



## 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: Greg Sclama
- b) State of Origin: Louisiana
- c) Host Organization: Ethiopian Catholic Church – Social and Development Coordination Office of Meki (ECC-SDCOM)
- d) Assignment: Ag-nutrition training and technical support for GRAD project field staffs; lead community facilitators, government DAs and health extension workers (Grain Production and Sector Support)
- e) Dates of Assignment: April 19 – May 6, 2016
- f) Number of days worked: 10

### 1.2.1 Objective 1 in your SOW: Health, economic and social implications of stunting.

- a) Progress with the objective: The volunteer provided training on the implications of stunting as well as other micronutrient deficiencies to both LCF's and animators. Examples and figures were drawn from the literature to demonstrate the economic implications of malnutrition over the lifecycle and the intergenerational nature of malnutrition. Learning was assessed through participatory processes such as group explanation, role playing, and scenarios.
- b) Expected impacts/results: LCFs and animators will cascade knowledge of: effects of deficiencies and stunting, dietary diversity, processing techniques such as soaking, germinating and fermenting, and nutritional profiles of local foods.
- c) Recommendations<sup>1</sup>: Improve local baseline data: health and nutrition indicators, gender dynamics and care practices. Track seasonal patterns and geographical differences (proximity to lake, etc). Although may be tracked anecdotally, data should be done systematically.

### 1.2.2 Objective 2 in your SOW: Household level storage, processing & preservation techniques that can maintain nutritional values of vegetables and increase their shelf life

- a) Progress with the objective: The volunteer trained on three specific household-level processing methods to increase the iron and zinc nutrition of maize and other cereal staples: soaking, germinating (spouting), and fermentation. These were taught to the LCF's for knowledge cascading, and in one of three trainings of animators/ women's groups.
- b) Expected impacts/results: LCFs and animators will cascade knowledge of: effects of deficiencies and stunting, dietary diversity, processing techniques such as soaking, germinating and fermenting, and nutritional profiles of local foods.
- c) Recommendations: Follow up with LCFs and animators to ensure cascading of new knowledge, including processing techniques to improve iron and zinc nutrition in cereal grains (soaking, germinating, and fermenting)

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<sup>1</sup> **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.



d)

1.2.3 Objective 3 in your SOW: Specific Behavior Change Communication approaches (preferably short games, exercises or any tool) that may enhance the translation of income gained from VC & IGAs to improve dietary diversity of beneficiaries especially children and PLWs.

- a) Progress with the objective: The volunteer used BCC methods directly during animator/women training, and also trained LCF's on how to use and teach these methods to promote behavior change for nutrition. Examples of tools taught include: seasonal calendar, daily calendar, proportional piling, problems and solutions tool, drama and puppet theatre, focused mapping, resource (gendered) mapping, and division of labor chart.
- b) Expected impacts/results: LCFs will utilize behavior change communication techniques with animators, who will utilize them with the VESA groups to improve: child feeding, growing nutritious crops, food selection at market, use of iodized salt, infant and young child feeding practices, etc.
- c) Recommendations: Follow up with LCFs and animators to ensure cascading of new knowledge, including processing techniques to improve iron and zinc nutrition in cereal grains (soaking, germinating, and fermenting)

1.2.4 Objective 4 in your SOW: Nutritional profiles and health benefits of staple foods, vegetables and fruits commonly grown in the project areas.

- a) Progress with the objective: The volunteer determined the staple foods most commonly consumed in the project area through market visits, home visits, and key informant interviews. He then consulted food consumption databases and the scientific literature to determine the levels of Vitamin A, iron, zinc, and phytate in staples. These general profiles were shared with trainees for the purposes of meal planning and promotion of phytate-reduction techniques (soaking, germinating, and fermenting).
- b) Expected impacts/results: LCFs will utilize behavior change communication techniques with animators, who will utilize them with the VESA groups to improve: child feeding, growing nutritious crops, food selection at market, use of iodized salt, infant and young child feeding practices, etc.
- c) Recommendations: Use market as a driver of improved nutrition – is increased income leading to improved nutrition? Are mothers choosing healthier (though maybe more expensive) foods? Consider promoting purchasing cooperatives – Ex, buy iodized salt in bulk to save.

1.2.5 Objective 5 in your SOW: Experience sharing on agriculture-nutrition linkages: What models have worked in other counties and how such models can be used in projects such as GRAD. This might include; low cost improved home gardening, water harvesting, poultry production and management skills and tool.

- a) Progress with the objective: The volunteer incorporated the principles of nutrition-sensitive agriculture throughout the training. Examples including using seasonal calendars with

beneficiaries to plan nutritious foods grown throughout the year, the benefits of key-hole and perma-gardens as well as keeping chickens for egg consumption, and how increased income can be used purchase nutritious foods. Water harvesting techniques lie outside the volunteer's primary scope of expertise.

b) Expected impacts/results: GRAD staff will continue to develop program for incorporation of nutrition concepts in agriculture planning; improving local baseline data and establishing a plan for monitoring behavior change and nutritional indicators of beneficiary groups.

c) Recommendations: Improve monitoring of key hole and perma-gardens. They were often mentioned – to what extent are they being used properly? Are nutritious foods being grown and consumed? Are valuable foods being sold for income? Is increased income being used for nutritional improvement (iodized salt often mentioned as being too expensive, etc).

