

Market Assessment 2017

Understanding beneficiary purchasing power in SZHC II project sites



**World Food
Programme**

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2017

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Table of Contents

Acronyms	4
Acknowledgements.....	5
Executive Summary.....	6
1. Introduction	7
2. Background	8
2.1 Socio-economic context.....	8
2.3 Saemaoul Zero Hunger Communities Project in Rwanda.....	9
3. Objectives and Methodology.....	10
3.1 Objectives.....	10
3.2 Methodology.....	10
4. Main Findings.....	14
4.1 Trader profile and business environment.....	14
4.2 Household diet composition, food and income sources	15
4.3 Food prices, household expenditure and purchasing power	16
4.5 Main findings from Key Informant Interviews and Focus Group Discussions	18
5. Conclusions and Recommendations	22
5.1 Summary Conclusions	22
5.2 Recommendations	22
References	24

List of figures

Figure 1: Agriculture production.....	9
Figure 2: Trader constraints.....	14
Figure 3: Income and food sources.....	15
Figure 4: Diet composition.....	16
Figure 5: Food prices.....	17
Figure 6: Grand Seasonal Index of Retail Prices for selected staples (2009 – 2014)	17

List of tables

Table 1: Estimated weekly normal food basket for 5 household members	20
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List of maps

Map 1: Food insecurity and stunting	10
Map 2: Surveyed markets	12

Acronyms

CDF	Community Development Fund
CFSVA	Comprehensive Food Security and Vulnerability Analysis
CO	Country Office
CP	Country Programme
GDP	Gross Domestic Product
GSI	Grand Seasonality Index
Kg	Kilogram
Km	Kilometer
MT	Metric Ton
NISR	National Institute of Statistics of Rwanda
ODK	Open Data Kit
PDM	Post Distribution Monitoring
RWF	Rwandan franc
SPSS	Statistical Package for the Social Sciences
SZHC	Saemaul Zero Hunger Communities
UN	United Nations
UNDP	United Nations Development Programme
VAM	Vulnerability Analysis and Mapping
WFP	World Food Programme

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Executive Summary

The World Food Programme Rwanda Country Office conducted a market assessment in October 2017, to understand beneficiary purchasing power along three sites, where Saemaul Zero Hunger Communities (SZHC) project is implemented, to gather enough evidence for further strategic decisions.

The central question for the assessment was: Do beneficiaries have enough purchasing power to cover their basic food needs in line with their income from the project activities and food prices? Key issues investigated in the assessment include policies and regulatory environments, meal composition, commodity quality, availability and affordability of food commodities, infrastructure, price levels and trends.

The methodology consisted of review and analysis of secondary information, key informant discussions, focus group discussions, and trader and beneficiary survey using structured questionnaires. A total of 139 individual traders across markets and 364 beneficiaries across site locations and respective markets were interviewed; in proportion to market sizes and total number of beneficiaries. Traders were purposely interviewed, with a target of covering all commodity groups in each surveyed market, while beneficiaries were randomly selected.

Overall, markets function well to serve consumers, despite constraints related to lack of demand and high taxes, among others; in addition to challenges like long distance, without practical transport means that beneficiaries face to reach the market. Beneficiaries are mostly involved in daily labor for both farm and off farm activities, and farming as main livelihood activities. Yields are still low, with limited marketable surplus and prices were in general higher than usual.

Beneficiary diets in 7 days preceding the survey were mainly composed of sweet potatoes, cooking oil, beans and vegetables; which was rated either usual or better than usual for majority in Kamegeli and Ruganda site, but worse than usual for 70 percent in Mukura. Beneficiaries identified a diet they would wish to have in the event they would have enough money, which basically includes an increase of most commodity types compared to what they actually consumed. Beneficiaries have suggested an increase of about 57 percent of the amount earned from Cash for Work (CFW) activities, mainly based on workload and increased food prices. Women in particular, have typically a heavier workload, as per normal traditional gender roles. In addition, there was no facilities for caregivers to keep children during the project activities.

Though not nutritionally ideal, the typical food basket identified by beneficiaries can only be accessed by half, given the terms of trade, taking into consideration market prices. Moreover, the basket becomes even way unaffordable when considering the share of food expenditure, since the amount of money dedicated to food purchase can only buy 0.41 units of the typical basket. Key recommendations suggest revision of the transfer amount for beneficiaries to access minimum acceptable diets if possible and acceptable by the donor, enhanced clarity regarding entitlements, support towards decreasing the distance to markets and price monitoring system to inform decisions.

1. Introduction

This assessment was undertaken across SZHC project site, to understand beneficiary purchasing power, in relation to food price levels and trends, for further evidence based strategies.

The rationale was based on different analyses (including Post Distribution Monitoring “PDM” in November 2016, several field visits and discussions with beneficiaries and partners, qualitative data in July 2017), which indicated that some of them would prefer food rather than cash, since the wages and purchasing power at large were getting relatively low, without reflecting the increasing market food prices.

The central question for the assessment was: *Do beneficiaries have enough purchasing power to cover their basic food needs in line with their income from the project activities and food prices?* Key issues investigated in the assessment include policies and regulatory environments, meal composition, commodity quality, availability and affordability of food commodities, infrastructure, price levels and trends.

Methodological approaches to achieve the main objective, involved a blend of modules, namely structured questionnaires for beneficiaries and traders in neighbouring markets, key informant and focus group interviews, to specifically elaborate on:

- Food consumption and sources, to understand the interlinkages with income, market prices and purchasing power. Beneficiaries’ food consumption in relation to their preferences, availability of commodities either through own production or market purchases; but also the physical and economic accessibility.
- Market environment including government policies, infrastructure, supply chains, as well as the barriers and constraints to trade. The regulatory measures are important towards operators’ ability to set up and run their businesses, infrastructure is paramount in terms of connecting traders in sourcing commodities and proper storage, and beneficiaries to markets. Supply chains are also key to understand linkages between efficiency in commodity flow, for buyers to acquire quality services. These factors are interlinked, and result into overall market performance.
- Beneficiary suggestions and challenges in relation to the above, for evidence based way forward. Recognizing any challenges and suggestions related to the project is critical, for better shaping of future interventions.

Section 2 reviews the socio-economic context of the target areas in general, Section 3 discusses the objectives and methodological approaches used; Section 4 presents the findings and Section 5 draws synthesis, conclusions and recommendations.

