub-county

support to enable them to open more acreage of land for increased food production.

1.1-3 Horticulture

During IY1 a horticultural trial with selected farmers' groups was conducted to test the interest, capacity and knowledge of the target community in vegetable production. Results showed that the majority of the vegetable gardens performed well and the participating farmers (majority women) have had knowledge and experience in managing horticultural crops in the past and are keen to continue engaging at a larger scale.

In IY2, RWANU has a plan to support farmers' groups to grow vegetables for both household consumption and for market purposes. During the first quarter (Q1) of fiscal year (FY) 2014, a total of 30 horticulture production groups of 25 members each were identified. The majority of the members of the horticulture groups are women who are actively participating in RWANU's health and nutrition component.

The groups were selected based on their experience and capacity, and sites were selected based on proximity to water sources for irrigation during the dry season. RWANU, in consultation with the farmers' groups, identified tomatoes, onions, cabbage, kale and eggplant for vegetable production this year and the process of procuring the seed and planting materials is underway. RWANU also consulted other partners who have been doing horticulture production in Karamoja such as DGG, GIZ and FAO. A full time RWANU horticulture production officer will be deployed to provide technical support to the groups.

1.1-4 Identification of water sources for irrigation

In order to further facilitate horticulture production, RWANU, in collaboration with the district local governments, assessed the options for rehabilitating abandoned and dilapidated water sources and making them functional. Three boreholes and one windmill in Napak, two boreholes in Moroto, two boreholes in Nakapiripirit and one borehole in Amudat were identified for rehabilitation for irrigation of horticultural gardens, dependent on USAID approval. While this was done for extremely dry parts of south Karamoja, other zones such as Namalu have rivers that flow throughout the year that can be used for vegetable irrigation. The process for soliciting service providers to develop small scale irrigation systems for the horticulture groups using the identified water sources is underway.

1.1-5 Seed planted in 2nd season

During 2013, South Karamoja was hit by floods and later a sudden dry spell that destroyed farmer fields. Providing seeds to farmer groups, RWANU utilized heavy rains in July as an opportunity to test production during what was assumed to be the second planting season⁴. FEWs facilitated land preparation and planting of multiplication demonstration plots for 690 kilograms (kg) of Nabe 15 beans that were distributed in July 2013. These were meant to replace the seed lost due to floods, and to ensure that the farmer groups have some seed in their respective groups for planting in the next season of 2014. However due to uneven rainfall distribution in the region

⁴RWANU was promoting two season production with available moisture but rains in 2013 were insufficient even during the "first" season. The poor rain affected not only RWANU-assisted farmers but also the on station trials at NabuZARDI. Some places received quite good rains, for example, Namalu, Lorenghora subcounties which are along the green belt. However, other subcounties had less than normal rains, such as Lotome, Lokopo, Moruita, Nabituk and parts of Lolachat that are in the dry belt of Karamoja. RWANU will continue to monitor the second season rainfall and will respond accordingly.

and variation in farming practices adopted, there were fluctuations in the harvests between groups as per the details provided in the table below.

Table 2 Quantities of seed received by sub-county

Sub-county	Seed	No of demos	Quantity distributed per demo (kg)	Total distributed (kg)	Harvest (kg)
Nadunget	Beans	2	30	60	70
Namalu	Beans	4	30	120	200
Nabilatuk	Beans	2	30	60	45
Lotome	Beans	2	30	60	40
Moruita	Beans	3	30	90	84
Matany	Beans	2	30	60	188
Iriiri	Beans	1	30	30	70
Karita	Beans	2	30	60	250
Iriiri	Beans	1	30	30	65
Lorengchora	Beans	2	30	60	190
Kakomongole	Beans	2	30	60	205
Total		23		690	1,407



Figures 2 and 3 Nabe 15 beans planted by FTGs in Kakomongole subcounty (left) and Karita subcounty (right)

1.1-6 Post-Harvest handling (PHH)

Training in post-harvest handling for all FEWs was done in November, 2013. The trainers used manuals previously used in the USAID funded MYAP managed by ACIDI/VOCA. These manuals were developed by ACIDI/VOCA under the MYAP but also used by Lutheran World Federation during the time. Training methods included both presentation and hands on practical work (Figures 4 and 5). The following topics were covered:

- Causes of PHH losses
- Timely harvesting
- Traditional methods of drying verses improved method.
- Threshing/shelling
- Traditional methods of storage
- Improved methods of storage
- Practical section on how to make an improved granary and maize crib



Figures 4 and 5 Hands-on training for FEWs

FEWs in all subcounties rolled out the training on PHH to their different FTGs.

Table 3 PHH training carried out and improved graineries built Q1 Year 2

District	Total FTGs	FTGs trained	Women farmers trained	Male farmers trained	Total farmers trained	Improved graineries built
Amudat	7	3	21	32	53	4
Moroto	6	3	31	27	58	3
Nakapiripirit	77	54	126	97	223	15
Napak	73	50	112	87	199	10
Total	163	110	290	243	533	32

1.1-7 Exposure visit by RWANU staffs and district production officers

RWANU staff attended the World Food Day celebrations that took place on October 16, 2013, in Serere district with the theme of “Sustainable food systems for food security and nutrition”. A total of 20 FEWs, five selected FTG members, the Farming as a Business (FaaS) Officer, Agricultural Extension Coordinator, the Assistant Agriculture Extension Coordinator, four Technical Support Staff, and 4 District Production staff participated in the celebration.

During the celebration the RWANU team was focused on gaining information and experiences on:

- Seed varieties and technologies that would improve production levels in Karamoja
- Different technologies, skills and knowledge farmers can apply to become successful in different agro-ecological zones.

FEWs were also able to share views with the different seed companies and researchers present on the best agricultural practices that could be adopted in the Karamoja region.

1.1-8 TOPS training on drought cycle management (DCM)

RWANU livelihood technical staff were trained in agricultural and drought risk reduction by the USAID TOPS program in October, 2013 in Kampala. A total of nine RWANU staff (including three from Concern and WHH) participated. The objective of the training was to share lessons

and acquaint partners on the implementation of drought mitigation strategies using the drought cycle management model. Market linkages, behavior change analysis and post-harvest handling techniques for food security were among the major topics discussed in the DCM training.

Planned activities for second quarter of FY 2014

1. Establish demo plots of 0.5 acre each per group for 220 FTGs.
2. Procure and distribute start-up seeds and planting materials to farmer groups for demos, individual household gardens, block farms and horticulture production groups.
3. Procure and distribute pair of oxen and ox ploughs for 60 groups of block farms.
4. Train newly identified farmers in agronomic practices, siting of demonstration gardens.
5. Follow up with FEWs to assess delivery of trainings and uptake of training messages by farmers.
6. Complete the capacity needs assessment of the National Agricultural Advisory and Development Services (NAADS) and district extension staff in Napak and Moroto.
7. Train NAADS and district extension staff on agronomic practices, conservation farming and post-harvest handling.
8. Organize exposure visit for RWANU and district production staff.
9. Organize trainings on horticultural production.
10. Retro-fit/repair water management structures to facilitate off take of irrigation water for selected farmer groups undertaking horticulture.
11. Conduct training of trainer (ToT) for the FEWs on conservation agriculture using the ongoing experience in Lira district.
12. Pilot conservation farming in 30 FTGs identified from IY1 from the CLUSA International intervention.
13. Support Nabuin Zonal Agricultural Research Development Institute (NabuZARDI) in the procurement of foundation seed and start planting on station and on farm trials.
14. Work with NabuZARDI to select farmer groups in target subcounties to host on-farm trials.

