



FEED^{THE}FUTURE

The U.S. Government's Global Hunger & Food Security Initiative

FEED THE FUTURE DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF THE CONGO STRENGTHENING VALUE CHAINS ACTIVITY

QUARTERLY REPORT Q1 / FISCAL YEAR 18
October 1 to December 31 2017



USAID
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January 2018

This publication was produced for review by the United States Agency for International Development. It was prepared by Tetra Tech.

Photo Caption: A total of over 50 partners and 300 individuals participated in the launch of the Feed the Future DRC Strengthening Value Chains Activity 14 November 2017, including local leaders, women coffee leaders, agribusinesses, private investors, USAID implementing partners, cooperatives, microfinance institutions and telecommunications firms.

Photo Credit: Jen Peterson/Tetra Tech ARD

Prepared for the United States Agency for International Development, USAID Contract Number AID-660-C-17-00003, Feed the Future Democratic of the Congo Strengthening Value Chains Activity.

Implemented by:
Tetra Tech ARD
159 Bank Street, Suite 300
P.O. Box 1397
Burlington, VT 05402

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DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF THE CONGO

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DISCLAIMER: This report is made possible by the generous support of the American people through the United States Agency for International Development (USAID). The contents are the responsibility of Tetra Tech, and do not necessarily reflect the views of USAID or the United States Government.

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ACRONYMS AND ABBREVIATIONS

A2F	Access to Finance
ACOSYF	Association Coopérative pour la Synergie Féminine
AMELP	Activity Monitoring, Evaluation and Learning Plan
ARD	Associates in Rural Development
ASBL	<i>Association Sans But Lucratif</i>
AWP	Annual Work Plan
B2B	Business-to-Business
BDS	Business Development Services
CARG	<i>Conseil Agricole Rural de Gestion</i>
CARPE	Central Africa Regional Program for the Environment
CBRMT	Capacity Building for Responsible Minerals Trade
COP	Chief of Party
CWS	Coffee Washing Stations
DCA	Development Credit Authority
DCOP	Deputy Chief of Party
DFAP	Development Food Aid Program
DFSA	Development Food Security Activity
DFID	Department for International Development
DPM	Deputy Project Manager
DQA	Data Quality Assessment
DRC	Democratic Republic of the Congo
FAO	United Nations Food and Agriculture Organization
FEC	<i>Fédération des Entreprises du Congo</i>
FFP	Food for Peace
FH	Food for the Hungry
FY	Fiscal Year
GDRC	Government of the Democratic Republic of the Congo
IGA	Integrated Governance Activity
IHP	Integrated Health Project
IITA	International Institute for Tropical Agriculture
IKYA	IITA Kalambo Youth Agripreneurs
INERA	<i>Institut National pour l'Etude et la Recherche Agronomiques</i>
IPAPEL	<i>Inspecteur Provincial de l'Agriculture, la Pêche et l'Élevage</i>
IPs	Implementing Partners
ISP	Internet Service Provider
JAA	J. E. Austin and Associates, Inc.
KYBK	<i>Kahawa Bora Ya Kivu</i>
MC	Mercy Corps
M&E	Monitoring and Evaluation
MEL	Monitoring, Evaluation and Learning
MFI	Microfinance Institution
MIS	Market Information System
MONUSCO	<i>Mission de l'Organisation des Nations Unies pour la stabilisation du Congo</i>

MOU	Memorandum of Understanding
NGO	Non-Governmental Organization
ONC	Office National du Café
ONEM	Office National de l'Emploi
PAD	<i>Programme d'Appui au Développement Durable</i>
PIAD	<i>Programmes des Initiatives d'Appui au Développement</i>
PICS	Purdue Improved Crop Storage
PM	Project Manager
POSA	Producer Organization Strengthening Assessment tool
R&D	Research & Development
SBCC	Social Behavior Change Communication
SENASEM	National Seed Service (<i>Service National des Semences</i>)
SFCG	Search for Common Ground
SOW	Statement of Work
SPR	Solutions for Peace and Recovery
SVC	Strengthening Value Chains (Activity)
TA	Technical Assistance
TCN	Third Country National
TEP	Tribunes d'Expressions Populaires
TNS	Techno Serve
UCB	<i>Université Catholique de Bukavu</i>
UNDP	United Nations Development Program
UPSKI	Union of Soybean Producers of Kivu
USAID	United States Agency for International Development
VC	Value Chain
VCM	Value Chain Manager
VSLA	Village Savings and Loan Association
WCR	World Coffee Research
WFP	World Food Program

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The Feed the Future DRC Strengthening Value Chains Activity (SCV) is a five year program funded by USAID and implemented by a consortium including six international contractors, led by Tetra Tech ARD. The Activity is focused on specialty coffee, soybean and dried common bean value chains, and is implemented in three territories of South Kivu, DRC. The program began in late May 2017, and will end in May 2022. This report summarizes activities carried out from 1 October 2017 – 31 December 2017 (Quarter 1, Fiscal Year 2018).

The month of October was focused on finalizing and training new staff and setting up the project office and systems, and meeting with local stakeholders. The team celebrated International Coffee Day with the National Coffee Office (ONC) and local coffee cooperatives in Walungu and Kabare. The SVC gender and youth specialist supported the first national assembly for the Women in Coffee and Cocoa Initiative (IFCCA) in Goma, and the Value Chain Manager and the Agricultural Inputs Specialist conducted mapping exercises in target territories. A Political Economy Analysis (PEA) was conducted, which involved consultations with over 80 coffee, soy and bean value chain stakeholders in the Kivus. The Access to Finance Assessment was also conducted, and results disseminated to local stakeholders.

In November the project was officially launched with an open house, which included stands from 18 USAID implementing partners, local businesses and cooperatives, and over 185 participants¹. The launch event was widely broadcast on local media, including radio and social media. The Gender, Social Inclusion and Conflict Mitigation Assessment was completed, and a strategy and action plan developed to integrate assessment findings into the FY18 workplan, and into Activity strategic documents. Significant progress was made to develop public – private partnerships with local landowners, or concessionaires, to support input supply and access to markets, storage and information for neighboring smallholder farmers and landless households.

The Monitoring, Evaluation and Learning (MEL) team participated in two separate monitoring and evaluation workshops organized by USAID, in collaboration with Food For Peace (FFP) partners. A revised Activity Monitoring, Evaluation and Learning Plan (AMELP) was drafted, and will be completed in Quarter 2 FY18, in collaboration with FFP implementing partners.

In August and November a safety and security plan was drafted and presented to staff, and in December the team participated in additional Hostile Environment Awareness Training (HEAT).

Numerous stakeholder consultations were held to present the SVC project and identify potential areas for collaboration. During the quarter, the team reached out to over 200 potential value chain partners and key stakeholders, and held multiple meetings with USAID implementing partners.

The team achieved 70% of Q1 FY18 planned activities, and expended 8% of the overall life of activity budget. The SVC Activity is on track to achieve anticipated FY18 targets.

¹ We had 18 partner stands, but 50 partners attend the launch. We had 185 invited guests who signed in, and an estimated 300 total people attend the event. This is why the figures are slightly different from the photo caption.

I.0 INTRODUCTION

In May 2017, The United States Agency for International Development (USAID) awarded to Tetra Tech ARD the Feed the Future Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC) Strengthening Value Chains (SVC) Activity (Contract no. AID-660-C-17-00003). Tetra Tech implements the activity in collaboration with five international subcontractors including TechnoServe (TNS), World Coffee Research (WCR), Search for Common Ground (SFCG), Banyan Global and J.E. Austin and Associates, Inc. (JAA). The purpose of the activity is to increase household incomes and access to nutrient rich crops by linking small-holder farmers to strengthened and inclusive value chains and supportive market services. The SVC Activity is designed to complement USAID investments in governance, food security, health, and environment, strengthening the foundation for durable peace in eastern DRC. SVC applies a nutrition-sensitive value chain and market systems development approach that combines technical assistance and capacity building for value chain actors, credit facilitation, assistance with market linkages, public-private partnership development, social behavior change communication, and advocacy to support soy, dried bean and specialty coffee value chain development in South Kivu. The Activity targets three territories in South Kivu - Walungu, Kabare and Kalehe – over a period of five years (May 2017 – May 2022). This report covers the period from 1 October to December 31 2017 (Q1 of Fiscal Year 2018, or FY18).

The SVC Activity includes the following components:

- **Component 1:** Build capacity of vertical and horizontal actors in targeted value chains;
- **Component 2:** Enhance coffee production;
- **Component 3 (Cross Cutting):** Develop and implement public private partnerships;
- **Component 4 (Cross Cutting):** Enhance access to commercial finance, including through technical assistance to implement Development Credit Authority (DCA) agreements

And the following cross cutting priorities:

1. Conflict sensitivity and resiliency,
2. Feed the Future goals,
3. Gender,
4. Climate-smart agriculture,
5. Value chain and market systems development,
6. Sustainability and local systems strengthening.

As stipulated in the SVC contract with USAID, this report is structured as follows:

1. Introduction;
2. Status of Quarter I work plan and progress to date;
3. Challenges and constraints;
4. Collaboration with development partners;
5. Training and capacity building;
6. Lessons learned from the Gender, Social Inclusion and Conflict Mitigation Strategy
7. Monitoring, Evaluation, Learning and Adapting
8. Environmental management and monitoring;
9. Financial status

2.0 STATUS OF Q1 WORK PLAN AND PROGRESS TO DATE

Overall, seventy percent of the first quarter (Q1) activities described in the FY18 annual work plan (AWP), were achieved (see Appendix I). In addition, all activities in the FY17 start up workplan have been completed, with the exception of the following four activities:

Activity	Status
Project orientation and technical training (all staff)	Currently scheduled for Q2 FY18 (waiting for new COP and coffee team to be hired)
Create SVC steering committee	Terms of reference drafted; waiting for after the holidays to move forward
Review DFAP baseline data assessment report	Preliminary data reviewed in October; final report not yet available
Establish the M&E system	Attended joint M&E workshop with DFAPs in late November; waiting for final DFAP M&E indicators to finalize the M&E system, but PIRS and data collection forms have been drafted for all activities.

