 

**Farmer to Farmer East Africa**

**Volunteer Assignment Scope of Work**

**NOTE: THIS SCOPE OF WORK IS AWAITING FINAL EDITS**

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| **Summary Information** |
| Assignment Code  | ET 73 |
| Country | Ethiopia |
| Country Project | Grain Production and Sector Support |
| Host Organization  | Ethiopian Catholic Church-Social and Development Coordination Office of Meki (ECC-SDCOM) |
| Assignment Title | Ag-nutrition training and technical support for GRAD project field staffs; lead community facilitators, government DAs and health extension workers |
| Assignment preferred dates | February – April/May, 2016 |
| Objective assignment | * To improve the linkage between Value Chain development and nutrition interventions
* To train and technically assist field staffs and targeted beneficiaries
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| Desired volunteer skill/expertise | Knowledge and experience in direct nutrition and nutrition sensitive agriculture programs. |

1. **BACKGROUND**

The Farmer-to-Farmer (F2F) East Africa program is a program that leverages US volunteer’s expertise to assist smallholder farmers and small scale processors in East Africa to improve their business practices through volunteer assignments conducted with host organizations. Through F2F interventions, CRS will improve the livelihoods and nutritional status of significant numbers of low income households by: i) broadening their participation in established commodity value chains as producers and service providers; ii) strengthening community resilience to shocks, such as droughts, that adversely affect livelihoods; and iii) preserving/enhancing the natural resources upon which most rural communities depend. CRS will also increase the American public’s understanding of international development programs and foster cross-cultural understanding between host countries and US volunteers.

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.

Nutrition, of women and children in particular, is a major issue in Ethiopia. According to Ethiopia’s Demographic and Health Survey from 2011, 44% of children under 5 are stunted, and 21% are severely stunted. Exclusive breastfeeding for infants under six months is not widely practiced and complementary feeding is only practiced with 51% of children aged 6-9 months. Additionally, only 4% of children living with their mothers are fed in accordance with infant and young child feeding (IYCF) practices. 44% of Ethiopian children are anemic and there is low micronutrient intake of children country-wide. In regards to adults, 27% of women and 36% of men are thin or undernourished and 17% of women aged 15-49 are anemic, leading to premature delivery and low birth weight. All of these statistics are higher in rural communities, which will be one of the target areas of this volunteer assignment. The Government of Ethiopia is currently implementing a national nutrition program that focuses on mother and child nutrition.

The Meki Catholic Secretariat is implementing the Graduation with Resilience to Achieve Sustainable Development (GRAD) project which is a USAID-funded project that focuses on increasing household income and developing resilience to graduate beneficiaries out of food insecurity through asset-building and economic strengthening interventions on selected value chain commodities, income generating activities, nutrition education and nutrition-sensitive activities. The primary target group of GRAD's nutrition component is households with children 0-23 months, pregnant women and/or lactating mothers. CRS/ECC-SDCOM is one the implementing partner implementing GRAD project on four different districts (woredas) in Oromia Region.

1. **ISSUE DESCRIPTION**

GRAD has been implementing different activities that based on value chain development approach to improve GRAD household nutritional status; in order to create resiliency among targeted household and within the community. The last four years GRAD has implemented both direct nutrition Behaviour Change Communication that focused on promotion of improved Essential Nutrition Action/Infant and Young Child Feeding (ENA/IYCF) practices and nutrition-sensitive agricultural interventions such as; support to home gardens and poultry productions that are linked to complementary food preparation and cooking demonstrations. GRAD employed community animators/volunteers to cascade its interventions through Village Economic and Social Associations (VESAs) which is more or less similar to SILC groups.

However even if GRAD has done enormous jobs, mid-term evaluation and monitoring visit results showed that quality of nutrition interventions are not optimal. Some of the reasons were attributed to limited access to trainings, skills and capacities among GRAD and government field staffs.

In theory, the additional income created by engagement on GRAD Value Chain development, Income Generating Activities and VESA level credit and saving activities coupled with BCC will improve nutritional statuses of beneficiaries’ through increasing purchase and utilization of nutritious foods. Despite GRAD efforts in this regard,, was an effort to realize this the limited capacity and lack of clear tools and skills to reinforce agriculture nutrition linkages are at their low levels. This assignment is intended at addressing the aforementioned gaps.

The host, therefore, requested F2F volunteer assistance to provide technical support on nutrition for GRAD and government field staffs. Knowledge and skills gained from F2F volunteer will be cascaded to beneficiaries through VESA plat forms.

1. **OBJECTIVES OF THE ASSIGNMENT**

The general objective of this volunteer assignment is to improve the linkage between Value Chain development and nutrition interventions. And the specific objective of the assignment is to provide training to 54 GRAD animators, lead community facilitators, government DAs and health extension workers. The specific areas of this training include, but are not limited to:

1. Health, economic and social implications of stunting.
2. Specific Behavior Change Communication approach (preferably short games, exercises or any tool) that may enhance the translation of income gained from VC & IGAs to improve dietary diversity of beneficiaries especially children and PLWs.
3. Household level storage, processing & preservation techniques that can maintain nutritional values of vegetables and increase their shelf life.
4. Nutritional profiles and health benefits of staple foods, vegetables and fruits commonly grown in the project areas. Recipes preparation from it?
5. Experience sharing on how agriculture-nutrition linkages can be realized in projects such as GRAD. This might include; low cost improved home gardening, water harvesting, poultry production and management skills and tool.

