

June 25, 2003

Mr. Tim McRae
Project Officer
Office of Foreign Disaster Assistance
1300 Pennsylvania Ave., N.W. – Rm 8.06
Washington D.C. 20523

Re: Final Report for Grant AOT-G-00-99-00-162-00 – Phase I

Dear Mr. McRae:

Attached, please find IRC's Final Quarterly Report for Grant AOT-G-00-99-00-162-00, NGO Umbrella Grant Project for South Kivu, DR Congo, Phase I. This report covers the period November 27, 2002 through February 28, 2003.

Should you have any questions about the attached report, please do not hesitate to contact me. IRC sincerely appreciates your support.

Sincerely,

David Sullivan
Program Specialist, Great Lakes

cc: Werner Vansant, IRC Country Director, DRC
David Johnson, IRC Bukavu
Heidi Wagner, IRC Regional Director, Great Lakes

28 February 2001 – 28 February 2003

I. Executive Summary

Organization: International Rescue Committee

Date: 28 March 2003

Mailing Address:

IRC-DR Congo
C/O IRC-Kigali
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Program Title:	NGO Umbrella Grant Project for South Kivu
Grant No.:	AOT-G-00-99-00-162-00
Country/Region:	South Kivu Province, Democratic Republic of Congo
Disaster/Hazard:	Inadequate Food Security and Access to Primary Health Care
Time Period of Report:	27 November 2002 – 28 February 2002

Goal/Purpose: To decrease the vulnerability of displaced and war-affected populations through the improvement of health services and the promotion of food security.

Objective 1: To provide financial and technical support to selected national and international NGOs experienced in undertaking emergency projects in the sectors of health and food security.

Indicator and Current Measure:

- 12 local partner NGOs received sub-grants and technical/management support from IRC
- Sub-grants to fund partner activities for the official project period (March 11 - September 10, 2002) were distributed to partner NGOs in 4 separate installments
- 8 monthly financial and project activity reports were received from each NGO partner
- 15 field visits conducted to project sites
- A mid-term evaluation was conducted for each sub-grantee project
- Following mid-term review, each sub-grantee budget and project design were revised and adjusted in an effort to reflect changing realities on the ground, and to ensure achievements of planned objectives.

Objective 2: To strengthen the technical, managerial and financial capacity of the national NGO partners by providing training in organizational development and financial management.

Indicator and Current Measure:

- 4 of the 12 partner NGOs audited to review and improve financial control systems
- 12 sub-grantee projects revised and project design strengthened
- Two local experts recruited to provide technical support to partner NGOs
- Financial management training workshop held
- Assistance provided to partner NGOs with development of M&E systems for each micro-project, collection of baseline data and monitoring of progress against achievement
- Partners' monthly activity and financial reports reviewed and returned with recommendations for improvement
- 7 technical support meetings held in the fields of microfinance and food security
- Mid-term evaluations conducted for each micro-project with clear recommendations for technical and project management improvements.
- Assistance provided to implement mid-term evaluation recommendations (revised project design, revised budget)

Targeted Population:

Umbrella grant projects serve the health and food security needs of over 50,000 vulnerable people in South Kivu. Twelve local NGOs receive financial and managerial guidance and training, as well as experience in project design, implementation, and management. Partner projects support local initiatives to address community needs and to enhance community self-help structures.

Geographic Location:

All activities take place in South Kivu Province.

II. Program Activities

Goal/Purpose: To decrease the vulnerability of displaced and war-affected populations through the improvement of health services and the promotion of food security.

Objective 1: To provide financial and technical support to selected national and international NGOs experienced in undertaking emergency projects in the sectors of health and food security.

1.1 To publish a call for proposals from NGOs to address the most pressing needs in health-care services and food security in South Kivu.

Activity completed. IRC distributed over 2,000 applications for sub-grants, and received 340 project proposals.

1.2 Following analysis of the capacity of the NGO partners, to select approximately 10 local and approximately 4 international NGO partners based on project concept, appropriateness of intervention, and accuracy of estimated costs.

Activity completed. IRC selected 12 local NGOs to receive sub-grants and technical support. After consulting with OFDA, IRC decided to narrow its focus solely on building the capacity of local NGOs, to increase sustainable effects among the target population and beneficiary communities.

1.3 To sign a contract with the partner NGOs, outlining the roles and responsibilities of IRC and the NGO.

Activity completed. On 11 March 2002, IRC signed sub-contracts with each sub-grantee organization.

1.4 To disburse to local NGOs sub-grants of an average of \$20,000, which will be issued in two installments.

Activity completed. On March 11, 2002 IRC disbursed the first grant installments to all 12 NGO partners. Prior to disbursement, IRC program staff set financial control procedures to ensure control of sub-grantee expenses, and created a *Guide of Administrative and Financial Procedures for IRC Sub-Grants*, which detailed all procurement, administrative, and financial procedures for sub-grantees. The guide includes minimal internal controls for an organization, with budget monitoring tools and a bid analysis sheet.

At the end of May, additional funds were disbursed to NGO partners, after careful review and analysis of monthly financial and project activity reports. In general, IRC disburses funds according to expenditure forecasts for the following 2 months, developed by the partner NGO and reviewed jointly by IRC financial controllers and the local NGO counterpart for consistency with planned activities. Once forecasts are agreed upon, additional funds are disbursed to NGO partners.

NGOs received a third installment of funds mid-July. At that time, IRC retained approximately 10% of the sub-grantee budget until the final financial and project activity reports were submitted and reviewed to the satisfaction of IRC.

The sub-grantee micro-projects officially ended on September 10, 2003. At this time, IRC issued the final installment of funds to the 12 sub-grantees. IRC also gave NGO partner Halte Africa an additional installment, equal to 20% of their total grant, to help finalize its activities. IRC organized and completed an audit of 4 of the 12 partners, to review and improve financial control systems.

1.5 To disburse to international NGOs sub-grants of an average of \$125,000, which will be issued in two 2 installments.

Activity cancelled. Only local humanitarian organizations can receive sub-grants. After consulting with OFDA, IRC decided that working strictly with local NGOs would better serve the target population by ensuring sustainability.

1.6 To monitor sub-grantee project progress on a bi-weekly basis.



In January 2003, all 12 NGO partners came to IRC headquarters in Bukavu for an exposition of the Ushirika program and celebration of the project's accomplishments.

Activity completed. IRC monitored project progress through monthly partners' reports, summarizing objectives, activities, and difficulties encountered over the month under review. The IRC project team created a calendar of reporting requirements to clarify rules and regulations pertaining to reporting. Each partner submitted 8 monthly reports.

To complement information provided in monthly reports, IRC conducted regular visits to project sites to view activities and speak with field project staff and beneficiaries.

Regular project and financial monitoring helped to ensure that NGO partners were upholding the contractual obligations made during project selection and that the completed project effectively met the community's real needs.

1.7 To analyze sub-grantee monthly financial and project activity reports.

Activity completed. Each month, IRC program staff receive financial and project activity reports from each sub-grantee. IRC reviews these reports to ensure that activities are progressing according to plans, and to account for expenses. An IRC financial controller produces a monthly report summarizing sub-grantee expenses. Also, the IRC program team creates a monthly activity report representing progress of all micro-projects.

These monitoring tools allow sub-grantees to control expenditures and to monitor progress related to activities. It also helps to identify difficulties or impediments during the implementation phase; in such cases, the project team meets with the partner NGO and contributes advice and support to the local NGO partner to ensure completion of activities according to plans.

1.8 To conduct mid-term and final evaluations on both technical and financial aspects of the project implemented.



In January, IRC and its 12 NGO partners held a final meeting to evaluate the year's activities.

Activity completed. IRC completed mid-term evaluations of all sub-grantee projects at the end of July 2002. A mid-term evaluation report was developed and sent to each partner NGO. These reports contained constructive criticism, observations, and recommendations for successful project implementation and financial management. Following the mid-term review, 4 NGO partners were granted additional funds and one received a cost-extension.

In January 2003, IRC invited representatives from all 12 NGO partners to IRC headquarters for an exposition and presentation of the results from NGO partner projects over the last year.