Delayed implementation of Q1 activities was largely due to some delays on-boarding and training new staff, the time and manpower needed to organize the project launch, and the Christmas and New Years' holidays. At this time, we don't expect to have any difficulties implementing Q1 activities which have shifted to Q2.

Staffing and training: Seven staff were hired and on-boarded this quarter. Remaining staff to be hired include the Trade and Policy Specialist, and the entire coffee production and processing team (slated for Q2 FY18). In October, all staff were trained in Tetra Tech and USAID procurement and contracting rules and regulations as well as basic safety and security by home office staff. A more intensive Hostile Environment Awareness Training (HEAT) was also given to 12 SVC staff, in collaboration with the CBRMT project. The training was done in Rwanda, because trainers were not able to get their DRC visas in time for the scheduled event.

The SVC Launch: On November 14th 2017, the Feed the Future DRC Strengthening Value Chains Activity was officially launched with an open house at the SVC office. Several representatives from USAID and the Department of State/US Embassy attended the event, including the USAID Mission Director Christophe Tocco. Numerous officials from the South Kivu Provincial Government, as well as actors and development partners working in North and South Kivu also attended the event. In total, approximately 185 people attended the launch, including 18 USAID implementing partners, cooperatives and private sector actors who set up stands at the event. An exit poll conducted with 118 participants revealed that roughly 35% of participants were women, 46% were under 35 years of age, and 86% of participants came from the city of Bukavu. 27% of exit poll participants were members of agricultural cooperatives, 14% were from

government, 24% represented USAID Implementing Partners (IPs) or other International NGOs, 25% came from civil society, and 9% of participants represented the media. Most participants (91%) spent more than two hours at the event, and 78% rated the event good or excellent. 81% rated SVC approaches as good (33%) or excellent (48%).

Photo Caption 2: Participants at the Feed the Future DRC SVC launch included local companies, such as Soci   Olive, USAID Mission Director Christophe Tocco and Feed the Future DRC SVC COR Sara Calvert, as well as local soy processors such as ACOSYF.



2.1 COMPONENT I: BUILD CAPACITY OF VERTICAL AND HORIZONTAL ACTORS IN TARGETED VALUE CHAINS (VC)

IR 1.1 Increased use of improved agriculture practices and inputs²

- This quarter the Agricultural Inputs Specialist was recruited and on-boarded. The Ag Inputs Specialist met with key stakeholders including key provincial Ministry of Agriculture stakeholders (IPAPPEL, SENAFIC, SENASEM), research institutions (INERA, IITA, Harvest Plus) and input providers (AGRIFORCE) to identify potential partnerships.
- A working session was organized with SeedCo, an international input supply company with offices in Rwanda and Uganda, to identify opportunities to expand activities in target areas. SeedCo is interested in developing a partnership with the SVC Activity. The Agricultural Inputs Specialist is analyzing previous SeedCo interventions to identify lessons learned and to evaluate the potential for a successful partnership.
- A working session was also organized with ELAN DRC and NASECO / Uganda to discuss agricultural inputs systems in South Kivu. ELAN DRC has accompanied international companies to access the Congolese market, including NASECO (a seed producer based in Uganda), which has introduced a maize variety called "BAZOOKA". BAZOOKA is appreciated by initial users for its high yield; because its stalks are strong, it can also be used to support intercropping with climbing beans. Climbing beans are not yet widely produced in South Kivu, but they are potentially more profitable than bush beans, as their yields are much higher. NASECO has developed an integrated model to enter the DRC inputs market that consists of inputs packages plus technical support, deploying a team of local agricultural monitors. This model could be duplicated for other inputs and seeds in target areas.
- The Agricultural Inputs Specialist mapped actors in the inputs sector in Bukavu and Kabare in December 2017, and will complete the mapping exercise in January 2018.

² All IR's in this report refer to USAID/DRC's *Kivu Agriculture and Nutrition Shared Results Framework*.

IR 2.1 Improved market linkages and information systems

- Mapping soy and bean actors in the three target territories continued this quarter. The SVC teams conducted five missions to Kalehe, Kabare and Walungu to identify different value chain actors (producers, dealers, companies, etc.).
- The Market Linkage Specialist made a trip to Rwanda to participate in a B2B event organized by the East Africa Trade and Investment Hub (a USAID-funded project). The objective of the mission was to establish linkages with regional information systems and to understand current market dynamics.
- The Activity also organized a Business Table Event with entrepreneurs CYED, AGRIFORCE, MARK and ALTECH in November 2017. This working session provided the team with an opportunity to discuss market information with a small group of active players in targeted value chains. The session also allowed the team to understand the capacities and needs of key actors, and to discuss opportunities and challenges in two target value chains. Based on this experience, the Activity will organize additional B2B events in the coming months using the East Africa Trade and Investment Hub model.
- The Market Linkage Specialist explored the possibility of setting up a central station for the collection and dissemination of information on coffee, soy and bean value chains. One possibility includes engaging a public service for this aim, such as IPAPEL. Exchanges were launched in December 2017 with IPAPEL and the Provincial Ministry of Agriculture, as well as academic institutions in South Kivu, in order to identify an option to make the dissemination of market prices autonomous and sustainable.

IR 2.2 Improved post-harvest storage and processing

- The terms of reference for the Collection and Storage Center Assessment were drafted and a consultant selected and approved by USAID. The study is scheduled for February/March 2018.
- The Post-Harvest Handling and Processing Specialist conducted a mission in several villages of Kabare (Luhahi, Bushumba, Birava, Lugendo, Ishungu and Kabamba) to identify the main collection and storage centers, as well as health centers and women's groups producing soybeans). During the same mission, the Post-Harvest Handling and Processing Specialist worked with the private sector, cooperatives, associations and other actors involved in the production, storage, processing and marketing of soybeans and beans to prepare a baseline study of storage practices, as well as key constraints and opportunities. The study is scheduled to be launched in January 2018.
- During this visit, the team identified an opportunity for collaboration with women's soybean groups and health centers in Katana Health Zone (linking nutrition and income through soy processing) and the need for technical support on soy processing. The few collection and storage centers that exist in the region are largely owned by NGO-supported associations and cooperatives. A limited number of private actors operate in soy and beans value chains, with a capacity of less than five tons per month. A few households have private stocks of soy and beans (mostly in Kabamba, Katana and Kavumu), and for the most part, there are only small buildings or containers in which heaped soy, beans, cassava flour and maize are stored, without respecting storage and conservation norms and standards, with very low adoption of appropriate post-harvest techniques.

IR 2.3 Improved Access to Finance

- See Component (Cross Cutting) 4

IR 2.4 Increased capacity of producer groups, organizations and enterprises

- Several work sessions were organized this quarter within the Component I team, including the Market Linkage Specialist, the Producer Association Development Specialist, the Agricultural Inputs Specialist, the Post-Harvest Handling and Processing Specialist and the DCOP, to outline a cooperative development strategy using the MindMap tool. During these exchanges, a multi-year strategy for cooperative development was developed which will serve as a roadmap for cooperative strengthening activities and planning.

- To co-develop farmer field schools (FFS) and experimental plots with private actors, field visits were conducted to identify sites and potential partners (concessionaires, agrodealers, INERA-Mulungu, cooperatives and associations). In addition, working sessions were organized by the Producer Association Development Specialist to develop the strategy, tools and modules for farmer field schools. Two working sessions were organized with DFAP partners (Mercy Corps and FH) to harmonize the process of setting up Farmer Field Schools in Kalehe, Kabare and Walungu. Collaborative lines have been drawn up so that the methods applied to support cooperatives in the same zones are as complementary and constructive as possible.
- A TechnoServe inspired assessment tool called POSA (Producer Organization Strengthening Assessment tool) that identifies cooperative strengths and weaknesses was updated and adapted for use with soybean, bean and coffee value chain. The tool was tested in November 2017 in Kabare with two Producer Organizations (POs) and in Bukavu with a private start-up called CYED - Corporation for Youth Emancipation and Development. The tool was appreciated by the SVC Activity team as well as by participating cooperatives, and it accurately assessed PS capacity and needs. The tool will also help identify appropriate partners among different actors, including potential PO "champions". The modified tool could also be used by Mercy Corps to evaluate POs. The tool will be simplified and streamlined as it is adapted for use by SVC staff.
- In December two technical support sessions were organized for six cooperatives (two of the six run by women) working in the coffee value chain, to develop a proposal to submit to USADF.

2.2 COMPONENT 2: ENHANCE COFFEE PRODUCTION

IR 1.1 Increased use of improved agriculture practices and inputs

- An agreement with UCB and INERA was signed to execute on-farm demo trials (OFDT) and variety and treatment trials on intercropping, mycorrhizae (fungal associations between plant roots and beneficial fungi), biochar (charcoal used as a soil additive), and fertilizers. A Research & Development Coordinator was recruited to manage the trials.
- A local Wet Mill Business Advisor consultant has been hired to lead wet mill activities until the larger coffee team is on-boarded in January.
- In November, as a follow-on to the production mapping exercise in Kabare Territory (see FY17 annual report), a team of local mappers began conducting a sub-village level boundary exercise in Lugendo Centre and Ishungu groupements (see below). The mappers determined an estimated 992 coffee farmers are located in Lugendo Groupement, confirming a previous estimate of 1,056 (a 6% difference; see Figure 1). Considering the work involved to map at the sub-village level, we expect to complete this exercise for Kabare Territory by mid-2018.
- The estimated total number of coffee farmers in Kabare Territory remains approximately 6,000. Assuming 5,000 of the 6,000 farmers will register for Farm College, which is, in turn, estimated to result in 4,000 trained farmers, we provisionally plan to include all eight coffee-growing groupements in Kabare Territoire for the first cohort of coffee production training.

IR 2.2 Improved post-harvest storage and processing

- 14 clients have been identified to potentially receive advisory support during the 2018 wet mill season (see Table 1). Currently, basic client data information is being collected. Of the 14 potential clients, we expect between eight and ten to become SVC clients during the upcoming season. A maximum of one wet mill will be supported per client in order to best serve the widest possible portfolio of clients. We will evaluate wet mill performance at the end of each season. For clients who successfully adopt improved practices, the project will expand the number of wet mills supported in the following year.

