

**Farmer to Farmer East Africa**

**Volunteer Assignment Scope of Work**

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| **Summary Information** |
| Assignment Code  | UG111 |
| Country | Uganda |
| Country Project | Oil seed crops country project |
| Host Organization | Bukusu Yetana Area Cooperative Enterprise (ACE) |
| Type of Volunteer Assistance: | **Technology Transfer (T)** |
| Type of Value Chain Activity: | **Processing (P)** |
| Assignment Title | Nutrition Education and Training  |
| Assignment preferred dates | May – June, 2017 |
| Assignment objective | Build the capacity of Bukusu Yetana ACE staff, village agents and farmer members in understanding basic community nutrition concepts, nutritional composition of locally available food materials and their role in addressing malnutrition and stunting among pregnant women, Infant and young children and other vulnerable groups among the community.  |
| Desired volunteer skills/ expertise | Formal qualifications Food Science and Nutrition, experience in Nutrition-Sensitive Agriculture interventions that have been successful in developing countries. Working with small holder farmers on household based storage, processing and preservation techniques |

1. **BACKGROUND**

Bukusu Yetana ACE is a farmer owned enterprise that was started in 2001 under the support of Uganda cooperative Alliance. The ACE initially started with 6 farmer groups however, in 2003 it obtained legal registration under the Uganda cooperative Act. Since then, the ACE has continued to grow currently constituting 98 farmer organisations spread across 30 sub- counties with in Manafwa District. Current membership is 6500 active members out of which 3,850 are male, are 2,650 female (40%).

The ACE was created with the vision is to **become a rural farmer organization eradicating poverty in members’ households**. The mission of the cooperative is ***to strengthen member farmer organizations to bulk their commodities, add value to their produce and market at better prices to eradicate poverty***. To achieve/ contribute to the set vision and mission, the ACE has laid out various objectives which are achieved through commercial enterprises and services promoted and offered to its members. Commercial enterprises promoted include: coffee, beans, maize, sunflower, ground nuts and soya beans. The intervention point for CRS is the oil seed crops targeting sunflower, ground nuts and soya beans. These are majorly looked at as cash crops however they can also be used to boost the nutrition status of the farmer households through proper post-harvest handling, value addition and actual consumption of the products. Services offered to its members include; bulking and marketing of farmers’ produce, providing access to market information, organizing farmer field days where the local government officials are involved and farmer sensitization of farming issues are tackled, other services involve farmer trainings, provision of demonstration kits to model farmers and value addition- oil extraction & Wine processing from coffee.

1. **ISSUE DESCRIPTION**

Malnutrition is a major development concern in Uganda, affecting all regions of the country and most segments of the population. The current levels of malnutrition hinder Uganda’s human, social, and economic development. Although the country has made tremendous progress in economic growth and poverty reduction over the past 20 years, its progress in reducing malnutrition remains very slow. The government has hence come up with multi-sectoral efforts to establish a strong nutrition foundation for Uganda’s development efforts, these efforts have been documented into the Uganda Nutrition Action plan (UNAP,2011- 2016). The ultimate objective of the plan is to ensure that all Ugandans are properly nourished so that they can live healthy and productive lives. However, it is during the ‘window of opportunity’—the 1,000 days from conception through the child’s second birthday—that the greatest returns to effective action to prevent malnutrition are realized.

Uganda’s population is largely dependent on consumption of carbohydrate dense foods- with very minimal almost non-existent diversification of the diet to cater for the body’s micronutrient needs, farmer households in Manafwa district are no exception to this scenario. High carbohydrate and protein food comprise almost 99% of the household diet. The biggest challenge lies with micronutrient deficient foods mainly of Vitamin A, Iron and zinc. Consumption of fruits and vegetables is very minimal; emphasis is on quantity rather than quality of the food consumed. The malnutrition cases existent in Manafwa District are not due to lack of food- plenty of varied nutritious food is grown by the farmers, however, there is a general ignorance about the importance of consuming diverse food, (based on the food pyramid), the nutrition composition of foods and its role in the body, there is also a concept of certain foods being a poor man’s food and hence are not considered as nutritious foods. considering that this region is one of Uganda’s largest bread basket but are rather related to the nutritional quality of foods consumed.

