

## Women's Peace and Humanitarian Fund

### ANNUAL PROGRESS REPORT

<p><b>Project Title: ME function of the Women's Peace and Humanitarian Fund</b></p> <p><b>Project Number:</b> 00116753</p>	<p><b>PUNO(s): UN Women</b></p>
<p><b>Reporting Period:</b> September 2019- December 2019</p> <p><b>Report submitted by:</b></p> <p>Name: Ms. Awa Ndiaye SECK Entity: UN WOMEN Title: Country Representative Email: awa.ndiaye.seck@unwomen.org</p>	<p><b>Implementing Partner(s):</b></p> <p>Consortium PROVAH, DAFED, CERACOD Consortium ATDERBI, AFIP Consortium SAFI Maniema, UMAMA, AFELMA and ATK Consortium SOFEPADI and FOMI ONG AFPDE Consortium CEFIDI, OGOL, MIDEFEHOPS</p> <p><b>Project Location: Democratic Republic of Congo</b></p> <p>Provinces: North Kivu, South Kivu, Ituri, Maniema, Tanganyika and Equateur.</p>
<p><b>Programme Description:</b></p> <p>The project supports women to i) meaningfully participate in humanitarian preparedness and responses through strengthening the capacities of local women's organizations to engage in local decision-making processes and humanitarian assistance mechanism; ii) improve their access to post-conflict recovery opportunities through women economic empowerment.</p>	<p><b>Total Approved budget:</b></p> <p><b>Approved budget: 839.286,00 \$</b></p> <p><b>Transferred budget: 839.286,00 \$</b></p> <p><b>Programme Start Date: 01.09.2019</b></p> <p><b>Programme End Date: 30.06.2020</b></p> <p><b>Total duration (in months): 10 months</b></p>
<p><b>WPHF's Outcome the Programme is contributing to:</b></p> <p><u>Outcome 3:</u> Women and girls affected by crisis lead, participate in and benefit from relief and response efforts.</p> <p><u>Outcome 6:</u> The socio-economic recovery of women is promoted in post-conflict situations.</p>	
<p><b>WPHF's indicator(s) the Programme is reporting on:</b></p> <p><u>Outcome 3:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>– Percentage of funding allocated to gender responsive actions</li> <li>– Percentage of women benefiting from the humanitarian response</li> </ul>	

Outcome 6:

- Labor force participation rate for persons aged 15+, by sex
- Proportion of informal employment in nonagricultural employment, by sex
- Proportion of seats held by women in national parliaments

## EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The first WPHF funds allocation for DRC is aligned with outcomes 3 (humanitarian response) and outcome 6 (peacebuilding and recovery). This strategic prioritization has been in line with the national context, where humanitarian crises and armed conflicts are intrinsically linked and causing internal displacement, loss of cultivated land and destruction of basic infrastructure.

In this context, projects started implementation mid-2019 with focus on provision of non-food items and basic health services especially Sexual and Reproductive Health to women refugees, internally displaced and living in camps or host communities. Most of the selected projects focus also on women's economic empowerment in post-conflict and fragile settings, through High Intensity of Labour (HILO), combining the cash for work with the establishment of Savings and Internal Lending Communities (SILC) as well as skills training in the agro-pastoral sector.

Another key component of the first programmatic cycle of WPHF in DRC is the promotion of the effective participation of women to local driven peacebuilding mechanism. Projects aligned to these outputs intervene on the awareness raising of local stakeholders of traditionally men-dominated political environment and empower women's leadership as well as local women movement and promote/improve networking. This report provides updates on the implementation of the projects, with initial results, progress and challenges. During the reporting period, 6 consortiums of community-based organisations carried on 3 main sets of activities: the organisation of awareness sessions and community meetings, sensitising an estimated number of 29.323 key stakeholders and beneficiaries on women's rights to participate to decision making and recovery opportunities ; the strengthening of 159 women's local groups among community dialogues for conflict prevention and resolution, community-based savings and lending groups and women's associations; the training of an estimated number of 2.282 persons (189 men and 2.093 women) on mediation and conflict prevention as well as skills development on agropastoral activities and processing techniques.

In the national context, the initiatives funded by the WPHF contribute to the pillars 2,3 and 4 of the second-generation National Action Plan for the implementation of the UNSC Resolution 1325 for the period 2019-2022. The establishment of a high-level National Steering Committee (NSC) also contributed to advocate for an increased participation of women-led organisations to humanitarian assistance and peace building. By the end of the program, funded organisations will be empowered to more actively participate in provincial humanitarian and gender equality mechanisms, such as the humanitarian clusters led by OCHA and the gender thematic coordination groups animated by the Ministry in charge of gender at provincial level.

During the reporting period, the WPHF has been supporting the implementation of **six (06) grants** under Outcomes 3 and 6 through the first Call for Proposal.

- A total number of 15 civil society organisations, of which 10 led by women.
- 3 grants are being implemented by women's rights or women led organizations.
- 14 partners are community-based/local CSOs.
- In 1 case, the proposal is a strategic partnership between a community-based and a larger national organization.