Figure 1: Sub-village boundaries for Lugendo and Ishungu Groupements, Kabare Territory, South Kivu³



Table 1: Potential SVC Wet Mill Clients, 2018

Name of client	No. Washing stations	Territory	Type
KACCO	2	Kalehe	Cooperative
RAEK	2	Kabare	Cooperative
CPCCK	2	Kabare	Cooperative
CCKA	2	Kalehe	Cooperative
SOCACDI	4	Kalehe	Cooperative
AMKA	1	Kalehe	Cooperative
MUNGAANO	2	Kalehe	Cooperative
SOPAD	1	Kalehe	Cooperative
KIVU Coffee	1	Kabare	Private NEW
Olive plantation	1	Kalehe	Private
Decandol	1	Kabare	Private
Kahawa Lutumba	1	Kalehe	Private
Virunga micro station	1	Kabare	Private NEW
Don Bosco (priests)	1	Kalehe	Private NEW

³ The boundaries represent sub-village boundaries; the different colors represent village boundaries. The house symbols indicate the house of the sub-village chief and the black star represents the location of an existing wet mill.

- World Coffee Research (WCR) is currently developing a small lot sales protocol based on successful models used in neighboring Rwanda. The protocol will be completed by end of January 2018. A pilot cooperative coffee washing station (CWS) training session on the protocol will take place during the second half of January 2018. Once that training takes place, the protocol will be refined and the schedule of CWS small lot training will continue through January and February.

IR 2.3 Improved access to finance

- The team engaged in initial discussions with six coffee exporters (Café Lac, Virunga, SCAK, Twin, Letsquoia, Sucafina) about providing credit and marketing services to washing stations. The level of mistrust remains high and further discussions are required before we can launch a small pilot of the Coffee Service Provider model.
- We supported one new cooperative, Umoja, to develop a business plan which was introduced to ProCredit Bank and Bank of Africa. The requested loan amount is \$103,000, composed of a four-year CAPEX loan of \$34k and a five-month working capital loan of \$69k. This was the first time the cooperative applied for a bank loan. Unfortunately, on 22 December ProCredit informed the cooperative it will not be able to provide the requested loan due to a lack of financial records as well as concerns over available market without certification. ProCredit needs capacity building to understand coffee business risks as well as market demand. In response to the bank's concerns, the SVC team has started an analysis of coffee buyer profiles, including the requirements and repayment rates of all previous wet mill loans for the past three years.
- The business plan format was tailored to the DRC context and will be used as a tool for cooperatives and private businesses in 2018. In Q2, a simplified 'working capital only' seasonal business plan will be developed to assist wet mill access to working capital. In addition, access to finance discussions with Root Capital, Twin, and Schluter are scheduled for the first week of January 2018.

"Even though [I was] a bit nervous walking into a bank office with a calculated-out business plan in hand, I feel stronger now. With SVC team on our side, we hope to reach a higher level," said Philippe, President of the Umoja Cooperative.

IR 2.4 Increased capacity of agriculture-related producer groups, organizations and enterprises

- The most critical activity conducted this quarter to support this sub-objective was the development of the modified Producer Organization Strengthening Assessment (POSA) tool. In December 2017, following an initial client feasibility trip to tailor the POSA tool to the Congolese context, the team tested the tool on three cooperatives. Initial feedback indicated that the tool needs to be further customized to the specific business context of Congolese wet mills and soy/beans processing enterprises, and simplified to be used by business managers.

IR 2.5 Improved governmental services, regulation and taxation for agricultural inputs and trade in targeted value chains

- On December 11, 2017 the Vice-Governor of South Kivu Province, Hilaire Kasusa Kikobya, was hosted at the ONC cupping lab to discuss investment opportunities in the coffee sector with TechnoServe's CEO and President Will Warshauer. The Vice-Governor thanked USAID's Feed the Future initiative for supporting such a crucial and high-potential sector for smallholder families in South Kivu and expressed appreciation for the project's unconventional commercial approach, saying "we don't want any more organizations bringing in money and leaving without any impact to show for it; we welcome such initiatives which partner with Congolese entrepreneurs and inject valuable technical know-how for sectors to develop long term." The visit was broadcast on South Kivu television.



Photo Caption 3: Cupping session with TechnoServe CEO Will Warshauer (left), ONC's Chief Cupper Prince Bafunyembaka (middle), and the Vice-Governor Hilaire Kasusa Kikobya (right).

2.3 COMPONENT 3 (CROSS-CUTTING): DEVELOP AND IMPLEMENT PUBLIC PRIVATE PARTNERSHIPS

Several meetings and working sessions were conducted with the SVC team, DFAPs and USAID to discuss the PPP approach. A roadmap that defines the "PPP - Concessionnaire" strategy was developed and adopted. It outlines the strategy the Activity will use under this component. The approach emphasizes positive collaboration between (a) large landowners, (b) small tenant farmers, (c) state services, (d) banks, (e) service providers and (f) funding institutions for the development of targeted value chains using a business oriented approach. In the PPP development process, the Activity has identified a series of options for targeted value chains, including partnership with large landowners (*concessionnaires*).

"I am ready to accompany my wife in agricultural activities and therefore invest more. I will be happy if the neighbors of our fields as well as sharecroppers earn income from farming activities. If they are happy with us, they will work well and produce in our concessions and everyone will win and be happy. My expectations for the SVC Activity is to help me understand the profitability of the coffee, beans and soybeans; put me in touch with the experts who can train my agents, but also with market players, especially buyers", said Vanny BISHWEKA, CEO of ETS BISHWEKA, in Goma on October 13, 2017.

During this quarter, exchange visits with concessionnaires and small farmers were carried out in the three target territories with the key actors (OLIVE Company, ETS BISHWEKA, CIKA ETS, DON BOSCO, MUDWANGA, ETS RISING - LWAMBWA, SBC). Successful exchanges took place during these visits so that *concessionnaires* identified mutual interests to work with the Activity and to invest more in target value chains.

It was important to bring these large landholders to see what is being done elsewhere to improve their business models. In November 2017, a mission was organized in Rwanda together with two *concessionnaires*, ETS BISWHEKA and the OLIVE Company. The purpose of the trip was to explore agribusiness opportunities with Rwandan actors (including PASDAG / USAID, HINGA

WEZE / USAID, East Africa Trade and Investment Hub / USAID, East Africa Grain Council, East Africa Exchange, MINIMEX, SOSOMA Industries, PRODEV, SARURA Commodities Ltd., NORELGA Macadamia Rwanda Ltd., AFRICA IMPROVED FOODS, DUHAMIC ADRI, SOYCO). The mission in Rwanda demonstrated that the soybean market is significant, which encouraged and motivated both companies to invest more in soybeans. On the other hand, the trip was also timely because the OLIVE Company had already produced soy, without finding a market in the region. Part of Olive's production was sold, partly on credit to cooperatives and sharecroppers, and another part given to local factories that could not pay him back. *"Last year, the OLIVE Company produced soybeans and we did not have a market. We sold a portion, gave some as credit to cooperatives and share-croppers, and another on credit to local factories. We were getting discouraged. But after the agribusiness visit to Rwanda, we now know that the market is huge and safe. This encourages us and motivates us to invest more, intensively and professionally, in soy and bean cultivation. We will also invest in growing maize and sorghum"*, said Israel MATABARO, Counselor of the OLIVE Company in Rwanda, November 30, 2017.

In addition, the SVC team identified a plantation owner, Professor Cifende, who wants to partner with the project to rehabilitate a former washing station and plantation near the Kahuzi Biega Park border, to create a cherry delivery location for farmers. Facilitated by the project, Professor Cifende had a fruitful meeting with surrounding farmers to agree on a cherry purchasing price for the upcoming harvest season.

Meetings were held with key players and *bami* (traditional chiefs) of Idjwi Island to identify opportunities for Activity support in this part of South Kivu province (Mwami Roger NTAMBUKA of South Idjwi, Mwami Gervais RUBENGA of North Idjwi, Presidents and Representatives of Cooperatives and Idjwi Enterprises, etc.). For the time being the team will include Idjwi stakeholders in discussions and events in Bukavu. However, the Activity may need to extend interventions to Idjwi if the security situation deteriorates in current target zones, to reach anticipated targets (60,000 farmers, including 15,000 coffee producers).

One of the larger PPP activities supported by the SVC Activity is *Saveur de Kivu*, an annual coffee promotional event linking public sector service providers and private sector buyers with local producers and traders (<http://www.saveurdukivu.org/>). The event has been held for the last three years, and will be organized this year (its fourth) by Higher Grounds Coffee, ELAN, ESSOR, ECI and SVC, led by ONC. Several organizational meetings were held this quarter to discuss the vision and strategy for the *Saveur de Kivu* event, to document best practices and lessons learned from past events, and to prepare for the eventual sustainability of the event, with local leadership from ONC and private sector funding. WCR will represent SVC in these discussions, once their local representative (Sylvain KYAMAKYA) relocates to Bukavu in January.

2.4 COMPONENT (CROSS-CUTTING) 4: ENHANCE ACCESS TO COMMERCIAL FINANCE INCLUDING THROUGH TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE TO IMPLEMENT DEVELOPMENT CREDIT AUTHORITY (DCA) AGREEMENTS.

The team conducted a study on access to finance in target zones, to describe current financial practices and access to finance constraints in SVC target zones. This quarter the team finalized the study and organized a restitution of key results in November 2017. The USAID DRC Mission Country Director, accompanied by USAID Economic Growth staff and the Economic Adviser of the US Embassy in DRC attended the meeting. Several partners, including bank partners

(PROCREDIT and FINCA), microfinance institutions offering products to farmers (such as PAIDEK), and other key actors and entrepreneurs in target value chains, business development service providers, and other projects funded by USAID attended the meeting. Study results will allow the SVC team to establish a plan and to develop capacity building materials and strategies for supporting entrepreneurs. The plan is being established and will be complete in January 2018.

In addition, the Access to Finance team developed contacts with different entrepreneurs working in target value chains who expressed interest in receiving support to improve their financial processes, including the CENTRE OLAME, ETS SALAMA, COOPERATIVE KACCO, AGRIFORCE, CYED, and PROVENDE. The SVC Access to Finance team will support these organizations to develop bankable business plans, also strengthen their financial management capacity and strengthen connections with PROCREDIT Bank, which has expressed interest and willingness to work with these potential borrowers. In December the Access to Finance Specialist worked with the UMOJA cooperative to prepare a business plan, and also with KACCO to establish a business plan for the 2017-18 agricultural season, in collaboration with PROCREDIT.

