

**Farmer to Farmer**

**Volunteer Assignment Scope of Work (SOW)**

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| **Summary Information** |
| **Assignment Code** | **ET2010** |
| Country | Ethiopia |
| Country Project | Crop |
| Host Organization | Ethiopian Catholic Church Social Development Commission of Bahir Dar (ECC-SDCO) |
| Assignment Title | Nutrition-Sensitive Agriculture Technical Training: Gardening and Cooking Demonstrations  |
| Assignment preferred dates | May-July/2019 |
| Objectives of the assignment | * Introduce farmers on basic concepts of nutrition (nutrition basics)
* Train on farmers on crop and diet diversity including recipe development
* Train on key hygiene practices
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| Desired volunteer skill/expertise |  Knowledge and experience in nutrition and nutrition sensitive agriculture programs. |
| Type of Volunteer Assistance | Technology Transfer (T) |
| Type of Value Chain Activity | On Farm Production (F) |
| PERSUAP Classification | Type II |

1. **BACKGROUND**

CRS Farmer-to-Farmer (F2F) Program is a USAID funded 5-year program (July 2018 – June 2023) that will provide technical assistance from United States (U.S) volunteers to farmers, farmer groups (cooperatives and associations), agribusinesses and other agriculture sector institutions. The program objectives are to facilitate economic growth within targeted agriculture sub-sectors, enhance sub-sector inclusiveness to expand participation to a broader range of individuals and communities and to increase the American public’s understanding of international development issues and US international development programs. Volunteers, recruited from all States and the District of Columbia, are individuals who have domestic careers, farms and agribusinesses, or are retirees who want to participate in development efforts. F2F program will assist in agriculture development, commodity value chain competitiveness and firm upgrading by providing technical assistance to introduce new technologies, innovations and development of local capacity for more productive, profitable, sustainable and equitable agriculture systems.

Within the Ethiopian agriculture sector, there has been an increase of focus on nutrition-sensitive agriculture to address food insecurity and malnutrition. Low productivity and diversity in agricultural production and diet are among the causes of food insecurity and poor nutrition in Ethiopia. Improving production and diversification in grain, vegetables and fruits combined with behavior changes at the household level can increase productivity levels and nutritional status of smallholder farmers and their families. Additionally, household income, which is typically low and mismanaged, is a challenge for rural households. Many organizations throughout Ethiopia are shifting their focus to nutrition-sensitive agriculture to improve nutritional status of the population.

The host Bahir Dar ECC-SDCO is one of the 13 diocesan coordinating offices of the Ethiopian Catholic Church. It is located in Bahir Dar, Amhara regional state and established in 2007 as a branch office to implement various social development programs in the Bahir Dar intervention regions. The host has a vision to see a society where spiritual, physical, socio-cultural needs are met and where all people live in harmony, solidarity, equality, justice, and peace. Since then, ECC-SDCO of Bahir Dar has been implementing programs on health, food security, emergency, rehabilitation and development in the surrounding areas. The host is currently operating in Amhara, Afar and Benshangul Gumuz regions.

1. **ISSUE DESCRIPTION**

The Ethiopian diet consist mainly of cereals (teff, maize, wheat, sorghum,), tubers and root crops (ensete, potatoes, sweet potatoes), pulses and oil seeds. Despite its high livestock population, meat consumption is limited and low in rural areas. Malnutrition in childhood and pregnancy has many adverse consequences for child survival and long-term well-being. It also has far-reaching consequences for human capital, economic productivity, and national development overall. The consequences of malnutrition should be a significant concern for policymakers in Ethiopia, where about 5.8 million children under 5 years (38 percent) are suffering from chronic malnutrition (stunting or low height-for-age), according to the most recent Demographic and Health Survey (DHS, 2018). In similar talken, FAO in 2010 reported that half of the population is malnourished and food supplies lack diversity[[1]](#footnote-1), with fruits and vegetables are consumed rarely[[2]](#footnote-2), especially in the rural. Children in Ethiopia consume the least diversified food in Sub Saharan Africa. Malnutrition has a trickling effect and impacts work and classroom performance, health, and decreases overall economic performance.

