



RESILIENCY THROUGH WEALTH, AGRICULTURE, AND NUTRITION IN KARAMOJA (RWANU)

Agreement No: AID-FFP-A-12-00011

QUARTERLY REPORT (April -- June 2014)

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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
DDG	Danish Demining Group
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
IRC	International Rescue Committee
IY	Implementation Year
IYCF	Infant and Young Child Feeding
KALIP	Karamoja Livelihoods Project
KAPB	Knowledge, attitude, practice and behavior
kg	Kilogram
LM	Lead Mother
MCG	Mother Care groups
MCHN	Maternal child health and Nutrition
MoH	Ministry of Health
MoU	Memorandum of Understanding
MT	Metric Ton
MUAC	Middle Upper Arm Circumference
NAADS	National Agricultural Advisory and Development Services
NabuZARDI	Nabuin Zonal Agricultural Research and Development Institute
NARFA	Namalu RWANU Farmers Association
NRM	Natural resource management
OCODI	Omaniman Community Development Initiative
OPM	Office of the Prime Minister

OPV	Open Pollinate Varieties
PHAST	Participatory Hygiene and Sanitation Transformation
PHH	Post-harvest handling
SAM	Severe Acute Malnutrition
ToT	Trainer of trainers
TSO	Technical Support officer
TUNADO	The Uganda Apiculture Development Association
UGX	Uganda Shillings
UNADA	Uganda National Agro-Input Dealers Association
UNFPA	United Nations Population Fund
UOSPA	Uganda Oil Seed Producers Association
VSF Belgium-	Veterinary San Frontiers – Belgium
VHT	Village health team
WASH	Water, Sanitation and Hygiene
WUC	Water users committee

RWANU Program Description

The overall goal of the Resiliency through Wealth, Agriculture, and Nutrition in Karamoja (RWANU) project (Cooperative Agreement Number AID-FFP-A-12-00011) is a five-year USAID Food for Peace Development Food Assistance Program (DFAP) is to reduce food insecurity among vulnerable people in Southern Karamoja. 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.

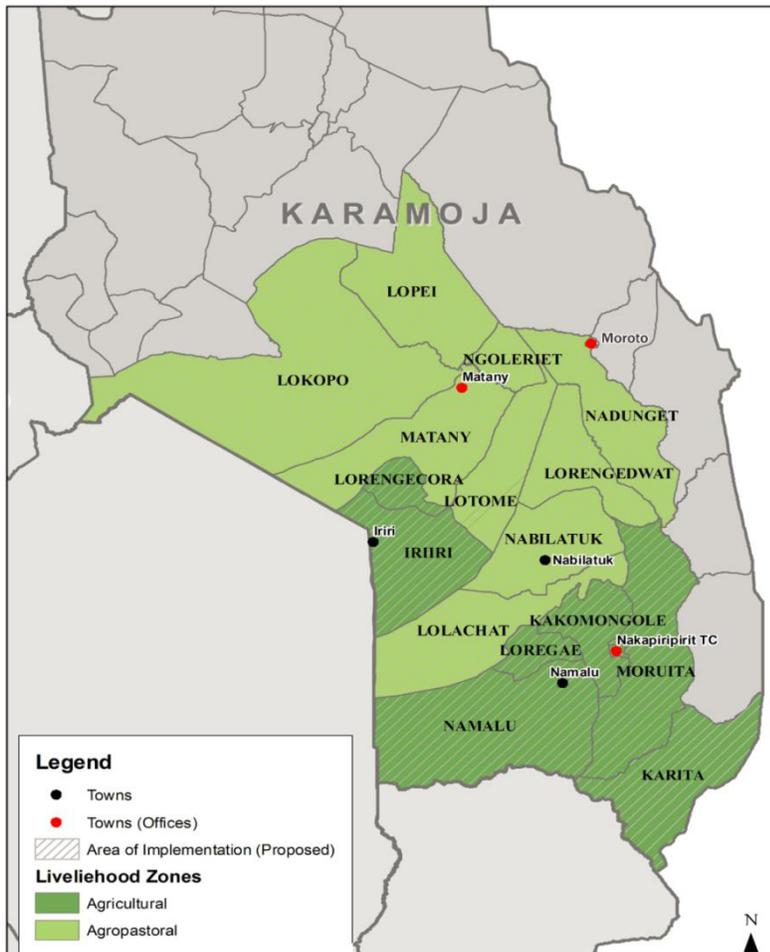


Figure 1: Districts and sub-counties served by RWANU

ACDI/VOCA is the prime partner responsible for overall program management and leads implementation of most activities under SO1, 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 provisions related to livestock. Concern Worldwide (Concern) has primary responsibility for the nutrition, health, and hygiene activities covered under SO2, while ACIDI/VOCA manages the distribution of food rations. ACIDI/VOCA and partners work together to ensure integration across activities and promotion of gender equity and women's empowerment, environmental stewardship, and conflict mitigation.

This report highlights the implementation progress of RWANU over the April to June 2014 period.

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

Intermediate Result 1.1: Improved smallholder farm management practices adopted by men and women.

RWANU promotes a combination of strategies to improve smallholder farm management practices and enhance agriculture production and productivity. The strategies include i) **Formation of farmer training groups (FTGs) and setting up demonstration plots (Demos)** to impart agricultural knowledge and skills. Seeds and planting materials for the demo plots were made available during this quarter by the project. ii) **Facilitate adoption of improved agricultural practices:** members of the FTGs are encouraged to apply their learning from the demo plots into their private gardens. The project provided in kind grants of seeds and follow up technical support by the field extension workers (FEWs). iii) **Promote market oriented production:** to encourage farmers to move from a predominantly subsistence farming to a relatively larger scale and market oriented production, RWANU provided technical and material support in the form of improved varieties of seeds and supplementing the cost of land preparation to block farm groups. iv) **Horticulture production:** to supplement household income through increased vegetable production and to improve household access to diversified diet.

Delayed onset of rain during this season has seriously impacted the timely planting of the crops in many parts of the project. The planting season in Karamoja normally begins in March, April when the rains start and farmers expect harvest in July. However, this season the rain started towards the end of May and most crop stands are still at vegetative stages and if the rain pattern continues, farmers expect to harvest in September.

Delays in the approval of the restricted seeds, primarily ground nut seed, affected timely delivery and planting. At the time when the project secured the approval for the ground nuts, the planting season had already passed. As a result, the project team decided to halt the procurement of ground nut seeds, affecting 113 FTGs who had prepared their gardens. Although the project had planned to demonstrate cereals and legumes in each FTG, because of this delay these groups only have cereal demos.

1.1-1 Distribution of improved seed varieties

During the quarter, RWANU procured and distributed 34.615 metric tons of improved seed varieties of sorghum, maize and beans. The seeds have been distributed to 220 FTGs to establish demo sites, to 5500 individual farmers to promote adoption of improved farming practices learned from the demos, and to 60 block farm groups to encourage 'large scale' production. Seed types and varieties were recommended by the Regional Research Institution NabuZARDI based on their adaptability to the agro-ecology and resistance to disease and pests. Before the procurement, RWANU confirmed farmers' preference and interest to grow those varieties.

Table 1: Overview of seeds distributed to individual FTGs, Demos and block farms

Activity		Demos ¹	Individual gardens	Block Farms	TOTALS
Farmers		220 x 25	5500	57 x 25	6925
Crop	Variety	kg seed	kg seed	kg seed	Total Kg
Maize	MM3	70	1,750	980	2,800
	Longe 5	240	7,650	870	8,760
	Longe 7	0	0	300	300
Sorghum	Seso 3	305.2	8,280	747	9,332
Beans	NABE 4	455	10,500	1,420	12,375
TOTAL					33,567

A balance of 1050kg of Seso3 Sorghum seed is available in store. The project team intends to distribute these seeds to farmers groups from IY1, during the short August-September wet season. These are farmers groups in Napak and Nakapiripirit who lost their crops in 2013/14 cropping season and so do not have the recommended improved seed varieties.



Figure 2 Improved seeds delivered to individual farmers

1.1-2 Demonstration Plots

During this quarter the project supported the establishment of demonstration plots in all 16 sub counties. A distribution plan for demos and block farms is shown in Table 2.

¹ Beneficiaries of the demonstration plots also receive seeds for the individual gardens, thus the total farmers for the program is sum of those beneficiaries (5500) and the farmers from the block farms (1425).

TABLE 2: DEMONSTRATION PLOTS & BLOCK FARM PARTICIPANTS

		DEMONSTRATION PLOTS				BLOCK FARMS				TOTAL
District	Sub-county	No of FTGs	Sex			No. of BF	Sex			
			M	F	Total		M	F	Total	% female
Amudat	Karita	14	138	212	350	5	44	78	122	61
Moroto	Nadugent	14	173	177	350	2	14	36	50	53
Nakapiripirit	Kakomongole	14	158	192	350	4	48	52	100	54
Nakapiripirit	Lolachat	16	169	231	400	4	43	59	102	58
Nakapiripirit	Loregae	16	199	201	400	4	44	56	100	51
Nakapiripirit	Lorengedwat	8	74	126	200	2	24	26	50	61
Nakapiripirit	Moruita	14	111	239	350	4	25	75	100	70
Nakapiripirit	Nabilatuk	16	159	241	400	4	40	60	100	60
Nakapiripirit	Namalu	14	156	194	350	5	52	72	124	56
Napak	Iriiri	16	163	237	400	5	54	71	125	59
Napak	Lokopo	22	232	318	550	6	68	81	149	57
Napak	Lopeeii	7	76	99	175	2	18	32	50	58
Napak	Lorengchora	14	138	212	350	4	56	44	100	57
Napak	Lotome	14	152	198	350	2	12	39	51	59
Napak	Matany	14	161	189	350	5	50	75	125	56
Napak	Ngoleriet	7	84	91	175	2	18	32	50	55
	TOTAL	220	2,343	3157	5,500	60	610	888	1,498	58

A total of 212 demonstration gardens (ranging from ½ to ¾ an acre) were established and planted with a combination of cereal and legume crops (e.g. sorghum, beans or, maize, and beans). Eight demonstration gardens were not planted because of the dry spell that persisted in some parts. Through these demonstration gardens 4,235 farmers (1,451 M and 2,784 F) have been trained on garden siting and land preparation and a total of 5,327 (2,242 M and 3,085F) took part in the training on appropriate crop planting and weeding.



Demo plot of sorghum on the left and beans on the right Lopeei s/county

Participating farmers meet at the demo gardens on a weekly basis and the FEWs train and demonstrate appropriate seeding rate, the importance of row planting, crop spacing, gap filling, weeding, and overall crop management. For example, gap filling was demonstrated on eight demos: three in Kakomongole for sorghum and beans, two in Namalu for maize, and three in Karita for maize. Farmers are advised to adopt these practices in their individual gardens and on spot follow up technical support is provided by FEWs and Technical Support Officers (TSOs).

1.1-3 Block Farming

To support the transition from predominantly subsistence farming to relatively larger scale and market oriented farming; RWANU supported sixty60 of the most successful groups of farmers in 2013 to engage in block farming activities. The project supported these groups with improved varieties of seeds, training and on-site technical support, and animal tractions to increase their ability to open a large tract of land to establish their block farm. During the current reporting period, the procurement of 120 oxen and 60 ox plows was completed. This procurement was however too late for the 2014 cultivation season and delivery of the oxen to the project beneficiaries has been further delayed due to the Foot and Mouth Disease (FMD) outbreak with a quarantine and the restriction on the movement of livestock imposed by the District Government.

As the oxen need training and harnessing before they are ready for plowing, the project in consultation with the farmers' groups decided to use tractor services for this season. The farmers' groups mobilized their savings and agreed to pay 30% contribution to hire tractor services. The project supplemented their initial contribution by reimbursing the farmer group 70% of the cost of plowing.