The team held an important meeting with the CEO of PROCREDIT BANK during which the different constraints, financing needs and profiles of entrepreneurs in the three target value chains were explained, along with the intervention strategies and objectives of the SVC Activity. The CEO of PROCREDIT BANK reiterated the support of his institution for these entrepreneurs. He also mentioned the need for an MOU to define the actions of each party in the process. MOUs will be developed in January 2018.

2.5 CROSS CUTTING PRIORITIES

2.5.1 CONFLICT SENSITIVITY AND RESILIENCY

A training session on conflict sensitivity was held in October 2017 for all SVC staff, and conflict identification and resolution basics were discussed. In addition, a workshop was held in Bukavu to discuss the results of the Gender, Social Inclusion and Conflict Mitigation (GSICM) assessment. At the end of the workshop, the SVC GSICM strategy was refined and amended by SVC staff and partners. The GSICM strategy was approved by USAID in December 2017, and will be formally integrated into the SVC workplan in Q2. Some of the key findings from the GSICM assessment include the importance of access to and control over land as a source conflict, the relative importance of unequal access to power and resources as a source of conflict, and perceptions of intergenerational and gender based conflicts. SVC activities have been modified to integrate and address these issues and findings, in the GSICM strategy.

The SVC team assumes that shocks, stresses or opportunities will occur, and is committed to building resilient value chains and market systems that can respond appropriately. Anticipated shocks and stresses include weather related shocks, economic fluctuations and political stresses. Working together with the DFAPs and other partners, the SVC team is building the capacity of value chain actors to weather these shocks or stresses by introducing improved agricultural practices that conserve water and increase yields (“climate smart” agriculture), strengthening stakeholder financial management capacity and planning with DCA partners, and reinforcing relationships between public and private sector actors. The SVC team is also working with local institutions such as ONC and IPAPEL to strengthen supportive services and to create a regulatory environment that can respond appropriately to market opportunities. The SVC team will continue to work with Mercy Corps in Q2 to refine and deepen SVC staff capacity and understanding with regards to resilience programming, and to integrate the findings from Mercy Corps’ resilience

studies into SVC programming. SVC's approach to inclusive value chain development and women's empowerment also strengthens the resilience of target value chains and the ability of the overall sector to withstand shocks and stresses by ensuring all actors benefit from value chain opportunities and advancements. Finally, the degree to which conflicts are mitigated and social cohesion is strengthened will ultimately determine the success of SVC interventions to improve the resilience of households, communities and select value chains in target zones. SVC approaches such as the concessionaire model, cooperative and PO strengthening, and interventions including TEPs are designed to strengthen community solidarity and social cohesion, and contribute to increased resilience.

Key Resilience Questions:

1. *What are the factors of social cohesion that our activities reinforce? How?*
2. *What are the most challenging economic, environmental, and social shocks & stresses in our target areas and how can we cope with them?*
3. *How are we going to build the capacity of actors in target value chains to cope with shocks and stresses?*
4. *What can we do by working with local institutions, to strengthen or improve the services they provide?*
5. *What can we do to strengthen market systems so that these systems can better meet the expectations and aspirations of target communities?*

2.5.2 GENDER

A mission was conducted in Kalehe territory (Ihusi-Bushushu and Nyamukubi) in November 2017 to meet with groups of women, men and young victims of anti-personnel mines, since these groups are perceived as marginalized groups, and could potentially be targeted by the Activity. The SVC Gender and Youth Specialist also met with young agricultural entrepreneurs from the KACCO and CCKa cooperatives, in collaboration with the youth manager in Kalehe territory, to identify possibilities for collaboration and technical support.

During a mission to Goma in October 2017, the SVC Gender and Youth Specialist supported events related to International Coffee Day, including the first general assembly meeting of the Women in Coffee and Cocoa Sector Initiative (IFFCA), conducting a pre and post-assessment of the workshop. The SVC team also helped finance this activity with ESSOR, ELAN and ECI.

In December 2017, the Gender Specialist participated in field visits in Bukavu (at the Kamagama / Panzi and Beach Muhanzi markets) where interviews were held with women and young people involved in business, and members of cooperatives. This data was used to enrich the Access to Finance (A2F) study with gender and youth perspectives.

2.5.3 FEED THE FUTURE OBJECTIVES

Feed the Future calls for government commitment to create an enabling environment for agriculture. Feed the Future emphasizes private investment as the engine of growth, and seeks to link farmers to markets. Feed the Future places considerable emphasis on nutrition and linking nutrition to agricultural development. Finally, Feed the Future has a strong commitment to empowering women. The SVC Activity is aligned with Feed the Future principles and contributes to Feed the Future goals by using a market systems approach to improve the enabling environment for agriculture (IR 2.5), including improving access to inputs (IR 1.1), information (IR 2.1), land (through the PPP concessionaire model) and finance (IR 2.3). With the emphasis on soy and bean markets to improve access to nutritious crops, and the coffee value chain to increase access to incomes to purchase nutritious foods, SVC also contributes directly to households' ability to improve dietary diversity and nutrition outcomes (IR 3.2 and IR 3.4). With the support of a cross cutting Gender and Youth Specialist, the SVC team is intentionally focused on and committed to empowering women and engaging youth, as well as ensuring that an inclusive approach is used to strengthen target value chains.

2.5.4 CLIMATE SMART AGRICULTURE

Feed the Future technical approaches must be climate-smart. With support from World Coffee Research (WCR), *Institut National pour l'Etude et la Recherche Agronomiques* (INERA), the *Office National du Café* (ONC) and the *Université Catholique de Bukavu* (UCB), the SVC team is testing new varieties of coffee that are high yielding and better adapted to higher temperatures and lower rainfall. These varieties were highlighted in a Washington Post article in November 2017 (https://www.washingtonpost.com/graphics/2017/business/the-race-to-save-coffee/?utm_term=.f37caefb0f9e). In addition, TechnoServe is helping farmers improve their coffee production practices to reduce deforestation and forest degradation pressures, promoting improved nursery practices and shade grown coffee in collaboration with the Wildlife Conservation Society and CARPE. In Q2 FY18, the SVC team will work with DFAP staff to refine climate smart approaches for the soy and bean value chains.

A discussion with Kahuzi Biega National Park revealed interesting insights into the ways in which coffee can help reduce conflict within surrounding communities. According to Park officials, the largest challenge facing the Park is conflict with surrounding farming communities over baboons who venture outside the Park and eat food crops. While previous mitigation efforts, such as the distribution of livestock and seeds, failed to improve community relations, the Park's Tourism Program representative, Madam Gloria Mwenge Bitomwa, says, "the real sustainable solution would be to have coffee fields surrounding the Park. Monkeys don't show an interest in them, so they would act as a natural barrier between the Park and communities, promoting peaceful co-existence." SVC will begin Farm College trainings in Park-related conflict areas in FY2018

2.5.5 VALUE CHAIN AND MARKET SYSTEMS DEVELOPMENT

The Value Chain Manager met with and provided technical advice to WRH and KACCO cooperatives on coffee export contract negotiations. Three washing stations in South Kivu were visited to evaluate dry milling opportunities. The Value Chain Manager also explored partnering opportunities with international roasting and coffee companies to develop local markets. With support from the Director of TechnoServe, the SVC team entered into discussions with Nespresso, who expressed interest in expanding their supply in DRC based on the quality of coffee. The SVC team agreed to send Nespresso coffee samples at the end of the 2018 season to assess quality. Contacts were also made with representatives of SUCAFINA, at their headquarters and with their Burundi operations office to discuss the possibility of investing in new coffee washing stations in South Kivu. Finally, conversations with Long Mile Coffee, a roasting company based in Burundi, are ongoing.

2.5.6 SUSTAINABILITY AND LOCAL SYSTEMS STRENGTHENING

Every SVC intervention is designed with sustainability in mind. For example, access to inputs approaches are implemented with and through private sector actors such as NASECO and SEEDCO, to increase and improve the sustainable supply of quality, climate smart products at the local level. Similarly, access to finance approaches are implemented hand in hand with local microfinance institutions such as PROCREDIT and FINCA, linking demand with supply, establishing credit systems and business networks to sustain access to credit well after the project ends. Public service providers such as INERA, ONC and IPAPEL are actively engaged in the design and implementation of all project activities, to ensure adequate oversight and local commitment and buy-in. However, the real test of the sustainability of SVC interventions will be measured by the ability of the SVC team to make the business case for each approach and intervention, including the costs, benefits and rate of return to investment.

3.0 CHALLENGES AND CONSTRAINTS

In general, the SVC team has not encountered any significant constraints or challenges. There are normal challenges associated with project start up, and challenges associated with implementing projects in Eastern Congo. However, most of these challenges and constraints were anticipated during project design, and the team has been able to adapt and address them. These challenges are briefly discussed below, and are divided into two groups – external challenges related to the operating environment, and internal challenges related to project start up and implementation.

