

Baseline Report
Agriculture and Food Security Response in Tanganyika Province in Democratic Republic of the Congo
Award # 720BHA21GR00185
September 2021

Introduction

The baseline survey presented in this report as conducted in mid-August in the Nyunzu Health Zone in Nyunzu Territory, Tanganyika Province. These targeted areas have experienced recurring violence, the most recent bouts occurring between February – April 2020. World Relief Congo’s (WRC) emergency response project is functioning to assist vulnerable returnees and to welcome vulnerable families and victims of violence with holistic agricultural assistance. This project will distribute agriculture kits for the restoration of livelihoods and immediate provision of food, as well as to reinforce communication on COVID-19 risks.

Methods and Data Sources

The sampling size chosen for this survey is representative of household food insecurity indicators in targeted health areas. The sample size was determined by using the sample size calculator software called “Sample Size Calculator by Raosoft,” with an acceptable margin of error of 5%, providing a good estimation of targeted population needs. Thus, a total of 378 households were determined as an adequate sample size from the 22,822 beneficiary households targeted for the agriculture and food security intervention.

To determine a random sampling of households consistent with tracking methodologies, a random number table was assigned to identify names on the list of beneficiaries. Selected beneficiaries from the list were then considered sample respondent representatives of their households’ opinions and needs.

When collecting data, WRC M&E teams were cognizant of the time pressure that certain activities dictated, such as distributing seeds in the time window of a quickly closing regional agricultural season. The time pressure was the result of a delayed MOU signing which caused the project to start 25 days late and pushed back both this baseline study and the beginning phase of beneficiary identification.

in Baltimore to digitalize data collection tools to complete this survey. Tablets functioned not only as tools to collect the data, but thanks to internal M&E servers, also as points of access to the raw data for analysis by teams in the U.S. Even though the use of the tablets were initially more time consuming as enumerators needed to be trained on their functionality and proper use, as well the number of available tablets for data collection was limited, they nevertheless made it possible to provide quick and easy access to raw data for analysis by multiple teams, and timely reporting development. The support unit overseeing World Relief’s humanitarian and disaster relief countries and the M&E impact team was therefore better able to ensure accurate analyses in coordination with WRC teams, thanks to these internal M&E systems. The results obtained from the survey were systematically analyzed using the statistical software "SPSS" alongside Microsoft Excel software for data relating to the calculations of different scores.

To enrich the study, supplementary qualitative data was collected through focus group discussions in the targeted communities. As well, secondary data was collected and used from reputable health establishments in the areas of intervention. This data will serve as benchmarks to assess the project’s progress at varying points.

Locations and Timing

The baseline survey presented in this report as conducted from August 21 – September 9 in the Nyunzu Health Zone of Nyunzu Territory in Tanganyika Province. The survey was conducted just after the selection of the direct beneficiaries (22,822 households), and before the time-sensitive seed and tool distributions. By conducting the survey between these two program activities, the M&E team truly captured the situation of

the households targeted so that the degree to which progress is made can be accurately measured throughout the length of the project.

The following table summarizes where and when the data was collected for the baseline report.

Territory	Health Zone	Health Area	Beneficiary HHs	HHs surveyed	Survey Date
Nyunzu	Nyunzu	Butondo	2276	38	8/26/2021
		Kabeya/May II	389	6	8/28/2021
		Kabeya/Mukena	473	9	8/23/2021
		Kahinda	4239	70	8/30/2021
		Kanunu	3221	53	9/1/2021
		Makumbo	683	11	9/1/2021
		Mbeya	1475	24	8/31/2021
		Ngombe mwana	1268	21	8/24/2021
		Ngoy	765	13	8/23/2021
		Nyunzu/Kampulo	1520	25	8/25/2021
		Nyunzu/Kankwala	2378	39	8/27/2021
		Nyunzu/Mukundi	2166	36	8/27/2021
		Tchangatchanga II	408	7	8/28/2021
		Zongwe	1561	26	8/25/2021
TOTAL	//////////	//////////	22 822	378	//////////

In summary, the table below describes the situation in each of the health areas initially envisaged for this project, but ultimately not chosen for specific reasons as follows:

Limitations and Mitigating Measures

Limitations that the M&E team faced while conducting this survey were not only the vast distances that needed to be covered between health areas, but also tracking down the newly selected households for the project. To mitigate this first limitation, covering large spans of geographic areas, WRC doubled down on its logistical coverage by employing four M&E field staff who each were responsible for covering a specified terrain. This allowed for record time coverage of all areas reviewed under the baseline study. As for the challenge of locating the exact beneficiary households, local scouts assisted the M&E teams to find the households required for the survey.

