



Collaborative workshop held during relaxation sessions conducted by SPR local partners in December 2019.

# USAID SOLUTIONS FOR PEACE AND RECOVERY

YEAR 4 QUARTER I PROGRESS REPORT, FY 2020 (OCTOBER – DECEMBER 2019)

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(October 2019 – December 2019)

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USAID Solutions for Peace and Recovery Project

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#### **ACRONYMS AND ABBREVIATIONS**

AAP Aide et Action Pour La Paix

Aid and Action for Peace

A/COR Agreement/Contracting Officer Representative

ACUDI Actions des Chrétiens Unis pour le Développement Intégral

United Christian Actions for Integral Development

AHUSADEC Action Humanitaire pour la Santé et le Développement Communautaire

Humanitarian Action for Community Health and Development

AIBEF Appui aux Initiatives de Bien-Etre Familial

Support for Family Wellness Initiatives

ANR Agence Nationale de Renseignements

Congolese National Intelligence Agency

CDIP Commission Diocésaine Justice et Paix

Diocesan Commission Justice and Peace

CPP Cadre Provincial de Plaidoyer

Provincial Advocacy Framework

CSO Civil Society Organization

DCOP Deputy Chief of Party

DRC Democratic Republic of the Congo

EOI Expression of Interest

FARDC Forces Armées de la République Démocratique du Congo

Armed Forces of the Democratic Republic of Congo

FOSI Forum SIDA

AIDS Forum

FPP Forest People Program

ICCN Institut Congolais pour la Conservation de la Nature

ICGLR International Conference for the Great Lakes Region Secretariat

INPP Institut Nationelle pour Préparation Professionnelle

National Institute for Professional Preparation

ISPDE Institut Supérieur pour la Promotion de la Paix, du Développement et de

l'Environnement

Higher Institute for the Promotion of Peace, Development, and the

Environment

KBNP Parc National Kahuzi Biega

Kahuzi-Biéga National Park

LMC Leadership Mentoring Club

LOP Life of Project

LPDC Local Peace and Development Committee

LUCODER Lutte Contre la Délinquance et l'Exode Rurale

Fight against Delinquency and the Rural Exodus

M&E Monitoring and Evaluation

MEL Monitoring, Evaluation, and Learning

MELP Monitoring, Evaluation, and Learning Plan

MONUSCO United Nations Organization Stabilization Mission in the Democratic Republic of

Congo

MSI Management Systems International NGO Nongovernmental Organization

OMG Other Marginalized Group

PIRS Performance Indicator Reference Sheet

PIT Performance Indicator Table

PSSC Peace, Security, and Social Cohesion

QI Quarter I

REOI Request for Expression of Interest SPR Solutions for Peace and Recovery

UN United Nations

USAID United States Agency for International Development

USG United States Government

VSLA Village Savings and Loan Association

WOA Women of Africa International

Y4 Year 4

## **EXECUTIVE SUMMARY**

The United States Agency for International Development (USAID) Solutions for Peace and Recovery (SPR) project began on August 30, 2016, to be implemented through August 29, 2019, and has been extended for two option years, through August 29, 2021. The project aims to increase the participation of women and other marginalized groups through a community-based approach to conflict analysis, prevention, resolution, and recovery in eastern Democratic Republic of Congo.

During Quarter I (QI) of Year 4 (Y4) of SPR, which ran from October – December 2019, the project transitioned from the base period to the effective startup of option years. During this period, USAID worked to resolve a number of budget uncertainties and confirm the approved budget for Years 4 and 5. These budget uncertainties hindered the project's ability to formalize grants and begin implementation at the start of the period. As such, this quarter was characterized primarily by strategic planning across the project, and proactive measures to ensure an expeditious transition into implementation once budgetary questions were resolved.

The strategic planning conducted this quarter included revising the Y4 work plan and monitoring and evaluation documents—the Performance Indicator Table (PIT); the Monitoring, Evaluation, and Learning Plan (MELP); and the Performance Indicator Reference Sheet (PIRS). The Life of Project (LOP) targets were extended to five years. Unlike the previous progress reports, in which performance was calculated against base period LOP, this quarterly report calculates performance against the five-year targets. Project performance has been reinitialized based on the five-year revised LOP targets.

The project's overall achievement against its revised PIT is 87 percent at end of Y4 Q1—93 percent for Objective I, 102 percent for Objective 2, and 67 percent for Objective 3. As the project made substantial progress during the base years, the LOP target revision for the option period did not significantly affect indicator achievement. Some of the indicators will continue to exceed performance against revised LOP targets due to high achievement from the base period.

In order to ensure the project was well-poised to begin implementation once the budget was ascertained, at the start of Y4Q1, SPR disseminated a request for expression of interest (REOI) to all grantees from the base period, except for two whose contracts had been suspended due to non-performance. The REOI, open for seven days, aimed to stimulate and assess former SPR grantees' interest in performing activities that are the same or similar to those in their previous SPR grant agreements. In total, the project received 28 formal expressions of interest (EOIs): 9 for North Kivu and 19 for South Kivu. Once all EOIs were received, the grants evaluation committee, composed of six SPR team members, evaluated each partner's eligibility based on past performance, including quality of technical delivery, financial management capacity, and compliance. The committee asked the ten highest-scoring partners to develop follow-on proposals for logical expansions of their previous grant activities based on option period strategy and priorities. The SPR team has reviewed and validated the partners' application packages in preparation for their submission to USAID for approval.

As the budget questions were resolved at the end of QI the next quarter will focus on resubmitting the revised Y4 work plan, PIT, MELP, and PIRS, submitting the selected partner applications for approval by USAID and accelerating effective implementation of activities.

## SECURITY BACKGROUND AND CONTEXT

Since project onset and into Year 4 (Y4) Quarter I (QI), United States Agency for International Development (USAID) Solutions for Peace and Recovery (SPR) has continued to operate in a volatile security context across North and South Kivu in eastern Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC). Armed group activity and violence still plague both provinces. Killings in North Kivu and inaction by the United Nations Organization Stabilization Mission in the Democratic Republic of Congo (MONUSCO) have sparked outrage and citizen protests all over the province.

The anti-MONUSCO protests in North Kivu affected Beni and Goma most gravely. Protesters attacked the MONUSCO base in Beni in early December and, shortly thereafter, ripples of the outrage in Beni reached Goma, where protesters attacked several United Nations (UN) cars. Goma experienced a number of villes mortes ("dead cities") in early December, requiring most nongovernmental organization (NGO) and MONUSCO staff to work from home to minimize risk. By the end of the quarter, unrest against MONUSCO began to dissipate, though small protests for other reasons continued to affect Goma. In addition, the Armed Forces of the Democratic Republic of Congo (FARDC) launched several military operations in Beni against the Allied Democratic Forces.

The end of the period also saw an uptick in kidnappings and ransom, particularly in the Ndosho neighborhood of Goma. As has been the case since the start of SPR, banditry and armed robberies in Goma and Bukavu cities remained threats in Q1.

In South Kivu, various massacres and targeted killings have been reported, particularly in Bukavu City; Moyens and Haut Plateaux of Uvira Territory; and in Fizi, Kalehe, and Minembwe Territories. National and foreign armed group activism was reported in the same zones. Several FARDC operations against armed groups, particularly the Forces démocratiques de libération du Rwanda (FDLR) and the National Council for Democratic Renewal (CNRD), were launched in Kalehe and Mwenga Territories, triggering mass population movement and exacerbating the humanitarian crisis in the zone.

The Ebola Virus Disease continues to threaten the region. Although the disease is contained, it continues to generate fear in the country and region. Ebola prevention protocols—handwashing and temperature taking—are still in place around the city and at SPR offices, but a significant portion of the rural population remains unconvinced of Ebola's existence and continues to resist treatment. There have been several attacks, often involving armed individuals, against Ebola response teams in North Kivu.

# **PROJECT SUMMARY**

USAID SPR began on August 30, 2016. At the end of Year 3, USAID announced its intention to extend the project beyond its three-year base period for an additional two years until August 2021. SPR is framed within USAID/DRC's Transitional Objective 3: Foundation for durable peace strengthened in eastern DRC.

SPR aims to improve social cohesion by integrating women and other marginalized groups (OMGs) into governance and decision making in North and South Kivu. The project achieves this through three objectives:

- 1. Community stakeholders identify and accept solutions to specific drivers of conflict.
- 2. Participatory (women and OMG) solutions are implemented.
- 3. Resources for community development are more inclusively allocated.

SPR implements activities in 10 groupements and four communes in four territories (Kabare, Kalehe, Masisi, and Walungu) and two cities, Bukavu and Goma.

SPR implements activities through a combination of direct and indirect approaches. The project provides grants to local civil society organizations (CSOs) or advocacy coalitions to support project activity implementation.

During Y4 Q1 (October–December 2019), SPR transitioned from the base period to the effective startup of option years. The reporting period was characterized by strategic planning for the option years as well as preparations for implementing Y4 activities. The strategic planning included revising the Y4 work plan and monitoring and evaluation strategic documents—the Project Results Framework; Performance Indicator Table (PIT); Monitoring, Evaluation, and Learning Plan (MELP); and Performance Indicator Reference Sheet (PIRS).

#### **ACTIVITY IMPLEMENTATION**

During this reporting period, the project continued strategic planning and transition for the option years, including finalizing the option period strategy; selecting local partners; and revising the Y4 work plan and targets, PIT, and MELP.