Other challenges include: food preparation practices that are characterized by overcooking which depletes nutrients, processing practices also rid the food of the most nutritious components for example in Uganda, almost 90% of the population prefer to consume fine polished maize with the germplasm completely removed. Whole grain consumption has not been highly promoted and there is a lack of understanding on the nutritional value that can be obtained from its consumption. Coupled with the poor food processing and preservation methods -focusing on household scale to address food insecurity during dry seasons, and preparation methods; there is lack of sensitization among the communities on food consumption patterns (explaining the food pyramid), effects of processing on nutritional quality and the importance of diet diversification. This volunteer technical assistance will focus on education the farmers of Bukusu Yetana ACE on proper consumption patterns, nutrition composition of foods and its significance on addressing malnutrition and stunting among children under five, proper feeding regimes, among others.

1. **OBJECTIVES OF THE ASSIGNMENT**

The objective of this volunteer assignment is to provide nutrition training and practical skills on how to address challenges of malnutrition and stunting among the farming communities with emphasis among women, children and vulnerable groups. The training will target Bukusu Yetana ACE staff, village agents and selected farmer groups specifically targeting women farmer groups from different farmer groups selected from within the ACE areas of operation.

The volunteer will provide technical support through:

1. Specific behavior change communication focusing on different food values, importance of diet diversification, body nutrient requirements especially for vulnerable groups (Pregnant and lactating mothers and infant and young children), food consumption patterns and how these factors impact on the family health.
2. Training participants on household level storage, preparation/processing and preservation techniques that preserve the nutrition profile of the food and prolong shelf life. The volunteer will accomplish this through several cooking demonstrations and documentation of some of the recipes developed. Emphasis should be on processes that improve nutrient bioavailability to increase uptake of key nutrients. Emphasis should be on use of locally available food materials.
3. Basic hygiene and sanitation skills- including basic hand washing techniques.
4. Developing simple communication tools that can be used by ACE staff and village agents to continue sensitization of the community on Nutrition education, improving child care and feeding practices, the importance of growing nutritious foods, food preparation and food selection at the market.

The volunteer will work towards attaining the aforementioned objectives at two levels: at the grassroots level, directly working with selected farmer groups focusing on 1- 3 above. the number of farmer groups selected will be based on volunteer time of availability. At the organization level, the volunteer will provide more detailed information and training on all 4 areas. The target group will include ACE staff and village agents. The volunteer will also provide training to Tororo referral hospital Nutrition Unit – topics to be trained will depend on the volunteer’s assessment and interaction with the nutrition officer

**Host contribution** – Bukusu Yetana ACE has committed to mobilize its staff, village agents and farmer representatives to attend the trainings to be conducted by the volunteer. The ACE will also avail one key personnel to work closely with the volunteer during the preparations and actual trainings, to ensure that key staff are trained and will continue training other farmers even after the assignment is completed.

**ANTICIPATED RESULTS FROM THE ASSIGNMENT**

The technical assistance will be an eye opener on how to address malnutrition challenges in the community using locally available resources. After this sensitization- the concept of nutrition-sensitive agriculture will be clearer and more practical for the farmers in this district leading to healthier and wealthier households. ACE staff and village agents trained will be able to cascade these trainings to the wider community with the assistance of the manuals/guidelines and communication tools developed and provided by the volunteer. Emphasis on the cooking/ food preparation techniques will be adopted and implemented for improved uptake of nutrient rich foods. Both men and women will be knowledgeable on the nutritional composition of staple foods, benefits of consuming fruits and vegetables; this will influence the food purchase decisions and choices in the market place.

