 

**Farmer to Farmer East Africa**

**Volunteer Assignment Scope of Work**

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| **Summary Information** |
| Country | Kenya |
| Assignment Code | KE81 |
| Country Project | Horticulture |
| Host Organization | Little Sisters of St. Therese’ – Kibirichia, Meru |
| Assignment Title | Farm Plan development |
| Preferred dates | May 2016 |
| Assignment Objective | To develop an integrated farm plan that sustainably optimize the productivity and net income earning for the farms and improve resource use planning |
| Skills Summary | Farm management specialist  |

1. **Background**

The little sisters of St Therese of the child Jesus was started in the year 1923, in Imola –Italy, by Mother Maria Zannelli, and canon Giuseppe Mazzanti. They work in many countries, Kenya being one of them. Their vision is to be gifts, heralds and witnesses of God’s Merciful Love to the Little Ones of the Kingdom while their mission is to be a visible presence of God’s Merciful Love to the poor in mind and heart through service that is inspired by merciful love. The Sisters have several ministries, but the key ones are social apostolates such as health, early stimulation and learning, social work & community development, catechesis and other pastoral activities.

In Kenya, the Congregation runs children homes, dispensaries, hospitals, early learning & stimulation centers, catechism, domestic school, community development and household visitations in order to accomplish their apostolates in the social ministry. All the apostolates are geared towards the integral development of children. To achieve the set objectives, the sisters collaborate with organizations locally and internationally. For instance, they collaborate with the County and national governments’ health departments to increase health care service provision and CRS in building capacities of Sisters for improved ECD service delivery and organizational sustainability.

The Congregation has been working with CRS through SCORE project (Strengthening Capacities of Women Religious working in ECD) since 2014. The SCORE project implements capacity strengthening initiatives – training, mentorship and accompaniment to accomplish three strategic objectives namely;

* Catholic Sisters have increased technical capacity in ECD
* Catholic Sisters have increased organizational sustainability to fulfill their ministry
* Catholic Sisters benefit from increased networking and learning around ECD

In this project, the Congregations have benefited through various activities including;

* Organizational capacity assessment – using CRS HOCAI. CRS organized for trainings to address the institutional gaps identified in HOCAI.
* ECD technical capacity strengthening – trainings for Sisters working in ECD centers
* Small Grants fund – sub grant to Congregations to carry out trainings at the Congregation level.
* Increased networking and collaboration with government and other local stakeholders.
* Established M&E system for documenting ECD activities within the Congregations.

The Congregation implements a feeding program that targets orphans and vulnerable children as well as vulnerable elderly members of the community. The beneficiaries are mainly drawn from the communities where Sisters carry out their missions. The program aims at improving the nutritional status of the beneficiaries but also provides an opportunity attract and retain children from poor backgrounds in school.

Over the years, the Congregation has been involved in various small scale farming activities such as dairy, poultry, horticulture, crop production to sustain the feeding program. However, they have consistently experienced poor yields due to inadequate skills to optimize the production inputs for maximum gains.

1. **Issue Description**

One of the congregations’ project area is in Kiirua, Meru County, where the sisters have a center that operates a children’s home, a dispensary, and a school, in addition to housing several sisters of this order. To support some of their activities, the sisters have two parcels of land; a five acre parcel in a high agriculture potential area and a 23 acre parcel of land in a medium agricultural potential area.

Out of the five acre parcel, two and a half acres have been allocated for crop production, dairy, poultry and pig rearing, while the rest houses the convent, dispensary, children’s home and skills training center (tailoring and computer). The sisters produce fruits (passion, mangoes, guavas, grapes and bananas), as well as assorted vegetables (tomatoes, carrots, cabbages etc). The 23 acre farm is located 22kilometers from the Center, in drier zone, rendering it less potential for rain-fed agriculture. The farm is however ideal for drip irrigation, and has great potential for surface water harvesting.

