**Remote Paired Volunteer Assignment: Ethiopian or East African volunteer to be paired with remote supporting American volunteer**

**To express interest in this assignment, Ethiopian and East African volunteers please email** [**haile.deressa@crs.org**](mailto:haile.deressa@crs.org)**,** [**assefa.degefu@crs.org**](mailto:assefa.degefu@crs.org) **or** [**lidia.retta@crs.org**](mailto:lidia.retta@crs.org)**. Interested American volunteers for remote support please email** [**chi.olisemeka@crs.org**](mailto:chi.olisemeka@crs.org)**.**

**CRS Farmer to Farmer Program**

**Volunteer Assignment Scope of Work**

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| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Summary Information** | | | | | |
| **Assignment Code** | ET2105 | | | | |
| Country: | Ethiopia | | | | |
| Country Project: | Crops | | | | |
| Host Organization: | Ethiopian Catholic Church Social Development Commission of Bahir Dar (ECC-SDCO) | | | | |
| Partner: | N/A | | | | |
| Date of baseline data collection: | 1/07/2019 | | | | |
| Date of host agreement signing: | 01/25/2019 | | | | |
| Number of previous volunteer assignments: Note, if this is the first/new host, please discuss with Peter & Nyambura | | | 02 | | |
| Volunteer recommendations given (Total): | 7 | Volunteer recommendations applied (Total): | | | 6 |
| Assignment Title: | Nutrition training, food processing and recipe demonstration | | | | |
| Objectives of the assignment: | * To provide nutrition training to women beneficiaries of Bahir Dar Catholic Secretariat, targeting pregnant and breastfeeding women * To demonstrate food processing, fortification, and recipe preparations | | | | |
| Assignment preferred dates: | February, 2022 | | | | |
| Desired volunteer skill/expertise | * Formal qualifications in food science or human nutrition and health * Extensive knowledge and practical experience in food science and human nutrition. * Extensive experience in food preparation and recipe demonstration | | | | |
| Type of Volunteer Assistance | Technology Transfer (T) | | | | |
| Type of Value Chain Activity | On Farm Production (F) | | | | |
| PERSUAP Classification[[1]](#footnote-1)[1] | III | | | | |
| Number of people to be trained | Men | | Women | Youths | |
| 10 | | 30 | 5 | |
| Will the assignment address gender gaps? (Yes/No)  If yes, please include these in the issues description | | | | No | |
| Will the assignment address climate change? (Yes/No)  If yes, please include this in the issues description | | | | No | |
|  |  |  |  |  |  |

1. **BACKGROUND**

The CRS Farmer-to-Farmer program (F2F) is a five-year (2019-2023) USAID funded program implemented with the primary goal of reducing hunger, malnutrition, and poverty across six countries: Benin, Timor-Leste, Ethiopia, Nepal, Rwanda, and Uganda. The program aims to achieve this goal through advancing inclusive and sustainable agriculture led growth aimed at generating sustainable and broad-based economic growth in the agricultural sector. The program’s secondary goal is to increase US public’s understanding of international development issues and programs and share the knowledge back in the US. To achieve these goals, F2F provides volunteer technical assistance to farmers and farmer groups (associations and cooperatives), private agribusinesses and agricultural education institutions to address key technical and institutional issues identified by the hosts in selected agricultural value chains. F2F volunteers are pooled from a broad range of US agricultural expertise including private farmers, university professors, bankers/certified accountants, animal health and nutrition specialists, soil scientists and agronomists who can provide technical assistance to the local host organizations. The program introduces new innovations and skills to develop local organizations’ capacity to participate in more productive, profitable, sustainable, and equitable agricultural systems while providing an opportunity for people-to-people exchange within the agricultural sector.