1.1-9 RWANU collaboration with NabuZARDI

In Q1 FY14, research experiments and seed multiplication activities were established beginning with the on-station experiments.

i. Performance evaluation of new open pollinate maize varieties (OPV) in Karamoja

In Karamoja, extensive crop production is still at the infancy stage with most farmers shifting from pure pastoralism to agro-pastoralism. Experiments are starting with seeds of open pollinated varieties (e.g., for maize) due to their easy productivity and potential for variety purity maintenance. These varieties can be grown for about four seasons when still genetically pure and stable. However, OPV maize varieties are lacking in the region. Suitable maize varieties for the region include MM3, VpMax, Longe4 and

Longe5. Longe5 is a high quality protein maize (QPM) that contains two important amino acids (Tryptophan and Lysine) - that code protein content. This variety could be an important commodity for addressing food insecurity. However, the performance of these varieties (especially yield and biotic factors) is not yet known hence the need to evaluate potential yields and survival during the escalating drought stress. The best two varieties will be further tested on farmers' fields in IY2 to evaluate their performance under farmer management and for effective adoption. If successful, the selected varieties will be further multiplied and distributed to farmers under continued support from RWANU.

ii. **Adaptability potential of different improved soybean varieties in Karamoja**

Protein content in foods is very essential and paramount in countering the effect of malnutrition. A crop with a high level of essential proteins is soybeans. Several varieties have variable content of protein and various levels of adaptability at production. However, it is a crop considered to have a conferred level of tolerance to stresses like drought. Several improved varieties were obtained from NabuZARDI and are being tested to ascertain their potential yield, tolerance to pests, diseases, shattering, maturity, and drought stress. The best adaptable variety with farmer preferred qualities will be further multiplied and promoted by RWANU for uptake pathways.

iii. **Assessing the performance of promising sorghum varieties for farmer adoption**

Sorghum is considered a staple food (*atapa*) in the region, with different utilities in the form of food, beer and livestock feeds. However, the farmer accessed materials are local and poor yielding, long maturing (*kabir*) (seven months) and are generally prone to many diseases and pests such as birds. To counter the effect of poor yield and establishment, promising varieties under improvement are being subjected to performance assessment in relation to the local cultivars. The varieties are being tested for yield, taste, suitability form of consumption (*food or beer*) or palatability and response to naturally occurring diseases and pests. About 13 different varieties are being tested. The proven performing varieties will be popularized and promoted for farmer acquisition for production.

iv. **Evaluation of cowpea varieties for best biomass consumption stage and its nutritive content.**

Cowpeas are consumed as a vegetable (through consumption of leafy biomass) and as grain food. Different varieties have different vitamin levels at various growth stages. However, it is not known at what plant growth stage leafy biomass is most palatable and which vitamins are maintained. Therefore to ascertain the palatability threshold, thirteen varieties were obtained for testing, under which sampling at every fortnight will be conducted and biomass prepared for tasting evaluation and vitamin content. The varieties with farmer-preferred tasting qualities will be recommended, but in addition, nutrition levels will be a consideration. This work continued from Year 1 into Q1 of Year 2.

v. Survival mechanisms exhibited by different green gram varieties in drought prone areas

Green gram plants are considered to survive well in drought stressed conditions. However, the survival mechanisms and yield potential are yet to be verified and quantified. It is therefore imperative to test and verify the mechanisms exhibited by green grams in acclimatizing to the stressful drought condition – this was carried out in Q1 Y2.

vi. Multiplication of two prominent varieties of ground nuts, maize, sunflower and sorghum to raise seeds for farmer access

Based on the preliminary survey conducted in Mar-April 2013 to ascertain the most prominently grown crops and their varieties, crops such as ground nuts, maize and sorghum were identified but with no specific improved varieties. However, given the earlier performance evaluations on-station at NabuZARDI, several varieties were identified for multiplication. The varieties include serenut 2 and serenut 4 (groundnuts), MM3 for maize, Seso3 for sorghum, and sunfora for sunflower. Multiplication fields were established to raise reasonable certified seed quantities from foundation stocks.

Challenges

a. Escalating drought stress: This being the first year of working with NabuZARDI in the Karamoja region, irrigation was not applied on-station. Given the need to assess crops under typical conditions experienced by Karamoja farmers, dry land procedures were used. It was also noted that the crops had surpassed the stage for irrigation during the November drought



Figure 6 Drought-resistant crops at NabuZARDI testing site

and could survive, although maize was seen as the crop most affected. The multiplication gardens for sunflower and groundnuts (serenut 2 and 4), green gram, soy beans, cow peas were seen as tolerating the drought (see figure 6).

- b. Delayed disbursement of funds at start of collaboration significantly affected implementation, procurement of seed varieties and this resulted into late planting of the on-station trials and multiplication gardens.
- c. Since the PERSUAP was not approved the researchers could not use agro chemicals for the groundnut and soya bean leaf minor which is a 2nd season pest and sorghum stalk borer. The pests give an illusion of drought and there is no control other than chemicals. The impact of the pest attack drastically reduced yields (see figure 7). RWANU is working to revise the PERSUAP for submission in Q2 FY14.



Figure 7 soya bean leaves attacked by pests

- d. Insecurity of crops to animals and thieves poses a threat of losing the trials and multiplication crops. The problem of thieves became terrible in early December especially for the mature maize trials. During the day, the thieves made bush fires in the surrounding forested area to create a path to use at night to the station gardens. In the night, the guards exchanged heavy fire but the theft resulted in significant losses of VP max mature maize that was being tried⁵.

Planned activities for second quarter FY 2014

1. Commencement of fence construction at the Nabuin station to protect the IY 2 varieties from animal and thieves with USAID approval.
2. Sign NabuZARDI Fixed Obligation Grant modification and negotiate work plans and budgets.
3. PERSUAP: The impacts of the pest attack drastically reduced yields for activities such as on-farm trials. RWANU will work to revise the PERSUAP according to feedback provided by USAID, and focus on integrated pest management, indigenous pest control practices and apply a better training methodology that is more practical and participative with FEWs, farmers and scientist working hand in hand.
4. Reporting: To minimize the reporting burden, going forward NabuZARDI will no longer provide monthly reports, but will instead provide monthly updates and submit quarterly reports.
5. RWANU will look into establishing formal links between NabuZARDI and different foundation breeders. For example, Mr. Kalule David Okello, a groundnut breeder, has a number of good ideas on conducting research for better groundnut varieties suitable for Karamoja and this link would benefit RWANU farmers and the Karamoja region for groundnut varieties.

Intermediate Result 1.2 Improved smallholder livestock management practices

1.2-1 Vaccination of goats

To date, the program has distributed 1,334 goats (1,199 local does, 45 bucks of 50% Toggenburg/50% local crosses, and 90 galla goats) to 40 women livestock groups. Karamoja is

⁵RWANU will require that NabuZARDI will provide a loss report.

endemic to highly contagious diseases of small ruminants with high mortality rates for goats, in particular Contagious Caprine Pleuro Pneumonia (CCPP) and Peste des Petits (PPR). The program veterinary team assisted by the Community Development staff carried out emergency vaccination to protect the goats from these diseases. The vaccines used were financed through German Ministry of Cooperation and Development (BMZ) in the framework of other Welthungerhilfe projects. Emergency treatment of the distributed goats was also done under the same approach.

During the reporting period there were a total of 20 new born kids. 62 goats died in the hands of the beneficiaries, including 20 males that were 50% Toggenburg cross breeds. The biggest challenge encountered during the quarter was inability of the project to procure pharmaceutical supplies. Alternative options for improving access to animal health services to the women's goat groups through private veterinary service providers and through strengthening the Community Animal Health Workers' (CAHWs) system is under discussion within the RWANU team and will be rolled out during the second quarter of FY2⁶.

1.2-2 Introduction of Galla breed of goats

Due to low adaptability of the hybrid Toggenburg goats (goat breed mainly for milk) to the Karamoja environment, the program introduced 95 galla goat breed (15 males and 80 females). The galla goats are characterised by increased milk production and have adapted well in the dry lands of Kenya with similar conditions to the Karamoja region. According to reports from Kenya, the galla goat breeds are referred to as the milk queen of Kenya's arid and semi-arid lands and also well adapted to the Turkana region. These goats were procured and 90 distributed to selected women livestock groups as alternative genetic resources to increase milk production (see report cover photo).

Routine and timely deworming of goats has been reported in about 40% of the goat beneficiaries. Since the CAHWs had not yet been introduced or trained, the veterinary team continued to provide diagnosis and treat goats reported sick.

1.2-3 Goat Sheds

Designs for the goat sheds was completed and are being adapted based on location and in consultation with beneficiaries to determine their preferences. Beneficiaries have begun collecting local materials for the construction of the sheds and construction will be completed in the next quarter.