A total of 53 block farms each measuring 10 acres were plowed through this co-funding arrangement. Seven block farm groups failed to prepare the land in time. The FEWs and TSOs facilitated the link between the farmers' groups and tractor service providers but the farmers' groups negotiated the price and the terms of agreement with the service providers. This is believed to build strong relationships between the service providers and the farmers' groups. By

the end of the reporting period, 35 block farms were planted, 12 were awaiting distribution of cassava cuttings, and six were on hold due to the delay in the commencement of the rains.



Figure 3 Block Farm of Maize, Lopedur Muo group in Matany Subcounty

1.1-4 Horticulture

The project promotes cultivation of horticultural crops to improve households' access to diversified and nutritious diets and as a complementary source of income for the households. A full time horticulture officer was deployed during the period to coordinate this activity and to provide technical guidance to FEWs and farmers' groups on basic horticulture practices. The project planned to support 30 horticulture production groups with improved vegetable seeds and planting materials, training and extension advice, and setting up small irrigation systems for the horticulture gardens. This quarter, 10 horticulture production groups were trained to set up vegetable nursery beds. The groups received seeds of onions (red creole), cabbage (drumhead and copenhagen), and kale. Each group received two 50g tins of each of the vegetable seed types.

The project will assist the groups to set up small scale drip irrigation systems using rain water harvesting technology. Rain water harvesting has been chosen based on cost, ease of use, and being environmentally-friendly. The unit consists of a family drip system to irrigate 1,000 square meters, a 500 liter capacity tank, a treadle pump and a 1mm thick HDPE pond liner. To ensure effective management and ownership of the small scale irrigation systems, co-funding between the FTG and the project is under discussion with the groups. By the end of the reporting period eight groups had agreed to put forward cost share contributions to set up the horticulture system in their gardens.

1.1-5 Research on seed varieties

The contract between RWANU and NabuZARDI called for the submission of the final report of the 2013 season as one of the milestones. This had not been completed by the end of May 2014 and therefore the establishment of 20 demos for Integrated Pest Management (IPM) research planned for 2014 was not initiated during the quarter. With the submission of a draft report (still to be finalized following feedback from RWANU) discussions have commenced to undertake some second season demonstration plots in four sub-counties to demonstrate alternative crops. A new Fixed Obligation Grant (FOG) agreement is under preparation.

Planned for July-Sept, 2014

1. Organize 16 farmer field days (one in each sub county) to facilitate learning and information sharing between FTGs within the sub-counties
2. Organize eight exchange visits for farmers within South Karamoja to facilitate peer learning between good performing groups and the groups that lag behind
3. Refresher and practical on-site training for 30 FEWs and 750 farmers
4. Procure equipment and set up drip irrigation system for up to 30 horticulture groups
5. Train groups on the management and maintenance of the drip irrigation system including appropriate use of equipment
6. Provision of PHH equipment including hand-held maize shellers, manual maize shellers, and tarpaulins to facilitate cleaner drying of grain.
7. Refresher TOT for FEWs on PHH activities including timely harvesting, proper on farm drying, shelling/threshing, sorting/cleaning, and storage
8. Train farmers on post-harvest handling activities including timely harvesting, proper on-farm drying, shelling/threshing, sorting/cleaning, and storage.

Intermediate Results 1.2: Improved smallholder livestock management practices

The major focus of RWANU under this intermediate result is the provision of breeding goats to targeted mothers to complement household nutrition through enhanced access to goats' milk and to build household asset and income. The project employs a set of interlinked strategies and activities to achieve this result. These include formation of women livestock groups; training of women in goat management, and basic animal husbandry practices. Some of these include housing, health care, feeding and feed management, procurement and distribution of local goats, breed improvement through the introduction of Toggenburg cross breed bucks and Galla bucks and does, and strengthening the animal health delivery system.

1.2-1 Women livestock group formation

During this quarter the project facilitated the formation of 47 WLGs (470 women) giving a total of 108 groups and 1,119 beneficiaries. The groups were trained in basic animal husbandry, including disease identification, routine deworming, the use of quality animal health services, establishment of fodder plots, and construction of goat shelters. The project started the process to establish a sustainable veterinary drug supply system in South Karamoja, and conducted close monitoring of the milk production and the overall reproductive performance of the goats distributed to date. As a pre-requisite to receiving the goats, members of the women's groups were encouraged to save money for veterinary care. To date, 45 groups have established savings schemes and are already using their savings to get their animals treated. All the WLGs are linked to community animal health workers (CAHWs) to access veterinary services.

1.2-2 Goat distribution

Of the 47 WLGs formed in this quarter, 35 groups (350 beneficiaries) received 1,087 goats (839 local females, 19 Toggenburg cross-bred bucks, 208 Galla does, and 21 Galla bucks). The remaining 12 groups (122 beneficiaries) are still working on fulfilling the necessary pre-requisites including preparing shelters and mobilizing savings for veterinary care. During this quarter 9 WLGs from the last year's cohort received their balance of 322 goats (239 local females, 78 Galla does, 2 Galla bucks, and 3 Toggenburg cross bred). In this quarter the project has distributed more pure female Galla goats with an intention to maintain the pure breed of Galla goats in the area while at the same time promoting the cross breeding of local females with Galla bucks. The total number of goats represents 44% of the quarter's target of 3,200 goats. Two major factors were responsible for the underachievement:

- i) Limited number of suitable goats in the markets;
- ii) Outbreak of Foot and Mouth Disease (FMD) in Nakapiripirit District.

The FMD outbreak led to a quarantine imposed in Nakapiripirit District starting mid-May 2014 and continuing through the current reporting period. Currently 65 Galla goats are in Kenya waiting for the quarantine to be lifted. Plans are underway together with Districts, FAO, and other partners to control this outbreak.

The cumulative number of beneficiaries that have received goats to date is 869 (350 IY2 and 519 IY1) and to date a total of 2,746 goats have been distributed by the project.

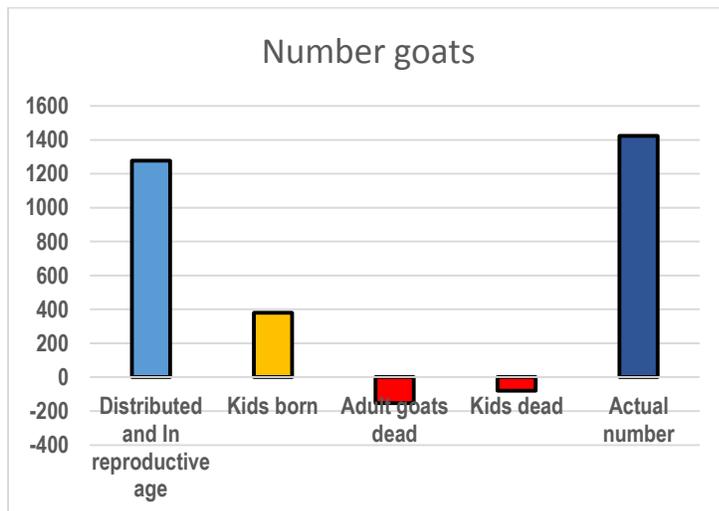


4A women livestock group in Lopeei sub-county, Napak District after receiving Galla goats

1.2-3 Reproduction of the goats

The project team conducted an assessment of the flock dynamics to gauge the reproductive performances of the goats distributed. The assessment revealed that the actual reproductive

performance (reproduction rate) stands at approximately 30%². Of the 2,746 goats distributed, 2,645 were females. Of the 2,645 female goats 1,277 goats have been with the beneficiaries for more than 7 months and are expected to reproduce. As of the end of this quarter, adult goat mortality was 154. A total of 380 kids were born of which 79 kids did not survive, giving a total of 301 surviving kids (179 females, 122 males). The current living goat population is therefore 1,424 animals. This is shown graphically below.



Explanations for the low reproductive performance include the following:

- i) All the animals were not distributed at the same time and there was a time lapse of six months between the first and the last distributions,
- ii) The project distributed female goats that were below the reproductive age (this was intentionally done to avoid the high rate of Brucellosis³ in the mature animals). It is advised that female goats should be mated the first time at the age of 9 months, or even at one year. The assumption that they will be mated successfully immediately after distribution is not correct. Offspring can only be expected about one year after distribution.
- iii) As the animals came from a different environment they needed time to adjust to the relatively harsher Karamoja environment.
- iv) A very weak animal health service delivery system, however most goat owners who have access to veterinary services use these services.
- v) The existence of high rates of disease setbacks in the reproductive performance of the goats including incidents of abortions which were attributed to late attention to disease conditions, early pregnancies, and accidental use of pregnancy state contra-indicated drugs. No detailed survey of the cause of abortion or death has been undertaken yet. A more profound analysis of the mortalities and the abortions, including taking of blood

² The FAO Karamoja mission report of April 2014, revealed that due to the extensive production system in the region the following are expected for in goats: kidding at 2 years of age, kidding rate of 80%, neo-natal mortality rates of 30% or higher and adult mortality rates of 15%.

³ Karamoja Livestock Disease Surveillance report of 2010 by Institute for International Co-operation and Development reported 14% rates of Brucellosis incidence in the breeding stocks.

samples of aborting female goats and analyzing them at the C&D laboratory in Moroto (certified by MAAIF), will be undertaken in the next quarter.

1.2.4. Milk production

The project aims to improve the level of nutrition for children and women through enhanced access to goats' milk at the household level. A project monitoring exercise of 92 milking goats, revealed an average daily milk production surplus of 0.25 liter (250ml) per goat after the kids suckle. The quantity of milk produced for the first kid is always low with the peak being reached after the third kid. The milking goats are still predominantly of the local breed. The distributed Galla females are expected to have a fairly substantial milk increase after they have produced kids. The female offspring from the Toggenburg crosses are expected to do the same as the Galla females. Project beneficiaries reported that they use the surplus milk to supplement the diet for their children. RWANU provided several goats for each group member, so that the milk quantity available is not just the estimated 0.25 liters per beneficiary, but multiples of that amount (0.5 or 0.75 liters), depending on the number of goats received and the number of goats which delivered. The project team has identified the need for more education and awareness raising on appropriate utilization of the milk and milk products for increased nutritional benefits. Discussion is underway with the SO2 team to integrate the messaging on milk utilization in the module of linking agriculture and nutrition. Mother Care Groups through the Health Promoters will receive the training and cascade the message to the women. A more detailed survey on this with more women will be done in the next quarter.

1.2-5 Goat shelter construction

The RWANU supported the construction of 39 goat shelters out of the 40 planned in this quarter by providing poles, nails, and binding wire as well as technical expertise for carpentry. Additional poles, sand for the platform and grass for the roofing are contributed by the WLGs. The beneficiaries appreciate the initiative to have shelters for their animals given the current rainy season.

1.2-6 Fodder banks

A total of 16 fodder production plots have been established in the sub-counties of Nabilatuk, Lolachat, and Kakomongole in Nakapiripirit District. Fodder seedlings consisting of *Calliandra calothyrsus* (1,500) and *Leucaena leucocephala* (200) have been distributed. The 1,500 *Calliandra calothyrsus* have been already planted in all the 16 fodder plots. The size of each fodder plot is 250 square meters (10 X 25 meters) and the groups have plans to expand the plots up to 1000 square meters.

The beneficiaries were supplied with watering cans and pangas to aid in the watering as well as fencing of these plots. The project, in consultation with the Climate Change Adaptation Learning Centre of GIZ, is procuring more types of fodder seedlings including *Sesbania*, *Gliricidia* and *Albizia*. The newly formed groups in the Napak green belt areas of Iriiri and Lorengechora sub counties have prepared the fodder production plots and they will receive the seedlings in the next quarter.