# OBJECTIVE 1: COMMUNITY STAKEHOLDERS IDENTIFY AND ACCEPT SOLUTIONS TO SPECIFIC DRIVERS OF CONFLICT

#### KEY ACCOMPLISHMENTS

#### CONTRIBUTED TO OPTION PERIOD AND YEAR 4 PLANNING

- Revised Y4 work plan: The Objective I team helped develop and validate Y4 activities, taking into account the option period strategy and priorities as well as synergy and complementarity with other objectives. The team paid special attention to Kahuzi-Biéga National Park (KBNP), where SPR will be engaging through two main actions: (i) conducting comprehensive research on the conflict to inform proposals for sustainable solutions; and (ii) building capacity on conflict sensitivity and participatory conflict analysis for key actors intervening in KBNP.
- Revised the PIT, MELP, and PIRS: The Objective I team helped revise the option period and Y4 PIT and MELP and finalized and validated Y4 and Y5 Objective I targets in collaboration with the monitoring, evaluation, and learning (MEL) team and project leadership.
- Selected and reviewed applications of local implementing partners: Ten local organizations out of 39 grantees that supported implementation during the base period were selected based on their capacity and performance. The Objective I team, along with the other teams, provided technical expertise during the evaluation process. Five grantees, including one research partner, will support implementation of community-based activities and conflict assessment research in KBNP. The Objective I team participated in reviewing applications submitted by Aid and Action for Peace (AAP); United Christian Actions for Integral Development (ACUDI); Diocesan Commission Justice and Peace (CDJP); Higher Institute for the Promotion of Peace, Development, and the Environment (ISPDE); and the Université Evangélique en Afrique (UEA) and Université Catholique de Bukavu (UCB) Consortium.

#### PRELIMINARY CONFLICT ASSESSMENT IN KAHUZI-BIÉGA NATIONAL PARK

- Collected data: Data were collected for an initial rapid analysis of the cause of the conflict between the Pygmies and the KBNP Institut Congolais pour la Conservation de la Nature (ICCN). The data helped the project identify the key stakeholders and their interests, needs, and dynamics. The data also called attention to the issue's complexity by revealing additional emerging or latent conflicts, leading the project to reorient the potential research partner on the research focus.
- Mapped key actors/cartography: The project conducted a preliminary mapping of key actors
  intervening in and around KBNP, both positively and negatively, to depict the conflict context and
  the nature of alliances and allies.
- Conducted meetings with local authorities and other key actors: The project conducted bilateral meetings with key actors to understand the context, ongoing interventions, challenges, and proposed solutions. Key actors met included Batwa leaders, local and provincial authorities, local community structures and organizations, and international organizations.
- Contributed to the feasibility analysis for effective implementation of the Bukavu Roadmap for Reconciliation: Following up on the plan to update and support implementation of the Roadmap for Reconciliation at KBNP concept note, the SPR team worked closely with the Forest People Program (FPP) delegation and the ICCN and KBNP representatives to conduct a

gap analysis on the Bukavu 2019 roadmap and propose next steps. The analysis included Bukavu dialogue and roadmap gap analysis and brainstorming on the KBNP conflict and avenues toward effective implementation of agreed solutions.

# CONTINUED ACCOMPANIMENT OF LOCAL PEACE AND DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEES ESTABLISHED DURING THE BASE PERIOD

- Through Objective I, the project continued to support local peace and development committees (LPDCs) established during the base period. LPDC members received regular coaching and review of their peacebuilding and social cohesion plans by the Objective I technical team.
- In several project areas, community members continue to refer conflicts or emerging conflict
  cases to LPDCs for analysis and resolution. During this quarter, eight conflicts referred by
  committees to LPDCs for mediation resulted in agreements. This success demonstrates the peace
  and development community structures' commitment to effective peace and social cohesion in
  their communities.

#### **CHALLENGES**

The major challenge for this period was the delay in the launch of Y4 activities despite the project's significant efforts to move forward with partner recruitment, development, and application review. This delay caused a short disconnection between the project, local communities, and authorities.

#### **SOLUTIONS IMPLEMENTED**

To address this situation, the project relied on structures established and local partners worked with during the base period for permanent contact with community structures in the various zones by continuing to provide technical support to LPDCs.

#### LESSONS LEARNED, OPPORTUNITIES, AND NEXT STEPS

#### **LESSONS LEARNED**

- "The people-to-people approach, a guarantee for community ownership of the project's achievements and sustainability": In Y4 Q1, the North Kivu provincial government department in charge of project planning carried out a field evaluation mission of the first phase of the SPR/Amani Kwa Maendeleo project. The department carried out the mission in Masisi Territory, Biiri and Mupfunyi Shanga groupements and met with SPR beneficiary communities without informing SPR leadership and the AAP implementing partner. Four months after the close of the grant implemented by AAP, community members from the two locations attested to the project's results and visible impact. Furthermore, the LPDCs continue to sustain the project's actions by organizing regular sessions to disseminate social contracts and conduct mediation in favor of the parties in conflict. Empowerment of local committees and peace structures needs to be strengthened in the implementation of peacebuilding and development projects, as community members demonstrate commitment to social cohesion by applying what they have learned beyond the financial support from partners.
- Income-generating activity can foster cohesion among LPDC members: Close
  monitoring of the LPDCs in Kamisimbi groupement, Walungu Territory, revealed that incomegenerating activities (IGAs), including village savings and loan associations (VSLAs) and livestock

breeding, motivate LPDC members to stay together and continue to reinforce peace and social cohesion. In addition to their conflict resolution role in the community, LPDC members save their money together and grant each other small loans to overcome economic shocks and allow everyone to implement an IGA that helps meet various family needs. They also put together contributions that allow them to purchase necessary materials, such as pens and notebooks, for LPDC activities. The Muku village LPDC has saved more than a million local francs and its own 47 rabbits. According to Muku village LPDC members, their IGA is consolidating cohesion among LPDC members through regular meetings and gives them income to support community conflict mediation cases.

#### **NEXT STEPS**

The following will be the top priorities for the next quarter:

- Partner leadership and field staff induction.
- · Participatory conflict analysis and conflict sensitivity training.
- Field contact, reinduction, and project induction in Kadutu and KBNP.
- Technical support to implementing partners.
- Revitalization of LPDCs.

# **OBJECTIVE 2: PARTICIPATORY SOLUTIONS ARE IMPLEMENTED**

#### **ACCOMPLISHMENTS**

#### **CONTRIBUTED TO OPTION PERIOD AND YEAR 4 PLANNING**

- Revised Y4 work plan: The Objective 2 team helped develop and validate Y4 activities, taking into account the option period strategy and priorities as well as synergy and complementarity with Objectives I and 3. Based on base period lessons learned and impact, Y4 activities will focus on consolidating and scaling up the women and OMG mentoring club approach; building capacity of women leaders and local authorities in transformational leadership; and facilitating community dialogues among women, OMGs, and local authorities. Some of these activities will be implemented directly by the Objective 2 team and others by the selected partners.
- **Revised the PIT, MELP, and PIRS:** The Objective 2 team helped revise the option period and Y4 PIT and MELP and finalized and validated Y4 and Y5 Objective 2 targets in collaboration with the MEL team and project leadership.
- Selected and reviewed applications of local implementing partners: The Objective 2 team joined the grant evaluation committee in assessing the performance of 39 grantees who had supported base period implementation. Two grantees will support implementation of Objective 2 community-based activities. The Objective 2 team participated in reviewing and validating applications submitted by CARITAS in South Kivu and AIDS Forum (FOSI) in North Kivu.

# PARTICIPATED IN THE TRAINING OF TRAINERS ON THE MOBILIZATION OF WOMEN IN THE ELECTORAL PROCESS

The Objective 2 team was invited to participated in a five-day training on the electoral process and women's participation in decision making. The training, supported by UN Women and held in October in Goma, brought together women politicians, women CSO leaders, and representatives from Gender and Social Affairs Technical Services in North Kivu. The training aimed to strengthen participants' capacity to support women in their efforts to run for decision-making positions.

• The knowledge and tools received during the training will help the project reinforce the capacity of women and OMG members of women's leadership clubs and LPDCs. The knowledge and tools include identifying and defining a good motivation and vocation; analyzing gains and losses in the search for power or positioning; understanding the political landscape; mobilizing funds; mobilizing community support; and engaging in partnerships, alliances, and networking.

# CONTRIBUTED TO THE ELABORATION OF 2019–2023 NORTH KIVU PROVINCIAL UNSCR 1325 ACTION PLAN

- Through Objective 2, the project participated in and contributed to the development of the
  United Nations Security Council Resolution 1325 (UNSCR 1325) Provincial Action Plan (PAP) for
  North Kivu. This process brought together 80 participants, including provincial authorities;
  women leaders; local NGOs; representatives of community-based organizations and CSOs from
  Beni, Butembo, Masisi, Nyiragongo, and Rutshuru Territories; UN agencies; international NGOs;
  and peacebuilding projects implemented in the region. During the three-day workshop,
  participants:
  - Revised and adopted the project on the creation, organization, and functioning of the UNSCR 1325 provincial steering committee and secretariat proposed by the actors in women's participation.
  - Developed and validated the provincial UNSCR 1325 action plan for 2019–2023.
  - Advocated to the North Kivu Provincial Assembly leadership for budget allocation and international actors to support the effective implementation of the validated UNSCR 1325 priorities for North Kivu.
- Through this participation, USAID's SPR project successfully advocated to include community participatory conflict analysis and the establishment of women's and OMGs' leadership mentoring clubs (LMCs) into the North Kivu provincial UNSCR 1325 plan under the participation and protection axes.

#### **CHALLENGES**

The major challenge for the reporting period was a short disconnection between the Objective 2 team and community structures, particularly women's and OMGs' LMCs, because of the delay in the launch of Y4 activities.

#### SOLUTIONS IMPLEMENTED

During this period, the teams focused on refining intervention strategies and encouraging beneficiaries to continue community meetings in the weekly LMCs. About 50 percent of the LMC structures continue to organize meetings in Bukavu, Goma, and Kabare Territory.