Although the host is engaged in both crops and livestock production, their knowledge and experience is gained through practice than through formal farm management training, and follows market trends for the commercialized enterprises. While this practice has worked for them in many instances, there are also times when this has failed. Having surplus production when there is a glut in the market for some high value produce like tomatoes is just one experience, where the host invested in a green-house for the production of tomatoes, but could not get a competitive price in the market. The 23 acre farm remains under-utilized in its current state, but has a big potential.

The community supports orphans and other vulnerable members of the community, and part of the food used for this support is produced by the nuns in the congregation. Therefore, optimizing their agricultural productivity will go a long way in contributing to food security for the center as well as the local community.

It is for this reason that the host has requested CRS for assistance, primarily to assist in farm planning and training the target beneficiaries in farm planning, so that this practice can be further replicated by other communities where these nuns serve, and also within the farming community in the region.

These are some of the proposed assignment tasks;

1. Preparing the farm map: The general lay out of the farm, number and shape, irrigation channels, paths, sheds etc.
2. Recording the history of the farms as it pertains to the utilization of resources and their efficiency. On the basis of this information planning in respect of crops to be grown and crop rotations to be followed
3. Planning labor requirements for different months.
4. Planning the land use and soil conservation practices for adoption and which would lead to the best use of land.
5. Planning live-stock program that is complementary to the cropping program
6. Planning the marketing of produce in order to maximize the returns on investment.

At the end of this assignment, the volunteer shall develop an integrated plan that benefits all components of the two farms.

1. **Objectives of the Assignment**

The main objective for this assignment is to sustainably optimize the crops and livestock productivity through the host enhanced capacity to plan the production operations consciously in respect of what, how and how much to produce, and to inform on other market forces that determine sustained yields and income earnings for the farms. The volunteer will develop an annual farm plan that will guide the farming operations for one year, as well as a long range plan to be determined in consultation with the host representative(s).

Specific objectives are;

1. Organize the farm production in such a way as to increase the resource use efficiency and the incomes for host
2. Forecast best combination of crops and live-stock to be raised through rational use of resources.
3. Estimate future costs and returns for the various enterprises
4. **Schedule of Volunteer Activities in Kenya**

A detailed schedule of planned activities will be developed with F2F, Score-ECD and host personnel and volunteer once identified. The assignment duration is however estimated at 3 weeks.

# Desirable Volunteer Skills

The volunteer should have the following qualifications and competencies:

* Previous hands-on farming experience and technical knowledge as well as formal qualifications in agriculture or related field; agricultural engineering, crop management, farm business management, horticulture and land/estate management.
* Good understanding of modern farming methods, a commitment livestock production and an understanding how farming impacts the environment and how to mitigate adverse effects
* Prior travel to Africa or other developing country and understanding/familiarity with cultural differences and differences in resource availability and infrastructure
1. **Accommodation and Other In-Country Logistics**

In Nairobi, the volunteer will stay at the **Zehneria Portico** 10 Karuna Road, Westlands | P.O. Box 66249-00800 | Nairobi | Visit us at: [www. zehneriahotel.com](http://zehneriahotel.com/); Telephone: +254 731617469/264 | Mobile: +254 733988813 | Email:reservation@zehneriahotel.com. or any other hotel identified by CRS and communicated to the volunteer prior to arrival. In Meru, the volunteer will stay at a hotel to be identified in Kiirua town, or Meru town.

Meru town lies in the heart of eastern province, on the northeastern slopes of Mt. Kenya. It is situated at 5000 feet above sea level, only five miles north of the equator. The population is 1,356,301 according to the 2009 population census. Meru town is a business, agricultural and education center for northeastern Kenya, and has reliable banking facilities. Nakumatt Stores is a hyper supermarket, which has most commodities the volunteer may require, and is situated along the main highway, close to the assignment site and hotels.

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

1. **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 Kenya.

* The volunteer should prepare materials for hand out which can be printed at CRS office in Nairobi 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 CRS programs in Kenya, the livestock project description, other information in the briefing pack before arrival to Kenya
1. **Key Contacts**

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