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 **PBF PROJECT progress report**

**COUNTRY:** **DRC (and Rwanda)**

**TYPE OF REPORT: annual**

**YEAR of report: 2021**

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| **Project Title:** DRC – Rwanda cross-border project: Creating peace dividends for women and youth through increased cross-border trade and strengthened food security**Project Number from MPTF-O Gateway: DRC:** 00122834, **Rwanda:** 00122835 |
| **If funding is disbursed into a national or regional trust fund:** [ ]  Country Trust Fund[x]  Regional Trust Fund**Name of Recipient Fund:**       | **Type and name of recipient organizations:** **UNDP (Convening Agency)****FAO****WFP** |
| **Date of first transfer:** 9 July 2020**Project end date:** 6 July 2022 **Is the current project end date within 6 months?** No |
| **Check if the project falls under one or more PBF priority windows:**[ ]  Gender promotion initiative[ ]  Youth promotion initiative[ ]  Transition from UN or regional peacekeeping or special political missions[x]  Cross-border or regional project |
| **Total PBF approved project budget (by recipient organization):** **Recipient Organization Amount** UNDP-DRC$ 912,599FAO-DRC $ 356,212WFP-DRC $ 380,000UNDP-Rwanda$ 636,084FAO-Rwanda $ 356,212WFP-Rwanda $ 357,884 Total: $ 2,998,991Approximate implementation rate as percentage of **TOTAL** project budget: **20.2%** in (**6.4%** UNDP-DRC, **24.1%** FAO-DRC, 0% WFP-DRC; **17.1%** UNDP-RWANDA, **46.9%** FAO- RWANDA and **50.6%** WFP-RWANDA)\*ATTACH PROJECT EXCEL BUDGET SHOWING CURRENT APPROXIMATE EXPENDITURE\***Gender-responsive Budgeting:**Indicate dollar amount from the project document to be allocated to activities focussed on gender equality or women’s empowerment: $967,014.16Amount expended to date on activities focussed on gender equality or women’s empowerment: $23,285.60 |
| **Project Gender Marker:** GM2**Project Risk Marker:** Medium**Project PBF focus area:** 2.3 and 3.1 |
| **Report preparation:**Project report prepared by: UNDP, FAO et WFP (DRC and Rwanda) Project report approved by: Resident Coordinator Office (DRC and Rwanda)Did PBF Secretariat review the report: Yes (DRC) |

**PART 1: OVERALL PROJECT PROGRESS**

***Briefly outline the******status of the project******in terms of implementation cycle, including whether preliminary/preparatory activities have been completed (i.e., contracting of partners, staff recruitment, etc.) (1500character limit):***

Restrictive measures against the COVID-19 pandemic were unpredictable on both sides of countries, such as confinement and border management. At the end, a cross-border project technical committee was held on 14 July 2021 (online) after a joint DRC-Rwanda cross-border steering committee on 25 November 2020. The participants were the three recipient agencies and RCOs of both countries and concerned ministries and implementing institutions in Rwanda. The progress of both countries was presented, and a joint annual work plan (joint AWP) was validated. A monitoring plan and a risk log were reviewed. Another cross-border project technical meeting took place on 5 October 2021 to check the current situation and monitoring.

*DRC*

The eruption of Nyiragongo volcano in May 2021 also affected the operation of the agencies and project implementation, including access to intervention areas and security. The instability of security in North Kivu, in particular, the axis between Goma-Buhumba, limited access to the project intervention areas. With respecting security measures, different joint missions of FAO and WFP on the selection of beneficiaries in Buhumba and Rusayo were conducted, and the lists of beneficiaries are in process for verification and harmonization. The post of a project coordination specialist was advertised twice, and a project coordinator arrived at UNDP in September 2021. A technical meeting by three agencies in DRC was held on 24 September. The state of siege declared in North Kivu in May 2021 has influenced the relations with the authorities, in particular governance at the provincial and territorial levels. At the beginning of October 2021, the project was presented to the experts of the provincial government of the North Kivu by UNDP. A coordination meeting among key actors in assistance for cross-border trade was organized on 25 October 2021. Regarding partnerships, FAO has signed a letter of agreement with the Ministry of Agriculture (the provincial inspection of agriculture of the North Kivu) for supervision and monitoring of agricultural activities of beneficiaries. FAO has also prepared for a call for proposals to select a partner of technical assistance. WFP has been selecting a partner through a call for expression of interest. UNDP has identified the Université Libre des Pays des Grand Lac de Goma (ULPGL) and YouthConnekt as partners for the specific activities and agreements with them will be finalized by the end of November. UNDP has also been discussing potential partnership with certain NGOs working in cross-border trade. The identification of a partner and the finalization of an agreement will be completed soon. Agricultural inputs for Output 2 have already been purchased for distribution while the finalization of beneficiary selection is in process.

