

1.1 Assignment information

- a) Volunteer Name: Holly H Budd
- b) Host Organization: Caritas Mbeya
- c) State of origin Maryland
- d) Assignment: **TZ42** Organizational development and association strengthening
- e) Dates of Assignment: July 17 to Aug 8, 2015
- f) Number of days worked 21 (14 days in the villages)

1.2.1 Objective 1 in your SOW: Improved leadership and management

- a) Progress with the objective: Information, tools, and leadership tips were provided to attendees on being a good leader, as well as recognizing a good leader.
- b) Expected impacts/results: The participants will use the information that they received to improve their groups.
- c) Recommendations¹

1.2.2 Objective 2 in your SOW Enhanced group dynamics and cohesion

- a) Progress with the objective
- b) Expected impacts/results
- c) Recommendations

1.2.3 Objective 3 in your SOW Association strengthening and cooperation

- a) Progress with the objective
- b) Expected impacts/results
- c) Recommendations

1.3 Action Plan **Mchewe**

Recommendation	Specific Action	Responsible person	By when
1.	Form new group to use what we have learned. We will use 2 examples, chickens and beans.	All present	25 July. 2015
2. First meeting	First meeting to elect leaders	Mpendwa Mpendakzi Witness Wanachama	27 July, 2015
3. Write constitution and bylaws.	Write constitution and bylaws.	Mpendwa Mpendakzi Witness Wanachama	10 Aug. 2015
4. Share what you have learned with others	Share what you have learned with others	Mpendwa Mpendakzi Witness Wanachama	2016

¹ **Note:** Only make not more than 6 recommendations. The most useful recommendations for hosts are ones that they can implement themselves with minimal expense. For example, a cooperative might change its financial reporting procedures or hold more regular meetings of its board. Broad recommendations on tax or credit reform, changes in government policy, or investment in large-scale equipment, are usually not within the host organization's reach.

1.3 Action Plan **Itimba**

Recommendation	Specific Action	Responsible person	By when
1. Form Bean Group	Form bean group. Everyone grows their own crop to specifications like a contract within the group. The group can then get a contract to sell.	All present	2 July 2015
2. Elect leaders	First meeting to elect leaders	All present	25 July 2015
3. Constitution and bylaws	Write Constitution and bylaws	All present	5 Aug. 2015
4. Start first crop	Start first crop	All present	Dec. 2015

1.3 Action Plan **Muvwa**

Recommendation	Specific Action	Responsible person	By when
1. Form a Women's Group.	Have a meeting to discuss forming a Women's Group.	Sarah Solomene	6 July 2016
2. Have a meeting to discuss forming a mixed group to save beans in PICS Bags to sell for a higher price.	Have a meeting to discuss forming a mixed group to save beans in PICS Bags to sell for a higher price.	Julius Shunegu	7 Aug. 2015
3. Have a meeting to discuss forming a mixed group to discuss contract growing tomatoes.	Have a meeting to discuss forming a mixed group to discuss contract growing tomatoes.	Gilivane Edward	7 Aug. 2015

1.4 Number of people Assisted

a) Through formal training: 121

Village	Men	Women	Total
Mshewe	29	20	49
Itimba	12	5	17
Muvwa	40	15	55
Total	81	40	121

b) Out of these above, number of host staffs 3

1.5 Gender

a) What gender roles did you recognize in your host community? Did these roles play a part in your assignment? How?

Even though the villages that I visited were very close together, the roles that women played were very different in each. In Mchewe, the women were active, very proud of themselves and their accomplishments. They were very comfortable expressing their opinions. The women were more shy in Itimba and Muvwa. I needed to invite them personally to speak up. Even though it was the dry season and there was less farming work to be done, women still had lots of housework, to meet the children as they came home from school, and child care to do. This often made it hard for them to get to our meetings on time.

b) How might CRS or the host organization improve opportunities for the women in this host or host community?

Farmers in each village are very different from each other.

They are all improving in their teamwork, coordination, motivation, and economies at different rates.

The villages without strong Women's Groups will need more help and encouragement to follow through more than Mchewe.

Women's groups may be far more empowering to start, than mixed groups. Things that facilitate team work.

1.6 Value of volunteer contribution

a. Hours volunteer spent preparing for assignment: 20 hours

b. Estimated value of all material contributions volunteer contributed to host during assignment: 0

1.9 Recommendations for CRS:

Provide access to learning. Villagers that attended the trainings are hungry for more information; both in business practices and farming technology.