1.2-4 Refresher training of community animal health workers (CAHWs)

A refresher training of 20 selected CAHWs (previously trained by other organizations) was conducted together with the Napak District Veterinary Office and in close collaboration with the other WHH projects financed through German Ministry of Cooperation and Development (BMZ). The selected CAHWs included those assigned to the already established RWANU women livestock groups. The training was largely practical as it was tailored to meet the skills gaps.

⁶ RWANU and WHH are primarily interested in the CAHWs acquiring the drugs and providing the services themselves, paid for by the individuals and groups that received goats – we see this as a more long term sustainable situation. However, at this time we continue to pursue USAID approval of procurement of pharmaceuticals since there are some immediately needed services that cannot be met at the current time by the CAHWs systems and community groups.

Training content for the CAHWs' refresher included the following:

- The Community Animal Health System
- The common livestock diseases and their management and control
- Drug dosages, administration and handling as well as safety precautions
- Use of different equipment
- Different drug brand options for specific diseases
- Cost recovery

1.2-5 Equipment distributed

Spray pumps (50) and bicycles (50) were bought and have been distributed to selected CAHWs to support them in provision of veterinary services to the Women Livestock Groups.

1.2.6. Fodder Bank Establishment

Consultations were made on the fodder species for the women livestock groups' fodder banks establishment. Highly nutritious and adaptable fodder plants such as Sesbania, Napier grass, Lucerne and Calliandra were among those identified. The fodder banks will be established during the next rainy season depending on the micro climates of the different locations.

1.2-7 Formation of women's groups

During the reporting period, pre-selection of new beneficiaries to receive goats and a verification exercise of new women's livestock groups was conducted. Formation of the groups, purchase of goats and provision of animal health services through support to CAHWs and engagement of private veterinary practitioners will be conducted in the next reporting period.

The already established women's livestock groups were encouraged to make contributions to support the health care of the goats they received in IY1. The RWANU team will engage with the CAHWs and private veterinary practitioners to develop appropriate mechanisms for sustainable animal health delivery to the women's livestock groups.

Planned activities for second quarter FY 2014

1. Formation and training of 80 new women livestock groups in new sub-counties
2. Registration of 12 new CAHW groups in the RWANU program
3. Support to women livestock groups on fodder bank establishment as well as goat shed construction
4. Exploration of alternative options for animal health services delivery
5. Procurement and distribution of goats (4,000 all varieties: local, galla as well as Toggenburg crosses) to the old and new women livestock groups
6. Complete support to the CAHW groups including refresher trainings and veterinary drug supply chains.

Intermediate Result 1.3: Increased linkages to markets

1.3-1 Honey market assessment

During the quarter, the program recruited a Marketing Support Officer, who conducted a honey market assessment, and developed a strategy for linking honey producers to the market. The honey market assessment was conducted to understand the marketing processes and the potential for linking honey markets from the producers' groups to the commercial markets. The assessment involved interviews with honey producers, production staff (NAADS officials, district commercial staff), non-governmental organizations (OXFAM, JICHAWA, CARITAS Moroto) and other private sector actors such as Golden Bees Ltd, as well as supermarkets both within and outside Karamoja. The assessment report is drafted and shall be shared within RWANU and the stakeholders during the second quarter.

1.3-2 Identification of agro-input dealers

Interaction with promising farmers in south Karamoja and other assessments revealed the absence of active agro-input dealers to provide farmers with input for agricultural innovations. RWANU identified five (5) agro-input dealers within South Karamoja and will engage with them to identify opportunities for strengthening them to enable them to effectively manage their businesses and meet farmers' demands. We anticipate that this will ensure sustainability in the supply of quality agro-inputs after the end of the program.

1.3-3 Formation of farmer associations

RWANU sensitized farmer group leaders on the importance of forming sub-county farmer associations in the subcounties of Namalu, Nabilatuk, Lolachat, Loregae and Karita. In total, 93 farmer group leaders participated (74 males and 19 females). Six marketing committees were also formed in the subcounties of Namalu, Karita, Lolachat, Loregae, Nabilatuk and Iriiri. These associations will be empowered to develop a strong leadership base that is sustainable to link farmers to diversified markets for produce, agro-input dealers and create a network where they become models for other members of the community to embrace livelihoods activities.

1.3-4 Marketing infrastructure, equipment and facilities

RWANU assisted marketing groups to identify small warehouses that they may lease for the purpose of establishing pilot bulking centers, one each in Namalu and Karita subcounties. Three record templates for bulking centers were developed. Farmer groups were supported through trainings on Farming as a Business (FaaB) and marketing. A total of 1,103 farmers were trained in FaaB and marketing. Among these, 614 (276 females and 338 males) were trained in FaaB, and 489 farmers (218 females and 271 males) were trained in marketing. This was done by facilitating organization of farmers into seven marketing groups for collective marketing and other associated benefits.

Table 4 Crop sales by farmer group

Farmer group	Crop sold	Quantity sold (kg)	Value Uganda Shillings (UGX)	USD equivalent	Buyers/Markets
Umoja FTG in Karita sub-county	Vegetables	N/A	82,000	\$33	Karita, Geerik and Amudat

Farmer group	Crop sold	Quantity sold (kg)	Value Uganda Shillings (UGX)	USD equivalent	Buyers/Markets
Karer Nguny Chemb in Karita subcounty	Vegetables	N/A	120,000	\$48	Karita, Geerik and Amudat
Lorukut FTG in Komaret, Moruita	Maize	700	500,000	\$200	N/A
Narionomor FTG, Lemsui, Moruita subcounty	Maize	800	672,000	\$269	N/A

Planned activities in FaaB and Marketing for Q2 FY14

1. Complete livestock market assessment and devise appropriate strategies to respond to the current conditions. This will include analyzing livestock supply and margins for producers, bulkers, intermediaries and project output for the RWANU zone. Provide on-the-job support training at household and farmer group level in FaaB, savings and credit, and honey marketing strategies. Assess training needs of government extension staff (NAADS) and subsequently train them in FaaB, savings and credit, and all RWANU cross cutting technical issues.
2. Link honey private sector players and RWANU honey producers' groups for marketing their products.
3. Identify value chain constraints and, opportunities for support in crop, horticulture, livestock, and honey marketing including storage, drying, packaging, and transport.
4. Provide on-the-job support training for Field Extension staff and producer groups in marketing.
5. Establish networks of stakeholders for the promotion of agro-input and output markets for Karamoja producers.
6. Continue sensitizing farmer group leaders on the formation of subcounty farmers' associations.

1.3-5 Honey Production

1.3-5.1 Formation of honey groups

During this quarter, 12 of the 15 sub-counties targeted for honey production were assessed to determine their suitability for bee-keeping activities. These included Karita, Moruita, Namalu, Kakomongole, Loregae, Lolachat, Lorengedwat, Ngoleriet, Lorengechora, Lokopo, Nadunget and Nabilatuk. As a result of this, 23 groups of 20 members each were formed in Karita, Moruita, Namalu, Kakomongole, Lokopo and Nadunget. The primary criteria for selection of potential honey producers was based on the type of vegetation cover for bee foraging in an area, age (preferably youth), accessibility or availability of water sources, individual interest and prior knowledge of beekeeping. Additional criteria for targeting included participation in other RWANU activities including FTGs, status as husbands of Mother Care Group members, vulnerability, and previous experience, and suitability of their location for beekeeping. RWANU has ten honey groups exclusively for youth. In total 64 males and 36 female were trained on introductory beekeeping (pollination, floral calendar, importance of beekeeping etc.).

1.3-5.2 Beehive monitoring and inspection

Hive inspection activities were carried out in Nabawal Parish and Lomaratoit Village, both in Irriri subcounty. The monitoring team established that in recently colonized bee hives (68% of the hives), bees were constructing honey comb stores and rearing brood to increase hive population. Some of the bee hives that were colonized had unripe honey. The inspection thus confirmed that the harvesting season for honey is approaching (April 2014). The Honey Officers therefore distributed honey starter kits (for honey inspection) to the ten (10) apiary groups formed in FY13. This comprised of bee suits, smokers, gloves and gumboots. The buckets, bee brushes and hive tools will be distributed very close to the harvesting time⁷.