The areas in Bahir Dar Catholic Secretariat, Amhara and Benishangul Gumuz region face nutritional problems, with the highest stunting (chronic malnutrition) rates respectively[[3]](#footnote-3). Lack of diverse diets is one of the underlying causes of chronic malnutrition. Poor dietary diversity can be explained by limited knowledge of the health benefits of diversified diet and poor access to diverse food. To address the problem, attention should be given to both the production of nutritious foods and behavior change messaging. Agriculture is essential to improve nutrition. Recently the term “nutrition sensitive agriculture” has emerged as a way to define agriculture investments made with the purpose of improving nutrition. The host, therefore, requested F2F volunteer assistance to provide technical support on nutrition-sensitive agriculture, specifically in the areas of gardening and cooking demonstrations.

1. **OBJECTIVES OF THE ASSIGNMENT**

The general objective of this volunteer assignment is to improve nutrition-sensitive agriculture, specifically in gardening and cooking demonstrations. The specific objective of the assignment includes to provide a hands-on training to farmers and staff on the production, preparation and consumption of nutritiously diverse foods. Some of the topics includes:

* Food groups, source and how to prepare and feed
* Nutrition sensitive agriculture and benefits of diversifying on farm
* Promote foods that are nutrient-rich
* Promote standards of hygiene, sanitation, and food safety in handling
1. **HOST CONTRIBUTION**

The host, ECC-SDCO Bahir Dar, will select and mobilize farmers to be trained. It will also avail key personnel to work closely with the volunteer at all times to ensure translation to the local language (Amharic) and to assist the volunteer during trainings. The host will arrange transportation and venue as required. CRS F2F Ethiopia will organize the volunteer’s hotel arrangements (lodging) and ensure all required facilities are appropriate. CRS will cover lodging costs against receipts and provide per-diem advances for meals.

1. **ANTICIPATED RESULTS FROM THE ASSIGNMENT**

It is anticipated that this volunteer assignment will result in improved knowledge/skill capacity of beneficiaries to further understand the basic concepts and techniques of nutrition, specifically in gardening, nutrition basics, and recipe development. The volunteer will contribute to the following:

* 70 farmers and 5 staff trained on nutrition sensitive agriculture
* Farmers understood nutrition basics and improved households’ nutritional intake.
1. **DELIVERABLES**
* Initial presentation is completed (outlines, activities, plans, approach, etc.)
* Volunteer final report having feasible recommendations due before departure
* Group presentation with local stakeholders at the end of the assignment.
* Presentation to CRS staff and/or USAID
* Outreach activity press release or a media event upon return to the US
1. **SCHEDULE OF VOLUNTEER ACTIVITIES IN ETHIOPIA (DRAFT)**

| **Day** | **Activity** |
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| Day 1 | Arrival in Addis at Bole Airport, the volunteer will be met by a CRS’s client hotel Saro Maria Hotel (mail: reservation@saromariahotel.com; Phone: +251 11 667 2167). The volunteer will locate the hotel kiosk and receive their pre-arranged transport |
| **Day 2** | **Rest Day (Sunday)** |
| Day 3 | * Take hotel shuttle to CRS office (CRS working days are Monday to Friday from 8:00AM to 5:00 PM East Africa Time)
* Welcoming by CRS, and briefing meeting on security, general orientation, logistic and reporting formats.
* Discuss anticipated outcomes and work plan
* Travel (local flight) to the assignment site Bahir Dar, Amhara region,
* S/he will be introduced with the host and will be accommodated. If time permits, general orientation with the host will be pursued.
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| Day 4 | * Further assess skill and training gaps through visiting and discussing with manager and employees and beneficiaries.
* Based on information gathered and gaps identified, enrich the prepared training materials incorporating hands-on practices.
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| Day 5-9 | Provide training and advice for employees and managers, and beneficiaries.  |
| **Day 9** | **Rest Day (Sunday)** |
| Day 10-12 | Continue provision of trainings and technical assistances to the employees and beneficiaries.  |
| Day 13 | Briefing / exit meeting with the host in the presence of CRS staffVolunteer travels back to Addis Ababa (in the afternoon flight) |
| Day 14 | * Debriefing with CRS staff and/or USAID Mission
* Finalize reimbursement expenditures and liquidations (if any) with finance.
* Finalizes his/her reporting and submit training M&E forms to CRS F2F staff. And depart for USA
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| TBD | Outreach event when back in the USA |

