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Emergency Response and Economic Recovery for Eastern DRC Agreement No. AID-OFDA-G-16-00168 – Final Report

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ACRONYMS

AAR	After-Action Review
ATG	Agriculture Training Group
CRS	Catholic Relief Services
CSI	Coping Strategy Index
EMMA	Emergency Market-Mapping Analysis
ER	Emergency Response
FCS	Food Consumption Score
FEVV	Vendor Sale Tracking Worksheet
FFP	Food for Peace
FGDs	Focus Group Discussions
FIFA	Family Article Inventory Worksheet
HH	Household
HHS	Household Hunger Score
HoHs	Heads of Households
LLINS	Long Lasting Insecticide Mosquito Nets
LQAS	Lot Quality Assurance Sampling
M&E	Monitoring and Evaluation
MDC	Mobile Data Collection
MSAs	Multi-Sectoral Assessments
MT	Metric Tons
OFDA	Office of Foreign Disaster Assistance
NDG	Nutrition Demonstration Garden
NFI	Non-Food Item
NRC	Norwegian Refugee Council
PDM	Post-Distribution Monitoring
rCSI	Reduced Coping Strategies Index
RFTs	Requests for Tender
RMA	Rapid Market Assessment
RRMP	Rapid Response to Movement of Population
SEA	Sexual Exploitation and Abuse
SGBV	Sexual and Gender Based Violence
WFP	World Food Programme

I. Executive Summary

The Samaritan's Purse (SP) OFDA/FFP-funded Emergency Response and Economic Recovery program aimed to efficiently and rapidly respond to the needs of conflict-affected populations in Eastern Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) by improving food access, enhancing household (HH) resiliency and promoting economic recovery for at least 92,400 beneficiaries.

According to the United Nations Office for Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA) estimates of early 2017, 5.9 million Congolese were food insecure (in acute food insecurity and livelihood crisis - Phases 3 and 4)¹. These populations continued to be in need of urgent help aimed at saving lives through holistic assistance for basic needs including food, water, medicine, housing and emergency agricultural production². The deterioration in food security was attributed to the incidence of poverty (which affects almost 65% of rural HHs), the internal displacement of about 3.7 million people, a rapid depreciation of the local currency value against the US dollar, and the loss of HH purchasing power, in addition to recurring conflicts.

During the year under review, SP facilitated humanitarian response through the provision of humanitarian food assistance, essential HH non-food items (NFIs), and farming seeds and tools to 107,222 project participants in five intervention areas in North Kivu and Irumu. The program was implemented in Niania and Biakato/Bela (Mambasa Territory in Ituri Province), Butembo and Miriki/Luofu (South Lubero Territory), and Maleki/Mamove (Beni Territory) of North Kivu province in Eastern DRC.

Samaritan's Purse worked closely with the humanitarian clusters in monitoring humanitarian alerts. The local OCHA office coordinated alerts in the region. For a coordinated, complementary and effective food security response, SP coordinated closely with the World Food Programme (WFP) and other major food security actors through the food security cluster and bilateral meetings. After validating the cluster alerts, SP identified its intervention sites in North Kivu and Ituri provinces. Field intervention feasibility assessments based on security and needs were conducted, followed by detailed vulnerability assessments where proposed intervention sites proved feasible. Vulnerability assessments comprised all required FFP indicators, as well as cluster-standard vulnerability indicators, allowing them to serve for both project participant identification and baseline analysis.

The vulnerability data gathered from HHs was used in project participant targeting. The food consumption score (FCS) was used in determining project participant vulnerability, and as a basis for food assistance enrollment eligibility. Beneficiaries for seeds and tools were further identified based on seed insecurity, access to farm land and the will and commitment to participate in food production as a means of promoting HH food access. Lastly, beneficiaries for NFI assistance were identified based on their NFI vulnerability score.

¹ 15th Integrated Food Security Phase Classification June2017_June2018

² Integrated Food Security Phase Classification June2017_June2018

In order to remain in line with the regional cluster standards, the project used DRC Food Cluster questionnaires and scoring systems to assess vulnerability. The project adopted the DRC Food Security Cluster's scoring system, which uses FCS results to assign each HH's Food Security Score, weighted on a 0-5 scale. Samaritan's Purse adhered to regional cluster standards for determining acute vulnerability by prioritizing assistance to those HHs with Food Security Scores of 3.5 or higher. Other baseline food security indicators were also evaluated during the project participant targeting phase. Vulnerability information collected during project participant targeting was compared to endline data after the final intervention cycle, to re-evaluate the HHs' vulnerability and evaluate assistance impact.

Food assistance enabled the project participants to access the following food types: maize flour, pulses, vegetable oil and iodized table salt. The food provided to the project participants was enough to support 50% of the monthly food needs of an average HH of six members for three months. The households received three rations, each ration comprised of 36 kg of maize flour, 11kg of pulses, 3 liters of vegetable oil and 0.5 kg of iodized table salt. Together with the individual HH food contributions, the HHs were able to meet the Sphere food standard for their HHs during the period, meeting the 2100 Kcal/day food requirements³, as demonstrated by the positive FCSs reported post-distribution.

Food assistance was facilitated through direct food distributions and food voucher fairs with the participation of local vendors. Cumulatively, the project provided food assistance to 10,435 HHs comprising 67,951 project participants (34,046 males and 33,905 females) and including 42,368 internally displaced persons (IDPs). The project participants received food assistance through direct food distributions and locally organized food fairs.

Food assistance through direct food distributions

Amongst the 10,435 HHs assisted with food, 4,145 HHs received their food assistance through direct distributions, based on the prevailing local market conditions which favored food distributions over fairs. The 4,145 HHs had 27,062 project participants (13,604 males and 13,458 females, which included 5,779 male and 5881 female IDPs).

Food assistance through local food voucher fairs

A total of 6,290 HHs (20,442 male and 20,447 female project participants) received food assistance through the locally organized food voucher fairs, including 30,708 IDPs (15,295 males and 15,413 females). The program positively impacted the food needs of the conflict-affected HHs during its implementation, as demonstrated by the good food indicator scores reported in the post-distribution evaluation.

Food Consumption Scores for the HHs increased significantly by between 19.21 and 22.69 points.

The Coping Strategy Index (CSI) among direct participants decreased between 29.38 and 33.32 in the four target implementation sites. The project succeeded in reducing the CSI by at least 20 points, as targeted, in all four intervention sites. The Household Hunger Score (HHS) for direct

³ Sphere standard

participants decreased between 1.14 and 4.14, and the project managed to achieve the target of reducing the HHS to below 2. Furthermore, the project successfully reduced the Livelihood Coping Strategy (LCS) to below 2 in all four intervention sites.

The positive increment in food security indicators is attributed to the impact of the food assistance received by direct project participants. This signifies the successful implementation of project activities, with funding from USAID-FFP. All positive increments indicate that, indeed, the project succeeded in its objective to support 67,951 direct participants with 50% of monthly food needs for three months, thus saving lives and reducing their vulnerability to food insecurity during the duration of the project assistance.

The program provided emergency NFI assistance to 10,420 households (HHs) comprising 67,887 project participants (34,014 males and 33,873 females). The direct project participants included 42,362 IDPs (21,071 males and 21,291 females). The NFIs provided the HHs with humanitarian relief, as demonstrated by a reduction in NFI vulnerabilities: the average NFI vulnerability score of beneficiary HHs was reduced from critically vulnerable to acceptable levels.

The program supported 39,271 project participants (19,894 males and 19,377 females) from 5,049 HHs with farming seeds, tools and essential agricultural information, adapted to their local farming contexts. Beneficiaries were supported with the inputs for one farming season. Based on the evaluation reports, only 1% of the beneficiaries at endline reported poor food consumption scores, compared to 99% reporting poor food consumption scores at baseline. The HHs also reported an average of 2.1 extra months of food self-sufficiency as a result of their active participation in the program. When SP considers the continued positive impact which the HHs will receive as a result of the continued use of the seeds and tools, SP can report that the program has not only cushioned the HHs from a livelihood drop, but has also effectively and efficiently supported their access to food through their own production, thereby lowering the burden of the impact of conflict on the participating HHs.

Project Overview

This project, known internally by the name “USAIDizi” (Swahili for assistance), was a one-year award implemented from September 19, 2016 until September 18, 2017. The project responded to the immediate emergency needs of the conflict-affected beneficiaries in North Kivu and Ituri Provinces in eastern DRC. The project facilitated humanitarian assistance to 107,222 beneficiaries through provision of NFIs, food, farming seeds and tools to help beneficiaries mitigate the impact of conflicts. The interventions were provided through either direct distributions or voucher fairs with local vendors, depending on the local security context and market conditions in the targeted intervention sites.

The project provided emergency response assistance via three sectors, as defined by the project proposals and award document:

Table 1: Households Served by Sector

No.	Sector Name:	# HHs Planned	# HHs Served	Objective:
1.	Logistics Support and Relief Commodities	TOTAL: 10,400	Total: 10,420	To efficiently and rapidly respond to the needs of conflict-affected populations in Eastern Congo by distributing NFI kits.
2.	Agriculture and Food Security	TOTAL: 5,000	Total: 5,049 **	To strengthen the agricultural-based livelihoods and food security of the disaster-affected population through increased and diversified production.
3.	Food For Peace: In-Kind and Voucher	TOTAL: 10,400	Total: 10,435	To provide emergency food assistance to save lives and improve food security for conflict-affected HHs.
<p>*Beneficiaries for Logistic Support and Relief Commodities were the same households as the Food for Peace beneficiaries. However, beneficiaries for the Agriculture and Food Security were different HHs. **An additional 49 beneficiaries were recruited and served in sector 2 because it was anticipated that there could be beneficiary displacement due to volatility in the last implementation site. However, all the beneficiaries recruited except one participated throughout the program life.</p>				

Whereas Sectors One and Three sought to respond to immediate food and NFI needs of the HHs impacted by the effects of conflicts, Sector Two supported affected HHs in growing their own food production. Beneficiaries targeted for Sector Two were mainly host families and IDPs who were settled enough and had access to farm land for their own food production.

A. Emergency Response Sectors (Sectors 1 & 3)

The emergency response sectors (1 & 3) targeted the assistance of 10,435 HHs (67,951 people), of which 33,905 were female and 34,046 were male, over the life of the project. A total of 902.06 metric tons of food commodities were provided to food-insecure project participants in the localities of Niania (Avakubi, Bafwanduo and Niania locations) and Biakato/Bella (Makumo, Njia Panda, Makeke and Biakato locations) in Mambasa Territory in Ituri Province, as well as in Butembo (Vurondo,

Rwahwa, Kanyatsi, Kisungu and Kitovo locations) in Beni Territory, and South Lubero (Miriki and Luofu locations) in Lubero Territory in North Kivu Province.

The size, location, and modality of interventions were determined based on confirmed humanitarian alerts. This flexibility, supported by USAID, allowed the project to strategically target areas of greatest need, using the type of assistance that was most appropriate for each location. The project served four unique, conflict-affected sites with either voucher fairs or in-kind distributions, depending on the results of a rapid market analysis, and the security situation in each site. By the end of the project period, a total of 14 unique localities within the four intervention sites had been targeted and served by the emergency response sectors.

The primary status of HHs assisted by Sectors 1 and 3 was recent, vulnerable, internally-displaced person (IDP) HHs. Sector one and three also assisted recent returnees previously displaced by armed conflict. Approximately 10% of assisted HHs in each intervention site were selected from among host-community HHs, with preference being given to host families that were hosting two or more displaced families, followed by those local HHs who were especially vulnerable due to chronic illness, handicap, single-parenting, being sexual and gender based violence (SGBV) survivors, etc. Host community families are also “conflict-affected,” and by incorporating a 10% representation at each site, SP was able to show gratitude to host communities for their important role in the facilitation of emergency humanitarian interventions, while also fostering coexistence and peaceful cohabitation between IDPs and host community HHs.

Once site-validation was received from humanitarian structures, SP targeted beneficiary HHs for Sectors 1 and 3 via a two-step process. The first was to work with local community leaders to identify HHs that met the above mentioned criteria. Once these HHs had been identified as potential beneficiaries, they were surveyed with a vulnerability assessment. The survey provided quantitative data which allowed the most vulnerable HHs to be objectively targeted for assistance, based on their vulnerability scores. Selected HHs received one cycle of emergency NFI assistance (Sector 1) and three monthly cycles of emergency food assistance (Sector 3).

1. Sector 1: Logistics Support and Relief Commodities

The project responded to the NFI needs of 10,420 conflict-affected HHs (67,887 beneficiaries, composed of 34,014 males and 33,873 females) by providing 10,420 essential NFI and HH items. Altogether, 5,162 HHs were supported in accessing their NFIs through direct distributions, while 5,258 HHs received their NFIs through voucher fairs. The provision of the NFIs resulted in a reduction of NFI vulnerability, as reported in the post-distribution evaluations. Each NFI kit was valued at approximately \$75, and each beneficiary HH received one kit. The kits contained a variety of essential HH items, including long-lasting insecticide treated mosquito nets (LLINs), plastic tarpaulins, rope, blankets, mats, clothing, soap, kitchen utensils, containers for water transport, and a feminine hygiene kit. These items were selected in alignment with NFI cluster standards. A one-time distribution was conducted, accompanied by sensitization messaging concerning the proper use and disposal of

mosquito nets, good hygiene practices for women in relation to the hygiene kit, and proper hand-washing techniques.⁴

In locations with secure, accessible, and integrated market systems, the project adopted a cash-based, voucher fair modality for providing NFIs to beneficiary HHs. In total, 10,420 HHs received NFI assistance through the voucher fair modality. This modality was preferred, as it empowered the HH, and particularly women, to choose and purchase the items that they most needed. It also encouraged economic recovery in conflict-affected areas that had had to reduce commerce because of insecurity, or in host communities who had had to deal with the influx of displaced persons. If market assessments showed that this approach was viable, the project provided \$75 in cash-vouchers to each HH to purchase NFIs (see Appendix A).⁵ Local vendors were contacted and organized to gather at fair sites to provide the NFI items to beneficiaries. This was a closed-fair system, where beneficiaries were required to use their voucher during the day of the fair and vendors were paid afterwards via check at the nearest bank.

2. Sector 3: Food For Peace (FFP): In-Kind and Voucher

Food assistance was facilitated through direct food distributions and food voucher fairs using the local vendors. Cumulatively, the project directly distributed 524.54 metric tons of food to 27,062 direct participants, while 377.52 metric tons of food were provided to 40,889 direct participants through voucher fairs. Each voucher fair was facilitated by an average of 24 local vendors per intervention cycle, for a total of 72 vendors throughout the project cycle, all originating from within the different intervention catchment areas.