*Rwanda*

Output 1: Cross-border trade to enhance income generating activities, food security and dialogue between border communities with a focus on women and youth entrepreneurs

* In partnership with Rubavu District and other security organs, the Rwanda National Police conducted a consultative leadership meeting with local authorities, security organs, customs, and border officials to promote cross border business activities. The outcome of the meeting is committed to own security in support in development of the economy, to strengthen strategies to prevent and fight illegal cross border business activities, increase joint (security organs, border officials, local leaders, and other key stakeholders) awareness campaigns on legal cross border business and strengthening good governance, transparency and accountability in leadership.
* Media campaigns on television and radio were conducted to raise awareness on promoting legal cross border business related activities, crime prevention and reporting.
* The Rwanda National Police conducted a training for 36 young women and men who were previously involved in illegal cross border activities as well as 24 local leaders, security organs, custom and border official, local leaders and formed cooperatives selected leaders on Human Rights, Sexual and Gender Based Violence and harassment, anti-smuggling and crime prevention strategies. The 6 newly formed cooperatives were provided with starts up capitals for young women and men previously involved in illegal cross border business activities. The members of the cooperatives have now stopped illegal trade and are doing cross-border trade but legally.
* A joint assessment of emerging needs was conducted with participating UN agencies, the Ministry of Trade and Industry, district authorities, and cross-border cooperatives and resulted with important recommendations which led some adjustments in the project actual plans and synergies as agreed by the stakeholders.
* In partnership with the Rwanda Bar Association, different groups increased their understanding of Business & Human Rights within the context of Cross-border trade and are now capable of claiming their rights linked to their work. These include 58 members of cooperatives and 43 government officials, Law enforcers around the border (including 7 women).
* Different beneficiaries among the poorest who were in conflicts with the law have received free legal aid. As a result, 143 beneficiaries (83males and 60 women) benefited from legal Aid, thus benefitting from fair and equitable justice, assisted by a lawyer.

Output 2: Expanded agricultural production and productivity for smallholder farmers, particularly women and young people, to strengthen food security and livelihoods.

* Rapid assessment of Farmers Organisation (FOs) in Rubavu and neighbouring districts of potential cooperatives to work with PBF project was completed, where 12 cooperatives have been selected and onboarded in the project. The main objective of this farmers’ cooperative characterization was to assess and select horticulture and food crop farmer cooperatives which can benefit from support under the project. This exercise was conducted from 7-18 December 2020.[[1]](#footnote-1) A total number of 19 farmers’ cooperatives have been visited for assessment purpose and this led to the selection of 12 cooperatives among them.
* Capacity building of farmers on Post-Harvest Handling and Storage of Horticulture crops and Irish potatoes in Rubavu district was conducted with the aim of empowering smallholder farmers to adopt new agriculture technologies on Post-Harvest handling and Storage. WFP organized a training for farmers on reducing post-harvest losses through proper handling of fresh produce such as vegetables and Irish potatoes crops, which will result in reducing at a maximum the harvesting and post-harvesting losses of vegetables and Irish potatoes crops. Thus, it increases the income generated by farmers as the produce will reach the market in good condition and be sold on a premium price. A total number of 1,953 farmers from 9 horticulture cooperatives had been trained on vegetables postharvest handling and storage (PHHS), among them 864 (44%) are women and 2,815 producers of Irish potatoes have been trained on postharvest handling and storage of Irish potatoes, among them 975 are women (35%).
* In collaboration with the Ministry of Agriculture, through the Rwanda Agriculture Board (RAB), FAO enrolled 59 members of the 12 strong selected cooperatives and 6 sector Agronomists, into the ongoing six months FFS cascade training on Sustainable Horticulture Production and Marketing, that will be composed of 13 biweeklies FFS training sessions it total.
* The 59 FFS facilitators (whose 31 are youth (53%) being trained are composed of 29 women (49%) and 30 men (51%), who in turn have established their respective 59 FFS groups composed of 1,569 groups members: 827 Men (53%) and 726 Women (47%) and trained them on the same topics their received. This will increase sustainable horticulture production, market orientation and linkages and increase building and conflict resolution in the cross-border areas especially among women and youth.
* FAO also provided FFS training package composed of the agriculture tools for the main nursery (Hoes, Watering cans and Sprayer) and Agriculture inputs such as seeds and fertilisers and pesticides with the aim of increasing agricultural productivity and the capacity of the cooperatives supported to increase their cross-border trade capacity.
* FAO in collaboration with the Ministry of Agriculture and Rwanda Agricultural Board and WFP, developed a draft comprehensive FFS training manual for FFS facilitator that will be used by FFS facilitators being trained, during and after the project to train Farmer Field School group members and other community members. The training manual were used while training Farmer Field School (FFS) facilitators on nursery preparation and sowing, market orientation and linkages, market survey, crop selection, cropping calendar, data management and cooperative management, FFS curriculum development, value chain and other identified needs (including gender and human right), on sustainable horticulture production are successfully ongoing with special attention to potential women and youth farmer leaders in joint collaboration with FAO, WFP and UNDP.
* The purchase and distribution of personal protective equipment (PPE) for pesticide application and water cans for irrigation during the dry seasons to the 59 FFS groups was done in October 2021. This will protect the health of beneficiaries of the project but also increase their agricultural productivity

