

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: Joseph R. Sullivan
- b) State of Origin: Alaska/Oklahoma
- c) Host Organization: Agenda for Community Transformation Sierra Leone (ACT-SL)
- d) Assignment: Capacity Building in Fish Farming
- e) Dates of Assignment: Aug. 14 - 26, 2017
- f) Number of days worked: 13

1.2.1 Objective 1 in your SOW: Train ACT-SL staff and partner FBO members on improved aquaculture practices that will enhance increase productivity of fish among small scale producers.

- a)Progress with the objective: Class lectures on extensive to intensive aquaculture, and best hatchery management practices.
- b)Expected impacts/results: Indications from student questions suggest that they were getting the points made in the lectures. Generally, they will use these to
- c)Recommendations¹: Print all PowerPoint presentations for reference for those students who do not have computers. Make electronic copies of the flash drive also containing the presentations in PowerPoint, Keynote and Adobe versions, but also containing other reference material such as Peace Corps Training manual for fish farming and catfish hatchery methods.

1.2.2 Objective 2 in your SOW: Provide improved knowledge and skill to ACT-SL staff and partner FBO members on good practices of rehabilitating fish ponds for improved production.

- a)Progress with the objective: Class lecture on pond construction, visit to Farmer pond site, visit to World Fish hatchery in Makali.
- b)Expected impacts/results: No complete renovation of ponds before the end of the rainy season, but construction/rehabilitation during the 2017-2018 dry season.
- c)Recommendations: Follow pond construction procedures to site and construct a demonstration pond during the dry season and use this as a model to renovate old ponds.

1.2.3 Objective 3 in your SOW: Train ACT-SL and partner FBO members on good practices of raising fingerlings and cultivating fish in fish ponds for improved production

- a)Progress with the objective: Class lectures on all-male tilapia culture, catfish fingerling production and inbreeding avoidance, fish feeds made from locally available ingredients. Practical at WF Hatchery to identify male and female tilapia for all-male Nile tilapia culture using the hand-sexing method.

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.

b)Expected impacts/results: Minimally, I expect fish farmers to obtain Nile tilapia fingerlings from the World Fish Makali hatchery, will raise market-sized fish by fertilizing ponds and will trade fingerlings with other fish farmers regularly to avoid inbreeding. As farmers succeed with this extensive level aquaculture, I expect them to start creating their own feed, feeding the fish and moving upward to the semi-intensive level. If fish farmers organize into coops, catfish fingerling production and grow-out may appear several years following successful Nile tilapia culture.

c)Recommendations:

1. Get fingerling Nile tilapia from WF Makali Hatchery as these are guaranteed to be high-quality Nile tilapia and not a different species of tilapia less suitable for fish culture.
2. Succeed first with Nile tilapia culture, then if resources are sufficient, one local fish farmer produces catfish fingerlings; other farmers only practice grow-out after buying fingerlings.

1.3 Recommended future volunteer assignment: During the dry season, site and build a demonstration fish pond using instructions from the class lecture on pond construction. Nothing teaches like actually doing what has been taught previously in the classroom. This should take 3 weeks to one month depending upon the numbers of student involved in building a pond. Siting and building a pond from scratch will provide the template for rehabilitating old ponds.

1.4 Action Plan

Recommendation	Specific Action	Responsible person	By when
1. Make hard and electronic copies of class materials for students	Make paper copies of class presentations for fish farmers without computers, copy the presentations and other materials on the memory stick for those who do have computers.	CRS	Before the beginning of the dry season so that these may be referenced when constructing/rehabilitating ponds and stocking ponds.

2. Construct/rehabilitate fish ponds	During the dry season, use class notes to construct/rehabilitate fish ponds. It may be useful to have another Feed-the-Future assignment devoted only to constructing one demonstration pond.	Fish farmers, particularly with assistance from ACT-SL. CRS and ACT-SL. The fish farmers may also support a hands-on demonstration pond construction Feed-the-Future volunteer assignment. This project should only devoted to this aspect of fish farming.	During the 2017-2018 dry season.
3. Get and stock high-quality Nile tilapia fingerlings from the WF Makali hatchery.	Only after the fish farmer has demonstrated a suitable new or rehabilitated pond, obtain Nile tilapia fingerlings from WF Makali hatchery.	Fish farmers, but World Fish should require some indication of adequate preparation and ability to culture Nile tilapia.	Before the end of the dry season in 2018
4. Catfish fingerling production and grow-out.	Only after succeeding with Nile tilapia culture, fish farmers should organize so that one member of a cooperative with the required resources produces catfish fingerlings to sell to other coop members for grout.	Fish farmer cooperatives. May need some instructional assistance from World Fish or another CRS Feed-the-Future assignment a sufficient number of fish farmers demonstrate the capacity and drive to do this.	Probably not before 2020.
5.			
6.			