The projects target the most vulnerable women and girls living in conflict and post-conflict areas. Project documents partially refer to disaggregated as follows:

- 1.501 survivors of SGBV
- 150 women and girls sex workers
- 2.800 IDPs and refugees
- 85 women head of household
- 15 women and girls with disabilities
- 200 indigenous women (120) and girls (80)

Country	Partner CSOs	Project Title	Project start and end dates	Project location	No. of women and girls direct beneficiaries		No. of men and boys direct beneficiaries		No. of indirect beneficiaries	
					RY <sup>1</sup> 2019	Cons.	RY 2019	Cons.	RY 2019	Cons.
DRC	Promotion of Human Values (PROVAH), Dynamic of Women's Actions for Children in Distress, Study and Research Centre for Agriculture and Development	Peace tam-tam for the rehabilitation of 15 km of agricultural tracks, 4 football fields and 4 cultural huts within the framework of sensitization to peace, the creation of temporary employment for a better recovery of the socio-economic activities of women returnees and women returning from shelters in the localities of Tumbwefief and Mulange rail/Kalemie-Tanganyika	01.09.2019 31.03.2020	Tanganyika Province	193	193	40	40	11 202	11 202
DRC	Consortium of the Association of Rural Development Technicians and Environmentalists from Bikoro (ATDERBI), Association of	Support to agro-pastoral activities for the benefit of 500 women-led households after the Ebola virus disease in the villages of Itipo, Boyaka Ngombe and	01.09.2019 31.03.2020	Equateur Province	500	500	15	15	2 500	2 500

<sup>1</sup> Reporting Year

	Women in Action, Association of Intellectual and Pygmy Women in Equateur	Ikoko Impenge in Bikoro territory								
DRC	Support to Actions of Indigenous Women in Maniema (SAFI), Umoja Wa Mama Wa Maendeleo UMAMA	Rehabilitation of the economic activities of vulnerable women affected by armed conflict in the south of Maniema Province in DR Congo	01.09.2019 31.03.2020	Maniema Province	797	1 000	102	102	103 581	103 581
DRC	Female Solidarity for Peace and Integral Development (SOFEPADI), Forum of Mothers of Ituri (FOMI)	Women's Involvement in Peacebuilding, Resilience and Gender Equality in Ituri and North Kivu Provinces of DR Congo	01.09.2019 31.03.2020	North Kivu and Ituri Provinces	1 476	1 476	224	224	60 000	120 000
DRC	Women's Association for the Promotion and Endogenous Development (AFPDE)	Improvement of the health conditions of internally displaced and refugee women in Ruzizi and Nandu health zones	01.09.2019 31.03.2020	South Kivu Province	2 713	2 713	17	17	6 980	49 700
DRC	Consultancy, Training and Information for Development (CEFIDI), One girl One leader, International Movement for the Rights of the Child, Women, Widowed Men and their Social Advancement	Support for the socio-economic recovery of women and girls through vocational training and income-generating activities in post-conflict zones in the commune of OICHA and other rural areas of North Kivu	01.09.2019 31.03.2020	North Kivu Province	7 885	7 885	4 137	4 137	101 000	202 000
<b>Total</b>					13 564	13 767	4 535	4 535	285 263	488 983

## I. Purpose and new developments

The Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) might well be at a turning point but remains in a fragile state. The country held its third elections in the third republic since independence at the end of December 2018. This difficult process gave rise to a reshuffling of political leaders at the head of state institutions, including a new President of the Republic. With a new government in place that includes some women in key positions such as the Minister of Foreign Affairs as well as a Vice Prime Minister and Minister of Plan, there is reason for optimism. However, multiple crises have had dramatic consequences, in particular for women and girls. They suffer from serious human rights violations, sexual and gender-based violence, massive internal and external population displacement, the degradation of production means and the socio-economic discriminations.

The 2006 and 2011 elections contributed to the reunification of the country and the consolidation of peace but failed to pacify the entire territory as armed conflicts in the east persist and inter-community conflicts resurfaced, especially in Kasai and Tanganyika provinces. These conflicts weakened all state institutions and have affected democratic and economic governance. The failed elections in December 2016 amplified the political and socio-economic crisis by giving way to multiple protests.

Initiatives for peace and transitional justice at the national and provincial levels have been largely ineffective and male-dominated, despite a strong legal framework that makes the case for women inclusion. Only 23.2% of women were represented in the “Dialogue de la Saint Sylvestre”, destined to design an inclusive transitional process until the 2018 elections.

Women at specifically high risk include those among 5,01 million internally displaced persons and 517,000 refugees due to the activities of certain armed groups in the east of the country and the resurgence of inter-community conflicts. Humanitarian aid has declined significantly and leaves vital needs unmet, with 15,6 million people in need of humanitarian aid (with the 50,8% of women and girls).

The main objective of the WPHF being to achieve peaceful and gender-equal societies, means are deployed to support women to participate in, contribute to and benefit from conflict prevention, crisis response, peacebuilding and recovery. Congolese women in humanitarian and conflict settings live at risk of violation of their human rights and are in urgent need of protection caused by armed conflict and displacement.

In this context, the WPHF strategy in DRC in 2019, approved by the National Steering Committee, focused on:

- WPHF outcome 3 on Humanitarian response: direct support local women's led associations to integrate humanitarian actors and deliver humanitarian aid taking into account specific needs of Congolese women and girls.
- WPHF outcome 6 on Peace building and recovery: ensure that Congolese women's and girls specific needs are taken into account and they participate in recovery planning; ensure that women and girls actively participate in conflict prevention, conflict resolution and peace building initiatives at local level.

Outcomes 3 and 6 are aligned to the following national frameworks:

- National Strategic Development Plan: Pillar 1. Peace, Security, Democracy and Governance
- National Gender Policy: Axe III – Promoting the equitable exercise of the rights and duties of women and men and strengthening women's access and position in decision-making spheres
- 2020-2024 UNSDCF (Strategic Priority 1): Outcome 1.1: The prevalence of violence and armed conflict is reduced, and the safety and security of persons and goods is improved particularly for vulnerable people, women and children.

## I. Results

### i) Narrative reporting on results:

- **Outcome 3:** Women and girls affected by crisis lead, participate in and benefit from relief and response efforts.
- **Outcome 6:** The socio-economic recovery of women is promoted in post-conflict situations.