***Please indicate any significant project-related events anticipated in the next six months, i.e. national dialogues, youth congresses, film screenings, etc. (1000-character limit):***

*DRC*

To accelerate the implementation in DRC, the Rwanda project team shared study reports, experiences and lessons learnt, and the DRC project team also learnt from the experiences of other actors in DRC-Rwanda cross-border trade through the coordination meeting mentioned above. This will facilitate more efficient implementation. First, the three agencies will focus on finalising the partnerships. The second DRC-Rwanda cross-border steering committee will be organised in the beginning of December 2021. The presentation of the project, in particular the activities of Output 2, will be held in the project sites (Rusayo and Buhumba) at the end of November to invite local authorities, identified beneficiaries and partners. At the activity level, studies on perception, indicators, gender and impact of the COVID-19 pandemic in cross-border trade will be conducted by the end of 2021 while a study on marketing diagnosis will be carried out at the beginning of 2022. A workshop between small producers and small cross-border traders will be organised to strengthen the connection between them. Social cohesion activities (motorised caravan/participatory theatre/peace slogan) will be organised to strengthen social cohesion between them. A workshop on negotiation for access to land for small producers will also be held.

*Rwanda*

* Train and provide financial support to 5 newly formed cooperatives for young women, men and youth who were involved in illegal cross border trade.
* Conduct awareness raising campaigns on Radio to increase awareness on rights and obligations as well as peaceful exchanges for cross-border traders mostly targeting women and men involved in legal and illegal cross-border trade
* In order to further familiarize farmers with the use of improved equipment, WFP will distribute samples of such equipment to demonstrate their efficacity in protecting fresh food, enabling farmers to see first-hand the benefits of using them; partnerships with private-sector suppliers are established, allowing farmers direct access to the equipment in a market-sustainable manner that can last beyond the project’s duration.
* Facilitate financial linkages for smallholder farmers on both sides of the border to increase uptake of formal financial products (including savings, credit and insurance where applicable), with a special focus on cross-border trade and agriculture cooperation initiatives led by women and youth.
* Training of Farmers’ Organizations on cooperative governance, operational and financial management. The training sessions are planned to start in January 2022 and will be followed by coaching sessions to make sure that the acquired knowledge is being used through proper record keeping, use of financial tools, regular meetings, etc.
* FAO had planned to organise an event for the graduation ceremony of the 59 FFS facilitators towards March 2022. This will be a good opportunity to show key achievements and create awareness on project activities to external project stakeholders.

FOR PROJECTS WITHIN SIX MONTHS OF COMPLETION*: summarize* ***the main structural, institutional or societal level change the project has contributed to****. This is not anecdotal evidence or a list of individual outputs, but a description of progress made toward the main purpose of the project. (1500character limit):*

*Not applicable.*

***In a few sentences, explain whether the project has had a positive human impact. May include anecdotal stories about the project’s positive effect on the people’s lives. Include direct quotes where possible or weblinks to strategic communications pieces. (2000-character limit):***

*DRC*

As mentioned above, there were some reasons for the late start of activities in the field. For example, the COVID-19 pandemic, the eruption of the Nyiragongo volcano, the state of siege and the instability of security. All the elements would influence the peacebuilding between people in the DRC and in Rwanda. To analyse the situation, maintain the confidence of the authorities and the people and offer sustainable and coordinated solutions, the three agencies have adjusted the implementation in the situation with the challenges to seek a positive human impact.

*Rwanda*

While it is still early to see the change at impact level (the project started late), positive change has been observed where members of supported cooperatives started to change their behaviours decided to quit illegal business. They have been able to sell their produce legally and this has led to increase in their profitability. This project has helped them to improve their social welfare in the community and has helped them feel safe and there has been provision of security, the business environment has improved. More data will be obtained through the barometer that will be conducted in the beginning of 2022.

So far, the project had some positive human impact on the local communities: Farmers who are members of the 59 FFS groups being trained by FAO and RAB have started to change their mindset in fertilisers and pesticides application by reducing the application rates to respect the recommended doses, thus minimizing the production costs and increasing their profitability.

