



SUCCESS STORY

Harmonizing Humanitarian and Developmental Assistance



A Focus Group on Family Planning (above) is animated by Community Relays (below) trained by Project



The Health Zone of Kalehe was created in October 2004 from Katana Health Zone. At that time it lacked a hospital infrastructure, a Health Zone Management Team, and effective community participation. It was also an area that had been destabilized by the years of Civil War.

The International Rescue Committee (IRC) began assisting Kalehe health zone in early 2006 with humanitarian funding from OFDA. Subsequently USAID opted to also assist this health zone with development funding through Project AXxes with IMA World Health (prime) and World Vision International (implementing partner). At that time there was some concern if dual assistance (humanitarian and developmental) could be harmonized within the same health zone.

The WVI and IRC teams worked closely with the Health Zone Management Team to harmonize interventions and to avoid duplication. A population census and baseline assessment was jointly conducted in 2007 with support from the District, South Kivu IPS and other local partners/stakeholders. These studies provided both population (137,967 persons) and baseline data on health services capacity (very sparse). Faced with a new health zone and significant service challenges, the two USAID partners (IRC and AXxes) worked out a division of strategies.

IMA/AXxes focused on primary and preventative health care interventions such as reinforcing prenatal and maternal health services, vaccination and cold chain support, and establishing family planning and PMTCT service sites. IRC focused on curative care, payment of HZ personnel, and building/rehabilitation of structures. Both groups undertook extensive training and supervision support.

Through the combined support from IRC and WVI, health centers are able to provide quality and integrated health services to their entire population while strengthening linkages between local and district medical authorities. Community Relays volunteers have been reactivated and the Health Zone Management Team has been empowered to plan and support all primary health care activities.

The medical director of Kalehe Health Zone, Dr. Ngaboyeka summarized the collaboration by saying *“The synergy of action of the two [partners] encouraged me to stay in the health zone as I have seen this zone growing up day after day. My hope is to have this support to an extent where the zone is stabilized and there is more of the development outlook in the region. On my own behalf and on behalf of my team and our people, please convey our gratitude and thank you to USAID and the American people.”*