External Challenges

- Security is a constant concern in Eastern Congo. Field trips are occasionally delayed due to perceived risks in target zones, and the office has been closed for “ville mortes” called for by political opposition parties unhappy with the lack of electoral progress. Students have rioted and closed roads near the Institut Supérieur Pédagogique in Bukavu, and there have been civilian uprisings against police brutality in neighborhoods around Panzi hospital. On November 5th the team was surprised to wake up to gun fire and a shoot-out between government forces and a fired government official (<http://www.aljazeera.com/news/2017/11/fighting-erupts-congo-eastern-city-bukavu-171105125611219.html>). However, in all cases, the team has been able to continue working, either remotely from home, or hunkered down in the office.
- Visas and work permits are expensive, and the requirements to receive them seem to change depending on who you talk to and when you talk to them. Recently some DRC embassies have been requiring two stamps – one from the Direction Générale de Migration and another from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs – prior to processing visa requests overseas. Over the holidays in December it was particularly challenging to secure visas, and twice we had to organize meetings and training events in Rwanda, because consultants were not able to secure DRC visas.
- Although SVC relationships with local technical partners such as INERA, ONC, UCB and IPAPEL have been excellent, higher level officials from the Governor's office are affected by national level relations between the USA and the DRC. In November national level rhetoric regarding international and local NGOs and their role in civil society responses to the shift in electoral dates affected political discourse with some officials. However, in general, the SVC project has received good support from the DRC government.
- Internet, water, and electricity are sporadic and quality, when available, is poor. The electric company cut off power to the office twice, citing lack of payment of past bills. However, bills had been paid and proof of payment provided by the landlord. In addition, public utility provision is weak, resulting in significant use of the project generator. There is no water supply in the neighborhood, so all water is delivered by tanker, pumped from Lake Kivu. The team sources drinking water from ASILI. Internet service is poor, and most staff use personal USB internet thumb drives, as well as smart phones and the office internet. To access the financial management system, we have to increase dedicated bandwidth from the Internet Service Provider (ISP), at significant cost. The original ISP was so poor we had to end our contract after two weeks and source another provider. Recently, the government cut internet access to reduce communication during planned protests. This affects not only office function, but staff morale. Several staff had to move to find housing where water and electricity are more readily available.

- The quality of locally procured equipment (chairs, desks, printers, etc.) is poor. It is unclear if locally procured chairs and desks will survive for five years. Rather than purchase additional prefabricated desks and chairs from Dubai and China, we have now shifted to locally fabricated wood furniture.
- Registration as an Association Sans But Lucratif (ASBL) takes time and is quite complicated. Both Tetra Tech and TNS began the process of ASBL registration in August, and hope to complete it this month.
- Bank services are poor, and bank fees are high. We have paid over **\$7000** in bank fees since the project started, and have since closed our ECOBANK account and opened an account at PROCREDIT. Although ECOBANK Goma and Kinshasa provided adequate service for our sister project, CBRMT, service in Bukavu was inadequate, and some staff remained unpaid for several weeks or even months due to missing wire transfers.

Internal

- Inter-team coordination, especially with the coffee team and to some extent with SFCG, and the lack of our Trade and Policy Specialist, has been a challenge. This should improve in Q2 when we recruit a new DCOP and when the coffee team is fully staffed.
- Collaboration with the DFAPs and harmonization of humanitarian assistance approaches and commercial, value chain approaches is important. However, both DFAPs have been overwhelmed with their own start up processes and the “refine and implement” year slowed their start up. This has created coordination challenges, but we hope these will be resolved in FY18, as all three projects get fully staffed and operational. We appreciate USAID support and attention to this issue moving forward.
- Setting up new systems, and helping the team understand how to use them, is challenging. We have used home office STTA to help facilitate this process, but as new staff come on board, we need to constantly reinforce and reiterate these systems. Buy in from all staff is critical to ensure compliance.
- Creating a common vision and shared understanding of the SVC project and how it will be implemented takes time, and repetition. We started this process with stakeholder consultations in August and September, and our annual workplanning sessions and discussions, but many staff were not yet hired and have not been fully exposed to project design elements and intervention strategies. We plan to hold a full orientation program for all staff, once the coffee team, drivers and the new COP are on board.

4.0 COLLABORATION WITH DEVELOPMENT PARTNERS

Numerous partner meetings were held this quarter. Our office welcomed over 30 organizations and individuals who wanted to learn more about the SVC Activity, and to establish partnerships with the Activity. In addition, the Activity team met with Congolese Government officials, as well as programs funded by USAID and other donors in our areas of intervention. 18 public, private and NGOs participated in the SVC launch. The PEA team met with 85 local stakeholders in the coffee, bean and soy value chains, making important connections for the Activity. In the following section, we summarize the key meetings that took place this quarter.

4.1 CONSULTATION WITH USAID IMPLEMENTING PARTNERS

- In November 2017, the SVC team met several times with the ASILI Program in Bukavu. Exchanges focused on the identification of opportunities for collaboration between the two programs. In particular, support to ASILI's livelihoods component and agricultural marketing activities were discussed, as well as participation in the SVC launch, and provision of drinking water to the SVC office. SVC staff also visited ASILI health clinics and water systems with USAID.
- During the same period, a series of meetings were held with Mercy Corps technical staff (DFAP FSP) to harmonize support for farmers' associations and cooperatives. During the USAID sponsored M&E workshop that took place in Bukavu in late November 2017, SVC staff discussed M&E indicators, procedures and approaches with USAID DFAP implementing partners (Mercy Corps, FH and CRS). Mercy Corps also shared key resilience documents and the results of their "refine and implement" studies, which informed the final format and content of the GSICM strategy.
- The COP and DCOP attended a USAID implementing partners meeting in December, with a number of different USAID partners, including ACCELERE, ASILI, CBRMT, FH, IMC, MC, MEC and PROSANI. During the meeting partners discussed common implementation challenges and problems, as well as changes to USAID internal approaches to integration and coordination.
- The COP met with the CARPE team to discuss opportunities for partnership, especially in areas around the Kahuzi Biega National Park, and potential technical support to the SVC Environmental Mitigation and Monitoring Plan.
- The COP met with IITA on several occasions, to discuss potential collaboration and to draft an MOU.
- CBRMT and SVC organized a joint HEAT training (see Section 5) and communicated closely on safety and security in SVC target zones, and vehicle procurement, banking and internet issues. SPR and SVC staff exchanged information on Do No Harm approaches, as well as the results of the GSICM assessment and the PEA. SVC shared CVs for exceptional local consultants with a number of partners, and solicited recommendations for drivers and other key personnel from various IPs.

4.2 CONSULTATION WITH LOCAL GDRC OFFICIALS

- In October 2017, a delegation from the SVC Activity, accompanying a delegation from the USAID Mission in DR Congo led by *Chargé d’Affaires ad interim* Jennifer Haskell, was received by the National Coffee Office (ONC). A cupping session was organized in the ONC laboratory (built with USAID funds by KBYK) alongside ONC officials and the provincial Ministry of Agriculture.
- Also in October the COP presented the SVC Activity to the IPAPEL team, including sixteen Ministry of Agriculture staff.
- In November, the COP met with the head of INERA’s legume division, to discuss expected seed supply and potential SVC collaboration.
- In November 2017, as part of preparations for the official launch of the Activity, a delegation from the SVC Activity led by the Chief of Party was received by the Governor of South Kivu Province and his deputy. Discussions focused on a general overview and presentation of the SVC Activity and support needed from provincial authorities to implement activities.
- Numerous one on one meetings were held with ONC to discuss TNS support to the coffee sector, WCR activities and cupping training, the organization of Saveur de Kivu, and to participate in the launch of ONC initiatives and launch events.
- In October, SVC staff participated in a number of events with ONC to support International Coffee Day, in Bukavu, Goma, Walungu and Kabare.

4.3 CONSULTATION WITH OTHER DEVELOPMENT ACTORS

- In November 2017, accompanied by a delegation from USAID/DRC and USAID/Washington (BFS staff member Joe Lessard), we met with two organizations, ACOSYF and PIAD, to identify potential opportunities for collaboration.
- Also in November, meetings were organized with ELAN DRC (including Roland Muhima, PTM and Grégoire Poisson, Deputy Team Lead) to explore possible collaboration. ELAN DRC expressed interest in collaborating with the SVC Activity on the "Concessionnaire" approach. The SVC team will explore the possibility of collaborating with ELAN DRC on agricultural aggregation and on agricultural inputs (through NASECO). It is also possible to explore lease options for mechanization or agricultural processing equipment.
- Numerous consultations and meetings (virtual, email and face to face meetings) were held with ECI, ELAN & ESSOR, to improve coordination and collaboration between the projects, and to discuss and organize the Saveur de Kivu, as well as for the IFCCA launch.
- The COP met with Dennis Hadrick, from the Office of Weapons Removal and Abatement (PM/WRA), which is funding Higher Grounds Coffee and ECI in a public-private partnership to engage coffee buyers to integrate victims of conflict in the coffee supply chain in Eastern Congo (the Lake Kivu Coffee Alliance for Victims of Conflict in DR Congo). Through this contact, the COP also met with Clémence Caraux-Pelletan at DCA Mine Action to discuss their work with the Weapons Removal and Abatement program, and their continued demining efforts in SVC target zones.
- The COP met with several staff from the International Organization for Migration, to discuss potential collaboration and security issues in Kalehe.
- The COP met with Christine Condo, the East Africa Regional Director of Sustainable Harvest in Rwanda to discuss common approaches to supporting women’s engagement in the coffee sector, which lead to connections with Angel Mario Martinez Garcia, who is working on producer organization strengthening in Rwanda.

5.0 TRAINING AND CAPACITY BUILDING

In October 2017, the SBCC and Conflict Mitigation Coordinator from Search for Common Ground organized a full-day training session for the entire SVC Team on conflict sensitivity and management. This training allowed the SVC technical team to (a) understand conflict (define it and distinguish it from violence), and also (b) analyze conflict actors, determine root causes and consequences, and (c) inventory types of conflict behavior, in order to distinguish those that are better suited to peaceful conflict resolution from those who are not.

Also in October, USAID/DRC organized a USAID rules and regulations training in Kinshasa, which was attended by the SVC Finance and Administrative Manager. The training helped the Finance and Administrative Manager to identify potential areas of fraud and conflict of interest, and to strengthen SVC admin/finance practices.

In November 2017, with the on-boarding of almost all SVC core staff, a two-day training was organized on Tetra Tech administrative and financial procedures and USAID administrative rules and regulations which govern the SVC Activity. All TechnoServe, Banyan Global and SFCG staff, in addition to those from Tetra Tech, took part. Led by experts from the Administration and Finance team from the Tetra Tech Home Office, this training improved staff skills in operations, administration, finance and material management. At the end of this training, the team learned how to properly fill out and use administrative and financial templates and request forms, and better understood the SVC financial system, budget, accounting and material management processes.

Finally, in December 2017, a large part of the SVC team (all of the technical team and part of the support team) was invited to take part in a HEAT training (Hostile Environment Awareness Training) facilitated by Callida Freemont Limited, a US-based firm. This was a 3-day intensive course to train staff to effectively deal with high-risk situations in sensitive environments. Through the training, SVC staff developed reflexes needed when deployed in potentially dangerous areas. The HEAT training allowed SVC staff to: (a) better assess and apprehend threats emanating from a hostile environment in order to deal with them effectively, (b) train in safety practices adapted to these threats, (c) develop individual skills and abilities to cope with dangerous situations and (d) how to strengthen group dynamics to extricate oneself from dangerous situations.