#### LESSONS LEARNED, OPPORTUNITIES, AND NEXT STEPS

#### **LESSONS LEARNED**

The economic aspect is crucial for sustainability of women's and OMGs' transformational leadership mentoring approach: field monitoring through local partners and women mentors revealed that LMC saving initiatives and IGAs continued during the transition period when the project stopped implementation. This evidence reflects the sustainability of the project's approach.

#### **OPPORTUNITIES**

The consideration of some SPR approaches in the North Kivu 2019–2023 UNSCR 1325 provincial Priority Action Plan contributed to project sustainability. The integration of community participatory conflict analysis and women's and OMGs' LMCs will allow scale-up of these approaches in the region.

#### **NEXT STEPS**

The next quarter will be devoted to continuing to strengthen women's and OMGs' participation in peacebuilding processes; dialogues between women and OMGs and local authorities; regular support of implementing partners; and reinforcement of collaboration between women and OMGs and other formal community structures working on peace in Kivu, such as Baraza La Wazee, International Conference for the Great Lakes Region Secretariat (ICGLR), and Stabilization and Reconstruction Plan for Eastern Democratic Republic of the Congo (STAREC).

# OBJECTIVE 3: RESOURCES FOR COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT ARE MORE INCLUSIVELY ALLOCATED

#### **ACCOMPLISHMENTS**

#### **CONTRIBUTED TO OPTION PERIOD AND YEAR 4 PLANNING**

- Revised Y4 work plan: The Objective 3 team helped develop and validate Y4 activities, taking into account the option period strategy and priorities as well as synergy and complementarity with Objectives I and 2. Based on base period lessons learned and impact, Y4 activities will focus on reinforcing the capacity of existing livelihood structures, establishing and building the capacity of new livelihood structures, linking livelihood structures and the private sector, building the capacity of user committees and service providers, and facilitating integration of groupement community development plans with territory or chefferie plans. Some of these activities will be implemented directly by the Objective 3 team and others by the selected partners.
- **Revised the PIT, MELP, and PIRS:** The Objective 3 team helped revise the option period and Y4 PIT and MELP and finalized and validated Y4 and Y5 Objective 3 targets in collaboration with the MEL team and project leadership.
- Selected and reviewed applications of local implementing partners: Along with the other teams, the Objective 3 team provided its technical expertise during the evaluation process of 39 grantees who had supported base period implementation. Four grantees will support implementation of Objective 3 community-based activities. The Objective 3 team participated in reviewing and validating applications submitted by Collectif Alpha Ujuvi, ACUDI in North Kivu, Support for Family Wellness Initiatives (AIBEF), and Centre—Olame and TGD Consortium in South Kivu.

# FACILITATED FIELD EVALUATION OF BASE PERIOD IMPACT IN MASISI TERRITORY BY THE NORTH KIVU CONSULTATIVE COMMITTEE

• The project supported a joint mission with the North Kivu consultative committee to conduct a field evaluation of SPR's base period impact. From December 18 to 21, the SPR team and eight North Kivu consultative committee members visited Biiri and Mupfunyi Shanga groupements, where SPR had implemented activities, and met peace committees established or revitalized by the project, local leaders and authorities, and direct beneficiaries. The mission team heard positive testimonies and life stories, including the following:

- Community structures, including peace committees and livelihood activities set up in the first phase, are still operational. VSLA members continue their savings and credit activities. Some of them, such as in Kalingi village in Biiri groupement, have made more profits, allowing them to increase their income and capital. After sharing saved funds, one VSLA member said that he had paid for a 50m² plot of land at 200,000 FC; a woman member of the Kalinga VSLA had saved a total of \$85, having started with \$25.
- Community conflict and tensions have declined since the period before the project due to ongoing mediation by LPDCs. Community members said that before the LPDCs were established, community conflicts never ended as they were handled by local police and authorities who asked for bribes. Most interpersonal conflicts no longer go to the police and local authorities.
- Local authorities said that LPDC actions contributed to restoration of security. In Biiri groupement, an LPDC community sensitization campaign significantly reduced target killings and disengaged young people from armed groups. Three young people from the armed group Delta and two young people from the armed group Nyatura decided to reintegrate into civilian life after having been sensitized by the peace animators and are now youth group members not facing any discrimination.
- Signs of community social cohesion in Biiri and Mupfunyi Shanga are evident due to the community sensitizations. According to community members and local authorities, "in the past, it was too rare to see a hetero-ethnic marriage here, but we have been informed by the civil servant chief of Bweremana zone that recently five couples from different tribes came to regularize their marriages, a demonstration...of cohesion and its advantages in social cohabitation."

#### **CHALLENGES**

During this reporting period, the following challenges were encountered:

- Poor road conditions between Goma and Masisi. The large bridge at Matanda village was cut off
  due to heavy rains, which complicated the December field evaluation mission by the consultative
  committee.
- Repetitive demonstrations, dead city days decreed by civil society, and the Lucha citizens'
  movement in Goma demanding the departure of MONUSCO following the killings in Beni created
  unrest and impacted project planning.

#### **SOLUTIONS IMPLEMENTED**

To address the above challenges:

- The mission team used a detour to continue the field evaluation in response to the poor road conditions and the broken bridge.
- During demonstrations and dead city days, the security team and program management advised the teams to work from their homes to be safe from shots fired in the city of Goma.

#### LESSONS LEARNED, OPPORTUNITIES, AND NEXT STEPS

#### **LESSONS LEARNED**

Effective support and ongoing coaching of women and OMGs in livelihood activities at their early stage led to the activities' sustainability. Livelihood structures supported by Fight against Delinquency and the Rural Exodus (LUCODER) and Humanitarian Action for Community Health and Development (AHUSADEC) in Masisi are now in the third cycle of sharing funds generated by savings and loans. Visits conducted to some of these VSLA groups confirmed that some members have increased their income since the first cycle.

#### **OPPORTUNITES**

The existence of a dynamic provincial consultative committee facilitates communication and collaboration with the new provincial government. In December, one consultative committee member facilitated a meeting between the SPR project leadership and the North Kivu minister in charge of planning and budget, Mr. Joseph Sebagisha Rubera. During the meeting, the minister expressed the need to extend the consultative committee to ministries' advisers in addition to the provincial technical services. Project leadership promised to analyze the request and will respond to the minister.

#### **NEXT STEPS**

The following will be the top priorities for the next quarter:

- Partner leadership and field staff induction.
- Provide technical support to local implementing partners.
- Facilitate the integration of groupement development plans into territory/chefferie plans.
- Facilitate capacity building of user committees and service providers.
- Continue supporting base period livelihood structures.

#### **CROSSCUTTING THEMES**

#### **ADVOCACY**

During the reporting period, the following advocacy and lobbying activities and achievements were conducted.

#### **PROVINCIAL LEVEL**

#### Increased collaboration between the North Kivu provincial government and SPR

On December 18, SPR met the new North Kivu minister in charge of planning and budget, Mr. Joseph Sebagisha Rubera, to present the project's objectives, base period results, and option period priorities in North Kivu. The SPR Chief of Party thanked the plan ministry for its cooperation and collaboration in leading the provincial consultative committee through STAREC and presented the main challenges encountered during implementation, particularly security issues in Masisi Territory. The minister was satisfied and encouraged the project leadership to share regularly the planning, achievement, and challenges with the provincial government. The minister highlighted that North Kivu wants USAID to include livelihood components for youth and women as a top priority in North Kivu, particularly in conflict-affected areas. The livelihood program will allow young people to disengage from or not join armed group and illegal mining activities. SPR was requested to plan a quarterly presentation of realizations and planning priorities to the plan ministry.

# • Participation in the exchange session on effective participation of women in the peacebuilding process—case of Beni

Through Objective 2, SPR participated in the exchange session initiated by a group of Congolese women leaders—Marie Madeleine Kalala, Honorary Minister of Human Rights; Eve Bazahiba, Executive Secretary of Congo Liberation Movement; Julienne Lusenge, Coordinator of Congolese Women Funds Institution; and Chantal Safu, Honorary Senator. This session aimed to mobilize and sensitize women leaders in Goma City and call for their involvement in the search for peace in Beni Territory through a concrete advocacy action plan. From this consultation, women leaders recommended:

- Organizing community and bilateral consultations with the political-military authorities, civil society, the private sector, opinion leaders, women, and aggressors to better identify the root causes of the persisting violent conflict as well as the possible solutions.
- Organizing dialogues at the local, provincial, national, and regional levels toward cessation of the massacres in Beni.
- Organizing a national women's movement to intensively demand the return of peace to Beni.
- Organizing a three-day solidarity visit by the women leaders to Beni.

#### **NATIONAL LEVEL**

#### Toward the creation of a peace, security, and social cohesion unit within DRC civil society

At the beginning of January 2020, during the advocacy exchange meeting between the SPR Chief of Party and Mr. Patient Bashombe, the president of the National Civil Society Consultation Framework, it was agreed to create a cell within national civil society to address peace, security, and social cohesion (PSSC) issues. Initially this cell will function as an expertise and alert structure at the national level, with an extension to the 26 provinces following gradually. The cell will be in charge of monitoring, collecting, conducting, and informing on analysis and research on peace, security, and social cohesion at provincial and national levels. The cell will provide opportunities for information sharing and produce a monthly newsletter on PSSC that will be widely disseminated to elected officials, government authorities and institutions, humanitarian actors, UN agencies, the private sector, and technical and financial partners.

#### INCLUSION AND PARTICIPATION

In light of the budget constraints faced this period, there was no implementation this quarter, and thus no work to report under inclusion and participation. However during the development and validation of partners applications, the technical team ensured that proposed activities took into consideration the inclusion and participation of women and OMGs, particularly the Batwa in communities adjacent to KBNP.

#### INTEGRATION OF CONFLICT SENSITIVITY

While no implementation around conflict sensitivity was conducted this quarter due to budget uncertainties, SPR informally performed situational local context analyses during staff and partner meetings throughout the quarter. The results of these analyses have been integrated into programming for the option period. Refresher trainings on conflict sensitivity were planned for SPR and selected partners staff.