2. Background

2.1 Socio-economic context

According to the recent Rwanda Poverty Profile Report (NISR, 2015), which captures the country's remarkable economic progress and poverty reduction, poverty reduced from 44.9% in 2011 to 39.1% in 2014 while the GDP steadily grew at about 8% since 2001¹ though it slowed down in 2016, where annual growth was 5.9 %.² Among 30 districts, the same report ranks Karongi 21st, Rutsiro 27th and Nyamagabe 16th.

According to the 2015 Comprehensive Food Security and Vulnerability Analysis – CFSVA (WFP, 2015), half of the households reported having difficulty in accessing food in the 12 months preceding the survey. The three districts have lower than national level population density³, which is 415 inhabitants per Km². Though 20 percent of households in Rwanda found to be food insecure, Karongi counted 35 percent, Rutsiro 57 and Nyamagabe 42 percent (Map 1). It also revealed that prevalence of chronic malnutrition among children under five years of age stood at 37 percent nationally (albeit down from 43 percent in 2012). However, Karongi counted 44.8 percent, Rutsiro 46.1 and Nyamagabe 56.7 percent; which is above World Health Organization critical threshold.

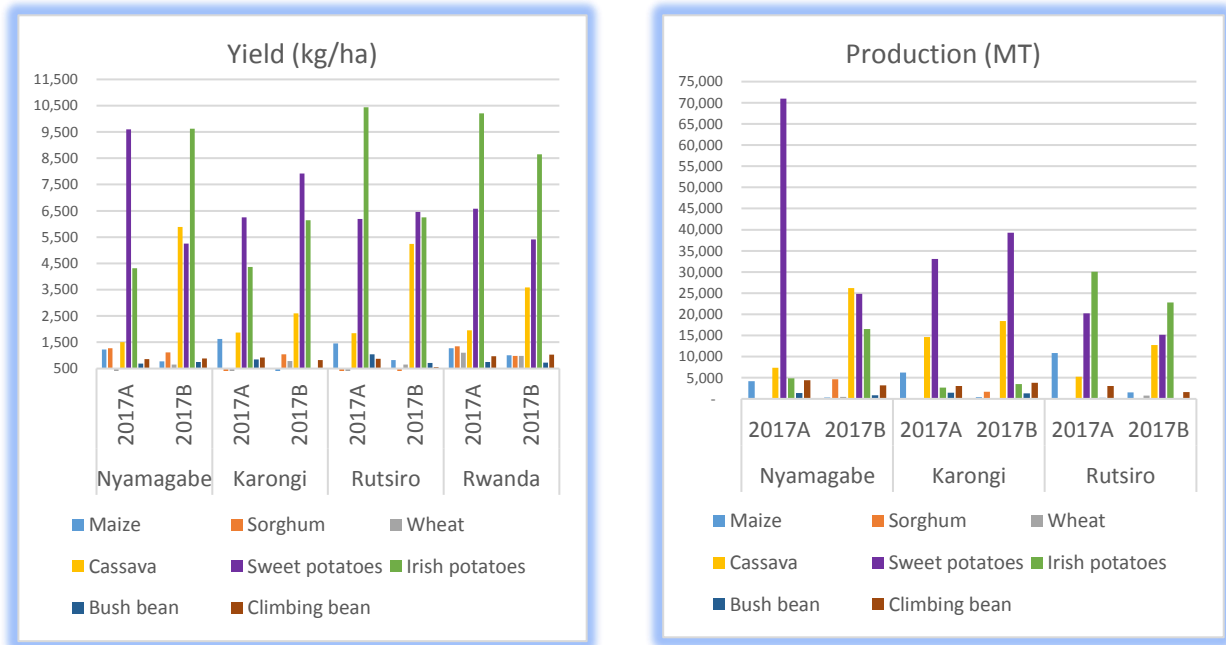
According to seasonal agriculture survey findings from National Institute of Statistics of Rwanda (NISR), yields from season A and B in 2017 in those areas were in line with national averages for most key crops (Figure 1). Among the three districts, Nyamagabe recorded more sweet potato production in season 2017 A; and Rutsiro produced more irish potatoes in both seasons.

¹ <http://www.statistics.gov.rw/publication/main-indicators-report-results-eicv-4>