1.2-7 Veterinary health care service provision strengthening

During this quarter, 35 CAHWs have received refresher trainings from RWANU. The CAHWs were drawn from two associations from Bokora West and East sub-counties in Napak District. Refresher trainings for CAHWs from Nakapiripirit District were postponed to the next quarter due to the emergency response to the FMD outbreak. RWANU is coordinating with other agencies in order to avoid duplication. A series of coordination meetings between FAO, IRC, Save the Children, and RWANU team have been conducted. The discussions helped to harmonize approaches, training contents, and frequency and to determine which CAHWs are to be supported by which organization. In collaboration with veterinary offices of the District, 40 CAHWs from Namalu, Loregae, Kakomongole, and Lolachat sub-counties have been identified to receive support from the RWANU project. This brings to 95 the number of CAHWs that will be supported by RWANU.

Support to legalize the CAHWs' associations is underway with the District Veterinary Offices and RWANU plays a facilitation role in this process. This is expected to be concluded in the next quarter.

RWANU conducted an exchange visit to the Mercy Corps' Growth Health and Governance (GHG) project in North Karamoja to learn about the private veterinary drug supply system. GHG facilitated the link between private veterinary practitioners, wholesalers, and importers of veterinary pharmaceuticals. RWANU is collaborating with GHG to explore the potential for expanding the model through setting up agro-vet dealer networks in South Karamoja.

A survey of the existing veterinary supplies outlets (drug shops) in the RWANU project area revealed four major challenges:

- Lack of qualified professionals to provide supervision of the drug outlets. Most drug outlets are managed by un-licensed personnel contrary to the Uganda government regulations;
- Poor linkages to major veterinary pharmaceutical distributors/suppliers;
- Limited range of products due to the poor linkages the drug outlets, stock limited type and quantity of drugs; and
- Poor facilities (e.g. no outlet had the capacity to handle vaccines and most had unsuitable premises for the sale of veterinary pharmaceuticals).

As part of the discussion to expand the agro-vet dealers' network, the RWANU team will develop appropriate strategies to address these gaps.

Planned activities for July-Sept, 2014

- Monitoring of the 108 continuing women livestock groups on the application of livestock practices, conduct follow up trainings, and support goats' shelter construction for 60 women livestock groups;
- Train 30 facilitators to support the women livestock groups in selected agro-pastoral field school topics;
- Formation and training of 12 new women livestock groups consisting of 120 members;

- Registration of the three CAHWs associations into the RWANU program in Moruita and Karita sub-counties;
- Conduct refresher training for at least four CAHWs' groups consisting of 80 CAHWs;
- Establish fodder demonstration plots for all of the continuing 108 women livestock groups;
- Participate in the Continue to collaborate with the emergency response to address the FMD outbreak in order to ensure that the livestock restocking progresses in order to achieve the desired project objectives;
- Distribute 1,860 goats (1,600 local females, 200 gala does, and 60 gala bucks) to 60 WLGs. The number of goats to be distributed in the next quarter depends on the date when the quarantine will be lifted. This number is a positive estimation that the quarantine will be lifted early in the next quarter;
- Create linkages for the supply of veterinary pharmaceuticals to the RWANU project area in collaboration with GHG.

Intermediate Result (IR) 1.3: Increased linkages to markets

1.3-1 Facilitating Linkages to Input Markets

During the quarter, the program team mapped out and profiled ten potential agro-input dealers in South Karamoja, specifically in the green belt areas of Karita (2), Namalu (3), Nabilatuk (1), Kakomongole (2), Moruita (1), and Iriiri (1). The objective was to build local capacity to increase access to agro-inputs at affordable prices at the right time. The mapping and profiling revealed certain challenges to be overcome for this undertaking to succeed. These include:

- Low literacy level among some mapped out and profiled potential agro-input dealers;
- Lack of experience in the agro-input business by most mapped out agro-input dealers;
- Lack of proper housing in some trading centers to house agro-input businesses and,
- The seasonality of the agro-input business.

To overcome these constraints, RWANU contracted the Uganda National Agro-input Dealers Association (UNADA) to build the capacity of potential agro-input dealers in business planning (business description, product knowledge, understanding customer needs, and pricing, marketing, financial forecasting). Following this, RWANU envisages co-funding those dealers with viable business plans.

1.3-2 Market Assessment

During the third quarter of FY14, RWANU conducted a sunflower profitability and marketing assessment to inform the program on sunflower feasibility in RWANU project areas. The tasks during the assessment included: analysis of gross margins, identification of potential buyers (demand) and producers/sellers (supply) of sunflower within and outside Karamoja, understanding price trends for sunflowers and their products, determining the major constraints and opportunities in sunflower production and marketing, and identifying possible strategies for the RWANU program to employ in order to overcome constraints and exploit opportunities. The major findings were that sunflower production is profitable for small holder farmers with at least one acre of land and there is an available market for sunflowers and/or their products. In the future, RWANU hopes to collaborate with the Uganda Oil Seed Producers Association (UOSPA) to increase availability of improved seeds to RWANU beneficiaries. RWANU also plans to

integrate the growing of sunflowers at sites close to apiaries to assist hastening colonization of bee hives.

1.3-3 Private sector Partnerships

During the quarter, RWANU continued engaging the private sector in supporting honey activities. Golden Bees Ltd, one of the leading honey private sector businesses and honey purchasers in Uganda, visited RWANU honey production areas in the Karita sub-county. They provided technical support to RWANU Honey Support Officers and producers in regard to recommended practices during the siting of bee-hives and hive inspection, honey quality requirements, and price setting to spur demand. Golden Bees Ltd is willing to purchase honey from producer groups at USH 5,000 per kg and, is willing to purchase up to 20 MT annually from RWANU producers.

RWANU attended a honey meeting in Kampala organized by The Uganda Apiculture Development Organization (TUNADO) to discuss the proposed concept for honey week (scheduled for 25th Aug, 2014) that leads to Api-expo (an African apiculture continental show in Zimbabwe, from 6-11 Oct, 2014). Following this meeting, the TUNADO Program Manager visited RWANU bee-keeping areas in Southern Karamoja to assess and document the progress of bee-keeping activities in preparation for Honey week 2014. They also provided two simplified versions of the National Bee-keeping Manual.



TUNADO Program Manager (in green T-shirt) viewing honey harvested by RWANU honey producer (Mr. Paul Lokiru) in Kaiku parish, Namalu sub-county

During April, the first coordination meeting between RWANU and GHG – Mercy Corps program in Kotido district was conducted. The meeting had three objectives:

- Develop an understanding of each project and the strategies to achieve project objectives;
- Determine key program elements for collaboration and coordination;
- Identify key areas for a continued peer review and learning.

All three objectives were achieved during the visit.

1.3-4 Business training

Business training for RWANU beneficiaries aims at building their capacity to analyze agriculture activities, costs, projected incomes, and profitability. During the quarter, RWANU provided selected farmer groups with skills for developing business plans. Thirteen farmer training groups from nine sub-counties received training on business planning and development. The trainings focused on business viability, business risks, and sustainability. Ninety-three men and 121 women attended the training representing the associations footnoted below⁴.

1.3-5 Formation of Marketing Associations

By the end of the quarter, seven marketing associations were formed in Kakomongole, Namalu, Karita, Nabilatuk, Loregae, Iriiri, and Lolachat sub-counties. During the quarter, NAMALU RWANU Farmers Association (NARFA) was formed. In total, 28 farmer training groups and four apiary groups came together to form NARFA. The association has seven executive members selected from the existing FTG and apiary group leaders of Namalu sub-county and two committee members. During the upcoming harvest season in the fourth quarter, this association is expected to take the lead in collective storage and marketing, following the setup of a bulking center in Namalu.

1.3-6 Monitoring FaaB/Marketing activities

The RWANU team monitored and provided on job-support in FaaB/marketing to 32 groups in Namalu, Karita, Lolachat, Moruita, Nabilatuk, Loregae, Iriiri, Lokopo, Lotome, and Ngoleriet sub-counties. They discovered several farmer groups had accumulated savings and were ready to develop business plans. One such group is Lokabur savings group in Loregae sub-county that set up a fuel business and presently has a working capital of USH 4,000,000. The RWANU team assisted the group to develop a business plan for a grinding mill in order to further diversify their income. The business plan developed contained the group business idea, market research, marketing plan, marketing price, form of business, source of start-up capital, potential risks, and required start-up capital.

Planned FaaB and Marketing activities for quarter 4 (July-Sept, 2014):

- Training of program field staff (10 new FEWs and 03 CDOs) on FaaB and marketing;
- Training of 20 selected farmer training groups on business planning and development;
- Developing five business plans both at a group level and for individual progressive farmers;
- Monitoring and providing on-job FaaB support to 25 FTGs and five apiary groups.;
- Establishment of two bulking centers;
- Linking groups in 16 sub-counties to crop markets;

Riamiriam apiary group; Lomodokoupal apiary, Kaiku apiary; Kitoron apiary; RWANU FTG; Lokabur FTG; Etetatoyar FTG; Naligoi FTG; Toboka lokwap FTG Palpal FTG; Toten Toyar FTG; Lobo Ioin FTG; Lokuyon FTG⁴

- In collaboration with UNADA, organize a training on safe use and handling of agro-chemicals for the potential agro-input dealers in South Karamoja.;
- Following the Ag-input training, select three agro-input dealers and, link them to agro-input dealers in Kampala and Mbale;
- Organize one business talk between potential honey buyers and honey producer groups;
- Roll out of FaaB/Marketing training materials (from Mango Tree) in liaison with RWANU Field Extension staff;
- Organize one exposure visit to a successful cooperative;
- Analysis of relative profitability of agricultural enterprises based on the crop season.

HONEY PRODUCTION

1.3-7 Training on improved bee-keeping practices

During the quarter, RWANU conducted refresher trainings on hive and apiary hygiene and maintenance for 17 groups comprised of 340 producers (248 males and 92 females). Topics included bee behavior and sociology, importance of beekeeping, bee calendars and forage plants, correct siting, apiary layout/pattern, bee products and their use, bee pathology, bee equipment, and their use. The trained groups are footnoted.⁵

Furthermore, in an effort to exchange experiences and discover new viewpoints and approaches to apiary management, we facilitated an exposure visit for 33 RWANU honey producers from Lotome sub-county, to Iriiri sub-county in Napak district.

1.3-8 Distribution of Honey Starter Kits

During the quarter, starter kits were distributed to bee-keeping groups. Items distributed included: buckets (260), hive tools (260), and bee brushes (260). In addition, 410 beehives were distributed to 20 new bee-keeping groups. However, 50 honey starter kits still have to be procured for three new groups.

1.3-9 Progress in hive colonization

During the quarter, following the distribution of hives to IY2 bee-keeping groups, 232 out of the 410 hives were colonized. Colonization rates are still low mainly because hives were distributed after the swarming seasons that usually take place in March-April and August-Sept. The colonization rates are expected to increase as the program approaches the next swarming season in August 2014.

⁵ Oiuos Kapei; Kaiku; Lomodokoupal; Riamriam; Koutany; Kitiron; Arupe; Okilim ; St. Lawrence; Adodoi; Nakodokodioi; Eunyinyi; Toyar Kao; Lorita; Lokii; Midikan Atarimoi; Etanutu Aoo oyareta



Figure 5: Bee colonies observed in Adodoi group, Apeitolim parish, Lokopo sub-county

1.3-10 Support supervision to apiary groups

Ten groups were monitored and 28 hive inspections were conducted during the quarter. The RWANU team facilitated the purchase of grease to protect the bees against attack by ants and, cleaned the hives where the bees had absconded. Bee hives not colonized or absconded were re-sited. During this quarter 20.5kg of ripe honey was harvested from Namalu (Kaiku Apiary group, 10 kg); Kakomongole sub-county (Riamiriam Apiary group, 2.5kg) and Moruita sub-county (Komaret Kitoron beekeeping group, 8kg).