## MONITORING, EVALUATION, AND LEARNING

#### PERFORMANCE OF OUTPUT AND OUTCOME INDICATORS

The reporting quarter was characterized by strategic planning for the option years as well as preparations for implementing Y4 activities. The strategic planning included revising the PIT, MELP, and PIRS. The LOP targets were extended to five years. Unlike the previous base period reports, the upcoming reports will be based on the five-year LOP, which will reinitialize the performance counting. Some of the indicators will continue exceeding their performance against base LOP targets due to the high base period achievement.

Figure I shows the overall reinitialized project performance (87 percent) and performance by objective against the five-year LOP to date.

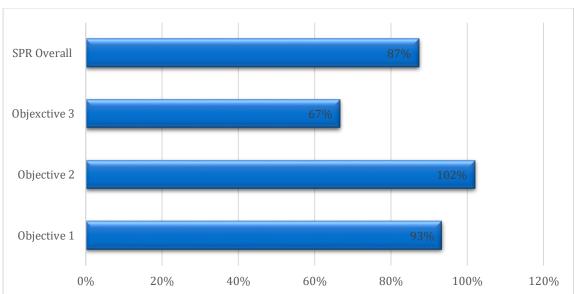


FIGURE 1. PERFORMANCE AGAINST FIVE-YEAR LOP TARGETS AT END OF REPORTING PERIOD, BY OBJECTIVE

## SYSTEMS AND DATA COLLECTION

During this quarter, planning for the option years and preparations for implementing partner application packages led to the revision of main MEL strategic documents, including the project results framework, PIT, MELP, and PIRS. Planning sessions enabled the MEL team to sensitize SPR staff members and local selected implementing partners to understand SPR indicators and increased knowledge on how they contribute to realizing project objectives. Discussions on the execution of the two option years gave the team an opportunity to better explain SPR's monitoring and evaluation (M&E) expectations during and after activities. Both the SPR MEL technical team and implementing partners agreed on the various deliverables, targets, and their qualities. This will undoubtedly ensure smooth and effective M&E during the two option years. Selected local implementing grantees received support in reviewing their M&E plans as well as validation of M&E data collection tools. In addition, the MEL team has updated a monthly data collection and monitoring form of SPR activities by subgrantees, which will be filled by an M&E assistant during field visits.

## MANAGEMENT AND OPERATIONS

#### **SELECTION OF GRANTEES**

Early in Y4 Q1, SPR disseminated a request for expression of interest (REOI) to all grantees from the base period, except for two whose contracts had been suspended due to nonperformance. The REOI, open for seven days, aimed to stimulate and assess former SPR grantees' interest in performing activities that are the same or similar to those in their previous grant agreements with SPR. In total, the project received 28 formal expressions of interest (EOIs): 9 for North Kivu and 19 for South Kivu.

After receiving all EOIs, the grants evaluation committee, composed of six SPR team members, evaluated each partner's eligibility against predetermined criteria based on past performance, including quality of technical delivery, financial management capacity, and compliance. The committee asked the highest-scoring partners to develop follow-on proposals for logical expansions of their previous grant's activities.

The following week (September 23–28), SPR conducted a proposal development workshop with all ten follow-on partners to reinforce the quality of anticipated submissions. The SPR team shared with partners customized templates, including templates for the technical proposal, budget, M&E plan, work plan, and indicator table. During the workshop, SPR received news that put the Y4 budget into question. The project therefore had to put proposal development on hold shortly thereafter and sent communications to all follow-on grantees to request their patience as the project worked with USAID to resolve the question.

After internal discussions through November, SPR ascertained its rough budget and targets achievable under that amount and asked grantees to finalize their proposals. During the weeks of November 18 and 25, SPR invited grantees to small workshops to complete their proposals in accordance with slightly readjusted project targets and budget with the support of the SPR grants and programs teams.

At the end of QI, SPR received formal confirmation from USAID of the Y4 budget and had most packages near completion. However, USAID asked to receive an updated work plan before receiving any grant packages. Therefore, SPR worked on finalizing the work plan based on the final budget and will submit ten follow-on grant packages to USAID early in Quarter 2.

#### **USE OF FLEXIBLE FUNDING**

Due to budgetary uncertainties that restricted the project to operating below the full ceiling amount for most of the quarter, rapid response opportunities were put on hold. At the end of the quarter, SPR worked on finalizing its Y4 budget in accordance with the new ceiling ascertained through discussions with USAID. Should grant funding be sufficient, the project will seek to respond to a number of small rapid response grant opportunities in Year 4.

#### TARGET ZONE ACCESSIBILITY

As the project awaited clarity on the available funds, very few activities were implemented in the field. Therefore, the project faced no accessibility issues during the reporting period.

#### PARTNER FIELD COORDINATION

Given that partners were not implementing this quarter as the project awaited budget clarifications, no field coordination took place during the reporting period.

#### INTERNATIONAL PARTNER COORDINATION

During the reporting period, SPR began working with international partners to develop potential work around Ebola community engagement and KBNP. Therefore, SPR coordinated meetings with the UK-based Forest People's Program (FPP) and supported the organization to host a dialogue around the heightening conflict between the ICCN and Pygmy populations in and around the park. Near the end of Q1, USAID noted their intention to pull back on this work, and thus SPR has halted collaboration with FPP until next steps become clear through discussions with USAID in Quarter 2.

SPR also forged a relationship with the organization Women of Africa International (WOA) to develop a strategy to build capacity and engage communities in dialogues around Ebola response in the Grand Nord of North Kivu and Ituri province. At the end of Q1, USAID notified SPR that funding for this work would not be available, and thus SPR will coordinate a meeting with WOA to share this information at the start of Quarter 2.

#### GRANTS MANAGEMENT AND PARTNER REPORTING

After the selection process of follow-on grantees described above, the project worked closely alongside the partners to help them develop grant proposals based on the project's Y4 targets. Once proposals were complete, the SPR grants team performed due diligence and polished the packages for submission. As SPR was requested to resubmit its work plan before submitting the grant packages, the ten proposals will be submitted for USAID approval early in Quarter 2.

As some previous grantees struggled to produce quality reports and deliverables during the base period, SPR formalized a package of implementation tools to mitigate risk and ensure compliance throughout implementation of the upcoming follow-on grants. In doing so, SPR's technical, MEL, and grants teams prepared clear guidance for partners and redesigned reporting templates to be introduced through kick-off sessions for grantees early in the next quarter.

Additionally, to ensure that grantees can begin implementation as expeditiously as possible once their proposals are approved in Quarter 2, the SPR grants team meticulously developed milestone breakdowns and disbursement schedules for each grantee through coordination between the grants and programs teams, taking into account the lessons learned during the base period to avoid implementation delays and contract modifications. The grants team also developed draft grant agreements for these partners, which will allow SPR to formalize their grants and launch partner implementation quickly after USAID approval is received.

#### STAFFING AND STAFF MANAGEMENT

During the reporting period, SPR finalized the hiring process for its vacant Deputy Chief of Party (DCOP) Technical position and submitted the candidate to USAID for approval. Still awaiting approval at the end

of Q1, SPR expects to receive approval and onboard the DCOP Technical very early in Quarter 2 to provide needed support to the project's technical implementation.

The project lost two staff members this quarter, including the Finance and Administrative Officer and the Component I lead. While the project awaited confirmation on its budget and other potential funding opportunities, it maintained a hiring freeze. However, to accelerate hiring once the budget was confirmed, SPR developed and posted job descriptions for vacant positions, including MEL Officer, MEL Director, Finance and Administrative Officer, and Communications Officer, and conducted preliminary interviews for the majority of these positions. At the end of the quarter, SPR began to reevaluate the strategy for its advocacy work moving forward and decided to combine again the advocacy and communications work into one position, Advocacy and Communications Officer. The project will prioritize the hiring of all vacant positions in Quarter 2.

MSI received the results of the salary survey it solicited from Birches Group, LLC late in Q1 and has begun analyzing its results to determine how it will apply the information to the SPR team. In consultation with USAID, project leadership expects to make any necessary updates to its staff compensation based on the survey within the next quarter.

#### CAPACITY BUILDING

This quarter, SPR's administrative team liaised with the National Institute for Professional Preparation (INPP or Institut National pour Preparation Professionnelle) in both Goma and Bukavu to leverage the services this agency offers to provide free trainings to local staff. Early in Quarter 2, SPR staff will be selecting their priority trainings from the list of offerings, and the administrative team will coordinate these to be held after hours and conducted by INPP-trained professionals.

During MSI/Tetra Tech's Compliance and Ethics Week, November 4–11, the DCOP Operations and Finance and Compliance Manager held compliance and ethics refresher sessions for all SPR staff in each project office. These sessions introduced real-life case studies and encouraged critical analysis and conversation to reinforce ethical best practices.

## MAIN PRIORITIES NEXT QUARTER

At the start of Quarter 2, SPR will focus on submitting the ten pending grant proposals and, once these are approved, accelerating their launch into implementation. While awaiting approval on grant packages, the SPR grants team will finalize the refresher capacity-building package for each partner to include technical, financial, and operational skills and to be delivered at the start of their grant as well as throughout implementation. SPR intends to have all grantees onboarded and implementing within the next quarter.

As the project launches implementation of its ten grantees in Y4 and in light of lessons learned during the base period, the team will continue to improve internal coordination for grants management, particularly between the technical and administrative teams. This continued work will improve staff collaboration and camaraderie and accelerate the review and approval of deliverables, payment of milestones, and compliant filing of grant documentation.