For direct distributions, the in-kind food basket included cereals, pulses, vegetable oil, and salt. During each distribution cycle, selected beneficiary HHs received 36 kg of maize,⁶ 11 kg of mixed beans, three liters of vegetable oil, and 0.5 kg of iodized table salt. These quantities were based on the World Food Programme (WFP) DRC standards for minimum caloric intake, and represented rations calculated to provide 50% of HH food needs for a family of six. This basket size was also in line with cluster standards, which anticipate that HHs will supplement rations from other sources. Distributions were accompanied by sensitization messaging and cooking demonstrations (as needed) to ensure acceptance and good stewardship of received commodities.

Where voucher fair interventions were used, the project provided each HH with \$45 of cash-based vouchers for each cycle (or \$135 throughout the three cycles). Samaritan's Purse used a closed-fair system, where vendors were brought together in one location and time, rather than an "open-fair" modality, which would allow beneficiaries to use vouchers in actual markets over a longer period of time. Vendors provided a wide range of locally preferred produce for beneficiary selection and purchase. As with NFI fairs, the project preferred the voucher fair approach for emergency food

⁴ In order to facilitate the mobilization of NFI kits for rapid response, SP pre-positioned approximately 50% of its potential NFI capacity in its large Beni warehouse.

⁶ Maize flour was given, as this was found to be more culturally appropriate/acceptable.

assistance, as it allowed HHs to buy according to their needs and preferences, while encouraging economic recovery for local markets.

B. Agriculture and Food Security Sector (Sector 2)

This sector targeted a total of 5,000 HHs with emergency agricultural assistance, in four locations. The project was implemented in the Miriki and Luofu locations of Lubero, as well as in the Maleki and Mamove locations of Beni territory, North Kivu province.

Table 2: Households Served, by Activity and Location

	Project Locations	Project Activities	HHs Planned	HHs Served
1.	South Lubero (Miriki and Luofu)	Agriculture and livelihood support	2,500	2,500
2.	Beni territory, North Kivu province (Maleki and Mamove locations)	Agriculture and livelihood support	2,500	2,549*
TOTAL			5,000	5,049
<i>*49 extra HHs were recruited and served in Mamove/Maleki locations. In view of the security situation on the ground, more HHs were recruited in the hope that they could replace any HHs dropping out of the project due to migration, as a result of the risk of migration that existed at the intervention site. However amongst the 2500 HHs recruited in Mamove/Maleki – only one migrated out of the project area. We ended up serving 2549 HHs hence the overall increase in</i>				

Sector 2 activities sought to address the immediate emergency food and dietary diversification needs of IDPs, while boosting the resilience capacity of vulnerable host-community families. The sector involved provision of agricultural inputs, accompanied by brief adult-oriented agriculture information sharing designed to maximize the use of inputs and boost rapid food production. Different project activities conducted under this sector are detailed below.

Agricultural Information Sharing Groups.

Samaritan’s Purse has been using the agricultural information methodology since 2012. This participatory, community-oriented approach facilitates the sharing of new cultivation techniques with beneficiaries, and provides a place to openly discuss problems and solutions in their livelihood. Beneficiary HHs are divided into Agriculture Training Group (ATG) units (approx. 25 HHs/group), and these groups receive trainings together, and then also work together on a garden to facilitate hands-on learning.

Agricultural information sharing focused on improved agricultural production and productivity, as capacity building, is an integral part of this project. Using a customized curriculum in each targeted region, the project organized training for ATGs that covered land preparation, tillage practices and drought-cycle management, crop diversification and intercropping, vegetable production, conservation agriculture, seed multiplication, soil and water management, integrated pest management, preparation of organic fertilizers, and post-harvest handling and quality control. The length of trainings was appropriate for adult learning and did not exceed two hours.

Agriculture Training Group beneficiaries received agricultural inputs designed to augment short-term, emergency food production and diet diversification, and to rapidly increase and diversify the agricultural production. Where security permitted, virtual fairs were facilitated to enable beneficiaries to identify their preferred seeds and tools, and to provide local vendors with access to a market for their merchandise.⁷ Since each location was targeted for one farming season, agricultural inputs were provided once at the start of the season, timed in accordance with local farming seasons. At baseline, the households had 2.6 months of food self-sufficiency; at endline, the project reported 4.5 months of food self-sufficiency amongst participating HHs. This represents a 1.9 increase in months of food self-sufficiency following the intervention with USAID funding. It is hoped that the HHs will continue to have easy access to food production means when they use the provided farming tools, and seeds harvested from their farms. In this way, the sector will continue to positively impact on the HHs.

Table 3: Agricultural Inputs Provided by Different Project Activities

Activity	Seeds	Tools
Agricultural input	\$20 (per HH)	\$13 (per HH)

II. Monitoring and Evaluation Strategies and Tools

The project’s monitoring and evaluation (M&E) strategy differed by sector, and evolved over the previous two phases of the project, as SP actively sought new and better ways to track established indicators and understand program success.

Use of Mobile Data Collection

Samaritan’s Purse DRC used mobile data collection (MDC) throughout the project. For a project of the type and size of “USAIDizi,” the use of paper surveys was neither rapid nor accurate enough to do justice to the massive amount of data that needed to be collected, analyzed, and stored. Samaritan’s Purse’s mobile data collection was facilitated through Apple hardware (the iPad Mini) and iFormBuilder software. This use of MDC strengthened SP’s ability to rapidly and accurately track program indicators (including age and gender disaggregation), and to ensure that beneficiaries received project inputs rapidly. All surveys (vulnerability surveys, rapid market assessments, day-of evaluations, and post distribution monitoring surveys) were conducted using MDC. This permitted information to be organized and extracted directly into Excel, thereby mitigating the data-entry errors associated with the manual entry of paper surveys. iFormBuilder software was also used to track distribution of beneficiary tokens (ID cards) and beneficiary attendance at interventions. Each beneficiary token was assigned a barcode which, when scanned using the iPads, pulled from a database of beneficiary information. This enabled SP staff to rapidly cross-reference the family information, and helped ensure that the representative present during interventions was actually the selected beneficiary, and not a fraudster using a lost or counterfeited card.

⁷ To ensure that the project empowers beneficiaries with choice, while stimulating the local economy, SP uses (where possible) an innovative, “virtual fair” methodology to provide inputs to beneficiaries via local vendors. Based on the voucher dollar amount and a list of relevant agricultural inputs (seeds or tools), beneficiaries are able to choose their own preferred inputs rather than duplicating those they already possess or those they do not need. Local vendors then facilitate the provision.

III. Sector Monitoring and Evaluation (M&E) Strategies and Results

A. Emergency Response Sectors (Sectors 1 & 3)

1. Monitoring and Evaluation Strategy

1.1. Rationale of Indicator Collection and Tracking

Samaritan’s Purse’s vulnerability survey used in beneficiary targeting for Sectors 1 and 3 was designed to function as a standalone “baseline evaluation” for each given location, gathering information on key indicators, while also providing qualitative and quantitative vulnerability information necessary to guide beneficiary selection. Post-distribution monitoring (PDM) surveys following input activities served as “endline evaluations” for both Sector 1 and Sector 3 activities. Each successive intervention location was similarly surveyed to allow, at the end of the project, a compilation of pre- and post-intervention data that clearly demonstrated project success rates. Other quantitative and qualitative data necessary for tracking project indicators were similarly compiled on a location-by-location basis, with final numbers being calculated from the data collected for each site.⁸

1.2. Methodology of Indicator Collection and Tracking

In view of the integrated nature of Sector 1 and Sector 3 activities (see *Project Overview* section), the majority of data collection sources for both qualitative and quantitative indicators were shared between the two sectors. So as to avoid duplicate reporting, the methodology of indicator collection and tracking for both sectors has been presented here, with only applicable exceptions or additions being highlighted in the Sector 3 methodology section.

Collecting the needed information for effectively tracking qualitative and quantitative project indicators was the joint effort of multiple departments within SP DRC. While project leadership prioritized the tracking of indicators listed in the proposal/award document, additional internal indicators, both quantitative and qualitative, were also tracked for each sector. This was either because they were necessary for another sector (and thus easy to track for all sectors), because they were necessary for effective coordination and communication with other humanitarian actors in the region, or because they were standard across SP DRC, and thus were included for the sake of continuity with other in-country projects. See Tables 4 and 5 for Sector 1 and Sector 3 indicators.

Table 4: Sector 1 Indicators

Sector	Sub-Sector	Indicator
Sector 1 (Logistics Support and Relief Commodities)	Non-Food Items (NFIs)	Total number and per item USD cost of NFIs distributed, by type
		Total number and per item USD value of cash/vouchers distributed for NFIs, by type
		Total number of people receiving NFIs, by sex
	Transport (Air/Land/Sea)	Total USD cost of transport, by type
		Total number of flights/trips provided, by type

⁸ For example, the total people served by a sector would be the sum of people served at each site, whereas the improvement in Food Consumption Score for the project would come from averaging the scores of each site.

		Number of people transported, by transport type
		Total kilograms of commodities transported, by transport type
	<i>Internal: NFI and Qualitative</i>	Change in NFI Vulnerability Score*
		Assessment of gender needs and actions taken*
		Learning on the appropriateness of selected modalities and activities to the context*
*Denotes internally required and tracked indicators		

Table 5: Sector 3 Indicators, by Year

Sector	Sub-Sector	Indicator
Sector 3 (Food for Peace: In-Kind and Voucher)	<i>Food Assistance (In-Kind and Voucher)</i>	Total number of people targeted and reached, disaggregated by sex and age (6-23 months, 24-59 months, 5-14 years, 15-49 years, 50-60 years, and 60+ years)
		Total number of metric tons of food distributed
		Planned number and value of food vouchers distributed to beneficiaries, and number and value of food vouchers redeemed by beneficiaries
		Actual number and value of food vouchers distributed to beneficiaries, and number and value of food vouchers redeemed by beneficiaries
		Actual average cost per beneficiary and average cost per beneficiary per month, for each modality
		Time from donor-signed agreement to distribution to beneficiaries (if applicable to the reporting period).
		Retail-price information on key staples in the area of the program two weeks before the program began, monthly during the program, and two weeks after the program ended.
		Value of approved commodities that beneficiaries purchased using their food vouchers
		Quantity of commodities lost by commodity type, value and reason for loss
		Increase in food-consumption score (FCS) of beneficiaries
	<i>Internal: Qualitative</i>	Learning on the appropriateness of selected modalities and activities to the context*
	<i>Internal: Food Security</i>	Decrease in Food Security Cluster (SECAL) Score of beneficiaries* Livelihood Coping Strategies* Household Hunger Score* Coping Strategies Index*
*Denotes indicators tracked internally by SP		

1.2.1. Quantitative Data Collection Sources

Sectors 1 and 3 of the project were heavy on quantitative data. Sources included: vulnerability surveys, rapid market assessments, daily distribution reports, finance and operations data, and post-distribution monitoring surveys.

Vulnerability Surveys

Baseline data for Sectors 1 and 3 was gathered during the targeting phase of each intervention site. The vulnerability data gathered in the targeting survey enabled SP to determine which HHs should be prioritized for assistance, based on their relative food and NFI vulnerability status. Targeting was done rapidly (more than 500HHs/day), and involved working with community leaders to identify vulnerable HHs, surveying those HHs, and then cleaning and analyzing the data to assess comparative vulnerability. Households that exhibited vulnerability in either food or NFIs were retained as beneficiaries for both sectors (see Appendix C).

In order to remain in-line with the regional cluster standards, the project used DRC NFI and Food Security Cluster questionnaires and scoring systems to assess vulnerability. For Sector 1, each surveyed HH was assigned an “NFI Score Card,” weighted on a 0-5 scale. For Sector 3, the project adopted the DRC Food Security Cluster’s scoring system, which uses FCS results to assign each HH a *Sécal* or Food Security Score, similarly weighted on a 0-5 scale. Samaritan’s Purse adhered to regional cluster standards for determining acute vulnerability, by prioritizing assistance to those HHs that had NFI Vulnerability or Food Security scores of 3.5 or higher.

Other baseline indicators for both sectors were also evaluated during the targeting phase. Vulnerability information collected during targeting was compared to endline data after the final intervention cycle, to reevaluate the HHS’ vulnerability and evaluate assistance impact.

Indicator-related data gathered during the targeting phase for Sector 1 and Sector 3 beneficiaries included age and gender breakdowns for each HH, household status (displaced, returnee, host), length and time of displacement, current lodging conditions, social vulnerability (women/child head-of-households, handicapped), and primary source of income.

Market Analysis and Surveillance

In addition to programmatic evaluation, SP integrated a strong market evaluation protocol into the monitoring of its Sector 1 and Sector 3 activities. This permitted project leadership to make informed decisions regarding the best intervention modality to use at each site, and facilitated the tracking of market price fluctuations. Samaritan’s Purse utilized a tailored, two-pronged approach to assessing and monitoring local markets, so as to 1) direct the initial modality decision (i.e. in-kind distributions vs. voucher fairs), and 2) inform SP if markets were being negatively affected, indicating that a modality change needed to happen for successive cycles.

1) Rapid Market Assessments:

At the start of an intervention at a given site (usually during the same time frame as the targeting exercise), a Rapid Market Assessment (RMA) was conducted in order to quickly determine the health of the local market, and to decide which modality would be most appropriate. This survey analyzed two commodities, one for Sector 1 (20 liter basins) and one for Sector 3 (beans), by interviewing 8-10 vendors per sector. These vendors answered a series of questions which assessed different aspects of their business, including market accessibility, the number of market actors, commodity pricing trends, average monthly

sales/predictions for the following month, vendor ability to augment supply (in what time frame and from where), and significant challenges faced in doing business.

Responses to these questions were used to determine an average market score, weighted on a 0-30 scale, for each sector. Markets scoring 22 or higher were considered to be functioning and integrated enough to support a voucher fair intervention; those scoring 12-21 were considered partially functioning, meaning they could potentially hold fairs but might require outside (i.e. other market) assistance; scores below 11 indicated that the market was not functioning, and direct, in-kind distributions would thus be most appropriate. The RMA results, including the ultimate choice of modality, as arrived at using the Modality Decision Tree (Appendix F), were documented by the project team.

2) MARKit Price Surveillance:

In an attempt to understand the effects of the activities on local markets, SP adapted the Catholic Relief Service (CRS) MARKit Price Surveillance tool for use at project locations to track market fluctuations during intervention and post-intervention activities. Database officers first selected and trained local enumerators at each site to gather and submit (via texting) weekly price data on six key commodities: maize flour, beans, salt, vegetable oil, basins and water jugs. The officers would then enter the data into an Excel tracking spreadsheet, which allowed them to see the variance in prices and supply over the course of the project.

This allowed SP to keep its finger on the pulse of the local market and to rapidly adjust intervention plans in response to potential market fluctuations. Market evaluation activities not only enabled project leadership to make informed decisions about individual intervention activities, but also improved SP's understanding of regional market tendencies.

Daily Distribution Reports⁹

One of the most important performance indicators for assessing project objectives and achievements for Sectors 1 and 3 was the numbers reached, including both the number of HHs served, disaggregated by status, and the age/gender breakdown of each family registered. Tracking these indicators using iPads and iFormBuilder software allowed SP to effectively manage inputs (rations and vouchers), and to produce accurate information concerning the number of people assisted by each activity (See *Use of Mobile Data Collection*).