1.5 Number of people Assisted

- a) Through formal training (Classroom setup)
- b) Through direct hands on practical assistance (Do not double count)
- c) Out of these above, number of host staffs
- d) Training/assistance by field

Category	Total	Males	Females
Members/ owners	24	22	2
Employees			
Clients/ Suppliers			
Family Members			
Total	24	22	2

e)

1.6 Gender

- a) What gender roles did you recognize in your host community? Did these roles play a part in your assignment? How?
 - a. Generally speaking, few women in comparison to men were interested in fish farming. However, the technical supervisor for the World Fish Makali Hatchery was a woman and she can certainly serve as a role model for women who wonder whether they can achieve the role of fish farmer.
- b) How might CRS or the host organization improve opportunities for the women in this host or host community?
 - a. In some African places there are women's career days where young girls are partnered with professional women in different industries. Partnering with Jumaki, the technical supervisor at the WF hatchery, may support this or hatchery tours of women's and girls' group with Jumaki would certainly encourage the desire to be fish farmers in women and girls. Fatmato Binta Jalloh also works for World Fish and is another potential role model in fish farming.

1.6 Value of volunteer contribution in

- a. Hours volunteer spent preparing for assignment - about 40.
- b. Estimated value of all material contributions volunteer contributed to host during assignment - \$60.

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

- a) Meals - one full lunch and one day of snacks - SLL 10,000/per participant?
- 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. None observed.

1.9 Recommendations for CRS:

a. Have another Feed-the-Future assignment set for one month during the dry seasons that is entirely devoted to hands-on construction of one demonstration pond. Hearing a lecture on pond construction is no where near as effective as actually building a pond.

b. Always be prepared to have a backup generator available for volunteers who primarily use PowerPoint presentations as their teaching tool.

c. Use surge protectors as the final link between computers and the power source.

1.10 Press Release

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Piedmont, Oklahoma Retired Aquaculture Specialist Works with Counterparts in Sierra Leone

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

Piedmont Oklahoma, August 26,2017,— Dr. Joe Sullivan, a retiree from the Alaska Department of Fish and Game, husband and grandfather from Piemont, Oklahoma who is an aquaculture specialist travelled **to Sierra Leone** for **two** weeks to share **his** technical skills and expertise with local farmers. Dr. Joe’s assignment is part of Catholic Relief Services’ Farmer-to-Farmer program that promotes economic growth, enhanced nutrition through access to healthy food, and agricultural development in East Africa.

“Although the US Peace Corps introduced Nile tilapia fish farming to Sierra Leone nearly 40 years ago, ponds were abandoned during the civil war and again during the Ebola crisis just a few years ago. During this time, expertise was lost; the ponds deteriorated from lack of maintenance, the Nile tilapia escaped and wild fish took their place. USAID and Catholic Relief Services want to restore what once was a thriving source of high-quality protein and a reasonable income. I was in Sierra Leone to refresh that knowledge and guide the fish farmers back to having productive fish ponds again,” said Joe. *[Quote should tell why you were there and how you spent your time, what you were trying to accomplish and how your visit made a difference. Quotes that are short (2 sentences) and paint a picture are strongest.]*

Farmer-to-Farmer matches the technical expertise of U.S. famers and professionals in agri-businesses, farming cooperatives, and universities with farmers in developing countries to assist them in improving agricultural productivity, accessing new markets, and increasing their incomes. Farmer-to-Farmer is funded by the U.S Agency for International Development (USAID).

In a world where 80% of food is produced by farmers working on small farms or fisheries, the movement to share proven farming and business skills can improve the quality and quantity of the world’s food supply. For communities in the developing world who often struggle to produce enough food, this can improve access to a reliable source of food and better nutrition. For the farmers, it can strengthen their path to prosperity.

The goal of **Dr. Sullivan's** assignment was to build **capacity in fish farming**. He worked with **about two dozen farmers who wanted to build fish ponds and some who already had ponds, but needed rehabilitating following the war and the Ebola epidemic**. Most of **Joe's** time was



spent in the Tonkolili District of Northern Province, Sierra Leone working with **Catholic Relief Services and the Agenda for Community Transformation - Sierra Leone (ACT-SL)**. Hopefully, this assignment will help restore what once was to what can be again, a thriving source of fish for high quality food in a place where required nutrition is not at assured.

This is Dr. Sullivan's 23rd volunteer assignment with Farmer-to-Farmer and is one of nearly 500 assignments that focus on improving approaches to local agriculture practices, expanding production of quality food crops and nutrition in Ethiopia, Tanzania, Kenya, Sierra Leone and Uganda. The program, funded by the U.S. government has been running for nearly 30 years.

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 volunteers travel to East Africa for anywhere from one to six weeks.

"We are certain 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 and a whole lot better 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 more than 100 countries, without regard to race, religion or nationality. CRS' relief and development work is accomplished through programs of emergency response, HIV, health, agriculture, education, microfinance and peacebuilding. For more information, visit www.crs.org or www.crsespanol.org and follow Catholic Relief Services on social media: [Facebook](#), Twitter at [@CatholicRelief](#), [@CRSNews](#) and [@CRSnoticias](#), [Instagram](#), [Pinterest](#) and [YouTube](#).*