

# EXTERNAL EVALUATION REPORT

Project: ESCAPE: Emergency Support to Conflict  
Affected Populations in Eastern DRC, Award No:  
720FDA20CA00021



Tapstand in South Kivu

Data and Logistic Consulting

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## INTRODUCTION AND BACKGROUND

### I.1 Background to the project and description of the action

In response to significant instability and displacement in eastern DRC, Tearfund received humanitarian funding from USAID/OFDA in June 2020 to provide a 24-month WASH and food security emergency response to reach 459,000 people including 210,000 displaced people. The project "*Emergency Support to Conflict-Affected Populations in Eastern DRC* » targeted the construction and rehabilitation of water sources; the construction of emergency latrines and shower blocks in camps for internally displaced persons; NFI -WASH distribution to vulnerable displaced persons; hygiene promotion campaigns leading to behavioural change; the provision of seeds and tools to vulnerable displaced persons; and training on improving agricultural techniques for vulnerable IDPs. Tearfund implemented the WASH component of the project while Tearfund's local implementing partner, Mavuno, was responsible for the food security component.

During the first 12 months of the award, WASH activities were implemented in Mabalako Health Zone (North Kivu), Kimbi-Lulenge Health Zone (South Kivu) and Lita and Drodoro Health Zones (Ituri). Food security activities were implemented in the Mabalako and Oicha health zones (North Kivu) and in the Komanda health zone (Ituri).

In the last 12 months of the award, WASH activities have been implemented in Beni and Kalunguta health zones (North Kivu), Nundu and Fizi health zones (South Kivu) and Rwampara and Bunia health zones (Ituri). Food security activities have been implemented in the Mabalako health zone (North Kivu) and the Mandima health zone (Ituri).

This final evaluation was conducted for the completed project using quantitative and qualitative data collection methods and a document review was conducted for project documents, including the project proposal, theory of change and various reports.

### I.2 Objectives of the final evaluation

This assessment is designed as a positive learning experience for organizations, partners and the sampled population. It should make it possible during the final study to obtain a picture of the achievements of the project, its traces within the community and support the reflection for subsequent visions with a view to a sustainable action of the services in favor of the beneficiaries.

**The main objective** of this project evaluation is to learn, measure its impact to inform and shape Tearfund's future programs, including the introduction of improvements.

**Secondary objectives** are to hold BHA, the government and the beneficiary community accountable by measuring the effectiveness, relevance, participation, satisfaction and sustainability of the project beneficiaries.

## II. METHODOLOGY OF THE STUDY

This study was conducted in a participatory manner involving all project stakeholders throughout the stages of this final evaluation in learning dynamic to ensure that the information comes from credible and varied sources. The methodology consisted in crossing quantitative

and qualitative approaches, which is also creative, inclusive and participatory with a triangulation of data sources.

The usual rules of ethics were applied such as the voluntary participation of respondents and confidentiality where the protection of the identity of the participants was mandatory at all times.

The method chosen was based on the collection of qualitative and quantitative data using interviews (semi-structured or structured). The list of key informants had been proposed by Tearfund and the final selection was discussed with Data and Logistic Consulting (DLC). To collect quantitative and qualitative data, DLC used the survey questionnaire, focus-group guides and key informant interview guides. The survey questionnaire approved for this study was designed by DLC's technical support team in Kobo Collect which is a mobile data collection tool. The kick-off meeting focused on the methodology for taking into account the contributions and additions to enrich this evaluation.

The gender and inclusion dimensions were at the heart of the evaluation process, so all data were gender-sensitive, the most vulnerable or marginalized people who were sought with particular attention to isolated women with children or other elderly dependent adults, people living with disabilities (adults or children) and indigenous peoples.

## II.1. Study target areas

The final assessment was conducted in three (3) provinces: North Kivu, South Kivu and Ituri, and more specifically in thirteen (13) health zones (4 in North Kivu, 3 in South Kivu and 6 in Ituri) in the Democratic Republic of Congo.

- In Ituri, these are health zones of Lita, Drodro, Komanda, Rwampara, Bunia and Mandima.
- In South Kivu, the assessment focused on the health zones of Nundu, Fizi and Kimbi-Lulenge.
- In North Kivu, the health zones of Mabalako, Beni, Kalunguta and Oicha.

### *o The choice of villages*

Thus, in the context of this study, 15 villages were considered as one (1) village per health zone and health area. Apart from this criterion, the village was selected also taking into account the year of intervention and the sector of activity.

The choice of villages was important because the evaluation is based on a small sample and therefore it was essential that we could ensure that the villages were accessible in terms of safety and roads or means of communication but also that they were representative in size, ethnicity, history, environment and success or obstacles encountered by the project. This selection in a participatory logic was therefore made with the technical staff of TF. The localities/villages selected represent a sample of different social, cultural, historical and environmental contexts. Access and security conditions were also considered throughout the data collection process-

## II.2. The period of the study

This final evaluation lasted 30 working days from August 30 to September 28, 2022 inclusively.