At the end of each day, the database officers collected all the site entry data. Numbers were compared with the waybill statistics (if distributions) or the numbers of physical coupons distributed (if voucher fairs). These sources were then compiled into a Daily Distribution Report (DDR) which clearly presented the number of HHs assisted on a given day, allowing program leadership to accurately report on the number of vouchers planned, distributed, and redeemed, or – in the case of distributions – the number of rations and associated tonnage, both planned and distributed.

⁹ “Daily Distribution Reports” refers to tools created for the tracking and reporting of key indicators immediately after an intervention. It does not only refer to data collected at distributions, but also to that collected from voucher fairs.

FEVV and FIFA Reports

During voucher fairs, SP used two main tracking systems to evaluate goods and commodities purchased by beneficiaries: the *Fiche Inventaire Familiale des Articles* (FIFA) was driven by the M&E department, and the *Fiche d'Enregistrement et Ventes des Vendeurs* (FEVV) was driven by the program team. These were used by both Sector 1 and Sector 3 for their respective items.

The FIFA (i.e. Family Article Inventory Worksheet) survey was conducted by the M&E department at the exit of the fair site. Surveyors took a random sampling of assisted beneficiaries in order to evaluate how they used the food and NFI cash vouchers they received, including what articles and commodities they purchased for their HH, and at what price. This allowed intervention teams to evaluate the need to request vendors to procure more of certain goods for successive fair activities, and enabled the M&E team to ensure that vendors were respecting the ceiling prices determined and agreed upon before the fairs. In addition to helping prevent beneficiaries from being taken advantage of, it also helped ensure that project vouchers provided maximal purchasing power for beneficiaries.

The FEVV (i.e. Vendor Sale Tracking Worksheet) survey was an inventory tracking system conducted by the program's team daily at each voucher fair site; first in the morning, before the fair started, and then in the afternoon, once the fair had ended. This allowed the program to compare the quantity of commodities that each vendor had brought into the fair with that remaining at the end of the fair. The use of FEVV enabled SP to ensure that vendors had delivered the minimum stock necessary for the planned number of beneficiaries to be served on a given day. Like FIFA, this survey also helped the program team determine if vendors were respecting ceiling prices, as verified by a comparison of the amount of each commodity sold to the value of vouchers turned in by a given vendor. Finally, FEVV allowed SP to track the indicator of types and quantities of items procured by beneficiaries during the fairs.¹⁰

Post-Distribution Monitoring Surveys¹¹

Post-Distribution Monitoring (PDM) surveys were completed within thirty (30) days of the third and final cycle of food assistance at each Sector 1 and Sector 3 intervention location. This exercise was spearheaded by the M&E department, and data was gathered through two means: a formal questionnaire completed at an individual level with a random sampling of assisted beneficiaries; and focus group discussions (FGDs) conducted by staff with representative members of the community. The survey used was similar to the targeting survey, but also included sections collecting information on beneficiary opinions of the program team and the intervention overall, including, but not limited to, the quality of commodities provided and the level of cooperation exhibited between SP staff and the community (see Qualitative Data Methodology).

The PDM surveys and FGDs served two purposes. First, the quantitative data collected was analyzed and compared to baseline (targeting) scores for the five principle numerical indicators, including: Food Consumption Score (FCS), Food Security Cluster Score, Household Hunger Score (HHS), Coping

¹⁰ This is a Sector 3 indicator, but was also tracked for Sector 1.

¹¹ Although this is called Post *Distribution* Monitoring, it refers to the endline monitoring of both distribution and voucher fair intervention activities.

Strategy Index (CSI) and NFI Vulnerability Score. Changes between baseline pre-intervention and post-intervention scores demonstrated the impact of the project at each location. Secondly, the qualitative data collected gave program leadership a window into how assisted beneficiaries appreciated the interventions and what could be improved for future activities (see Qualitative Data Methodology).

1.2.2. Qualitative Data Collection Sources

For Sector 3 of the project, qualitative data was collected to evaluate, among other things, beneficiary preference, beneficiary and vendor satisfaction with the intervention methodology, and protection considerations. Sources included: FGDs, day-of evaluations, and post-distribution (intervention) monitoring surveys.

According to the proposal/award document, Sector 1 of the project did not explicitly require the tracking of any qualitative data. However, in view of SP DRC norms, as well as the fact that Sector 1 functioned in parallel with Sector 3 of the project, the same qualitative data was collected for both.

Focus Group Discussions

Samaritan's Purse conducted semi-structured FGDs during every stage of Sectors 1 and 3 interventions, starting with the initial exploratory missions, and continuing through the final PDM assessments. Women and men were interviewed in separate groups so that each group could freely express their concerns to SP staff. The objective of these FGDs was to ensure that local communities in general, and the vulnerable (e.g. women, youth, and the elderly) in particular, were given a platform to express themselves and be involved in program implementation. These FGDs further helped ensure that SP's interventions appropriately assessed gender needs and issues, and that there was effective learning on the appropriateness of selected modalities and activities in each context.

Complaints Monitoring

In each community where SP intervened with Sectors 1 and 3, the intervention teams worked with community leadership to establish a complaints committee. This committee was typically composed of five local community members, including representatives from the chief's council, the civil society, the displaced persons committee, and local women's and youth groups. This process was facilitated by the sector's M&E Officer. If any community member had a complaint or question, they would contact a member of this committee to explain their situation. The committee member would then complete a complaints form explaining the situation and recommending a course of action. This was presented to the M&E Officer, who then evaluated each complaint on a case-by-case basis. The project also provided a locked suggestion box at each intervention site.

Day-of Evaluations

During each intervention cycle of Sector 1 and Sector 3 activities, SP gathered qualitative data through "day-of evaluations" that targeted both beneficiaries and, in the case of voucher fairs, participating local vendors. Surveyors were posted at the exit point of the intervention (distribution or fair) site, where they randomly sampled exiting beneficiaries, asking them a series of questions related to the quality of the intervention. Gathered information touched on the quality of the site (water, shade, security and accessibility), the thoroughness of sensitization (did they have enough information and

how did they receive it), and beneficiary satisfaction with the distribution rations or fair items (quality and quantity of goods received, prices in the fair, etc.). Day-of evaluations also gave beneficiaries a chance to give any recommendations they might have regarding gender needs and issues, and/or the appropriateness of selected modalities and activities in each context.

In the case of voucher fair activities, all participating vendors were also surveyed with a vendor-specific day-of evaluation in order to gather information concerning how they brought their supplies to the fair, how they received information, the appropriateness of pricing in the fairs (did they raise or lower prices).

After-Action Review Meetings

At the end of every intervention day (voucher fairs or distributions), the emergency response field teams held After-Action Reviews (AARs) to evaluate the day's activities and discuss, among other things, the appropriateness of selected modalities and activities to the context, needed adaptations to changing circumstances, or unintended consequences of program activities. Together, they laid out what went well, and what could be improved upon, with discussion being documented in a dedicated tab of the DDR. The following day, the suggestions and recommendations were implemented, in order to meet the need or gap that was expressed. These AARs were compiled into a lessons-learned document attached to each distribution report, and were used to orient the team's overall strategy for future interventions, assuring continual growth and adaption throughout the project.

2. Quantitative Results & Discussion

2.1. Sector 1: Logistics Support and Relief Commodities

2.1.1. Total number and per item USD cost of NFIs distributed, by type

At the start of the project, SP pre-positioned 5,200 NFI kits as part of a strategic approach to maximize the efficiency and effectiveness of its Emergency Response. These kits would be directly distributed, while the balance of kits was to be distributed through either direct distribution or voucher-fair systems, following the results of RMA surveys.

Sector 1 targeted a total of 62,400 beneficiaries (10,400 HHs). At the conclusion of the project, the actual number of beneficiaries reached was 67,887 (10,420 HHs). Internally displaced persons represented 41,716 of the total beneficiaries reached. To enable beneficiary tracking, SP tracked the exact number of people benefiting from NFI inputs, rather than extrapolating from the number of HHs served. This was made easier by MDC. The reported figures therefore reflect the exact number of beneficiaries tracked for Sector 1. This comes to an average cost/HH of \$75.

2.1.2. Type, number, and value of NFIs Provided to Beneficiaries

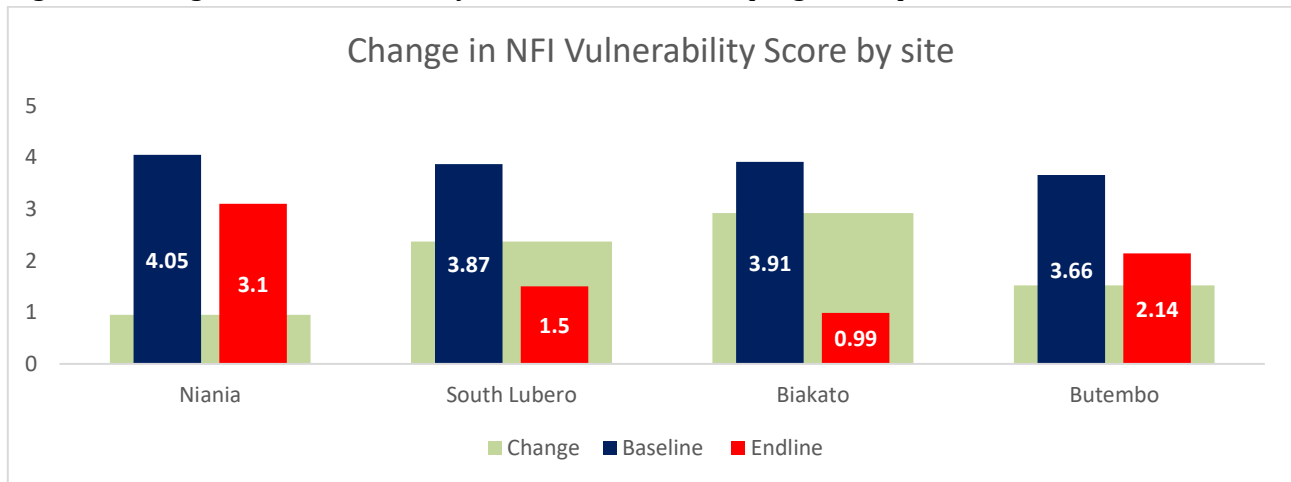
Overall, SP provided 10,420 NFI kits. 5162 kits were provided through direct distributions while 5258 kits were provided through the local fairs. The total value of NFIs provided via direct distribution was \$359,785.15 while the total value of NFIs provided via voucher fair activities was \$395,665.50. The cumulative value of NFI kits was \$755,450.65. The NFI kits distributed included long-lasting insecticide treated mosquito nets (LLINs), plastic tarpaulins, rope, blankets, mats, clothing, soap, kitchen utensils, containers for water transport, and a feminine hygiene kit.

2.1.3 Change in NFI vulnerability

The NFI Vulnerability Scoring was used to evaluate the goods possessed by a HH, which in turn produced a vulnerability score which oriented SP in the beneficiary selection process. This scoring mechanism is recognized and recommended by RRMP and the NFI and Shelter Clusters of eastern DRC. This survey evaluates the presence of four key HH items as indicators of NFI vulnerability: water storage containers, cooking pots, mats/mattresses and blankets/sheets. Each of these four categories is weighted on a scale of 0-5. The total sum is averaged to give a final NFI score between 0-5. According to cluster criteria, HHs scoring above 3.5 are considered critically vulnerable and in need of immediate NFI assistance. The objective of any emergency response intervention in the NFI sector is to reduce the NFI Vulnerability Score for assisted HHs to below 3.5.

The figure below (Fig 5) presents the change in NFI Vulnerability Scores for sites assisted by the project. On average, SP's interventions were able to reduce the vulnerability score from 3.87 at the targeting survey to 1.93 at PDM, moving beneficiaries from critical vulnerability to acceptable levels, in all sites monitored.

Figure 1: Change in NFI Vulnerability Score Cards Between program implementation sites



2.1.4. Total kilograms of commodities transported, by transport type

Overall, SP transported 546,596.20 kg of emergency NFI commodities. During this phase, SP targeted up to 5200 HHs, or 50% of the total HHs targeted, to be served through in-kind direct distributions. By the end of this period, 5,162 kits had been provided by direct distributions while 5,258 kits were provided through the local voucher fairs.

2.1.5. Total USD cost of transport, by type

Accurate budgeting for Sector 1 (NFI) commodity transport is difficult, as the cost of transport varies greatly depending on the distance from the selected intervention sites to SP's regionally located warehouse in Beni, North Kivu. Samaritan's Purse spent a total of \$148,203.06 on land transport.

2.1.6. Total number of flights/trips provided, by type

In the course of implementation, a decision was made by project leadership regarding how to define this indicator for better understanding. It was decided that the number of flights/trips would be tracked for commodities, and that personnel will not be included in the measurement of this indicator. For commodities, it was decided that trips would be counted based on the number of individual NFI and food waybills. In this phase, the project did not transport any commodities by flight. However, 56 trips by road were carried out, which included 26 for NFIs and 30 for food.

2.1.7. Number of people transported, by transport type

Like the previous indicator (i.e. number of flights/trips provided), this indicator was also redefined during this project. For people, there was an evolution in the way that the indicator was defined. Project leadership decided that, due to the complexities of meaningfully tracking and reporting this indicator, SP would implement a tracking system using an internal travel document called “Trip ToRs”. This system allowed SP to count the number of people traveling on each Trip Terms of Reference¹² (Trip ToR). For example, the project might register 15 ToRs in a certain month, in which 30 people were transported by land and five by air. In addition, SP would count people twice if they switched modes of transport. This would present a more accurate measure for this indicator. Overall, SP transported 750 people by road and 35 people by air.

2.2. Sector 3: Food For Peace: In-Kind and Voucher

2.2.1. Total number of people targeted and reached, disaggregated by sex and age (6-23 months, 24-59 months, 5-14 years, 15-49 years, 50-60 years, and 60+ years)

The project facilitated the provision of food assistance to 67,951 direct participants (10,435 HHs) through locally organized food fairs and direct distributions of food rations, for three cycles. This was slightly higher than the planned target of 62,400 project participants (10,400 HHs). Overall, 33,705 males and 34,246 females accessed food assistance through this project. The households had HH sizes greater than the average size of six. However, this did not impact the ration per HH, as it had already been fixed. The post-distribution evaluations reported improved food consumption scores and reduced CSIs, thereby affirming the positive impact of the program.

Thirty-five more HHs were recruited and served. Although HHs were planned to replace any migrating HHs, there was no beneficiary migration from the project, as they were all reached during the distribution of food rations, except for five were unable to attend the local NFI fairs.