In February 2003, IRC completed a final evaluation of each sub-grantee partner, focusing on lessons learned, difficulties encountered, and recommendations for the next phase of the umbrella grant project. IRC also completed financial audits for 4 of the 12 sub-grantee partners.

Objective 2: To strengthen the technical, managerial and financial capacity of the national NGO partners by providing training in organizational development and financial management.

The capacity-building strategy used by the Umbrella Grant project team is multi-faceted. On one hand, IRC accompanies local partner NGOs throughout the design, execution and final evaluation of the micro-project. This accompaniment consists of on-the-job training and hands-on practice; it allows partner NGOs to strengthen their project management and technical skills in a 'real life' situation, using the funded micro-project as a real case study. It relies on coaching and mentoring approach, providing continuous feedback to partner NGOs throughout the sub-grantee project period.

In addition, IRC also develops formal training sessions to respond to organizational weaknesses identified among NGO partners. Training is conducted in a more 'formal' setting and tackles common needs among partner NGOs.

2.1 To interview local NGO partners to determine their specific training needs in the areas of service delivery, project design, staff management, finance management, program management and evaluation, administration systems and procedures, reporting and technical skills.

Activity completed. IRC program staff recruited a capacity building coordinator who developed and implemented a training program for partner NGOs. In its first months of operation, the umbrella grant project team held a design workshop, with local and international NGOs, using participatory tools such as the problem tree, the objective tree, SWOT (Strengths, Weaknesses, Opportunities, and Threats) analysis, and the logical framework. Workshop participants conducted a general evaluation of local NGO capacity and needs in service delivery, project design, staff management, finance management, program management and evaluation, administration systems and procedures, reporting, and technical skills. The capacity building coordinator used these results to design an effective training program.

IRC also created a questionnaire for partner NGOs, to assess individual and collective capacities and needs. This assessment will allow IRC to measure partner progress against the baseline data generated on the institutional capacity of sub-grantees at the beginning of the partnership.

2.2 To create a training plan covering all skill areas needed, in conjunction with the local NGOs.

Activity completed. The capacity building coordinator has created a training plan that responds to needs identified during the assessment described above. Training covers needs in organizational management, project management and technical sectors.

2.3 To identify training facilitators to conduct training sessions in each topic area.

Activity completed. IRC has conducted interviews with many local and regional training organizations, and maintains a CV database of qualified, local trainers. IRC uses this database to identify facilitators for its training.

2.4 To implement the training plan.

Activity completed. In mid-February, IRC held a final training workshop for partners on NGO institutional sustainability, covering human resource management, organizational structure, fundraising, and strategies for humanitarian interventions.

IRC previously held a workshop in March for all partner NGOs, to review internal control systems and financial management.



The final training workshop for partner NGOs.

2.5 To monitor the quality and relevance of the training sessions through participant evaluations, in order to ensure continual improvement in training provided.

Activity completed. After each training workshop, participants conduct an evaluation of the session by filling out an anonymous questionnaire.

80% of partners expressed satisfaction with the first training session on financial management.

100% expressed satisfaction with the forum on institutional sustainability and 31 out of 32 participants felt that it would have a positive impact on their organizations.

III. Problems Encountered and Lessons Learned

Call for Proposals

- Public reaction to the call for proposals was very enthusiastic with over 340 proposals submitted. However, only 12 partners were selected to receive sub-grants and technical assistance, with the majority of projects being rejected during the first round of the selection process for administrative reasons. Many NGO candidates did not meet eligibility criteria or submitted projects that did not follow program guidelines. In the future, it would be important to review the content of the message addressed to the public about the call for proposals so as to limit the number of ineligible candidatures submitted and the frustration of members of local NGOs.
- Certain candidates found it difficult to produce all the supporting documents requested (copies of statutes, letters of recommendation, etc.) before the deadline for candidature. Due to their poor financial situations, many also had difficulty in providing multiple copies of their proposals as requested. A possible solution to these problems is to request only one copy of each proposal and to collect supporting documents only from those candidates that have passed the initial rounds of selection.

Selection process

- The project team was not able to conduct field visits to all the pre-selected NGOs. Field visits are important to the final decision-making process and ensure that the most deserving candidates are selected as partners.

Project implementation and monitoring

- 3 of the 12 partners received their funds through bank transfers using banks in neighboring countries. The subsequent banking fees charged to these NGOs were higher than expected and this created problems in terms of budget management. The subsequent delays in effectuating the transfers also meant that there was a delay in executing certain activities. Given the absence of financial structures in South Kivu, cash transfers are the cheapest and quickest way of providing funds to NGO partners although there is an increased risk of loss or theft of funds.
- Some partners were present in zones considered to be insecure and this sometimes made monitoring activities difficult. Planned field visits were at times cancelled at the last minute because a zone was judged to be unsafe.

Capacity-building

- Opportunities for exchange between partners were limited during the organized training sessions as there were many topics to be tackled and often insufficient time to allow for more informal exchanges. Participants often expressed a desire to extend training sessions beyond the 3 days scheduled for each workshop.

IV. Successes

The Umbrella Grant project was associated with a number of successes during its implementation. Key successes are summarized below:

Impact on partners

- ✓ First initiative of its kind in South Kivu – an Umbrella Grant program had never been developed before for local NGOs working on emergency projects;
- ✓ Widespread communication on the call for proposals produced an enthusiastic response from the local population, civil society groups and from international NGO partners - over 2,000 applications distributed and 340 proposals submitted to the project;
- ✓ Important partnership and collaboration with international NGO partners present in remote areas ensured that isolated populations were given the opportunity to participate in the project;
- ✓ The selection process was judged to be very transparent and objective;
- ✓ The projects of the 12 partners selected represented the most pertinent and technically sound of all the proposals submitted;

- ✓ The exercise of project-revision with individual partners represented a significant initial step in the capacity-building process and allowed them to take ownership of certain tools of the project cycle, such as the logical framework;
- ✓ The consistent technical support provided by the project team allowed partners to develop their skills at their own pace, master different tools and take ownership of their projects. Regular monitoring also allowed them to correct mistakes during the implementation phase and increase the impact of their projects.
- ✓ The training workshops organized for partners addressed needs identified at the start of the project and were considered effective in reinforcing their organizational capacity, particularly in project development, financial management, monitoring and evaluation and project cycle management, as well as their technical capacity in specific areas (income generation, food security, water and sanitation, health and emergency aid).

Impact on the population

- ✓ Over \$236,000 were disbursed to 12 partners for the implementation of projects in the sectors of food security, emergency aid, water and sanitation, and income-generation;
- ✓ As a result of this funding, over 30,400 direct beneficiaries, including displaced populations and particularly vulnerable women and children, were able to:
 - Increase their monthly revenue;
 - Improve their access health and education services;
 - Improve their nutritional intake;
 - Develop their skills in managing and implementing agricultural and other income-generating activities;
 - Reintegrate their villages to resume traditional activities.

Annexes:

List of Ushirika partners

Presentation of partner projects

LIST OF UMBRELLA GRANTS PROJET PARTNERS

Name of Organization	Project Title	Geographic zone	Project beneficiaries	Principal Activities	Funding allocated (\$)
AMALDEFEA – Association des mamans qui luttent contre la délinquance féminine et pour l'encadrement des enfants orphelins et abandonnés	Integration of teen mothers, widows and abandoned children in the society	Commune of Kadutu, Bukavu	60 teen mothers 160 widows 180 orphans 140 under-privileged children	- Awareness-raising and training of teen mothers and widows on income-generating activities; - Assistance to orphans and under-privileged children: medical care, pre-school program and community canteen.	15,903
CEMADEV – Centrale d'Enseignement pour le Développement	Assistance to vulnerable female-led households in the town of Bukavu	Bukavu	318 vulnerable women	- Small credit disbursements with cost-recovery; - Training on micro-commerce management and leadership.	22,836
OPIFET – Œuvre de Promotion des Initiatives des Femmes Transporteuses	Assistance to female porters at the Muhanzi Beach Market	Bukavu	301 female porters (women who earn their living carrying heavy sacks of agricultural products, construction materials, etc.)	- Small credit disbursements for micro-commerce activities; - Training on micro-commerce management; - Construction of shelters for female porters.	20,043
CIM-BUSHI – Conseil Inter-Marais du Bushi	Cultivation of marshland to improve agricultural productivity and household revenues of populations affected by the war	Walungu	1,400 women 400 men	- Distribution of agricultural entrants (equipment and seeds); - Technical training on improved agricultural methods; - Assistance to displaced populations wanting to return to their villages.	19,834
CME – Centre Mère et Enfants	Community chicken farming to increase the revenues of women affected by the war	Commune of Bagira, Bukavu	100 vulnerable women	- Distribution of entrants (mangers, hatchers, chicks, etc.); - Training and installation of a community management committee.	6,405
GISDG – Groupe d'Intervention pour la Santé et le Développement Global	Improvement of the food security of households with malnourished children through guinea-pig raising and market	Kabare	280 families (1,680 people)	- Distribution of agricultural entrants and genitor guinea-pigs; - Installation of household fields for cultivation; - Training on agricultural methods; - Home-based nutritional follow-up of	24,324