## II.3. Data collection methods

For this study, we used a mixed approach (combining quantitative and qualitative methods) to collect data relevant and appropriate for achieving the study objectives.

### II.3.1. Qualitative component

The qualitative component of the study made it possible to gather, among other things, the views and recommendations of stakeholders, authorities and beneficiaries on the various themes during the study. To do this, we used the classic methods of qualitative data collection, namely: documentary review, individual interviews (KII) and focus groups (FGD).

#### *o Literature review*

The evaluation started with the literature review. This consisted of collecting and exploiting all the documentation available on the project, namely: the concept note, and the documents that are the evidence of the implementation of the project, including: activity reports, monthly reports, the basic survey report, the theory of change, etc.

The data collected from this literature review were used as additional information in the analysis of the evaluation data.

#### *o Group Discussions (FGD)*

Homogeneous discussion groups were organized for men, women, community members selected from community relays, school principals, teachers, parents' committees, school crossing guards, local authorities and communities, representatives of IDP committees, representatives of host families, representatives of WASH committees, representatives of village committees, community leaders, representatives of water point committees, representatives of complaint management and accountability committees, grassroots administrators (cell and others), and members of religious structures: pastors, parish priests, etc. With a view to maximum inclusion, young people, the elderly and people with disabilities or at risk of discrimination were invited to join the focus groups.

The guides for holding the FGDs and interviews were designed with reference to the project indicators. A total of 30 homogeneous discussion groups (15 for men and 15 for women) were organized in the 3 Provinces: North Kivu, South Kivu and Ituri, due to 12 Focus groups in North Kivu Province, 6 Focus groups in South Kivu Province and 12 Focus groups in Ituri Province. Each focus group was facilitated by two facilitators, including a moderator and a note-taker.

**Table N°1: Number of participants in focus groups**

Province	FGD Participant Workforce					
	Men	%	Wives	%	Together	%
North Kivu	54	51%	51	49%	105	100%
South Kivu	30	56%	24	52	54	100%
Ituri	54	47%	60	49	114	100%
<b>Total</b>	<b>130</b>	<b>51%</b>	<b>124</b>	<b>49%</b>	<b>254</b>	<b>100%</b>

#### *o Key Informant Interviews (KIIs)*

Based on a semi-structured interview guide, interviews were conducted with key informants or resource persons, physically and/or remotely with internal and external actors to inform research questions, including the level of partnership. A total of 65 individual interviews were organised at 3 levels:

- ⇒ At the internal project level: interviews were carried out with the Tearfund team including the monitoring and evaluation department (M&E); the project coordination team and the project implementation partner (MAVUNO)
- ⇒ At the level of the health zone: the chief medical officers of zones, administrators managing health institutions (AGIS), the politico-administrative authorities, the local civil society organizations, the media, ministries: health, hygiene and prevention; agriculture, fisheries and livestock (AGRIPEL), nurses, SENASEM, health inspectors, nutritionists, agricultural monitors, hygienists, health committee (COSA) and the community relays.
- ⇒ At the community level: principals, teachers, parents' committees and school crossing guards, local authorities and communities, IDP committees, host families, EHA committee members, village committee members, community leaders, water point committees, complaint management and accountability committees.

### **II.3.2. Quantitative component**

#### *o Household surveys*

The quantitative component collected the data necessary for the quantitative evaluation of the project's result and change indicators. This was a survey of populations in the target areas of the project. In all 15 villages in 15 health areas, 13 health zones and 3 provinces (North Kivu, South Kivu and Ituri) were covered by this collection. A total of 514 people including 168 men, or 33% and 346 women, or 67% were affected by the survey questionnaire. Sampling for this study was based on the following factors: margin of error and confidence level.

- The margin of error was estimated at 5% and;
- The confidence level at 95%.

The demographic and geographic size of the health zone guided the choice of a two-stage cluster survey. The first degree of sampling corresponds to the drawing of clusters according to demographic information (number of people living in each geographical unit) provided by the Central Office of the Health Zone (BCZS).

The second stage focuses on the random selection of survey households within each cluster.

- First degree: selection of clusters

Health zones have been divided into health areas, and each health area into villages and/or neighbourhoods, which constitute the smallest geographical unit and cluster site. The allocation of clusters was done at random, in proportion to the size of the population of each village and/or neighbourhood, in order to guarantee the same chance of being surveyed within the health zone.

- Second degree: selection of households within clusters

The households in each surveyed cluster were selected by the supervisors using a simple random survey (random draw) or a systematic random survey (calculation of a survey step), depending on the structure and size of each village and/or neighbourhood and following the following procedure:

- Circumscribe the geographical boundaries of the cluster in the field with the help of at least one person from the community (preferably the village and/or neighbourhood chief or someone familiar with the village as the community relay),
- Draw up an exhaustive list of households in the cluster with the help of these persons in order to limit the risk of omission and ensure the highest possible reliability of the list,
- Draw lots (clusters of less than 50 households) or systematic random sampling (clusters of 50 or more households) the expected number of households to be surveyed during the day.