Table 6: Total number of people targeted and reached

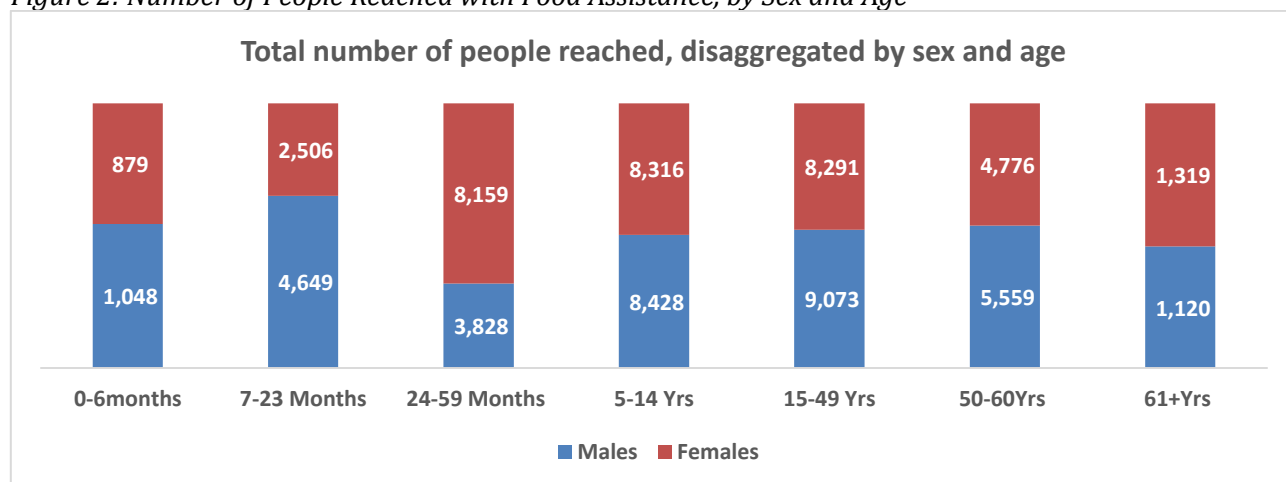
Total number of people targeted and reached, disaggregated by sex and age (6-23 months, 24-59 months, 5-14 years, 15-49 years, 50-60 years, and 60+ years)															
By Age	Niania , Ituri			Miriki/Luofu, South Lubero			Biakato/Bell, Ituri			Butembo , North Kivu			ALL		
	M	F	Total	M	F	Total	M	F	Total	M	F	Total	M	F	Total
0-6 months	74	82	156	316	416	732	108	145	253	550	236	786	1048	879	1927
7-23 Months	185	185	370	657	871	1528	192	262	454	3615	1188	4803	4649	2506	7155

¹² Trip Terms of Reference: An internal fleet management document used for facilitating staff movements.

24-59 Months	436	430	866	1982	2192	4174	713	691	1404	697	4846	5543	3828	8159	11987
5-14 Yrs	1025	922	1947	4922	4489	9411	2279	2077	4356	202	828	1030	8428	8316	16744
15-49 Yrs	1113	1234	2347	4847	4700	9547	1901	1978	3879	1212	379	1591	9073	8291	17364
50-60Yrs	136	160	296	465	566	1031	225	289	514	4733	3761	8494	5559	4776	10335
61+Yrs	130	118	248	278	317	595	140	201	341	572	683	1255	1120	1319	2439
Total Reached	3099	3131	6230	13467	13551	27018	5558	5643	11201	11581	11921	23502	33705	34246	67,951
Total Planned	3438	3438	6876	11772	11772	23544	5112	5112	10224	10983	10983	21966	31305	31305	62,610

As detailed in the above section entitled *Use of Mobile Data Collection*, SP tracked the exact number of people benefiting from NFI inputs, rather than just extrapolating from the number of HHs served. As required by FFP, SP also tracked the exact family composition of beneficiary HHs targeted for assistance, and was thus able (using MDC) to collect exact information on the age breakdown of those directly benefiting from emergency food assistance. It is important to note here that although FFP does not consider children under six months of age when calculating the number of people assisted, SP tracked this number because the project objectives established in the award proposal were based on the national average HH size of six, which includes children under six months of age. Therefore, the total of 67,951 individuals assisted includes children under six months.

Figure 2: Number of People Reached with Food Assistance, by Sex and Age



2.2.2. Breakdown of Modalities Used for Emergency Food Interventions

This project included a flexible modality component, allowing it to prioritize voucher fairs where possible, but also to perform direct distributions in case of unstable markets (see *Project Overview* for more information). For budgetary purposes, SP estimated at the proposal stage that 50% of interventions would be conducted via voucher fairs, and 50% via in-kind distributions. A final modality decision was made based on the results of RMAs, together with the Modality Decision Tree (Appendix F; see *Methodology of Indicator Collection and Tracking: Market Analysis and Surveillance* for more information). Samaritan Purse facilitated interventions through direct distributions and through

local fairs. Ultimately, SP served 40,889 (60%) project participants through voucher fairs, and 27,062 (40%) through direct, in-kind distribution.

Total number of metric tons of food distributed

Given the flexible modality nature of the project, it was difficult to know from the outset exactly what percentage of emergency food interventions would be completed via direct distribution. Ultimately, the distribution modality was used less frequently than the voucher fair modality, explaining why the number of metric tons (MT) actually distributed by the project was less than what was initially planned.

Project direct distributions provided 524.54 metric tons of food to 6,290 HHs (40, 889 project participants), comprising 20,442 males and 20,447 females. The HHs received three months of food rations to support 50% of their monthly food needs. The food rations were purchased in advance and prepositioned in the SP-managed warehouse in Beni City, Beni Territory, in North Kivu Province, to enable a rapid and effective response to the needs of the food insecure HHs.

2.2.3. Planned and actual number and value of vouchers distributed to beneficiaries, and number and value of food vouchers redeemed by beneficiaries

Samaritan's Purse had planned for approximately 50% of the emergency food supplies to reach project participants through the voucher fair model, if the security and local market conditions would allow it (i.e. if local traders were able to supply the necessary quantity, quality, and variety of food, and no adverse market effects would result from the program). If these conditions were not met, the project resorted to in-kind distribution. In the course of the project, each beneficiary HH received three one-month cycles of assistance, with each single voucher valued at \$45.

5,200 cumulative¹³ food vouchers, equivalent to 15,600 single¹⁴ food vouchers, valued at \$702,000, were planned for the project participants, while 22,532 single food vouchers valued at \$1,013,940.00 were actually distributed; but only 22,511.03 single food vouchers amounting to \$1,012,996.31 were eventually redeemed by the project participants through participation in the local food fairs. Therefore, there was a variance of 21 single vouchers or 0.1% of vouchers distributed versus redeemed. The main reason for this was beneficiary absences during food fairs. The project provided more vouchers than initially planned, not only because the voucher fair modality was more favored by beneficiaries, but also because the market and security conditions were deemed favorable in the majority of the project intervention sites.

¹³ Cumulative voucher refers to an aggregate number of three vouchers that each beneficiary is entitled to for the duration of the intervention. The cumulative voucher is worth \$135 per HH.

¹⁴ A single voucher refers to a one-time allotment per HH per cycle valued at \$45.

Table 7: Actual number and value of food vouchers distributed to beneficiaries, and number and value of food vouchers redeemed by beneficiaries

Actual number and value of food vouchers distributed to beneficiaries, and number and value of food vouchers redeemed by beneficiaries					
Intervention Site	Niania , Ituri	Miriki/Luofu, South Lubero	Biakato/Bell, Ituri	Butembo , North Kivu	ALL
# of actual food vouchers distributed to beneficiaries	3,438.00	11,772.00	-	7,322.00	22,532.00
# of food vouchers redeemed by beneficiaries	3,434.43	11,767.01	-	7,309.59	22,511.03
Value of food vouchers distributed to beneficiaries	154,710.00	529,740.00	-	329,490.00	\$1,013,940.00
Value of food vouchers redeemed by beneficiaries	154,549.31	529,515.45	-	328,931.55	\$1,012,996.31

While SP was careful to ensure that no beneficiary purchasing power was lost due to exchange-rate fluctuations, printing physical vouchers in local currency denominations did require some minor rounding of values. During this project, SP prioritized providing food vouchers in local currency (see Appendix C) in order to facilitate comprehension and proper usage by beneficiaries accustomed to making their small daily food purchases with local money.

2.2.4. Value of approved commodities that beneficiaries purchased using their food vouchers.

Because of the cash-based nature of vouchers distributed by SP, the tracking of types and quantities of food commodities procured by beneficiaries during voucher fairs was primarily done through the FEVV study, which collected a daily inventory of vendor’s stocks before and after daily fair activities (see *Sector 1: Quantitative Data Collection Sources*). These results were entered into a spreadsheet and compiled per food category to produce accurate estimates of the quantities of food procured. Approximations generated by the FEVV numbers were counter-verified through the use of FIFA surveys, which studied a 10% sample of beneficiaries leaving the fair to see what they had purchased with their vouchers.

Although there is a wide variety of commodities present at the voucher fairs, SP has attempted to group these into four categories: Cereals and Tubers, Pulses, Oil and Miscellaneous. Cereals and Tubers included food items such as rice, maize, potatoes, and manioc. Pulses were composed of all bean varieties, including soy beans. Both vegetable and palm oil were included in the oil category, where one liter of oil was considered to weigh 0.922 kg. The miscellaneous category included all remaining commodities, such as salt, peanuts, onions, garlic, and tomato paste.

Through the PDM studies completed at each site, it was revealed that over 95% of beneficiaries preferred the voucher fair modality over in-kind distributions. The main reason given for this was that the cash-based vouchers given enabled HHs to purchase more food than what they would receive through distributions. In support of this, a study of FIFA survey results showed that during voucher fairs, beneficiaries were able to walk away with approximately 36% more kgs of food commodities. In

addition to this, fairs also provided HHs with an opportunity to diversify their diets, by choosing from a wider range of commodities to meet their individual needs and preferences.

Table 8: Value of approved commodities that project participants purchased using their food vouchers

Value of approved commodities that project participants purchased using their food vouchers					
Intervention Site	Niania , Ituri	Miriki/Luofu, South Lubero	Biakato/Bell, Ituri	Butembo , North Kivu	ALL
Value of approved commodities project participants bought using their food vouchers (USD)	153,514.35	\$ 528,840.00	\$ -	\$ 32,891.55	\$ 715,245.90
# of project participants served	6,193	26,718	0	7,978	40,889

2.2.5. Actual average cost per beneficiary and average cost per beneficiary per month, for each modality

The actual total cost per beneficiary for the FFP portion of the program was calculated by taking input costs divided by the number of beneficiaries served. For voucher fair costs, this was found by dividing total voucher fair vendor payments by the number of individuals served; for in-kind distributions, this was found by dividing the actual cost of food and transport by the number of individuals served. The project served beneficiary HHs with three months of food assistance, so in order to calculate the cost per HH per month, the cost per HH was divided by three. In order to estimate the cost per beneficiary, this number was further divided by six, assuming the national average family size of 6ppl/HH.

In-Kind Food Costs: Cost per project participant in direct food distributions: \$8.26 per month.

Voucher Fair Food Costs: Cost per project participant in the food voucher fairs: \$6.25 per month.

2.2.6. Time from donor-signed agreement to distribution to beneficiaries

As per FFP requirements, the time between the various stages of procurement and distribution was carefully tracked for each individual purchase order (PO). Tracking of POs was done through different time periods: Award to Tender; Tender to Procurement; Procurement to Possession; and Possession to Distribution. It took 157 days from the date the award was signed to the first distribution in Biakato.

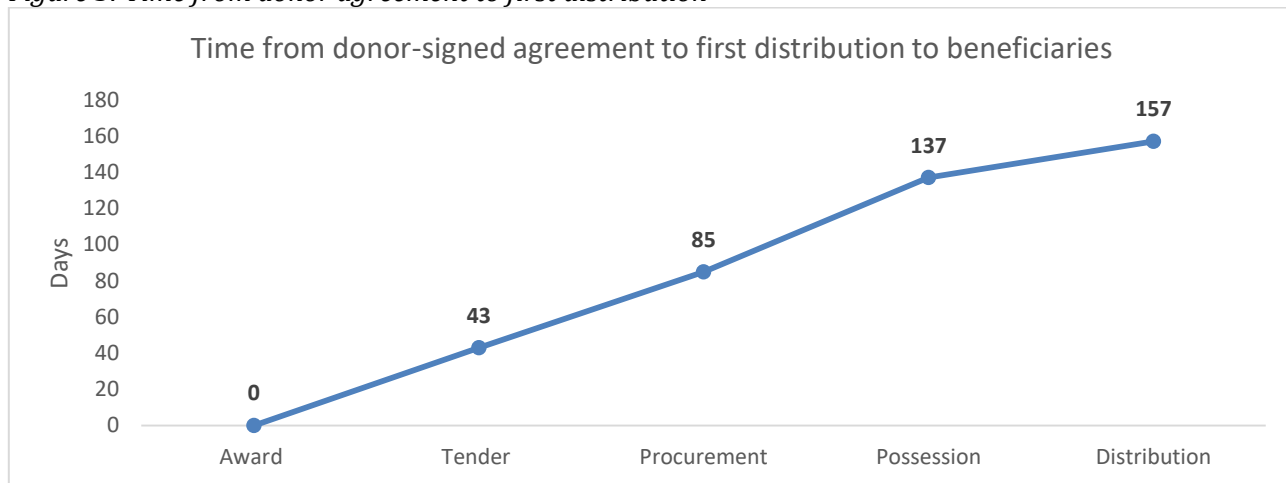
Award to Tender: Referring to the figure below, it will be noted that the average length of time from the date of the award document signing to the beginning of the public tender process was 43 days. This represents the time necessary, following the confirmation of the receipt of an award, for SP’s operations to prepare French and English requests for tender (RFTs), to be published locally and regionally. It is hoped that, in the future, SP will be able to further reduce this amount of time, to expedite the prepositioning of emergency food stocks.

Tender to Procurement: The terminology “tender to procurement” refers to the period between the publishing of the offer, and the submission of a PO for food commodities.

Procurement to Possession: This refers to the period between the submission of the PO and the reception of the purchased food commodities in SP’s warehouse. During the project, the length of time between procurement and possession was 52 days. Samaritan’s Purse continues to seek local vendors with the capacity to deliver high quality food commodities in a timely fashion.

Possession to Distribution: This refers to the time between receiving the food in the SP warehouse and its distribution, i.e. the length of time that the food is in the warehouse. The time difference between possession and distribution was 20 days.

Figure 3: Time from donor agreement to first distribution



2.2.7. Quantity of commodities lost by commodity type, value and reason for loss

Despite SP’s attentiveness to food commodity care and preservation, some minimal losses were registered over the course of the project. As indicated in the table below, a total of 51kg of food was lost during the project cycle. This was, however, minimal and well within the range of what is normally associated with food distribution programs. It is thought that the food was provided twice to a project participant during distributions. The overall value in commodity losses was \$ 47.47.