In the next quarter, the SPR administrative team will finalize its coordination with MSI headquarters and local government agencies to finalize the reviewed financial operations and personnel manuals. Additionally, after putting recruitment on hold in the first quarter while the Y4 budget and staffing needs

were ascertained, SPR will prioritize the recruitment of its open positions. SPR will also onboard its DCOP Technical, who, once approved by USAID, is poised to begin with the project early in Quarter 2.

# OVERALL CHALLENGES, SOLUTIONS, LESSONS LEARNED, AND OPPORTUNITIES

During this reporting period, SPR faced challenges but also learned valuable lessons and took advantage of opportunities.

#### **CHALLENGES**

#### FUNDING CONSTRAINT DELAYED IMPLEMENTATION

Due to reduced funding, the project delayed finalization of Y4 planning and implementation on the ground during the reporting period. Initial obligated funding received early in August was not sufficient to support the continuation of project implementation and operation. The project requested additional incremental funding and was obliged to delay some commitments.

#### **ACTIONS TAKEN**

- Continued communication with the Mission, project team, and partners to provide information on the budget.
- Reviewed and validated selected partner applications.
- Delayed recruitment for some positions, including the DCOP Technical, MEL Manager, and MEL Officer.
- Suspended field activities.
- Delayed resubmission of the Y4 work plan and revised MEL strategic documents and partner application packages.

# MANAGING DIFFICULT RELATIONSHIP WITH THE NORTH KIVU PROVINCIAL ADVOCACY FRAMEWORK

Early at the beginning of this quarter, the project leadership received a letter from North Kivu Civil Society leadership denouncing the partnership with the North Kivu Provincial Advocacy Framework (CPP–NK). The letter highlighted the inappropriate treatment of the CPP–NK by the project leadership after changing its fixed amount award (FAA) contract into an in-kind grant (IKG) contract because of compliance cases registered in Y3. Initial analysis showed that the letter revealed bad intentions toward the project and project leadership, including security risks.

#### **Actions Taken**

- SPR leadership informed MSI home office, USAID, the project senior team, and consortium leadership about the letter and its content.
- SPR leadership responded to the letter and requested a meeting with North Kivu Civil Society leadership and CPP–NK.

- SPR leadership, with the SPR Agreement/Contracting Officer Representative (A/COR), organized a meeting with North Kivu Civil Society leadership and CPP–NK to understand the letter's motivation and discuss a way forward.
- SPR leadership, with the SPR A/COR, requested proof of the accusations in the letter but never received them.
- The SPR A/COR decided to take the issue to the Mission level and will give feedback to SPR and CPP
  NK.

#### **LESSONS LEARNED**

Work with civil society advocacy coalitions still needs a specific support approach that would include considerable capacity building in many areas, such as ethics, compliance, and leadership. The functioning and accountability of a coalition of organizations are much more complex than those of a single organization, which makes support to such organizations equally complex. SPR will elaborate and explore additional innovative approaches to work with advocacy coalitions and plan capacity building where additional support is necessary.

#### **OPPORTUNITIES**

The existence of a dynamic provincial consultative committee facilitates communication and collaboration with provincial government in North and South Kivu provinces. Feedback from consultative committee members in North Kivu to the provincial ministry in charge of planning and budget reinforced the government's consideration and appreciation. During the option period, the project will continue to support the operationalization of consultative committees in North and South Kivu.

The collaboration between the project and the National Civil Society Consultation Framework leadership initiated at national level will facilitate the revitalization or creation of a peace, security, and social cohesion (PSSC) unit at national and provincial levels. National Civil Society Consultation Framework leadership, represented by Mr. Patient Bashombe, started this initiative at the national level and will extend it to the 26 provinces gradually in 2020. The PSSC unit will function as an expertise and alert structure by monitoring, collecting, conducting, and informing on analysis and research on all issues related to peace and cohesion at provincial and national levels.

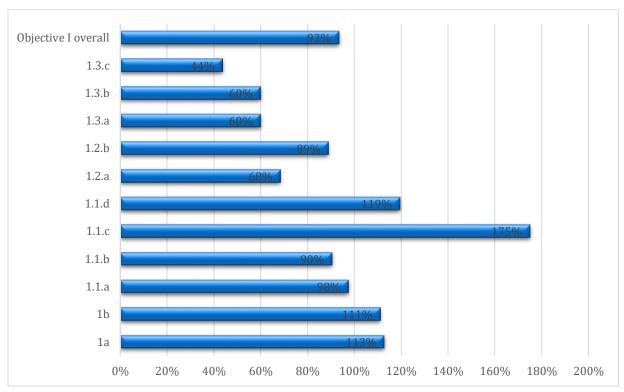
## **ANNEX I: PROGRESS ON PERFORMANCE PLAN**

The charts below show performance for each component and indicator given the five-year LOP targets.

# **OBJECTIVE I**

This reporting quarter shows a different trend, in which five out of six indicators are below 90 percent because the performance is calculated based on the five-year LOP, unlike in previous reports. The average performance of Objective I is at 93 percent. The chart below shows the overall average performance for every Objective I indicator.

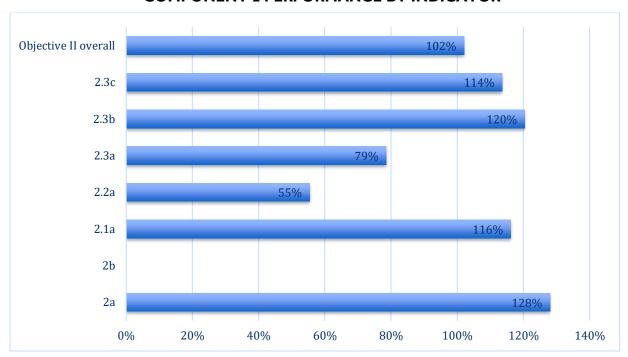
#### **COMPONENT I PERFORMANCE BY INDICATOR**



# **OBJECTIVE 2**

Objective 2 overall performance against the revised LOP is at 102 percent as some indicators highly exceeded the performance during the base period. The following chart reflects performance for Component 2 and for each indicator against the five-year LOP to date.

#### **COMPONENT 2 PERFORMANCE BY INDICATOR**



Indicator 2b, an outcome indicator, remains at 0 percent pending the endline survey.

## **OBJECTIVE 3**

Objective 3 performance against revised LOP stands at 67 percent. The chart below gives the overall performance trends of the component 3 and per each indicator.

## Objective 3 Overall 3.3c 0% 3.3b 3.3a 3.2d 3.2c 3.2b 3.2a 3.1b 3.1a 3b 3a 0% 20% 40% 60% 80% 100% 120% 140%

#### **COMPONENT 3 PERFORMANCE BY INDICATOR**

Indicator 3.3c, a newly proposed indicator that will measure the project's indirect impact, is at 0 percent. Indicator 3.2b has already been archived since the beginning of the project, and the performance score for indicator 3a is pending the endline survey, which will be conducted in the coming quarters.

The table below gives performance details for each indicator, showing Y4 Q1 results, cumulative achievement to date (the sum of base years plus Y4 Q1), the percentage of achievement against the revised LOP target, and explanatory narrative on deviation.

# **CUMULATIVE PROJECT ACHIEVEMENT OVER FIVE YEARS**

							CUMULATIVE P	ROJECT ACH	IEVEMENT	
	BASE					Y4 QI	CUMULATIVE -	5 YEARS		
INDICATORS		BASE PERIOD TARGET	OPTIONAL PERIOD TARGETS	ACHIEVED	Y4 Q1 TARGET	PPOCPESS	ACHIEVED TO DATE	LIFE OF PROJECT (LOP) TARGET	LOP PROGRESS (%) ACHIEVED	EXPLANATION
IR 1: 0	Conflict drivers	identified and	solutions agree	d to by commi	unity stakeh	olders				
Ia. Cumulative number of events where community participatory conflict analysis is presented TO3 RI	124	88	22	0	0	0%	124%	110%	113%	SPR achieved excellent results and exceeded target for this indicator during the base period. Base period achievement is still high than five years LOP target as only twenty-two events are planned for the option years.
Ib. Percent of USG-assisted consensus- building processes held that result in an agreement* TO3 IR 3.2	100%	90%	90%	0%	0%	0%	100%	90%	111%	
I.Ia. Percentage of selected CSOs assessed for conducting participatory conflict analysis whose score improved.	78%	80%	NA	NA	NA	NA	78%	80%	98%	This indicator is archived for the option period as the project will proceed with follow-ons mechanism after performance evaluation of existing partners.