1.3-5.3 Engagement with honey private sector player

RWANU continued to engage honey private sector players and as a result of this, Golden Bees Ltd opened the first honey shop in South Karamoja in December, 2013. This firm expressed a willingness to buy all the honey produced by RWANU producers. A more formal partnership (Memorandum of Understanding - MoU) agreement is however yet to be established between RWANU and a private honey processing and marketing firm.

Planned activities for second quarter FY 2014

- Establish an MoU between honey private sector players and RWANU to monitor honey activities and provide support at the farmer group level.
- Assess the training needs of government extension staff (NAADS) and subsequently train them in beekeeping.
- Distribute honey starter kits and train new honey producer groups in honey bee biology and behavior, advantages of beekeeping, pollination, beekeeping equipment, apiary management, site selection, as well as floral calendar of beekeeping.
- Train FEWs and TSOs on beekeeping.
- Facilitate an exposure visit for RWANU honey producers within Karamoja region - possibly visit OXFAM-supported groups in Kotido district.

Intermediate Result 1.4: Access to credit increased

1.4-1 Monitoring and mentoring of savings and credit groups

Monitoring and mentoring of the 158 savings groups was done in Napak, Nakapiripirit, Amudat and Moroto Districts. Mobilization and subsequently savings and credit management training of farmers and apiary group leaders was conducted. Topics included group constitution-making, record keeping, group governance, and savings mobilization⁸.

Table 5 Number of group leaders trained in savings and credit by district

District	Male	Female	Total
Nakapiripirit	131	93	224
Amudat	07	08	15
Napak	117	96	213

⁷The kits are provided in phases. In the first round, groups received the hives. In the second round they received the items needed for honey inspection, and the third round, the items needed for the actual harvesting are to be provided.

⁸These training topics are part of the FaaB training module.

District	Male	Female	Total
Moroto	10	6	16
Total	265	203	468

In addition to training support to group leaders by RWANU Savings Officers, the FEWs trained a total of 4,916 farmers (2,013 males and 2,903 females). As a result of the training and mentoring of savings groups, members continued to save and loan money as below:

Table 5 Savings and credit group performance as of December, 2013

No	Sub-county	# of savings groups	Cum. Value of savings		Value of outstdg loans		Cum. value of loans	
			UGX	USD	UGX	USD	UGX	USD
1	Kakomongole	15	3,681,700	\$ 1,473	3,857,730	\$ 1,543	3,857,730	\$ 1,543
2	Nabilatuk	6	1,439,000	\$ 576	1,408,000	\$ 563	3,036,500	\$ 1,215
3	Loregae	12	7,375,000	\$ 2,950	7,664,000	\$ 3,066	7,664,000	\$ 3,066
4	Namalu	16	12,705,000	\$ 5,082	16,797,000	\$ 6,719	21,387,000	\$ 8,555
5	Matany	11	1,405,500	\$ 562	-	\$ -	-	\$ -
6	Lokopo	13	3,490,000	\$ 1,396	2,690,000	\$ 1,076	2,690,000	\$ 1,076
7	Lorengchora	14	6,209,000	\$ 2,484	4,360,000	\$ 1,744	5,070,000	\$ 2,028
8	Ngoleriet	7	2,586,000	\$ 1,034	2,535,000	\$ 1,014	2,535,000	\$ 1,014
9	Lopeei	7	1,127,000	\$ 451	1,030,000	\$ 412	1,030,000	\$ 412
10	Lorengedwat	5	360,900	\$ 144	-	\$ -	-	\$ -
11	Lotome	7	1,543,000	\$ 617	-	\$ -	1,413,000	\$ 565
12	Lolachat	12	1,841,200	\$ 736	-	\$ -	2,680,000	\$ 1,072
13	Karita	6	3,861,000	\$ 1,544	390,000	\$ 156	390,000	\$ 156
14	Moruita	5	1,068,000	\$ 427	-	\$ -	-	\$ -
15	Iriiri	16	5,095,000	\$ 2,038	1,935,000	\$ 774	1,935,000	\$ 774
16	Nadunget	6	1,244,100	\$ 498	735,000	\$ 294	735,000	\$ 294
	Totals	158	55,031,400	\$22,013	43,401,730	\$17,368	54,423,230	\$21,769

Saving and credit groups in Matany and Lorengedwat have not yet started lending money from their groups. Savings groups in these two subcounties decided that they needed to build trust first and accumulate their savings before they could lend money.

1.4-2 Linking savings and credit groups to formal financial banking services

During this quarter, the RWANU business services team held a meeting with the Linkage Banking Specialist for Centenary Rural Development Bank (CERUDEB) aimed at linking RWANU savings groups to formal financial services. A draft MoU was developed by Centenary Bank and is under review by RWANU. It is anticipated that this will provide affordable, well adapted and safe financial services to RWANU informal groups and thus improve their business opportunities and livelihoods.

1.4-3 Training needs assessment for Women Livestock groups

RWANU distributed goats to women livestock groups in the subcounties of Nakapiripirit and Ngoleriet in Napak district. However, these women livestock groups were not enrolled into savings and credit groups during the period. RWANU savings and credit officers carried out an

assessment of these groups in order to prepare them for savings and credit. A training needs assessment on savings and credit followed and was completed in the subcounties of Loregae, Kakomongole, Nabilatuk, Namalu, Moruita, Lorengedwat and Ngoleriet. Training of these groups will commence in Q2.

Planned activities for second quarter FY 2014

1. Mobilize and sensitize new (FY14) groups on savings and credit group formation.
2. Distribute FY14 savings and credit group starter kits.
3. Provide supervision, mentoring and monitoring of groups.
4. Participate in the joint monitoring of savings and credit activities in partnership with district authorities.
5. Facilitate meetings between Centenary Bank and RWANU farmer groups to enhance access to formal financial services.
6. Conduct refresher trainings in savings and credit for FEWs.
7. Conduct savings and credit training for women livestock groups.

2.0 STRATEGIC OBJECTIVE 2: REDUCED MALNUTRITION IN PREGNANT AND LACTATING MOTHERS AND CHILDREN UNDER FIVE YEARS

Intermediate Result 2.1 Improved health and nutrition practices at household level

2.1-1 Household Census

During the quarter, the census was started in Nadunget subcounty, Moroto District following the training of 2 Health Promoters (HP) and 1 Health Educator (HE). The target was to record all 49 villages in the subcounties by mid-January 2014. By the end of this quarter, a total of 4,505 households were recorded, with 17,765 individuals from 37 villages.

During supervision it was noted that some stakeholders including health facility staff, political leaders, and beneficiaries misunderstood that the criteria for distribution of goats under I.R 1.2 was upon getting pregnant, which seemed to jeopardize the family planning project under Marie Stopes International (MSI). To quickly rectify this misconception, the Health Educators and Community Development Workers were trained on family planning using MSI materials. The HEs currently give family planning key messages at every food distribution point also using materials from MSI. The messages were disseminated at 14 Food Distribution Points (FDPs) during the reporting period and from observation the misconception is starting to dissolve.

2.1-2 Developing training Curriculum

Module 1 Curriculum was approved and counseling cards finalized and re-quantified. Printing was started and will be completed in mid-January, 2014. Training of the HPs and HEs on Module 1 will commence in late January, 2014.

Module 2 Maternal Health and Nutrition Curriculum was drafted and is now undergoing review. Photography for Module 2 Counseling Cards was completed. The photos carry appropriate nutrition-related maternal health practices messages⁹.

The rollout of module topics was revised taking into account the need for family planning, agriculture linkages, and hygiene to occur earlier than originally planned. The Male Change Agent Strategy was drafted and is under review.

2.1-3 Mother Care Groups

The HPs continued to conduct Mother Care Group (MCG) meetings in Nakapiripirit orienting them on antenatal care (ANC), postnatal care (PNC) and the Humanitarian Accountability Partnership. The Leader Mothers also conducted Household Care Group (HHCG) orientations and household visits to HHCG members on the above topics. The formation of HHCGs in Karita subcounty (Amudat district) started in October where 68 were formed in Losidok, 49 in Karita, and 46 in Lokales. This was followed by selection of Leader Mothers and formation of MCGs. In total 23 MCGs were formed in Karita subcounty. During the reporting period, four new MCGs were formed in Nakapiripirit through new beneficiary registration, bringing the cumulative number to 145 to date.