During the reporting period, WPHF's main achievements at country level:

1. Contribution to the implementation to the National Action Plan R1325 2019-2022. The second generation NAP1325 was adopted in September 2018 and estimated at 21,410,020 \$. The 4 pillars are (1) participation, (2) prevention, (3) protection and (4) recovery. WPHF's programme in DRC directly contribute to pillars 2, 3 and 4 of the NAP1325 implementation. With an allocated envelope of 839.286,00 \$, WPHF contributed to the implementation of around 4% of the NAP1325.
2. Funding of 6 consortiums of national and local NGOs, for a total number of 15 civil society organisations, of which 10 led by women. WPHF is active in 6 different Provinces of DRC recognised as areas in need of humanitarian assistance and conflict or post-conflict settings. During the reporting period, 13,564 women and girls and 4,535 directly benefited from the project, while 327,983 were indirectly reached.
3. The WPHF initiative in DRC is aligned to the triple nexus approach (humanitarian, development and peace): gender equality and women's empowerment is considered as a pre-condition to peace and recovery; the undergoing projects aim to strengthen women's capacities, skills and self-confidence to equally participate to decision-making and recovery opportunities; the initiative have the double objective of providing humanitarian assistance to women and girls in situation of vulnerability and strengthen women's groups to actively and equally participate in local decision-making mechanisms.
4. Establishment of a WPHF National Steering Committee (NSC) opens new opportunities in terms of advocacy on the implementation of the UNSC Resolution 1325 and the awareness raising on the importance and necessity of women's participation to peacebuilding and humanitarian assistance in all settings and at all stages. The NSC has a high-level composition, with the effective attendance during its regular meetings of:
  - For the Government: The Minister of Humanitarian Action and National Solidarity (co-chair), the Vice-Prime Minister and Minister of Plan, the Minister of Gender, Family and Child
  - For the donors: The Ambassador of Japan
  - For the UNS: The DSRSG/HC/RC, the Resident Representatives of UN Women, UNDP and UNFPA
  - For the civil society: The Representatives of the RENADEF (network of women's associations), the African Women's Leaders Network (AWLN) and AFIA MAMA (youth women's organisation).

At local level, 6 projects are currently under implementation. The below section provides an update on the progress of implementation and initial achievements against the two outcomes.

CSO	Women's Association for the Promotion and Endogenous Development (AFPDE)
Project Title	Improvement of health conditions for internally displaced and refugee women in the Ruzizi and Nandu health zones
Amount financed	\$137.619,00
Province	Uvira, South Kivu

WPHF effect	Outcome 3: Women and girls affected by crises participate in and benefit from the humanitarian response
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During the reporting period, AFPDE implemented the following activities:

**1. A needs assessment and identification of direct beneficiaries were finalized.** AFDE undertook a survey and several meetings with stakeholders, including information obtained from OCHA and the National Commission for Refugees (CNR), in the 3 intervention sites during the month of October 2019. The objective was to identify which villages are hosting more IDPs and Burundian refugees living in the host communities. It was found that refugees are heavily concentrated in Sange (6.570 refugees and IDPs combined), Luvungi (8.765 refugees and IDPs combined) in the Ruzizi plain and Bwala (more than 10.000 IDPs) in Fizi. It was after this that the refugee and IDP women were asked to set up their respective committees and to proceed with the identification of women who should benefit from the project's actions.

**2. 28 health providers (13 females, 15 male) were trained** by the chief doctors of the zones on obstetric emergency and neonatal care in Luvungi to ensure improved sexual and reproductive health services for women refugees, internally displaced and from hosting communities.

**3. 28 women's committee members in Sange were trained on basic personal hygiene, environmental sanitation, menstrual hygiene and family planning.** This contributed to the sensitization of 6.980 women and girls of childbearing age on the basic concepts of personal hygiene, environmental sanitation, menstrual hygiene, maternal health, family planning and prevention of STIs and HIV/AIDS. These sensitizations are carried out by the facilitators and women members of the local committees in the different intervention sites.

**4. Direct support for access to health services was provided:** free medical care for 760 women, purchase of 2.700 hygiene kits (distributed during the month of December 2019) and support for the delivery of 29 women in the hospitals of Sange, Luvungi and the BWALA health centre in FIZI.

CSOs	Promotion of Human Values (PROVAH), Dynamic of Women's Actions for Children in Distress, Study and Research Centre for Agriculture and Development
Title of the project	Peace tam-tam for the rehabilitation of 15 km of agricultural tracks, 4 football fields and 4 cultural huts within the framework of sensitization to peace, the creation of temporary employment for a better recovery of the socio-economic activities of women returnees and women returning from shelters in the localities of Tumbwe fief and Mulange rail in Kalemie
Budget	\$136.670,00
Province	Tanganyika, Kalemie
Outcome WPHF	Outcome 6

During the reporting period, PROVAH implemented the following activities:

**1. 11.202 women, girls, men and boys were sensitized on women's rights and women's empowerment.** 100 awareness-raising sessions were organized, targeting women, community leaders and village decision-makers, followed by a mobilization campaign to combat poverty among women in rural areas and thus facilitate women's empowerment and gender equality (women's involvement in the management of community assets and in the consolidation of peace).

**2. 30 community leaders were trained on women's rights and their role in conflict resolution and peacebuilding in rural areas.** A training workshop on "Women's rights and their role in conflict resolution and peace-building, gender inequality and human rights in rural areas, how to address these challenges?" was organized by PROVAH in October 2019 with the aim of learning about strategies for defending women's rights, non-violent mechanisms for claiming human rights and mechanisms for peaceful conflict management. The training brought together 30 community leaders, including 16 women and 14 men, including representatives of the Twa population. These leaders came from the villages of Tumbwe fief, Nkosa, Chai, Kabalo, Katolo Idi, Fatuma, Kibenze, Lukonde and Mulange rail. A KAP survey is undergoing to measure the behavioral changes of customary authorities towards land heritage practices.