Name of Organization	Project Title	Geographic zone	Project beneficiaries	Principal Activities	Funding allocated (\$)
GRENIER – Groupe d'Education, Nutrition et Intensification des Elevages Ruraux	gardening activities Support for the increase in food and seed production of vulnerable rural women in Kamanyola	Walungu	malnourished children. 600 rural women	- Acquisition of cultivable land; - Training on new agricultural techniques; - Creation of a seed bank.	17,208
HALTE AFRICA	Material assistance to members of the <i>Tobongye Ekeci de Baraka Mwandika</i> fishing cooperative	Fizi	38 fishermen and their families (280 people)	- Distribution of fishing equipment (nets and boats) on credit with reimbursement to the cooperative; - Training on management, treatment and conservation techniques.	21,779
Groupe MILIMA	Emergency assistance to displaced and returnee populations in the high and medium plateaus of North Uvira.	Uvira	350 displaced families (2,369 people)	- Distribution of food and non-food items, blankets, clothes and kitchen sets; - Peace promotion talks.	23,122
PDIP – Programme d'Intégration et de Développement du Peuple Pygmée au Kivu	Community health promotion in Pygmy villages in South Kivu	Idjwi	335 pygmy families (approx. 1,675 people), 250 non pygmy families (approx. 1,250 families)	- Construction of springs providing potable water ; - Training of IEC community workers (Information, Education and Communication); - Training on artisan soap-making and hygiene promotion.	23,687
PROVAH – Promotion des Valeurs Humaines	Distribution of seeds and agricultural tools to displaced and returnee families in the Ruzizi plain, Uvira territory	Uvira	2,403 displaced and returnee families (approx. 12,015 people)	- Distribution of tools and seeds to encourage a return to normal agricultural activity; - Creation of a seed bank; - Peace-promotion talks.	19,821
VAS – Volontaires Autochtones Solidaires	Support for agricultural and livestock activities of homeless and displaced populations in Kalonge	Bunyakiri	1,500 households (approx. 7,500 people)	- Food distribution - Small rotating credit disbursements for the purchase of goats, seeds and agricultural tools; - Training on animal rearing.	21,630
Total direct project beneficiaries			30,428		
Total funds allocated to partners					236,592

AMALDEFEA

(Association des mamans qui luttent contre la délinquance féminine et pour l'encadrement des enfants orphelins et abandonnés)

“Integration of teen-mothers, widows, and abandoned children into society”

Cimpunda – Kadutu Commune – Bukavu

Context

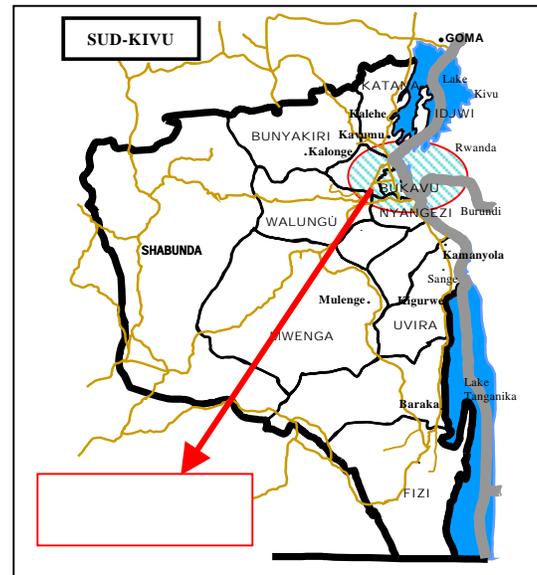
Cimpunda is one of the most impoverished and vulnerable neighborhoods in the city of Bukavu, and in the Kadutu commune, in particular. The quality of life in Cimpunda has drastically decreased as a result of the two wars. Due to a marked lack of basic social services, the living conditions of vulnerable groups in Cimpunda have rapidly deteriorated.

This urban shantytown is characterized by increasing poverty amongst the population, fueled by an increase in disease (STDs and AIDS), high malnutrition rates among children, an increase in numbers of orphans (whose parents were victims of war or AIDS), juvenile delinquency, a high unemployment rate, and an increase in unwanted pregnancies. These problems have added to the erosion of the family structure and have contributed greatly to the numbers of street children. These disadvantaged populations now live within the margins of society and in conditions of extreme poverty.

Objectives of the projet

The sub-grantee project aims to address the needs of unwanted and abandoned children, widows, and teen-mothers affected by the ongoing war, by securing their access to basic social services, thereby allowing them to live with dignity. To accomplish this, AMALDEFEA has established the following objectives:

- to support abandoned children (identified by the association) through education, training, and the creation of a community canteen;
- to promote the reintegration of widows and teen-mothers into society through training in tailoring and the disbursement of micro-credit funds, with the aim of launching revenue-generating activities for beneficiaries.



Accomplishments

AMALDEFEA received approximately \$15,900 in financial support from IRC which permitted them to accomplish the following in 6 months (March 11 – September 10, 2002):

- provision of food and medical care to 180 unwanted and orphaned children hosted by the association;
- education (enrollment and tuition fees) of 140 school-aged disadvantaged children;
- training of 60 teen-mothers in tailoring and life skills;
- apprenticeships in the sewing and tailoring trade for 60 teen-mothers, including training and the distribution of sewing machines (to be reimbursed to the association);
- provision of micro-credit funds and training in financial management for 160 widows to allow them to develop revenue-generating activities;
- recovery of 100% of micro-credit loans, which contributes to insuring the continuation of activities and the sustainability of the association;
- provision of food rations from WFP to assure the protection of the capital of micro-credit beneficiaries.



Difficulties encountered

- an increasing number of requests for assistance during the implementation of the sub-grantee project;
- micro-credit beneficiaries were affected by the fluctuation in the exchange rate between \$USD and Congolese Francs,
- costs incurred in the monitoring of micro-credit activities were underestimated in the original budget.

Sustainability

Due to the 100% recovery of micro-credit funds, AMALDEFEA succeeded in capitalizing on funds granted by IRC, also permitting, in the short-term, the continuation of its activities and covering of organizational operating costs.

CEMADEV
(Centrale d'Enseignement pour le Développement)

“Assistance to vulnerable female-led households in the town of Bukavu”

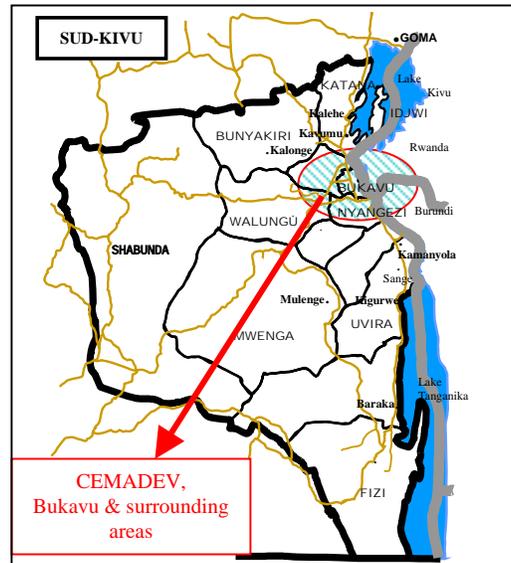
Bukavu

Context

The town of Bukavu covers four urban communes, of which two communes, Kadutu and Bagira, are home to the town's poorest slums. In these neighborhoods, the socio-economic situation of the population continues to decline, notably for its most vulnerable groups such as abandoned women and children.