At the end of every month, a meeting is held with the HPs and HEs to share achievements, best practices, challenges and form linkages with other project components. A total of three meetings were held during the reporting period.

Planned activities for second quarter FY 2014

- Train Lead Mothers and HHCG in Nakapiripirit and Amudat on Module 1: IYCF
- Develop Module 2: Maternal Health and Nutrition counseling cards and curriculum; begin developing Module 3: Integrated Agriculture/Nutrition counseling cards and curriculum
- Develop posters/leaflets for key messages identified in SBC-SAP (use photographs and key messages from counselling cards)
- Procure seeds for kitchen gardens and give to LMs
- Establish new MCGs in Moroto and train HEs and HPs on Module 1
- Develop Male Change Agent Strategy and Curriculum and identify potential male change agents
- Map district and subcounty staff previously trained on CLTS/PHAST, and train district officials and health team staff on KAPB survey methodology. Conduct KAPB survey in areas selected for CLTS/PHAST

⁹These include: increasing the number of meals and snacks recommended during pregnancy and lactation, dietary diversity, discourage alcohol consumption during pregnancy and lactation, encouraging ANC and PNC visits, and iron and Vitamin A supplementation.

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

2.2-1 Conduct Community Score Card (CSC) and Health Institution Capacity Assessment Process (HICAP)

Following a renewed approach to incorporate both the CSC and HICAP, it was decided that the two activities take place in consecutive phases where the CSC will precede the HICAP activity.

Using a **two-phase** approach, IR2.2 staff will commence with **Phase 1** which will consist of the CSC process. Once the health workers' awareness on the citizen's opinions regarding health service delivery has been raised and they have developed a deeper understanding of their duties for improving health services to the community, the HICAP process will be instituted as the **Phase 2** of this approach in Year 3. The HICAP is for use at the health facility and district level and will enable the clinical staff to self-assess, evaluate their performance and identify areas for improvement. Clinical and District Health Teams (DHTs) will be led to establish a shared understanding of the skills and resources required individually and collectively' to ensure the health service delivery system runs efficiently. The tools will evaluate performance bi-annually and provide an important corrective angle to programming.

The CSC process is anticipated to take place in February, 2014.

2.2-2 Provide non-recurring health supplies and logistical support

A distribution of health facility equipment¹⁰ and related non-recurring supplies was conducted in December, 2013 to twenty-five (25) RWANU-supported health facilities.

2.2-3 Provide logistical, material and supervisory support to MoH outreach services.

RWANU supports Ministry of Health (MoH) health centers with fuel and payment of per diems for health workers conducting outreach activities including vaccination of children and pregnant women, ANC, and vitamin A supplementation. Out of 399 planned outreach posts for this quarter, only 144 posts were covered by the team. This was due to the non-availability and continuous breakdown of district health center vehicles. A total of 2,616 children and 3,554 pregnant women were reached through RWANU support of MoH services.



Figure 7 Health Facility staff of Apeitolim Health Centre III with distributed equipment, December 2013

¹⁰Equipment distributed included Drip stands double hook, Wheel chairs, Wooden tables, Dust bins, Cold boxes, MCH diagnostic kit, Standard ophthalmoscope, Adult linen, Pediatric linen, Drug cupboard, Adult and pediatric mattresses, Stretchers, Weight/Height boards, Weighing scales Pediatric, Toddler and Infant, Water vessels with tap, Miscellaneous items (buckets, floor mats, dustpans), Solar Panel 120 Watts, Battery Gel 2000 AH, Inverter 800 Watts and bulbs holders among others.

2.2-4 Meeting with DHT regarding implementation of Growth Monitoring and Promotion (GMP) activities at district level.

During this meeting, the DHT identified the certified National Regional Nutritionist from the Eastern Region to carry out next quarter's ToT for district and health center staff in Moroto and Napak on GMP. This will be followed by piloting in five selected health facilities.

2.2-5 Training health facility staff on MCHN services delivery/Integrated Management of Acute Malnutrition (IMAM)

Training was successfully completed in Amudat and Nakapiripirit Districts. Thirteen Health Assistants and 331 Village Health Teams (VHTs) were trained.

2.2-6 Attend District Health Quarterly Performance Review Meetings

One meeting was attended in Moroto District during the quarter. The three best performing health centers were identified within RWANU's area of operation and the District Health Officer (DHO) thanked RWANU for its support in bridging the gap in health facilities under IR 2.2.3¹¹.

2.2-7 Joint monitoring visits with MoH.

The purpose of the visits was to facilitate transport and to provide an opportunity for RWANU, MoH and Doctors of Africa (CUAMM) staff to jointly visit health facilities to assess their functionality and performance in comparison to expected MoH performance levels. Gaps in performance were identified and solutions to rectify them were discussed in order to strengthen the health system.

2.2-8 Identify existing manual from MoH for VHT on ANC/PNC.

No ANC/PNC Manual was identified at the MoH HQ and therefore, a plan was made for RWANU and the MoH to develop one jointly before the targeted mid-June 2014 period.

2.2-9 Improve waste management

All activities that were planned under the sanitation and hygiene activity for this quarter were delayed. There was a delay in the recruitment of an Environmental Health Officer during this period but one has been identified and will start in January, 2014.

2.2-10 Train district officials and health team staff on Knowledge, Attitude, Practice and Behaviors (KAPB) survey methodology and select survey areas

- Conduct KAPB survey in areas selected for Community Led Total Sanitation (CLTS)/Participatory Hygiene and Sanitation Transformation(PHAST)
- Provide ToT training to Health Assistants on CLTS and PHAST
- Train VHTs in CLTS and PHAST tools

¹¹Improved service delivery for prevention and treatment of maternal and child illnesses.

2.2-11 National Health Day campaigns

In October 2013, RWANU provided four districts health offices (Napak, Moroto, Nakapiripirit and Amudat) with logistical support¹² during the Family Health Days (FHDs) and Polio Campaigns.

2.2-12 World Aids Day, December, 2013

In December, 2013, RWANU supported Nakapiripirit District World AIDS Day celebrations through the provision of hiring of a tent, hall and refreshments for the District HIV/AIDS activities¹³. The District Health Office in Nakapiripirit used World AIDS Day as an opportunity to disseminate HIV/AIDS prevention messages through community dialogue amongst other activities in an effort to create awareness and advocacy to its wider community.

General challenges:

1. The districts were constrained with the non-availability and continuous breakdown of their outreach vehicles. As a result, most outreach activities were either suspended or not consistently implemented on a monthly basis, particularly in Napak and Amudat Districts. Discussions are underway with CUAMM and the District Health Officer for the repair and maintenance of these vehicles using UNICEF funds.
2. Some non-recurring equipment broke during transport (i.e. cleaning equipment and glass for the drug cupboard in Nabwal HC II). Any broken equipment will be replaced next quarter.
3. Some Health Center supervisors were not happy to receive the equipment because they lacked storage space and were anxious that some of the items would be stolen; in particular Karita HC III. This equipment was initially rejected however was later accepted with help of the Karita subcounty Chief approval.
4. During outreach supervision RWANU staff interviewed clients and questioned whether they were happy with RWANU service provision and the following bullets are some of their responses:
 - Client One said, “You should also bring soap for us for bathing our children and a mosquito net to sleep under.”
 - Client Two said, “The services are good but [we are] also hungry. We need food for ourselves and our children.”

RWANU will make sure that all complaints are addressed and will also continue to increase messaging around the availability of ration distributions for those eligible. Linkages to SO1 will also be promoted so that beneficiaries are aware of activities for which they might be eligible.

¹²One Vehicle per district, including fuel and driver for a 2-3 day period in each district

¹³Concern Uganda’s HIV Mainstreaming Training Module was used for HPs to train LMs on facts about HIV/AIDS, its mode of transmission, prevention and treatment. They in turn passed on this information to their MCG members. The district local government organized drama groups that conducted role play and sensitization messaging on how HIV/AIDS transmission, prevention and treatment. HCT was done with supported from MJAP and Nakapiripirit HC III. The district leadership chaired by the Deputy Chief Administrative Officer encouraged the entire community to visit HCs for HCT and continue seeking medical advice in regarding’s to HIV/AIDS prevention and treatment since most equipment and ART are available.