1. **DESIRABLE VOLUNTEERS SKILLS**

The volunteer will have the following qualifications and competencies:

* Knowledge and experience in direct nutrition and nutrition sensitive agriculture programs.
* Experience in providing training to adults, community development workers or members of a community-based organization
* Good communication and interpersonal skills
* Willing to work under Ethiopian context
1. **ACCOMMODATION AND OTHER IN-COUNTRY LOGISTICS**
* Before travelling to the assignment place, Bahir Dar the volunteer will stay in Addis Ababa at one of the CRS’s client hotels, Saro Maria Hotel (email: reservation@saromariahotel.com; [Phone](https://www.google.com/search?rlz=1C1GGRV_enET751ET751&q=saro-maria+hotel+phone&sa=X&ved=0ahUKEwie4JH0gNfWAhXFOBoKHS8rB1sQ6BMIwwEwEA): +251 11 667 2167). For any inconvenience, please call at 0911718450, Biruk - F2F program manager.
* In Addis Ababa, the hotel usually has rooms that include services such as airport pickup and drop-off, breakfast, wireless internet, etc.
* The CRS will arrange a vehicle for short travel from the hotel to CRS office and vice versa in Addis Ababa.
* While in the field, the volunteer will stay at a hotel in Bahir Dar town (usually the hotel has breakfast, wireless internet and shuttle). The accommodation details will be confirmed prior to the volunteer’s arrival in country. The afternoon temperature of Bahir Dar is warm year-round.
* CRS Ethiopia will arrange hotel accommodations and cover the lodging bills against receipts.
* CRS HQ will provide the volunteer with a per-diem advance to cater meals and incidences.
* Before departing from Ethiopia, the volunteer will liquidate any advances received in Ethiopia.
* For more information, please refer to country information that will be provided
1. **RECOMMENDED ASSIGNMENT PREPARATIONS**
* The volunteer can fine-tune the Scope of Work based on her/his professional qualifications to successfully carry out this nutrition-sensitive agriculture assignment.
* Generally, Ethiopia is under the tropical zone, where malaria may be a problem. Therefore, the volunteer is advised to take pills or vaccination for malaria and (maybe also for cholera) as per medical recommendations by her/his doctors/health professionals in US before departing from US.
* Prior to travel, the volunteer is advised to prepare necessary training materials and demonstration aids and written handouts. Soft copies of the handouts and any other paper materials can be printed for at the CRS office in Addis Ababa on request by the volunteer
* If the volunteer requires use of training aids like flip charts, markers and tape, s/he should make the request and collect from the CRS office in Addis Ababa prior to travel to the assignment place.
* Translation of handouts to the local language can be done in the locality of the assignment, if require.
* Depending on the meeting places and availability of electricity, the volunteer may use a laptop and LCD projector for Power Point presentations.
1. **KEY CONTACTS**

To express interest in this assignment, please email the CRS Baltimore contact listed below. To find out additional information about the host, issue description or field conditions, please email the country contact provided below, copying the CRS Baltimore contact.

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| **CRS Baltimore** |
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| **Host Organization** |
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1. FAO 2010 [↑](#footnote-ref-1)
2. Hirvonen K, et.al (October 2018). Affordability of fruits and vegetables in Ethiopia. [↑](#footnote-ref-2)
3. EDHS 2016 [↑](#footnote-ref-3)