							CUMULATIVE P	ROJECT ACHI	EVEMENT	
	BASE	BASE				Y4 QI	CUMULATIVE -	5 YEARS		
INDICATORS		PERIOD TARGET	OPTIONAL PERIOD TARGETS	ACHIEVED	Y4 Q1 TARGET	PROGRESS (%)	ACHIEVED TO DATE	LIFE OF PROJECT (LOP) TARGET	LOP PROGRESS (%) ACHIEVED	EXPLANATION
I.Ib. Number of CSOs trained in participatory community conflict analysis TO3 IR 3.1	190	180	30	0	0	0%	190	210	90%	
I.Ic. Percentage of CSOs trained receiving grants TO3 IR 3.1	21%	12%	NA	NA	NA	NA	21%	12%	175%	This indicator will be archived for the option period as the project will proceed with follow-ons mechanism after performance evaluation of the pool of base period partners.
I.Id. Number of CSOs in grants and financial management training TO3 IR 3.1	37	21	10	0	0	0%	37	31	119%	The performance of this indicator still higher as the number of grantees recruited during the base period was significantly higher than the target.
I.2a. Number of participatory conflict analyses validated with participation of target	13	14	5	0	0	0%	13	19	68%	

							CUMULATIVE P	ROJECT ACHI	EVEMENT	
	BASE					Y4 QI	CUMULATIVE - !	5 YEARS		
INDICATORS		BASE PERIOD TARGET	OPTIONAL PERIOD TARGETS	ACHIEVED	Y4 Q1 TARGET	DDOCDECC	ACHIEVED TO DATE	LIFE OF PROJECT (LOP) TARGET	LOP PROGRESS (%) ACHIEVED	EXPLANATION
groupements TO3 IR 3.1										
I.2b. Number of participatory conflict analyses conducted* TO3 IR 3.1	72	70	11	0	0	0%	72	81	89%	
I.3a. Number of publications or conference presentations produced by Congolese researchers as a result of USG assistance on the subject of conflict resolution* TO3 IR 3.1	9	9	6	0	0	0%	9	15	60%	
I.3b. Number of approved research plans with dissemination plan TO3 IR 3.1	9	9	6	0	0	0%	9	15	60%	
1.3c.Percentage of individual researchers and institutions	100%	100%	100%	0%	0%	0%	100%	100%	100%	

							CUMULATIVE P	ROJECT ACHI	EVEMENT	
	BASE					Y4 QI	CUMULATIVE -	S YEARS		
INDICATORS		BASE PERIOD TARGET	OPTIONAL PERIOD TARGETS	Y4 Q1 ACHIEVED	Y4 Q1 TARGET	PROGRESS (%)	ACHIEVED TO DATE	LIFE OF PROJECT (LOP) TARGET	LOP PROGRESS (%) ACHIEVED	EXPLANATION
receiving short-term technical assistance to develop research plans TO3 IR 3.1										
IR. 2 I	Participatory so	lutions implem	ented							
2a. Number of new groupements or initiatives created through USG funding, dedicated to resolving conflict or the drivers of conflict* TO3 IR 3.2	105	70	12	0	0	0%	105	82	128%	In addition to 105 groups/initiatives created during the base period, only 12 new groups will be created during the option period in new intervention zones (Kadutu and Kahuzi Biega).
2b Percentage of women and members of marginalized groupements who feel their views are reflected in implementing participatory solutions and	TBD	30%	88%	TBD	TBD	TBD	TBD	30%	TBD	This indicator was supposed to undergo an endline in year 3 of the base period but given that the two-year optional were granted to SPR, it is recommended to have a midline in

							CUMULATIVE P	ROJECT ACHI	EVEMENT	
	BASE	BASE	0.000			Y4 QI	CUMULATIVE -	S YEARS		
INDICATORS	PERIOD ACTUALS	PERIOD TARGET	OPTIONAL PERIOD TARGETS	ACHIEVED	Y4 QI TARGET	PPOCPESS	ACHIEVED TO DATE	LIFE OF PROJECT (LOP) TARGET	LOP PROGRESS (%) ACHIEVED	EXPLANATION
peacebuilding processes										year 4 and an endline in year 5.
SR 2.1a. Number of local women participating in a substantive role or position in a peacebuilding process supported with USG assistance* TO3 IR 3.2	229	161	36	0	0	0%	229	197	116%	This indicator exceeded significantly the target in base period. In addition to the 229 that SPR empowered and facilitated their participation in substantial role during the base period, the project will support the participation in substantial role 36 women
2.2a Number of times women and members of marginalized groupements consulted with traditional leaders on local issues	71	56	72	0	0	0%	71	128	55%	As most of the women & OMGs mentoring clubs have the capacity the organized advocacy initiatives and conduct community discussions with local authorities, the project will increase their support to organize 72 such events in option period

							CUMULATIVE P	ROJECT ACH	EVEMENT	
	BASE	DAGE	OPTIONAL	×4.01	W4 61	Y4 Q1	CUMULATIVE -	5 YEARS		
INDICATORS	PERIOD ACTUALS	BASE PERIOD TARGET	OPTIONAL PERIOD TARGETS	ACHIEVED	Y4 QI TARGET	PPOCPESS	ACHIEVED TO DATE	LIFE OF PROJECT (LOP) TARGET	LOP PROGRESS (%) ACHIEVED	EXPLANATION
2.3a. Number of radio programs about peace and social inclusion TO3 IR 3.2	22	24	4	0	0	0%	22	28	79%	
2.3b. Number of women trained in transformative leadership TO3 IR 3.2	742	560	56	0	0	0%	742	616	120%	SPR achieved excellent results and exceeded target for this indicator during the base period. During the option period, 56 women & OMGs leaders will receive capacity building in the new selected zones of Kadutu and Kahuzi Biega
2.3c. Number of formal and traditional leaders completing transformative leadership training TO3 IR 3.2	401	308	45	0	0	0%	401	353	114%	SPR achieved excellent results and exceeded target for this indicator during the base period. For the option period, the project will be building the capacity of 45 new local authorities in the new selected zones of Kadutu and Kahuzi Biega.

							CUMULATIVE P	ROJECT ACH	EVEMENT	
	BASE					Y4 Q1	CUMULATIVE -	5 YEARS		
INDICATORS		BASE PERIOD TARGET	OPTIONAL PERIOD TARGETS	ACHIEVED	Y4 QI TARGET	PROGRESS (%)	ACHIEVED TO DATE	LIFE OF PROJECT (LOP) TARGET	LOP PROGRESS (%) ACHIEVED	EXPLANATION
IR. 3 F	Resources for c	ommunity deve	elopment are m	ore inclusively	allocated		•			
3a: Percentage of community users reporting improvement in service delivery.	TBD	30%	5%	TBD	TBD	TBD	TBD	30%	TBD	This indicator was supposed to undergo an endline in year 3 of the base period, but given that the two-year optional were granted, a midline will be conducted early year 4 and an endline in year 5. The project estimated an increase of 5% in service satisfaction for the option period.
3b. Number of community development plans integrating equitable and locally produced solutions to resolve conflict* TO3 IR 3.2	13	14	4	0	0	0%	13	18	72%	
3.1.a. Number of linkages to	64	70	56	0	0	0%	64	126	51%	

							CUMULATIVE P	ROJECT ACHI	EVEMENT	
	BASE					Y4 QI	CUMULATIVE - !	YEARS		
INDICATORS		BASE PERIOD TARGET	OPTIONAL PERIOD TARGETS	ACHIEVED	Y4 Q1 TARGET	DDOCDECC	ACHIEVED TO DATE	LIFE OF PROJECT (LOP) TARGET	LOP PROGRESS (%) ACHIEVED	EXPLANATION
direct livelihood projects and resources TO3 IR 3.2										
3.1b. Number of women and members of marginalized groupements in foundational training that facilitates livelihood TO3 IR 3.2	1301	840	900	0	0	0%	1301	1740	75%	
3.2a. Number of user committees established and receiving capacity building TO3 IR 3.2	44	42	37	0	0	0%	44	79	56%	
3.2b. Number of user committee grants TO3 IR 3.2										Archived indicator due to the feedback received from MECC that each IR cannot exceed 3 indicators.
3.2c. Number of service providers	352	168	136	0	0	0%	352	304	116%	

							CUMULATIVE PI	ROJECT ACHI	EVEMENT	
	BASE	D 4 6 5	0.710.141			Y4 QI	CUMULATIVE - 5	YEARS		
INDICATORS		BASE PERIOD TARGET	OPTIONAL PERIOD TARGETS	ACHIEVED	Y4 Q1 TARGET	DDOCDESS	ACHIEVED TO DATE	LIFE OF PROJECT (LOP) TARGET	LOP PROGRESS (%) ACHIEVED	EXPLANATION
receiving capacity building TO3 IR 3.2										
3.2d. Percentage of user committee members that are women and members of marginalized groupements TO3 IR 3.2	40%	93%	40%	0%	0%	0%	37%	40%	93%	
3.3a. Number of community local government dialogues TO3 IT 3.2	62	50	33	0	0	0%	62	83	75%	
3.3b. Number of grants supporting (confidence building and peace promotion TO3 IR 3.2	86	74	60	0	0	0%	86	134	64%	
3.3.c Number of SPR stakeholder indirect social	NA	NA	40	0	0	0%	0	40	0%	

							CUMULATIVE PROJECT ACHIEVEMENT				
	BASE	DAGE	OPTIONAL	\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\	W4.01	Y4 Q1	CUMULATIVE -				
INDICATORS	_	BASE PERIOD TARGET	OPTIONAL PERIOD TARGETS	ACHIEVED	TARGET	PROGRESS (%)	ACHIEVED TO DATE	LIFE OF PROJECT (LOP) TARGET	LOP PROGRESS (%) ACHIEVED	EXPLANATION	
cohesion and peacebuilding community events held as a result of SPR impact											

#### ANNEX 2: PROGRESS AGAINST APPROVED WORK PLAN (RESERVED FOR ANNUAL REPORT)

#### **ANNEX 3: SUCCESS STORIES**

See next page.





hands in agreement on 15 November.

#### **COMMUNITIES PEACEFULLY** RESOLVE THEIR DIFFERENCES

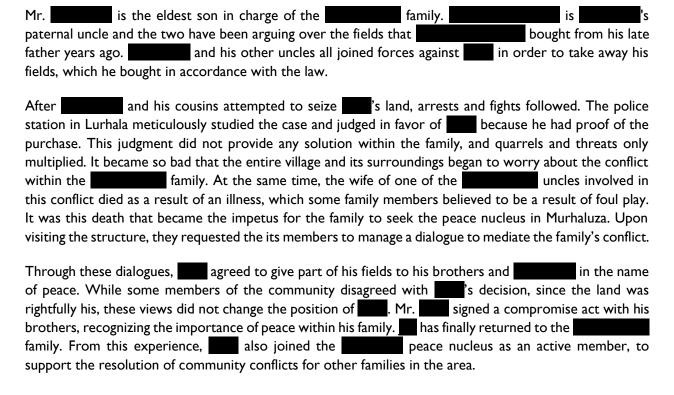
(47), resident of Kalinga, Biiri groupement, Mrs. Masisi, North Kivu.