Table 9: Quantity of commodities lost by commodity type, value and reason for loss

Quantity of commodities lost by commodity type, value and reason for loss										
Type of food commodity	Niania , Ituri		Miriki/Luofu, South Lubero		Biakato/Bell, Ituri		Butembo , North Kivu		All	
	Quantity	Value	Quantity	Value	Quantity	Value	Quantity	Value	Quantity	Value
Maize flour (Kg)	0	0	0	0	0	0	36	27	36	27
Beans(Kg)	0	0	0	0	0	0	11	13.2	11	13.2
Vegetable oil (L)	0	0	0	0	0	0	3	6.82	3	6.82
Salt (Kg)	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0.445	1	0.445
									51	47.465

2.2.8. Retail-price information on key staples in the area of the program two weeks before the program began, monthly during the program, and two weeks after the program ended.

The project facilitated an active price monitoring of selected food items in the intervention sites prior to, during and after the interventions. The price information obtained from the market assessments helped to determine food item prices, hence enabling harmonized engagement of the local vendors. Samaritan’s Purse uses routine price surveillance to help understand local market systems, and how project activities might affect, or are affecting, them. Price surveillance was facilitated using CRS’ MARKit Price Surveillance tool.

The table below shows the retail price of selected commodities across the four different sites benefiting from emergency food assistance. No large commodity price fluctuations (15% or more) were observed by the program in any one site during the course of the intervention.

Table 6: Retail-price information on key staple in the program area

Retail-price information on key staples in the area of the program two weeks before the program began, monthly during the program and two weeks after the program ended.												
Market prices for food commodities in USD												
Intervention Site / Commodity	Niania , Ituri			Miriki/Luofu, South Lubero			Biakato/Bell, Ituri			Butembo , North Kivu		
	Two weeks prior to intervention	Monthly Price	Two weeks post intervention/PDM	Two weeks prior to intervention	Monthly Price	Two weeks post intervention/PDM	Two weeks prior to intervention	Monthly Price	Two weeks post intervention/PDM	Two weeks prior to intervention	Monthly Price	Two weeks post intervention/PDM
Rice - Local (KG)	0.75	0.64	0.68	0.98	0	0.81	0.63	0.62	0.64	0.83	0.73	0.8
Rice - Imported (KG)	0	0.83	0.88	0.98	1	1	0	0	0	0.69	0.8	0.73
Maize Grain (KG)	0	0	0	0	0.31	0.37	0.59	0.54	0.59	0.45	0.43	0.43
Maize Flour (KG)	0.55	0.49	0.56	0.85	0.63	0.84	0	0	0	1.03	1	1
Cassava/ Manioc (KG)	0.25	0.47	0.52	0.23	0.2	0.22	2.22	0.23	2.21	0.41	0.3	0.47
Potatoes	0	0	0	0	0	0	0.74	0.77	0.69	0.31	0.33	0.4
Beans (KG)	1.25	0.86	0.96	0.9	0.58	0.56	0.81	0.77	0.76	0.9	0.77	0.87
Soybeans (KG)	0.5	2.11	2.2	1	0.81	0.9	0.74	2.31	0.69	0.83	0.67	1.07
Peanuts (KG)	0.9	1.04	1.12	1.4	1.49	1.35	1.11	1.15	1.17	1.66	1.47	1.67
Palm Oil (L)	0.7	0.72	0.72	0.7	0.89	0.79	0.44	0.58	0.41	0.34	0.4	0.53
Vegetable Oil (L)	1.3	1.71	1.76	2	1.86	2	1.19	1.6	1.24	1.17	1.07	1.2
Salt (KG)	0.45	0.82	0.28	0.5	0.49	0.25	0.26	0.46	0.24	0.21	0.2	0.2
Tomato Paste (can)	0.2	0.24	0.32	0.2	0.24	0.26	0.26	0.23	0.24	0.24	0.22	0.2
Onions (KG)	1.35	0.82	0.96	0.65	0.72	0.58	0.89	0.77	0.9	0.28	0.25	0.47
Garlic (KG)	4.4	4.11	4	3.8	2.76	3.33	3.7	4.62	3.79	2.76	2.5	3

CDF to \$1 (USD)	1150	1216.67	1250	1200	1233.33	1350	1150	1250	1350	1350	1450	1500
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2.2.9. Increase in the food-consumption score (FCS) of beneficiaries

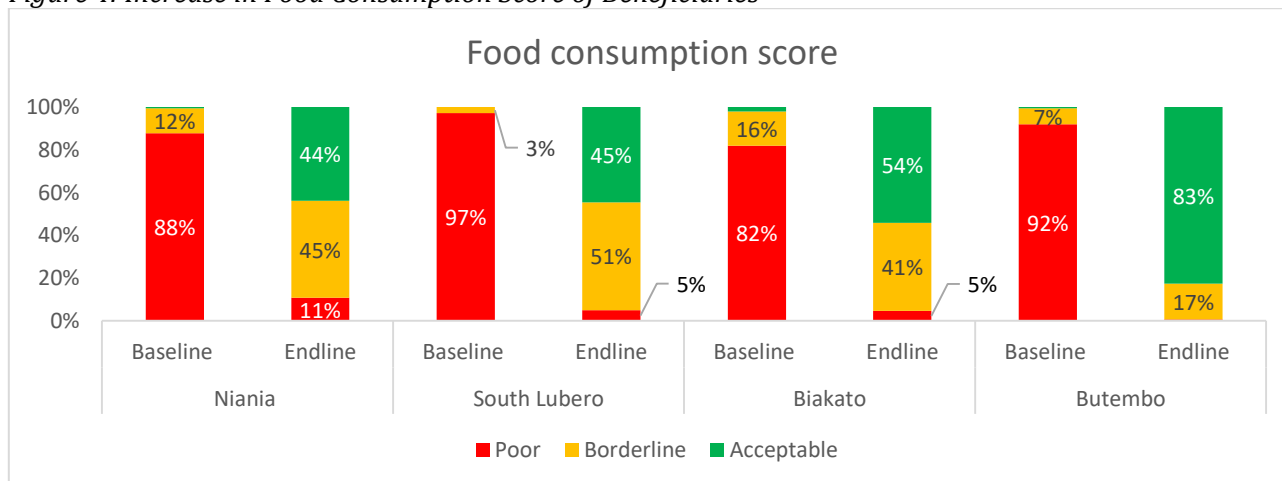
In terms of evaluating food insecurity, the most widely recognized tool is the FCS, developed by WFP. This tool evaluates the frequency in a given week that a HH consumes different food groups, as well as their different sources. Each food is given a weight based on its nutritional value, meaning the larger the score, the more food secure the HH. The table below shows the WFP global thresholds applied in measuring the FCS, and the thresholds applied in DRC, which were used by the project.

Table 7: Food consumption thresholds

Food consumption thresholds		
Thresholds	Global WFP threshold	DRC WFP threshold
Poor	0 to 21	0 to 28
Borderline	21.5 to 35	28.5 to 42
Acceptable	> 35	> 42

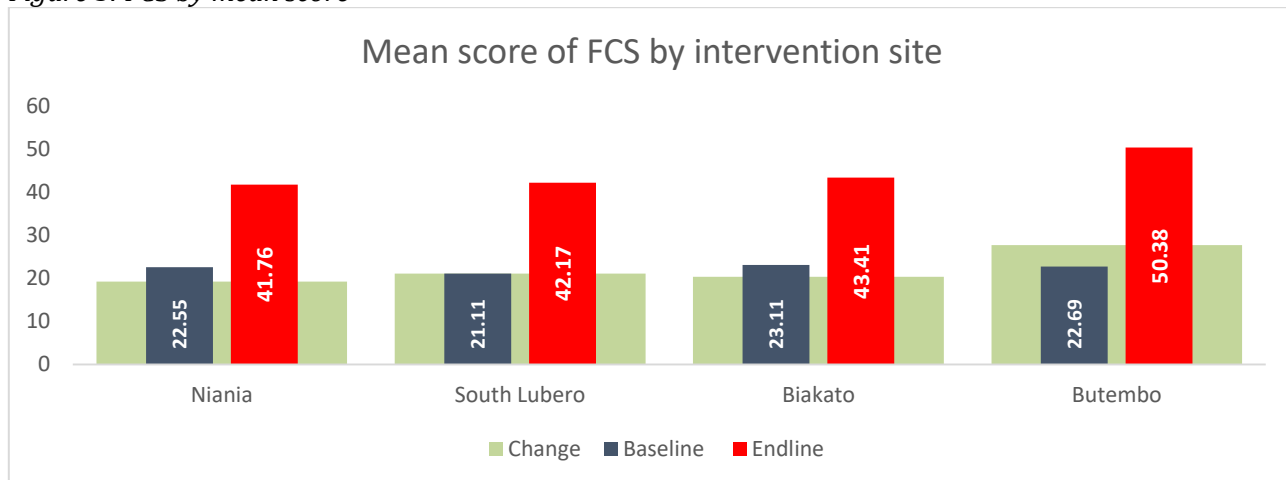
The graph below presents the change in FCS across the four sites that received food assistance during the life of the project. The FCS shows a similar pattern in pre- and post-intervention comparisons across all intervention sites. This implies that the food security situation improved after the distributions.

Figure 4: Increase in Food Consumption Score of Beneficiaries



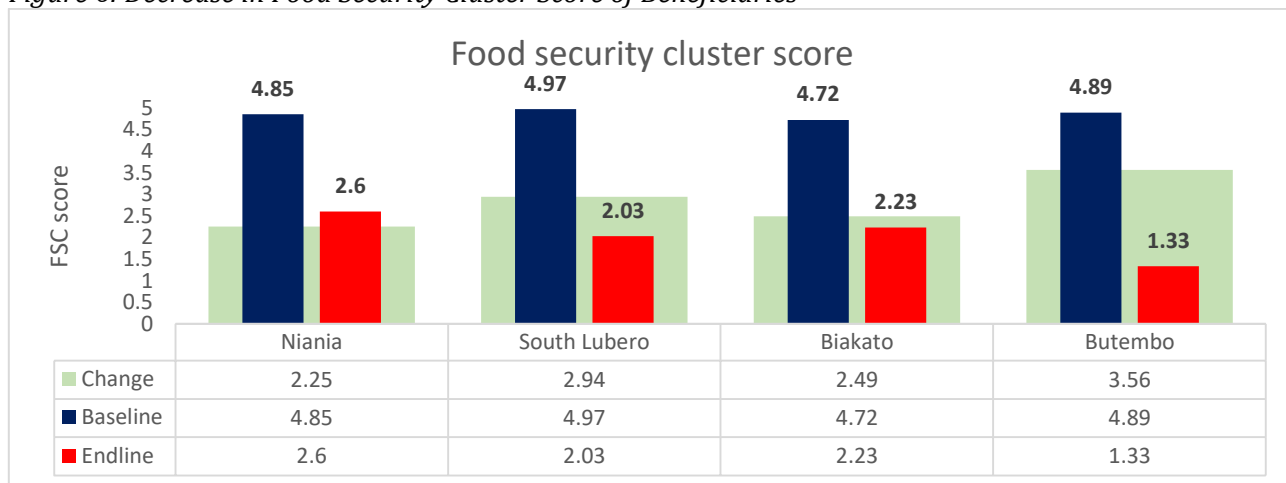
As well as analyzing this indicator per threshold, SP also analyzed mean scores, as depicted in the below graph. On average, there was a 22.06 point increase between targeting (baseline) and PMD (endline) surveys, meaning that the project succeeded in raising the average status of all beneficiary HHs from “poor” to “borderline,” through the increase in both frequency and diversity of food consumption.

Figure 5: FCS by mean score



Per the Food Security cluster standards, the results of the FCS are adapted to fit a 0-5 scale, where HHs that score above 3.5 are considered food vulnerable (see Appendix G for more information). When converted to the Food Security Cluster’s (SECAL) vulnerability score scale of 0-5,¹⁵ overall HH averages were reduced to below the target of 3.5 for all beneficiary categories, meaning that beneficiaries had been moved below the food security threshold of “critically vulnerable.” These results show the importance of food assistance given to these conflict-affected HHs, while highlighting the project’s positive impact on food consumption and dietary diversity.

Figure 6: Decrease in Food Security Cluster Score of Beneficiaries



2.2.10. Decrease in Household Hunger Score (HHS) of beneficiaries

The HHS is a simplified survey used to quickly assess food quantity in any given situation. Whereas the FCS questions examine the frequency and quality of the food, the HHS studies the quantity of food available. Questions are asked to examine whether the HH experienced hunger in the past 30 days, and if so, how often. Possible answers include: Rarely (1-2 times during the month), Sometimes (3-10

¹⁵ The SECAL Vulnerability Score is calculated based on a HH’s FCS, and has thus been included in the same section.

times), and Frequently (10 or more times). These scores are weighted to fall onto a 0-6 scale, where 0-1 shows minimum hunger, 2-3 reveals moderate HH hunger, and scores higher than 4 suggest severe HH hunger.

Samaritan’s Purse has also adopted the use of the HHS system to complement the Reduced Coping Strategies Index rCSI score (see subsection C). Whereas the rCSI examines the most commonly used strategies over the past week, the HHS examines the use of the most severe strategy (i.e. not eating) over the course of a month. By pairing these two evaluations, SP has been able to triangulate information on both food insecurity and project impact, by not limiting evaluations to one week and by using multiple scoring systems so as to best capture the nuances of HHS’ responses.

A positive impact was registered with regard to the levels of HH hunger seen in beneficiary HHs. During targeting (baseline) surveys, intervention sites presented an average score of 3.86, indicating that the majority of HHs were experiencing “moderate”, bordering on “severe”, hunger. Through SP’s emergency food interventions, the average HHS score across intervention sites was reduced by 2.61 points, from 3.86 pre-intervention, to 1.25 at the PDM, signifying little or no hunger.