The beneficiaries of this assignment will be 54 GRAD animators, lead community facilitators, government DAs and health extension workers and the volunteer may provide advice to beneficiary farmers upon the available time. The F2F volunteer will base in Meki area and tavels to GRAD intervention woredas namely; ATJK worked, A/Negelle, Shalla and Z/Dugda woredas.

**Host contribution** – The host MCS will select 54 GRAD animators, lead community facilitators, government DAs and health extension workers. It will also 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. The host will also provide the volunteer with office space and furniture at its office compound at Meki town (about 105 km Southeast of Addis Ababa). The host will also provide the volunteer with a guestroom (subsidized fees in its church compound at Meki) and facilitate meal services depending of the volunteer interest. For field travel in the assignment area, the host will provide the volunteer with transport and consult CRS to cover fuel cost against receipts or as per CRS regulations.

1. **ANTICIPATED RESULTS FROM THE ASSIGNMENT**

It is anticipated that this volunteer assignment will result in improved knowledge/skill capacity of GRAD animators, lead community facilitators, government DAs and health extension workers to further understand the basic concepts and techniques of nutrition.

The anticipated deliverables of the volunteer include:

* Relevant documents and tools will be shared.
* Comprehensive report and recommendations will be submitted
* Prepare an initial presentation (activities, plan, approach, etc.).
* Train the 54 GRAD animators, lead community facilitators, government DAs and health extension workers
* Submit a detailed field report with recommendations.
	+ Reconcile any cash advances.
	+ Debrief CRS staff and USAID.
	+ Conduct outreach events in the US.
1. **SCHEDULE OF VOLUNTEER ACTIVITIES IN ETHIOPIA**

| **Day** | **Activity** |
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| Days 1  | Arrival to Ethiopia. The volunteer will be met at Bole Airport by CRS’s client hotel Churchill (churchillhotel@ethionet.et / info@churchillhoteladdis; phone # 0111111212) or another client hotel with a placard bearing “CRS logo and volunteer name”.  |
| Day 2 | * Take CRS car or hotel shuttle to CRS office (CRS working days are Monday to Friday from 8:00AM to 5:00 PM)
* Welcoming by CRS, and briefing meeting on security, general orientation, logistic and reporting formats.
* Discuss anticipated outcomes and work plan
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| Days 3 | Travel to the assignment site (Meki town (105 kms from Addis Ababa). S/he will be introduced with the host and will be accommodated at Guest house at Meki town. If time permits, general orientation with the host will be pursued.  |
| Days 4 | * First hand briefing on the main objectives and modality of the assignment and adjust the agenda for the coming days (work planning session).
* Further identify skill and training gaps through visiting and discussing with clients/customers.
* Based on information gathered and gaps identified, enrich the prepared training materials incorporating hands-on practices.
* Firsthand information/data collection by volunteers as applicable.
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| Day 5-6 | * Conduct firsthand training and presentation to staffs and coop members
* Assess and refine the quality of trainings through feedback and observations.
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| Day 7 | * Local market visit and collect information
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| **Day 8** | **Rest day.**  |
| Days 9-14 | * Continuation of the trainings and technical assistances
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| **Day 15** | **Rest day** |
| Days 16-17 | Trainings and technical assistance  |
| Day 18 | Wrap up trainings and emphasize key concepts of assignment. Participants evaluate the training and together with the volunteer discuss final report recommendations. |
| Day 19 | * Group presentation to the host in the presentation of CRS
* Volunteer travels back to Addis Ababa
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| Day 20 | * Finalize reimbursement expenditures and liquidations (if any) with finance.
* Finalizes his/her reporting and submit training M&E forms to CRS F2F staff.
* Debriefing at with CRS staff and/or USAID Mission
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| Day 21 | Complete any unaccomplished activities and depart for USA |
| TBD | Outreach event when back in the US |

1. **DESIRABLE VOLUNTEERS SKILLS**

The volunteer should have the following qualifications and competencies:

* Educated in nutrition, public health or related fields (preferably degree level), and proven experience or familiarity in nutrition, horticultural farming and mini horticultural trading,
* Practical experience in nutritional education, horticulture, IYCF practices, community development and cooking demonstrations.
* Experience training adults, community development/extension workers or members of community-based organizations.
* Enthusiasm and experience in women’s empowerment, education and gender mainstreaming.
* Good analytical and intercommunication skills.
1. **ACCOMMODATION AND OTHER IN-COUNTRY LOGISTICS**
* Before travelling to the host partner at the assignment site at Meki, the volunteer will stay in Addis Ababa at one of the CRS’s client hotels, Churchill hotel (churchillhotel@ethionet.et

 / info@churchillhoteladdis; phone # 0111111212) or other hotels that will be booked before volunteers arrival dates.

* The hotel shuttle or CRS will arrange a vehicle for short travel from the hotel to CRS and vice versa in Addis Ababa.
* All required materials will be prepared ahead of time and will be provided to the volunteer.
* During the assignment period, the volunteer will be booked at the host organization’s guesthouse in Meki town. The accommodation details will be confirmed prior to the volunteer’s arrival in country.
* CRS Ethiopia will pay for guesthouse or hotel accommodations and CRS HQ will provide the volunteer with a per diem advance for meals and incidentals. The volunteer will liquidate all advances received in Ethiopia before departure.
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 training program.
* Prior to travel, the volunteer is advised to prepare necessary training 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 simple training aids like flip charts, markers and tape, s/he should make the request and collect from the CRS office at 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 required.
* Depending on the meeting places and availability of electricity and LCD projector, the volunteer may use a laptop and projector for PowerPoint presentations.
1. **KEY CONTACTS**

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