Although the SVC internship program has not yet been launched, we engaged 12 interns (six young women and six young men) from two local universities to participate in our launch event). Several of these hosts and hostesses have indicated their interest in participating in our planned internship program.

6.0 GENDER, SOCIAL INCLUSION AND CONFLICT MITIGATION

Results achieved, failures and lessons learned implementing the GSICM strategy: The GSICM assessment was conducted in September, results analyzed in October, and the GSICM strategy was developed during a participatory workshop held in November 2017. The final GSICM strategy was submitted to USAID and approved in December 2018. Although it is still too early to talk about successes and failures of the strategy itself, we can discuss some failures and lessons learned during the process of developing the strategy.

Challenges and lessons learned

1. Gender, social inclusion and conflict are distinct specialties with different key informants, methodologies and technical approaches. It was challenging to help the gender and conflict teams work together in the field, and to integrate gender into existing conflict scan tools and methodologies. Moreover, field staff who were used to using conflict scan tools were not able to grasp all of the nuances required to collect and interpret gender and social inclusion aspects during simultaneous focus group discussions. At the end of the day, it was easier to collect gender and social inclusion information during separate interviews in the same community using gender and social inclusion specialists, rather than trying to integrate the concepts into already existing conflict tools with conflict trained staff.
2. It was difficult to find and field qualified French speaking gender specialists for the gender assessment. We engaged several consultants before deciding to use local consultants and internal home office staff specialists to complete the work.
3. An impressive amount of data was collected, not all of which was used in the initial draft assessment. It is critical that staff determine how information from each question will be used, before finalizing tools and beginning data collection.
4. Staff involved in the development of the GSICM strategy and action plan were not all adequately prepared to analyze and integrate gender, social inclusion and conflict mitigation elements into a revised FY18 workplan. Developing a common language and understanding of some basic concepts was required before diving into strategy development and work plan revisions. Do No Harm concepts, in particular, were not widely understood and it didn't appear that staff had much previous experience with those concepts. It is important to follow up with recommended quarterly team discussions to help staff internalize these concepts by using and applying them to their daily activities and lives.

7.0 MONITORING, EVALUATION, LEARNING AND ADAPTING

A one-day workshop was organized with SVC staff to present an overview of baseline study preliminary findings, and to present the revised and updated SVC Activity Monitoring, Evaluation and Learning Plan (AMELP) and roadmap. The purpose of the workshop was to (a) provide the technical team with an understanding of what monitoring and evaluation is, monitoring tools and methodologies, and how to adequately monitor and analyze project data, (b) provide the technical team with a model for the preparation, management and implementation of a monitoring and evaluation system and (c) to encourage the technical team to reflect on additional improvements needed to the proposed AMELP. The team explored the underlying theories of change for each project intermediate result, and revised and improved them based on current staff knowledge and our collective understanding of the implicit and explicit components of the theories of change. We also discussed component dashboards, and tried to identify additional data technical staff might collect to complement the information required in the formal AMELP, to better track stakeholder responses to Activity interventions, and to refine strategies and tactics on a more frequent basis if needed.

In November 2017, the Monitoring and Evaluation Specialist and his Assistant participated in a USAID M&E Workshop led by the USAID Nairobi Regional Office and organized by the Food for Peace Office and the DFAPs. Three organizations were expected to take part in this training (CRS, FHI, Mercy Corps), and the SVC Activity was invited to join them, given the interactions that will exist during the implementation of the two South Kivu DFAPs (by Mercy Corps and FH) and the SVC Activity. The main facilitator for the training was Barbara Reed, Regional Advisor for Monitoring & Evaluation / USAID Nairobi. The workshop focused on the components of a USAID-compliant monitoring and evaluation plan, the theory of change, required indicators, data quality assessments, data collection tools, as well as data analysis and reporting. This joint workshop allowed all organizations involved to refine their indicators and PIRs, as well as their theories of change and indicator performance tracking tables.

The SVC M&E team, which includes the M&E Specialist and an M&E Assistant, took advantage of the presence of USAID's Monitoring and Evaluation Specialist during the USAID M&E partners workshop to redesign proposed performance indicator reference sheets (PIRS) for custom indicators, as well as to refine data collection sheets that will be used to report on these indicators. This work will continue in January and February 2018, as the SVC M&E team harmonizes data collection processes with Mercy Corps and FH, and identifies indicators to jointly monitor as shared or common indicators. A meeting is planned between the monitoring and evaluation teams of the three organizations in January.

8.0 ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT AND MONITORING

No progress was made on the Environmental Management and Monitoring Plan (EMMP) this quarter. Next quarter the DCOP, the COP and the M&E team will work together to draft an EMMP, with support from Tetra Tech home office staff (a former USAID Regional Environmental Officer) and input from the coffee team.

9.0 FINANCIAL STATUS

The Activity expended \$1,256,564 in Q1 of FY18, incurring a total of \$1,756,956 in Life of Activity (LOA) project costs as of December 31, 2017. LOA expenditures represent 8% of the total budget, which was expended over 11.6% of project life (seven months out of 60), and 26% of the current obligation of \$6,718,690. The Activity submitted and received approval for the FY18 Annual Work Plan, the FY17 Annual Report and the Gender, Social Inclusion, and Conflict Mitigation Strategy in this quarter, contributing to costs billed to the project. Please find a table summarizing expenditures by contract budget category below.

Table 3. Contract Expenditures through December 31, 2017

CONTRACT No. AID-660-C-17-00003 Feed the Future DRC Strengthening Value Chains Activity FY18 Q1 Financial Report CONTRACT EXPENDITURES through December 31, 2017					
Category	Contract Budget	Expenditures through September 2017	Expenditures Q1 FY18	Total Expenditures	Percent Expended
Labor	\$ 4,645,382	\$ 135,540	\$ 153,571	\$ 289,112	6%
Subcontracts	\$ 10,549,037	\$ 65,430	\$ 471,257	\$ 536,688	5%
Allowances	\$ 583,430	\$ 19,322	\$ 23,486	\$ 42,808	7%
Other Direct Costs	\$ 3,271,580	\$ 100,163	\$ 229,081	\$ 329,244	10%
Overhead	\$ 2,642,107	\$ 75,816	\$ 118,870	\$ 194,686	7%
Total Estimated Costs	\$ 21,691,536	\$ 396,272	\$ 996,266	\$ 1,392,538	6%
Fixed Fee	\$ 1,301,493	\$ 104,119	\$ 260,299	\$ 364,418	28%
TOTAL CONTRACT COSTS	\$ 22,993,029	\$ 500,392	\$ 1,256,564	\$ 1,756,956	8%

APPENDIX I: FY18 ANNUAL WORKPLAN, UPDATED

Building Value Chain Actor Capacity					Key Indicators and Targets			
					<ul style="list-style-type: none">• 9 PICS bags distributors (3/Territory)• 3 Fertilizer + input best bet packages (1/VC)• 6 Cooperatives develop business plans (2/T)• Short soy value chains established (1/T)• Nutritious foods marketing campaign (1)• 3 PPPs and 1 cross border trade agreement			
Desired Outcome	Activities	Q1			Q2	Q3	Q4	Current Status
		O	N	D				
Target value chain dynamics and benchmarks established	Conduct Participatory Value Chain diagnostic							PEA Complete. Participatory Value Chain Diagnostic underway. Regional benchmarking on soy and bean flows postponed to Q2 FY18
	Conduct Political Economic Analysis							
	Regional benchmarking on soy and bean flows							
Increased demand for and supply of agro-inputs	Input mapping							
	Local agricultural input mapping with GIS (lime, rock phosphate, peat, etc.)							Shifted to Q2 FY18
	Identification of missing and required inputs (regarding where inputs come from and where they can be accessed, the flow of inputs, cost of inputs, and logistics associated with accessing them) in accordance with the PERSUAP							Shifted to Q2 FY18
	Seasonal calendar and agricultural inputs calendar disseminated via agro-dealers and MFIs for target VCs							Shifted to Q2 FY18

Desired Outcome	Activities	Q1			Q2	Q3	Q4	Current Status
		O	N	D				
	Promotion of adoption of improved inputs and practices, with a focus on targeting a minimum of 30% women and youth with labor-saving technologies to facilitate the development of local agribusinesses targeting health centers and schools with healthy snacks and weaning foods.							Shifted to Q3 FY18
	18 Soil leaf analysis and recommendations for target VCs							Shifted to Q3 FY18
	Develop intervention model and input package related to different plots from soil-leaf analysis							On schedule
	Best Bet (NPK, lime, micronutrients) consultation							On schedule
	Economic and social study on using agro inputs							On schedule
	SBCC on inputs usage							On schedule
	Building private Integrated Pest Management (IPM) – ISFM service model into DFAP							
	Develop specific and/or integrated technical packages for different agro-input methods, (GIFS, Agro-forestry, permaculture, fertilization and pest management, both organic and inorganic)							Underway with DFAPS
	Co-develop farmer field schools and test plots via private actors							Underway with DFAPS
	Input financing							
	Facilitate access to agricultural input credits for agro-dealers, coops, concessionaires, farmers, including measures to support pooled purchase of inputs among women and youth in cooperatives or agribusiness.							On schedule
	Business training and embedded support by BDS							On schedule
	Develop seed money mechanisms where needed							On schedule
	Trials on IPM and ISFM							
	Select a women lead champion startup							On schedule