² <http://www.statistics.gov.rw/publication/gdp-national-accounts-2016>

³ <http://www.statistics.gov.rw/publication/rphc4-main-indicators-report>

Figure 1: Agriculture production



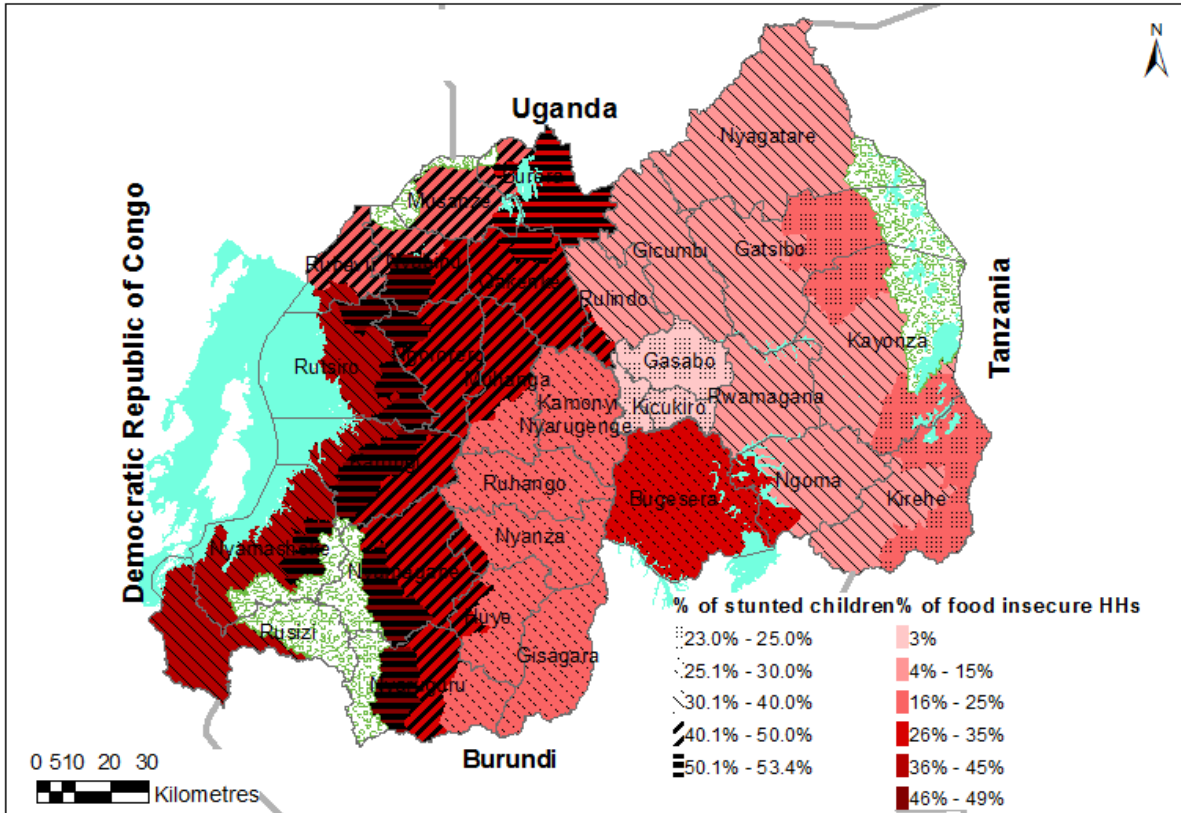
Source: NISR

2.3 Saemaul Zero Hunger Communities Project in Rwanda

The Korean funded SZHC project phase II aims to reduce hunger and under nutrition in the targeted food insecure areas by improving household access to livelihood assets and enabling people and communities to meet their own food and nutrition needs; also by combining elements of Korea’s new village Movement (Saemaul Undong, with basic principles of diligence, self-reliance and cooperation) with WFP Food assistance for assets schemes, and aligning to VUP Government programme. The interventions are in three new sectors (Kamegeli, Mukura and Ruganda) for 3 years from 2016 to 2018/19.

The project is implemented using the conditional cash based transfers modality, where the CFW activities are to achieve around 21,000 beneficiaries in total, and each participant is paid 1,200Rwf (\$1.4) per day (while saving a portion of 100-200 RWF for their Community Development Fund “CDF”). So far, with around 1,000,000 USD already transferred to beneficiaries, different analyses (including PDM in November 2016, several field visits & discussions with beneficiaries and partners, qualitative data in July 2017) indicated that some of them would prefer food rather than cash since the wages are relatively low and do not reflect the food prices which keep rocketing on the market, yet they have to feed all their family members; while others requested the increase of the wages. In a nutshell, beneficiary food access was constrained by limited purchasing power, due to high food prices.

Map 1: Food insecurity and stunting



Source: Rwanda CFSVA 2015

3. Objectives and Methodology

3.1 Objectives

The main objective of the assessment was to understand beneficiary purchasing power in SZHC phase II project sites, Mukura, Ruganda and Kamegeli. With a gender standpoint across the board, the main elements of the assessment included:

- Food consumption and sources, to understand the interlinkages with income, market prices and purchasing power.
- Market environment including government policies, infrastructure, supply chains, as well as the barriers and constraints to trade.
- Highlighting beneficiary challenges and suggestions in relation to the above, for evidence based way forward.

3.2 Methodology

This market assessment fundamentally utilised secondary and primary data collected in a variety of ways: i) review of existing reports and statistical data; ii) key informants and focus group interviews; iii) trader and beneficiary survey structured questionnaires; and iv) market observations; with a perspective on gender as a cross cutting issue.

Secondary reports reviewed include Seasonal Agriculture Surveys (2017 A and B), Rwanda CFSVA 2015, Rwanda Poverty Profile Report 2013/2014, and Rwanda Population and Housing Census, for a contextual background and information to interpret the assessment findings. Price analyses, including seasonality and market integration from previous market assessments were also believed to remain broadly unchanged.

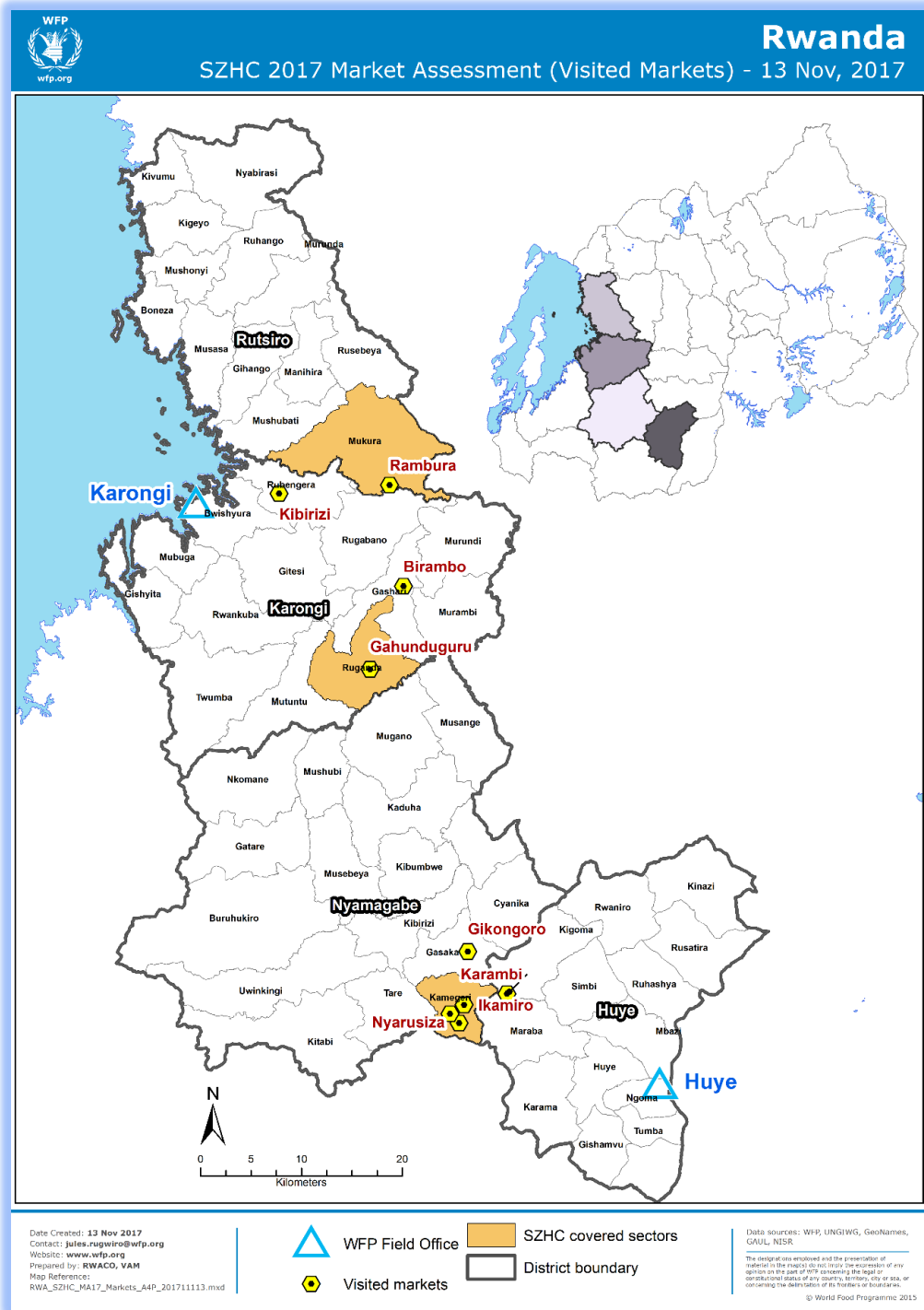
Primary data were collected using trader and beneficiary survey questionnaires, which were translated into *Kinyarwanda* language. Eight enumerators, six of them being women and among them two team leaders, covered in total nine markets identified in consultation with beneficiaries, local leaders and implementing partners, across project sites. The field data collection was done from 19 to 27th of October 2017.