**3. 233 people, including 190 women, are mobilized and working on the development of 14.8 km of agricultural tracks.** Briefing sessions on the HILO method were organized in favor of targeted women for the constitution of 10 teams of 22 people and 10 team leaders. Presently weeding activities are in progress on the two axes of the project. Daily, the construction work is followed by awareness-raising sessions: each day after the work, an awareness-raising session is organized for the daily management of income generated by temporary work, savings being one of the strategies adopted. The temporary works that are executed by the beneficiaries give rise to a payment of US\$ 4 per day and the good management of the latter is important because half of this income must be saved for the constitution of SILC which will have an impact on the socio-economic recovery of women for their empowerment.

CSOs	Consortium of the Association of Rural Development Technicians and Environmentalists from Bikoro (ATDERBI), Association of Women in Action, Association of Intellectual and Pygmy Women in Equateur.
Title of the project	Support to agro-pastoral activities for the benefit of 500 female households affected by the Ebola epidemic in the villages of Ikoro Impenge, Bokeya-Ngombe and Itipo, Ekonda sectors, Bikoro Territory
Budget	\$127.500,00
Province	Equateur
Outcome WPHF	Outcome 6

During the reporting period, ATDERBI implemented the following activities:

**1. Sensitization of 2.500 women's households on the importance of women's role in peacekeeping, combating food insecurity and promoting women's empowerment;** awareness-raising was achieved through advocacy with the political-administrative and customary authorities in order to commit to the success of the project activities with an official launch of the project by the Administrator of the Territory in the presence of all sections of the population and much more the representatives of women's structures in order to convey the message to their respective bases. Sensitizers were passing through the targeted villages with messages focusing primarily on the importance of the effective promotion of women in Bikoro territory and their participation in decision-making bodies in order to maintain peace.

**2. 500 women and girls were trained on resilience strategies after the Ebola epidemic through the management and installation of their fields and livestock;** the training of 500 women and girls heads of households, direct beneficiaries of the project, took place in the 9 sites, including 3 sites per village, around the following subjects:

- Conflict prevention, women's empowerment, entrepreneurship and women's leadership;
- Community resilience after Ebola disease;
- The conduct of agro-pastoral activities with modern cultivation techniques and techniques for breeding pigs as broodstock.

**3. 9 sites made available by village chiefs were identified for women's agropastoral activities.** Advocacy was carried out through consultation meetings in each village with the customary authorities and land chiefs, which resulted in the acceptance and provision of 9 agro-pastoral sites, 3 of which are in each village.

The agro-pastoral sites are: 6 agricultural fields of two hectares each (3 for the reproduction and multiplication of improved seeds of high productivity maize and 3 sweet potato fields) and 3 sites for the reproduction and multiplication of pigs as broodstock (pig breeding).

CSO	Support to Actions of Indigenous Women in Maniema (SAFI), Umoja Wa Mama Wa Maendeleo UMAMA, Association of Women Breeders of Maniema AFELMA, Tujenge Kwetu ATK Association
Project Title	Rehabilitation of the economic activities of vulnerable women affected by armed violence in the south of Maniema Province in DR Congo.
Amount financed	\$118.702,00
Province	Maniema, Kasongo and Kabambare Territories
WPHF effect	Outcome 6

During the reporting period, SAFI implemented the following activities:

**1. 23 sensitization meetings on women's participation to decision-making and economic activities were undertaken,** targeting local political-administrative authorities, customary authorities, religious leaders, local civil society organizations and vulnerable women, **reaching an estimated number of 899 of direct beneficiaries.**

**2. 20 women's associations were restructured and dynamized to effective functionality;** 11 other indirect beneficiary women's associations in the project area were supported by project staff in reinforcing the functioning of their organizations.

**3. 2 training sessions to build the organizational capacity of associations and cooperatives in farming techniques were organized in Wamaza and Kasongo targeting 62 participants (including 50 women).** The training sessions focused on pig and goat rearing techniques in farming environments, the organization and functioning of an association, cooperative management and women's entrepreneurship; women's protection and peace education (non-violent communication), United Nations Resolution 1325. The modules were animated by the persons in charge of the State Services (Territorial Inspectors of Agriculture and Rural Development) as well as the Actors (Lawyers and Expert in Rural Development) of the civil society identified by SAFI-Maniema.

**4. Acquisition, installation and operationalization of processing units for agricultural products and other materials/inputs to support the economic empowerment of 20 women's groups:** 5 palm oil presses, 5 rice huskers, 3 maize/manioc mills; plastic drums, plastic basins, funnels, scales, empty bags and 600 litres of fuel (fuel oil and lubricant). The inputs were delivered by the selected suppliers after the tenders were opened in Kindu, Kasongo and Wamaza. Livestock shelters are prepared to receive the intended animals. The converted shelters will be populated with WPHF funds (100 goats and 100 pigs).

CSO	Female Solidarity for Peace and Integral Development (SOFEPADI), Forum of Mothers of Ituri (FOMI)
Project Title	Women's involvement in peacebuilding, resilience and gender equality in the Province of Ituri and North Kivu, DR Congo
Amount financed	\$136.945,00
Province	North Kivu and Ituri, Beni, Irumu and Djugu Territory
WPHF effect	Outcome 6

During the reporting period, SOFEPADI implemented the following activities:

**1. 560 community peace leaders, including 420 women and 140 men, have been identified** with the help of local and customary authorities and civil society in the 28 villages targeted by the project. On the basis of 3 main criteria including community acceptance, availability and volunteerism, these leaders were grouped into 20 per village to form the community dialogue group. Currently, there are **28 Community Dialogue Groups operational throughout the project implementation area.**

**2. All of the 28 villages targeted by the project each have a revitalized and structured community dialogue group capable of contributing to prevention and peacebuilding in their respective environments.** Community dialogue groups were created and/or strengthened. They were each provided with a committee of 5 persons including a president, a vice-president, a secretary, a treasurer and a counsellor; an internal regulation developed and adopted by all members as well as small office supplies (paper, flip chart, pen, register book, marker, binder) to facilitate the preparation of reports of meetings and activities carried out.