The increase of capacity building on sustainable horticulture production focusing on women and youth, has fostered the ability of farmers to increase and share the acquired knowledge and increase their mutual understanding, community interaction and trust by providing opportunities for dialogue among social groups around common and mutual socio-economic and political benefits between bordering areas of Rwanda and DRC, and increased cross-border trade. This has led to peace building and social cohesion, enhanced food security, increased livelihoods and income opportunities resulting in reduced socio-economic and political insecurities and conflicts between the two countries.

The training on sustainable horticulture production provided to farmers was very beneficial to them. Farmers say that “they gained knowledge on how to conduct market orientation and linkages, market survey, crop selection, cropping calendar, data management (i.e., data collection and data analysis) which will enable them to select a crop based on financial and economic benefits, identifying the right time of cropping calendar for better yields and financial gains and ensure record keeping on their incomes and revenues’.

**Activity progress summary**

The PBF consolidated workplan July 2020-June 2021 adopted by the cross-border technical committee was updated after the cross-border technical meeting in October 2021.The updated workplan will be presented at the cross-border steering committee in December 2021.

Table: Activity progress from the PBF consolidated workplan

|  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| WBS | Activities | Lead | Start | End | Remarks  |
| Output 1: Promote cross-border trade to enhance income generating activities, food security and dialogue between border communities with a focus on women and youth entrepreneurs |
| 1.1 | Conduct a multi-stakeholder mapping and gender assessment of cross border trade in Rwanda and in DRC to identify critical issues that may lead to mistrust between communities and border officials and to identify key impediments to cross-border trade, including legal, institutional and harassment concerns. Conduct policy dialogue and advocacy on the outcome of the assessment. - Assessment of COVID-19 on cross-border trade with focus on women | UNDP-DRC | November 2021 | January 2022 | The selection of a partner is in process. |
| UNDP-Rwanda | October 2020 | 30 June 2021 | Completed. Activity conducted by UN women |
| 1.2 | Train selected cross-border traders, with a focus on young women, and local authorities, particularly police, customs and border officials on Human Rights, Sexual and Gender Based Violence and harassment. | UNDP-DRC | January 2022 | February 2022 | The selection of a partner is in process. |
| UNDP-Rwanda | July 2021 | March 2022 | Ongoing |
| 1.3 | Conduct Human Rights and Anti-Harassment awareness campaigns and organize sensitization campaigns to increase awareness on rights and obligations as well as peaceful exchanges for cross-border traders, develop and disseminate behavior change communication materials with messages targeting men and women involved in legal and illegal cross-border trade. | UNDP-DRC | February 2022 | April 2022 | The selection of a partner is in process. |
| UNDP-Rwanda | July 2021 | March 2022 | Ongoing |
| 1.4 | Train smallholder farmers, their organizations, and small-scale traders, in commercial negotiation, cross border trade administrative procedures, regulations, gender awareness, business management and access to finance with a focus on women traders and border officials. | UNDP-DRC | April 2022 | May 2022 | The selection of a partner is in process. |
| UNDP-Rwanda | March 2021 | June 2022 | Ongoing |
| 1.5  | Conduct an awareness campaign in the border area around existing taxation and border laws and advocate particularly for COMESA rules to be more consistently applied | UNDP-DRC | April 2022 | June 2022 | The selection of a partner is in process. |
| UNDP-Rwanda | March 2021 | June 2022 | Ongoing |
| 1.6  | Review and strengthen harassment and corruption reporting mechanisms at the Goma-Rubavu border with a focus on small-scale traders, particularly women, to aid with cases of HR violations, commercial law violations and administrative harassment – building on existing national complaint reporting mechanism. | UNDP-DRC | January 2022 | May 2022 | The selection of a partner is in process. |
| UNDP-Rwanda | January 2022 | March 2022 | The activity is slated to start in January 2022 |
| 1.7 | Connect small holder farmers and cross-border traders with each other and between DRC and Rwanda, including through joint trainings and workshops and by connecting trader and farmer associations, in association with chambers of commerce in DRC and Rwanda. | FAO-DRC | December 2021 | May 2022 |  |
| FAO-Rwanda | 15 January 2021 | 25 Feb 2022 | Ongoing |
| 1.8 | Provide technical and financial support to the organization of two youth entrepreneurship bootcamps, one in Rwanda and one in DRC, aimed at supporting the development of businesses led by youth with a high potential of DRC - Rwanda cross border trade to create decent job opportunities, improve contextual understanding, and strengthen capacity on conflict resolution, gender, and cross-cultural skills. | UNDP-DRC | December 2021 | February 2022 | The partnership with YouthConnekt is in process. |
| UNDP-Rwanda | January 2022 | -June 2022 | The activity is slated to start in January 2022 |