In proportion to market sizes and total number of beneficiaries, 139 individual traders across markets and 364 beneficiaries across site locations were interviewed. With a target of covering all available commodity groups in each surveyed market, traders were purposely selected.

Simple random sampling was done among project site beneficiaries, considering men and women figures, with a margin error of 5%. To complement information from the structured questionnaire, key informants, mainly sector officials within each sector where the project is implemented, and trader representatives in surveyed markets were interviewed.

Focus Group Discussions with beneficiaries were also held at each site, where policies and regulatory environments, meal composition, commodity quality and availability, price trends and infrastructure topics were covered, in addition to any suggestions, challenges and successes worth mentioning. At each site, around 15 beneficiaries were interviewed together first, then men and women separately, to capture any gender specific issues.

Map 2: Surveyed markets



Source: SZHC market assessment 2017

A one-day training was provided to the team leaders/supervisors and enumerators. They had all participated in the 2014, 2016 and 2017 WFP market assessments and Food security and nutrition surveys, and were already fully aware of the purpose and the key components of such assessments; which made the training time shorter. The training, however ensured several runs of role-plays to validate the revised questionnaire sets, as we had trader, beneficiary and price modules.

Tablets were used for trader, beneficiary and price modules data collection and uploaded to ONA platform, therefore improving the turn-around time for data collection and analysis, whilst ensuring data accuracy. The focus group and key informant interviews were recorded on paper and summarised at the end of each day. Data sets were analysed with MS Excel 2013 and SPSS.

4. Main Findings

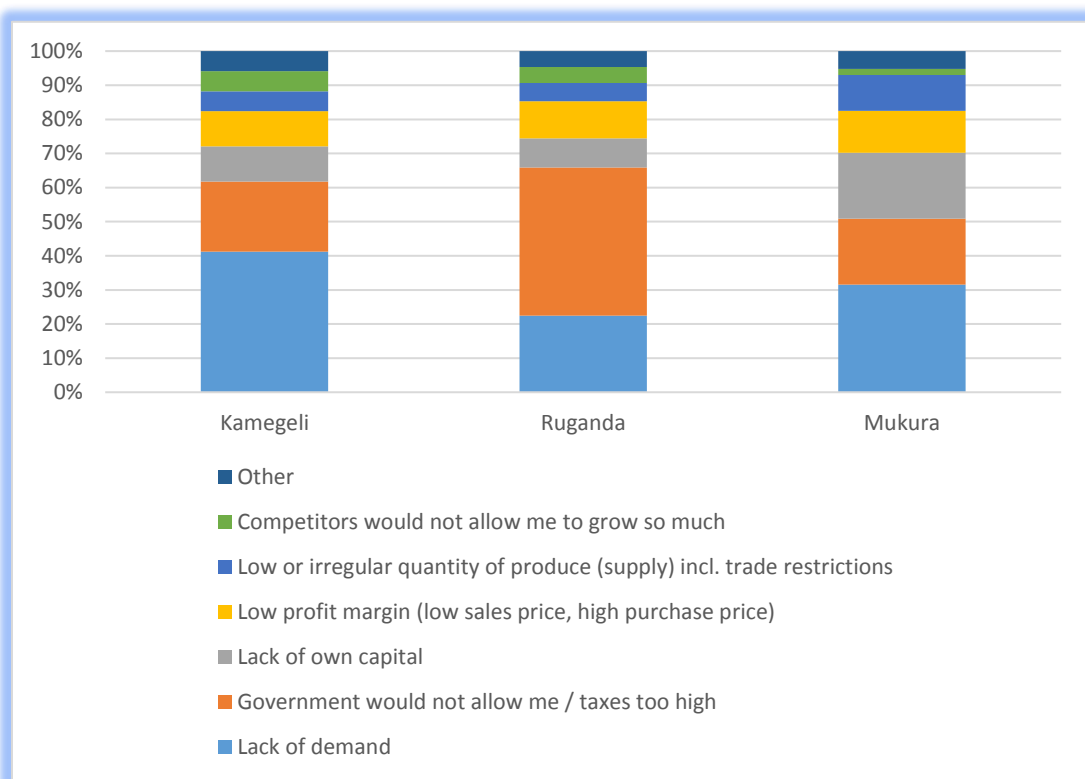
4.1 Trader profile and business environment

The main characteristics of the traders in this survey along with the market conditions underpin the overall market performance. The traders were asked questions that help to capture key characteristics and thereby provide indications of the trade environment and capacity to assure consistent food supply and price stability.