Findings

Sub-Sector	BHA Indicator No.	Indicator	Baseline	Target
Intermediate Outcome		Percentage of households who report having received good quality seeds through direct distribution activities	0%	90%
Output		Number of people in need, disaggregated by sex, having covered their basic needs at	0 people	21,680 people



		the end of the project from agricultural assistance		(14,092 Women 7,588 Men)
Food Security	FS01	Percentage of households with a poor food consumption score (Poor FCS)	94.1%	10%
		Percentage of households with borderline food consumption score (Borderline FCS)	5.2%	30%
		Percentage of households with acceptable food consumption score (Acceptable FCS)	0.7%	60%
Food Security	FS02	Percentage of households with Mean Reduced Coping Strategy Index (rCSI) score	88.89%	10%
		Percentage of households with median Reduced Coping Strategy Index (rCSI) score	11.11%	90%
Food Security	FS03	Percentage of households with a severe Hunger Scale score	98.7%	5%
		Percentage of Households with moderate Hunger Scale scores	1.3%	95%
Food Security	FS04	Number of individuals (beneficiaries) participating in BHA food security activities	0 individuals	125,521 Individuals (22,822 HHs)
Improved Agricultural Production	A01	Number of individuals (beneficiaries) directly benefiting from improving agricultural production	0 individuals	125,521 Individuals (22,822HHs)
Improving Agricultural Production	A02	Number of hectares under improved management practices or technologies with BHA assistance	0 hectare	44,811 Ha
Improving Agricultural Production	A03	Number of individuals (beneficiaries) who have applied improved management practices or technologies with BHA assistance	0 individuals	19,398 People
Improving Agricultural Production	A04	Number of beneficiary households using improved post-harvest storage practices	0 individuals	17,117 HHs
Pest and Pesticides	A10	Number and percent of hectares protected against disease or pest attacks	0 Ha 0% (of 44,811 Ha under improved methods)	29,127 Ha 65% (of 44,811 Ha under improved methods)
Pests and Pesticides	A11	Number of individuals (beneficiaries) trained in appropriate crop protection practices	0 individuals	20,557 people
Pests and Pesticides	A12	Percent of individuals (beneficiaries) who received training who are practicing appropriate crop protection procedures	0% (of 20,557 people trained)	90% (of 20,557 people trained)
Outcome Indicator COVID-19		Percentage of project beneficiaries who have been reached by the message on COVID-19 as part of community communication on the pandemic	8,9%	75%
Outcome Indicator COVID-19		Percentage of people directly benefiting from the project knowing at least three barrier measures to COVID-19	9,5%	70%

Other Impact Assessment Parameters Addressed by the Survey

In addition to the USAID/BHA indicators, the survey also addressed other key data points that will inform on the progress of the project related to agriculture and food security and household living conditions.

Sub-Sector	Indicator	Baseline	Target
Improving Agricultural Production/Food Security	% of households taking at least three meals a day on average (after the crisis)	0 %	70%
Improving Agricultural Production/Food Security	% of households in which children under five take at least five meals per day (after the crisis)	0 %	50%
Improving Agricultural Production/Food Security	Average revenue by household (after the crisis)	\$7.50 /month	\$100 /month
Improving Agricultural Production/Food Security	% of households whose income has increased	0%	75%

Analysis

Having clear objectives, impact indicators, as well as the results of the baseline survey allows the M&E team to trace the progress of the population benefiting from the project. Observations, surveys and other mediums of measurement will assess the populations' knowledge and practices in agricultural techniques, their access to seeds and quality tools, their access to income generation through agriculture, and the level of household food security affected by the program at varying decision gates in the project timeline. Baseline data will serve as a benchmark in measuring project impact in follow-up analyses; especially in understanding the relevance and effectiveness of the intervention prior to and after its completion. Tracking sheets will be developed by the M&E Team and shared with the program staff in charge of implementing direct project activities for progressive monitoring of the objectives and indicators monthly, quarterly and biannually. Progress will be analyzed and used for corrective adjustments, if necessary.

Conclusion

The baseline data confirmed that WRC will pursue the objectives and activities as planned. No activities or targets have been modified as a result of analyzing the baseline data. These new communities targeted by this program are in acute need of seeds and agricultural tools to relaunch their agricultural activities after more than five failed cropping seasons following repetitive violence in the area. All the villages targeted by this project are found in the classified areas in phase 4 "emergency", with many returnee and host communities having not yet received any outside emergency assistance. WRC implementation teams are still responding in the same agreed upon larger geographies within Tanganyika Province: Nyunzu territory.