Hive inspection in Lorita group, Lotome sub-county



Hive inspection in an apiary in Kakomongole sub-county

Planned honey activities for July-Sept 2014

- Carry out hive inspection in 50 hives and subsequently harvest honey
- Train 23 new bee-keeping groups
- Monitor and provide support to ten bee-keeping groups
- Facilitate an exposure visit for 30 RWANU honey producers
- Train 30 FEWs and four TSOs on bee-keeping
- Procure and distribute 50 honey starter kits

Intermediate Result (IR) 1.4 Access to Credit increased

1.4-1 Group Savings and Credit

During quarter, RWANU registered 1,709 beneficiaries (591 Males and 1118 females) into group saving and credit as a means of credit mobilization and credit access to participating

communities. The members were drawn from existing producer groups mainly RWANU FTGs, WLGs, and apiary groups. The primary criteria for enrollment were interest to accumulate funds as a group and willingness to start up or invest in some profitable activities in the future. Prior to all savings and credit trainings, the RWANU team conducted a training needs assessment for each group formed to identify their technical gaps in savings and credit management. The team conducted two training needs assessments in the 16 sub counties of operation. Subsequently, trainings on accumulated savings and credit concepts were conducted to WLGs and FTGs as follows: 259 women livestock group beneficiaries and 1,450 (Males 591 and 1,118 females) FTG beneficiaries. The FTGs were trained by the FEWs at different sub-counties while the livestock beneficiaries were trained by RWANU's two Savings/Credit Association Development Officers. The RWANU team also conducted trainings for 83 group leaders in group governance and record keeping.

The RWANU team continued monitoring and mentoring of old savings groups in preparation for developing business plans.

1.4-2 Status of Group Saving and Credit Deposits

Routine savings and credit group performance data collected from 144 groups (FTGs, apiary, and livestock groups) showed that there were marginal increments in the savings deposits. This is a significant achievement given the delay in the start of the rains and the increased food prices that have occurred as a result of the drought. The table below summarizes the saving and credit status as at the end of the quarter 3 FY14:

Table 2: Table Showing Savings Deposits by Members per District

District	Male	Female	Total	Current savings (UGX)	Cumulative savings (UGX)	Cash in box (UGX)	Cash in welfare bag (UGX)
Amudat	45	77	122	124,000	3,620,000	2,781,000	1,004,700
Nakapiripirit	582	741	1323	2,086,000	64,943,800	19,838,100	4,240,700
Napak	492	696	1188	8,230,000	38,148,000	13,170,550	3,659,100
Moroto	25	93	118	191,000	2,538,000	1,337,000	137,900
Totals UGX	1144	1607	2,751	10,631,000	109,249,800	37,126,650	9,042,400

Table 3: Table Showing Credit Performance by District

District	Male	Female	Cumulative value of loans (UGX)	Value of loans outstanding (UGX)	Value of loans paid (UGX)
Amudat	5	15	1,501,000	756,000	745,000
Napak	196	335	37,110,950	25,075,450	12,035,500
Nakapiripirit	300	382	63,650,735	40,901,835	22,748,900
Moroto	7	14	1,125,000	1,125,000	0
Total	508	746	103,387,685	67,858,285	35,529,400

1.4-3 Savings and Credit Exchange/Learning Visits

During the reporting period, the business team organized and facilitated an exchange visit between group leaders. The objective of the exchange visit was meant to promote peer learning and expose group leaders to Savings and Credit management experiences by other groups. This was triggered by irregularities in saving and/or loaning money to members, in spite of continuous training/mentoring in Savings and Credit management. Considering that the majority of the communities in Karamoja are illiterate, exchange visits provide them a means of learning practically from other stakeholders, as opposed to only learning from the RWANU FEWs /Technical Officers. One such visit was conducted within Lolachat Sub-County in Nakapiripirit, where weak groups were taken to learn from one of the best groups in Lolachat (Nasolar). Also, in Karita sub-county, group leaders were taken to learn from the Chomio group which is considered the best group in Karita. In total, 56 leaders attended the visits. Group members who visited the stronger savings groups mentioned that they would integrate the experiences gained from their visit into their daily savings activities.

1.4-4 Training material development

During the month of June 2014, RWANU finally received translated training materials from Mango Tree. These were translated into Pokot and NgaKarimojong dialects. The roll out of these materials (Savings and Credit, Gender, FaaB, Post-harvest handling, Agronomy and, Natural Resource Management) will commence in July 2014.

Planned activities in Savings and Credit for July-Sept, 2014

- Train 93 (78 FTGs, five WLG, and 10 apiary) groups on basic savings and credit mobilization and management of associations;
- Train 465 group beneficiaries (FTGs, livestock, and honey group leaders) on governance and record keeping;
- Distribute savings and credit kits to 177 savings and credit associations;
- Train 38 FEWs, CDOs, and TSOs on accumulated savings and credit approaches;
- Conduct savings and credit learning exchange visits for 50 leaders from 10 groups;
- Continue with Accumulated Savings and Credit Association (ASCA) monitoring and mentoring for 177 savings groups.

2. 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 Mother Care Groups (MCGs):

During this reporting quarter, the training package for Module 1⁶- Infant and Young Child Feeding (IYCF) continued to be rolled out in Nakapiripirit, Amudat, and Moroto Districts. In Nakapiripirit and Amudat, three facilitator training sessions for the three field coordinators took place followed by training sessions for 27 health promoters and health educators. Training took place on four lessons: Sub-Lesson 1 and lessons 2, 3 and 4 using the curriculum and counselling cards. Health Promoters disseminated messages on corresponding lessons to their Mother Care Groups (MCG). In Nadunget sub-county in Moroto district, thirty one MCGs were formed in early April. One field coordinator was trained on facilitation skills on sub-lesson 1 and lesson 2, after which two training sessions took place for three health promoters and five health educators of Nadunget sub-county and Napak district.

Furthermore, 189 MCGs in Nakapiripirit, Amudat and Moroto actively met monthly under the supervision of 26 promoters. During the MCG meetings, a total of 1,801 Leader Mothers (LM) received messages on Module 1. After the LMs received the training, they disseminated messages to Household Caregivers in their respective communities.

The change of database of MCGs, LMs, and household caregiver group (HHCG) members from an excel sheet to RWANU's online database happened during this quarter. Currently, every HHCG member is registered in the database and once the shift is completed, each beneficiary can be tracked on activities they are benefiting from.

During this quarter, the lead Mother Tally Sheet (LMTS) was piloted and currently results are being analyzed. The LMTS is a monitoring tool for both the HHCG members and LMs that reports on group meetings, home visits, and vital child survival indicators (births, child death, maternal death, miscarriage, newly pregnant, new admissions and/or exits from MCG, children screened red on mid upper arm circumference measurements (MUAC), and edema). The LMTS is filled by each promoter with verbal input from each LM on a monthly basis.

During this quarter, all 26 health promoters, nine health educators and nine health assistants were trained on MUAC measurement and assessing of edema. Nine Health Assistants from the district health structure received training on MCG modules and were briefed on MCG structure and functionality. Training the health assistants aims to strengthen the linkages between MCG and the district health structure. Intermediate Result (IR) 2.1 aims to train the LMs on active screening (using MUAC and edema assessment) in their respective communities for early detection of acute malnutrition cases and timely referral to Village Health Teams (VHT), who in turn will refer to their respective health centers. By doing so, IR 2.1 is creating linkages with both IR2.2 (improved prevention and treatment of maternal and child illness) especially the Integrated management of acute malnutrition (IMAM) and the district health system. Furthermore, this is early planning for



⁶ Module 1 (IYCF) comprises of: 2 introductory lessons (*Communication and facilitation skills; Care Group Introduction*) and 7 lessons: **Lesson 1:** early initiation of breastfeeding and Positioning and attachment; **Lesson 2:** exclusive breastfeeding, **Lesson 3:** breastfeeding on demand, **Lesson 4:** complementary feeding for children 6-8 months; **Lesson 5:** continued breastfeeding and breastfeeding and HIV; **Lesson 6:** complementary feeding for children 9-23 months and meal frequency; **Lesson 7:** dietary diversity for children 6-23 months respectively

RWANU's IR2.1 MCG sustainability exit strategy. Training LMs in Nadunget sub-county-Moroto district commenced on active screening in the presence of health assistants and VHTs.

MCG Material Development (Modules Training Curriculum and Counseling Cards):

Module 1 (Infant and Young Child Feeding Practices): 340 counseling cards were distributed to health promoters and LMs in Nadunget sub-county in both Ng'Karamojong and Pokot (there is also English on the cards).

Module 2 (Maternal Health and Nutrition): Module 2 curriculum and health promoters and LM counseling cards are currently being printed

Module 3 (Linkages between Agriculture and Nutrition) development is in process. Originally, module 3 comprised of one lesson which was developed. Due to requested curriculum amendments, another three lessons were added to the module to include linkages between agriculture/livestock and nutrition, Module 3 development has resumed in consultation with IR 1.1 (improved smallholder farm management practices adopted), IR 1.2 (Improved smallholder livestock management practices adopted) and the project's Agriculture and Nutrition Taskforce which was established during the quarter.

Module 4 (Water, sanitation and hygiene) WASH development commenced during this quarter. Pretesting and approval process will commence in July 2014.

The Recipe Book on promoting nutritious recipes has been developed. Pretesting and approval process will commence in July 2014.

Wild leaves sheet: The Cost of Diet (CoD) formative research identified some wild leaves in South Karamoja as nutritious and resistant to drought. Based on CoD recommendations, the pictures and names of wild leaves were disseminated to all promoters, who along with their LMs will identify where these leaves grow, their local names and growth seasons. Such information will be used to promote the consumption of these leaves among beneficiaries. Moreover, it will be shared with IR 1.1 to assess availability and potential harvest levels and potential establishment of these leaves in garden settings.

MUAC and edema sheets for promoters and LMs were produced. These sheets aim to detail the process of measuring MUAC and identifying edema during the active screening activity to minimize margin of error in case detection.

African Kanga development is in progress: this African designed wrap-around cloth has nutrition message (with photographs and text printed in them) will be distributed to each of the LMs as an IEC material promoting optimal IYCF practices.



African 'kangas' with nutrition message on complementary feeding

2.1-2 Social Behavior Change Communication

Drama Groups: 16 drama groups at sub-county level were identified and verified to be contracted for future work. The social behavior change and communication (SBCC) officer has developed six drama skits on Modules 1 and 2.

Health education at Food Distribution Points (FDP): Ten health educators disseminated synchronized messages at the all 55 FDPs. Cooking demonstrations at FDPs will commence in July. Cooking demonstrations will focus on using food items from the distributed ration (corn soy blend, split peas, etc.), supplemented with green locally available herbs. It aims to educate beneficiaries how to increase dietary diversity and the nutritional value of the staple food. To improve visibility during major events especially at FDP, RWANU has developed pull-up banners for Modules 1 and 2 that will be procured during the next quarter. Pull up banners are favoured because they can be transported easily from location to location.

Local opinion leaders: As part of the SBCC strategy to sensitize and work with local opinion leaders, RWANU sensitized 240 community leaders (LC1 and other sub-county officials) in all three districts of Amudat, Nakapiripirit, and Moroto on MCGs activities and lessons. Eight religious leaders were reached in Namalu sub-county. Messages on rolled out lessons were communicated to religious leaders to be disseminated during the weekly religious mass.