Business owners were mostly women (63 percent), while men counted for 37 percent. 44 percent were in 20-35 age category, and 43 percent in 36-50 age category; giving a general indication that a significant share is with active individuals. Around 82 percent of traders were retailers, 14 percent equally doing retail and wholesale, while 4 percent were purely wholesalers and all have been in the business on average for 7 years. Food trade was ranked first livelihood activity by 59 percent of interviewed traders, and second by 39 percent; which is an indication of food markets importance in the visited locations. However, 63 percent of traders across locations indicated that their business performance decreased, mainly due to decreased demand (60%), reduced market supply (19%) and less capital (16%).

Constraints pointed out by traders were mainly too high taxes, lack of demand, low profit margins and lack of own capital (Figure 2). Key informants and focus group discussions findings (Section 4.5), complement this, indicating that prices are higher than usual while income stagnates; which reduces their purchasing power.

Figure 2: Trader constraints

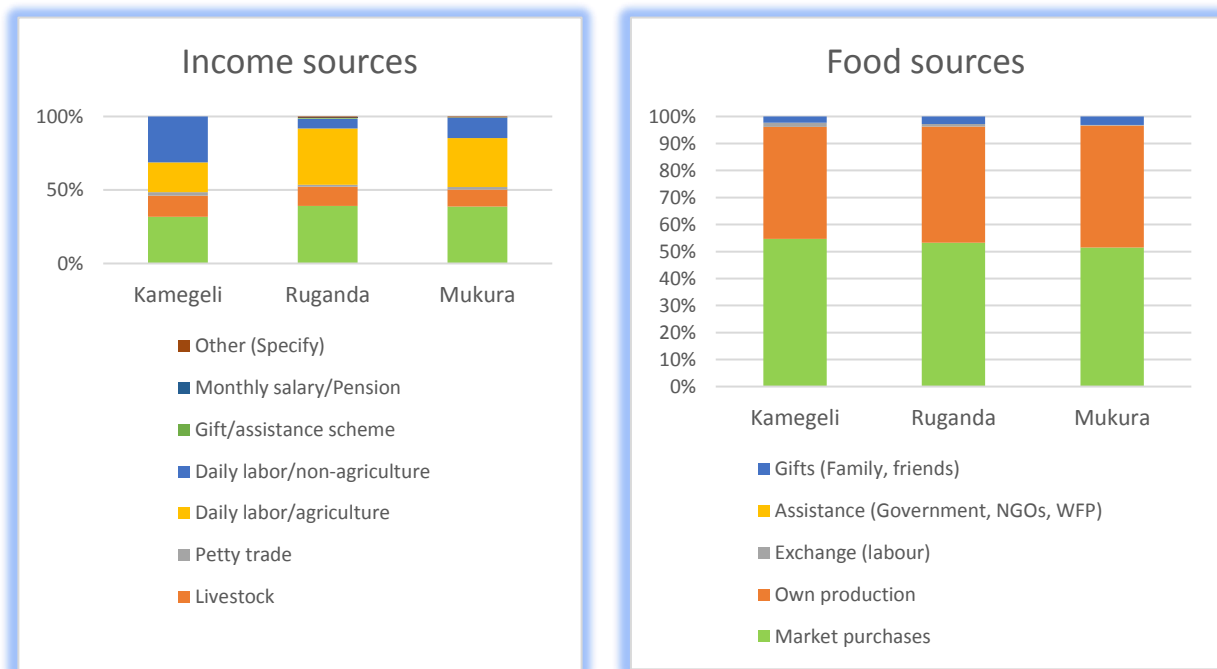


Source: SZHC 2017 market assessment

4.2 Household diet composition, food and income sources

On and off-farm daily labor are the main income sources, followed by agriculture and livestock, while main sources of food were market purchases and own production (Figure 3).

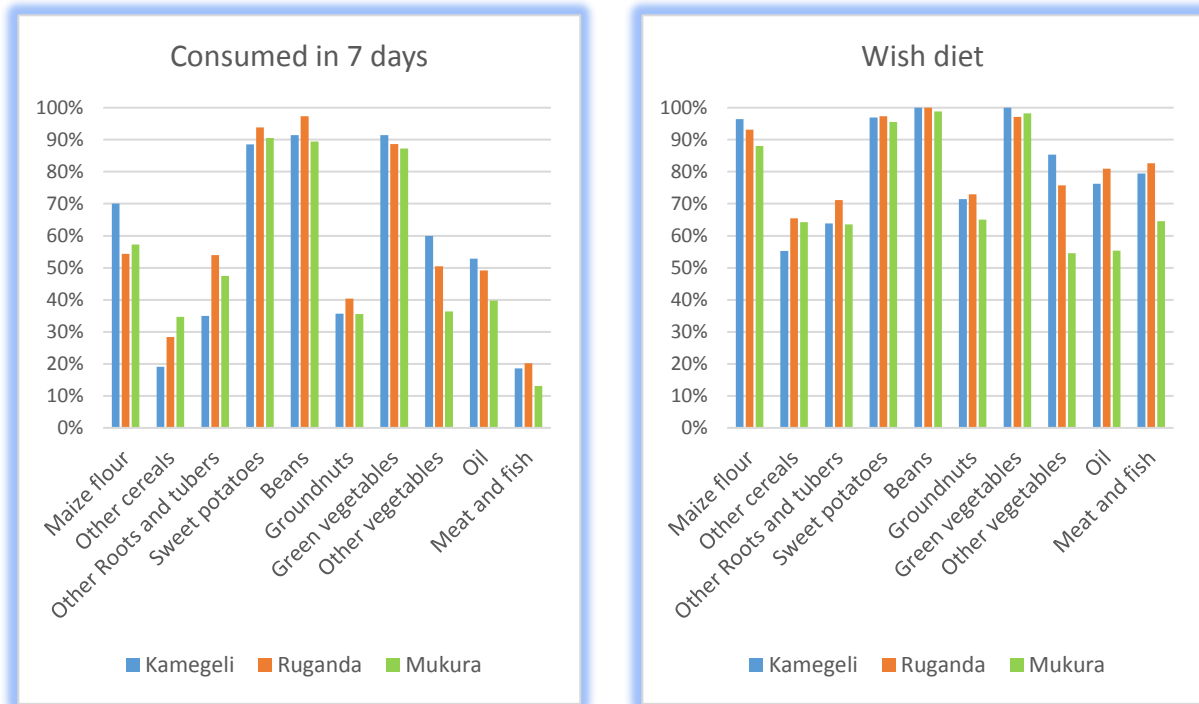
Figure 3: Income and food sources



Source: SZHC 2017 market assessment

Over the 7 days preceding the survey, diet composition mainly involved sweet potatoes, beans and vegetables. Other roots and tubers, cereals, small dried fish and oil were also consumed at a relatively lower level, while meat was least consumed. This was either usual or better than usual for about 46 percent of households on average, with Mukura households having reported more of “worse than usual”. Households were also asked to provide a diet composition of their wish, in case they would have enough money, within reason. It appears that they would still highly consume sweet potatoes, beans and vegetables, but also increase other types, including meat and small dry fish (Figure 4). During the Focus group discussions, beneficiaries estimated a quantified typical weekly diet composition in normal conditions for 5 household members (Table 1); which basically includes cereals, roots and tubers, beans, vegetables and cooking oil.