### III. OUTCOME OF THE EVALUATION

#### III.1. ANALYSIS OF PROJECT IMPLEMENTATION

##### Relevance

The project is sufficiently relevant and meets the relevance criteria; the project contributes to the achievement of the goals and objectives expected at the end of the project, below are the main findings:

- The consultation of the targeted communities shows that the project has reached their real needs because they are experiencing difficult situations due to multiple conflicts and violence, which means that the available water resources have become insufficient following the population movements of several communities that shared the same water sources. **Most of the community members consulted indicate that the project meets their needs and provides them with good quality and sufficient water.**
- In addition, lack of hygiene knowledge and poor hygiene and sanitation practices have led to the spread of many diseases, and the project had solved many of these problems, but informants believe that further work is still needed;
- The construction of the structures was done by the "local providers" approach, which took into account local skills under the supervision of the health zones to sign contracts with providers;
- Tearfund's actions are remarkable because they were carried out in a situation of complex security crises characterized by conflict and violence, and many humanitarian partners were unwilling to work in these conditions.
- **Throughout the project, the needs of the populations were regularly assessed and analyzed before any intervention;**
- This relevance is also seen in the fact that **the project has come to introduce sustainability in emergencies.** This specificity has been beneficial now and for years to come. The ordinary still wants that in emergency situations we draw and distribute water directly to the displaced, which is only a palliative solution but Tearfund through its donor USAID has set up a series of sustainable works of water points, latrines, showers, etc. where several humanitarians do not usually intervene.

With regard to the area of food safety, we note the following observations:

- The project was inspired by OCHA reports and alerts from the food security cluster. The choice was focused on the most affected and needy areas throughout the cluster... **Support for food security was very relevant** because from 2020 to 2021, many population movements caused increased food needs; thus, the project assisted not only the displaced but also the host families, the host population and the returned families.

- The support was based on agricultural inputs composed of Vegetable and Food Seed Kit but also Farm Tools Kit. Thus, the project partners opted for seeds that mature or produce in the short cycle or term, which was a response adapted to the urgent needs of the populations.
- The populations on the move were stripped of their land, farming tools and seeds to survive; **thus the actions of the project met the expectations and needs of the beneficiaries.** For example, many of the beneficiaries in Mabalako and Oicha health zones who fled to Komanda said they continued to produce for their survival in an area where they were displaced. The project provided them with farming tools, seeds and supported them in advocating for access to land with local concessionaires. The National Seed Service (SENASA) was involved in certifying the seeds and all the food safety work was supported by the territorial inspectors, agronomists and agricultural monitors in the project implementation sites. Local advocacy has made it possible to have access to the fields with concessionaires through social negotiations.
- The largest number of beneficiaries recognize that **the project has relieved malnutrition and food insecurity** through its activities of providing seeds, farming tools and the organization of training in agricultural techniques.
- Most participants feel **that the project was adapted to the local realities of their community and to the socio-economic and cultural context** as the project built on the previous achievements and experiences of the beneficiary communities in the 2 intervention sectors (WASH and food security).
- WASH support relied on CSOs, local authorities, local service providers and the National Rural Hydraulic Service (SNHR) and water committees, while food security relied on the expertise of SENASA, agronomists and agricultural monitors to ensure the sustainability of the actions initiated by the project.
- Thanks to the activities carried out, **the communities were able to take ownership of the approach**, and the beneficiaries had the necessary means to pay the royalties to the fields once exploited free of charge, others found ways to undertake in small businesses.

## Efficiency

**The project was implemented with a good level of efficiency.** WASH activities for agriculture and food security were implemented in accordance with the project design. In addition, **the implementation plan and agenda were respected in the implementation process** by the project stakeholders despite some logistical and structural difficulties related to the state of road in some areas of Fizi in South Kivu. Starting from the community consultation and the results evaluated; **the project was implemented with an adequate level of effectiveness** with respect to the following expected results:

### III.2 Level of Achievement of Project Activity Indicators

**Table N°2: Level of achievement of activity indicators by province**

Activities	INDICATOR	LEVEL	BY
	PROVINCE		

	ITURI	NORTH KIVU	SOUTH KIVU
Identification and ownership of the project	100%	100%	100%
Hygiene and sanitation	103%	100%	99%
Distribution of NFI WASH Kits	100%	100%	100%
Distribution of agricultural input kits (seeds and farming tools)	100%	100%	-
Water hygiene	100%	101%	100%
Construction / Water supply	100%	100%	100%
Visibility of the funder and Tearfund	100%	100%	100%
Monitoring and evaluation	100%	100%	100%
Reporting	100%	100%	100%
<b>Total achievement</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>100%</b>

From this table we note that **all the planned activities have been carried out, or even exceeded the expectations for some activities.**

### Water supply

The beneficiaries met and interviewed are informed of the water, hygiene and sanitation activities implemented by Tearfund. They testified that they had benefited from training, awareness-raising in hygiene promotion and construction/rehabilitation of water works in their respective communities. They were overwhelmingly satisfied as existing water supply works were not only strengthened but also new sources were captured by bringing the abundant and drinking water closer to the community. These assertions are confirmed by the following results:

**Figure 1: Assessment of wait times at the water point**

Several beneficiaries believe that thanks to the intervention of the project they have been brought closer to the water works as illustrated in this figure.