| 1.9 | Award two youth entrepreneurs per bootcamp with an award and seed funding to facilitate operationalizing their business plan for cross-border trade related ideas. | UNDP-DRC | January 2022 | February 2022 | The partnership with Youth Connekt is in process. |
| UNDP-Rwanda | January 2022- | June 2022 | The activity is slated to start in January 2022 |
| 1.10 | Organize a cross-border Youth Trade Fair at Rubavu where young entrepreneurs from both sides of the border can engage in dialogue on positive youth engagement in cross-border trade, strengthen cross-border trust and confidence. | UNDP-DRC | June 2022 | June 2022 | The selection of a partner is in process. |
| UNDP-Rwanda | January 2022 | -June 2022 | This activity is planned in 2022 |
| Output 2: Expanded agricultural production and productivity for smallholder farmers, particularly women and young people, to strengthen food security and livelihoods  |
| 2.1 | Conduct technical assessment and studies on market dynamics for cross-border trade on both sides of the border which will inform the technical and material assistance to enhance profitable trade for small-holder farmers, with specific focus on youth and women | WFP& FAO-DRC | December 2021 | May 2022 |   |
| WFP& FAO-Rwanda | August 2020 | March 2022 | Rapid assessment: completedCollection of empirical information: completedStudy on horticulture value chain: pending |
| 2.2 | Support farmer organizations on both sides of the border to strengthen organizational and governance structures for enhanced cross-border trade potential and profitability of agricultural commodities | WFP& FAO-DRC | December 2021 | May 2022 |  |
| WFP& FAO-Rwanda | July 2020 | May 2022 | Following assessment; completedTraining needs assessment (governance): completedIdentification of cooperatives and formers: completedTraining need assessment for farmers: ongoing |
| 2.3 | Facilitate financial linkages for smallholder farmers on both sides of the border to increase uptake of formal financial products (including savings, credit and insurance where applicable), with a special focus on cross-border trade and agriculture cooperation initiatives led by women and youth | FAO-DRC | March 2021 | May 2022 |  |
| WFP-Rwanda | June 2021 | December 2021 | It will start in November 2021 |
| 2.4 | Facilitate negotiations between smallholder farmers and landlords in DRC to promote more equitable and affordable access to arable land. Several workshops will foster the dialogue between big landowner and small holder farmers with a final goal of signing a territorial pact that defines better conditions for access to land | FAO-DRC | January 2021 | January 2022 |  |
| Rwanda |  |  |  |
| 2.5 | Facilitate smallholder farmers’ access on both sides of the border to improved inputs, complemented with capacity building activities aimed at intensifying sustainable production and more efficient use of water resources. | FAO-DRC | March 2021 | February 2022 |  |
| FAO-Rwanda | December2020 | January 2022 | Training need assessment: completedProcurement of agriculture inputs and PPEs: completedTraining: ongoing |
| 2.6 | Facilitate smallholder farmers’ access on both sides of the border to post-harvest handling and storage (PHHS) equipment, complemented with capacity building activities aimed at enhancing post-harvest management and enhancing value addition.  | WFP-DRC | December 2021 | May 2022 |  |
| WFP-Rwanda | December 2020 | December 2021 | PHHS need assessment: completedTraining and equipment: in progress |
| 2.7 | Support smallholder farmers traders on both sides of the border, with specific focus on youth and women, to access market information  | WFP-DRC | December 2021 | May 2022 |  |
| FAO-Rwanda | January 2022 | June 2022 |   |
| 2.8 | Establish cross-border networks for young smallholder farmers engaged in horticulture, potatoes and beans value chains to improve quality and quantity of produce and strengthen cross-border trading links.  | WFP& FAO-DRC | December 2021 | April 2022 |  |
| FAO& WFP-Rwanda | February 2022 | June 2022 |   |
| 3. Project Management and Administration |
| 3.1 | Project Personnel | UNDP-DRC&Rwanda | November 2020 | July 2022 | Ongoing |
| 3.2 | Monitoring and Evaluation | UNDP-DRC&Rwanda | August 2020 | July 2022 | Ongoing |

**PART II: RESULT PROGRESS BY PROJECT OUTCOME**

**Outcome: Social cohesion and peace dividends in the Goma – Rubavu border area strengthened through increased cross-border trade, enhanced food security and increased livelihood and income opportunities, particularly for women and youth**

**Rate the current status of the outcome progress: Off track** for DRC and **On track** for Rwanda

**Progress summary:** *(3000 character limit)*

*DRC*

A cross-border technical committee was held on 14 July 2021. At the beginning of October 2021, the project was presented to the experts of the provincial government of the North Kivu who were different from the authorities at the cross-border steering committee in November 2020 because of the declaration of the state of siege in May 2021.

Output 1: Two potential partners have been identified, and discussions on proposals with them are in a final phase. Agreements with partners will be finalised by the end of November. Discussions with potential partners for other activities are in process and an agreement with one of them will be finalized by the end of November.