Figure 4: Diet composition



Source: SZHC 2017 market assessment

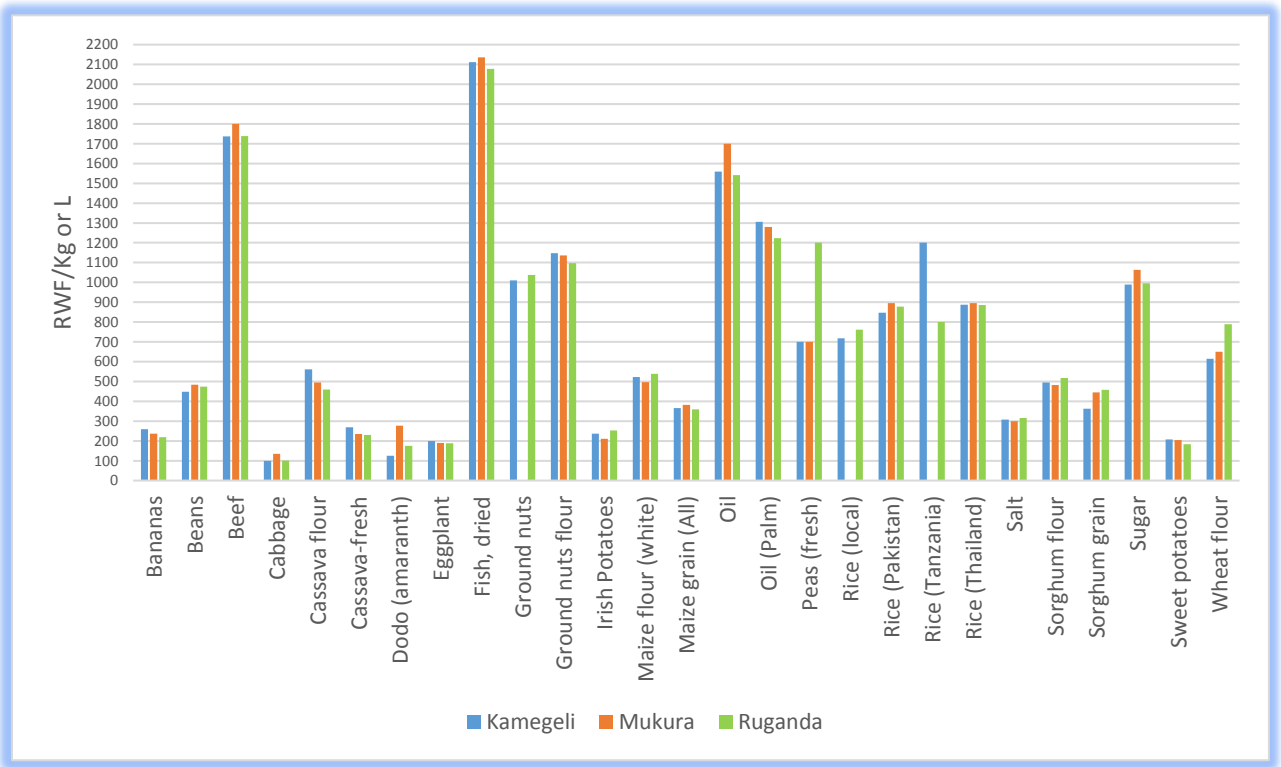
Beneficiaries also provided household monthly income, which is similar across sites and on average around 23,739 RWF. Daily income from the project CFW activities was reported to be on average 1,148 RWF, and 91 percent were not satisfied with the amount. It is important to note slight differences in the amount reported by beneficiaries, because some might have included the proportion allocated to CDF, due to limited understanding of the fate of such entitlements, which are supposed to basically finance community assets. The suggested amount was about 1,784 RWF per day worked, and key issues they would consider addressing, by order of importance, would be Agriculture and livestock, health, nutrition and food security; others being personal welfare, petty trade and housing.

4.3 Food prices, household expenditure and purchasing power

The share of food expenditure is on average 70 percent; which carries a signal of poverty and vulnerability, as households are constrained in accessing other non-food basic needs. Food prices were also collected, and most expensive commodities across sites were beef, dried fish and oil (Figure 5).

Prices were factored in basket cost calculations across sites; and terms of trade in relation to monthly income and food basket cost resulted into coverage of about 58 percent. Moreover, when considering the share of food expenditure, the ability of households to access the identified food basket reduces up to covering 41 percent. Overall, this is an indication of food consumption based coping; whereby households are engaging in reducing quantity of food consumed, or opt for less preferred food types, as depicted in previous session on actual and wish diet composition.