Desired Outcome	Activities	Q1			Q2	Q3	Q4	Current Status
		O	N	D				
	Support SME/ Start up business plan development, including implementation of SBCC modules on gender equality and youth inclusion (on decision-making, income use, and time allocation)							On schedule
	Exposure and experience visit for technical learning							On schedule
	Embedded support for access to credit							On schedule
	PICS bag promotion							
	Link local agro-dealers (Maman BENZ) to PICS bag suppliers, ensuring that bags are appropriate in weight for women and youth to carry.							On schedule
	Support local agro-dealers to develop distribution models							On schedule
Business oriented producer cooperatives	Cooperative capacity analysis and selection of champions							On schedule
	Training on Paradigm shift: Business orientation							On schedule
	Pilot with “champions”							On schedule
Improved Post harvest and handling and decreased post-harvest losses	Warehouse management							
	Warehouse and collections centers analysis, including an analysis of how women and youth can be engaged in warehouse management and control of income from sales.							On schedule
	Trainings on warehouse and collection center management, including at least 30% women and youth.							On schedule
	Embedded support by Young lead BDS to agro-dealers for digital and inter active warehouse management (Market Information System)							On schedule
	Processing							
	Consultant on upgrading soy and bean processing techniques							On schedule
	Technical support from experienced actor/companies							On schedule
	Embedded support for access to finance for profitable PHH businesses							On schedule

Desired Outcome	Activities	Q1			Q2	Q3	Q4	Current Status
		O	N	D				
	Short soy value chains at village level							
	Seed money mechanisms to support women champions in short village value chain in short/simple processing and distribution							On schedule
	Create and provide technical support for the management of depots 10 kilometers (or less) from major market areas for women and youth traders to store products and sleep overnight in safety.							On schedule
	Awareness meetings and planning sessions with health institutions managers to integrate soy in nutritional packages and health education							On schedule
	BCC on soy/beans processed produces promotion in the village for health institutions and households, including SBCC modules on gender equality and youth inclusion in value chains (Component 5).							On schedule
	Exposure and experience exchange visits for champions							On schedule
	Warehouse management							
	Warehouse and collections centers analysis, including a determination of how women and youth can be engaged in warehouse management and control of income from sales.							Shifted to Q2 FY18
Increased access to markets by key stakeholders in target value chains	Market study							
	Capacity and willingness to pay for technologies and products							On schedule
	Market segment and product branding accordingly soy/bean for local use, for health use, for export							On schedule
	Support the design and implementation of distribution models							
	Select profitable and adequate business models (soy ambassadors, sales point, open space, re-sellers)							On schedule

Desired Outcome	Activities	Q1			Q2	Q3	Q4	Current Status
		O	N	D				
	Link local traders to food distribution programs (WFP etc.) and institutional potential clients (hospitals, schools, health centers)							On schedule
	Embedded support to profitable distribution model lead by youth and women							On schedule
Public Private partnerships developed and increased private sector investment in target value chains	Mapping and conflict scan of concessionaires (List, land tenure system applied), with an emphasis on challenges in land tenure for women and youth.							Underway; included in Gender, Social Inclusion and Conflict Mitigation Assessment
	Benchmarking on national and local land tenure regulations and trend							Shifted to Quarter 2 FY18
	Identification and harmonization on the PURPOSE, PRINCIPLES, and PARTNERS							Shifted to Quarter 2 FY18
	Facilitate meetings with stakeholders to create TRUST							Underway
	Business orientation of the model (Identification of opportunities for collaboration between concessionaires and SHF on access to input, access to BAP, access to small mechanization, access to processing, access to market, access to credit).							On schedule
	Design the concept model and develop a business plan							On schedule
	Pilot with 3 concessionaires							On schedule
Formal cross border trade increased in target value chains	Regional Benchmarking on the three value chains							Shifted to Quarter 2 FY18
	Quantification of coffee, beans and soy in regional trade through S. Kivu corridors							On schedule
	Scenario building							On schedule

COFFEE

FY18 Indicators and Targets

- 29 Farmer trainers supported to reach 5,000 farmers in 280 Coffee Farm College groups;
- 5 wet mills rehabilitated or built

Desired outcomes	Activities	Q1			Q2	Q3	Q4	Status
		O	N	D				
Improved Coffee Production	Production Quick Scan mapping							Complete
	Senior Business Advisor capacity visit Rwanda training program							Shifted to Q2
	Soil and leaf survey							Shifted to Q2
	Best Practice Baseline							Shifted to Q2
	SWOT analysis on seed supply, reviewing supply/demand (WCR)							On Schedule
	Pre-training preparation (FFG formation, FT hiring and training, and demo plot location)							On Schedule
	Distribution of variety catalogue (WCR)							On Schedule
	Undertake a short gender and youth inclusion governance assessment of existing Kahawa Bora Project and Farmer College cooperatives							On Schedule
	15 on farm trials established in collaboration with cooperatives previously supported by Kahawa Bora Project (UCB and WCR), including implementation of SBCC modules on gender equality and youth inclusion and support for women and youth leadership.							On Schedule
	Variety and treatment trials in collaboration with UCB and INERA e.g. intercropping, mycorrhizae, biochar, fertilizer (WCR)							On Schedule

Desired outcomes	Activities	Q1			Q2	Q3	Q4	Status
		O	N	D				
	Conduct Farm College monthly trainings: 30% participation of women and youth; 40% women recruited as farmer trainers; at least one female focal farmer per group; implementation of trainings in consideration of women time burdens; and implementation of SBCC modules on gender equality and youth inclusion (Component 5).							On Schedule
	Start up on farm demo trials (OFTT) and start up Multi-Location Agronomy Trials (MLAT)							On Schedule
	Study on organic policy, clarify policy and share findings (JE Austin)							On Schedule
	Prepare for certification of INERA seed production operation (WCR)							On Schedule
Improved coffee quality	Participate in ESSOR Women and Coffee Collective Gender Assessment during mid-October 2017 event in Goma.							Completed
	Recruitment of wet mill team and capacity visit to wet mill model in Ethiopia by Senior Advisor							Shifted to Q2
	Participate in post-season sector dialogue meeting at ONC and women in coffee event, gather feedback/suggestion for next year's, and discuss findings PEA analysis with key stakeholders (JE Austin on PEA)							Completed
	Select 2018 clients (private, coop) and if needed identify expansion sites (taken into account advice from SFCG's conflict scans)							Completed
	Develop tool and conduct cooperative strength assessments to identify capacity gaps							Completed
	Wet Mill benchmarking (JE Austin)							Shifted to Q2
	Develop modules and execute SBCC training modules on gender and youth responsive budgeting and planning (including safe transport) to ONC.							Shifted to Q2

Desired outcomes	Activities	Q1			Q2	Q3	Q4	Status
		O	N	D				
	Identify local cuppers and train them (WCR), with a 30% quota for women and youth, and measures to ensure their ability to participate in training (transport, schedule)							Postponed to March 2018
	Develop protocol for day lots (WCR), with a 50% quota for the participation of women and youth in small lot systems to improve quality and traceability (as either owners or managers).							Underway
	Develop CSP model pilot with exporter							Shifted to Q2
	Identify working capital providers (e.g., exporter, bank, investment fund) (Banyan) and put in place measures for women and youth coffee producers to have increased access to credit, to pool inputs purchase, to access to information on the market price of seeds.							Underway
	Study on Rwanda milling/bonded warehouse (JE Austin)							On schedule
	Include in-season farmer group formation, price, collection point info in conflict resolution radio programs if useful (SFCG)							On schedule
	Develop and pilot SMS bookkeeping system							On schedule
	Pre-season wet mill support (governance, processing, quality and bookkeeping trainings)							On schedule
	Provide sustainability training to wet mill staff and perform annual audit							On schedule
	Provide business coaching in season and both performance quality feedback							On schedule
	Organize <i>Saveur de Kivu</i> 2018 and facilitate market linkage arrangements							On schedule
	Develop financial transparency sheets and end of season reports and facilitate post season sector working group evaluation							On schedule

Desired outcomes	Activities	Q1			Q2	Q3	Q4	Status
		O	N	D				
	Work with wet mill clients on warehouse management and export logistics planning, including protocols for women and youth as managers of warehouses.							On schedule
	Identify new wet mill sites to start new wet mills coops and start high level stakeholder engagement to introduce a performance based election model							On schedule
	Link wet mill clients to sources of capex finance (Banyan)							On schedule
	Measures to minimize safety risks to women and youth short-term workers (transportation, group departures),							On schedule
	Measures to ensure suitability of wet mill technologies to local capacity and the physical capacity of women and youth							On schedule

ACCESS TO FINANCE

Indicators and Targets

- 15 AG DCA loans disbursed
- \$300,000 USD Value of AG DCA loans disbursed

Desired Outcome	Activities	Q1			Q2	Q3	Q4	Status
		O	N	D				
Supply and Demand for Financial Services Assessed	Draft the Access to Finance Assessment Report, with an emphasis on identifying the challenges that women and youth in cooperatives, farmer associations, and agribusinesses experience in accessing credit.							Complete
	Conduct validation workshop, including the engagement of women and youth in cooperatives, farmer associations and agribusinesses, leading to finalization of A2F Assessment Report							Complete
	Develop Technical Assistance plan to ensure strong utilization of the DCA							Underway/ In process
Increase the Supply of Financial Services in the Ag Sector in Target Value Chains	<u>Technical Assistance to FINCA:</u>							
	Train key FINCA staff in DCA utilization rules							Status TBD – FINCA not clearly committed to DCA training or use of the DCA facility
	Provide training/informational materials to FINCA on specific needs of ag borrowers (e.g., information cards on value chains, growing cycles, difficulties faced by different stakeholders, including women and youth, etc.)							TBD (see above)
	Support FINCA and Procredit to develop schemes to mitigate difficulties faced by women, youth, internally displaced persons, and other economically-excluded stakeholders in accessing credit (group lending, acceptance of different forms of guarantee).							TBD re FINCA On Schedule for PROCREDIT
	Support FINCA and PROCREDIT to institute quotas for women and youth lending.							TBD re FINCA On Schedule for PROCREDIT

