



**USAID**  
FROM THE AMERICAN PEOPLE



**VOLUNTEER REPORT FORM**

*To be submitted to CRS at the end of volunteer assignment  
and shared with the Host*

### 1.1 Assignment information

- a) Volunteer Name: Anne Marie del Castillo
- b) State of Origin: South Carolina
- c) Host Organization: Ethiopian Catholic Church- Social and Development Coordinating Office of Hararghie (ECC-SDCOH)
- d) Assignment: To train and assist the SILC groups on microfinance management, income diversification, and income generating activities (IGA)
- e) Dates of Assignment: January 30, 2016 to February 19, 2016
- f) Number of days worked: 20 days

### 1.2.1 Objective 1 in your SOW: To train and assist SILC groups on micro-finance, targeting 90 to 100 beneficiaries

- a) Progress with the objective: Trained 200 beneficiaries on the micro-finance management or the use of cash ledgers or cash books
- b) Expected impacts/results: Properly manage their businesses and keep good recording. The cash book, a simple accounting tool well suited for the illiterate small entrepreneur, helps to determine the net income (loss) generated from the respective IGAs.
- c) Recommendations: SILC groups leaders should consistently emphasize the importance of the recording business related income and expenditures, the keeping of cash books, and should, at a minimum, require all borrowers to maintain and submit to the SILC their cash books related to the use of the funds borrowed.

1.2.2 Objective 2 in your SOW: To provide guidance on the selection of the appropriate IGA and small businesses, targeting 90 to 100 beneficiaries

- a) Progress with the objective: Reached 200 beneficiaries, identifying the simple criteria for the selection of appropriate IGAs
- b) Expected impacts/results: Beneficiaries recognized the importance of developing farm and non-farm IGA to diversify their income sources and the need for additional vocational training.
- c) Recommendation: Training should be provided in simple mechanics, repair of solar batteries, bee-keeping, cheese-making

1.2.3 Objective 3 in your SOW: To provide guidance to the SILC facilitators in business planning techniques, targeting 10 SILC facilitators

- a) Progress with the objective: Reached 14 facilitators, volunteer became aware that it would have been premature to discuss business plan development with these particular SILC facilitators as they were all relatively inexperienced. Most SILC group facilitators had less than 6 months experience in their role as facilitators. Instead the training concentrated on simple tools facilitators could use to support their members in their business ventures, such as the use of cash books.
- b) Expected impacts/results: Facilitators will be critical to the encouragement of the use of cash books by the SILC members, which will lead to greater profits from small businesses. Volunteer prepared and submitted to the host a teaching tool for the business plans preparation which could be used in the future, once the SILC groups are a bit more mature.
- c) Recommendations:

1.3 Recommended future volunteer assignment: diverse

vocational training, including mechanics, solar battery repair, drip irrigation manufacturing, repair and uses, bee-keeping, cheese making, as well as training in the cultivation and commercial applications of sorghum, a highly drought and disease resistant grain, well suited for eastern Ethiopia.

#### 1.4 Action Plan

Recommendation	Specific Action	Responsible person	By when
1. Encourage the use of cash books	Consistent instruction through SILC group meetings Requirement for borrowing funds for business use	SILC Leaders	Continuously
2. Vocational Training	Mechanics, bee-keeping, cheese making, solar battery repair, drip irrigation manufacture and repair	USAID-CRS -F2F	As soon as possible
3. Sorghum cultivation and commercial and home applications	Provision of training	USAID-CRS-F2F	As soon as possible

#### 1.5 Number of people Assisted

- a) Through formal training (Classroom setup) 200
- b) Through direct hands on practical assistance (Do not double count) NA
- c) Out of these above, number of host staffs 14

Category	Total	Males	Females
Members/ owners	200	15	185
Total	200	15	185

#### 1.6 Gender

- a) What gender roles did you recognize in your host community? Did these roles play a part in your assignment? How? SILC group members are women.
- b) How might CRS or the host organization improve opportunities for the women in this host or host

community? CRS has done an excellent job in enhancing the opportunities for women. Perhaps, CRS could provide vocational training which are particularly suited to the time and other constraints of women in rural Ethiopia.

1.6 Value of volunteer contribution in \$ 25 dollars in calculators, \$60 for internet and \$240 in taxi to and from the airport in the United States.

- a. Hours volunteer spent preparing for assignment  
40 hours
- b. Estimated value of all material contributions  
volunteer contributed to host during assignment

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

- a) Meals
- b) Transportation
- c) Lodging
- d) Translation
- e) Other (Specify)

1.8 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.

1.9 Recommendations for CRS:

1.10 Press Release

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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## **Beaufort, South Carolina Area Volunteer Travels to Ethiopia to Share Skills with Local Farmers**

**Farmer to Farmer program promotes economic growth and agricultural development in East Africa**

[Anne Marie del Castillo, retired USAID Agricultural Economist, Beaufort, South Carolina ] travelled to [Ethiopia ] for [x] weeks to share his/her technical skills and expertise with local farmers. [Name]’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.

**“[Volunteering through the F2F program and having the opportunity to work directly with the beneficiaries in the field was one of the most rewarding experiences in my life and I hope that my efforts will help to improve the well-being of these beautiful people. Volunteer quote],”** said [name].

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 [country], [name] worked with [Host] in [value chain] training and giving technical assistance to [rural women of eastern Ethiopia ] to enable them to [assist these women increase their household cash income Goal of the assignment]. Up to [over 200 beneficiaries] beneficiaries were reached. [Other details are optional]

[Name]’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, visit [farmertofarmer.crs.org](http://farmertofarmer.crs.org)

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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](http://crs.org) or [crsespanol.org](http://crsespanol.org).

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