1.3 Recommended future volunteer assignment: Agriculture expert with more specific knowledge of growing techniques to improve nutrition of crops in local climatic conditions.

Food processing expert especially for storage to increase the availability of nutritious foods during the lean season (drying kale, pickling/fermenting cabbage or peppers, processing bean flour, jarring/canning of tomato or OFSP, etc).

Agri-business experts: post-harvest processing to both add value and increase the availability of nutritious foods. Value chain intervention seems like a key target area for impact. Consider branded co-ops for processing and selling food post-harvest.

Water-harvesting expert, for example to provide trainings on low-cost drip irrigation technology.

#### 1.4 Action Plan

| Recommendation                                                            | Specific Action                       | Responsible person | By when |
|---------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------|--------------------|---------|
| 1. Improve measurement and monitoring of nutrition indicators             | To be completed by host per agreement |                    |         |
| 2. Follow up with LCFs and animators to ensure cascading of new knowledge |                                       |                    |         |
| 3. Improve monitoring of key hole and perma-gardens                       |                                       |                    |         |
| 4. Use market as a driver of improved nutrition                           |                                       |                    |         |
| 5. Collaborate with community health works and WASH sector.               |                                       |                    |         |
| 6. Improve logistical coordination with future volunteers.                |                                       |                    |         |

### 1.5 Number of people Assisted

- Through formal training (Classroom setup): 102
- Through direct hands on practical assistance (Do not double count): 0
- Out of these above, number of host staffs: 65
- Training/assistance by field:

| Category           | Total | Males | Females |
|--------------------|-------|-------|---------|
| Members/ owners    | 37    | 0     | 37      |
| Employees          | 65    | 65    | 0       |
| Clients/ Suppliers | 0     | 0     | 0       |
| Family Members     | 0     | 0     | 0       |
| Total              | 102   | 65    | 37      |

### 1.6 Gender

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

Women have a traditional role in the household in the host community. Existing programming by GRAD has resulted in increased women's empowerment and decision making. Group participants also acknowledged that traditional roles have changed and men now recognize the importance of nutritional for women and children.

Thirty-seven women from the Women's Development Army groups were included in the trainings, as per CRS staff recommendations. During trainings, group work was used and groups were deliberately mixed with men and women. Despite men often taking a lead role, women were directly encouraged to participate and their involvement was encouraged throughout training. Many women were active participants and displayed increased knowledge.

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

The host community could consider gender-sensitive programming beyond VESA groups and nutrition training, for example by promoting women-owned far produce cooperatives or purchasing cooperatives. Also, they might continue the promotion and increase the visibility of positive deviant mothers, giving them leadership roles.

### 1.6 Value of volunteer contribution in \$: *To be completed with CRS.*

- Hours volunteer spent preparing for assignment: 40 hours.
- Estimated value of all material contributions volunteer contributed to host during assignment: \$0.

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

- Meals: Refreshments provided during trainings.
- Transportation: \$0.
- Lodging \$0.



- d) Translation \$0
- e) Other (Specify) – Materials: Flip charts, markers.

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.

No.

1.9 Recommendations for CRS:

Consider certificates for trainees of intensive/multi-day trainings.

Facilitate improved pre-project communication between volunteers and host.

Provide improved information to volunteers regarding the program area and specifics of the project (number of trainings, education levels of beneficiaries, specific data on knowledge gaps, etc.).

Provide improved information on project logistics earlier to future volunteers (cell phone, internet, transportation).

Provide improved high-level support to volunteers (ensure availability and involvement of project leaders).

Facilitate improved collaboration between volunteer and CRS staff to ensure achievement of CRS programmatic objectives.

Caution scheduling volunteers during major holidays.

Verify driver scheduling in advance.

1.10 Press Release

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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## **New Orleans Area Volunteer Travels to Ethiopia to Share Skills with Local Farmers**

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

**Greg Sclama**, a **doctoral researcher** from **New Orleans, LA** travelled to **Ethiopia** for **3 weeks** to share his/her technical skills and expertise with local farmers. **Greg'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.



**“Local organizations in Ethiopia are working hard to ensure that struggling farmers improve their livelihoods and graduate out of the government social safety net program. CRS is supporting those organizations not only to promote increased farm production, but also to ensure that increased production translates into better nutrition for mothers and young children,” said Greg.**

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 Ethiopia, Greg worked with the Ethiopian Catholic Church-Social and Development Coordination Office of Meki (ECC-SDCOM) in nutrition-sensitive agriculture, training and giving technical assistance to farmers and staff members to enable them to improve the linkage between agriculture Value Chain development and nutrition interventions. Over 100 beneficiaries were reached.**

Greg’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).*