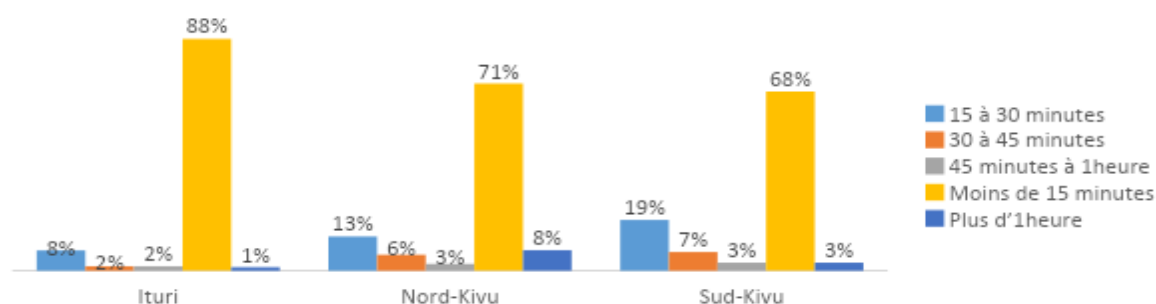


Figure (1) shows the wait times at water points in the households surveyed for the three provinces. We note that overall, more than 75.6% of respondents wait less than 15 minutes at the water point to find water. This reality is more expressed in Ituri Province (88%), followed by North Kivu Province (71%) and South Kivu Province (68%).

**Figure 2: Estimated temporal distance between the household and the water point**

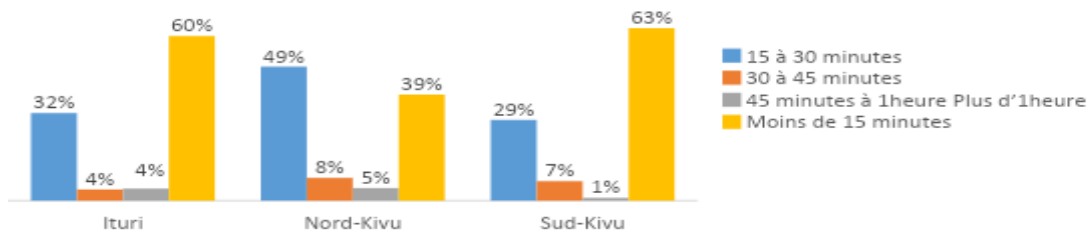


Figure (2) illustrates the time taken to fetch water from the households surveyed for the three provinces. Overall, the majority of respondents, 54% on average, take less than 15 minutes to fetch water. A high proportion is constantly high in the provinces of South Kivu (63%), followed by Ituri province (60%). We also note that this reality is different in the province of North Kivu where a large part of the respondents, 49% spend 15 to 30 minutes.

**Figure 3: Permanent access to water**

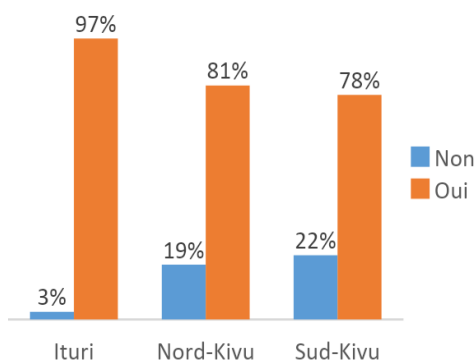


Figure (3) demonstrates the views of the households surveyed on the issue of ongoing water accessibility. We note that the majority of respondents, 85%, admit to having access to water at all times. This reality is different depending on the province, where we note that in Ituri province 97% of respondents admit to having access to water permanently followed by North Kivu province (81%) and South Kivu province (78%). On average, more than 85.3% admit to having access to water at all times.

### Hygiene promotion

The project has succeeded in improving community hygiene; through improved accessibility to handwashing devices in public places. The project's contribution has enabled communities to change their perceptions of hygiene and sanitation practices. Thanks to the project's actions, citizens have gradually become aware of the crucial importance of regularly washing their hands and building latrines.

