



USAID
FROM THE AMERICAN PEOPLE



VOLUNTEER REPORT

CRS Farmer-To-Farmer

1.1 Assignment information: **KE53**

- a) Volunteer Name: Thomas Cadwallader
- b) Host Organization: Kitui Development Centre
- c) Assignment: Monitoring and Evaluation System Development Coaching
- d) Dates of Assignment: April 19 – May 10, 2014
- e) Number of days worked: 20

1.2.1 Objective 1:

Identify data/reporting needs of KDC's Poultry Production and Marketing Project.

- a) Progress with the objective:
 - a. Reviewed the extensive Poultry Sector Baseline Study that was conducted at the end of 2013 and the FARM-Africa grant that will be funding the project to see what farm and community goals need to be achieved.
 - b. Met with the KDC staff members heading up the project, Dennis Ogaso and Abedih Mbatha, to find out what data they've been trying to collect and the tools they've been using.
 - c. Reviewed both the poultry production data and the key farm and community conditions that need to be addressed and potential ways of evaluating both using tools that they are familiar with.
- b) Expected impacts/results:
 - a. Based on their experiences with the farm community and their expertise with Excel, it was decided to develop a couple of simple survey tools that could be easily filled out by a sampling of farmers on a regular basis and analyzed using an Excel spreadsheet.
 - b. The results will need to be shared with the participating farmers so they can use the data to make management decisions and hopefully encourage further participation.
- c) Recommendations:
 - a. Work with FARM-Africa to refine the farm production data collection form that will coincide with an Excel spreadsheet that can analyze production information and provide reports that can be used by the farmers and KDC to monitor progress and make management decisions.
 - b. Develop a simple survey tool that will measure the progress made toward the overarching goals of improving food security and improving quality of life indicators.

1.2.2 Objective 2:



USAID
FROM THE AMERICAN PEOPLE



- **Train KDC staff on analysis and generation of reports.**
- **Facilitate KDC staff and selected poultry farmers (TOT's) in designing data collection tools.**
- **Carry out a pilot test of developed tools to detect any weaknesses in design.**

a) Progress with the objective:

- a. Developed an Excel spreadsheet based on the information the staff felt was important in helping farmers improve their production and then created a hardcopy form for farmers to fill out and return.
- b. Developed a survey tool for measuring changes in 6 quality of life indicators based on the concerns expressed in the both the Baseline Study and FARM-Africa Grant funding the project.
- c. Piloted the two tools that were developed with two groups of six farmers, entered the data in the spreadsheet and produced a summary report.
- d. Asked for and received feedback from participating farmers on the usefulness of the survey tools and advice on how to improve them.
- e. Reviewed the various impact indicators outlined in the project proposal to come to consensus on the definition of terms used, such as entrepreneur, and based on their experience how realistic some of the goals for the project are and how to modify the tools developed to measure progress.
- f. Reviewed a variety of Excel spreadsheets enterprise budgets that they could possibly use in working with the poultry producers and other groups. Copies were left with Ogaso and Mbatha which they can either modify or use as a model for creating something that would be useful for their producers.
- g. We also had an excellent two and half days with the M&E Specialist from FARM-Africa reviewing the data needs for their organization and the donors for the Poultry Project. Were able to blend their needs with the tools developed and piloted with the poultry farmers.
- h. On the last day of the project we met with representatives from approximately half of the community groups and presented the survey tool to them and discussed how it could be applied. There were several questions about how the tool would be used and the methodology for collecting the data. They appreciated that they would be getting feedback and could take part in adjusting the tool and process once they gained experience with it.

b) Expected impacts/results

- a. The evaluation tools will begin to collect data that will be important for the project development, reassessing goals and educational strategies and measuring the impact of the various educational efforts.
- b. The farmers who participated with the pilot project said it was the first time they had looked at their own numbers in such a way. It was the first time they had seen



USAID
FROM THE AMERICAN PEOPLE



the practical application of ideas that were discussed at different educational programs. They were very pleased and are looking forward to follow-up reports.

- c. This initial survey was also beginning to test the results and assumptions that were made in the Baseline Survey.
 - d. Based on the survey results we began discussing protocol for sampling a variety poultry groups on a quarterly basis was developed to chart progress on the project and to use the process and information gathering tools to support the educational experience of the poultry producers.
- c) Recommendations
- a. It will be very important to get the production data back to the participating farmers so they feel like a part of the project and use the information for making changes in their farming practices.
 - b. Continue to do the farmer input sessions and adapt the survey tools as needed and the project evolves.
 - c. In conjunction with FARM-Africa modify the simple Excel spreadsheets to suit the needs of the project focusing on getting the information needed for the project funders and reliable information that can be used to help educate the farmers and guide the program.
 - d. Look for some additional training in Kenya on improving skills on using the simple database management capabilities in Excel for doing surveys and reporting results. Access is a better tool for doing surveys and keeping track of producer information but it is a program that the staff isn't as familiar with.

1.2.3 Objective 3:

Discuss with KDC staff how to adapt developed tools for other KDC projects.

- a) Progress with the objective
 1. We made only minor progress on this objective. In meeting with the FARM-Africa M&E Specialist we walked through the project objectives and impact indicators. The major problem with the impact indicators was the ability to measure them. Most were looking at changing the conditions in the community in ways that are important but not easy to measure, well-being and quality of life type statements.
 2. We did share the survey tool we developed for the Poultry Project and discussed how it might be adapted to meet the needs of the Mango Project.
- b) Expected impacts/results
 1. Now that the knowledge base is in KDC it will be very easy to adapt the evaluation tool that was developed for the Poultry Project to the Mango Project.
- c) Recommendations
 1. To help develop some measurable impact indicators it may be helpful to do a Gap Analysis of the mango growing and marketing process, listing the steps in the



USAID
FROM THE AMERICAN PEOPLE



process, the resources that are needed and the core competencies that are important for success. Going through this process helps identify weak points in the system and provides a basis for making statements about what changes need to be made, how they can be made and who needs to be involved. Look for knowledge gaps but also look for resource gaps and institutional barriers.

1.3 Number of people Assisted

- a) Through formal training: 38
- b) Through direct technical assistance: 5
- c) Out of these above, number of host staffs: 5
- d) Training/assistance by field

Topic/field	Total	Males	Females
Development of Data collection and analysis tools	5	3	2
Data collection and use for farm management	38	19	19
Total	43	22	21

1.4 Gender

- a) What gender roles did you recognize in your host community? Did these roles play a part in your assignment? How?
 - a. KDC has always made of point of working with women in the community. More than half of the participants in the three farm sessions were women.
 - b. Women are key to the success of the project because often take a lead role in taking care of production, marketing and recordkeeping details.
- b) How might CRS or the host organization improve opportunities for the women in this host or host community?
 - a. KDC has a reputation for serving the needs of women in the community.

1.6 Value of volunteer contribution in \$

- a. Hours volunteer spent preparing for assignment – 2 to 4
- b. Estimated value of all material contributions volunteer contributed to host during assignment – Provided the book “A Facilitators Guide to Participatory Decision Making” at a value of \$10. Provided examples of enterprise budget spreadsheets.

1.7 Value of hosts' contribution in \$ (Please consult the host as well)

- a) Meals \$ 50
- b) Transportation \$ 213



- c) Lodging
- d) Translation
- e) Other (Specify)

1.9 Host Profile Data:

Did you obtain any data that supplements or corrects the data in the existing host information as detailed in the SOW? Please list it.

No