Output 2: Two joint missions of FAO-WFP were carried out in Rusayo and Buhumba in July and August 2021 to identify beneficiaries. 1,770 beneficiaries in 17 associations of small producers were identified, including 157 in 5 associations in Rusayo and 1,613 in 12 associations in Buhumba. To refine the beneficiaries up to 500, joint missions were conducted. Agricultural inputs (e.g., vegetable seeds and agricultural tools) have been purchased and will be distributed immediately after the final selection of the beneficiaries for the creation of community fields of vegetable and food production in order to strengthen cross-border trade, social cohesion, the dividends of peace in the targeted cross-border areas. The letter of agreement (LOA) with the provincial inspection of agriculture was signed for the supervision and monitoring of agricultural activities.

Acceleration plan

Once partners are selected for the two outputs, a joint meeting will be organized to promote good coordination of the partners. The activities of capacity building will be implemented as soon as the selection of beneficiaries and the partners is finalised.

*Rwanda*

WFP: Despite the fact that the economic border is not fully open as a result of the compounded impacts of Ebola, COVID-19 and the volcano eruption, farmers on the Rwanda side of the border are successfully being equipped with the capacity and resources to improve their food security and livelihood opportunities. As outlined in the detailed results section above, target farmers received support to enhance their post-harvest processes, thus leading to improved security at the household level. For example, as a result of the PHHS trainings provided, a number of supported cooperatives (namely KAIDU, ICYEREKEZO BUGESHI, KOAIBUSA and KOIDIAI) procured- using their own resources- drying shelves and tarpaulins to store and process their produce, which ensured the safe keeping of their food products despite their lack of ability to sell in DRC, as cross-border activity which is operating at a significantly reduced capacity due to COVID-19.

FAO: The project has positive human impact and effects through the increase of cross-border trade and community interaction which has fostered mutual understanding and trust by providing opportunities for dialogue among social groups around common and mutual economic interests and reduce insecurities and conflicts between Rwanda and DRC. With the strengthening of capacities for agricultural production expanded on both sides of the border, with a focus on the capacities and opportunities of women and young people and the expansion of access to livelihoods on both sides of the border and the agricultural value chain. As a result, food and economic insecurity will be reduced.

UNDP: The project has enhanced the skills of cross-border trade cooperatives members, cross-borders officials on various subjects. These groups are now aware of what the laws provides and what are the rights and obligations of both cross-border traders and public officials providing services at the border crossing between and DRC. Moreover, the rights of citizens were protected and promoted through legal aid provision, and the awareness on human rights and SGBV prevention was crucial in the promotion of human rights at the border between Rwanda and DRC.

***Indicate any additional analysis on how Gender Equality and Women’s Empowerment and/or Youth Inclusion and Responsiveness has been ensured under this Outcome:*** *(1000 character limit)*

*DRC*

Among the three agencies, it was agreed that the gender and youth aspect would be considered for the selection of beneficiaries. The definition of youth in the project is 18 to 35 years old. In accordance with the baseline study carried out in the targeted area as part of another project of WFP/FAO implemented in the same area, the planned activities considering the specific needs of women and young people (e.g., vegetable crops and legumes, types of agricultural implements). Although the identification of beneficiaries has not yet been finalised, 500 beneficiaries will be made up of 60% women.

*Rwanda*

Under this outcome, gender and youth inclusion was among the main criteria during selection of beneficiaries: among 3487, Beneficiaries, 1117 (32%) are women and 516 (15%) are youth. Women and youth are being empowered much because among the 59 farmer facilitators who have been selected from the 12 FOs to be empowered and train fellow farmers in their turn, 51% are women and 53% are youth.

Gender equality consideration has been taken into account when selecting the lawyers that provide legal aid to cross-border traders in conflict with the law. Out of the 3 lawyers, one is a woman. In addition, the selection of participants to training sessions also considers gender dimensions. The reporting is also keen of gender equality, as information is gathered on gender inclusion in the implementation of the project. From the discussion with women, it has been noted that Cooperative members need to be trained on Matrimonial Regime and this option will be explored.

The selection criteria of project beneficiaries were established considering gender and youth inclusion: 47% of FFS group members being trained are women and 57% are Men, while 53% of the 59 FFS facilitators being trained are young people.