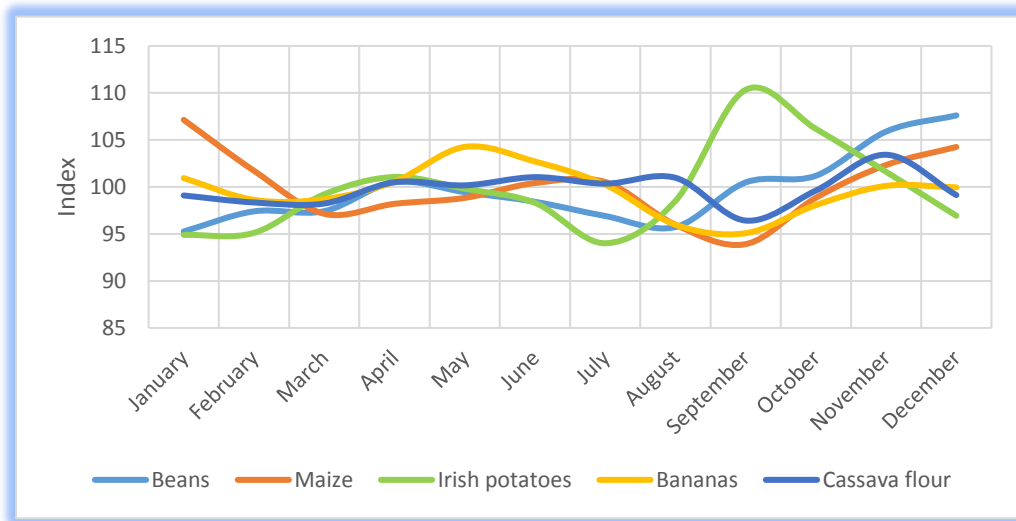
Figure 5: Food prices



Source: SZHC 2017 market assessment

The agriculture seasonal calendar, among other reasons such as trade affects the price seasonality for the main food commodities including maize grain and beans. The lowest level of food prices for beans occur in January and August and peak in November. For maize grain, March and September have lower prices, while in December-January the highest prices are experienced (Figure 6).

Figure 6: Grand Seasonal Index of Retail Prices for selected staples (2009 – 2014)



Source: Calculations based on data from e-Soko/MINAGRI, in CFSVA 2015

4.5 Main findings from Key Informant Interviews and Focus Group Discussions

To complement information from a structured questionnaire for individual traders and beneficiaries, key informant interviews and focus group discussions were carried out, referring to policy and regulatory environment, food availability in the markets, infrastructure, demanded commodities and any other information worth-sharing. Key informants were mainly sector officials and trader representatives in their respective locations, while focus group discussions were held with beneficiaries, men and women together first, then separately to capture gender specific details.

Common findings across sites were mainly the following: Overall conducive agriculture and trade policy and regulatory environment, appreciation of SZHC project's contribution to their livelihoods, including income, Households welfare like regular payments of Health insurance, infrastructure development and access to inputs; direct link of price movement and agriculture performance, importance of trade in commodity flows and good quality of commodities in the markets.

However, low yields, delays in input supply, higher food prices than usual, suggestion of 1,500-2,000 RWF as a net cash for work salary, lack of clarity on entitlements especially the fate of the amount meant for Community Development Fund (CDF), and long distance from main markets were also consistently mentioned in most sites. Apart from Kamegeri site CFW beneficiaries, others do not have a common understanding on CDF, and they consider RWF 200 deduction as savings to be withdrawn after project activities; which is not the case because these funds will contribute to community facility identified by beneficiaries themselves for their overall wellbeing.

The suggestion to adjust Cash for Work wage was related to the number of hours for SZHC activities compared to other community development interventions requiring community manpower like VUP and Ubudehe, where the performance is time-related while it's task-oriented for SZHC, making most of beneficiaries leave the site after 2:30 pm.

Most of Key Informant interviewees have similarly mentioned the same issue of low wage vis-à-vis market prices, but have suggested to carefully design the message for SZHC CFW Beneficiaries if any adjustment would be considered, to avoid conflicting with the government programmes mentioned above, mainly VUP.

Through gender lenses, women appear to have a heavier workload as per the normal traditional roles, whereby they are fully in charge of household chores after project activities. A particular observation was that, breastfeeding women would enjoy any facilities nearby, for hand-wash, and where children and care takers can be safely hosted during work hours.

For all sites in general, it was observed through FGDs and KIIs that there is a gap in planning for SZHC assets to be created, resulting in divergent information on the purpose of a particular asset and reasons for prioritizing a particular activity over others. It was suggested to involve all stakeholders mainly the community while planning and prioritizing activities.

Agriculture Seasonality of key crops for all sites (in normal conditions)

Crop	High-Moderate availability	Low availability	Comments
Sweet potatoes	Almost all times		There is a general decline of availability compared to usual, due to commodity priority shift in agriculture sector. Nonetheless, it is still among mostly demanded starchy types, though not sufficiently available in the markets.
Cassava	Almost all times		Cassava disease significantly reduced output across sites, with consequent lack of cuttings, and scarcity in the market, while still being among preferred roots and tubers.
Beans	January-February; June-August	September-November; March- May	Bean production is not yet sufficient, while the commodity is the most predominant protein source.
Maize	April-July	August-March	Maize crop is usually sown during season A, and due to cold weather, takes around 5-6 months to mature.
Irish potatoes	October-November; January-May	June-September	Irish potato is among CIP crops in Ruganda and Mukura, and the seed issue which has been challenging over the past years is expected to be solved through partners such as WFP, NGOs, etc.

Source: SZHC 2017 market assessment

Since one of the objectives of this study was to estimate beneficiary purchasing power, beneficiaries came up with an estimated weekly food basket, considering a typical household size of 5. The basket has been costed and referred to in the terms of trade analysis, together with income data.

Table 1: Estimated weekly normal food basket for 5 household members

Commodity	Quantity	days	Comments
Maize flour	4.5 kg	1.5	
Beans	4 kg	7	
Vegetables (Amaranth)	14 bunches	7	With rains, most green vegetables can be available from own production.
Fresh cassava	5 kg	7	
Sweet potatoes	5 kg	3	
Cassava flour	4.5 kg	1.5	
Salt	0.5 kg	7	
Oil	0.5 L	7	

Source: SZHC 2017 market assessment

Mukura site in Rutsiro

The Crop Intensification Programme (CIP) targets irish potatoes, wheat and maize in the survey areas. Consolidating land is commendable for increasing productivity through increased access to inputs, though season 2018 A generally faced delays. More crops such as sweet potatoes, beans and cassava are also grown in the area. Farmers still face yield gaps and low marketable surplus, but hope for progress due to conducive policy, and interventions through partnerships.

The area is also known to produce passion fruits and tree tomatoes; which contributes to farmers' income. However, from poor infrastructure perspective, the challenge of market access reduces farmer incentives due to presence of middlemen offering way low prices. For instance, producers are paid RWF 300 a kilo which is 40% of what they would receive if market conditions were improved. The sector authorities are reinforcing measures to discourage such malfunctions, by sensitizing farmers to make sure to reach the market place, at the same time warning the middlemen. Feeder roads are improving but still less practical for means of transport other than walking for beneficiary access to markets. Furthermore, while half of beneficiary households can reach the nearest main market which is Rambura within 3 hours, others spend between 1 and 2 hours.

