

**VOLUNTEER REPORT FORMAT**

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

**1.1 Assignment information**

- a) Volunteer Name: Gary Ruegsegger
- b) Host Organization: Little Sisters of St. Therese of the child Jesus
- c) Assignment: Dairy Management Training In Meru, Kenya
- d) Dates of Assignment: February 12 to February 26
- e) Number of days worked 12

**1.2.1 Objective 1 in your SOW - Review of the congregation and neighboring farmers knowledge and skills in dairy management.**

- a) Progress with the objective - Provided practical training at the dairy and in classroom training.
- b) Expected impacts/results - THE Little Sisters to increase milk volume to provide more milk for the children and the hospital

**1.2.2 Objective 2 in your SOW - Provide hands-on training on all aspects of feeds and feeding to the congregation and neighboring farmers**

- a) Progress with the objective - Ensiled maize and had hands on and classroom training in feeds and feeding.
- b) Expected impacts/results - Improve forage quality and quantity, and increase milk production and overall profitability for the dairy.

**1.2.3 Objective 3 in your SOW - Development of materials and guidelines on dairy production mgtmt.**

- a) Progress with the objective - Provided specific dairy production recommendations & guidelines.
- b) Expected impacts/results - To be able to improve their dairy's management and herd health.

**1.3 Action Plan**

<b>Recommendation</b>	<b>Specific Action</b>	<b>Responsible person</b>	<b>By when</b>
1. More dairy production training for key dairy workers, Luka and Henry	Visit with good local dairyman to learn	Sisters Regina and Florence	October 1, 2018
2. Follow feeding recommendations we devised as a group	Implement feeding recommendations in Dairy Champions of Meru handout	Sisters Regina and Florence	March 5, 2018
3. Keep individual animal records	On each animal keep detailed information - birthdate, mother, health issues, and etc	Sister Regina	Started already - need to complete by March 16, 2018
4. Feed more Napier grass and reduce the amount of poor quality forage fed	Plant more Napier grass on their own shamba and source the Napier from the Hospital's shamba	Sisters Regina and Florence	When the rains come, around March 15, 2018 and source the Napier from the Hospital's when it is available
5. Rent more land to plant more maize for ensiling	Talk to neighbor	Sister Florence	Have already made plans with owner

6. Make a molasses/urea mixture with water and mix well with poor quality forage to increase nutritive value of low quality forage	Mix and feed 40 grams of urea with 5 liters of molasses and 10 liters of water. Do not feed to dry cows or heifers less than 1 year old	Sisters Regina and Florence	Have started already with 20 grams/head per day and will increase to 40 grams in one week
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#### 1.4 Number of people Assisted

- Through formal training
- Through direct technical assistance (Do not double count)
- Out of these above, number of host staffs
- Training/assistance by field

Category	Total	Males	Females
Members/ owners	15		15
Employees	4	4	
Clients/ Suppliers	2	2	
Local farmers	11	7	4
Total	32	13	19

#### 1.5 Gender

- What gender roles did you recognize in your host community? Did these roles play a part in your assignment? How? - It appeared that about 50% were men and 50% were women in regards to the breakdown on who did the dairy farming and caring for the animals. No, they did not really play a role.
- How might CRS or the host organization improve opportunities for the women in this host or host community? They already assist the women in the community by caring for disadvantaged children

#### 1.6 Value of volunteer contribution in \$

- Hours volunteer spent preparing for assignment - 40 hours
- Estimated value of all material contributions volunteer contributed to host during assignment - \$300

#### 1.7 Value of hosts' contribution in \$ (Please consult the host as well) Approximately \$500

- Meals - All the meals were provided while I stayed with them
- Transportation - Provided when we needed to go out to different areas to visit farms
- Lodging - Provided me a room in their guest house
- Translation - Had a translator for me when it was needed
- Other (Specify) They provided me a warm and welcoming environment while I volunteered with them - and they were eager to learn and apply the information I shared with them

#### 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: Follow up with the Sisters within 6 months and 12 months to monitor progress on implementation of recommendations.

1.10 Press Release

### **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**VOLUNTEER CONTACT:** [Name]  
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## **[Marshfield, WI ] Area Volunteer Travels to [Kenya] to Share Skills with Local Farmers**

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

### **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**CONTACT:** Gary Ruegsegger  
Semi-retired Dairy Farmer  
Phone: 1-715-207-0637  
E-mail: garyruegrainbow@gmail.com

## **Marshfield, WI Area Volunteer Travels to Kenya to Share Skills with Local Farmers**

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

**Gary Ruegsegger, a semi-retired dairy farmer from Marshfield, WI travelled to Kenya for 2.5 weeks to share his technical skills and expertise with local farmers. Gary'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.**

**"The experience allowed me share my many years of dairy cattle farming with the Little Sisters of St. Therese of the baby Jesus, and to see all the wonderful missionary work they do. They currently care for 39 children up to age of 3 or 4 years old, and less fortunate elderly in the surrounding community of Machacha. The Kenyans are very inviting, warm and generous with what little they may have. I would strongly encourage anyone to**



**volunteer in east Africa who enjoys giving of oneself to others, travelling and in addition to helping to make the world a better place.,” said Gary.**

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 Kenya, Gary worked with Little Sisters of ST. Therese of the baby Jesus and local dairy farmers in dairy cattle management training and giving technical assistance to improve to enable them to increase dairy milk production and profitability.** Up to 40 beneficiaries were reached.

Gary’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).*