**3. 720 women benefited from training sessions on the operation and management of the Village Savings and Credit Association (AVEC) in Beni, Irumu and Djugu Territories.** For reasons of proximity, some beneficiaries were grouped together to attend this training, the main session of which lasted one day and was followed by other complementary sessions that revolved around practical exercises. Each village has at least two groups, each made up of the 20 women beneficiaries who are either displaced, survivors of gender-based violence, or vulnerable women identified with the help of local authorities and community leaders. By the end of the reporting period, each AVEC was equipped with internal rules and regulations and has received its kit consisting of the box, account books, plates, register book, small seals, ink, stamp, lath, pen, basket and string bag. In the next phase, a rotating start-up fund will be disbursed to 72 AVEC.

CSO	Consultance, Training and Information for Development (CEFIDI), One girl One leader, International Movement for the Rights of the Child, Women, Widowed Men and their Social Advancement
Project Title	Support for the socio-economic recovery of women and girls through vocational training and income-generating activities in the post-conflict zone in the rural commune of OICHA and the outskirts of North Kivu.
Amount financed	\$137.466,00
Province	North Kivu, Beni
WPHF effect	Outcome 6

During the reporting period, CEFIDI implemented the following activities:

**1. 80% of the population in the project area has been reached through sensitization and mobilization of the local community on the creation of community houses dedicated to women's empowerment and participation through the organization of community meetings where all groups are represented.** Awareness-raising is also delivered through local peace and development committees or project management committees. Thus, for all the sites (OICHA, BULONGO, MAVIVI and MANGINA), the consortium has so far reached at least 80% of the population in the project area. Thanks to this ongoing awareness raising, communities in different sites have become fully involved and participate in the activities. It has also allowed the team to obtain land on which they have built Community Houses; there has also been the acquisition of land or space for community fields.

**2. Community Houses were constructed and equipped in the 4 selected sites including OICHA, BULONGO, MAVIVI and MANGINA in the territory of Beni.** In particular, the 4 buildings are endowed with 4 rooms each to be used as classroom, 2 vocation training rooms, 3 offices for the permanent management of the Community Houses or Training Centers; 4 sanitary facilities. In this period, the consortium also acquired some training furniture and equipment, including 12 knitting machines, 28 sewing machines and their accessories, stools, chairs and tables for all classrooms.

**3. 250 vulnerable women and girls beneficiaries have been identified to participate in the project,** according to defined criteria with the participation of local peace and development committees or project management committees in each site for reasons of transparency and efficiency. Thus, 64 beneficiaries have been identified in OICHA, 62 in BULONGO, 62 in MAVIVI and 62 in MANGINA.

## II. Challenges

In terms of project implementation, the local CSOs and NGOs reported the following challenges:

- **Accessibility:** in the territories of Bunia (Ituri), Beni (South Kivu) and Uvira (South Kivu) several projects sites became inaccessible for several weeks because of insecurity caused by armed groups attacks. Moreover, during the month of October and November 2019, raining season caused serious hardship to reach beneficiaries, especially in the territories of Bikoro (Equateur) and Kabambare (Maniema) where goods and machineries purchased through the projects had to be transported by motorbikes only.
- **Durability:** Some project locations, such as the territories of Kabambare in Maniema Province or Bikoro in Equateur are not beneficiaries of other humanitarian assistance or development aid and this initiative represent one of the first, if not the first, project addressing gender equality and women's empowerment. CSOs reported several challenges in carrying on empowerment programs targeting women and girls: practices and

attitudes that are consistently based on gender stereotypes, low access to education and high rate of illiteracy among women, absence of women in decision-making positions at local level and high incidence of SGBV with no services of psycho-social assistance to survivors. All CSOs included in their work plan mitigation measures, including awareness raising and trainings targeting local stakeholders and community leaders, positive masculinity sensitisation targeting youth, strengthening of women's groups promoting women's leadership and gender balanced community-based recovery activities (SILC, HILO). These mitigation measures will need to be reinforced in the sustainability strategy of each initiative to sustain the advancements made in terms of behavioural changes related to gender equality and women's empowerment by the end of the projects.

- **Operational challenges:** Given the high costs in terms of project management and M&E for UN Women in DRC, considering that approved projects are in 6 different Provinces reachable only by flights, the available budget is extremely limited. No staff is fully dedicated to the initiative and activities are carried out by 1 Programme Analyst (30% of her monthly timesheet), by a financial officer (5% of his monthly timesheet).

### III. Lessons learned and best practices

#### Programmatic:

- Women's organisations implementing the projects underlined the importance of launching their projects officially only after doing a field mission dedicated to informing the local authorities, in order to explain the objectives of the projects and the reasons why project beneficiaries would be women and girls. Especially in the territories where no other humanitarian aid is supplied, or where targeted beneficiaries are women and girls refugees and IDPs, the involvement of local authorities in the identification of the beneficiaries is key to ensure local ownership and avoid tensions at community level.
- Organisations implementing women's empowerment activities in post-conflict settings underlined the importance of involving men in the projects, through awareness raising and sensitization activities as well as partially being among the beneficiaries of the project. In the HILO activities implemented in Tanganyika for example, 43 men and 190 women are working together in the construction of agricultural road. Involvement of men and boys in a high unequal society from a gender perspective supports the deconstruction of the perception of SGBV as expression of masculinity.