**Figure 4: Accessibility of handwashing devices in public places**

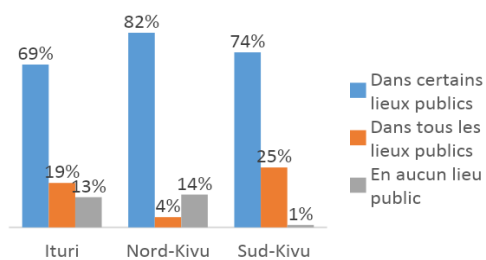


Figure (4) shows that on average 75% of households surveyed acknowledge the existence of handwashing devices in certain public places. The analysis revealed observable variations between the three provinces where we notice that 82% in North Kivu province, 74% in South Kivu province and 89% in Ituri province.

### Food security

**Figure 5: Purchasing power of beneficiaries to feed themselves**

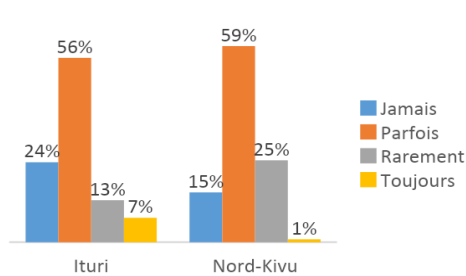


Figure (5) Shows that the majority of respondents, an average of 57.5% in both provinces as a whole, have purchasing power that sometimes allows them to feed themselves, followed by an average of 19.5% of respondents who say that their purchasing power never allows them to feed themselves and 19% who say that their purchasing power rarely allows them to feed themselves.

Many of the direct beneficiaries interviewed during the community consultations, however, acknowledged that they still had the purchasing power to feed themselves.

**Figure 6: Access to sufficient food**

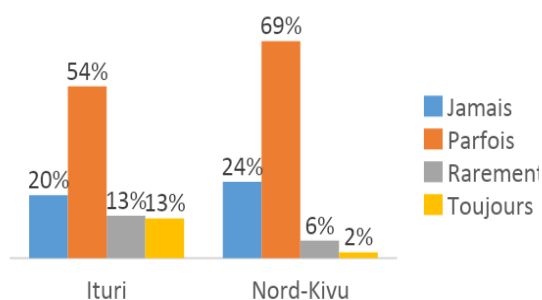


Figure shows that; about 61.5% of the households surveyed said they sometimes had access to food in sufficient quantities, followed by 22% of respondents who said they never had access to food in quantity. Only 7.5% have access to food in quantity. These realities demonstrate that the need for food in quantity remains a concern in these areas.

**Figure 7: Possibility of beneficiaries to have a food stock**

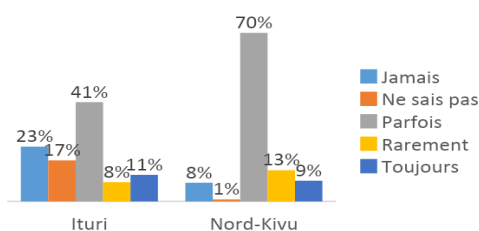


Figure (7) illustrates the possibility of beneficiaries having a food stock. We note that on average 55.5% of respondents sometimes have the food stocks, followed by 15.5% who live from day to day. We note that a large proportion of people living from day to day, 23% are in Ituri province. But the direct beneficiaries believe they have enough stock despite the displacements due to the clashes.

Beyond these observations, the analyses show that:

- On average **73.5% of respondents have the possibility of having a food stock that guarantees their survival between cropping periods**, followed by 15.5% of respondents who can have a food stock ranging from 1 week to 1 month, which is a significant gap in terms of food security among indirect beneficiaries;
- **Agriculture is the main source of food supply for 78% of respondents**. This reality varies according to the provinces, where we observe a high percentage, 87% in the province of North Kivu and 69% in the province of Ituri.
- For 76.5% of respondents, agriculture is the main source of their income. This reality is almost identical in the provinces of North Kivu (78%) and Ituri (75%).
- The majority of respondents, i.e. 61.5%, think that the means/inputs of the project have helped to improve the food security of their entity, followed by 37.5% of people who recognize that the project has helped them a lot in this area despite population displacements due to clashes between armed groups in Beni and Fizi.
- In all of two provinces, 66.5% of respondents who used project seeds are satisfied with the results after using said seeds and 33.5% were faced with clashes between armed groups. They didn't have time to harvest.

- On average 87.5% of respondents think that the project has not accompanied them to rent fields on an occasional basis. This is observed in the province of Ituri, 89% and the province of North Kivu, 86%.

Most of the beneficiaries say that the project has improved their diet through training that has helped them understand the need to have home gardens for displaced families and for host populations, which has enabled them to produce on small surfaces following good agricultural methods and practices.

According to the testimonies of several informants, after the project some beneficiaries began to operate small businesses, to pay royalties directly to landowners, to leave the camps to take a lease, and there was a reduction in cases of acute malnutrition. **The health of families and children has improved as a result of these interventions** and they now have access to a variety of food and cases of acute malnutrition have been significantly reduced.