Bukavu has been marked by a population explosion following the arrival of numerous waves of displaced persons from rural zones, fleeing armed militias. As a cosmopolitan city with limited industry, Bukavu's economy relies, in large part, on the informal sector. The public sector is characterized by the non-payment of salaries for several years. Sixty percent of households survive on a single meal per day. Revenue-generating activities are no longer organized or structured. Purchasing power, along with the general revenue of the population, has fallen considerably.

Women have not been spared. Having become heads-of-households mainly by circumstance (whether abandoned by their husbands, widowed, or living with an unemployed husband incapable of meeting the family's needs), they have more and more difficulties in coping with day-to-day household needs. However, in their struggle against poverty, female heads-of-households continue to actively engage in small commerce and artisan activities in order to support their families. With limited means, CEMADEV-Femme seeks to support vulnerable women, by any means possible, to try to increase the quality of life for their families.



Objectives

The micro-project seeks to improve the revenue of vulnerable women and young mothers by promoting revenue-generating activities. Consequently, these women receive loans that permit them to engage in small commerce and to generate revenues in a respectable manner. Each beneficiary receives continual support in the form of small commerce and leadership training.



Accomplishments

During an execution period of 6 months (11 March – 10 September 2002), the association received an IRC grant in the amount of \$23,835 and was able to:

- grant micro-credit loans of \$10 to \$150 to 318 vulnerable women;
- conduct 8 training workshops for female beneficiaries;
- recover 98% of loans distributed;
- reinforce the financial management capacities of women beneficiaries;
- improve the socio-economic conditions of beneficiaries, by increasing access to medical care, increasing school attendance, and increasing the number of household meals per day.

Difficulties encountered

- the number of agents monitoring credit disbursements was insufficient, which created difficulties in the follow-up of credit reimbursements;
- the association underestimated certain functioning costs in its initial budget;
- requests for credit continued to increase and the association was unable to respond to the high demand.

Sustainability

- Funds generated by the credit reimbursements (capital plus interest) will permit the association to give new loans and will cover, in the short-term, organizational functioning costs.

CIM-BUSHI (Conseil Inter-Marais du Bushi)

“Cultivation of marshland to improve agricultural productivity and household revenues of populations affected by the war”

Kahinga and Karhongo – Ngweshe Collective - Walungu

Context

Kahinga is located 19km from Bukavu in the Karhongo/Nyangezi region of Walungu health zone. This area is characterized by high population density, in the order of 200 inhabitants per km², concentrated mostly in hillside villages surrounding the Kanyatende-Hogola marshland.

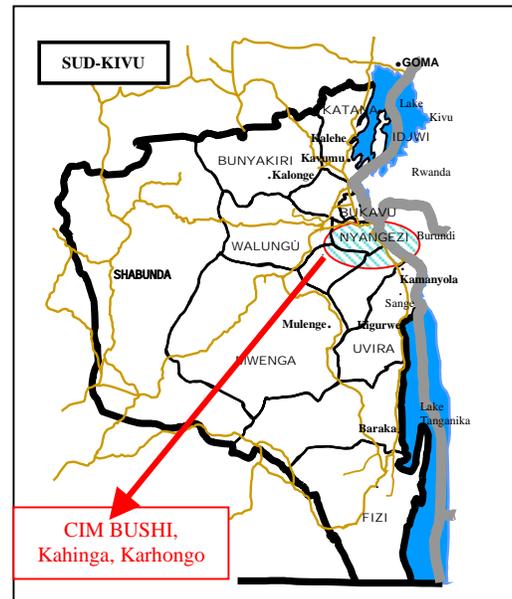
In addition to this dire demographic situation, there is a constant stream of displaced populations, as people flee from insecurity in neighboring villages. The influx of IDPs and the insufficiency of land in Kahinga have provoked a serious decline in agricultural production, contributing directly to the under-nourishment of populations, and, in certain populations, acute malnutrition.

Threatened by the saturation of available farmland and rising food needs, the residents of Kahinga have begun to farm the Kanyatende-Hogola marshlands. However, this undeveloped marshland is the site of frequent floods which limit agricultural exploitation during the short dry season, and it also serves as a breeding ground for mosquitoes. CIM-BUSHI seeks to resolve this food security dilemma in order to assure a sufficient food production for populations in Kahinga and to facilitate the integration of displaced persons into the community.

Objectives

The sub-grantee project submitted to the Umbrella Grant project seeks to improve agricultural production and nutrition among 1,800 households, focusing on the exploitation of the Kanyatende-Hogola marshland. CIM-BUSHI also seeks to reinforce:

- food security for project beneficiaries through an increase in agricultural production;
- financial security by increasing revenues through the sale of agricultural products;
- ecological security by properly developing the marshland and surrounding areas;
- integration of displaced families and the reintegration of returnee populations.



Accomplishments

During a 6-month execution period (11 March – 10 September 2002), the sub-grantee project benefited from IRC funds in the amount of \$19,835, which permitted them to:

- reach nearly 1,400 women and 400 men, who benefited from the provision of agricultural supplies (hoes, 2000 kg of beans, and seeds);
- train their beneficiaries in improved agricultural techniques and to offer them continued support in improving the production value of the marshland;
- develop 92 out of 115 hectares of drained and fertile land, which permitted local production of agricultural products and seeds (6.64 acres per household);
- reinforce the capacity of those developing the marshland, to insure the maintenance and management of cultivatable land (73 pilot fields);
- facilitate the reintegration of returnee populations into their respective villages;
- improve the nutritional condition of displaced and returnee families, as well as their access to medical care and education for their children.



Difficulties encountered

- Unexpected floods of 64 hectares of the marshland, which significantly slowed development activities;
- Poor level of training for local agents, in the areas of data collection, monitoring, and evaluation.

Sustainability

The exploitation of the developed marshland is guaranteed in the long-term. This permits Kahinga farmers to have arable land available all year long. The seed bank, based on rotating credit, continues to offer seeds to farmers. The pilot plot association and grassroots committees will continue to support villagers in the area.

CME (Centre Mère et Enfants)

"Community chicken farming to increase revenues of women affected by the war"

Bagira, Bukavu

Context

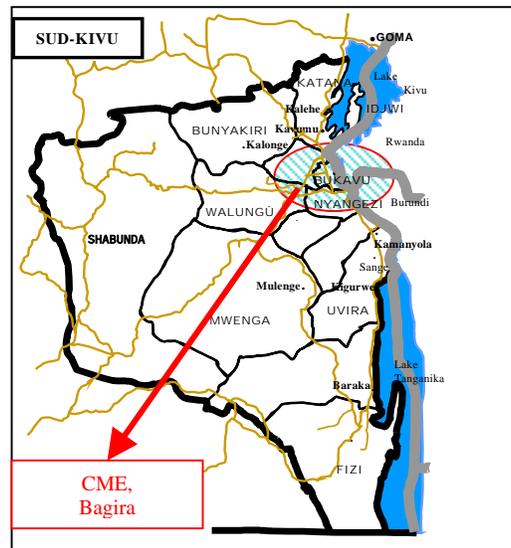
Bagira is one of 4 urban communes in the city of Bukavu. Situated 6 km from downtown Bukavu, this area is characterized by frequent influxes of IDPs coming from the north (Kabare) and the west (Walungu). Bagira is also a "sleeping" commune as the majority of the population travels to downtown Bukavu during the day to work. Bagira also houses a large number of government workers, who have gone without salaries for nearly 10 years.

The economic situation continues to worsen in Bukavu, increasing the level of poverty of Bagira residents and provoking increased malnutrition and lack of access to health care and education for their children.

Women have become the hub of society in Bagira, where they have organized themselves with the support of CME, to reflect on survival strategies that will permit them to satisfy the needs of their families. Thus the idea of a community chicken-raising project was born, financed by the IRC Umbrella Grant Project.