The country nutrition profile of Ethiopia indicates that 37% of children under age 5 are stunted (short for their age), 7% are wasted (thin for their height), 21% are underweight (thin for their age), and 2% are overweight (heavy for their height). Only 11% of children aged 6-23 months are fed a minimum acceptable diet in the 24 hours (Ethiopia Demographic and Health Survey, 2019). Over the last two decades, the trend for malnutrition has been improving; however, the prevalence remains among the highest across sub-Saharan Africa (World Bank, 2019; [Global Nutrition Report](https://globalnutritionreport.org/reports/2021-global-nutrition-report/), 2021). Women are also found to be highly affected by nutrient deficiencies, and hence, nutritional diseases. Almost a fourth of pregnant women (22%) suffer from anemia (ibid), and more than a third (36%) of the women population is iodine deficient. As a result, investment in nutrition is highly warranted to ensure healthy growth and development 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 was established in 2007 as a branch office to implement various social development programs in Bahir Dar areas. 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. 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**

Communities around the working area of the Ethiopian Catholic Church Social Development Commission of Bahir Dar (ECC-SDCO) are prone to malnutrition and nutritional diseases due lack of awareness in nutrition and limited production diversity. In terms of food production, the area is characterized by cereals (teff, wheat, and maize) monocropping. In some irrigated areas, vegetables and fruits are grown by small holder farmers mostly for income generation. Similarly, other nutritious animal foods such as milk and eggs are often produced for market. As a result of these factors, the households are not fulfilling their nutrient requirements.

Protein malnutrition, vitamin A, and micronutrient (iodine, zinc, and iron) deficiencies are common problems affecting the health of children and women. Malnourished pregnant and lactating women are mostly suffering from anemia. As a result, their babies are underweight. In some cases, severely malnourished mothers with reduced lactation increase the risk of child mortality. Hence, adequate, and proper dietary habits are required specially for pregnant and lactating women.

It is realized that the existing problems of malnutrition and nutritional diseases are multifaceted which need community-level awareness creation (nutrition education), practices of nutritious food production (nutrient-dense crops, animal products), proper food processing, physical/biological fortifications, and recipe preparations. Bahir Dar Catholic Secretariat is making efforts to address these challenges, focusing on pregnant and lactating women, through Community-Led Complementary Feeding and Learning Sessions (CCFLS). Hence, this assignment will help to enhance the impact of this initiative through providing targeted training on nutrition, nutritional values of crop and animal products, proper food processing to maintain and enhance bioavailability of nutrients, methods of food fortifications and recipe demonstrations.

1. **OBJECTIVES OF THE ASSIGNMENT**

The main objective of this volunteer assignment is to provide nutrition training, and demonstrate food processing, fortification, and recipe preparations for women.

The specific objectives are:

* To identify knowledge and skill gaps on nutrition, food processing and recipe preparations, especially for feeding pregnant and lactating women, and children under 5.
* To identify nutrient-dense crop and animal products produced in the area and create awareness on their nutritional values.
* To practically demonstrate food processing, fortification, and recipe preparations.
* To provide advice on production and diet diversity for improved nutritional security.

1. **HOST CONTRIBUTION**

The host also is committed to mobilize its staff and communities to attend the trainings to be conducted by the volunteer. The host will avail key personnel to work closely with the volunteer at all times to ensure translation to the local language and to assist the volunteer during trainings and practical demonstration sessions. CRS will cover lodging and other related costs of the volunteer against receipts. In coordination with the host and the volunteer, CRS will also arrange and pay for transport services for daily use to and from the office.

1. **ANTICIPATED RESULTS FROM THE ASSIGNMENT**

It is anticipated that the training will lead to:

* Improve awareness and knowledge on nutrition, nutritional values of nutrient-dense crops and animal products.
* Improve skills on food processing, fortifications, and recipe preparations for women (pregnant and lactating) and children.
* Improve diet diversity and feeding habits
* Reduce nutrient deficiency and nutritional diseases, and improved health of women and children.

1. **DELIVERABLES**

The major deliverables of this assignment include, but not limited to:

* Volunteer end of assignment report with recommendations to the host organization action plan and recommendations to CRS
* Conduct a final debriefing (PowerPoint presentation) with the host organization (plus key stakeholders) and CRS/USAID
* Develop localized nutrition manual based on the feedback getting from the trainees.
* Training lists with people trained and photo captured
* Conduct in-country outreach events in Ethiopia using social media (for local volunteers)
* Conduct outreach activities about the assignment in USA (US volunteer) using appropriate medias (print, radio, TV, group presentation, social etc.)