Desired Outcome	Activities	Q1			Q2	Q3	Q4	Status
		O	N	D				
	Support FINCA in conducting/participating in A2F workshops to inform potential borrowers of products and services available and help develop a pipeline of ag clients for banks, including 30% participation of women and youth							TBD
	Facilitate connection and discussion with demand side for credit analysis							TBD
	Technical Assistance to ProCredit:							
	Train key ProCredit staff in DCA utilization rules							Underway
	Provide training/informational materials to ProCredit on specific needs of ag borrowers (e.g., information cards on value chains, growing cycles, difficulties faces by different stakeholders, including women and youth, etc.)							On schedule
	Support ProCredit in conducting/participating in A2F workshops to inform potential borrowers of products and services available and help develop a pipeline of ag clients for banks							On schedule
	Facilitate connection and discussion with demand side for credit analysis							On schedule
	Support other financial institutions working with ag sector on a progressive basis (after DCA partners): sharing informational materials on ag value chain borrowers, invite FIs to participate in general A2F or sector events, facilitate connection with potential borrowers outside DCA eligibility criteria							On schedule
Increase Demand for Financial Services in the Ag Sector in	Develop a Business Strengthening Action Plan for value chain stakeholders based on results of A2F Assessment and profiles developed by 2 VC teams with specific targets for priority beneficiaries, including women and youth, etc.)							On schedule/ Underway

Desired Outcome	Activities	Q1			Q2	Q3	Q4	Status
		O	N	D				
Target Value Chains	<p>Develop initial business and financial management training/coaching curriculum and materials for priority beneficiaries:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <i>[Transversal with Coffee work plan] For coffee VC, support TNS in tailoring existing business training materials for Kivu, including SBCC gender equality and youth inclusiveness modules (Component 5).</i> For nutrition VC, develop initial materials using existing Banyan Global and SVC business training materials, including SBCC gender equality and youth inclusiveness modules (Component 5). 							On schedule/ Underway
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Implement initial business and financial management training/coaching to priority stakeholders, including targets for 30% women and youth participation). <i>[Transversal with Coffee work plan] For coffee VC, support TNS, as needed, in providing business training and coaching and establishing linkages with FIs.</i> <i>[Transversal with Nutrition VC work plan] For Nutrition VC, engage BDS providers for business training and coaching of priority soy and bean businesses and establishing linkages with FIs.</i> 							On schedule

Trade, Policy & Business Enabling Environment

Indicators and Targets

- PEA and Storage and Collection Studies Completed;
- 3 B2B and 3 Advocacy Events organized.

Desired Outcome	Activities	Q1			Q2	Q3	Q4	Status
		C	N	D				
Information from the PEA is used to guide implementation choices and methods, and helps to ensure intervention sustainability	PEA field work, including a focus on the role of male and female youth and adults in value chain governance							Complete
	PEA report released and stakeholder presentations held, including women and youth civil society participation in presentations							
	Findings, lessons and recommendations integrated into the YI work plan							
	Steering Committee established based on PEA findings							On Schedule
Storage and Collection needs and capacity mapped, and storage and collection opportunities and constraints identified for soy and dried beans	Assess (capacity, condition) existing bean and soybean collection centers and storage facilities (including governance mechanisms) in targeted areas							Shifted to Q2
	Matching process of facilities toward local markets, trade corridors, and the local security situation							
	Provide a report with the results to SVC activity and other implementing partners							
B2B and stakeholder meetings	Organize workshops or other formal meetings for associations, cooperatives, and other VC actors on how to formulate their collective concerns, in synergy with SBCC modules on gender equality and youth inclusion (Component 5).							Shifted to Q2/Q3/Q4
Stakeholders are aware of existing trade and taxation rules, regulations, rights and responsibilities	Use various potential channels for dissemination, targeting women and youth in value chains.							On Schedule

Desired Outcome	Activities	Q1			Q2	Q3	Q4	Status
		C	N	D				
Recommendations to alleviate trade and tax barriers shared with local authorities	Recommendations to be addressed to local authorities and to engage PP dialogue to influence trade policies and regulations, in synergy with Component 1 and 3 SBCC modules on gender equality and youth inclusion (focus on leadership and advocacy training for female and youth coffee value chain actors)							On Schedule
Formal cross border trade along the Bukavu – Cyangugu border increased	Stakeholder dialogue, identify and describe initiatives							On Schedule
Support effective and informed stakeholder advocacy linked to the work plans of the three value chains	Participate in community, cooperative and stakeholder meetings to assist stakeholders to develop advocacy skills, develop advocacy positions, carry out advocacy initiatives, in synergy with Component 1 and 3 SBCC modules on gender equality and youth inclusion (focus on leadership and advocacy training for female and youth coffee value chain actors)							Shifted to Q2, Q3, Q4
Support implementation of the nutritional value chain work plan (additional details are embedded in that work plan)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Mobilize information and support concession-level discussions. Develop and implement concession-based enterprise to increase productivity, value addition, and marketing. 							Underway
Support development and implementation of collection and storage investments/operations	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Develop the feasibility analysis and design of the business models. Support implementation of the investments. Support operational implementation of the collection and storage operations. 							On schedule
Participate in feasibility (political environment, market, cost and profitability) analyses	To support decisions on specific initiatives, investments and business models							Shifted to Q2 – Q4

Desired Outcome	Activities	Q1			Q2	Q3	Q4	Status
		C	N	D				
"Follow-the-Product" data collection to monitor transaction costs and barriers	Regularly identify formal and informal costs and barriers along the market chain. Arrange with a suitable local entity to disseminate the data.							Shifted to Q2 – Q4
Annually obtain and disseminate benchmark data to support advocacy, PPD, and decision-making	Obtain local and comparator data on key cost and performance metrics. Arrange with a suitable local entity to disseminate the data.							Shifted to Q2 – Q4
Feasibility analysis of additional wet mill investments	Support decision making by providing trade and political economy analysis for proposed new wet mill investments.							Underway

Gender Equity, Women's Empowerment, Social Inclusion and Youth Engagement

Indicators and Targets

- Gender, Social Inclusion and Conflict Mitigation Strategy completed
- Gender modules and SBCC materials developed and piloted
- Membership and leadership of women and youth in producer groups or agricultural cooperatives increased by 30%
- Sole or joint control over income and expenditures increased by 30%

Desired Outcome	Activities	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Status
Gender issues and strategies to address them identified	Conduct and prepare Gender, Social Inclusion and Conflict Mitigation Assessment and Strategy.					Done
	Conduct validation workshop of assessment findings and strategy, leading to finalization of Gender, Social Inclusion, and Conflict Mitigation Strategy.					Done
	Integrate the findings of the assessment and the Gender, Social Inclusion and Conflict Mitigation Strategy into an updated YI work plan					Done
Gender and youth inclusion SBCC Modules developed and tested using quasi-experimental design	Refine existing Social and Behavioral Change Communication (SBCC) modules building upon the work of TWIN UK using the Gender Action Learning System (GALS) on gender equality and youth inclusion to address: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The value of women's work in the agricultural sector (with a focus on coffee, soy, and beans). • Intra-household, cooperative and farmer organization decision-making about production, transformation, marketing, storage (including land use, credit) in the 3 target value chains. • Intra-household, cooperative and farmer organization decision-making on income use at the household level. • Discriminatory customary land tenure and inheritance practices. • Time use concerning domestic and productive tasks. • Leadership and advocacy for female and youth coffee value chain actors to build their capacity to represent their needs and interests in agricultural cooperatives, knowledge of the issues and confidence in expressing their concerns to local officials. 					Q2

Desired Outcome	Activities	Q 1	Q 2	Q 3	Q4	Status
Women's producer associations/cooperatives have a strategy and platform to represent women in target value chains	Enhance the capacity and resources levels of women's producer associations/cooperatives, including the Women in Coffee Collective, to develop a strategy and platform to represent the interests of women in target value chains.					Underway
Youth engaged in soy and coffee value chains	Create a young coffee and soy ambassador competition and club integrating elements of SBCC training modules on gender equality and youth inclusion.					On schedule
Women and youth have access to inputs necessary to improve cultivation of coffee, soy and beans	Technical support to SVC colleagues implementing Components 1-3 to ensure that credit, technology and training reach women and youth, and are appropriately provided and delivered in accordance with their availability and physical capacity.					Underway
Women and youth have safe access to markets and share control over income from sales	Technical support to SVC colleagues implementing Components 1-3 to ensure that strategies to increase access to markets include measures to account for gender and youth-specific needs and priorities for safety, affordable transportation, physical capacity of participants, and control over income from sales.					Underway
Women and youth play a leadership role in managing storage facilities	Technical support to SVC colleagues implementing Components 1-3 to support strategies to increase the role of women and youth in managing storage facilities					Underway

Conflict Mitigation

Anticipated outcomes	Activities	Q1			Q2	Q3	Q4	Status
		C	N	D				
Ensure the project is implemented in a conflict-sensitive manner	Conflict Sensitivity Training delivered to consortium partners							Complete
	Gender, Social Inclusion, and Conflict Mitigation Assessment							Complete
	Gender, Social Inclusion, and Conflict Mitigation Strategy Development							Complete
	Annual Conflict Scans							On Schedule
Build cooperative and agribusiness awareness of gender issues and integration of inclusiveness	See SBCC Below							On schedule (Q2) On Schedule (Q2 – Q4)
	Participatory Theater – Training: SFCG will identify and train 3 participatory theater troops that will perform the shows (one in each territory).							
	Participatory Theater – Shows: 2 shows in each of the targeted territories (3) on issues of gender and youth inclusion, as well as issues as identified jointly with other project partners.							
Build cooperative capacity for conflict transformation	Conflict Transformation Training for VC Coordination Group: 1 per territory, 3 territories							On schedule (Q2 – Q3)
	Conflict Transformation Training for VC Cooperatives: 1 per territory, 3 territories							
Build cooperative advocacy skills and capacity to represent members	<i>Tribunes d'Expression Populaire</i> (TEPs): 2 per each targeted territory, 3 territories							On schedule (Q2 – Q4)
Social Behavior Change Communication Activities	Radio Debates/Program Episodes: 2 per month starting in February.							On schedule (Q2 – Q4)
	Radio Spots: Average of 1 per month starting in February							On schedule (Q2 – Q4)

Anticipated outcomes	Activities	Q1			Q2	Q3	Q4	Status
		C	N	D				
	<i>Clubs d'écoute</i> : SFCG will establish 20 listening clubs spread across the three target territories. These clubs will meet twice per month starting in February. These will be linked with local Peace Committees.							On Schedule (Q2 – Q4)
	Training of radio partner journalists							On schedule

U.S. Agency for International Development

Democratic Republic of the Congo

Economic Growth Office

198 Isiro Avenue

Kinshasa/Gombe

Democratic Republic of the Congo