Objectives

The micro-project seeks to improve nutrition and family revenue for 100 vulnerable women in Bagira, by donating chickens for laying eggs and for meat, which will then serve to stock 5 community chicken coops.



Accomplishments

During the 6-month execution period (11 March -10 September 2002), the sub-grantee project, thanks to the support of IRC funds in the amount of \$6,405, was able to:

- acquire a field of 142 acres to construct a pilot chicken coop and a community chicken coop;
- construct the 2 chicken coops (pilot and community model) and purchase roosters and improved chicken breeds;
- grant inputs for the chicken project (chicks) to the community coops, as well as drinking troughs and roosts;
- conduct 2 training sessions for beneficiaries and install a management and evaluation committee for the community chicken coop;
- produce chicken products (eggs, chicks, and hens) thanks to the availability of electric incubators, and a generator (3,600 eggs and 97 chicks during the period of the project);
- improve the socio-economic conditions of beneficiary households (quantity and quality) with a monthly revenue of \$20 per woman from the sale of eggs;
- the reinforcement of the social fabric of vulnerable women in Bagira.

Difficulties encountered

- The initial strategy of the sub-grantee project was to construct a pilot chicken coop to distribute chickens to beneficiaries, however this strategy was rejected in favor of constructing community chicken coops.
- The brooding hens eventually became laying hens, thus the need for artificial incubators.
- The incompatibility of the different breeds of hens and roosters.

Sustainability

- The community chicken coops operate based on rotating credit.
- In addition to the two community chicken coops, the women in charge have agreed to open three supplementary coops.

GISDG
(Groupe d'Intervention pour la Santé et le Développement Global)

"Improvement of the food security of households with malnourished children treated at Kavumu nutrition center through guinea pig raising and market gardening activities"

Kavumu

Context

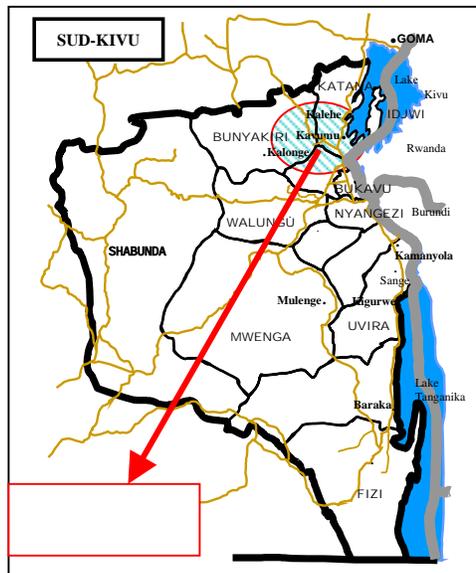
Kavumu is located 30 km on the northern axis from the city of Bukavu, on the road linking Bukavu to the Kavumu airport. Inhabitants of this region are primarily from the Bashi tribe. Kavumu frequently hosts a large number of displaced persons coming from villages surrounding the Kahuzi-Biega National Park. The population of Kavumu is very familiar with the problems of acute malnutrition, unemployment, malaria, and other water-borne diseases. Malnutrition rates have increased in Kavumu and the surrounding areas with the 2 wars that have taken place in eastern Congo since 1996.

To remedy this situation, in May 2000, GISDG opened a supplemental nutrition center for children under 10 years, who are considered as the most vulnerable populations in these communities. Still, children who exit the nutrition center often return to the center in deplorable nutritional states. The micro-project that GISDG submitted to IRC/Ushirika aims to insure a long-term improvement in the health of malnourished children and their families through the reinforcement of household food security.

Objectives

The sub-grantee project seeks to provide support in the form of agricultural inputs and small animal husbandry projects for beneficiary households, to limit readmission cases of children treated at the nutrition center in Kavumu. The objectives of the project are as follows:

- distribution of seeds and guinea pigs to families of malnourished children;
- training of families on improved gardening techniques;
- installation of a garden and a guinea pig hutch at each beneficiary home;
- accompaniment of families to ensure a better quality and quantity of family nourishment.



Accomplishments

During the 6-month execution period (11 March – 10 September 2002), the sub-grantee project benefited from financial support from IRC in the amount of \$24,325, and succeeded in:

- assisting 280 beneficiary families, a total of 1,680 people;
- installing a pilot guinea pig hutch, as well as 2 pilot gardens (with irrigation system);
- distributing agricultural inputs and guinea pigs to beneficiaries: 1,960 kg of beans, 1,400 kg of soy, 1,120 kg of corn, 840 kg of peanuts, and 1,400 guinea pigs;
- producing 8,632 kg of beans, 3,562 kg of soy, 3,970 kg of corn, 6,626 kg of peanuts for household consumption. GISDG began the project with 1,400 guinea pigs, and by the end of the project had 4,192;
- training households on improved gardening techniques;
- conducting home-visits to regularly monitor beneficiary villagers and malnourished children;

In terms of impact, it is worth mentioning that the recovery rate in the nutrition center in Kavumu passed from 61.3% to 70.7% during the execution period of the sub-grantee project. Beneficiary households also saw an increase in their revenue from the sale of agricultural products and guinea pigs.

Difficulties encountered

- Consumption by beneficiary families of part of the seeds given to them (due to hunger and the influx of displaced persons in Kavumu), which diminished expected agricultural results.
- A relatively high mortality rate among the guinea pigs (at the beginning of the project) due to the lack of heating in the hutches.

Sustainability

The products of the pilot gardens and guinea pig hutches (seed banks and guinea pigs) may serve to assist additional families of malnourished children who were not able to benefit from this project the first time around. The rotating credit system of seeds and guinea pigs continued after the end of IRC/Umbrella Grant project support.

GRENIER

(Groupe d'Education, Nutrition et Intensification d'Elevages Ruraux)

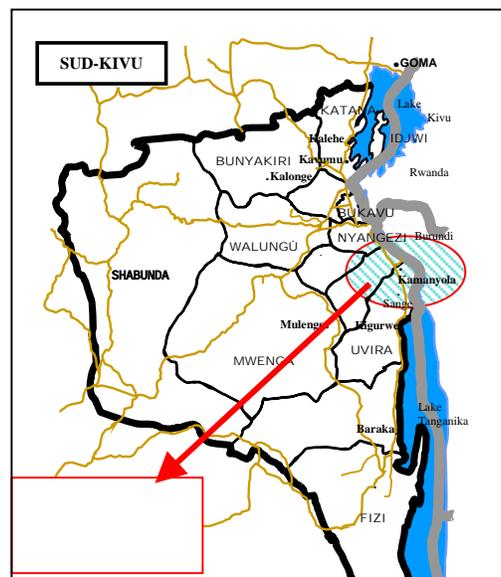
“Support for the increase in food and seed production of vulnerable rural women in Kamanyola”

Context

The grouping of Kamanyola is an agricultural region which extends along the Ruzizi River to the extreme West of the South Kivu Province. The territory is bisected from North to South by the principal road connecting Bukavu – Uvira – Bujumbura – Port de Kalundu (Tanzania). Kamanyola is also connected to Rwanda via Bugarama. The 40,000 inhabitants of Kamanyola are 65% female. The illiteracy rate in the area is 80% and affects mostly women and young girls. The average yearly income in Kamanyola is \$44 and most residents suffer from a permanent state of malnutrition.

Like elsewhere in South Kivu, the indigent populations of Kamanyola have been victimized by the war since 1996, and the ensuing influx of displaced persons. This situation has resulted in long stretches of time, often lasting several months, when the villagers are unable to conduct normal activities such as gardening and field cultivation. Access to basic sources of subsistence is lacking. The economy of Kamanyola is agriculturally based, and the women constitute the nuts and bolts of agricultural production. These women cover 75% of their family needs (food, education, health).

Female heads of households have organized themselves with the help of GRENIER-Kamanyola, to seek real possibilities to improve their living conditions in the context of their normal agricultural activities, by the increase of and exploitation of arable land.



Objectives

This sub-grantee project seeks to reinforce the subsistence capacity of female heads of households in Kamanyola, using the following strategies:

- providing beneficiaries with supplementary farming land;
- granting beneficiaries agricultural inputs;
- lead a technical accompaniment on cultural practices;
- create a seed bank.