5. General hygiene is still a major problem; women came right from the garden to get health services with dirty hands and clothes. This will be addressed through general messaging, including MCGs and HHCGs, but also through hygiene activities that will be conducted through the new Environmental Health Officer.
6. Some HCIIIs like Chepatapoyo offer a wide range of services including ANC and Outpatient Therapeutic Care (OTC) services. They occasionally conduct emergency deliveries although they do not have a qualified midwife. The Nursing Assistant/In-charge of the health facility is a ToT for support staff on immunization, nutrition screening and OTC services. The HC In-charge expressed the need for essential drugs like oxytocin and quinine for pregnant mothers. They do not have these drugs because of their HCII status and despite ordering for them, they are not supplied. However, Cheptapoyo HCII is the sole HC in the area patients resort to for a wide range of health services. RWANU staff had a discussion with the Amudat DHO to relay concerns and advocate for the urgent need to recruit a qualified Midwife, Enrolled Nurse and Laboratory Technician to improve the quality of health services at Cheptapoyo. This is possible evidenced by the example of Nakapiripirit District where the DHO has posted all cadres of health staff to different health facilities (HFs) irrespective of their status (HCII, or HCIII or HCIV).
7. Post Natal Care services: Mothers very often do not turn up for this service as they do not see the relevance in it despite health education being given to them. We will keep promoting this as a very necessary intervention for both mother and child. The possibility of doing a Doer/Non-Doer analysis will be considered.
8. The implementation of MCGs continued to be delayed. The primary reason for this was time delays for unexpected translation and back-translation issues, as well as a severe delay by the printers to get the materials to Concern in the agreed timeframe.
9. Concern's Social Behavior Change (SBC) Specialist and Senior Nutritionist both resigned during this quarter. This resulted in a delay for some of the nutrition activities (as did the ongoing census). To gap-fill for these positions and bring the program back to schedule, Concern Uganda's Mainstreaming Coordinator and HQ Nutrition Advisor will assist with some of the key activities. This includes work on both the Male Change Agent Strategy and Module 2 Curriculum and Counselling Cards.

Planned activities for second quarter FY 2014

- Conduct preparatory work and ToTs for CSC; begin implementation of CSC
- Train HF staff on use of equipment; provide non-recurring health supplies and logistical support, mentoring, training, and supportive supervision
- Continue to provide logistical, material and supervisory support to MOH outreach services
- Provide mentoring and supportive supervision to health facility staff on IMAM
- Conduct ToT for district or HCs GMP trainers by Regional Nutritionist, and train HF staff

COMMODITY OPERATIONS:

During the quarter, the commodity department, in close collaboration with the RWANU health and nutrition team, continued to rollout its commodity distribution activities at 17 food distribution points in the four subcounties of Namalu, Nabilatuk, Kakomongole and Lolachat in Nakapiripirit district. In the same period, data collection for post distribution monitoring activities at the household level and markets along with the standard operating procedures were developed and adopted for use both by key program staff and the distribution team.

Solicitation of internal transportation services for the movement of commodities from field warehouses to food distribution points was published in the local print media and the procurement process is expected to be finalized in February 2014.

A warehouse lease agreement was signed for a 2,000 metric ton (MT) capacity warehouse in Soroti. This facility will be used as ACDI/VOCA's primary warehouse for all its upcoming direct distribution commodity shipments from the port of Dar es Salaam. RWANU is terminating its Matany warehouse lease agreement due to the program's inability to fumigate its commodities at this facility as required by the PERSUAP; however several options are being looked at to identify another warehouse facility in the district that meets the required program specifications. A two months' lease agreement was signed between ACDI/VOCA and WFP (November – December, 2013) to temporarily store 350MT of direct distribution commodities for fumigation.

Direct distribution commodities in stock in all ACDI/VOCA warehouses as of December 31, 2013.

Corn soya blend (MT)	Vegetable oil (MT)	Green split peas (MT)	Corn meal(MT)	Total tonnage(MT)
127.529	33.733	110.589	224.418	496.269

Beneficiaries reached and commodities distributed to date

Period	Pregnant and lactating women	Children under 2 years	Corn soy blend (MT)	Vegetable oil (MT)	Split green peas (MT)	Cornmeal (MT)	Total (MT)
Oct – Dec 2013	1,221	1,686	17.853	5.312	14.897	33.360	71.421
To date	1,258	1,686	21.768	6.350	18.244	40.008	86.370

Planned activities for second quarter FY 2014

1. Roll out commodity distribution activities in the remaining three subcounties (Loregae, Mourita and Lorengedwat) in Nakapiripit district, one subcounty (Karita) in Amudat, and one subcounty (Iriiri) in Napak district.
2. Contract the inland and discharge survey contractors for the movement of FY14 commodity shipments from the port of Dar es Salaam to Uganda.
3. Recruitment of a second commodity distribution team for the districts of Napak and Moroto and a second commodity distribution team for the districts of Nakapiripirit and Amudat. This will bring the total number of commodity distribution teams to four for the RWANU program.
4. The commodity team will organize an exchange learning tour to the Growth, Health and Governance program in north Karamoja.

3.0 CROSS-CUTTING

3.1 Gender

3.1-1 Gender awareness training of farmers

RWANU conducted a gender awareness training for 326 people (153 females and 173 males) in Napak and Moroto districts. The training focused on gender dynamics, how gender influences assumptions and actions of each individual group member, the importance of gender considerations in projects and groups, how they can integrate gender into their work and introduced the USAID gender policy. As a result of the gender awareness raising most group leaders promised to take up of the responsibility of gender sensitizations among their group members after which they will come up with strategies to convince and encourage their male counterparts take active role in tasks at the household levels.

An analysis of gender composition in decision making structures was conducted in four sub counties of Napak district to determine the women leadership composition and decision making at the group level in IY1 farmer training groups. The result of the gender composition analysis showed that there are more women than men in the FTGs. However, women's visibility in decision making processes and leadership positions such as chairperson is still very low at 28% compared to men at 72%. Secretary positions are held equally by men and women (50% each) and 78% of treasurer positions are held by women compared to 22% by men. The low number of women in the chairperson position means that women may not be able to influence decisions at the group level hence invisibility of women in group decision making processes. RWANU will continue the dialogue and discussions with the groups to encourage more women in the groups' leadership positions.

Together with the social behavior change specialist, gender was integrated into the male change agent strategy. A document on this subject is currently being circulated for input with the technical teams in RWANU. The strategy is meant to help bring men on board as change agents who will be at the forefront of disseminating nutrition messages while integrating gender mainstreaming messages to communities.

Efforts were also made in integrating gender into other program activities and trainings (post-harvest handling and conflict mitigation) through presentations of gender specific content in trainings and also cross checking other project training content to ensure gender sensitivity in topics, venue selection and encouraging active participation of both men and women during trainings. There was a 30% average knowledge gain of the participants.

Planned activities for second quarter FY 2014

1. Conduct gender participatory awareness raising for both the technical and field based staff.
2. Together with Agriculture Coordinator, conduct the training for NAADS officers.
3. Conduct gender integration committee meeting.
4. Carry out a mini assessment in the four districts to ascertain the effectiveness of the gender committee /forum.
5. Continue to integrate gender into all program activities.

6. Attend district level gender meetings.

3.2 Conflict mitigation.

3.2-1 Training of field staff on conflict mitigation tools

29 field based staff (22 males and 7 females) were trained on practical tools to promote conflict mitigation in their work (emphasize need to involve men/women, traditional leaders, engage in community dialogue to address issues including theft and alcohol use, target beneficiaries from different ethnic groups). Also the conflict mitigation assessment findings and strategy was shared during this training. There was a 30% average knowledge gain of the participants.