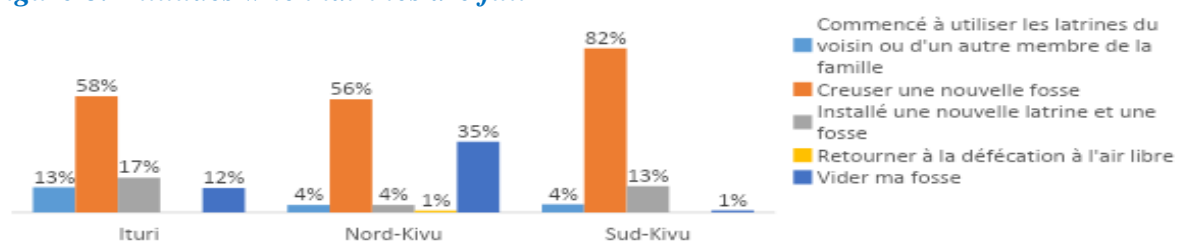
### III.3 EFFECT OF THE PROJECT

According to the results of community consultations and field observations, the effects of the project are very satisfactory. This assertion is demonstrated by the results below:

#### WASH

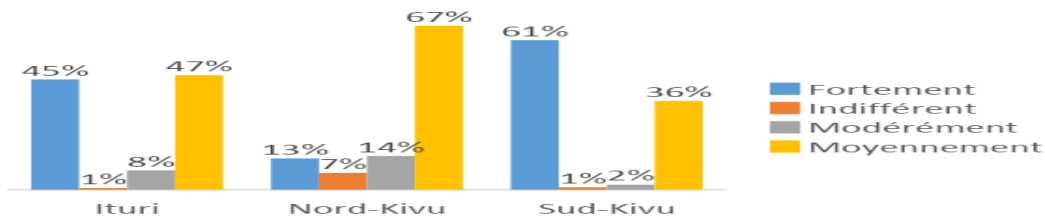
- Overall, more than 74.6% of respondents agree that there are fewer cases of diarrhoea thanks to the project's support. This observation is much more remarkable in South Kivu province (94%), followed by Ituri province (84%) and North Kivu province (46%). According to several informants in South Kivu province, diarrhoea cases have been significantly reduced.
- Several respondents (59.3%) believe that the project has contributed to the change in hygiene practices. This reality was observed in the province of South Kivu (100%) and Ituri (58%). In addition, a difference was observed in the province of North Kivu where a large proportion of respondents (80%) are of the opposite opinion because of population displacements.

*Figure 8: Attitudes when latrines are full*



This figure shows the attitudes to be taken by the respondents in the face of a full latrine. We note that the majority of them, more than 65.3%, think that a new pit should be dug, followed by 16% of respondents who think that it is better to empty the pit.

*Figure 9: Changing lifestyles through the project's awareness messages*



This figure shows the impact of the awareness-raising messages disseminated during the implementation of the project on the way of life of the beneficiaries. We note that a large part of the respondents, 50% were marked moderately by these messages, followed by more than 39.6% who think they were strongly marked by these messages.

allowed communities to change the way they grow and diversify their diets. This is what these results show us:

- Overall, 66.5% of respondents sometimes (not always) depend on food aid to survive. This proportion is much higher in North Kivu province (74%) than in Ituri province (59%).
- 55.5% of respondents believe they have had access to a very rich diet thanks to the project. This reality is observed differently in North Kivu province (80%) than in Ituri province (31%).

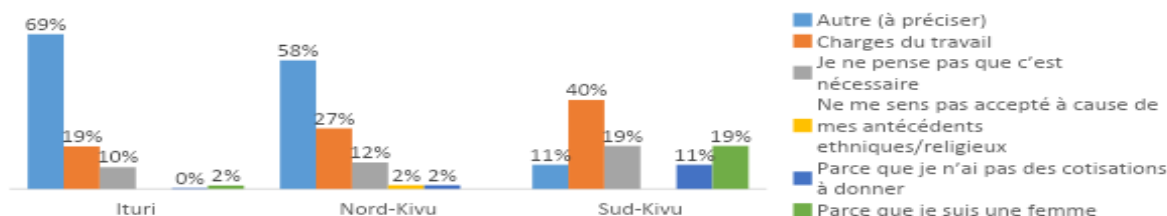
### III.4 SUSTAINABILITY

#### WASH

The sustainability of the effects produced by the implementation of the project is proven by the following results:

- More than 88.6% of respondents say they are aware of the existence of a local water management committee in their community. This proportion is high in Ituri province (91%), followed by South Kivu province (89%) and North Kivu (86%).
- A large number of respondents, 89.6% overall, say that their entity's water management committee is active and functional and 94% of respondents say that decisions within water committees are executed;
- More than 61.6% of respondents contribute to the costs of upkeep and maintenance of WASH structures or infrastructures. A high turnout is observed in the provinces of North Kivu (80%) and South Kivu (73%). Due to the movement of populations, it is difficult to maximize revenue for the maintenance of the works and other works are abandoned because of the clashes.
- For 58% of respondents find that the price of participation in the care and maintenance of WASH structures is reasonable. This reality varies in the province of North Kivu (69%), South Kivu (57%) and Ituri 48%. It should be noted, however, that some respondents contacted in Ituri Province stated that after the handover of the water supply works, the water committees increased the price of access to water supplies, which forced many beneficiaries to resort to the water sources used in the past. This bill was binding as the community did not have the culture to buy water supply services on the one hand and lack of resources on the other.