Accomplishments

During the 6-month project period (11 March – 10 September 2002), GRENIER with an IRC sub-grant in the amount of \$17,210, was able to:

- obtain a field of 96 hectares;
- distribute to each beneficiary woman agricultural inputs: 3.5 kg of corn, 3.5 kg of beans, 3 kg of soy, 5 kg of peanuts, one hoe, and one binette (a total of 1,800 kg of soy, 1,200 kg of beans, 2,100 kg of corn, 3,000 kg of peanuts, 600 hoes, and 600 binettes)
- train 600 female beneficiaries on improved gardening and agricultural techniques;
- prepare and sew the 96 hectares mentioned above;
- produce 8,656 kg of beans, 19,600 kg of soy, and 24,350 kg of peanuts and 11,000 kg of corn.
- conduct trainings on agricultural techniques (seed conservation);
- install 14 exploitation committees for fields;
- create a seed bank to benefit vulnerable households during the next farming season.



Difficulties encountered

- The abrupt end of the rains in the second week of May had a negative impact on production.
- The large number of rodents attacking the crops destroyed a portion of the harvest.
- The sub-grantee project began one month late according to the agricultural calendar, due to difficulties in accessing funds.
- An influx of Burundian refugees and displaced Congolese obliged beneficiary families to share their harvests.

Sustainability

The seed bank, which began with nothing, held over 1,450 kg of well-conditioned seeds by the end of the sub-grantee project. This development will guarantee the capacity to give seeds on credit to beneficiaries in the future. The sale of seeds also allowed GRENIER to generate revenue for the association. The community was able to sow 8 hectares of land for the upcoming farming season. Agricultural monitoring agents, trained by GRENIER, continue to train villagers on improved farming techniques.

Groupe Milima

“Emergency assistance to displaced and returnee populations in the Haut and Moyens plateaus of North Uvira”

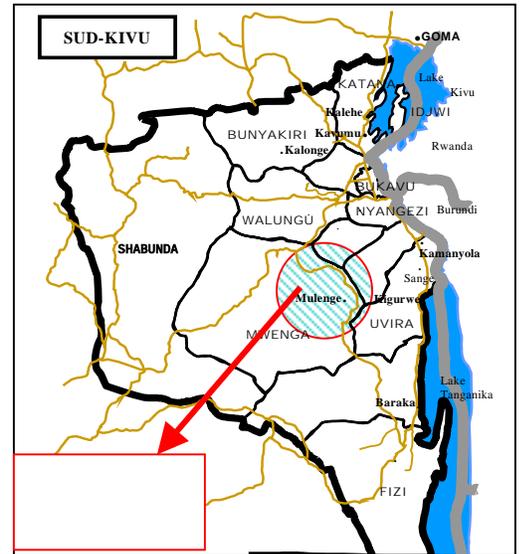
Hauts and Moyens Plateaux of Northern Uvira, Mulenge Collectivity

Context

The Mulenge collectivity is located in the Hauts and Moyens plateaus, North of Uvira. This zone is generally inhabited by the Banyamulenge tribe, mixed with Bavira and Babembe. The cohabitation of these different groups is difficult, and tensions exist.

Ravaged indiscriminately by the war and the occupation of armed militias (Mayi-Mayi, FDD, Interahamwe), the Hauts and Moyens plateaus have experienced a large exodus of the population towards the forests and neighboring regions. These movements have had direct consequences on the civilian population, including loss of goods, killing, rape, and destruction of social infrastructure. The impoverished civilian population has hardly any resources to meet basic living needs (clothing, medical care, food).

Following negotiations between local authorities and the leaders of the armed militias, the civilian populations are returning little by little to their respective villages. All these returnees have enormous humanitarian needs that necessitate an emergency intervention. The sub-grantee project submitted by Groupe Milima proposes to focus on meeting the humanitarian needs of these vulnerable populations.



Objectives

The project involves providing care and social assistance to returnee families in order to encourage those who are hesitant to return to their villages, and to help them improve their living conditions. Specifically, the micro-project seeks to:

- provide emergency assistance to displaced and returnee families from the Moyens and Hauts plateaus;
- raise awareness among returnee populations on processes of peace and reconciliation.



Accomplishments

Thanks to IRC/Ushirika funds in the amount of \$23,120, Groupe Milima was able to provide assistance to 2,369 returnees in 350 households, in the Hauts and Moyens plateaus:

- 150 households (1,500 people) benefited from distributions of food (13,500 kg of potatoes, 11,250 kg of beans, 848 kg of cooking salt) and non-food items (350 bolts of cloth, 700 blankets, 100 bundles of second-hand clothing, 700 serving dishes, 700 plates, 700 cups, 350 jerrycans (20L), and 2,800 bars of soap);
- animators from Groupe Milima organized 3 education campaigns on maintaining peace, and over 20 pacification meetings;
- the sub-grantee project facilitated the reintegration of returned families into their respective villages.

Difficulties encountered

- Groupe Milima was unable to assist all the returnees from the Hauts and Moyens plateaus, as the needs were enormous and there was only a minimal presence of humanitarian agencies;
- After their installation, returnee populations lacked any revenue generating activities;
- Difficulties in accessing the Hauts and Moyens plateaus, along with high transport costs, made assistance difficult.

Sustainability

The end of the distribution of food and non-food items constituted the end of the micro-project. However, for beneficiary populations, the sub-grantee project permitted them to resettle and to reintegrate their villages with the essentials (clothing, cooking utensils, seeds, food) necessary for a return to normal life. The sub-grantee project also permitted beneficiaries to plan revenue generating activities, to have access to some capital, and to begin peaceful cohabitation.

Halte Africa

“Material assistance to members of the *Tobongye Ekeci de Baraka Mwandika* fishing cooperative”

Baraka, Fizi Territory

Context

Fizi territory is located at the extreme south of South-Kivu province, 250 km from the city of Bukavu. Its population is estimated at 300,000 inhabitants, and is made up of 3 tribes: Babembe, Babwari and Babuyu. The principal activity of the zone is fishing, followed by agriculture.

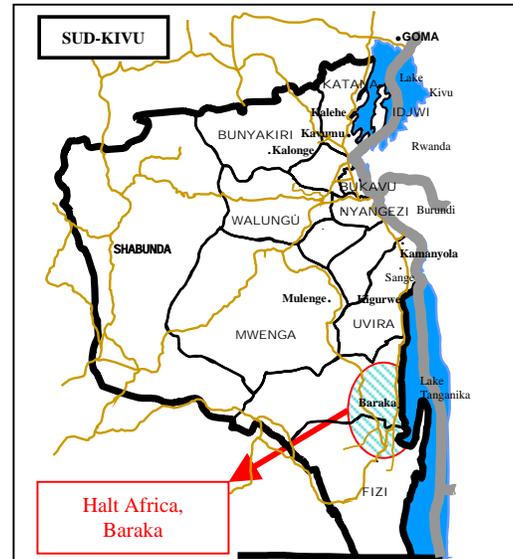
During the 2 wars that D.R. Congo experienced in 1996 and 1998, the populations of Fizi were displaced towards nearby villages and to refugee camps in Tanzania. Once people returned to the Congo, they were largely concentrated in the Baraka locality, which is relatively secure. Nevertheless, the massive displacement of the population, as well as the systematic plundering of their goods, made the return difficult. Agricultural and fishing activities have been severely reduced due to a lack of adequate materials and inputs. The population is also confronted with a serious problem of malnutrition and a lack of potable water. The organization Halte Africa submitted a sub-grantee project to IRC/Umbrella Grant project with the goal of protecting local fishermen, fighting against malnutrition and restarting the basic economic activities in the zone.

Objectives

The project seeks to revitalize the fishing activities of the 40-member Tobongye Ekeci cooperative with the aim of increasing the quantity and the quality of fish offered to the population of Baraka.

Thus, the sub-grantee project proposes to contribute to addressing the humanitarian needs of the population of Baraka by:

- helping to reduce the price of fish through increased production, and facilitating access to basic food supplies;
- increasing the quality and freshness of fish offered to the population of Baraka, as well as the quantity of fish;
- increasing the incomes of the members of the Tobongye Ekeci cooperative as a means of improving their living conditions.