**PART III: CROSS-CUTTING ISSUES**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Monitoring:** Please list monitoring activities undertaken in the reporting period (1000 character limit)A cross-border technic committee was held on 14 July 2021. The progress of both countries was presented, and a joint annual work plan (joint AWP) was validated. A monitoring plan and a risk log were reviewed.*Rwanda*Training monitoring: The Post-harvest handling and storage trainings were conducted using cascade model, where WFP train lead farmers/farmer facilitators and at their turn, they train fellow farmers. During those training lead farmers to farmers, WFP conducted several monitoring activities to make sure that farmers got the right message. FAO in collaboration with MINAGRI/Rwanda Agriculture Board conducted several field monitoring and technical backstopping to 59 FFS groups being trained by 59 FFS facilitators and totalizing 1,569 groups members: 827 Men (53%) and 726 Women (47%).Monitoring and technical backstopping of 59 FFS groups in the 6 selected sectors in their FFS sites was successfully done in March 2021 and in September 2021. UNDP, FAO, WFP and Implementing partners conducted joint monitoring to assess the situation on the field and inform decision making for the project. | Do outcome indicators have baselines? DRC: Not yet. A study is in preparation. Rwanda: No.Has the project launched perception surveys or other community-based data collection? DRC: Not yet. A perception survey and a study on output indicators are in preparation. Rwanda: Yes. |
| **Evaluation:** Has an evaluation been conducted during the reporting period?No. | Evaluation budget (response required): DRC: $68,500, Rwanda: $40,000If project will end in next six months, describe the evaluation preparations *(1500 character limit)*: Not applicable. |
| **Catalytic effects (financial):** Indicate name of funding agent and amount of additional non-PBF funding support that has been leveraged by the project. (please only report on NEW funding since last reporting cycle) | Name of funder: Amount:UNDP (Rwanda) $70,000Support two farming cooperatives in Rubavu district. |
| **Other:** Are there any other issues concerning project implementation that you want to share, including any capacity needs of the recipient organizations? *(1500 character limit)* | Restrictive measures against the COVID-19 pandemic were unpredictable on both sides of countries, such as confinement and border management.*DRC*The state of siege declared in North Kivu in May 2021 has influenced the relations with the authorities, in particular governance at the provincial and territorial levels. The instability of security in North Kivu, in particular, the axis between Goma-Buhumba, limited access to the project intervention areas. The eruption of Nyiragongo volcano in May 2021 also affected the operation of the agencies and project implementation, including access to intervention areas and security. |

**PART IV: COVID-19**

*Please respond to these questions if the project underwent any monetary or non-monetary adjustments due to the COVID-19 pandemic. (please only report on NEW expenditure since last reporting cycle)*

1. Monetary adjustments: Please indicate the total amount in USD of adjustments due to COVID-19:

*DRC*: No monetary adjustment has been done due to COVID-19.

*Rwanda*: $30,000. The budget line that was allocated to FFS training was adjusted in between in order to cover the transport fees for youth volunteers who support the training in COVID-19 prevention.

In addition, following the conduct of a gender assessment on impact of COVID-19 on cross-border trade by UN Women, the planned $20,000 budget was reallocated to support the two farming cooperatives identified in collaboration with the Ministry of Trade and Industry and the district of Rubavu.

1. Non-monetary adjustments: Please indicate any adjustments to the project which did not have any financial implications:

*DRC*: UNDP conducted a perception survey in the city of Goma as well as the territory of Nyiragongo on the socioeconomic impact of COVID-19 in October 2020. 70% of interviewees believe in the existence of COVID-19, while only 20% of people have a good knowledge of COVID-19. Less than 50% of people are aware of the restriction measures apart from confinement. The survey shows that the major negative impacts of border closures against COVID-19 are the economic situation and relations with neighbouring countries. In this consequence, the project adjusts the implementation of activities as an additional element (the impact of COVID-19 on cross-border trade) in the planned study and respect for restrictive and preventive measures.

*Rwanda*: Since COVID-19 prevention measures were not allowing meetings of many people, the adjustments made to conduct those activities were to group farmers in groups of no more than 20 persons and train them in open space respecting COVID-19 protective measures.

1. Please select all categories which describe the adjustments made to the project (*and include details in general sections of this report*):

[x]  Reinforce crisis management capacities and communications

[x]  Ensure inclusive and equitable response and recovery

[x]  Strengthen inter-community social cohesion and border management

[ ]  Counter hate speech and stigmatization and address trauma

[ ]  Support the SG’s call for a global ceasefire

[ ]  Other (please describe):

If relevant, please share a COVID-19 success story of this project (*i.e. how adjustments of this project made a difference and contributed to a positive response to the pandemic/prevented tensions or violence related to the pandemic etc.*)

The project is in the first phase of implementation.