Figure 7: Decrease in Household Hunger Score of Beneficiaries

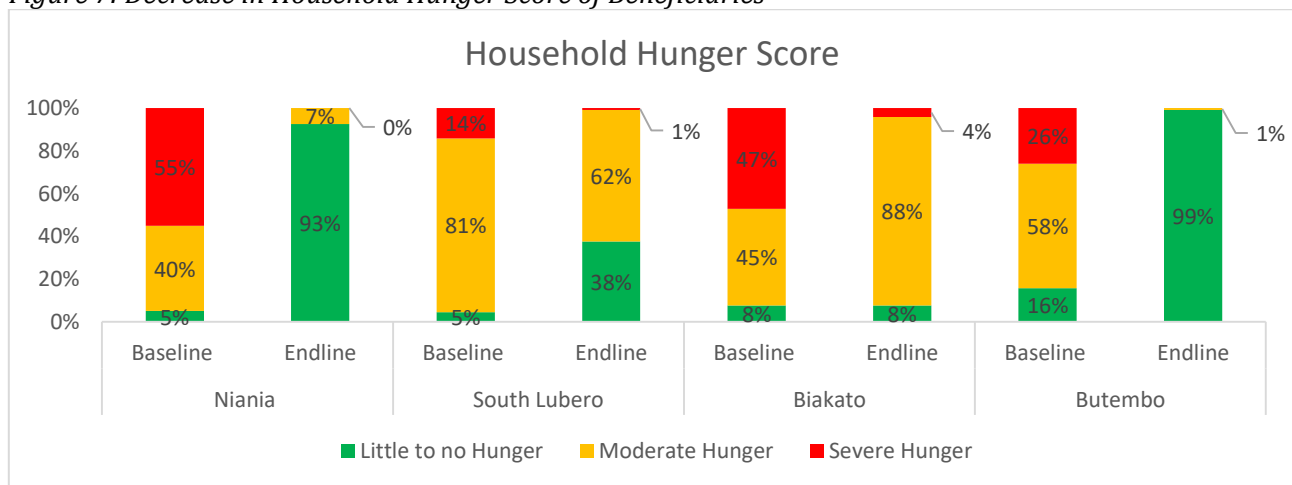
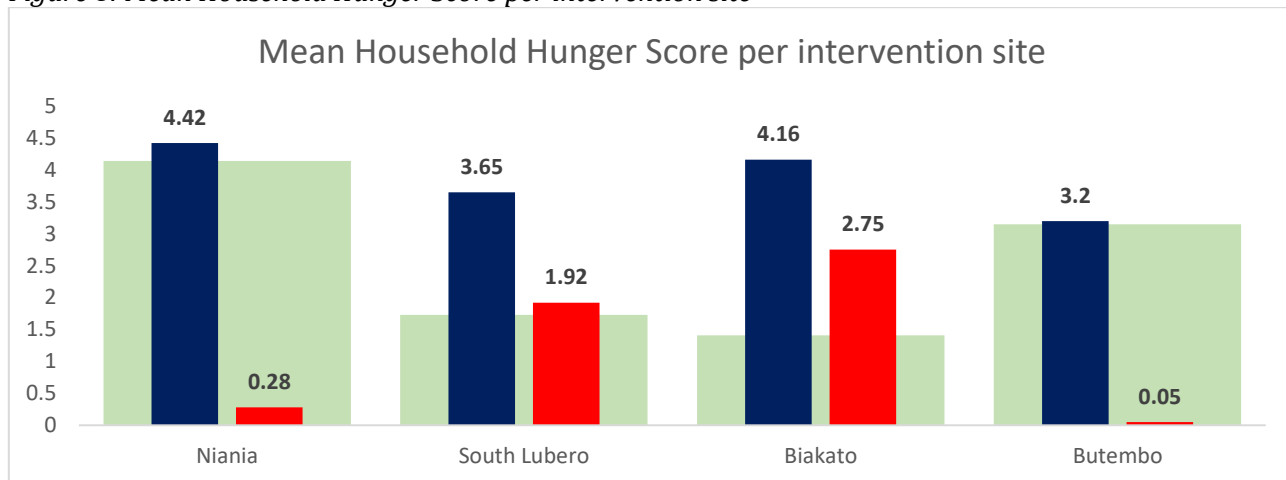


Figure 8: Mean Household Hunger Score per intervention site



2.2.11. Decrease in Coping Strategies Index (CSI) score of beneficiaries

To help meet food demands, HHs adopt various forms of coping strategies to mitigate the impact of the conflict and insecurity on their livelihoods. To analyze these, the CSI was adopted.¹⁶ The CSI analyzes the vulnerability of a HH based on the strategies—including the severity and the number of times in one week that the HH has had to rely on that strategy—used by the HH in response to food insecurity.¹⁷ The CSI asks the respondents to answer the question: “What do you do when you do not have enough food, and don’t have enough money to buy food?”

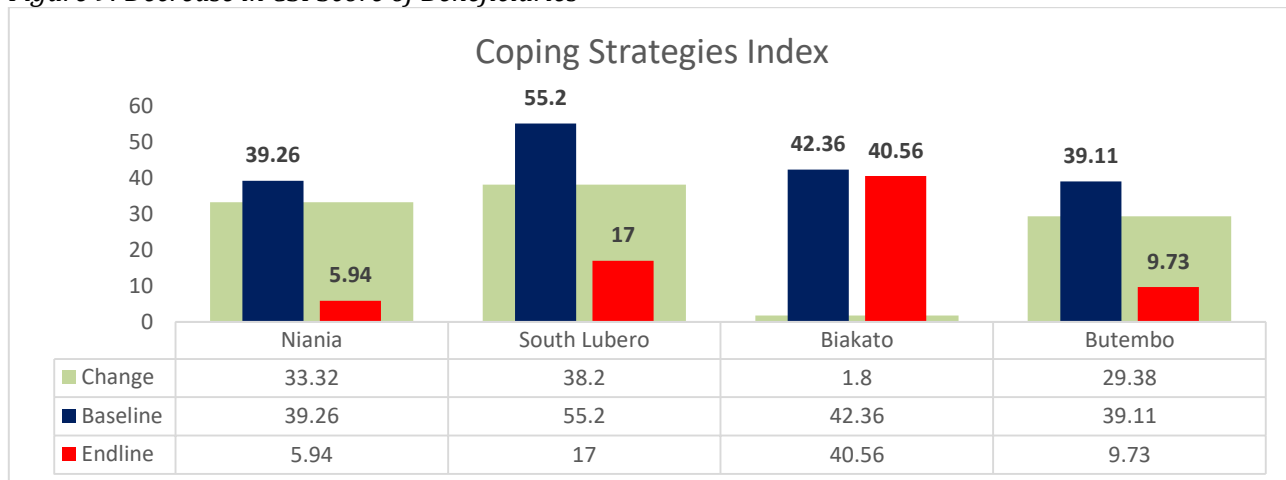
Samaritan’s Purse adopted the Reduced Coping Strategy Index (rCSI) to study the frequency of the five most common coping strategies HHs used, including consuming less preferred foods, borrowing food, reducing the quantity of consumption, reducing adult consumption and reducing the number of meals. These questions were asked in relation to the week leading up to the survey, and respondents indicated the frequency that each particular strategy had been used. Answers were weighted based on severity, to determine the rCSI score. Samaritan’s Purse has established weights for each question based on FGDs conducted in early 2015 to determine how local HHs viewed each strategy, in terms of severity.

Samaritan’s Purse found that the average rCSI score during the targeting phase was 43.98, suggesting that these strategies were being frequently used. During the PDM surveys, the rCSI scores of beneficiary HHs averaged 18.31, showing a 58.4% decrease in the use of these coping strategies, due to the emergency food assistance provided by the project (Fig. 26).

¹⁶ CSI was an indicator which SP committed to follow in the first year project award proposal, but not the second. However, it was tracked for the duration of the project, for the sake of consistency.

¹⁷ USAID, WFP, Feinstein International Center, Tango, CARE, 2008. The Coping Strategies Index - Field Methods Manual.

Figure 9: Decrease in CSI Score of Beneficiaries



2.2.12. Livelihood Coping Strategies (LCS)

The livelihoods-based coping strategies module is used to better understand the longer-term coping capacity of HHs.¹⁸ As a result of the project, the LCS index dropped to below 2 in Niania, Miriki/Luofu and Butembo. This means that there was a decline in the use of strategies considered to be more severe and harmful to future production capacity. For instance, at baseline, HHs reported that they had engaged in “crisis” strategies such as the sale of productive assets and reduced expenditure on health and education, while some withdrew children from school. “Emergency” strategies were also reported. For instance, there were HHs that sold off pieces of land, with some selling off the last female animals, and some begging, in order to survive. The application of these “crisis” and “emergency” measures were observed to have decreased, based on PDM findings.

3. Qualitative Results & Discussion

Based on the various qualitative data collection sources detailed, SP was able to better understand the contextual appropriateness of selected modalities and activities, unintended consequences, and needed adaptations for activity modifications. Due to the integrated nature of Sector 1 and Sector 3 activities, qualitative indicator results were almost entirely applicable to both sectors, and thus are explained together here.

3.1. Description of how project assessed gender needs and issues and how needs and issues were addressed

Using the qualitative data collection sources detailed above, SP was able to effectively assess gender needs and issues, and find constructive ways to address them. Some of the ways that SP prioritized gender mainstreaming are as follows:

Selection of HH Representative: During targeting, surveyors principally targeted women to complete the vulnerability questionnaire, as they were the most knowledgeable concerning the HH, especially in relation to food consumption and outstanding needs. Since they were the ones surveyed, these same

¹⁸ WFP, 2014: Consolidated Approach for Reporting Indicators of Food Security (CARI)

women received the beneficiary token, and thus became the preferred recipients of commodities or rations during the interventions. The success of this was proved in that overall, 75% of intervention recipients were women.

Women-based preference studies: Preference studies were completed by SP staff through focus groups and individual interviews before every fair cycle, to ensure that beneficiary preferences (i.e. types and quantities of items) were available during the fairs. As women in Congo are usually responsible for HH food purchase and preparation, SP sought to have at least 80% of participants in these preference studies be women.

Hygiene-kits: As detailed in the project proposal, SP NFI kits contained a woman-specific hygiene kit which included an opaque bucket with lid, undergarments and hygiene cloths. In order to ensure that the use of the kits was both appropriately communicated and understood, SP had female staff sensitize and explain their use to beneficiaries during distributions.

Protection concerns and consideration of vulnerable categories: As per Sphere norms, SP ensured that intervention sites were located within close proximity of assisted villages, so as to reduce walking distance and time required for beneficiaries to come and receive their rations. In addition to regulating the proximity of sites, SP further recognized certain vulnerable categories of beneficiaries (e.g. pregnant/breastfeeding women, handicapped people and the elderly), and took extra steps to facilitate their reception of inputs. For example, at voucher fairs and distributions, where beneficiaries had to wait to receive their assistance, SP provided refreshments to individuals in these categories, and prioritized their service. Samaritan’s Purse also engaged local day-labor to provide special “beneficiary assistance” to accompany and assist individuals who might have otherwise been unable to purchase and/or carry their inputs by themselves. For all beneficiaries, regardless of vulnerability status, SP provided free water, set up tarps to offer shade while waiting, and installed temporary, gender-specific latrines.

3.2. Learning on appropriateness of selected modalities and activities to the context, needed adaptations to changing circumstances, or unintended consequences for program activities

Based on the various qualitative data collection sources detailed above, SP was able to better understand the contextual appropriateness of selected modalities and activities, unintended consequences, and needed adaptations for activity modifications.

3.2.1. Appropriateness of Selected Modalities and Activities

Samaritan’s Purse has found the flexible, dual-modality approach to be very appropriate to the context and needs of the conflict-affected region of northeastern DRC. Despite the prevailing political instability and insecurity, the region is densely populated, and the markets well-connected, both locally and regionally. Understanding that distributions have the most risk of long-term detriment to markets, SP prefers to conduct more voucher fairs which, though more administratively-heavy, have more potential to provide a boost to local market systems. Samaritan’s Purse uses tools to analyze markets before, during, and after their interventions in order to inform its decision of which modalities to use, taking into consideration both the wellbeing of local markets, and the security of beneficiaries

and vendors. The flexible modality approach has allowed SP to intervene in hard to reach areas, while also minimizing collateral damage to markets in others.

When voucher fairs were determined to be appropriate, SP used a “closed-fair” modality (see Project Overview: Emergency Response Sectors). During the project, the appropriateness of this to the context of Eastern DRC was confirmed for the following reasons:

- **Response Time:** Using a voucher fair methodology ensured that beneficiaries in need were served quickly. With this method, 500+ beneficiary HHs could be served per day, whereas with the regular voucher, the local suppliers might not have been able to serve that many people.
- **Fraud/Protection Considerations:** Using a voucher fair methodology allowed voucher distribution, exchange, and justification to happen on site, the same day. This ensured that vouchers were not kept overnight by beneficiaries or vendors, reducing the chance of counterfeiting and theft. It also helped prevent misappropriation of the voucher amount by beneficiaries (e.g. for use in purchasing alcohol or other non-essential items), and allowed SP to closely monitor the respecting of agreed-upon price ceilings by participating vendors, enabling beneficiaries to benefit from the full value of their vouchers. Finally, the closed-fair methodology prevented beneficiaries’ exposure to sexual exploitation and abuse (SEA).
- **Quality/Quantity of Commodities:** Most vendors in Eastern DRC are small local retailers, without the capacity for long-term storage of large quantities of food or NFIs. Organizing voucher fairs to be completed at a particular site, within a short timeframe, has the benefit of ensuring that sufficient inputs of good quality are present for the beneficiaries: 1) vendors stock what is necessary because they are reassured that their stocks will be liquidated, 2) input quality is maintained because storage time prior to the sale is kept at a minimum, and 3) SP staff can physically verify that the quality and quantity of stocks are continually sufficient and meet minimum standards.
- **Logistical Constraints:** It is challenging to locate all beneficiaries for the second and third cycles of coupon distribution and assistance. Organizing a closed voucher fair and sensitizing communities allows beneficiaries to gather at a central check-in point to receive their coupons and be served. As per Sphere recommendations, voucher fair locations are chosen so that beneficiaries are served within 10km of their residences.
- **Local Market Days:** Most rural communities in the DRC have only one or two market days per week during which beneficiaries can purchase needed commodities. By organizing multi-day closed fairs, SP ensures that all commodities are present and in one place for beneficiaries, regardless of the day their coupon has to be used.

3.2.2. Needed Adaptations to Changing Circumstances

Based on the various qualitative data collection sources detailed above, SP was able to make adjustments and improvements to intervention methodologies on a continual basis throughout the life of the project. Here are several examples:

1. **Market Analysis:** During this phase of implementation, the project continued to use the MARKit Price Surveillance tracking system which was developed by CRS. The objective of this tool is to evaluate market fluctuations throughout the duration of the intervention and post-intervention activities, allowing SP to carefully monitor the local market and to rapidly adjust intervention plans in response

to potential market fluctuations. Through the use of this tool, SP has incorporated various lessons learned since its introduction:

- a. **Number of Commodities Tracked (Substitute choices):** The MARKit system was designed to track between three to six key commodities in a market system. When the project initiated the use of this tool, focus was given to four commodities distributed by SP (maize flour, beans, vegetable oil and salt). However, substitute or preferred commodities were not tracked, and therefore the true impact of the intervention was not able to be fully observed, as the MARKit was only gathering part of the picture. During this phase, SP broadened the scope of price surveillance to include 21 commodities. These items were grouped into the following categories: Cereals (maize and rice), Tubers (cassava and potatoes), Pulses (beans, soybeans and peanuts), Oil (palm and vegetable oil), “Other” (salt, tomato paste, onions and garlic) and NFI items (gas, diesel, basin, water jug, 5 lt. casserole and tarpaulin).
- b. **Frequency:** SP adjusted the frequency of data collection to a bi-weekly basis, or twice a month. This was coupled with daily or weekly price gathering during key periods of the intervention cycle (such as vendor procurement, or right after the fairs).