*Figure 10: Reasons for Not Attending Water Committee Meetings*

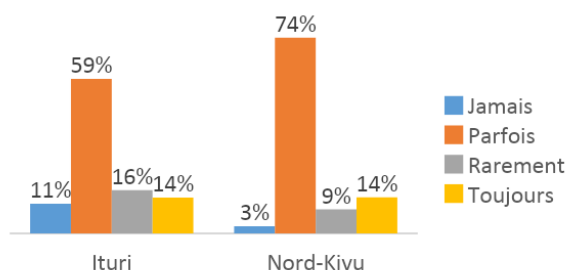


Most of the respondents said that a high workload is causing them not to participate in water committee meetings. This reality varies in the province of South Kivu (40%), North Kivu (27%) and Ituri (19%).

Apart from these results, several informants report that insecurity, refusal to pay dues and poor maintenance of structures undermine the durability of equipment. There is also a lack of involvement of public authorities and community ownership (ASUREP and Water Committee).

### Food security

Figure 11: Food Aid Dependency After Project Support



Overall, 66.5% of respondents sometimes depend on food support despite project support. This reality varies in North Kivu Province (74%) and Ituri Province (59%).

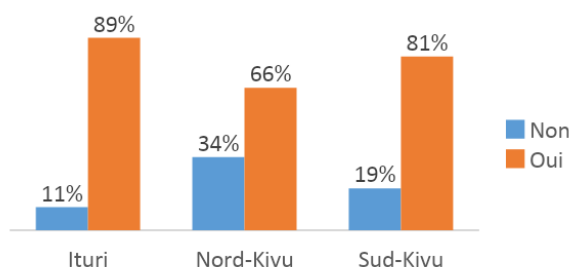
## III.4 PARTICIPATION AND SATISFACTION OF BENEFICIARIES

### WASH

The participation and satisfaction of beneficiaries was considered laborious. This is demonstrated by the following results:

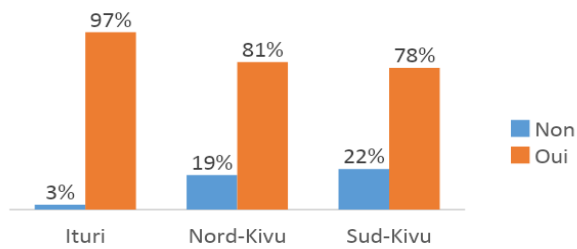
- The majority of survey participants (73.6%) say they received hygiene awareness messages during the 12 months of the project, including 88% in South Kivu and Ituri and 45% in North Kivu. On the other hand, 26.3% of participants believe they did not have the messages during the year;
- 65% prefer to receive awareness messages through community relays;
- Overall, 88% of respondents agreed that these messages were very useful. This reality varies in Ituri Province (93%), 89% in South Kivu and 82% in North Kivu.

Figure 12: Satisfaction of water quality received from the project



78.6% of household survey participants felt that they were satisfied with the water quality received from the project. This is 89% in Ituri, 81% in South Kivu and 66% in North Kivu.

Figure 13: Satisfaction with the amount of water received from the project



85.3% of household survey participants felt they were satisfied with the amount of water received from the project. This is 97% in Ituri, 81% in South Kivu and 78% North Kivu.

## FOOD SAFETY

In the area of food safety, the following observations have been demonstrated:

- 58% of participants in household surveys believe that the training received in food safety was essential. This proportion is higher in North Kivu Province (71%) than in Ituri (45%).
- More than 63% of respondents believed that their knowledge and skills acquired through food safety training have improved significantly. This reality varies in Ituri Province (88%) and North Kivu Province (38%);
- Overall, 52.5% of participants said they were satisfied with the results of using farming tools. This was observed in North Kivu province (53%) and Ituri province (52%).

Note: The post-implementation war context disrupted the stability of the population and impacted beneficiary's outcomes.

## III.5 THE SECURITY SITUATION AND THE PROJECT

On the basis of community consultations and observations on the ground, the following findings emerge:

- **55% of respondents believe that the project has had a lot of impact on conflict and violence of displaced people**, followed by 34% of respondents who acknowledge some impact of the project on conflict and violence of displaced people. Some respondents say that with the increase in the amount of water and the bringing of drinking water closer to the community, there has been a reduction in quarrels and disputes at water points.
- **Most beneficiaries (55%) believe that the project has not improved the safety conditions of women and children at all.** On the other hand, **58% of people think that the project has been involved in improving the living conditions of people living with disabilities** through the implementation of disability-sensitive structures.