#### Operations:

- Most of the NGOs implementing the WPHF projects are facing similar programmatic and operational challenges in terms of staff safety, identification of beneficiaries in settings where needs are far higher than support brought, training of beneficiaries who are illiterate, dealing with local authorities asking support to their functioning. Therefore, the creation of a community of practice among the WPHF represents a good practice allowing them to share challenges and possible mitigation measures as well as tools and training materials.

#### ii) A Specific Story:

The territory of Bikoro is located at 128 km from the city of Mbandaka, in the Western Province of Equateur in the DRC. This is an area of high exploitation of natural resources causing deforestation. With a rate of unemployment

of 90%, heavy consumption of alcohol is widespread, causing high rates of Sexual and Gender Based Violence (SGBV) as well as the increase of the burden on women for the survival of family members. Women were, moreover, totally excluded from decision-making positions, to the point that no woman holds a position among local authorities. Indigenous women, named by majority Bantou population “pygmies”, suffer forms of multiple discrimination because of their ethnicity and physical characteristics. An epidemic of Ebola Virus spread in the region between June and July 2018.

The project submitted by the consortium of local Consortium of the Association of Technicians and Environmentalists for the Rural Development of Bikoro (ATDERBI), the Association of Women in Action and the Association of Intellectual and Pygmy Women in Equateur, has the specific objective of supporting the economic empowerment of 500 women-led households, including 300 Bantou households and 200 indigenous women head of households, through the development of agro-pastoral activities.

The consortium clearly identified the factors that could represent an obstacle to the effective implementation of project activities such as:

- Food insecurity, due to lack of technical skills of women and access to means of production;
- Inter-ethnic discrimination and violence between Bantou and Pygmy communities, due to competition of limited natural resources;
- Stigmatisation of survivors of Ebola disease;

In the inception phase of the project, the Consortium dedicated enough time, through the organisation of 8 meetings with local and traditional authorities, to ensure a high local ownership, as a pre-condition for an effective implementation of project activities. As a result, local dignitaries’ awareness on the necessity to promote women’s wellbeing and participation at community level is increased; they contributed to identify beneficiaries among Bantou and Pigmy communities, including survivors of Ebola Virus Disease from the two communities, favouring social cohesion and collaboration in daily activities. In order to ensure full participation of beneficiaries, a training of trainers speaking the local languages of both groups have been organised.

This project is giving a unique opportunity of strengthening social cohesion and preventing inter-ethnic conflicts, through the empowerment of women and girls, in a province characterised by a growing exodus from the forest and high level of exploitation of natural resources and therefore the necessity of development new forms of cohabitation and integration of populations on the move.

#### **IV. Assessments, Evaluations and Knowledge**

- WPHF Data base: from the 2 WPHF Call for Proposals, more than 950 applications from throughout the DRC national territory were submitted. In order to recognise national CSOs active in the field of gender mainstreaming in humanitarian action and peacebuilding, and to capitalize on the data received through all these project proposals, UN Women will collaborate with a group of young local women specialised in IT to undertaking a mapping to better inform and guide UN Women's coordination activities in the field. A database, including a platform to receive proposals and send questionnaires to women-led groups will be created, also with the aim of geolocating ongoing projects.
- Capacity building: 5 out of 6 NGOs implementing ongoing WPHF projects, never received previous funding from UN Women. During the capacity assessment exercise, a specific session was dedicated to explaining to each lead organisation the reporting tools, especially the financial reporting. In addition, a remote 2-hours training has been organised with each organisation at the inception phase of the project to finalise each annual and quarterly work plans and procurement plan. Technical assistance has been remotely provided during the

submission and verification of the first narrative and financial submission, in order to disburse the second instalments.

#### **IV. Programmatic Revisions**

As above mentioned, the first allocation of WPHF resources focused on outcome 3 (humanitarian assistance) and outcome 6 (post-conflict recovery) of the WPHF results framework. The second programmatic cycle will include protection issues, specifically addressing sexual and gender-based violence (SGBV) in conflict, post-conflict and humanitarian settings through the WPHF-Spotlight funding partnership. Initiatives will be targeting survivors of SGBV providing holistic care; local stakeholders, including traditional leaders, teachers, media and the security sector with training and awareness raising; women's organisation with tools and skills to increase their advocacy power and their protection initiatives.

On top of this thematic shift, the main adjustments in terms of strategic partnership with CSOs in the framework of the WPHF are the following:

- Focus on women-led organisations. While the first call for proposals (launched in February 2019) was dedicated to civil society organisations and national NGOs, encouraging consortiums of multiple local entities promoting women's empowerment, the second call for proposals (launched in September 2019) was targeting exclusively women-led organisations or CSOs with an explicit mandate of gender equality and women's empowerment.
- Focus on priority geographic area: the first set of projects funded are in 6 Provinces of DRC: North Kivu, Ituri, South Kivu, Maniema, Tanganyika and Equateur. 4 out of 6 Provinces are in the East of the country, where most of the humanitarian efforts have been deployed during the past 20 years of international and national aid. With the aim of strengthening civil society organisations in other Provinces as well as providing humanitarian assistance to women and girls currently living a delicate phase of demobilisation of spontaneous surrenders from armed groups, such as the Kasai region or the Tanganyika province, the funding from the second allocation will include new areas of interventions.

