

Project Evaluation Report

Evaluation details	
Project title	Water supply and hygiene promotion for people in Nana-Gribizi prefecture
Organisation	International Rescue Committee (IRC)
Sector	Water, sanitation and hygiene
Project duration	1 July 2008 – 28 February 2009
Project budget (ERF)	\$238,370
Place	Kaga-Bandoro, Patcho, Nana-Outa, Ouandago
Dates of evaluation	5 December 2008
Evaluation team members (name, organisation, contact)	Léa Kollongo (ACTED), Claude Gambolipay Gambale (UNHCR)
Examined documents (project sheet, work plan, reports)	Project document, Water and sanitation security plan, Surveillance of water quality guidelines,

Context

Briefly describe the context in which the project was implemented, including the local security and political context, the displacement situation, and the assessed needs of the people in the area.

All of Nana-Gribizi prefecture had been struck by conflict and displacement during the civil war in 2002 and 2003. The north was again affected by conflict and displacement from 2005 until this day; with the road leading north from Kaga-Bandoro, via Ouandago to Kabo, still being under the control of the APRD militant group.

In February 2007, when the IRC opened its office in Kaga-Bandoro, 28,000 people in Nana-Gribizi prefecture – 22% of its population – had been displaced by fighting between rebels and government troops, as well as banditry and conflicts between herdsman and farmers. Together with local communities, the IRC launched a water, sanitation and hygiene programme in Kaga-Bandoro and in villages on the road to Ouandago, to improve access to safe drinking water.

Results

Compare the results (outcomes and impact) on the ground with the 'expected outcomes' and indicators in the project sheet and work plan.

As requested by the ERF Advisory Board in its meeting on 25 September 2008, this evaluation and monitoring mission visited ongoing, as well as finalized projects in Nana-Gribizi prefecture. This IRC project will end 28 February 2008. Thus, activities are still being implemented, and the goals set for the end of the project have not yet been reached.

Construction and distribution of 840 concrete sanitary platforms

When the evaluation team visited the project on 5 December 2008, 228 concrete sanitary platforms had been constructed by locally recruited teams. Construction was ongoing and the metal grids, sand, gravel, cement and other material for the remaining platforms had been put in place, so that the evaluation team feels comfortable that this activity can be completed in time.



Concrete sanitary platforms

Monitoring and supervision of the construction of 840 latrines

The IRC's water and sanitation team has identified 840 vulnerable families – female-headed households, older people, orphans, etc. – to whom the 840 slabs will be distributed. The families will themselves be responsible for digging a latrine pit and building walls and a roof. This should be closely supervised, together with the IRC's protection team, to make sure that all identified vulnerable people are indeed capable of setting up their latrines.

The IRC also plans to teach families how to use the waste as compost by adding leaves and other material, so that trees can be planted in filled latrines.

34 water points are rehabilitated

Pro-forma invoices have been requested from organisations and firms based in Kaga-Bandoro and Bangui. The rehabilitation should start soon to respect the project period.

27 rope-and-washer pumps are constructed and installed on open wells

The evaluation team visited one prototype rope-and-washer pump, and was impressed with how efficiently simple and relatively cheap materials are being used to get drinking water to people. Seven other rope-and-washer pumps are ready to be installed on open wells, and pumps for another 24 wells are being built. Similar to the activity above, this should start soon.



Rope-and-washer pump

*Water quality surveillance training is conducted for 42 water committees**42 water committees are supported to develop a WASH safety plan*

These two activities are being implemented. The evaluation team saw a very animated training for 77 members of 11 water committees during its visit. Trainings of other water committees are taking place along the road from Kaga-Bandoro to Ouandago, and will go on until 2009. The trainings include a participatory session on how to develop a WASH safety plan. Then, water committees are expected to elaborate their own plans.

*3,150 persons participate in all 12 activities of the shortened PHAST system**4 hygiene sessions are undertaken in each of 7 schools and 2 healing spaces targeting children and their hygiene practices**Hand-washing leaflets posters, education and promotional sessions are developed and implemented for 21,000 persons*

The IRC plans to implement these three activities in 2009. With regard to all activities, the evaluation team encourages the IRC to speed up their implementation so that they can be finalized within the project period.

Constraints

What constraints were faced during the implementation of the project, including security and logistical constraints or constraints internal to the organisation (lack of staff, etc.)? Was the project duration extended as result? If yes, was it justified?

Sand and gravel of good quality are hard to find locally in the Kaga-Bandoro area. This complicates the construction of the concrete latrine platforms. As they are more likely to break during the construction process, more material needs to be calculated from the beginning. Another constraint was the difficulty to find cement in Bangui at reasonable prices. At times, no cement at all was available in the whole country.

The IRC requested an extension of the project period by two months, to 28 February 2009 instead of 31 December 2008, citing the late arrival of allocated funds from the ERF (which, in turn, was due to the late arrival of pledged funding from donors, as well as internal delays). The evaluation team considers this extension justified, and hopes that the IRC can complete all remaining activities within the timeframe.

Impact of ERF funding

What impact did ERF funding have on the overall programme activities of the organisation? Were ERF-funded activities compatible to activities of other organisations in the same area? Were these well coordinated?

Together with a smaller contribution from a Belgian foundation, the ERF contribution currently funds the IRC's water and sanitation programme in Nana-Gribizi. Thus, the contribution was crucial in improving access to safe drinking water for people struck by conflict, banditry and displacement in villages along the road from Kaga-Bandoro to Ouandago. The water and sanitation programme seemed well coordinated with the IRC's health and protection programmes: Water is provided at health structures, and particularly vulnerable families get specific assistance to improve their sanitary situation.

Conclusion

What is the evaluation team's overall conclusion? Was ERF funding helpful? Was the project implemented according to the plan? Did it have an impact on the ground? What are the lessons learnt?

This ERF contribution was important in funding the IRC's water and sanitation programme, and the evaluation team commends the IRC's activities. In particular, the team appreciated that the programme was put in place together with local communities. As noted above, the team recommends that the IRC speeds up some the implementation of this project so that all activities can be finalized by 28 February 2009.