## LIMIT AND CHALLENGES

This final assessment mission experienced a number of limitations and challenges, the main ones being:

- At the time of the investigation, there were armed clashes between militias in a few target villages, resulting in some villages initially targeted being replaced on the ground.
- Data collection was carried out during the rainy season, as a result, some villages were deemed inaccessible even for vehicles, making it difficult to meet the beneficiaries.
- It was also the time when farmers are busy on their farm (seasonal period of agricultural preparation), which occurs far from their village. Supervisors and investigators encountered difficulties in moving around the different targeted areas due to distance, poor road conditions, flooded areas and difficult terrain in the three targeted Provinces; it also meant that enumerators had to walk everywhere on foot rather than using vehicles.

- Communication is one of the major coordination constraints. Most interviews with stakeholders and key informants were conducted by mobile phone. This was difficult due to the lack of power source to charge the phones and the limited cellular coverage in the areas. As a result, these activities took longer to complete.

The four challenges mentioned above may have an impact on the analysis of the data collected and their interpretation in the evaluation, but we believe that we have limited the risks of bias in order to produce a quality report both in form and in substance. The strategy of organising separate focus groups from women and men has contributed significantly to reducing this gap in the involvement of women and men in this evaluation and its impact on the technical report.

## **ANALYSIS OF THE Project Theory of Change**

The results of this evaluation show that the theory of change developed by Tearfund and the beneficiaries was well founded; it constituted a solid framework for this project, the indispensable basis of its structuring. Indeed, the activities put in place or the contributions were based on a contextual analysis that was both realistic and detailed and showed all its relevance. The results and repercussions largely met expectations despite an extremely difficult context in terms of security.

It is only desirable that in a next phase these issues of safety and protection against GBV be better integrated if only on WASH (fetch water or take a shower) where some results remain weak.

Overall, this theory of change should still be taken up again with a gendered and more inclusive analysis and vision that makes it possible to target more precisely the specific needs of change to women and young people as well as people living with disabilities.

Finally, a refinement would also be desirable according to the types of populations, which would lead to distinctions between the ethnic groups concerned, the host populations, those displaced those who have returned, as well as political commitment when we know that some sites are under the umbrella of armed groups.

## **CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATIONS**

This report presented the key results of the final evaluation of the project: "Emergency support to conflict-affected populations in eastern DRC". The results show that the project design was relevant to meet the needs of the target populations. By analyzing the performance of the project against its indicators, it is apparent that the project was more effective in meeting the expected results. The project met the targets for all expected indicators for year 1 and 2. Moreover, according to the results of community consultations and field observations, the effects of the project are very satisfactory. On the other hand, the sustainability of the effects produced by the implementation of the project was present and proven by its results. In the end, the participation and satisfaction of the beneficiaries was considered laborious.

Based on these key findings, the following recommendations were made:

- **Tearfund**
  - Make more efforts to involve women, youth and persons with disabilities in project activities and consider their specific needs. The results of the community consultations

show that the organization of activities to involve women and youth has not been very satisfactory. There remains a reluctance of adult men to take into account the opinions of women and young people. For this reason, educate adults about the benefits of inclusive decision-making. Activities that aim to improve women's and youth decision-making should include adult men and decision-makers with a positive masculinity approach to guide them towards more inclusive decision-making processes at the family and community level. In addition, the needs of people living with disabilities have been directly taken into consideration because the location of these water points and the architecture of the structures are sensitive to people with disabilities.

- Improve the mechanisms of transfer of responsibilities to local structures for the sustainability of activities after the end of the project through more effective collaboration with community leaders that could facilitate the sustainability of activities and a system of continuous monitoring with young leaders. Before the end of the project, ensure that the leaders in charge of the different structures are engaged and equipped with the necessary skills to continue to meet without project support, and that they are supported by local authorities and other community leaders;
- Develop a mechanism for securing the Wash structures to avoid dirt and unsanitary situation emanating from rainwater. This can be done, for example, by planting trees, building small walls around the works or building gutters all around the works for their safety in the event of a landslide on uneven ground.

- **In Mavuno**

- Plan and budget the seed security kit (to secure the consumption of seeds before the first harvest) and the land/field rental fund in the displaced areas;
- Take into account the needs of host populations during distributions. This approach will avoid tensions between the host population and displaced persons;
- Organize seed fairs, NFI and WASH in communities;
- Organize capacity building training in food security for partner Civil Society Organizations, Security and Protection within the framework of skills transfer;
- Develop gender-sensitive SECAL image boxes

- **To the Congolese government**

- Strengthen the mobilization of provincial and territorial authorities in South Kivu, North Kivu and Ituri to address the insecurity that persists in the eastern region of the DRC.

- **To the community**

- Participate massively in the costs of care and maintenance of Wash structures;
- Strengthen community work around Wash structures.

## **ANNEXES**