"My husband is older and can no longer easily defend our land. For more than two years, our neighbor, , had taken advantage of my husband's situation and expanded the boundaries of his plot into ours. I didn't like the situation and I was forced to tear up the boundaries he had set. Mr. angry and went to an intelligence officer to report me. I had been summoned to the intelligence office, where I was forced to pay lot of money to remain free. Since then, our conflict has not been resolved. I shared this story as much as could, and one day, a member of the peace nucleus listened to me and directed me to some other mediating members of the peace nucleus. They listened to my story and invited my neighbor and I to speak with them. Thank God my neighbor had agreed to negotiations. After two mediation sessions, we reached a compromise and we are now living on good terms. Today we signed an act of conciliation in the presence of the chief of the locality, who in turn validated it by his signature.

We are very grateful to the members of the peace structures and to the SPR project for equipping these members with the necessary capacities to conduct mediation between the conflicting parties, because through this approach of peaceful conflict resolution through community peace structures, families who were living in discord may begin to develop good relations, and in case of misunderstandings, decide to resolve their differences peacefully."



### MEDIATION AND MEMBERSHIP IN THE MURHALUZA PEACE STRUCTURE







### MEETINGS BETWEEN WOMEN AND LOCAL AUTHORITIES IN KIBABI

In Kibabi, during implementation of its first grant under the USAID's SPR project, partner FOSI set up a dialogue framework consisting of 30 people from different categories, including local traditional chiefs, administrators, leaders, and women mentors to exchange on and address local challenges and obstacles to peacebuilding on a regular basis. Although SPR has not provided technical or financial support to FOSI for the past nine months, the members of this framework have taken ownership of the project's achievements and have continued work long after SPR financing ended. For example, the framework established that meetings would take place at least four times per year. Accordingly, in December 2019, a meeting was held during which two topics were discussed.

The first topic was the denunciation by women mentors of the collection of illegal taxes (varying between 500 FC and 2,000 FC depending on volume) on agricultural products at points already well-identified by false agents and men in uniforms who interfere. This denunciation ultimately led to a field raid by the group leader, the head of the ANR, the national police, and FARDC commander immediately after the meeting. After the raid, these entities formally prohibited the collection of this tax and established a policy to sanction agents who collect it. The second topic was to give concrete expression to the involvement of women in decision-making bodies through the group leader's commitment to install at least 6 women, including 5 members of CMLs, as important decision-makers in various localities.

These results show the sustainability of SPR's work and were achieved only through a willingness and ownership by those involved, which has lasted long after direct support ended.





### ACCESS TO DECISION-MAKING BODY THROUGH MENTORING CLUBS

Mr. Manager Ad-year-old father of 5, has been immobile for 5 years and lives in the Mabanga Sud district of Goma. 3 months after the launch of the leadership mentoring club by RFEDI near his neighborhood, he became interested in the activities of this club and joined them. With his understanding of the objectives of the mentoring approach and of the SPR project, he engaged closely in the activities of the Mabanga North club.

What motivates him to act is the fact that his situation as an immobilized person has always made him feel a lack of confidence from others, as people categorize him as a thug looking to cause insecurity in his neighborhood. In order to shake this stigma, he mobilized the youth of his neighborhood to join him and the local police force in conducting joint night patrols.

Through his patrols, he helped the police to catch 139 bandits in one year. When he prevented a potential situation of mob justice during the night of December 18, 2019, the young people demanded that their neighborhood chief, whom they considered inactive and incompetent, be fired. Shortly thereafter, the mayor arrived and appointed Mr.

In an interview, Mr. declared, "if it had not been for the lessons I received during coaching in my Mentoring and Leadership Club, I would continue to underestimate myself and would not have acted to gain the trust and confidence of my neighborhood."





and two children of Mufaume at Tingi following mediation.

## SUCCESSFUL TEAMWORK BETWEEN PEACE STRUCTURES & DEVELOPMENT

Under the recommendation of the Zaïoris government in the '80s, multiple families had regrouped when the villages were reunited to fight insecurity in Masisi but also to place populations in safer and more accessible areas. Thus, the chief of the Bahundes granted land to in the Tingi entity, in invited some of his friends to live together in this area, making him a strong landowner since everyone in this entity owed him an annual royalty. Following his death and that of Mr. —the first friend of his to live in the area—conflict began between their descendants following encroachment on royalty rules. At the same time, two schools began occupying land in the entity under the blessing of some 's son, , who granted this land there without consulting the smaller communities occupying these lands. This began a serious conflict in 2015 and 2016 between the family and six other families in the region. The parties involved consulted existing judicial infrastructure for solutions, to no avail. ended up selling the land following the relocation of the schools, once more without consulting smaller communities; conflict ensued again. , the CPDF of the groupement, referred the matter to the CLPD to conduct a successful mediation via a collaborative effort. Thanks to their experience in mediation and to the techniques taught in the Amani Kwa Maendeleo project, these two structures stimulated the opposed parties to engage in

positive measures to put an end to these disagreements, signed in an engagement act on December 6<sup>th</sup>, 2019. Using the lessons learned from the SPR project, local peace structures were able to succeed where judicial structures failed; today, the families live together in peace and respect the engagements they made.



### THE NECESSITY OF SOCIAL CONTRACTS IN EFFECTIVE MEDIATION

Conflict arose from an agreement five years ago around a field lease in the village of Lutobogo in Mupfuni Shanga groupement, Bahunde chiefdom, Masisi territory, when Mr. Prented his field to Mr. Who had just bought the eucalyptus trees occupying the field. The agreement was to vacate the field after cutting down the trees.

More than five years later, Prefused to give up the field, declaring that it belonged to him. Thanks to the expertise of the Lutobogo NDP, which conducted several investigations and listened to involved parties, witnesses, and community leaders, it turned out that the field belonged to And although the lease had already lasted for more than five years, the eucalyptus trees belonged to And although the NDP made the parties aware of the need to review each other's position in order to restore the social cohesion that existed between them before this conflict; each party voluntarily made its commitment; agreed to release the field from And the latter granted him a one-year delay to cut trees and produce boards or embers.

Finally, the beneficiaries declared the following: "We have lived for about two years separately and in dislocation but today we are back on the path of brotherhood, forgetting the past, thus cultivating peace and not hatred in our environment which was becoming fragmented because of our differences". Thank you to the NPD for succeeding where several judicial attempts have failed. It is important to support the peace structures in order to improve their work because we are a poor population and knowing that our brothers can help us is a good thing.





at the market in Lushebere.

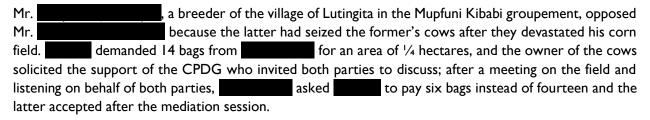
# THE IMPACT OF SOCIAL COHESION ON SMALL BUSINESSES

Mrs. (34), widowed mother of 4, resident of Kalinga, Biiri groupement, Masisi, North Kivu.

"My life was not easy after the death of my husband because bearing the costs of school, food and healthcare for my children and myself, without outside support, was really difficult. I only had a small, nonfertile field which I cultivated for the survival of my family; I had to resort to begging. I underestimated myself and felt rejected by my community for my lack of financial means. This turned around in June 2018 when the local organization LUCODER pushed me to integrate their economic interest group. At first, I feared cohabitation with other members who were not of my tribe, but LUCODER's facilitators showed me that it was possible to collaborate with other tribes to benefit from the advantages of the group. Thus, our 12-member group consisted of 3 Hunde, 3 Tutsi and 3 Twa (pygmy), and 3 Hutu. We sold 4 cows 6 months after minimal grazing and feeding and made \$1000. We then collectively decided to buy a sheep for each member, for a unitary cost of \$58.30 and a total of \$700. Today, the sheep I received gave birth to 2 lambs, so I already have 3. I also received \$25 to start a small rice business at the Lushebere market; by the end of November 2019, I had \$80. I expanded my business to include more items, significantly increasing my profits, and I am now able to support my children. I have joined a village savings and credit association and the collaboration is perfect, without distinction of tribes. My life is improving thanks to collaboration and peaceful cohabitation. Faced with this history of my past and the life I lead today, I know that the more ideas are shared in a community, the greater the challenges that can be faced."



#### SOCIAL CONTRACTS AS ESSENTIAL SUPPORT IN MEDIATION



expressed his satisfaction in the following terms: "This is a first; each time I am in conflict with a farmer, I spend so much money because locally we never found solutions and courts took advantage of the situation to demand more than what should be paid. I am surprised that it is my fellow farmers who have this capacity to reconcile us so quickly, without asking for anything in return". In the end he promised to dig gullies on all four sides of his field to prevent the cows from overflowing but also to hire adult shepherds who will be able to keep a close eye on the livestock (in accordance with the provisions of the social contract concluded between farmers and herders of the Kibabi Group).

In conclusion, both parties thanked CPDG and its partners in the "Amani Kwa Maendeleo" project and encouraged them to continue this support to enable capacity building of other community members. Both parties have expressed their satisfaction with the conduct of mediation by the CPDG of the Mupfuni Kibabi group and the contribution of the social contract signed between the breeders and the farmers of the group.