Mostly demanded food commodities in markets are sweet potatoes, cassava, beans and sorghum; and beneficiaries pointed out to limited market supply and higher prices than usual. Though trade plays an important role in commodity flows, prices are generally in line with agricultural seasons and levels tend to co-vary with seasonal performance. Since the beginning of nationwide downward focus on sorghum, and while it is not grown in the area, market supply reduced and this commodity happens to be the mostly sought, with limited availability in the market.

The project is commended for erosion and landslide reduction through terracing, road improvement, access to inputs (especially fertilizers and irish potato seeds), livestock ownership, increased production, and more income generation from cash for work. However, some challenges like delayed payment, death of livestock animals, salary which does not allow purchase of basic needs still need more attention. Interviewees converged to 2,000 RWF per person per day worked, based on market prices, the workload from 7 am to 3 pm and comparison with salary provided and work conditions in the neighborhood. Confusions were still noticeable around the 200 RWF from their entitlements, because some beneficiaries were still hoping to get their accumulated savings; which is not the case. Another suggestion was to have continued support to beneficiaries, until terraces stabilize and provide better yields.

Ruganda site in Karongi district

Key crops involve beans, cassava, sweet potatoes and maize which is still produced on a small scale. Farmers have access to seeds, fertilizers and crop insurance through Tubura, and access to lime through government and projects like SZHC positively contributes to improved yields; though seeds for season 2018 A delayed by almost one month.

Sweet potatoes and cassava are among mostly sought commodities, but whose production has reduced in recent years compared to previous time, mostly due to lack of better and sufficient vines/cuttings. Roads are improved since July and allow better connection to Muhanga which is a key source for processed foods and grains, in addition to Kigali wholesale markets. Other improvements like electricity and telecommunication tower have also reached the area; which is expected to positively contribute to livelihoods in general.

Prices in general are higher than usual, feeder roads are improving but still less practical for means of transport other than walking; and around 40 percent of beneficiary households can reach the main market which is Birambo within 5 hours, one way.

The project success is mostly reflected in income generation from cash for work, access to inputs and livestock, financial literacy and increased cooperative management skills, among others. However, interviewees converged to 1,500 RWF as net salary they would wish, given current market prices and the workload. Confusions were still noticeable around the 200 RWF from their entitlements, because some beneficiaries were still hoping to get their accumulated savings; which is not the case.

Kamegeli site in Nyamagabe district

Main commodities in the neighborhood are beans, sweet potatoes and cassava; however, the latter two have respectively faced challenges related to downward focus from key players in agriculture sector, and diseases. Consequently, income from own production, purchasing power, availability in markets and at household level have been negatively affected.

Beneficiaries have relatively better physical access to markets (30 minutes on average) compared to other project sites, though prices are higher than normal. Sweet potatoes and cassava were identified as commonly demanded commodities, but market availability was still lower than required.

Beneficiaries appreciate timely payment of 1,100 RWF/day, but suggest, if possible a salary increment up to 1,500 RWF/person per day. Given suitability of the area, informants expressed the need of increased access to potato vines and better cassava varieties, to boost livelihoods. They were also well aware of the fate of another 100 RWF, which will contribute to community development; but mentioned they hope for efficient use of such resources.

5. Conclusions and Recommendations

5.1 Summary Conclusions

This section establishes overall conditions faced by SZHC project beneficiaries based on key factors including: market conditions, livelihoods, food consumption and purchasing power.

Overall, markets function well to serve consumers, despite constraints related to lack of demand and high taxes, among others; in addition to challenges like long distance, without practical transport means that beneficiaries face to reach the market. Beneficiaries are mostly involved in daily labor for both farm and off-farm activities, and farming as main livelihood activities. Yields are still low, with limited marketable surplus and prices were in general higher than usual; which contributed most to eroding purchasing power. It was also established that terracing disturbs the soil and productivity seems to recover after around 3 seasons; which consequently resulted into a suggestion of having a continued support until the soil is able to provide better yields.

Beneficiary diets in 7 days preceding the survey were mainly composed of sweet potatoes, cooking oil, beans and vegetables; which was rated either usual or better than usual for majority in Kamegeli and Ruganda site, but worse than usual for 70 percent in Mukura. Beneficiaries identified a diet they would wish to have in the event they would get enough money, which basically includes an increase of most commodity types. Beneficiaries have suggested an increase of about 57 percent of the amount earned from CFW activities, mainly based on increased food prices and the workload. Women in particular, have typically a heavier workload, as per normal traditional gender roles. In addition, there was no facilities for caregivers to keep children during the project activities.

Though not nutritionally ideal, the typical food basket identified by beneficiaries can only be accessed by half, given the terms of trade, taking into consideration market prices. Moreover, the basket becomes even way unaffordable when considering the share of food expenditure, since the amount of money dedicated to food purchase can only buy 0.41 units of the typical basket.

Beneficiaries exhibited some confusions around community development fees which are deducted from their entitlements; and those who did not, wish to see accountability in future use of such funds.

5.2 Recommendations

In line with findings, below are suggested recommendations for further consideration:

1. Where terracing happened, SZHC project should ensure continued support in boosting Agriculture production and livelihoods for at least three seasons, until terraces start producing acceptable yields.
2. If possible, and acceptable by the donor, WFP should revise the transfer amount, to reflect the level of required purchasing power to access minimum acceptable diets.
3. Since the project may not meet beneficiary full satisfaction in terms of daily wage, the work norms should be revised as time-based to align with the VUP, and allow them to have room for other small businesses that can increase household income.

4. Sensitization should increase to shed more light on the meaning of community development savings, for a better understanding. Where possible, nutrition sensitive messages on the best bet combination of food types with the available funds would trigger better food consumption results. Facilities pro infant and children whose care givers participate in the project activities would also be helpful, in addition to gender mainstreaming for better complementarity.
5. A system to monitor prices in key markets where beneficiaries purchase food should be put in place, to inform decisions.
6. Communities should be supported towards accessing small markets in their neighborhoods, where they can purchase food within acceptable margins. Local leaders should continue safeguarding farmers, to minimize disincentives related low prices offered by middlemen.

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