Male Change Agents (MCA): The MCA strategy and curriculum were approved and currently being printed. Training of ten health educators on the MCA curriculum was conducted. Training of MCAs on the curriculum will take place next quarter in two sub-counties of Namalu and Nabilatuk.

2.1-3 Improved Hygiene and Sanitation

Moroto district was identified to be the first to commence sanitation and hygiene activities. Four separate community meetings were held in Nadunget sub-county at Apetaoi, Looi, Aworobu, and Kambisi villages respectively. The meetings aimed to assess the existence of community sanitation management structures or Water User Committee (WUC), sanitation committee, hand pump mechanics, and trained village health teams. As a result of these meetings, boreholes in the above mentioned areas were fenced. Recommendations were given to re-structure the WUC to include women and mobilize communities to repair the broken boreholes. Specifically in Apetaoi village, the female members in the committee increased from two to four.

Knowledge, Attitude, Practice and Coverage (KAPC) survey data collection was completed in the four districts in June. The KAPC survey aimed to gather baseline data to which change in RWANU's beneficiaries hygiene and sanitation practices will be compared to monitor and assess RWANU's outcomes and impact. Eighteen District local government staff underwent the training and participated in the data collection as supervisors alongside 16 enumerators.

Following the recommendation of Moroto district to avoid duplication of activities in villages that have been sensitized and have developed a hygiene and sanitation plan and wish to implement a Community Led Total Sanitation (CLTS) approach. These villages, called trigger villages will be selected to implement the CLTS approach in the next quarter.

Development of Water, Sanitation and Hygiene (WASH) modules

The four lessons for MCG Module 4-WASH to promote four key hygiene messages are in the development stage. These lessons include: (1) hand washing at five critical points; (2) safe disposal of faeces; (3) safe transportation and storage of water; (4) food hygiene.

During the quarter, RWANU was visited by Franck Flachenberg, the Environmental Health Technical Advisor from Concern Worldwide, UK office and Colm Cahill, Engineering Advisor from Concern Worldwide Dublin. The objective of their visit was to review the current RWANU strategy on hygiene and sanitation and provide practical guidance on aspects to keep and aspects to adjust. These advisors were requested to identify core components of the WASH module and advise on content for each lesson. Their findings are summarized below:

- Few Karamoja-based development partners are involved in WASH software.
- Approaches recommended are CLTS and Participatory Hygiene & Sanitation Transformation (PHAST)
- High rate of breakdown of boreholes due to lack of ownership by the community and vandalism of the pumps
- Many partners seemed to work independently from the government officials, only involving them at meetings and identification of sites
- Most schools and health facilities are well covered with water and sanitary facilities though there is need to assess the functionality of the facilities
- After a review of RWANU WASH programs it is recommended to concentrate in only one parish in each district in WASH preferably where CLTS has been triggered. Concentrate on a few messages to ensure good results and work closely with district officials to ensure continuity after RWANU is finished

2.1-5 Food Distribution Conditionality Piloting

The piloting of the food conditionality started in March in Karenga Food Distribution Point (FDP), Moruita sub-county, Nakapiripirit district. One Health Educator verified the conditions from the health cards of eligible pregnant mothers and lactating women and children that came to the FDP site. Currently there are four conditions:

- (1) Attendance to Mother Care Group /Household Care Giver (HHCG) meetings;
- (2) Vaccination against Measles as a proxy for immunizations;
- (3) Vitamin A supplementation;
- (4) Attendance to antenatal services at health facilities for at least 3 visits.

The piloting is not yet available for this quarter's reporting, which is expected to be completed in July.

Intermediate Result 2.2: Improved service delivery for prevention and treatment of maternal and child illnesses

2.2-1 Community Score Card (CSC) Process of assessing quality and staff capacity assessment of Health Facilities and outreach services

The Community Score Card (CSC) application over the last quarter built the capacity of the RWANU staff and community structures on CSC approach and its application process. This application has been applied in four more sub-counties in Napak district out of the targeted five. Training of trainers was conducted for a total of 25 trainers from District Local Government: community development officers, health assistants, health facility in-charges, and sub-county

chiefs. These trainers, in turn, gave training to 33 Community Monitors who are parish chiefs, field extension workers, and VHT peer supervisors. A total of 599 community members and 24 health workers were reached during the application of CSC in Iriiri, Lorengechora, Lokopo, and Lopeei sub-counties of Napak district. Matany sub-county did not apply CSC because the key trained person at the sub-county was not available at the time of application.



Figure 6: Community members display scorecards from the various Subcounty Focus Group Discussions in Napak district

This quarter, with reference to the sub-county CSC scoring table below, all RWANU-related indicators scored bad to very bad. Of the identified causal factors for negative ranking were ignorance, attitude (laziness), dependency on the district support, poor harvest, sale of household produce for other family expenditures, lack of materials (e.g. material for digging latrines). Based on these results, a plan will be put in place to address the identified barriers.

No.	INDICATORS/AREAS OF CONCERN	SCORE			
		IRIRI	LORENGECHURA	LOKOPU	LOPEEI
1	Children and mothers having three meals a day	Very Bad	Bad	Very Bad	Bad
2	Knowledge on the balanced diet (at least 3 colours on a plate)	Good	Very Bad	Bad	Good
3	Women attending all the 4 ANC	Bad	Bad	Bad	Good
4	Women returning for check up after 6 weeks	Bad	Not scored	Bad	Good
5	Children immunized against measles	Good	Bad	Good	Good
6	Homes having and using latrines	Very Bad	Not scored	Very Bad	Very Bad
7	Hand washing of 5 critical moment with ash/soap	Bad	Bad	Bad	Bad
8	Availability of infrastructure (staff accommodation, maternity ward, general wards, pit latrine, water source)	Bad - Very Bad	Bad	Bad - Very Bad	Bad - Very Bad
9	Adequacy of security/ availability of fence	Good	Good	Very Bad	Good
10	Lighting systems in Health facilities	Bad	Bad	Very Bad	Bad
11	Availability of sufficient drug supply	Very Bad	Bad	Very Bad	Not scored

Key achievements:

Some of the results brought about by application of the community score card process were:

- Increased community awareness of health rights/entitlement and to approach health workers for services. This was evident in Lorengechura health center III where the community was sensitized through the CSC to request the health facility to have a laboratory and the right of patients for lab exams.
- Ownership of health service delivery improved. In Lotome health center, after the CSC application sessions, the Health Unit Management Committee chairperson, along with the community local leaders discontinued the work contract of an incompetent and inefficient contractor who had been hired to build the maternity wing.
- Empowerment of the community to address problems in health services delivery. For example, it was raised during the CSC process that Apretolim HCII catchment population has grown so the allocation of drugs was no longer sufficient to meet the needs. Moreover, there was no accommodation for health staff within the compound of the facility. One District Health Team member announced that Apretolim will be upgraded to a HC III. This means more drugs and additional services to cater for a growing population.

2.2-2 Collaborate with the Ministry of Health to improve health centre service delivery and outreach services in target areas

Provide logistical, supplies, and supervisory support to Ministry of Health (MoH) outreach services.

RWANU provides logistical support to MoH centers by fuel provision for the district outreach vehicles and travel allowance payment for the health workers conducting the outreach activities. Out of 294 planned outreach posts for this quarter, 238 posts were covered by the team. During this reporting period 3,473 children were reached by outreach for vaccinations. All children with MUAC below 12.5 cm were referred to outpatient therapeutic or supplementary programs appropriately.

3,473 children received vaccinations	4 477 children screened by MUAC for Acute malnutrition	Pregnant women attendance to Antenatal care (ANC)
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •3,473 received TB, DPT/Hepatitis B and Hib including Vit. A •432 received BCG •530 received Measles 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •160 children (3.5%) were diagnosed with a MUAC below 12.5cm •12 children (0.2%) were diagnosed with a MUAC below 11.5cm 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •390 pregnant attended ANC visits •109 pregnant women attended their fourth ANC visit in outreach posts supported by US government-programs

Joint Monitoring Visits with MOH and other Partners

RWANU with MoH staff and district health teams planned to conduct joint visits to the health facilities. The aim of these joined visits is to assess health facilities' functionality and performance compared to the expected MoH performance level. The joint visit was rescheduled and expected to take place in the next quarter since this quarter all district health team staff were

engaged in the massive active screening activity for acute malnutrition in Nakapiripirit and Amudat districts.

Family Planning Services at Food Distribution Points

In line with the recommendation made by USAID during their visit to RWANU program area, RWANU is working closely with Mary Stopes International (MSI) to provide family planning services at food distribution points. Each month there should be two outreach family planning services in each district provided by MSI. This quarter, four outreach family planning services were conducted in outreach posts. Low coverage was mainly attributed to logistical challenges that resulted from delays in communicating MSI's family planning schedule to RWANU. The district health officer has played a positive role in coordinating the integration, and on-going discussions are being held to increase MSI service delivery.

2.2-3 Integration of Outreach Activities at Food Distribution Points

As a strategy to increase coverage of health services, and bring services closer to RWANU's beneficiaries for children and pregnant and lactating women, outreach activities have been integrated with food distribution points. This step was welcomed by the communities since it saves time for them by accessing health services, while benefiting from food distribution. Out of the 38 outreach posts planned at food distribution points, 24 were realized. The target was not attained since in April and May, there were logistic challenges in Amudat and Napak districts so the integrated outreach services with food distribution points had not started. Also the outreach vehicles suffered from breakdowns and there were delays in synchronization of the schedules of both the food distribution with the district outreach.

2.2-4 Trainers of Trainers (TOTs) of Health Assistants and training VHTs on Maternal nutrition

IR2.2's planned activity to train 15 health assistants and 704 village health teams in Napak and Moroto districts on Maternal Nutrition was rescheduled to next quarter. This was due to engagement of MoH staff in trainings conducted by other NGOs in the districts.

Refresher training for VHTs on Antenatal care and postnatal care (ANC/PNC)

Training village health teams (VHT) on ANC/PNC aimed at training a total of 704 village health teams from Napak and Moroto districts was cancelled to avoid duplication and wastage of resources since other partners have already done the training.

2.2-5 Growth Monitoring and Promotion (GMP)

1,082 children under two were measured for weight for age from five pilot health centers (HC). These health centers are Nadunget HCIII in Moroto district and Morulinga HCII, Lorengechora HCIII, Lotome HCIII, and Iri HCIII in Napak district. The team is due to compile a complete report on the piloted HCs to determine if the GMP could be successfully rolled out in all four RWANU supported districts. This is the first month of this activity. In subsequent months more growth points will be sought to allow the staff to provide growth promotion to mothers of children with growth faltering.

Provision of soap at outreach sites in Napak district (promote hand washing in response to Hepatitis E outbreak)

In order to promote hand washing, a complementary response to Hepatitis E outbreak in Napak, 1,080 bars of washing soap were distributed to the health centers supported by RWANU. Subsequent distribution is ongoing at the outreach posts to patients attending the services.

2.2-6 Integrated Management of Acute Malnutrition

In February 2014, Concern started a Surge program, complementary to RWANU with alternative funding, in Nakapiripirit, Amudat, and Moroto districts that is expected to phase out in October, 2014. The Surge approach aims to support government health facilities' ability to effectively manage increased caseloads of malnourished children and enrolling them in nutrition programs without undermining the capacity of the health system and provision of other health services during the seasonal spikes. The Surge program provides an additional targeted support to existing health services complementing RWANU IR2.2 arm of strengthening MOH health facilities.

In its specific objective 1, the Surge aims to identify 1,579 children of 6-59 months who have MUAC measurements below 11.5cm and refer them to therapeutic feeding programs in all three districts. During the first four months of the Surge, 73.3% of target beneficiaries were reached.