Accomplishments

During the 6-month execution period (10 March - 11 September 2002), the sub-grantee project was able to receive support from the Umbrella Grants project in the amount of \$21,780 and was able:

- to directly assist 38 members of the Tobongye Ekeci cooperative and their respective families (280 people) and indirectly assist the remaining population (estimated at 25,000 people);
- to acquire, manufacture, and distribute fishing supplies to beneficiaries (23 nets and 26 canoes) on credit;
- to train beneficiaries in management skills and improved techniques of conserving fish;
- to restart fishing activities;
- to reduce the price per kg of fish from \$0.70 to \$0.40 during the period of the sub-grantee project;
- to increase the fish yield by 41% and increase beneficiary house hold access to medical care and education.



Difficulties encountered

- Limited fishing techniques: authorities in Mukwabo and Mutimbo do not allow the capture of deep-water fish.
- Lack of an effective fish marketing mechanism.
- Many administrative difficulties created by local authorities requesting substantial taxes from the fishermen.
- The lack of fishing supplies in Bujumbura markets caused a late start to the sub-grantee project.

Sustainability

Halte Africa intends to extend its activities to deep-water fishermen so that an increase in captures will enable them to continue to increase their incomes while covering administrative taxes. In addition, the interest generated by the refunding of the fishing supplies from beneficiaries are small, but should allow Halte Africa to repurchase fishing supplies while making a profit.

OPIFET (Œuvre de Promotion et Initiatives des Femmes Transporteuses)

“Assistance to female porters at the Muhanzi Beach Market”

Kadutu, Bukavu

Context

The 2 wars that raged across the eastern DRC are the cause of the degradation in the socio-economic situation among vulnerable families in Bukavu and its surroundings (unemployment, lack of income, lack of education, malnutrition, and juvenile delinquency).

These social phenomena have forced many women from vulnerable households to take on the role of porters, commonly referred to as “ropes”. For most of these women, this profession is the last option for earning any money. Female porters are often survivors of sexual violence, abandoned by their husbands, widows, and heads of their households. They earn an estimated \$0.50 per day, which is largely insufficient to meet family needs. Not only is the transport of heavy loads extremely damaging to their physical health, it also has serious consequences on a woman’s social reputation, her well-being, and the health of her family.

Objectives

With the mission of improving the status of women, as well as their social and economic condition, Association OPIFET, composed of elderly female porters, provides support to porters from the Muhanzi Beach market in Bukavu, and pursues the following objectives:

- to give women porters the opportunity to adopt a more dignified profession, permitting them to generate revenues without resorting to potentially destructive survival strategies such as porting or prostitution;
- to assist female beneficiaries to fight ignorance and poverty (psycho-social support);
- to help women porters to better organize themselves to improve their domestic and agricultural situations;
- to train women in small commerce and to support them in starting revenue generating activities.

Accomplishments

During the 6-month execution period (11 March -10 September 2002) and thanks to funds from the Umbrella Grant project in the amount of \$20,045, OPIFET was able to:



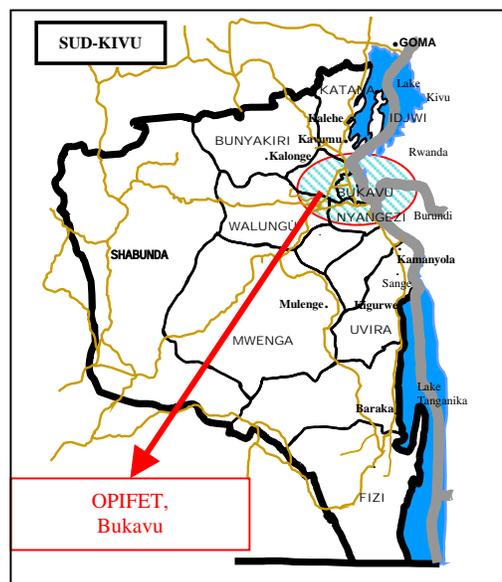
- identify and directly assist 300 female porters, and indirectly benefit 2,331 people;
- organize 9 trainings on credit management and family economics;
- distribute 300 rotating credit grants to beneficiary women who had entirely abandoned the porter profession in order to engage in small commercial activities;
- recover 98% of granted credit in the project period;
- reinforce capacities of OPIFET technical staff in micro-credit management through 5 training workshops;
- protect the micro-credit of beneficiaries through a donation of WFP food items;
- increase the net daily revenue per beneficiary household from \$0.50 to \$1.50;
- improve living conditions for beneficiary families by allowing improved access to education, food, and medical care.

Difficulties encountered

- The number of requests for credit continued to increase and the organization was unable to respond to all the needs of female porters.
- Monitoring credit of the female beneficiaries is essential for the success of the project and long-term reimbursement. Unfortunately, monitoring costs were underestimated, which made this process very difficult.

Sustainability

The originality of this project, and the results achieved permitted a radical change in the lives of female porters, especially through the granting of micro-credit. The rate of micro-credit reimbursement was nearly 100%, which permitted OPIFET to save some capital that permitted them, in the short-term, to continue granting credit to new beneficiaries.



PIDP (Programme d'Intégration et de Développement du Peuple Pygmée au Kivu)

“Community health promotion in Pygmy villages in South Kivu province”

Idjwi & Kalehe

Context

Kalehe territory is located 75 km from Bukavu, along the northern axis. It is situated on the border separating North and South Kivu provinces. Idjwi Island is an isolated area on Lake Kivu, where the majority of the vulnerable populations collect their drinking water from the lake.

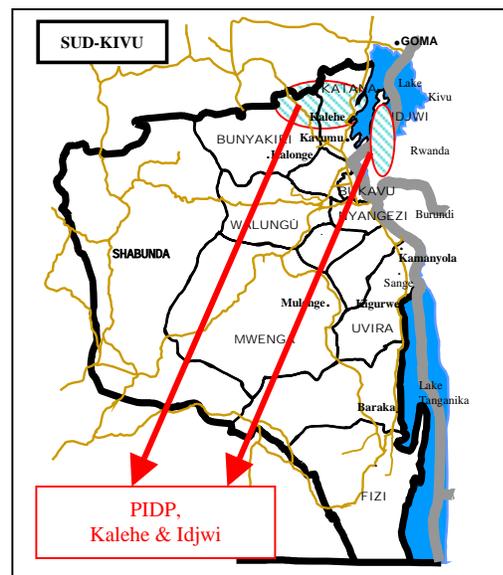
Since 1996, Kalehe territory has been characterized by constant insecurity due to the presence of armed factions (Mayi-Mayi, Interahamwe, RCD, APR). Population displacements and insecurity are common. Idjwi territory is relatively calm at the moment. Nevertheless, a common trait in these 2 territories is the presence of pygmy villages, where the populations are marginalized and vulnerable.

Objectives

PIDP planned to implement a sub-grantee project which would help to resolve major problems among Pygmy households in 12 villages in Kalehe and 9 villages in Idjwi, including lack of access to potable water, lack of latrines, poor hygiene conditions, lack of revenue, and social marginalization.

In total, PIDPs objectives are as follows:

- improve conditions concerning access to potable water, as well as water transport and storage;
- train community health agents and water system management committees;
- promote artisan activities among women, such as soap-making;
- raise awareness among Pygmies on the importance of hygiene and peaceful cohabitation.



Accomplishments

During the 6-month project period, (11 March – 10 September 2002), PIDP received funds in the amount of \$23,685, was able to:

- protect 7 water sources benefiting 335 Pygmy households and 250 non-Pygmy households;
- distribute 30 jerry cans to facilitate water transport and storage for beneficiary households;
- train 40 community health agents, 7 tap-stand repair agents, and 19 members of local committees;
- conduct a soap-making workshop for female beneficiaries;
- contribute to the prevention of water-borne diseases and epidemics through hygiene awareness-raising.

Difficulties encountered

- This was the first time that water, hygiene, and sanitation activities had been conducted in these Pygmy villages, so raising awareness among beneficiary populations was hampered by weak literacy levels, as well as a general mistrust of foreign concepts.
- The distance separating Pygmy villages from principal travel routes made transporting construction materials difficult, as well as project monitoring activities.
- The length of the sub-grantee project and budget constraints did not allow PIDP to resolve all the hygiene and water needs of target villages.