#### For 2020, the priority actions are the following:

- Monitoring of evaluation of the ongoing 6 projects funded through the first call for proposals. Monitoring mission will be realised during the month of April 2020 in each site. The final evaluation of these initiatives is scheduled for the month of June 2020.
- Implementation of the WPHF project '*Socio-economic recovery of women resident in Mushinga for the consolidation of peace in the territory of Walungu in South Kivu*' of the CSO 'Support to women's social reintegration – ARSF' based in Bukavu. The project has already been approved by the National Steering Committee (NSC) on May 9<sup>th</sup>, 2019 for a total budget of 107.000\$. This project is supported by the Starbucks foundation.
- Approval of WPHF-Spotlight projects: a set of new projects contributing to outcome 5 Protection will be approved by the NSC on February 2020. After approval, UN Women, will conduct the capacity assessments of selected CSOs, provide them with technical assistance for the elaboration of the annual and quarterly workplan and disburse funds.

**Annex 1: Result Framework**

**Annex 2: Photos**



**Results Framework**

	<b><u>Achieved</u> Indicator Targets</b>	<b>Reasons for Variance with Planned Target (if any)</b>	<b>Source of Verification</b>
<p><b>Outcome 1<sup>2</sup></b></p> <p><b>Indicator: Total # of women, girls, men and boys in conflict, post-conflict and humanitarian settings whose living conditions have improved</b></p> <p><b>Baseline: 0</b></p> <p><b>Planned Target: 18 302</b></p> <p><b>Indicator: # of CSOs active in peacebuilding and humanitarian action who capacities are strengthened</b></p> <p><b>Baseline: 0</b></p> <p><b>Planned Target: 7</b></p>	<p>18 099 persons living in post conflict areas or/and humanitarian crises settings (13 564 women and girls and 4 535 men and boys) directly reached by the program in 6 Provinces of DRC (Maniema, South Kivu, North Kivu, Ituri, Equateur, Tanganyika).</p> <p>6 active projects involving 15 CSOs in 6 different Provinces.</p>	<p>Ongoing project</p> <p>1 approved but pending project to be funded (funding pending from Starbucks Foundation).</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 3 CSOs Monthly Report</li> <li>• 1 Quarterly Report</li> <li>• Pictures and videos</li>   <li>• CSOs Capacity assessments</li> <li>• Individual follow-up emails on narrative and financial reporting</li> </ul>

<sup>2</sup> Note: Outcomes, outputs, indicators and targets should be **as outlined in the Project Document** so that you report on your **actual achievements against planned targets**.



<p><b>Output 1.1</b></p> <p><b>Women affected by inter-community conflict in Kalemie (Tanganyika) have equal access to recovery opportunities</b></p> <p><b>Indicator 1.1.1</b></p> <p><b># of women and girls, men and boys informed on human's rights, gender equality and pacific co-habitation</b></p> <p><b>Baseline: 0</b></p> <p><b>Planned Target: 10 580</b></p> <p><b>Indicator 1.1.2</b></p> <p><b># of women and girls, men and boys who received cash for work for the rehabilitation of community owned infrastructures</b></p> <p><b>Baseline: 0</b></p> <p><b>Planned Target: 220</b></p> <p><b>Indicator 1.1.3</b></p> <p><b># of women and girls, men and boys having access to Saving and Interally Lending Community (SILC) groups</b></p>	<p>2 432 families, corresponding to 11 202 persons targeted with awareness raising sessions</p> <p>193 women and 40 men are enrolled in HILO activities; 14,8 km of agricultural road is rehabilitated.</p> <p><i>Activities to be implemented in Quarter II.</i></p>	<p>The works planning required the rehabilitation of 14,8 km of agricultural road instad of 12 in order to connect it to the surrounding villages.</p> <p><i>On track</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 3 Monthly Report</li> <li>• 1 Quarterly Report</li> <li>• Pictures and videos</li>   <li>• Minutes of meeting with local authorities</li> <li>• Attendance lists</li> <li>• Training modules of local leaders</li>   <li>• Training modules on HILO methods</li> <li>• Daily attendance lists</li> <li>• Daily payment lists</li> </ul>
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<p><b>Baseline: 0</b></p> <p><b>Planned Target: 180</b></p> <p><b>Output 1.2</b></p> <p><b>Women survivors of Ebola epidemics in Bikoro territory (Equateur) are economically empowered</b></p> <p><b>Indicator 1.2.1</b></p> <p><b># of women head of households aware of women's rights and women's participation to food security and conflict prevention.</b></p> <p><b>Baseline: 0</b></p> <p><b>Planned Target: 2 500</b></p> <p><b>Indicator 1.2.2</b></p> <p><b># of women trained in agro-pastoral techniques</b></p> <p><b>Baseline: 0</b></p> <p><b>Planned Target: 500</b></p>	<p>2500 women-led households reached with awareness raising sessions organized at community level; 8 information sessions organised with local authorities.</p> <p>500 women trained 30 women identified as resource persons receiving advanced training (out of 10 planned). 9 sites for agro-pastoral activities donated by local authorities and prepared for agricultural activities.</p>	<p>Creation of 3 groups of 30 resource persons to ensure durability of the project activities</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 3 Monthly Report</li> <li>• 1 Quarterly Report</li> <li>• Pictures and videos</li>   <li>• Activity reports</li> <li>• Official launch of the project</li> <li>• Attendance lists</li> <li>• Pay list of volunteers in charge of community outreach</li>   <li>• Training modules</li> <li>• Training report</li> <li>• Attendance lists</li> <li>• Certificates of donations of land</li> <li>• Project panels in agricultural sites</li> </ul>
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<p><b>Output 1.3</b></p> <p><b>The socio-economic recovery of 1000 vulnerable women affected by armed violence in South Maniema is being achieved in a post-conflict situation</b></p> <p><b>Indicator 1.3.1</b></p> <p><b># of women's associations strengthened and functioning in Kabambare territory</b></p> <p><b>Baseline: 0</b></p> <p><b>Planned Target: 20</b></p> <p><b>Indicator 1.3.2</b></p> <p><b># of unit of transformation established and functional</b></p> <p><b>Baseline: 0</b></p> <p><b>Planned Target: 25</b></p>	<p>1002 women are active members of 20 locally based women's groups.</p> <p>20 locally based women's groups overall are functional, structured and equipped.</p> <p>11 additional women's groups took part to the training and strengthened their functioning.</p> <p>64 persons (49 women and 15 men) trained in management of cooperatives and breeding techniques (goats and porcs)</p> <p>Restitution sessions organised in 21 sites in Kasongo and Kabambare.</p> <p>13 transformation units equipped with: 5 palm oil presses, 5 rice huskers, 3 maize/manioc mills; plastic drums, plastic basins, funnels, scales, empty bags and 600 litres of fuel (fuel oil and lubricant).</p>	<p>The number have been increased from 20 to 31 because of high demand of local associations that expressed similar needs and comply with eligibility criteria. The NGO Safi adjusted training costs to allow the participation of additional CSOs within the planned budget.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 3 Monthly Report</li> <li>• 1 Quarterly Report</li> <li>• Pictures and videos</li> <li>• Testimonies of beneficiaries</li>   <li>• Statut of women's groups</li> <li>• Minutes of General Assembly meetings</li> <li>• Certificate of delivery of equipments</li> <li>• Training modules</li> <li>• Contracts of trainers</li> <li>• Attendance lists</li>   <li>• Training modules</li> <li>• Attendance lists</li> <li>• Activity report</li>   <li>• Certificates of delivery of equipment</li> </ul>
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<p><b>Output 1.4</b></p> <p><b>Women and girls actively participate to conflict resolution and peace building in the Territoires of Irumu and Djugu (Ituri) and in the Territory of Beni (North Kivu)</b></p> <p><b>Indicator 1.4.1</b></p> <p><b># of members of community dialogues to build and consolidate peace and prevent conflicts</b></p> <p><b>Baseline: 0</b></p> <p><b>Planned Target: 560</b></p> <p><b>Indicator 1.4.2</b></p> <p><b># of women trained on SILC and IGA</b></p> <p><b>Baseline: 0</b></p> <p><b>Planned Target: 2000</b></p>	<p>560 peace leaders (420 W, 140 M) identified and trained in 28 villages (20 persons per village)</p> <p>28 groups of community dialogues created/redynamised and equipped.</p> <p>32 mediations realised in 11 villages (Mandro, Mutumbi, Katoto, Gina, Lopa, Ezekere, Kotoni, Oicha, Mavivi, Mbau et Mantumbi)</p> <p>780 women trained on SILC 80 members of community dialogues trained in group IGA 72 SILC groups equipped</p>	<p>Ongoing training</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 3 Monthly Report</li> <li>• 1 Quarterly Report</li> <li>• Pictures and videos</li>   <li>• Leaders profiles</li> <li>• Terms of reference</li> <li>• Activity report</li> <li>• Attendance list</li>   <li>• Mediation reports</li>   <li>• Training modules</li> <li>• Terms of reference</li> <li>• Activity report</li> <li>• Attendance list</li> <li>• Contract of trainers</li> </ul>
<p><b>Output 1.5</b></p> <p><b>Women and girls IDPs and refugees from Burundi living in the territories of Fizi and</b></p>			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 3 Monthly Report</li> <li>• 1 Quarterly Report</li> <li>• Pictures and videos</li> </ul>