Figure 1 shows the trend in new admissions into the Therapeutic Feeding Programmes— Outpatient Therapeutic Centres and Inpatient Therapeutic Centres. The coverage of Surge is sufficient since no sharp increase in admissions have been reported as would have been expected especially after the Mass Screening exercise in districts in May.

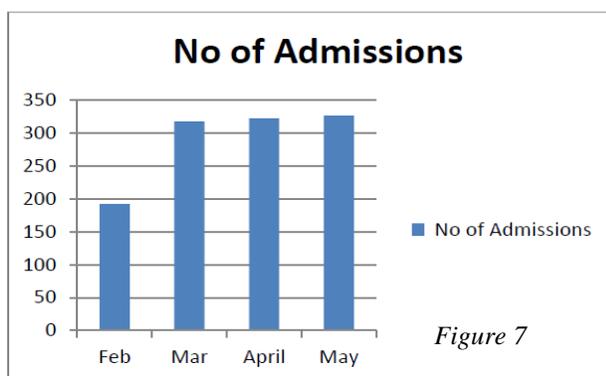


Figure 7

Compared to the Sphere standards, all performance indicators for the month of May fall within the Sphere ranges with exception of the cure rate; as shown in the table of summary below:

Indicators	Sphere targets	May-14
Number of Malnourished children referred to HF and enroll on nutrition care (Surge indicator, not Sphere)	At least 80% (not a sphere indicator)	76.3%
Cure rate	>75%	76.3%
Defaulter rate	<15%	11.6%
Death rate	< 10%	0.5%
Non Cured/Non respondents rate		11.8%

Of the challenges facing the IMAM program:

- Inactivity of some village health teams- who are key players in community mobilization- due to poor motivation. It negatively affects the defaulter rates, and causes the increase in defaulter rate.
- A break in the medicine pipeline (pediatric antibiotics) that took place in March-April at health facility level for IMAM treatment negatively affected recovery and cure rates. It also contributed to increased defaulter rates. The pipeline had been restored by the Surge project and the provision of additional medicines (pediatric antibiotics) at health facility level for IMAM treatment improved recovery and cure rates.
- Mothers not committing to treatment of their children reflected on increased non-recovery rate and decreased cured rates. Mothers either didn't show up to the health center due to their work in the gardens or sharing/selling of therapeutic foods (Plumpy nut). A thorough discussion was initiated with district health Officer to address the issue of sharing/selling of plumpy nut. Health education on dangers of malnutrition and importance of therapeutic foods at health facility is to be scaled up at facility level, and other options like district teams to track plumpy nut selling.
- Health facility staff commitment to GMP implementation is quite a challenge. Health facility workers view GMP activity as an additional work load. This issue will be raised with the district health officer and possible solutions will be discussed.
- Attendance to ANC/PNC services, though improved from the previous quarter, is still challenged by mothers' poor turn up for this service. This is attributed to engagement of mothers by garden work and not fully valuing the importance of ANC/PNC services. The latter is being addressed by providing them with health education at health center, and reinforcing the Module 2 messages to be delivered by the MCGs.
- Logistical challenges especially faced by outreach vehicles (mechanical problems of poor maintenance); thus affecting adherence to planned schedules.

Planned activities for July to September 2014

- MCGs:
 - It is expected that in Nakapiripirit and Amudat districts, Module 1 (IYCF) will be completed and then will begin Module 2 *Maternal nutrition and health*.
 - In Nadunget sub-county- Moroto district, Module 1 (IYCF) will continue to roll out.
- Active screening: Training the LMs of Nakapiripirit and Amudat districts on active screening (MUAC and edema assessment) of children 6-59 months for malnutrition and referrals will be rolled out.
- Material Development:
 - Modules development: development and procurement of Module 3 (*Linkages between Agriculture and Nutrition*); procurement of Module 4;

- Develop and procure materials for social behavior change and communication (pull-ups for modules 3 and 4);
- Develop Drama skits for Modules 3 and 4;
- Develop folk media scripts/material for 3 national events (World Breastfeeding Week and World Food Day and Hand Washing Day)).
- Continue collaboration and coordination between Agriculture SO1 and Nutrition SO2: (1) through the Agriculture-Nutrition Working Group; (2) mainstreaming nutrition messages during goat and seed distributions and into farmer field schools' curriculum of IR 1.1; (3) Health education, cooking demonstrations and tippy-tap construction demos through Health Educators in food distribution points;
- Continue collaboration with Integration Taskforce to monitor the integrated activities agreed on between SO1 and SO2.
- Social Behavior Change:
 - Train Male Change Agents on the MCA Strategy, and pilot MCA in two sub-counties (Nabilatuk and Namalu); identify potential MCAs in Amudat, Moroto, and Nakapiripirit (Lolachat and Kokomongole sub-counties), and train the identified MCAs; Train and activate drama groups in three districts (Nakapiripirit, Amudat, and Moroto);
 - Roll out the implementation of the strategy for community opinion and religious leaders to at least six sub-counties;
 - Social marketing on importance of soap through integrating in SO1 activities on household budgeting and income management; procurement of soap.
- Training VHT supervisors and Water Committees on CLTS and PHAST tools to support communities in development of community sanitation and hygiene plans with target manyattas;
- Community Score Cards (CSC):
 - Internal review and documentation of the Community Score Card (CSC) application and its learning and outcomes as a result of its application in Moroto-Nadunget sub-county and Napak district; Dissemination of the CSC results and internal review outcomes in Napak to stakeholders;
 - Roll out of the (CSC) in 2 sub-counties of Nakapiripirit district starting with the training health workers as trainers (TOT), followed by training Community Monitors (CM) and the Health Unit Management Committee (HUMC) and its application in the community.
- Training RWANU consortium partners on IYCF and Maternal Nutrition;
- Joint monitoring visits with MOH- district health teams;
- Training Health Assistants and village health teams on Maternal Nutrition in Moroto district, Nadunget Sub-county, and Napak district;

- Conduct refresher training for Health Assistants on IYCF – with focus on the Module 1 of MCG – IYCF;
- Support to maternal and child health and nutrition outreach services of the district health facilities;
- Assessment of health facilities piloting Growth Monitoring & Promotion activities and writing of the report including recommendations on way forward.

2.3 COMMODITY OPERATION

During this quarter, commodity distribution was rolled out in all the 14 eligible program sub counties⁷. As a result of expansion in program coverage, the caseloads have increased to 13,484 beneficiaries (4,321 are pregnant and lactating women and 9,163 children 6 to 24 months). Commodities are distributed through a network of 54 food distribution points (FDP) operated monthly. A private local transporter ‘Kakise’ was contracted for the transport of commodities from the satellite warehouses of Soroti, Moroto, and Tokora to the final distribution points in the program districts.

Earlier recommendation by the USAID/Uganda team to collaborate with Marie Stopes to provide family planning services were partially implemented at food distribution points. In addition health outreaches teams were invited to provide health services at the monthly food distribution events. The health services provided at the FDP include screening and referrals of malnourished children at the food distribution Points.

Table 4: Program beneficiaries reached and commodities distributed to Date

Period	Pregnant and lactating women	Children under 2 years (<24 Months)	Corn soya blend (MT)	Vegetable oil (MT)	Split green peas /Lentils (MT)	Cornmeal (MT)
April – June 2014	4,000	9,163	96.53	43.39	140.51	324.89
To date (Aug 2013 to June 2014)	4,321	9,163	169.978	71.337	230.887	527.913

Commodity stock

Arrangement was made for the receipt of 1,350MT of direct distribution commodities in Moroto, Soroti, and Tokora Warehouses and the movement was done by Spedag Interfreight Limited. As is shown in Table 2, there was a small loss of 15.97 metric tons of commodity. The receipt took place during May 2014 and while the waiver for the receipt of commodity from prepositioned stocks in South Africa was allowed by the Uganda National Bureau of Standards (UNBS). The

⁷ No RWANU distributions take place in Lotome and Lorengedwat since all the population settlements in these sub-counties are within 5Km radius from HC3 and HC4 facilities and hence are serviced by WFP.

arrival of this commodity will allow RWANU to extend the lean season ration through July in Nakapiripirit and Amudat and through August in Napak and Moroto where the rainfall has been particularly erratic.

Table 5: Direct distribution commodities in stock in all warehouses as of June 30, 2014. (all totals in Metric tons)

	CSB	Veg oil	SGP	Lentils	Cornmeal	Total
Opening Balance of April:	32.844	13.46	42.514	0	45.238	134.056
Quantity called Forward	420	110	0	250	570	1350
Quantity received during the Quarter	416.774	109.79	0	246.858	560.605	1,334.03
Quantity Distributed during the quarter	96.53	43.39	41.782	98.728	324.89	605.32
Closing balance June 30th, 2014	352.647	80.224	0.732	147.35	280.646	861.599
Difference b/n the actual closing bal.	0.44	-0.36	0.00	0.78	0.31	1.16

The total difference of 1.16MT is due to the commodity losses and gains during the quarter. This is most likely due to scooping variability at the food distribution points though this is still being investigated.

During the commodity pipeline break of April 2014, ACDI/VOCA borrowed a consignment of 50 MT's of spilt peas from Mercy Corps which was repaid with 50MT's of lentils on 30 June 2014. The commodity pipeline break in April necessitated that the ration sizes for corn meal was significantly reduced from 12kg to 7kg or 2kg depending upon the location. Those communities which received short rations in April were elevated in the distribution plan for May. The current balances allow for the extended lean season as outlined above and will provide normal rations for pregnant women, lactating mothers and children under 23 months through January 2015.

The project conducted post-distribution monitoring activities in Lolachat Kakomongole, Namalu, Lolachat Loregae, Moruita, Nabilatuk and Iri, Lokopo, Lopeei, and Ngoleriet S/C.

Staffing

During the reporting period, the Commodity Operations Manager for RWANU program resigned his post on April 30th 2014. The Compliance Officer took on an acting role while the project identified and recruited a replacement Commodity Operations Manager who commenced his

duties on June 17th 2014. Additionally Commodity Distribution Officer for Napak and Moroto Districts were recruited.

Success story



[Loduk Anyakun: Beneficiary ID 03-06-39-02-02-004-30, Date of birth: 25th April/ 2013 Residence: Aoyareng village, Ere Alokwaadomo manyata in Loreng Parish at Loregae S/county Nakapiripirit district]

Figure 8: January 2014, Child Loduk Anyakun age 9 months weighs 3.9kg received his first ration at Loreng FDP

Figure 9: May 2014 at Loreng FDP, when Loduk Anyakun (Child, age 17 months) received his fifth ration and weighed 4.8kgs.

The above two photos were taken at the four months apart, the child who Loduk Anyakun received his first ration weighing 3.9kgs and severely malnourished. In April 2014, the child returned with significant improvement, weighing in at 4.8kg.

As part of food distribution the beneficiaries are provided with health education messages including personal hygiene, child nutrition, sanitation, seeking health services for immunization, disease treatment, etc. it's through these information sharing combined with nutritious food distributed that individual present improvement in health and nutrition outcomes.

Planned activities for next quarter

1. Conduct distribution of commodity rations to all the four program districts of Nakapiripirit, Napak, Moroto, and Napak district.
2. Outsource possible satellite locations and store (container in Karita and Irii)
3. Distribute the following commodities to 15,190 women and children
4. Continue to implement recommendations from the USAID/Uganda Karamoja nutrition learning tour.
5. Attend Health and Nutrition Coordination meeting at the four program districts

6. Receive training from the Bedford on gas monitoring usage
7. Kick start monthly radio announcement for distribution activities as a means of mobilization.
8. Request for fumigation of commodities of RWANU warehouses for the period of 12 months on going.