3.2-2 Integration of conflict sensitive messages into trainings

RWANU successfully integrated conflict mitigation into training aspects and sensitization. Leaders of FTGs, apiary groups, savings and credit groups' were targeted), A total of 54 FTG groups and apiary groups (represented by 108 leaders, two from each group. The leaders included 24 females and 84 males. These leaders were reached to integrate conflict mitigation into the sensitization process during association formation in Nakapiripirit district. Another group of 44 FTGs (represented by 175 leaders; 104 males and 71 females) received conflict mitigation training during the gender participatory awareness trainings in Napak district. In addition seven apiary groups were reached in Nakapiripirit District, Lemsui Parish in Moruita subcounty as well as Namalu and Kakomongole subcounties). The conflict mitigation officer assisted the honey production team to observe conflict sensitivity and do no harm (DNH) principles during the formation of the new apiary groups in Lemsui, Komaret, Kakomongole and Namalu to ensure stakeholders including local leaders are involved in the program to promote ownership, sustainability and to avoid potential conflicts. This is in line with the conflict mitigation strategy developed during FY13 for RWANU. A session on conflict mitigation was integrated during the training of field extension staff on post-harvest handling in Nakapiripirit (29 staff were trained; 22 males and 7 female).

The conflict mitigation officer conducted a series of meetings with 98 FTGs and apiary groups (represented by 149 leaders; 114 males and 35 females) to share concerns that affect the program and the beneficiaries during the implementation of activities and propose solutions. Some of the concerns identified included late distribution of seeds resulting in late planting hence poor harvest, unpredictable dry spell that affected the maturity of the crops, and a lack of commitment from some groups' members that affected labor outputs at the demonstration plots. In addition another concern was the uncontrolled wild fires that may affect the apiary sites.

RWANU formed 16 pilot Community Action Groups (CAGs) in sub counties of Moruita, Namalu, Lokopo, Lorengechora and Matany. 96 (six members per group) members were selected, represented by 50% males and 50% females. The CAGs will help in resolving conflicts that may arise as a result of RWANU activities.

Planned activities for second quarter FY 2014

1. Train partner staff on practical tools to promote conflict mitigation in their work, emphasizing the need to involve men/women and traditional leaders; engage in community dialogue to address issues including theft and alcohol use, and targeting of beneficiaries from different ethnic groups. Integrate conflict mitigation into training

aspects and sensitization of the program at farmer group leader level (FTGs, apiary groups, savings and credit groups).

2. Integrate conflict mitigation during the training of field extension staff
3. Continue to meet with FTGs, apiary groups, women livestock group leaders to share concerns and propose solutions.
4. Form and evaluate the remaining pilot Community Action Groups in selected communities to determine their value as part of a conflict sensitive approach.
5. Attend CAG quarterly meetings and document success stories.
6. Monitor CAGs activities to assess their performance.
7. Integrate conflict mitigation into all training aspects of the program at mother care group level.
8. Participate in partner meetings at district level on conflict mitigation.
9. Mentoring and coaching of the FEWs and CAGs.

3.3 Disaster risk reduction (DRR) and natural resource management (NRM)

3.3-1 Development of disaster risk contingency plans

The DRR/NRM officer supported nine farmer training groups, three apiary groups and five CAGs in developing disaster contingency plans in Lokopo, Lotome, Iriiri, Nabilatuk, Namalu and Kakomongole sub counties in Napak and Nakapiripirit districts. During farmers/community engagement in developing disaster contingency plans, the commonly identified pressing hazards included drought (prolonged dry spells), crop pests and diseases, termite attacks, honey dew on crops 'ebuta', weeds, uncontrolled bush fire and wind, floods and water logging and hail stones in parts of Iriiri, Namalu and Kakomongole sub counties. Forty six (46) farmer training groups (998 farmers) were trained on DRR/NRM in Napak, Nakapiripirit and Amudat districts by the FEWs. The topics that were addressed included: managing agricultural hazards and disasters affecting people's livelihoods in Karamoja, adaptability to drought, sustainable soil management practices and soil erosion control measures, and environmental protection and conservation practices.

3.3-2 Dissemination of early warning information (EWI) to FEWs

The program solicited and received early warning information on droughts and rainfall. This information is provided by ACTED, Department of Meteorological Center weather updates, FEWSNET and Karamoja weather updates from Karamoja Google Group¹⁴. The report content includes situational overview of the crop and livestock weather forecast and recommendations on response mechanisms drawn by the district early warning focal person.

The EWI has been shared with the FEWS for subsequent dissemination to the program supported farmers. As a program strategy, the early warning information dissemination is integrated into

¹⁴The Karamoja Google Group is a network of organizations working in Karamoja mainly for posting, exchanging and sharing ideas pertaining to the region by different experts and informed individuals. Information about regional weather forecasts is also posted in here. Messages of drought, rainfall, livestock and human disease outbreak predictions and shared recommendations are among the many items shared in this network

program field activities such as community/farmers meetings, field trainings and activities like credit savings, agronomy activities, DRR/NRM activities, and environmental awareness meetings. Follow up on how the farmers are responding to the early warning information is ongoing.

3.3-3 Assessment on commercial tree planting

The team carried out an assessment of commercial tree planting with the purpose of identifying potential farmer training groups to be engaged in planting commercial trees for environmental protection. Forty two potential groups comprising of 1,025 farmers were identified for this activity in the sixteen sub counties.

3.3-4 Collaboration with the District natural resources department

The project DRR/NRM team coordinated with the local district office of environment and natural resources management in Napak and Nakapiripirit engaged in sharing district disaster and environment plans. The team trained 325 farmers on Farmer Managed Natural Regeneration (FMNR) in the sub counties of Lopeei, Ngoleriet, Lotome, Lorengechora, Iriiri, Nabilatuk, Moruita, Kakomongole, and Lolachat sub counties. The purpose of the training was to promote, conserve and protect the natural vegetation that is meant to be integrated into livestock and crop production systems.

Program staff participated in the Karamoja Disaster Risk Reduction experimental sharing policy dialogue and DRR plan for the Horn of Africa on December 18, 2013, organized by FAO and IIRR in Moroto. The purpose of the workshop was to share experiences on how different NGOs, local governments, politicians and government ministries and agencies in Karamoja region can coordinate in reducing disasters and boost environment protection in the region; issues of conflicts and alcohol consumption reduction strategies across the region was also discussed in the coordination meeting.

Planned activities for second quarter FY 2014

1. Monitor the dissemination of early warning information to the farmers across all sixteen subcounties in the four districts.
2. Support farmer training groups in developing disaster contingency plans in response to the early warning information.
3. Integrate NRM and DRR principles in site selection for demonstration farms, block farming and other crop farming activities. This includes identifying fields that are not prone to flood risks, disease and pests infestation, soil erosion, fire risks and water logging etc.
4. Conduct DRR/NRM training for the Community Action Groups (CAGs) and the NAADS coordinators.

4.0 MONITORING AND EVALUATION

4.1 Capacity building

The M&E team conducted field monitoring visits to support the FEWs in the use of the data collection and reporting tools. The purpose of the training was to provide feedback to the field

team on the potential errors that can be made in data collection and to refresh them on data collection standards to improve the quality of data.

4.2 Development of the database

An acceptable prototype of the database was installed on the RWANU server. The firm contracted to design the new database is Data Care (U) Ltd. The database has 5 modules: (a) data entry, (b) data view, (c) data analysis, (d) reporting and dashboard and (e) system administration. The interfaces were based on the monitoring and reporting tools of the program. The prototype has been evaluated and presented to stakeholders for review. The database is currently hosting the data collected from the census – all households and individual information in the program area. All beneficiaries related program data has been uploaded into the database and unique identification codes assigned. Program data available in the database include farming practices, livestock management data, honey producers data and data on saving and credit activities. Data on commodity operations and management is currently being generated from the database. This includes selection of eligible food beneficiaries according to conditionality criteria, generating beneficiary ration cards and registers. Continuous updating of the database depending on the changing beneficiary status is going on. A data flow structure to streamline the reporting and updating of the beneficiaries data was implemented.

4.3 Completion of census activities

Registration of households and individual in Napak District, Nadunget Sub-county was completed during the quarter. Data collection during the census was done using mobile hand held data collection devices. Data collected included household characteristic, individual demographic data and household livelihood data. Census data is used by the program to identify eligible beneficiaries, activity areas depending on vulnerability profile and for setting program annual targets. The census data gives a baseline count of all the population and households in the entire program area. New available information from the census has been used to revise the program targets for FY14 through to the end of program activity.