<p><b>Uvira (South Kivu) have an improved access to their SRHR</b></p> <p><b>Indicator 1.5.1</b>  <b># of women and girls having access to free health care and received 2 dignity kits</b>  <b>Baseline: 0</b>  <b>Planned Target: 2700</b></p> <p><b>Indicator 1.5.2</b>  <b># health centers strengthened and equipped to deliver maternal health services</b>  <b>Baseline: 0</b>  <b>Planned Target: 3</b></p> <p><b>Indicator 1.5.3</b>  <b># women and girls with an improved knowledge on personal hygiene</b>  <b>Baseline: 0</b>  <b>Planned Target: 49 700</b></p>	<p>289 women received free medical health care  29 women delivered for free in the health centers and received free pre-natal and post-natal care  2700 dignity kits purchased and distributed</p> <p>28 health providers received an accelerated workshop on maternal health  3 health centers are equipped of consumables and medicines</p> <p>28 women's resources at community level in Sange trained on basic personal hygiene, environmental sanitation, menstrual hygiene and family planning.  6 980 women and girls of childbearing age reached with information on SRHR</p>	<p>Number of practitioners mobilised from health centers to attend the trainings.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Treatment receipts</li>   <li>• Training modules</li> <li>• Activity report</li> <li>• Attendance list</li> <li>• Donation delivery forms</li>   <li>• Training modules</li> <li>• Activity report</li> <li>• Attendance list</li> <li>• Donation delivery forms</li> </ul>
<p><b>Output 1.6</b>  <b>250 women affected by armed conflict and survivors/at risk of sexual exploitation in</b></p>			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 3 Monthly Report</li> <li>• 1 Quarterly Report</li> <li>• Pictures and videos</li> </ul>



**Annex 2: Photos**



Groups of community dialogues on peace, SOFEPADI, Bunia, North Kivu



Construction of women's resource centers, CEFIDI, Beni, South Kivu



Awareness raising on women's SRHR to IDPs and refugees women, AFPDE, Fizi, South Kivu



Agropastoral activities in the 10 ha land donated by local authorities of Bikoro, ATDERBI, Equateur



Rice processing machine purchased by SAFI, Kabambare, Maniema



Construction of 12 km of agricultural road, PROVAH, Kalemie, Tanganyika



SILC training, PROVAH, Kalemie, Tanganyika