**The anticipated deliverables include:**

* Trainings conducted and people trained
* Assignment related photographs
* Training guidelines/communication tools e.g. Materials developed to facilitate community sensitization on nutrition education.
* Debriefing with USAID and in country group presentations after assignment
* Field trip report and expense report
* Outreach activity, press release or a media event back in US
1. **SCHEDULE OF VOLUNTEER ACTIVITIES**

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| Day | Activity |
| Day 1 | Travel from home to US international airport |
| Day 2 | Arrival at Uganda Entebbe Airport, picked by Fairway Hotel shuttle to Kampala and check in at Hotel. |
| Day 3 | At 9.00 am, the volunteer is greeted at the hotel by CRS staff and thereafter go to CRS office for introductions and briefings including host brief, logistics, expectations and anticipated outcomes. Handouts will be prepared at CRS offices. Travel to Mbale district to commence the assignment.  |
| Day 4 | In the morning CRS introduces the volunteer to the Bukusu Yetana ACE management team, board and Village agents. Together with CRS and the management, the volunteer will review and finalize with the action-plan. The action plan should include group presentation to be done after the assignment. In the afternoon, visit the local market with in Manafwa to acquaint with locally available foods and at household level to understand some of the food preparation and storage activities. |
| Days 5-7 | Training of ACE staff and village agents in specific objectives 1-4 |
| Days 8-9  | Group 1 Training farmers in (1-3) and make appropriate recommendations  |
| Day 10- 11 | Group 2 Training farmers in (1-3) and make appropriate recommendations  |
| Day 12- 13 | Group 3 Training farmers in (1-3) and make appropriate recommendations |
| Day 14 -15 | Group 4 training farmers in 1-4 and make appropriate recommendations |
| Day 16 | The volunteer together with the management team will develop simple communication tools for nutrition sensitization in the community. |
| Day 17 | Wrap up trainings and emphasize key concepts of assignment. Participants evaluate the training and together with the volunteer discuss final report recommendations. |
| Day 18- 19 | Volunteer will conduct an assessment and basic training for mothers in the Nutrition Unit of Tororo Referral Hospital |
| Day 20 | Volunteer travels back to Kampala |
| Day 21 | Debriefing at CRS office with USAID Mission and CRS staff.Volunteer will finalize his/her reporting at CRS office and fill out all necessary M&E forms as well finalize advances and expenditures with finance. |
| Day 22 | Depart for USA |
| TBD | Outreach event when back in the US |

1. **ACCOMMODATION AND OTHER IN-COUNTRY LOGISTICS**

In Kampala, the volunteer will stay at Fairway Hotel & Spa (www.fairwayhotel.co.ug), Hotel phone contact: 0414-259571. While in the field, the volunteer will stay at Wash and Wills, he/she will be travelling between Mbale and Manafwa. And while working with the hospital, the volunteer will stay at Prime Hotel, Tororo.

CRS will pay for hotel accommodation, and provide volunteer with per diems to cater for meals and other incidentals. The volunteer will get an advance in country to cater for field expenses which has to be cleared before departing Uganda. For more information, please refer to country information that will be provided.

**G. RECOMMENDED ASSIGNMENT PREPARATIONS**

* CRS-F2F designs assignments with the assumption of some pre-departure preparation by the volunteer. Actual preparation time will vary based on the experience of the volunteer, as well as informational or training resources the volunteer has readily available. CRS relies on the volunteer to assess the tasks outlined in this SOW and to make his or her own judgment about how much and what kind of preparation is needed prior to arriving in Uganda
* The volunteer should prepare materials for hand out which can be printed at CRS office in Kampala before commencement of the assignment. Flip charts, markers, masking tapes can be obtained at CRS offices.
* CRS strongly recommends that the volunteer become familiar with Uganda -agriculture and Health demographics.
1. **KEY CONTACTS**

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| **CRS Baltimore** | **CRS EA Regional Office** |
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