Contracts are written in English. Directions for pesticides and fertilizers are written in English. University classes are taught in English. I could not find any books or other writing in Swahili, the language that all children learn in public elementary school. English is taught in High school. Money is needed for high



school. They are pleased to receive written information. I recommend providing written handouts and adult classes in English.

Some of the farmers feel that inputs, (fertilizer, pesticides, seeds), are very expensive. Using compost and other organic methods, as well as saving seeds can reduce costs and produce safe and healthy food. Recommend compost to reduce the cost of inputs. "Good Soil Uppens" Building soil using organic methods is more laborious and requires a long term commitment, like growing perennials. This is a risk, if you don't own the land that you are farming.

Motivate: It is hard to plan for the long term, to save for greater returns later when you have pressing immediate needs. We discussed short term rewards to motivate meeting attendance: educational handouts, games, door prizes, beverages and other fun low cost rewards.

Encouraging Creativity: An idea that seems wrong or outrageous at first may lead to a great new way of doing things.

Use interactive activities.

Divide into small groups for independent problem solving.

Purchase their products/ facilitate ways for the farmers to grow their market: Sell in Dar, out of the country.

1.10 Press Release

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

VOLUNTEER CONTACT: Holly Heintz Budd
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Sunderland, Maryland Area Volunteer Travels to Tanzania to Share Skills with Local Farmers

**Farmer to Farmer program promotes economic Growth and
Agricultural Development in East Africa**

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Sunderland, Maryland Area Volunteer Travels to Tanzania to Share Skills with Local Farmers

Farmer to Farmer program promotes economic growth and Agricultural development in East Africa

Holly Heintz Budd, President/CEO Williams & Heintz Map Corporation, from Sunderland, Maryland travelled to Tanzania for 2½ weeks to share her technical skills and expertise with local farmers. Budd's assignment is part of Catholic Relief Services' Farmer-to-Farmer (FTF) program that promotes economic growth, food security, and agricultural development in East Africa.

"This experience gave me the opportunity to stretch my limits. I have always found that I learn so much from teaching others," said Budd. "Plus, it is awesome to share the knowledge and experience that I have gained over the years with a project promoting social justice."

Funded by the U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID), the five-year program matches the technical assistance of U.S. farmers, agribusinesses, cooperatives, and universities to help farmers in developing countries improve agricultural productivity, access new markets, and increase their incomes.

In Tanzania, Budd worked with Caritas Mbeya, training in organizational development, association strengthening, and giving technical assistance to smallholder farmers, to enable them to improve leadership and management, enhanced group dynamics and cohesion, association strengthening, and cooperation for smallholder farmer groups of Mbalizi parish. 121 farmers attended the trainings, which will benefit up to 3000 villagers in the area.

Budd's volunteer assignment is one of nearly 500 assignments that focus on agriculture, food security and nutrition in Ethiopia, Tanzania, Kenya and Uganda. This is the first time CRS has been involved in the 28-year-old Farmer-to-Farmer Program funded by the U.S. government.

CRS is partnering with five U.S. institutions to tap into the rich diversity of the U.S. agriculture community: the National Catholic Rural Life Conference, Foods Resource Bank, National Association of Agricultural Educators, American Agri-Women, and the University of Illinois' College of Agricultural, Consumer and Environmental Sciences.

The U.S. volunteers will travel to East Africa for anywhere from one to six weeks, their expenses covered by USAID.

"One thing we are certain of is that this program will be beneficial not just to the farmers in East Africa, but also to the volunteers from America," said Bruce White, CRS' director for the program. "It's going to make the world a little bit smaller for everyone involved."

For more information about CRS Farmer to Farmer, visit farmertofarmer.crs.org

Holly Heintz Budd is a smallholder farmer. She grows food for her family. Budd is the chair of the Maryland Organic Food and Farming Association. Budd earned a B.S. in Environmental Studies from Rutgers University and an MBA from Trinity D.C. University. Her map printing company, Williams & Heintz map Corporation, uses green materials and sustainable environmental practices, which are as kind to the environment as possible.

For more information, visit www.marylandorganic.org and www.whmap.com



Home garden using organic methods in Mchewe, Mbaya, Tanzania



Rice, beans, and value added products in Mchewe, Mbeya, Tanzania



Zebu calves in Itimba, Mbaya, Tanzania



Budd and some of the smallholder farmer participants in Muvwa, Mbaya, Tanzania

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***Catholic Relief Services** is the official international humanitarian agency of the Catholic community in the United States. The agency alleviates suffering and provides assistance to people in need in nearly 100 countries, without regard to race, religion or nationality. For more information, please visit crs.org or crsespanol.org.*