1. **SCHEDULE OF VOLUNTEER ACTIVITIES IN ETHIOPIA**

| **Day** | **Activity** |
| --- | --- |
| Day 1 | * Receive security and general orientation * Travel to Bahir Dar with CRS staff and meet the host staffs |
| Day 2 | * Discuss and clarify SOW, anticipated outcomes, and work plan * General orientation with the host, first-hand briefing on the main objectives and modality of the assignment and adjustment of the agenda for the coming days (work planning session) |
| Day 3 | * Conduct further assessment on the assignment |
| Day 4-14 | * Carry out the assignment and provide orientation to the host staff |
| Day 15 | * Briefing / exit meeting with the host in the presence of CRS staff |
| Day 16 | * Facilitate in country/virtual debriefing with CRS staff and/or USAID Mission * Finalize reimbursement of expenditures and liquidations (if any) with finance as required * Submit volunteer reports, training attendance sheet, assignment report, PPT presentation and any reference materials to CRS F2F team * Depart for his/her place |

1. **DESIRABLE VOLUNTEERS SKILLS**

The volunteer needs to have the following skills, qualifications, and competencies:

* Formal qualifications on Food Science and Nutrition
* Knowledge and practical experience in nutrition and food preparation
* Experience and skills in adult training methodologies
* Strong communication and interpersonal skills
* Willingness and flexibility to train and technically assist the staff whenever required
* Respect for the cultural and religious norms of the rural people

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

* The volunteer will stay in a hotel near to the assignment place booked and confirmed before the volunteer the assignment start date. The hotel will have rooms that include services such as breakfast and wireless internet etc.
* CRS will provide a vehicle and accompany the volunteer to the place of assignment.
* 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 incidentals.
* CRS Ethiopia will also reimburse the volunteer with laundry costs against receipts.

1. **RECOMMENDED ASSIGNMENT PREPARATIONS**

* Although CRS F2F has developed such hinting SOW, the volunteer can fine-tune through her/his professional qualifications to successfully carry out this assignment.
* Prior to the assignment, the volunteer is advised to prepare necessary training and demonstration aids and written handouts. Softcopies of the handouts and any other paper materials can be printed for immediate use at the CRS office in Addis Ababa on request by the volunteer.
* If the volunteer requires simple training aids like flip charts, markers, or tape s/he should make the request and collect from the CRS office in Addis Ababa prior to the assignment.
* Translation of handouts to the local language can be done in the locality of the assignment, if required.
* Depending on the meeting places and availability of electric power and LCD projector, the volunteer may use a laptop and projector for power point presentations

1. **REMOTE/LOCAL VOLUNTEER ROLES AND RESPONSIBILITIES**

Both volunteers participate in a call to discuss objectives and collaboration approach at the start of the assignment. Collaboration platforms vary depending on the assignment and connectivity. The most frequently used platforms are MS Teams and WhatsApp. The volunteers are highly encouraged to visit [CRS’ F2F Digital Resource Library](https://f2flibrary.crs.org/Presto/home/home.aspx?_ga=2.141716784.32617302.1616765386-2022794543.1567520784), and search for resources that they could use or customize for training. Upon completion of your assignment, volunteers are requested to send any resources they would like to contribute to the library (whether created or found) to [farmertofarmer@crs.org](mailto:farmertofarmer@crs.org).

The local volunteer is responsible for assignment design, preparation, training, developing assignment reports, conducting action planning with hosts and outreach in country, and achieving the assignment objectives. The local volunteer works directly with the host with assistance/input from the US volunteer. Assignments usually last up to 2 weeks; Sometimes extending beyond two weeks due to pending follow up visits, emails etc. Local Volunteers are asked to track assignment hours per day, to stay under 112 hours (14 days x 8 hrs).

Virtual support from a paired US volunteer helps provide supplementary training resources, fill in the gaps for technical areas, and share creative ideas and solutions. Two specific responsibilities are to: (i) complete the outreach component of the assignment and (ii) support the in-country volunteer as needed. US Volunteers typically put in 4-8 hours per week, depending on the nature of the assignment and collaboration.

1. **KEY CONTACTS**

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**3. Host Organization**

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1. [1] USAID precisely classifies PERSUAP in four categories; **PERSUAP Type I** assignments directly related to pesticides recommendations, **Type II** as assignments with indirectly related with pesticides, **Type III** assignments related to curriculum review and designing, business plan development and strategies development and **Type IV** as assignments associated with other USAID projects and collaborators.  [↑](#footnote-ref-1)