5. Price Surveillance: For determining the most appropriate intervention modality, the project adopted the Rapid Market Assessment (RMA) which is carried out at the beginning of an intervention cycle in a given crisis area. The RMA assigns each market a score, which is then compared to thresholds, orienting SP to the more appropriate modality for each site. This is accompanied by the binary Modality Decision Tree (Appendix F) and other analyses, such as security and urgency, which direct the choice of the most appropriate modality for each site. This tool evolved over the course of the project, as SP continually sought ways to improve market assessments to better understand how the project would affect the economy of the intervention site.

- i. The RMA attempts to take a snap-shot look at a local market economy to determine how healthy and integrated it is. Over the course of implementation, the project found that many local vendors procured goods on a weekly or bi-weekly basis, but the RMA examines a 30-day period (1 month). This resulted in markets having the capacity to hold voucher-fairs, but scoring too low, and thus being targeted for distribution. Samaritan’s Purse plans to reexamine the time period the RMA looks at to better assess each market, incorporating features and questions that would look into the procurement cycle for local vendors.
- ii. Another lesson learned through the use of the RMA tool was the breadth of analysis – the RMA throughout the USAIDizi project examined two commodities, one for each sector (beans and basins respectively). However, to better understand market integration and sourcing, SP adjusted this to look at a few more commodities, while remaining a lean and quick assessment, with the intention of better understanding how the local market was connected to regional markets.
- iii. Finally, although it was one of the key indicators in the project (economic recovery), SP had not maximized the potential of evaluating the market post-intervention to better understand the impact of the activities. During this year of implementation, SP included post-market analyses in the PDM package in order to enable post-intervention market

analysis, and assess any potential market disturbances that might be a result of the fairs or distributions.

1.2.3. Unintended Consequences of Program Activities

The USAIDizi project saw some unintended consequences as listed below:

1. Market Prices: Overall, SP did not observe significant changes in market prices due to its interventions, whether voucher or in-kind. However, there were several occasions where prices rose slightly during the procurement time for local vendors, as they started to stock up provisions for the fairs. This inflation of prices usually reverted during and after fairs, once vendors stopped stockpiling their commodities. Regional integration of markets also ensured that prices did not vary, as source markets were not directly influenced by fairs.
2. Selling of Rations: In some situations, it was found that certain beneficiaries attempted to sell their rations for cash in the local market, in order to access money to address other pressing household emergencies including medication for the household members and settling of family debt. SP reinforced sensitization with the local leaders and the beneficiaries to encourage them to not sell any of their food rations. . For future projects, SP will continue to strengthen its beneficiary preference studies.

B. Agricultural and Food Security Sector (Sector 2)

1. Monitoring and Evaluation Strategy

1.1. Rationale of Indicator Collection and Tracking

Sector 2 had longer “project cycles” than Sectors 1 and 3 of the project. Whereas the Logistics and Food Assistance sectors intervened in one and three month cycles, respectively, the Agriculture and Food Security sector was more stable, providing five to six months of assistance for each project activity beneficiary (Fig 2). In view of this, the classic one-baseline, one-endline survey methodology was more applicable for tracking and analyzing project indicators.

Over the 12-month life of the project, activities took place in two different locations (Miriki/Luofu and Mamove/Maleki), with baseline and endline evaluations being carried out in each. The following discussion of methodologies and results will (where applicable) provide information on each activity and/or location, individually. It will also touch on overall achievement trends found when looking at all sites collectively. Samaritan’s Purse had planned to intervene in Maleki/Mamove and Samboko with food, NFIs, seeds and tools, but during assessment it was found that other actors were already intervening with NFIs and food in Mamove/Maleki.

1.2. Methodology of Indicator Collection and Tracking

As with the other sectors, the needed information for the effective tracking of qualitative and quantitative project indicators for Sector 2 was the joint effort of multiple departments within SP DRC. See Table 7 for a list of indicators tracked. .

Table 8: Sector 2 Indicators Tracked, by Year

Sector	Sub-Sector	Indicator
Sector 2 (Agricultural and Food Security)	Improving Agricultural Production/ Food Security	Projected increase in number of months of food self-sufficiency due to seed-system activities/agricultural inputs for beneficiary households
		Number of people benefiting from seed-systems/agricultural input activities
	Pests & Pesticides	Number of people trained in pest-control practices, disaggregated by sex
	Livestock	Number of animals benefiting from, or affected by, livestock activities
		Number of people benefiting from livestock activities, disaggregated by sex
		Number of veterinary interventions (e.g., treatments, vaccinations, etc.)
		Number of animals treated
	Internal: Improving Agricultural Production/ Food Security	Increase in food-consumption scores (FCSs) of beneficiaries*
		Change in Household Hunger Scale*
	Internal: Qualitative	Assessment of gender needs and actions taken*
		Learning on the appropriateness of selected modalities and activities to the context*
	Pests & Pesticides	Number and percentage of people trained by USAID/OFDA partners practicing appropriate crop protection procedures, disaggregated by sex
		Estimated number and percentage of hectares protected against diseases and pests, (e.g., insects, rodents, birds, weeds)
		Estimated amount and percentage of post-harvest produce protected against diseases and pests (e.g., insects, rodents, birds, etc.). Includes unit of measurement employed for the amount estimated.

1.2.1. Quantitative Data Collection Sources

Sources of quantitative data included the following: vulnerability assessments (targeting / baseline), training attendance data, daily distributions (intervention) reports (and beneficiary lists), finance & operations data, and endline evaluations.

Vulnerability Assessment (Targeting / Baseline)

Vulnerability assessments were conducted at the start of the project in each of the intervention sites. The assessments enabled understanding of the vulnerability situation of the HHs, and results were used to guide in the recruitment of beneficiaries by applying standard benchmarks of food insecurity,

seed insecurity, social vulnerability, and willingness to participate. Vulnerability assessments also served to provide a baseline status of the Sector 2 beneficiaries, which was referenced at the end of the project, in order to understand the contribution of the project to the beneficiaries' food security status.

Vulnerability surveys incorporated elements of knowledge, attitudes and practices associated with crop farming, pest and disease control and management, post-harvest crop handling and protection, and seed selection. Findings from these surveys were included in the delivery of agriculture training modules and information sharing.

The assessment was conducted using a mix of paper and iFormBuilder-based questionnaires, and the data was analyzed by MS Excel (see Appendix H).

Training Attendance Data

During monthly training sessions, beneficiaries signed training participation forms to confirm their participation. This data was collected by field staff and used in developing the monthly project reports. Based on the attendance forms, several analyses were done to profile the status of the beneficiaries and the number of beneficiaries impacted, by gender. This information helped in reporting indicators 2 and 1 of subsectors 1 and 2, respectively. The assessment was conducted using a mix of paper and iForm-based questionnaires and the data was analyzed by MS Excel.

Daily Distribution Reports

This was the same as the other sectors. See Sector 1: Qualitative Data Collection Sources

Endline Evaluations

Endline assessment for the project was done for each of the project intervention sites. The assessment applied a gender-disaggregated random sampling technique using a 95% confidence level and a 5% confidence interval. It outlined the contribution of the project to the average food security status of project beneficiaries. The sector's endline data was collected using paper surveys. Despite SP's commitment to the use of mobile devices for data collection, the security situation did not permit the use of iPads for data collection. The data was then analyzed by MS Excel to understand the impact of the project (see *Use of Mobile Data Collection*).

1.2.2. Qualitative Data Collection Sources

According to the award document, Sector 2 of the project did not explicitly require the tracking of any qualitative data. However, in view of SP DRC norms, and in an effort to standardize indicator tracking between project sectors, qualitative data was collected and analyzed to evaluate, among other things, beneficiary preference, beneficiary and vendor satisfaction, training efficacy, and protection considerations. Sources of qualitative data included: focus group discussions, day-of evaluations, knowledge and practice assessments incorporated in the baseline and endline evaluations, and routine periodic field monitoring and training follow-up visits.

2. Quantitative Results and Discussion

2.1. Improving Agricultural Production/ Food Security

2.1.1. Number of people benefiting from seed systems/agricultural input activities, by sex

The project provided seeds and farming tools, as well as accompanying agricultural information, to 39,271 beneficiaries. The beneficiaries, as served across the two intervention sites, were comprised of 19,377 women and 19,894 men.

Table 9: Beneficiaries served (individuals) by displacement status

Beneficiaries served (individuals) by displacement status				
Category	Miriki/Luofu	Mamove/Maleki	Individuals	%
IDP	2,311	10,892	13,203	34%
Returnee	3,668	1,549	5,217	13%
Local family	14,583	6,268	20,851	53%
Total	20,562	18,709	39,271	100%

Seed inputs provided included assorted locally-adaptable seeds, such as maize, rice, bean, soya, cabbage, leek, tomato, onion, and eggplant. A wide variety of farming tools was provided, including watering cans, rasp files, mattocks, axes and machetes, based on beneficiary needs as identified during virtual tool fairs (see Project Overview).

Table 10: Beneficiary information by gender

Beneficiary information by gender			
Intervention site	Male	Female	Total
South Lubero (Luofu & Miriki)	10,383	10,179	20,562
Oicha (Mamove & Maleki)	9,511	9,198	18,709
Total	19,894	19,377	39,271

Access to seeds and proper tools for cultivation are among the challenges most frequently cited by beneficiaries during vulnerability evaluations. Inputs provided by the project have contributed to the positive achievements seen in food security indicators detailed in the following sections.

2.1.2. Projected increase in number of months of food self-sufficiency due to distributed seed systems/agricultural input for beneficiary households

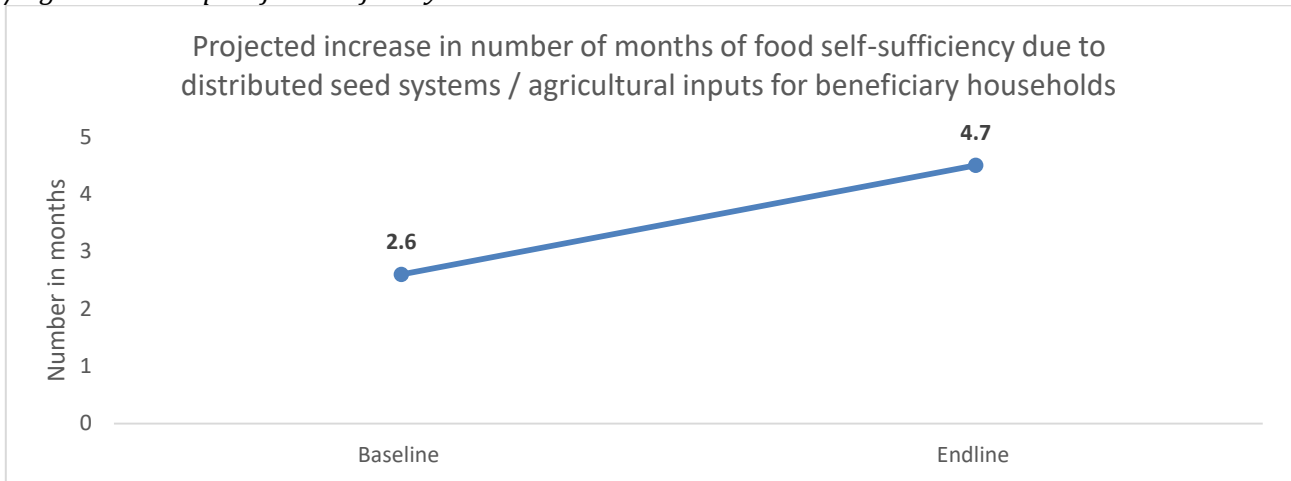
To gather data about one of the most important indicators for how well the agriculture program performs over the course of the year, the baseline and endline surveys measured the “Projected increase in number of months of food self-sufficiency due to distributed seed systems/agricultural input for beneficiary households”. This indicator, centered largely around staple crops, asked respondents how many months, on average, the harvest of each crop they grew (maize, bean, rice, cassava, and sorghum) would last their family.

As shown in the figure below, the project increased the months of food self-sufficiency by 2.1 months. This is an increase from a baseline value of 2.6 months to 4.7 months at the end of the project implementation, which represents a positive impact attributable to the provision of project inputs, together with trainings designed to maximize the returns of input use. It is hoped the seeds, farming tools and trainings will continue to guarantee the HHs more months of food self-sufficiency in the

successive farming periods, by serving as a sustainable and renewable source of income and livelihoods.

The increase in months of food self-sufficiency reduced beneficiary vulnerability. Beneficiaries are now more resilient than they were at the launch of the project.

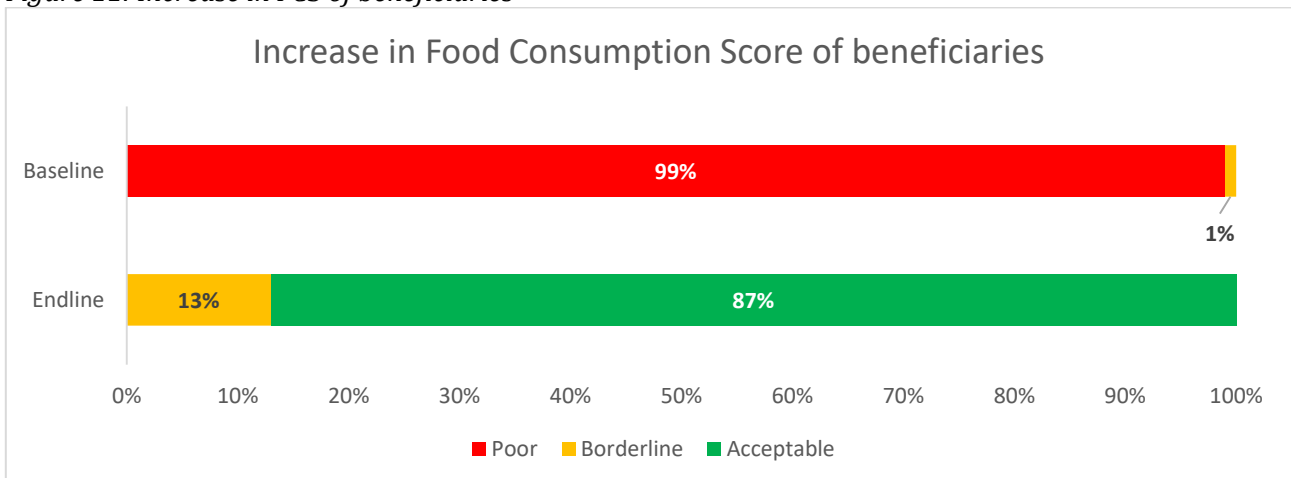
Figure 10: Projected increase in number of months of food self-sufficiency due to distributed seed systems / agricultural inputs for beneficiary households



2.1.3. Increase in Food Consumption Scores (FCSs) of beneficiaries

Sector 2 project activities contributed to the changes registered in beneficiary Food Consumption Scores (FCSs). At endline, 13% of beneficiary HHs were assessed to be moderately food secure (borderline) as compared to 1% at baseline. At baseline, a significantly high proportion (99%) were found to have a poor FCS. However, at the endline survey point, only 1% of surveyed HHs had a poor FCS. This marked reduction showcases a transition among beneficiaries from poor to moderate and acceptable levels over the one year implementation period. The FCS, being a composite indicator, measures a variety of elements. Based on the FCS, there has also been improvement in dietary diversity among beneficiary HHs.

