

## 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: **Ken Ayers**
- b) State of Origin: **Georgia, USA**
- c) Host Organization: **The Future In Our Hands (FIOH)**
- d) Assignment: **Agricultural value chain development**
- e) Dates of Assignment: **April 22 – May 13, 2017 (including international travel time)**
- f) Number of days worked: **19**

### 1.2.1 Objective 1 in your SOW

#### a) Progress with the objective

**Participants learned guiding principles of the value chain analysis that seek to improve the competitiveness and benefit of small farmers through sustainable market based solutions. Enhanced integration into agricultural value chains and improved marketing along those selected value chain developments.**

**The attendees showed willingness to learn the new value change concepts of the trainings. I was encouraged with the class room discussions and everyone's participation. They appeared to take ownership and eager to implement the recommendations. Each participant also created an Action Plan for this coming year.**

#### b) Expected impacts/results

**The attendees reviewed, discussed and approved an action plan for this coming year. I anticipate several future impacts as a result of this assignment. The participants learned the importance of communications with the other actors in the value chain. That by working together they can find out what opportunities and constraints each stakeholder has in the value chain. With this information and training they will be able to improve the competitiveness of the local farmers, businesses and markets.**

#### c) Recommendations<sup>1</sup>

**Increase the ability of staff and CBO members to support smallholder farmers to network and increase support and communication.**

### 1.2.2 Objective 2 in your SOW

#### a) Progress with the objective

**FIOH staff and CBOs trained on agricultural value chain development and marketing of enterprises.**

#### b) Expected impacts/results

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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.

**FIOH to increase the effectiveness of the primary stakeholders in each of their business sectors of the value chain development - their roles, and interrelationships.**

c) Recommendations

**To identify sales markets, and unmet demand**

1.2.3 Objective 3 in your SOW

a) Progress with the objective

**FIOH staff and CBOs trained on how to run a business develop business plans and risk mitigation strategies in agribusiness.**

b) Expected impacts/results

**For FIOH staff to operate farming as a business**

c) Recommendations

**To identify constraints and opportunities that inhibits value chain growth and competitiveness**

1.3 Recommended future volunteer assignment

**Participants learned strategies aimed at improving the income of producers and marketing groups through the value chain analysis. Future recommendations would be in the form of monitoring and evaluation. Also I would recommend trainings on agriculture association and cooperative development.**

1.4 Action Plan

<b>Recommendation</b>	<b>Specific Action</b>	<b>Responsible person</b>	<b>By when</b>
1. Increase the ability of staff and CBO members to support smallholder farmers to network and increase support and communication.	Increase communication between farmers and stakeholders.	Each class participant	Within 6 months
2. To identify sales markets, and unmet demand	Market opportunities	Each class participant	Within 6 months
3. To identify constraints and opportunities that inhibits value chain growth and competitiveness.	Increase agri-businesses	Each class participant	Within 6 months

1.5 Number of people Assisted

- a) Through formal training (Classroom setup): **29**
- b) Through direct hands on practical assistance (Do not double count): **Same**
- c) Out of these above, number of host staffs: **7**
- d) Training/assistance by field

Category	Total	Males	Females
Members/ owners			
Employees		3	4
Clients/ Suppliers		18	4
Family Members			
Total	29	21	8

#### 1.6 Gender

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

**Women do the majority of the work; No; everyone participated equally**

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

**Women appear to be doing the majority of the work for the families. Men need better social skills trainings.**

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

**\$196**

- a. Hours volunteer spent preparing for assignment  
**26**
- b. 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)

- a) Meals: **1,972,000 L = \$266.49**
- b) Transportation: **760,000 L = \$102.70**
- c) Lodging: **2,850,000 L = \$385.14**
- d) Translation: **0**
- e) Projector rental: **400,000 L = \$54.05**
- f) Fuel for generator (8 days): **336,000 L = \$45.41**
- g) Other Host contributions made: **volunteer transport; office space & meeting room; and generator**

#### 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**

#### 1.9 Recommendations for CRS:

**With participants attending extensive courses such as this one lasting many days each - suggest a Certificate for each participant. This will help give participant pride and achievement. For years they would have shown everyone in their villages and communities what they learned and achieved. Also, with CRS and U.A.I.D. logos on Certificates it shows to everyone the good work that these organizations are doing.**

**Certificates do not have to be expensive just on a piece of paper black and white.**

1.10 Press Release

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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## Stone Mountain, GA Volunteer Works with Counterparts in Sierra Leone

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

**DATELINE: Stone Mountain, GA, May, 8, 2017---** Ken Ayers, a **Volunteer** from **Stone Mountain, GA** who is an **Agri-business Consultant** travelled to **Sierra Leone** for **3** weeks to share his technical skills and expertise with local farmers. Ken'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.

**"It was a wonderful experience both for me and the farmers I worked with. They were eager to learn more technology to improve their livelihood and learn more about America"** said **Ken Ayers**.

Farmer-to-Farmer matches the technical expertise of U.S. farmers and professionals in agribusinesses, 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 **Ken Ayers'** assignment was to **train the trainers in agriculture value chain development**. He worked with **29 men and women who worked community base business and farmers who have little to no resources available to them**. Most of **Ken's** time was spent in the **small country community called Mile 91 in central Sierra Leone** working with **Future In Our Hands**. [Optional Statement: What impact do you think your work will have?]

This is **Ken's (13)** 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 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](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 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](http://www.crs.org) or [www.crsespanol.org](http://www.crsespanol.org) and follow Catholic Relief Services on social media: [Facebook](#), Twitter at [@CatholicRelief](#), [@CRSnews](#) and [@CRSnoticias](#), [Instagram](#), [Pinterest](#) and [YouTube](#).*