#### **ANNEX 4: PARTNER ACTIVITY REPORT**

Due to ongoing budget discussions during the reporting period, there were no grant partners implementing

#### **ANNEX 5: GRANT PROGRAM STATUS**

U	SAID'S SPR	GRANT PIPE	LINE AND	STATUS	
ORGANIZATION NAME	BUDGET (USD)	DURATION	PROVINCE	DISBURSED TO-DATE	IMPLEMENTATION STATUS
AAP (Aide et Action pour la Paix)	\$70,233.50	7 months	North Kivu	\$0.00	Grant package being finalized for submission
ACUDI (Actions des Chrétiens Unis pour le Développement Intégral)	\$80,899.54	7 months	North Kivu	\$0.00	Grant package being finalized for submission
AIBEF (Appui aux initiatives de bien-être familial)	\$55,428.40	7 months	South Kivu	\$0.00	Grant package being finalized for submission
Caritas Développement Bukavu	\$98,478.73	7 months	South Kivu	\$0.00	Grant package being finalized for submission
CDJP (Commission Diocésaine Justice Et Paix / Archidiocèse de Bukavu)	\$89,229.30	7 months	South Kivu	\$0.00	Grant package being finalized for submission
Collectif ALPHA-UJUVI	\$54,453.63	7 months	North Kivu	\$0.00	Grant package being finalized for submission
Consortium CENTRE OLAME & TGD-TOUS POUR LE GENRE	\$63,365.50	7 months	South Kivu	\$0.00	Grant package being finalized for submission
FOSI (Forum Sida)	\$60,867.00	7 months	North Kivu	\$0.00	Grant package being finalized for submission
ISPDE (Institut Supérieur pour la Promotion de la Paix du Développement et de l'environnement)	\$61,592.00	7 months	South Kivu	\$0.00	Grant package being finalized for submission
Université Catholique de Bukavu - Université Evangélique en Afrique (UCB/ UEA)	\$65,128.27	7 months	South Kivu	\$0.00	Grant package being finalized for submission

#### **ANNEX 6: YEAR 4, QUARTER 2 ACTIVITY CALENDAR**

WORK PLAN, Q2 Y4 (JANUARY-MARCH 2020)

			SPR WORKPLA	N YEAR 4 - Q2: JANU	ARY - MARCH												
				rtners Coverage II			20-	Jan		20-Feb				20-Mar			
Code	Component / Activity	Goal	Partners		Indicator	WI	W 2	W 3	W 4	WI	W 2	W 3	W 4	WI	W 2	W 3	W 4
OP.I COORDINATION AND CROSSCUTTING ACTIVITIES																	
OP.I.I	Provide refresher training and capacity building on conflict sensitivity to SPR staff, grantees, USAID IPs	Conflict sensitivity is mainstreamed across SPR and other USAID IPs activities	USAID's SPR staff and grantees, LPDC & other USAID IPs	SK — Kabare, Kalehe, Bukavu, Walungu NK — Masisi, Walikale,													
			NK – Masisi, Goma														
OP.1.4	Reinforcement of early warning systems and response mechanisms to identify flexible fund opportunities	Approved early warning proposals receive support	USAID's SPR and Partners	SK – 8 territories NK – 7 territories													
OP.1.5	Coordination with other USAID & Non-USAID International Partners	Maximum coordination and synergy with non- USAID's SPR activities	USAID's SPR	SK – Walungu, Kalehe NK – Goma City, Masisi													
OP.1.6	Support and participate in the celebration of Peace Days and other advocacy events (Sixteen days against SGBV, Human International Day, International Women's Day)	USAID's SPR visibility increased, advocacy agenda and mission known in Eastern DRC	USAID's SPR	SK – Walungu, Bukavu City, Kalehe, Walungu NK – Goma City, Masisi, Walikale													

			SPR WORKPLA	N YEAR 4 - Q2: JANU	ARY - MARCH												
	Component / Activity						20-	-Jan			20-	Feb					
Code	Component / Activity	Goal	Partners	Coverage	Indicator	wı	W 2	W 3	W 4	WI	W 2	W 3	W 4	wı	W 2	W 3	W 4
OP.1.7	Provide ongoing capacity building support to selected and approved partners	10 partners have enhanced skills in grants, project administration and financial management	USAID's SPR & partners	SK — Walungu, Bukavu, Kabare, Kalehe NK — Masisi, Walikale, Goma	1.1d												
OP.1.8	Organize USAID's SPR quarterly Consultative Committee meeting	4 meetings and field evaluation missions organized with GoRDC officials from technical Ministries	USAID's SPR & partners	SK — Walungu, Bukavu, Kabare, Kalehe NK — Masisi, Goma													
OP.1.9	Quarterly Steering Committee meetings	Consolidate programmatic approaches across the USAID's SPR partnership	Senior management of each SPR consortium partner	Goma, Bukavu													
OP.1.10	Organize internal planning and coordination meetings	Annual, quarterly and monthly activity reviewed, and plans validated	USAID's SPR and Partners	SK – Bukavu													
COMPONE	NT I: COMMUNITY STAKEH	OI DEBS IDENTIFY	CONFLICT DRIVER	NK – Goma	NUTIONS												
General Act		OLDERS IDENTIFY	CONFLICT DRIVER	S AND AGREE ON SC	DEUTIONS												
A.0.1.1	Introduce USAID's SPR project to statutory, traditional authorities and communities in Kadutu and Kahuzi Biega National Park	USAID's SPR legitimacy established in Kadutu and Kahuzi Biega National Park	USAID's SPR	SK & NK	Process leading to 1.2b												
A.0.1.2	Conduct high level research in Kahuzi Biega National Park	A cartography of key stakeholders in Kahuzi Biega conflict available	USAID's SPR, UEA & UCB partner	SK & NK	Process leading to 1.2b												
A.0.1.3	Provide training on participatory conflict analysis and conflict sensitivity to local partners, local leaders and authorities working around Kahuzi Biega	30 local and international organizations, 45 local leaders and authorities receive trainings	USAID's SPR & partners	SK & NK	Process leading to 1.2b												

			SPR WORKPLA	N YEAR 4 - Q2: JANU	ARY - MARCH													
				C	Indiantes.		20-	Jan		20-Feb				20-Mar				
Code	Component / Activity	Goal	Partners	Coverage	Indicator	WI	W 2	W 3	W 4	wı	W 2	W 3	W 4	WΙ	W 2	W 3	W 4	
COMPONE	NT 2 - DARTICIDATORY COL	LITIONIC IMPLEMENT	TED															
	NT 2 : PARTICIPATORY SOL				1													
SR 2.1 Won	nen and members of marginaliz	zed groupements part	cicipate in and lead c	ommunity decision-ma	iking processes												$\overline{}$	
A.2.1.1.	Strengthening women/OMGs leaders' capacity in transformative leadership to play role in decision-making roles towards implementation of identified solutions for mitigating conflict	36 women and OMG reinforce their leadership skills and talents to participate in peace processes building	USAID's SPR, CARITAS	SK - Walungu, Bukavu, Kabare, Kalehe	2b, 2.1 a													
				NK - Masisi, Goma													Ш	
A.2.1.2	Support women and OMGs' participation in decision-making bodies through advocacy and capacity building	A social movement of women leaders & OMGs representatives impulse changes in social norms and practices that prevent inclusion and participation	USAID's SPR & CSOs partners	SK - Walungu, Bukavu, Kabare, Kalehe NK - Masisi, Goma	2.2.a, 2.b													
SR 2.2 Inclu	sion increased in traditional an	d formal governance s	structures and proce	sses														
A.2.2.2	Transforming social norms, attitudes and barriers that constraints the participation of women/OMGs in decisionmaking processes	Local & traditional authorities and targeted communities increase awareness and are engaged to fight against negative social norms	USAID's SPR & CSOs partners	SK - Walungu, Bukavu, Kabare, Kalehe NK - Masisi, Goma	2.3.a													
COMPONE	NT 3: RESOURCES FOR COM	MUNITY DEVELOP	MENT MORE INCLU	SIVELY ALLOCATED	)													
SR3.1 Linka	ges to livelihood activities and	resources increased																
A.3.1.1	Improve women & OMGs 's capacity on livelihood development	Women and OMG engage in training that facilitates livelihood	USAID's SPR & CSOs	SK – Kabare, ,Walungu, Bukavu	3.1b													

			SPR WORKPLA	N YEAR 4 - Q2: JANU	ARY - MARCH												
							20-	Jan			20-	Feb		20-Mar			
Code	Component / Activity	Goal	Partners	Coverage	Indicator	WI	W 2	W 3	W 4	WI	W 2	W 3	W 4	WI	W 2	W 3	W 4
				NK – Masisi, Goma													
A.3.1.2	Private sector engaged in support of resource mobilization		USAID's SPR & CSOs	SK – Kabare,Walungu, Bukavu	3.1a												
		conesion initiatives		NK – Masisi, Goma													
R3.2 Equita	able community participation i	n basic services provis	ion increased														
A.3.2.1	Improve community development planning on service provision and integrating equitable and locally produced solutions to resolve conflict	Community development plans integrating equitable and locally solutions to resolve conflict are	USAID's SPR, CSOs, Committees, LAs	SK – Kabare, ,Walungu, Bukavu	3b												
	solutions to resolve connect	elaborated		NK – Masisi, Goma													
A.3.2.2	Improve efficacy of service provision demand side	Services mapped and prioritized by communities/ local authorities	USAID's SPR, CSOs, Committees, LAs	SK – Kabare ,Walungu, Bukavu	3b												
		autiorities		NK – Masisi , Goma											Ш		
A.3.2.3	Improve efficacy of service provision on supply side	Regular dialogue on service quality	USAID's SPR, CSOs, Committees, LAs	SK — Kabare,Walungu, Bukavu	3.2a												
				NK – Masisi, Goma		1											

SPR WORKPLAN YEAR 4 - Q2: JANUARY - MARCH																	
Code					Indicator -		Jan			20-	Feb		20-Mar				
Code	Component / Activity	Goal	Partners	Coverage		WI	W 2	W 3	W 4	WI	W 2	W 3	W 4	WΙ	W 2	W 3	W 4
A.3.3.1	Support local peace and social cohesion initiatives that promote confidence building between communities and government service providers	57 peace and social cohesion grants	USAID's SPR, CSOs	SK — Kabare, Walungu, Bukavu NK — Masisi, Goma	3.3a, 3.3b												