**PART V: INDICATOR BASED PERFORMANCE ASSESSMENT**

*Using the* ***Project Results Framework as per the approved project document or any amendments****- provide an update on the achievement of* ***key indicators*** *at both the outcome and output level in the table below (if your project has more indicators than provided in the table, select the most relevant ones with most relevant progress to highlight). Where it has not been possible to collect data on indicators, state this and provide any explanation.* Provide gender and age disaggregated data. (300 characters max per entry)

|  | **Performance Indicators** | **Indicator Baseline** | **End of project Indicator Target** | **Indicator Milestone** | **Current indicator progress** | **Reasons for Variance/ Delay****(if any)** |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Outcome**Social cohesion and peace dividends in the Goma – Rubavu border area strengthened through increased cross-border trade, enhanced food security and increased livelihood and income opportunities, particularly for women and youth | **Indicator 1.a**Proportion of small-scale traders that feel more confident in crossing border formally has improved | DRC: TBCRwanda: TBC | DRC: TBCRwanda: TBC |  | Rwanda: Not yet. The barometer survey is expected to start early January 2022. | DRC: A study on indicators is in preparation.Rwanda: The barometer survey is expected to start early January 2022. COVID-19 pandemic has delayed implementation of activities with the temporary closing of the border |
| **Indicator 1.b**Trust in doing business with community from the other side of the border has improved | DRC: TBCRwanda: TBC | DRC: TBCRwanda: TBC |  | Rwanda: The barometer survey is expected to start early January 2022. COVID-19 pandemic has delayed implementation of activities with the temporary closing of the border  | DRC: A study on indicators is in preparation. |
| **Output 1**Promote cross-border trade to enhance income generating activities, food security and dialogue between border communities with a focus on women and youth entrepreneurs | **Indicator 1.1**# of beneficiaries (men/women) who are trained through Youth Connekt bootcamps | DRC: TBCTotal(F, M)Rwanda:1.174(F 437, M737) | DRC : +100 Total(F50 minimum, M50 maximum)Rwanda : 1.274 (F, M) | Rwanda: 1,274 by 8 July 2022 | Rwanda: 1,174 youths trained through Youth Connekt as of 20 March 2020 | DRC: A study on indicators for DRC is in preparation.Rwanda: Covid19 pandemic delayed project activities which had a negative impact on overcall current project achievement |
| Indicator 1.2Number of youth led business with a high potential of DRC - Rwanda cross border trade supported through seed capital. | 0DRC : 0Rwanda : 0 | 8DRC : 4Rwanda : 4 |  |  | The target of this indicator could be an error according to the description of Activity 1.9. Target should be 4 (2 per country). This will be discussed in next steering committee. |
| **Indicator 1.3**Number of youth engaged in the cross-border Youth Trade Fair | 0DRC: 0(F0, M0)Rwanda : 0(F0, M0) | 1.000DRC: 500(F250 minimum, M250 maximum)Rwanda:(F, M) |  |  |  |
| **Indicator 1.4**# beneficiaries (men and women) with improved nutrition, hygiene and health leaving | DRC : TBC(F, M)Rwanda; 600(F, M) | DRC: TBC(F, M)Rwanda : 1.200(F, M) |  |  | DRC: A study on indicators is in preparation. |
| **Output 2**Expanded agricultural production and productivity for smallholder farmers, particularly women and young people, to strengthen food security and livelihoods. | **Indicator 2.1**Volume and value of cross-border trade in target value chains | DRC: TBCRwanda: 65.80% | DRC: TBCRwanda: 80% | Rwanda: 80% by 8 July 2022 | Rwanda: 65.80% increase of volume of informal cross border export of agriculture and livestock products from Rwanda to DRC | DRC: A study on indicators is in preparation.Rwanda: Covid19 pandemic delayed project activities which had a negative impact on overcall current project achievement  |
| **Indicator 2.2**Increase in formal trade of value-added agricultural products in target value chains | DRC : TBCRwanda : TBC | DRC : TBCRwanda : TBC |  |  | DRC: A study on indicators is in preparation. |
| **Indicator 2.3**Increase of number of women and youth engaged in formal cross-border trade in targeted value chains | DRC : TBCRwanda : TBC | DRC : TBCRwanda : TBC |  |  | DRC: A study on indicators is in preparation. |
| **Indicator 2.4**Food Security indicator (FCS, DDS- TBD) | DRC : TBCRwanda : TBC | DRC : TBCRwanda : TBC |  |  | DRC: A study on indicators is in preparation. |
| **Indicator 2.5**Number of territorial pacts signed between landlords and smallholder farmers through the project | 0DRC : 0Rwanda : 0 | DRC : TBCRwanda : TBC |  |  | DRC: A study on indicators is in preparation. |

1. Target sectors: Cyanzarwe, Busasamana, Bugeshi, Rubavu, Nyamyumba and Rugerero of cooperatives with a cross-border element to their work. The assessment focused on these key areas:

 Good Cooperative governance

 Good Operational and financial management

 Cultivating targeted crops that are highly demanded by cross-border trading market, such as fruits and vegetables (egg plants, cabbages, onions, tomatoes, etc) and food crops such as Irish potatoes, maize, beans and Banana

 Land size and ownership (the big land size, the better)

 Registration at RCA

 Holding a TIN number

 Experience in aggregation and sales

Having big number of women and youth [↑](#footnote-ref-1)