3.0 CROSS-CUTTING THEMES

3.0-1 Gender

Participatory gender equity training for technical staff, field based staff, and health promoters

The draft gender integration checklist was developed and circulated for review. The gender checklist is to promote a conceptual and practical guide to integration of gender into program activities. The checklist will help the RWANU staff be sensitive to gender dynamics while implementing their daily activities. The gender participatory training for technical staff, field based staff, health promoters, and the commodity team have been re-scheduled for next quarter (July 24th to 30th 2014).

Integration of gender awareness messages into trainings for groups

Gender awareness topics were disseminated during the training of five women livestock groups. The topics included gender and decision making, gender and leadership, gender and participation, and gender and asset ownership. Gender topics were also integrated into the training of the new apiary groups in Matany (Nakichumet parish Natirae village), gender messages during the training and the topics covered included gender in group management, leadership, participation, decision making, and division of labor.



Figure 10: A participant stresses her point on women marginalization in communities during the women livestock group training in Nadunget sub county.

Training of male change agents:

Gender was integrated into the training of health educators during their orientation to the male change agent curriculum. The health educators were being prepared for the subsequent training of the male change agents in the communities. Further gender topics were included into the male change agents' training curriculum that was developed. Gender topics included understanding gender (gender and power, gender bender game, cartoons on gender and power) and gender division of labor. During the next quarter the health educators will concentrate on training male change agents in the community.

Gender working groups at district level

The program gender officer participated in the district gender sector working group meeting organized for Moroto district. The purpose of the meeting was to develop the gender strategy for Moroto district local government, to which a draft has been compiled and shared with the participating stakeholders. The finalization of the Moroto district gender strategy is scheduled for next quarter. In attendance were the representatives from RWANU, UNFPA, MIFUMI, UN Women, IRC, probation officer at the district, Moroto district Gender officer, Sub counties community development officers, and others.

Planned activities for July to September 2014

- Conduct a gender participatory training for both the technical and field based staff.
- Conduct a gender integration committee meeting.
- Conduct a task analysis for groups to determine decision making and leadership in groups.
- Mainstream gender into trainings and meetings.
- Conduct gender review meetings with the field staff and group leaders.
- Train field staff on the use of visual aid training materials.
- Develop a final gender integration checklist for all program components,.
- Attend district level gender meetings.

3.0-2 Conflict Mitigation

Training on conflict mitigation

During this quarter, a training needs assessment for various program staff was conducted to determine their knowledge gaps and experiences in regards to conflict mitigation. As part of their work, program staff are often faced with challenging situations that calls for skills in conflict mitigation. Based on the evidence, program staff requires training of practical tools to manage conflicts and mitigate conflict in their work.

Integration of conflict sensitive messages into all training aspects of the program

During the trainings with the FTGs, apiary groups, and savings and credit groups, 30 groups received conflict messages (each group having a separate training). A total of 238 farmers, 155 females and 83 males from 11 FTGs in the sub counties of Lopeei, Ngoleriet, Lorengechora, Iriiri, and Matany received conflict sensitive messages.

The topics shared included causes of conflicts, ways of conflict resolutions, and group dynamics. Conflict mitigation skills were shared during the training of 19 women livestock groups, topics on groups dynamics and conflict management during savings activities where shared. Overall,

380 farmers attended (190 females and 190 male partners of women livestock group members). As a follow up, the group proposed to put in place strong measures to manage group finances including designing a good group constitution (including disciplinary measures for those violating the group rules and regulations set) to govern the smooth running of the group during their goat rearing and savings and loan mobilization activities.

Mentoring and coaching of the FEWs

The conflict mitigation officer conducted an on job mentoring and coaching for the 17 FEWs (2 Females and 15 males) in Iriiri, Nadunget, Lopeei, Lotome, Lokopo, Lorengechora, Loregae, Nadunget, Namalu, Iriiri, and Lolachat sub counties. The conflict mitigation officer practically demonstrate to the FEWs how to integrate conflict mitigation messages/topics during their training activities with the farmer training groups. The FEWs are expected to replicate the exercise during their subsequent activities with beneficiaries. The FEWs are coached on how they can capture these activities in their activity and monthly reports. The exercise helped to improve the FEWs continuous integration of conflict related activities during their activities and also improve on their documentation and reporting.

Participate in CAG meetings

The conflict mitigation officer participated in 7 community action group meetings. Overall, 85 (55 Males and 30 Females) participants attended the meetings. During the meetings, the groups showed significant achievements during their work and demonstrated the importance of their existence in the communities through resolving the community concerns as they arise.

The RWANU annual survey also demonstrated the CAGs appreciating their work and showed that there has been a good relationship between the CAGs and the local leaders of the communities. To this effect, a reporting template for the CAGs has been developed to document successes over time and monitor progress. The reporting template will be pretested and adjusted to capture the information needed. In the reporting template the CAG reports on the kinds of conflicts that occurred, conflicts that were resolved and conflicts that have been referred. By having this report, RWANU can track the CAGs achievement over time and as a result, understand whether there is a reduction in conflicts in communities or not. As this is a learning activity, the reports help RWANU redesign its conflict mitigation strategy and tailor its approaches towards mitigating the most common conflicts reported by the CAGs.

Planned activities for July to September 2014

- Train 40 partner staffs on practical tools to promote conflict mitigation in their work;
- Integrate conflict mitigation during the training of groups (FTGs, Apiary groups, Mother care groups, Male change agents, and Savings and credit groups). The conflict mitigation officer will participate in the training of groups so that he can integrate topics related to conflict mitigation during the training. The officer will further mentor and coach staffs to be able to integrate conflict sensitive messages during their trainings with RWANU beneficiaries;
- Pretest and finalize the CAGs reporting tool and document success stories and lessons learned arising as a result of RWANU activities;
- Attend at least one CAGs Quarterly meetings for six groups conducted at sub county level and document successes;

- Monitor CAGs activities to evaluate whether they appreciate their work. This monitoring is meant to help RWANU re-design ways of strengthening the CAG member's capacities and develop an appropriate sustainable and exit strategy for the CAGs that will help them continue to work even after the RWANU program;
- Participate in partner meetings at district level on conflict mitigation. Over eight partners are members of this meeting (IRC, RIAMIRIAM, VSF Belgium, KALIP/OPM, DDG, OCHODI, Uganda Martyrs University, and the district local government) the meetings are chaired by the RDC
The conflict mitigation officer represents RWANU, shares the approach and learns some of the good practices and challenges from members implementing the same and further to work in collaboration and coordination with other stake holders implementing peace and conflict resolution activities;
- Mentoring and coaching of the FEWs and CAGs.

3.0-3 Disaster Risk Reduction/Natural Resources Management:

South Karamoja region continues to experience a drastic trend of climate variability with prolonged dry spells, delayed onset of rain and uneven distribution of rain fall in the sub-region. The table below shows the monthly rainfall data in the three districts where rain-gauges are installed.

Table: Monthly rain fall data for Napak, Nakapiripirit and Moroto (mm)

District	Rain fall data		
	April	May	June
Napak	3.5	29.8	20.3
Nakapiripirit		123.5	95.7
Moroto		23.2	140.3

The rainfall for Napak was particularly adverse for crop production, necessitating the continuation of the lean season ration through August 2014.

In response to these environmental and climate change situations, the program DRR/NRM team have been working very closely with the communities and other stakeholders in strengthening communities resilience to such shocks. The measure of strengthened resilience will be indicated by famers' commitment to come up with community based action plans and are also able to implement these plans in mitigating and preventing disasters and hazards. This can also be measured by the number of sustainable DRR/NRM intervention the communities can be able to engage in. The following are some of the activities achieved within the quarter.

Early warning information dissemination

In this reporting quarter the project has demonstrated a significant improvement in collecting and disseminating existing early warning information regularly compiled by ACTED, FEWSNET, and the National Meteorological center. During this quarter, three different disseminations of early warning information were made which includes drought forecast for south Karamoja

March & April 2014, early warning/weather forecast, and the food security outlook by FEWSNET.

The information content includes situational overview of the crop and livestock, weather forecast and recommendations on response mechanisms. This information has been disseminated to the RWANU beneficiaries through the front line staff (FEWs) based at the sub counties.

The team monitored the utilization of anecdotal reports and the trigger indicators on drought and early warning information disseminated and found out that communities have used this information for appropriate planning of mobility in search of pasture and water for their animals, when to source wage labor, the choice of coping strategies and on how and when they plant their crops. While some farmers planted all their seeds, others kept some seeds to wait for better conditions for planting. In some places, farmers have resorted to planting their crops near the river banks and water points, especially in parts of Iriiri, Lorengechora, and Karita.

Development of early warning response plans

The program team facilitated the process of developing early warning/disaster response plans for 15 FTGs in the sub counties of Karita, Kakomongole, Lolachat, Nabilatuk, and Namalu sub counties. The exercise was meant to help the groups and the general community to draw on local based sustainable approaches to mitigating and preventing disasters and hazards with the aim of building resilience within farmers to the various shocks that occur from time to time. During the development of the disaster contingency plans, the community/participants identified pressing hazards included drought (prolonged dry spells), crop pests and diseases, termite attacks, honey dew on crops 'ebuta', weeds, wind, floods, water logging, and hail stones in parts of Namalu sub counties. The contingency plans will be analyzed and shared with the different stakeholders. In total 408 famers participated in the development of the disaster response plans.



Figure 11: The project DRR officer supporting farmers in Nabilatuk sub county, Nakapiripirit district

Integration of DRR/NRM into livestock production

The RWANU DRR/NRM officer trained the 14 women livestock groups (280 participants including women beneficiaries and their husbands attended the training). The topics covered included the relationship between environment and livestock, understanding of disasters in relation to the livestock rearing, integrated pest management using other natural means rather than chemicals, natural fodder tree planting, and protection. This was meant to create awareness

among the livestock beneficiaries to conserve the environment for better and improved yields of the livestock.

Conducting environmental compliance monitoring and support to all RWANU program activities

In order to ensure that environmental sustainability and indicators within the Environmental Mitigation and Monitoring Plan (EMMP) is observed, the DRR sector conducted a quarterly environmental compliance monitoring, support, and guidance for RWANU activities in southern Karamoja. The data is being analyzed by the DRR officer and the M&E specialist and the findings will be circulated in the next quarter. The exercise was aimed at identifying strengths and gaps in environmental compliance and guide all the activities to ensure that our activities do no harm to the already fragile environment in the region.

Supporting farmers on the adoption of sustainable natural resource management and on environmental protection in Nakapiripirit district

During the quarter, the DRR/NRM officer supported 14 FTGs including five FTGs in Kakomongole, three FTGs in Loregae, three FTGs in Namalu, and three FTGs in Nabilatuk sub counties to adapt practices of FMNR such as tree stump regeneration within homesteads and in the gardens, bush fire control, proper site selection, retention trees within the crop gardens as a way to manage the natural resources in their communities. Overall, 350 farmers were trained on FMNR principles and practices and were encouraged to adopt this during their farming activities. Farmers have shown their commitment to implement the approach by identifying eight FMNR demonstration sites and by actively participating in the learning events on regular bases. Project monitoring revealed that many farmers have already left significant numbers of trees within their farms as a way to practice FMNR and also within their settlements, the elders as a result of the FMNR training have continued to discourage their communities from cutting the tree stumps and rather try to rejuvenate them.