4.4 Baseline survey

USAID contracted the firm ICF International which worked with its subcontractor, A.C. Nielsen, to carry out a baseline survey. The field work was carried out during the first half of 2013 and baseline report dated October 31, 2013, was received by ACIDI/VOCA in November 2013.

4.5 Annual Survey

To obtain FY13 data for outcome level indicators in the Indicator Performance Tracking Table (IPTT), the program focused on the procurement of services by an independent consultancy from SFG International, a locally based leader in conducting evaluation research and project management. The annual survey, unlike the baseline survey, will interview program beneficiaries and is scheduled to begin in January 2014.

4.6 Periodic reporting

The program team prepared and submitted to USAID weekly report updates beginning in November. The weekly reports summarize program achievements and weekly plans. The weekly

reports are shared with all RWANU staff and serve to keep staff and USAID informed of what is taking place on a weekly basis.

4.7 Short term technical assistance

The M&E unit received and hosted Maria Joao Nazareth, an M&E Advisor who provided technical assistance in preparation of the M&E Plan, reviewing the IPTT, reviewing the functional structure of the M&E team/unit. She also supported the selection of the annual survey vendors and reviewing the annual survey questionnaire. As result of the M&E unit review, a functional organization structure was developed that dropped the position of M&E Deputy Manager and introduced two M&E Specialist positions to support the SOs. The purpose of the review was to reposition M&E to respond more strategically to the growing information requirements of the program.

4.7 Field monitoring visits

The M&E team conducted field visits to assess the utilization of ration cards and beneficiary registers in food distribution process. The visit also evaluated the data flow processes and accuracy of the data reported from the food distributions. The visits were made in Napayan food distribution point in Nabilatuk sub-county, where the data used for food distribution was assessed and recommendations were made that data on food beneficiaries should be updated at the FDP. The team also visited the census enumeration team in Matany Subcounty and met the local leaders who expressed interest in the census data for planning. Further supervision visits were made to the census enumerators to review the progress and provided recommendation on field challenges.

Planned activities for second quarter FY 2014

1. Provide technical assistance to program staff in conflict assessment and disaster risk assessment.
2. Participate in the joint monitoring of field activities in liaison with the district authorities of the four districts in which RWANU is being implemented.
3. Download all census data, merge, clean and submit a combined report for both Napak and Moroto districts and explore full utilization of data collected during the census process.
4. Disseminate information and copies of progress reports to the district local government in the program areas.
5. Routinely update the database with new beneficiary information data reported from program activities.
6. Prepare the M&E Plan, update data collection tools and manuals.
7. Hold field monitoring visits in selected sites and carry out quality assessments in all IR areas.
8. Conduct capacity building for program staff and field based data collection teams.
9. Supervise the field data collection for the annual survey carried out by an independent consultancy firm.

10. Provide support to the design of the program database, in particular the reporting module and data analysis module.

5.0 ADMINISTRATION

5.1 RWANU Management Changes

ACDI/VOCA recruited Mesfin Ayele to serve in the position of Deputy Chief of Party (DCOP) in October. The DCOP spends most of his time in the office in Moroto, overseeing RWANU activities throughout the project area.

RWANU Chief of Party (COP) [REDACTED] left in November and ACDI/VOCA brought in [REDACTED] to serve as Acting COP. ACDI/VOCA immediately began the task of recruiting a long term COP. A new COP is to be brought on board during the January – March 2014 quarter.

5.2 Support Visits – ACDI/VOCA Headquarters and Other

The October – December 2013 quarter included a number of visits from ACDI/VOCA headquarters plus outside technical support:

- [REDACTED], ACDI/VOCA Compensation Director– Worked with ACDI/VOCA RWANU staff on compensation and personnel issues; October, 2013.
- [REDACTED], ACDI/VOCA Regional Compliance Specialist – Carried out a compliance review of ACDI/VOCA RWANU finance, accounting and procurement; October and November, 2013.
- [REDACTED], ACDI/VOCA Senior Technical Director of Nutrition and Sonya Kibler, Concern Nutrition Advisor – Conducted a joint field visit to Karamoja to review ongoing activities for both SO1 and SO2 and worked closely with all SO technical leaders and field staff to develop an agriculture and nutrition integration working plan which will feed into the workplan; October, 2013.
- [REDACTED], ACDI/VOCA Deputy Director, Commodity Management – Provided technical support to the commodity team and supervised the finalization of commodity distribution standard operating procedures; October, 2013.
- [REDACTED], ACDI/VOCA Program Coordinator – Worked with RWANU staff in areas including M&E, procurement, program management and overall communication and collaboration between ACDI/VOCA-Washington and the RWANU program; September and October, 2013.
- [REDACTED], ACDI/VOCA Managing Director, Food Security – Conducted a supervisory visit and met with team members; October, 2013.
- [REDACTED], M&E Specialist– Carried out a two month assignment to support the M&E effort of the program: November 2013 – January 2014.
- [REDACTED], ACDI/VOCA Senior M&E Director – Accompanied M&E Consultant Maria João Nazareth at the start-up of her assignment; November – December 2013.

- [REDACTED], ACDI/VOCA Managing Director, Community Development – provided program management and planning support; December, 2013.

5.3 USAID Visits

- [REDACTED], Agreement Officer, USAID Washington and [REDACTED], Food Security Specialist visited RWANU sites in Karamoja and met with staff between 10-12 October.
- Additional meetings took place between ACDI/VOCA management and field people and USAID-Uganda officials including [REDACTED], Project Management Specialist David Mutazindwa and [REDACTED], Vulnerable Populations Unit Leader. Most of the visits by ACDI/VOCA Washington staff and the ACDI/VOCA consultant included one or more meetings with and presentations to USAID.

5.4 USAID Portfolio Review

- USAID carried out a portfolio review of the RWANU program on November 13, 2013. The RWANU ACOP, DCOP and six other senior ACDI/VOCA staff attended along with one staff from WHH and two senior staff from Concern. Ten people from USAID attended. Many program issues were discussed and many ideas exchanged. However, the principal issues related to the need to ensure that RWANU contributes to the sustainability of the population that we are serving. The program is providing thousands of farmers with seed, goats, and other farm inputs. While all agreed that the purpose of each intervention is to promote self-sustainability on the part of the beneficiaries, much discussion took place regarding the methods used to achieve sustainability. The same holds for food distribution – it was agreed that messages must be delivered and other measures taken to ensure that the food helps the beneficiaries become able to provide for themselves and does not lead to dependence. To support this effort, livelihood programs are to overlap with the food distribution activities in order to promote self-sustainability.

5.5 Reports Submitted to USAID

- Annual Results Report – Submitted November 8, 2013.
- Weekly reports – Beginning November 25, submitted each week with the exception of two weeks around the holidays. These reports are not required reporting by USAID Food for Peace but are used to keep all RWANU staff as well as the USAID Mission aware of program activities.
- Commodity Status Reports – Submitted for the quarters ending March, June and September, 2013. The March and June reports had been delayed as commodity staff worked with FFP people in Nairobi to resolve on line technical issues.
- Standardized Annual Performance Questionnaires (SAPQ) – Submitted November, 2013.
- Performance Indicator Reporting System (PIRS) – Submitted November, 2013.

5.6 Challenges Encountered

ACDI/VOCA's Kampala office suffered two break-ins on December 21 and 23, 2013. The first break-in also resulted in the death of a guard from the firm, Falcon Securico Guards Ltd. Actions taken following these break-ins included:

- Hired a private investigation firm, Scorpion Investigations & Security to follow up with police to determine whether ACDI/VOCA was targeted and to apprehend the culprits.
- Terminated the services of Falcon Securico Guards Ltd and hired Security Group (Uganda) Ltd to provide security at all ACDI/VOCA RWANU sites.
- Entered into an agreement with Scorpion Investigations & Security whereby this firm will carry out a “security appraisal” and advise ACDI/VOCA on an ongoing basis regarding the security of staff and assets. ACDI/VOCA is now pursuing the procurement of goods and services aimed at strengthening security.
- ACDI/VOCA and Scorpion determined that the current location of the ACDI/VOCA office in Bugolobi, Kampala is a high risk location and alternative office locations are being studied.