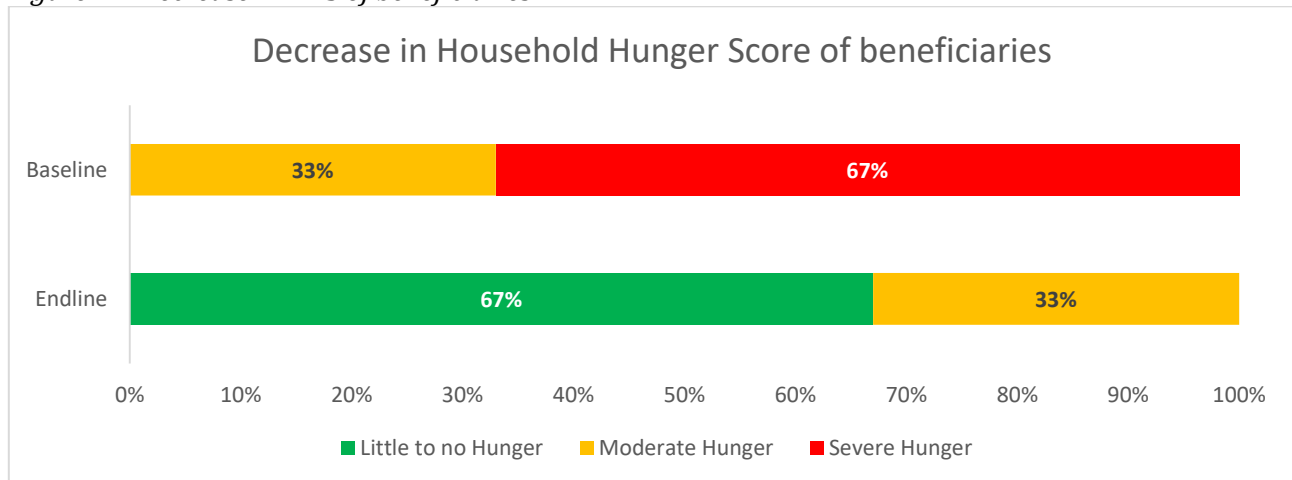
Figure 11: Increase in FCS of beneficiaries



2.1.4. Decrease in Household Hunger Score (HHS) of beneficiaries

As presented in the graph below, HHs with “Little to no hunger” increased by 67% from a baseline of 0%, while HHs with “Severe Hunger” reduced to 0% from a baseline of 67%. Moderate hunger stood evenly at 33% between both surveys. This means an overall reduction of severe and moderate hunger across the targeted HHs and demonstrates an improvement in the HHs’ capacity and ability to access food.

Figure 12: Decrease in HHS of beneficiaries



2.2. Pests and Pesticides

2.2.1. Number and percentage of people trained in pest control practices, disaggregated by sex

Beneficiary families participating in ATGs benefited from a training module focused on pests and pesticides. As with the above indicator, a total of 5,049 Heads of Households (HoHs), representing 19,894 males and 19,377 females, received training on good agricultural practices with regard to pests and the use of local organic pesticides, with the goal of minimizing losses associated with crop maintenance and post-production handling, in all four intervention sites.

2.2.2. Number and percentage of people trained by USAID/OFDA partners practicing appropriate crop protection procedures, disaggregated by sex

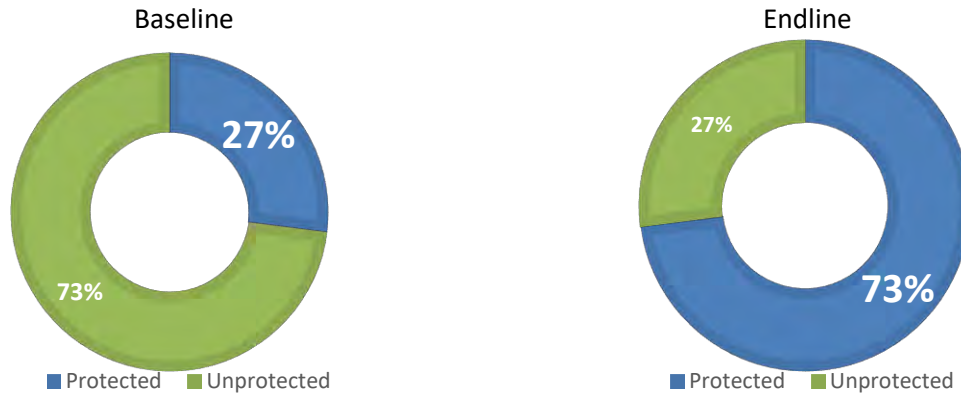
For purposes of indicator measurement, as well as to foster the adoption of better agricultural practices, the project defined “appropriate” crop protection procedures as the application of any of the following crop protection measures: use of phytosanitary products, selective destruction of infected crops, and the fabrication and application of locally-made organic pesticides. As a result of the project’s efforts, 69.9% of beneficiaries applied appropriate crop protection procedures.

2.2.3. Estimated number and percentage of hectares protected against diseases and pests, (e.g., insects, rodents, birds, weeds)

To enable assessment of the change in size of areas protected from pests and diseases, SP monitored the “Estimated number and percentage of hectares protected against diseases and pests, (e.g., insects,

rodents, birds, weeds).” The project facilitated protection of 16.76 Ha of land against diseases and pests through trainings on better agricultural practices, including crop rotation, disease identification and warning systems, the selective destruction of infected crops, and the fabrication and application of locally-made organic pesticides. This protected area represented 73.6% of all land planted by beneficiaries, which marked an increase from 27% (0.4117 Ha) at baseline. (see Fig. 14). This demonstrates knowledge retention among trained beneficiaries. Knowledge retention concerning the key topics covered in trainings, as well as the tools and seeds already provided, are expected to continue accruing benefits to direct beneficiaries.

Figure 13: Percentage of hectares protected against diseases and pests



3. Qualitative Indicator Results

3.1. Description of how project assessed gender needs and issues, and how needs and issues were been addressed

Using various assessment methodologies, the project prioritized gender needs by facilitating the mainstreaming of gender-sensitive programming.

Male-Female Beneficiary Composition

Based on the FGDs conducted during the vulnerability and endline assessments, it was noted that women play a primary role in HH food security. They are actively involved in all stages of food security, from production to food preparation and consumption. To this effect, the project was designed to target at least 60% women participants in Sector 2 (Agriculture and Food Security) activities.

Men also play an important role in food production, including, in this context, the provision of security to the family, and support of women in the farms. For this reason, the project was designed to include least 25% male participants, so as to holistically augment the efforts of HH food production.

In view of the fact that the project activities were implemented in conflict-prone zones, vulnerability assessment findings indicated the likelihood of high risk to beneficiaries – especially women – when working or moving alone, or at insecure times of the day. To ensure that beneficiaries in general, and women in particular, were not rendered more vulnerable due to participation in project activities, the following measures were implemented:

1. **Community fields:** ATG beneficiaries were organized in a way that encouraged food production in closer farms, as much as was practically feasible. This ensured that the beneficiaries were always together when performing activities, hence acting as a deterrent to theft or gender-based violence that could otherwise be more likely if they were working alone. No security incidences were reported during the project life for beneficiaries engaged in project activities.

Activity hours limited: An effort was made to limit project activities (i.e. fairs, distributions, and training/demonstration sessions) to the safe hours of the day specific to each location, based on security realities and updates from SP's security team. In general, activities were performed between 9 am and 3 pm.

Involvement of Children

To ensure that children were not distracted from schooling and/or engaged in child labor, the project did not target or register minors as direct beneficiaries of project activities. Instead, displaced orphans were indirectly supported through the inclusion of their host families, who performed the activities on their behalf. Samaritan's Purse is not aware of any children having boycotted school to be engaged in project activities. However, to ensure continued generational skills transfer, children worked alongside their family members during school breaks, as a way of learning livelihood skills as generational art.

3.2. Learning on appropriateness of selected modalities and activities to the context, needed adaptations to changing circumstances, or unintended consequences of program activities

The following lessons were learned and/or reinforced via the implementation of Sector 2 project activities:

- Practical and hands-on trainings provided through ATGs improved beneficiaries' knowledge of how to select and store seeds, as well as how to protect harvested crops. Seed security is an essential part of sustainable food and nutrition security. The project results demonstrate an improvement in the application of crop handling and protection measures, which is essential for sustainable food security.
- Knowledge of fundamental practices is essential since it can be directly linked to the quality and quantity of crop production. Findings from these surveys can be incorporated into the delivery of agriculture training modules and information sharing.
- Prioritization of the inclusion of women in livelihood project activities is a sure way of supporting the HH food security, since women play a significant role in food production in Eastern DRC.
- Organizing beneficiaries to work in teams is useful in deterring insecurity to the beneficiaries, as it increases beneficiaries' access to security, and provides more secure working conditions for women.
- Facilitation of food production activities to HHs in Eastern DRC is an effective means of assuring both host and IDP HHs' food security in the immediate and medium term. This is based on the complex nature of Eastern DRC, where it remains difficult to pin-point the start

and end of conflict, and a high percentage of the total population is repeatedly affected (either directly or indirectly) by conflict, due to cyclical displacement patterns.

- Provision of food security and/or livelihoods support is important not only for IDPs, but also for vulnerable host community members. Unlike many places in the world, in Eastern DRC, IDPs only rarely gather in displacement camps, but rather are normally integrated into host families, who assume an added burden providing for their needs. In order to reinforce the efficacy of this local coping mechanism, it is important to scale up humanitarian interventions for these host families, who indirectly bear the burden of conflict.
- The flexibility to implement input activities through either voucher fairs or direct distributions facilitates an effective humanitarian response. Although both modalities have benefits, each is more appropriate in different situations. Whereas vouchers fairs are appropriate in less remote areas, and promote the economic development of conflict-affected communities by injecting cash into local market systems, distributions are at times preferable because they enable quick input provision where local market capacity is compromised.

IV. External Evaluation

Early this year (2017), SP entered into a contractual agreement with Jigsaw Consult in order to carry out an external evaluation of both the process and outputs of AID-OFDA-A-14-00011. The field evaluation took place between February the 7th and the 17th, 2017 and covered Sectors 1 and 3. The report of this evaluation was finalized and shared with USAID upon completion. Because project phases have followed one another in quick succession, the external evaluation took place within the Year 3 timeline. As a result, holding another external evaluation of the project immediately after Year 3 was found unnecessary. The project will use previous evaluations to inform its programmatic orientation in the future.

V. Challenges and Adaptations

Over the course of the project, the team faced many challenges in the implementation of the project. Looking back, most challenges can be classified into the categories of insecurity, and non-transparency of key stakeholders, including beneficiaries and vendors. Below details several examples of each of these challenges, as well as adaptations that were made in order to overcome these challenges.

Insecurity

Samaritan's Purse facilitated humanitarian interventions in Miriki and Luofu in South Lubero. The activities were implemented under very tight security measures. The measures included reduced time in the fields, travel in convoys, and continuous check-ins with the local security actors and beneficiaries for confirmation of security.

Some sites with vulnerable HHs could not be confirmed for intervention due to serious security threats to both the staff and potential beneficiaries. Households in Kasugho in South Lubero, for instance, could not be served despite being in dire humanitarian need. The security situation in Kasugho was the worst, with active militia actions and killings.

Another location that could not be served with humanitarian intervention was Samboko. Samboko had high real risk of armed militia attack, hence it was agreed not to intervene in its villages, despite the significant humanitarian needs of its HHs.

Non-Transparency of Key Stakeholders

In areas where there is ongoing insecurity and crises, certain vulnerable populations have become accustomed to NGOs and humanitarian aid. Unfortunately, this can become a challenge when people, displaced and host families alike, try to take advantage of the system. This was a challenge for the SP team in several areas, and SP had to be extra vigilant in order to prevent the misuse of project supplies.

The SP teams had difficulty at times identifying true IDPs for beneficiary selection. During targeting in Mamove, Maleki, Miriki and Luofu, vulnerable local HHs repeatedly made an effort to sneak in and get surveyed. In order to avoid fraud cases, potential beneficiaries had to be recognized by the local community leaders and the displaced committee leaders. Complaints were treated by the SP community complaints committee, to ensure that the correct people were targeted and served.

Proposed beneficiaries were vetted through public community sessions, where complaints were received and addressed. The final beneficiaries approved by the communities were then enrolled and engaged in the program.

VI. Success Stories

A 30 year old mother of three children in South Lubero:

Beneficiary of emergency assistance in Luofu, South Lubero (North Kivu)



“We fled fighting between the Maimai Mazembe (Nande-based rebel group) and the FDLR (Hutu-based rebel group). During these skirmishes, many of our neighbors were killed. We escaped thanks to the Maimai who freed us from the FDLR. Our survival was dependent on small gardens and fields, but we left the gardens and fields behind. Life has become difficult. Currently, we are living with a host family who provides food for us.

Thanks to SP. This assistance will contribute greatly to the survival of my household and improve the health of my malnourished children. We will also be able to celebrate Christmas.”

A 50 year old mother of three children in South Lubero:

Beneficiary of agricultural assistance in South Lubero (North Kivu)



“I am living in the locality of Miriki in the village of Bunama. I am a native, living with displaced people in my home. We were victims of theft and plundering, particularly our material goods, by the people of the forest.

Grace be returned to the Lord and thanks to Samaritan’s Purse for selecting our household for assistance. We had moved from the territory of Rutshuru following the war. We were victims of looting by armed men. This has destabilized our household. We thank you for your compassionate heart and the tools you have given to us. We did not know who to

turn to for assistance. Life has been difficult due to the atrocities carried out by armed men. May God bless you as you think of other people requiring assistance.”

VII. Acknowledgements

Many different people and parties made this project a success:

- Samaritan's Purse would first like to thank the OFDA/FFP team, who supported the implementation of this project with technical, administrative, and moral support.
- Samaritan's Purse would also like to thank the participating beneficiary communities, for their cooperation and support. This was seen particularly in the preparation and dismantling of intervention sites, in complaints management, and, for agriculture and food security activities, in the faithful preparation and planting of fields.
- Samaritan's Purse must also recognize the many local government officials, local civic organizations, and community leaders who gave of their time and resources, proving their commitment to the local community and a desire to see change. Without the participation of each of these groups, the project would not have been a success.
- Finally, program leadership sincerely thanks the many SP staff – expatriate and national, cooks and coordinators, drivers and database managers – who made the “USAIDizi” project a reality, for many at great personal risk and with enormous sacrifice. Your work will not be forgotten.