The DRR/NRM officer (left) and the field staff of Karita sub county (right) training farmers on FMNR and sensitizing communities on environmental protection respectively

Planned activities for July to September 2014

During the course of the next quarter, the environment and DRR/NRM sector of RWANU will mainly focus its activities on strengthening the adaptive capacities of the program beneficiaries

within the agro pastoral communities to reduce the adverse effects climate risks on livelihoods and livelihoods assets. In order to achieve this, the following activities have been planned for:

- Collection, analyzing, and disseminating the early warning information on regional food security situations, drought bulletins, and other relevant early warning information to farmers Support farmer training groups in developing disaster contingency plans in response to the early warning information. Thirty groups (750 farmers) are targeted to be supported within the quarter. During the dissemination of the information field staff and local leaders translate early warning messages into the local language-Ng’kariomojong;
- Conduct refresher training for 30 FEWs, four community development officers, and four TSOs on environment, NRM/DRR, and FMNR. This is aimed at building the staff’s capacities to be able to integrate NRM/DRR and FMNR into crop production and livestock program system within the program;
- Identify sites for undertaking Farmer Managed Natural Regeneration (FMNR). In these sites tree stump regeneration, forest protection, and fire lining establishment will be done and the site will serve as a learning ground for other members of the community. Eight natural forest zones in eight different sub counties are targeted to be regenerated using the practice and principles of FMNR;
- Conduct environment awareness and training farmers in Farmer Managed natural regeneration (FMNR). At least 30 FTGs (750 farmers) are targeted to be reached;
- Make continuous follow ups to establish communities’ response and level of utilization of the early warning information by farmers and the communities. Follow up field visit reports will be produced regularly. Specific indicators such as the number of farmers utilizing the early warning information will be tracked using the designed tool for monitoring of the responses by farmers. In addition, mapping out the type of activities that communities are practicing in response to the early warning information will be done on a quarterly basis;
- Continue monitoring the regional hazard and environment situations and report to management.

4.0 Monitoring and Evaluation

4.1 Research and Learning (Process Evaluation)

During this quarter, technical assistance was provided to the design of survey methodology, sampling, and design of the questionnaire for the Knowledge, Attitude, and practices survey on WASH. The objective of the survey is to determine and assess the level of knowledge, attitudes, and practices of hygiene, sanitation, and utilization of water among program beneficiaries. The survey will be implemented in the next quarter and a final report is expected by end of July 2014

During the reporting period, consultations and design of an assessment for adoption of farming practices was initiated. The assessment will seek to determine the extent to which farmers have practiced improved agronomic practices promoted by the project. The results will be used to improve on the messaging and methodologies of knowledge transfer to farmers. A final report is expected by end of August 2014.

4.2 Database development and implementation

During this quarter, the database design and supporting phase will be completed with all the tools digitalized in the database to support data entry and updates according to digitalized tools. The database can now support the implementation of the following activities:

- **Updating of beneficiary data.** During this quarter, program beneficiaries were assigned identification numbers. The process involved searching and identifying beneficiaries from the census master lists, then a 13 digit ID number was created that had the following characteristics :Administrative location, household number, and individual number in the household. By the end of the quarter, 80% of the beneficiaries under the farming component were assigned IDs. The rationale of ID assignment is to help RWANU to track individual beneficiaries across the program components and avoid multiple counting beneficiaries each time they are provided with a service.
- **Individual status update:** During this quarter, individual statuses were updated – the status updates included changes in pregnancy status, child birth details, and individual death or drop out of program. These updates were particularly useful in determining individual eligibility for commodity rations and other program services.

4.3 Development of the M&E Plan

The project Monitoring and Evaluation plan was developed. The M&E Plan serves as a guiding document that describes in detail how RWANU will establish and implement a system to monitor, evaluate, analyze, and report on the results of the project. It also allows the project management team to plan and manage the process of assessing and reporting progress towards its anticipated results and reaching established targets. The M&E plan will guide the measure of success and failure of project activities and strategies that will be used by the project team to steer project efforts towards meeting results. The plan outlines the indicators, the tools, and measures of program results under each of the two program components consistent with Performance Monitoring Plan (PMP), the Indicator Performance Tracking Table (IPTT), and Performance Indicator Reference Sheets (PIRS).

4.4 Dissemination of program results:

During the quarter, the team prepared and disseminated the project results and achievements reported over the January –March 2014 to the district leaders. The purpose of the dissemination is to keep the district stakeholders informed of the progress of project implementation. All four districts covered by the project activities received a report.

4.5 Capacity building of staff

All 30 FEWs and four TSOs were trained in monitoring, reporting, and utilization of the program data collection tools. The benefit of this training is that FEWS will be able to follow the same standards when measuring and reporting data and improved accuracy will be realized. The training also provided the FEWs and TSOs with skills and improved knowledge in the following areas:

- Measurement of land under cultivation;
- Measurement of crop quantities and their conversion from local units to standard units;
- Reporting timeliness for periodic performance data and activity reports;
- Quantifying costs and calculating gross margins;
- Utilization of M&E tools and data collection requirements;

- Identification and control over common mistakes in data collection and reporting.

4.6 Annual survey

The final report of the annual survey was submitted by the hired local consultancy firm, Services for Generations International (SFG). The annual survey was a cross sectional descriptive study which was conducted using quantitative methods of data collection within the four districts targeted by RWANU (Amudat, Napak, Nakapiripirit, and Moroto). The survey was a beneficiary based assessment which was designed to be statistically representative of the beneficiary groups which had participated in the implementation of different project activities. The survey targeted beneficiaries being supported through the following program intervention categories: Horticulture, crop farming, livestock keeping, bee keeping, maternal child health, and community advocacy group (CAG) members. Because of that overlap, 903 interviews (realized sample size) were conducted altogether with 893 project beneficiaries.

The annual survey report provided data on the program agricultural related indicators, child's health and nutrition, women's health and nutrition, household sanitation practices, and participation in CAGs. The table below summarized the results by 20 program beneficiary-based performance indicators in comparison to the population based baseline survey:

Table 6: Status at a glance table of the 2014 annual survey findings compared to the 2013 baseline survey findings

#	Indicator	Baseline Survey, 2013 (%)	2014 annual survey Values % participation of each group			N
			Male (%)	Female (%)	Total (%)	
1	Percentage of farmers who practiced the value chain activities promoted by the project in the last 12 months	77	91	92	92	700
2	Percentage of farmers who used improved storage practices in the past 12 months	52	51	53	53	238
3	Percentage of livestock owners accessing government or private sector veterinary services (diseases diagnosis and drugs) and livestock vaccination	69	71	82	78	156
4	Percentage of farmers who used financial services (savings, agricultural credit, and/or agricultural insurance) in the past 12 months	27	30	25	27	631
5	Prevalence of stunted children under five years of age	38	40	33	37	241
6	Prevalence of underweight children under five years of age	20	27	25	27	241
7	Women's Dietary Diversity: Mean number of food groups consumed by women of reproductive age (WDDS)	2.6		3.2	3.2	234
8	Prevalence of exclusive breastfeeding of children under six months of age	56	15	25	20	36
9	Percentage of children 6-23 months receiving a minimum acceptable diet (MAD)	7	9	13	11	147
10	Percentage of caregivers who know at least 4 of 6 IYCF and 3 of 8 MCH practices ⁸	36	-	17	17	236

⁸ The baseline indicator is different and is "Percentage of caregivers who know at least 7 of 14 IYCF and MCH practices

11	Percentage of respondents who know at least 3 of the 5 critical moments for hand washing	71	-	42	42	236
12	Percentage of households with soap and water at a hand washing station commonly used by family member	4	-	9	9	236
13	Percentage of mothers with children aged 0-23 months who had four or more antenatal visits when they were pregnant with their youngest child	75	-	75	75	165
14	Percentage of children under age of five who had diarrhea in the prior two weeks	23	38	35	37	267
15	Percent of children under five years old with diarrhea treated with Oral Rehydration Therapy (ORT)	83	65	71	68	98
16	Percentage of children aged 12-23 months who are fully immunized		10	9	9	216
17	Percentage of farmers adopting Farmer Managed Natural Regeneration practices	16	31	31	31	631
18	Percentage of women ages 15-49 and currently living with a man reporting that she makes decisions either by herself or jointly with the man regarding seeking health services for her own health, seeking health services for her children's health, how to spend money she herself has earned, and how to use productive assets			65	65	414
19	% of CAG members reporting that its meetings are useful and achieving their objective				76.9	36
20	Gross margin per unit of land, crop or animal of selected product (crops/animals/ honey)					
	Crops			(Gross Margin per ha in USD)		
	Maize			192		
	Beans			127		
	Ground nuts			284		
	Sorghum			79		
	Cabbage			140		
	Tomatoes			500		
	Sukuma wiki			188		
	Onions			139		
	Animals			(Gross Margin per unit in USD)		
	Goats			8.8		
	Goat milk (liters)			0		
Honey (per bee Hive)			13			

5.0 ADMINISTRATION

5.1 Support Visits Partner Headquarters and ACDI/VOCA Headquarters

Franck Flachenberg	Environmental Health Technical Advisor (Concern)	March 31- April 4	Training of RWANU staff and Health Promoters and Health Educators on WASH modules and curriculum (Paid by Concern)
Colm Cahill	Engineering Advisor (Concern)	April 1 st – April 4th	Review of hygiene and sanitation strategy (Paid by Concern)
Gudrun Stalkamp	Nutrition Advisor (Concern)	May 21st to June	Facilitate a linking agriculture to nutrition workshop for all program

		2nd	staff; Provide oversight for the development of Module 3 material on linking agriculture with nutrition.
Maria Tupac	ACDI/VOCA Commodity Manager	June 16 th to 28 th	Orient the new Commodity Operations Manager. Oversee commodity operations.

5.2 Challenges Encountered/Actions Taken

- The rainfall in most of South Karamoja has been very inconsistent and apparently well below long term averages. While the rains started in the middle of March, this was a temporary phenomenon and there was a drought from the end of March in most locations through to the end of May. In parts of Napak the rains have failed through the end of June. Outside of the green belt, much of the maize crop has been lost and there will be significant delays in harvesting sorghum.
- The eruption of an outbreak of Foot and Mouth Disease (FMD) has compounded the problem of the drought. The disease which affects cattle and to a lesser extent goats has resulted in a quarantine in Nakapiripirit since the middle of May and the end of the reporting period in Napak. The consequence of this is that herders have not been able to sell their stock undermining food security since sales of stock are made when supplies of grain are depleted. For the project, this has curtailed purchases of the oxen for the block farms, prevented the procurement of goats for the livestock program, and the overall market. The absence of most livestock sales has reduced the inflow of grain since traders normally bring in grain and take out livestock. With no livestock movement allowed, the economics of transporting grain became less profitable.
- The project received seeds later than would have been optimal in a normal year. Moving forward, efforts need to be put in place for the more timely procurement of seeds so that its arrival and distribution coincide with the start of the Karamoja wet season. In the green belt, farmers early planted crops are more advanced than the project demonstrations and block farms. Given early planting is a good agronomic practice in areas with erratic rainfall, the project needs to ensure that seeds are available in a more timely way in future years.
- The relationship with the Government of Uganda has been more difficult in the past quarter than previously. RWANU planned to work with the National Agricultural Advisory and Development Services (NAADS) and other branches of the Government. However the confusion over the status of the NAADS following a speech by the President of Uganda and also the lack of clarity from the donor over the degree of interaction with Government of Uganda officials meant that there was less communication with Government than would have ideally occurred.
- Attendance of LMs at meetings was 89%, slightly improving from the 82% reported in the previous quarter. HHCG meetings attendance and home visit conducted by LMs were challenged by the refusal of a few HHCG members to attend the meetings or cooperate with LMs. Possible reasons behind this were attributed to mobility of the communities, preoccupation with cultivating their gardens, and the misconception of relating MCG and HHCG meetings attendance with eligibility for food ration distribution. These challenges

were addressed by increased mobilization of the LMs and proper planning for MCG meetings. To address this issue, meetings with opinion leaders (LC1) were held to strengthen community mobilization.