



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: Harley Stokes
- b) State of Origin: CT
- c) Host Organization: BJ02 CRS Benin
- d) Assignment: Design approaches for promoting good health practices and proper nutrition among targeted primary school children and their parents
- e) Dates of Assignment: July 10 – July 31, 2015
- f) Number of days worked: 17 days

1.2.1 Objective 1 in your SOW: Design methodologies, strategies and training materials for good health and nutrition for the abovementioned groups:

- a. Twice-yearly community forum
- b. Thematic radio program
- c. Use of available resources for a healthier diet
- d. Evaluation of WASH friendly schools and reward approach (provided prior to the assignment)

a) Progress with the objective: Complete

b) Expected impacts/results: To provide a framework for methods as well as content for implementing different community engagement activities.

c) Recommendations¹: For each community engagement activity, identify which students will help to lead and take ownership for the event. This will generate excitement among the students as well as make them ambassadors for the health messages and the event itself.

1.2.2 Objective 2 in your SOW: Trainer's manual on the most appropriate methodology of training, depending on the type of participants (canteen committees, community midwives, students); Training curriculum for the canteen management committee and the cooking team, including suggestions of menus; Training curriculum for the community midwives

a) Progress with the objective: Much of the training materials were already well established by the WASH and Canteen officers and asked for feedback and suggestions to improve the trainings.

b) Expected impacts/results: Increased education and awareness of best practices for: WASH, menstrual hygiene and nutrition

c) Recommendations:

- a. Include young boys in the training for menstrual hygiene. It is important as part of the process for de-stigmatizing menstruation that boys understand also what is happening.

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.

As we heard in the communities from fathers, they have daughters too, and are therefore interested in discussing menstrual hygiene.

- b. Continue to research alternatives for using cloth scraps during menstruation. Although training must be realistic and include the current reality, it is important to look for improved solutions such as:
 - 1) a menstruation cup
 - 2) partnering with Thinx a company that produces underwear you wear during your period and that donates a pair each time a pair is bought (<http://www.shethinx.com/pages/power-of-the-purchase>)
 - 3) teaching young girls how to produce (and sell) their own sanitary napkins

1.2.3 Objective 3 in your SOW: Monitoring and evaluation tools for CRS for these activities

- a) Progress with the objective: Complete
- b) Expected impacts/results: Suggested M&E indicators and tools will help to inform the project on progress towards objectives and monitor behavior uptake with regards to canteen management.
- c) Recommendations: Conduct a training for the parent's advisory committees, principal and the local health officer on ways to support and monitor hygiene in the school canteens.

1.3 Recommended future volunteer assignment

1.4 Action Plan

Recommendation	Specific Action	Responsible person	By when
1. For each community engagement activity, identify which students will help to lead and take ownership for the event. This will generate excitement among the students as well as make them ambassadors for the health messages and the event itself.	For each community engagement activity, choose several students who will take a leadership role in planning and promoting the event.	Sero, Ozias	
2. Include young boys in the training for menstrual hygiene. It is important as part of the process for de-stigmatizing menstruation that boys understand also what is happening.	Create a separate session on menstrual hygiene for young boys.	Sero	
3. Continue to research alternatives for using cloth scraps during menstruation. Although training must be realistic and include the current reality, it is important to look for improved solutions such as a 1) menstruation cup 2) partnering with Thinx	Research alternatives (to using/re-using strips of cloth) for menstruation	Dina (Sero)	

a company that produces underwear you wear during your period and that donates a pair each time a pair is bought or 3) teaching young girls how to produce their own sanitary napkins.			
4. Conduct a training for the parent's advisory committees, principal and the local health officer on ways to support and monitor hygiene in the school canteens.	Conduct a training on how to monitor canteen hygiene	Ozias	

1.5 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			
Employees			
Clients/ Suppliers			
Family Members			
Total			

1.6 Gender

- What gender roles did you recognize in your host community? Did these roles play a part in your assignment? How?
 - Although menstruation is considered taboo in the communities we visited in northern Benin, we found that once we started talking about it both men and woman were eager and interested to discuss
 - Men sat on one side and to the front each time we met with communities and women sat on the other side and behind the men. Sometimes men would answer questions about menstruation that were more suited for women to answer but it seemed that they deferred to the men. (Sero and Ozias did a good job trying to engage the women and encourage them to speak up)
 - Some men had several wives and those women who did not have sister wives were concerned about keeping their husbands happy. These situations reflected the fact that women seem to have little financial independence or decision-making power.
- How might CRS or the host organization improve opportunities for the women in this host or host community?



- Provide income generating activities – it is well documented that money in the hands of mothers (versus fathers) is well spent on children's health, education and other household needs

1.6 Value of volunteer contribution in \$

- a. Hours volunteer spent preparing for assignment – 8 – 10 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

VOLUNTEER CONTACT: [Name]

[Title]

[Phone]

[E-mail]

[US City] Area Volunteer Travels to [Country] to Share Skills with Local Farmers

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

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

CONTACT: [Name]

[Title]

[Phone]

[E-mail]



[City] Area Volunteer Travels to [Country] to Share Skills with Local Farmers

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

[Name], a [title] from [city, state] travelled to [country] 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.

“[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 [type of beneficiaries] to enable them to [Goal of the assignment]. Up to [Number of 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

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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.*