Sustainability

- The existence of local committees, tap-stand repair agents, and community health agents will provide for the maintenance and general management of water systems and the continuation of hygiene promotion.
- The existence of a new revenue-generating activity among female Pygmies (soap-making).
- It is noted that the Pygmy people are extremely vulnerable, and that supplementary activities are essential to respond to the immense needs of these populations.

PROVAH (Promotion des Valeurs Humaines)

“Distribution of seeds and agricultural tools to displaced and returnee families in the Ruzizi Plain, Uvira territory”

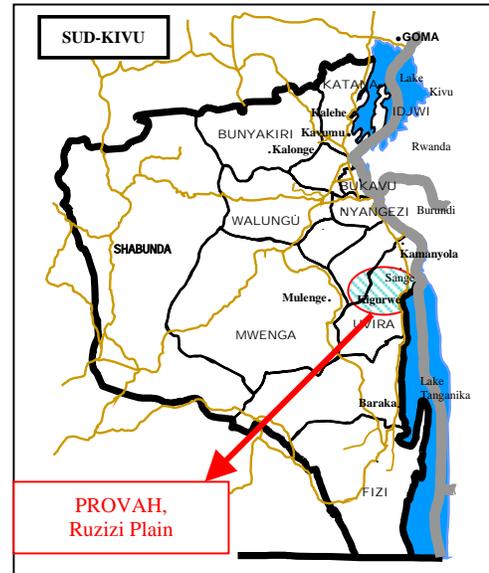
Kigurwe, Uvira territory

Context

The Ruzizi Plain is located around 40 km north of Uvira territory, between Kamanyola and the Rwanda-Congo border. Uvira territory has 2 seasons: rainy season and dry season. The numerous waterways and rivers that run through the area serve to irrigate fields. The principal activities on the Ruzizi Plain are agriculture and herding.

The 2 wars in the eastern DRC have disrupted normal life in South Kivu Province, most particularly in Uvira territory. This region is extremely fertile and rich in resources, however the Ruzizi Plain has been the scene of large population displacement caused by fighting between the different armed factions in the area (RCD, APR, FDD, Mayi-Mayi).

Displaced populations have begun to return to the area little by little and to their respective villages of Kigurwe, Nyango, Sira, Kimuna, Ndunda and Rusabagi. However, the return has been difficult following rampant pillaging and a lack of maintenance of fields. Returnee and displaced populations also lack the basic tools necessary for a return to normal life. This situation has led to an increase in disease and malnutrition, a lack of access to education and medical care. It has also made it difficult for the population to restart agricultural activities.



Objectives

The sub-grantee project proposed by PROVAH aims to restart agricultural activities so as to allow families to reintegrate their communities. In this way, PROVAH seeks to reinforce social reintegration of returned families by donating seeds and farming tools necessary to restart their agricultural activities.

PROVAH has the following objectives:

- distribution of seeds and farming tools;
- training of beneficiaries in agricultural techniques and provision of technical support;
- creation of a seed bank for future farming seasons.



Accomplishments

In the 6-month project period (11 March – 10 September 2002), PROVAH received funds totaling \$19,820 from the Umbrella Grant project, and was able to:

- identify 2,403 indigent returnee and displaced families;
- create and train 6 village committees to educate and raise awareness among beneficiaries;
- purchase and distribute agricultural inputs to beneficiaries (2,403 hoes, 7,300 kg of corn, and 7,300 kg of beans);
- produce 168 tons of corn and 68 tons of beans;
- create a seed bank with 6 tons of bean seeds and 7 tons of corn seeds;
- organize 12 supervisory visits by the village committees and 4 education sessions on peace;
- facilitate a training workshop on the management of agricultural inputs and product conservation;
- encourage the return and reintegration of returnee populations.

Difficulties encountered

- General insecurity in the Ruzizi Plain, which made access to Kigurwe very difficult.
- A portion of distributed seeds were consumed by beneficiaries due to hunger.
- The restitution of seed bank seeds by beneficiary households was not achieved at 100%.
- Difficulties in exporting agricultural products to Sange and other parts of the Ruzizi Plain meant that prices reached artificially low rates at the Kigurwe market.

Sustainability

- The beneficiary population already has a strategy to put into place a rotating credit system for seeds.
- 60% of seeds recuperated at the seed bank were redistributed to households that did not benefit from the sub-grantee project, for the next agricultural season.

VAS (Volontaire Autochtones Solidaires)

“Support for agricultural and livestock activities of homeless and displaced populations in Kalonge”

Kalonge, Bunyakiri Territory

Context

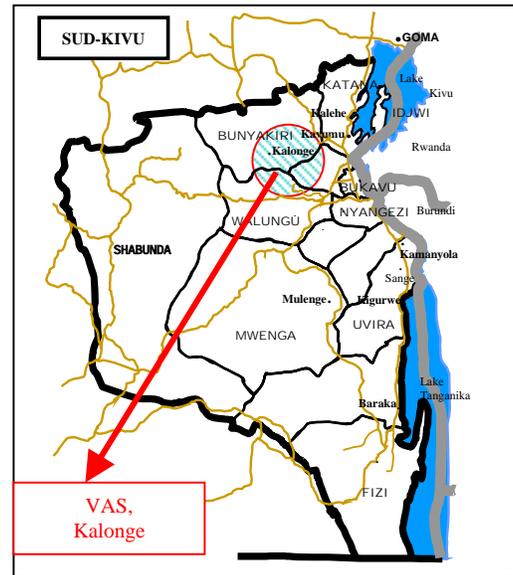
On the eastern border of the Kahuzi Biega National Park, Kalonge collectivity and its 6 *groupments* benefit from a tropical climate, eased by the altitude (1900 m). This climate is favorable for growing potatoes and beans, and for raising livestock. The region is primarily composed of the Barongeronge tribe, mixed with some Batembo. In 1958, this area hosted a wave of Rwandan refugees, and many others have sought refuge here since the first war in 1996.

During the second war in DRC in 1998, the entire population of Kalonge (50,000 people) was displaced, as people fled armed militias and moved towards Miti, Murhesa, and Kavumu. After several months of running, these populations have now returned to Kalonge victimized, traumatized, and robbed of everything. These returnees desperately need assistance in the form of food, non-food items, medicine, and agricultural inputs.

Objectives

To respond to the multiple needs confronting these returnees, VAS, a local NGO in Kalonge, seeks to:

- multiply seed stocks and insure sustainability through a system of rotating credit;
- encourage beneficiary households to become self-sufficient and to increase their incomes;
- improve the food situation to prevent malnutrition.



Accomplishments

During the 6-month project period (11 March – 10 September 2002), VAS received funds totaling \$2,630, and was able to:

- distribute to 1,500 households on rotating credit, 4,500 kg of beans and 6,000 kg of potatoes;
- develop 600 acres of individual fields and 546 acres of community fields;
- donate 1,500 rabbits to 500 households;
- construct a depot for storing seeds;
- educate households on rabbit raising and veterinary care;
- organize monitoring visits to beneficiary homes;
- produce 35 tons of beans, 45 tons of potatoes, and 1,691 rabbits;
- train 10 local agents in potato and bean cultivating techniques, and on how to transfer these skills to beneficiaries;
- train beneficiary households on rabbit raising techniques;
- provide technical support to beneficiary households for the duration of the sub-grantee project through 10 field agents;
- facilitate integration of 1,500 returnee families into their respective villages;
- increase incomes of beneficiary households, which permitted the purchase of basic necessities, payment of medical care and education fees for children;
- reduce the rate of malnutrition in the region.

Difficulties encountered

- The poor condition of the road between Bukavu and Kalonge made transporting seeds and rabbits extremely difficult.
- A parasite attacked and destroyed nearly 2,000 kg of Cruza potatoes, which negatively affected seed production.
- Difficulties in exporting agricultural products to outside markets caused an artificial decline in prices.

Sustainability

The beneficiary populations now have a strategy for putting in place a rotating credit system for seeds and for small-animal husbandry. 60% of recuperated seeds at the seed bank will be distributed to households that did not originally benefit from the project.