



# **STRENGTHENING LIVES IN CHAD (SLIC III)**

## **FINAL PERFORMANCE REPORT**

**April 1 – December 31, 2012**

**For**

**THE UNITED STATES AGENCY  
FOR INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT**

**OFFICE OF FOREIGN DISASTER ASSISTANCE**

**GRANT NO. AID-OFDA-G-10-00035-00**

**Submitted by:**

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## FINAL PROGRAM REPORT

**REPORTING PERIOD: April 1 – December 31, 2012**

### **GENERAL REFERENCE:**

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- C. AID AGREEMENT NO: AID-OFDA-G-10-00035-00**
- D. DATE OF THIS REPORT: February 15, 2013**

**Program Goal:** Vulnerable, rural populations in Dar Sila region are increasingly able to support themselves in a sustainable manner.

### **INTRODUCTION:**

Grant No. AID-OFDA-G-10-00035-00 (SLIC III) was for the period April 1, 2012 through December 31, 2012. During that time all the objectives were met or exceeded.

Objective 1 was to provide increased food security through seed distribution, farm tool and livestock distribution, and training to 1200 families (approximately 6,000 individuals). During the 9 months of this program, seeds were provided to 3,053 families (2,225 vulnerable households (HH) and 838 additional HH from 40 farmers' groups, which total 28,138 individuals – a 4.67 fold increase from the original number of individuals WCDO expected to impact). Of these numbers, over 60% were returnees and 50% women. Each household received 40 Kg of peanuts, 10 Kg of millet, and 10 Kg of sorghum. Despite losses to flooding, insects, wild animals and other problems, families were able to bring in the best harvest they have had in the last 5 years, including, on average, 1.3 metric tons of sorghum, 600 Kg of millet, and 400 Kg of peanuts per HH. 1,100 of the 2,225 vulnerable HH, which lived near wadis, received counter season seeds to plant, including chickpeas and vegetables, from which they expect a good harvest. The rainy season harvest was enough to provide, on average, an extra 5 months food security for a family of five. The goal of the program was 2 months, so the impact is far greater than expected. Thus both numbers of individuals impacted and extension of food security were higher and longer than the numbers expected.

Farmers' groups were provided with an agricultural kit that included a horse, plow, cart, donkey plow, and thresher. They made good use of these tools to increase their agricultural output to an average of 13 hectares of land. The farmers' groups also participated in 6 training sessions, which were designed to increase their agricultural stability and income. The addition of a horse to the toolkit has been especially impactful,

as it has allowed farmers' groups to plow more land to plant and to get their produce to market more quickly.

Objective 2 was to increase the reach of ROSCAs by another 46 groups to a total of 85 groups (425 individual women). Each group was provided with training, a metal lock box and lock, 1 sack of sugar, 1 sack of flour, and 20 liters of cooking oil to initiate a small business. Each has been active since the growing season and 94% are actively involved in loan and loan repayment – which is at a 96% on-time rate. Over 40 women have already taken out second loans to build their businesses. The ROSCA women have been active, participating in weekly markets, regular meetings, and contributing to village events. It is notable that there were 14 women who joined the training sessions even though they were not in ROSCAs, in order to get the business training.

Thus, the outcomes from this grant have been greater than expected with many more individuals impacted during the seed distribution and beneficiaries have been supplied with greater food security than anticipated. Also, women have increased their incomes with restored access to capital through the ROSCAs, which has increased their ability to provide for their families.

## **ACHIEVEMENTS**

### **Sector 1. AGRICULTURE AND FOOD SECURITY**

Both the rainy season crops (millet, sorghum, and peanuts) and counter season (chickpeas and vegetable) seeds were distributed and diligently planted during their respective agricultural campaigns. A lot of rainfall showered the farms from May to October with an average rain of 1,000 mm that unfortunately caused flooding and destroyed crops in some parts of WCDO's area of operation, but this did not prevent other parts of the region from having the best harvest of the last five years.

The 89 metric tons of peanuts, 20.21 tons of sorghum and 20.36 tons of millet seeds distributed to 3,053 families (2,225 House Holds and 828 families represented by 40 farmers' groups) with an average of 40 Kg of peanuts, 10 Kg of millet, and 10 Kg of sorghum per household were all planted in time to cover an estimate of 3 hectares of land per HH and an additional 13 hectares per farmers' group. The post flooding evaluation report indicated that 373 hectares of cropland (peanuts, millet, and sorghum combined) were destroyed resulting in a big loss of the expected harvest. Nevertheless, the harvest remained the best, when compared to the previous five years. From the 89 metric tons of peanut seeds, 20.21 and 20.36 metric tons of millet and sorghum seeds respectively, the total estimated harvests were 2,863 metric tons of sorghum, 1,360 metric tons of millet, and 912 metric tons of peanuts. On average, every household harvested 1.3 metric tons of sorghum, 600 Kg of millet, and 400 Kg of peanuts as presented on the table below:

#### **Comparative summary of rainy season seeds planted and harvest received**

<b>Crops per HH</b>	<b>Seeds planted</b>	<b>Harvest Est.</b>	<b>Seeds retained</b>	<b>Balance/HH</b>
Millet	10 Kg	1,300 Kg	10 Kg	1,290 Kg
Peanuts	40 Kg	400 Kg	40 Kg	360 Kg
Sorghum	10 Kg	600 Kg	10 Kg	590 Kg

For a family of five, this can take them through some 5 months of food security if they do not misuse their harvests through unprofitable sales. The seeds retained from HHs and farmers' groups have been stored together in each village and will help to redistribute seeds to those who will not have enough over the next season. It is on the basis of pre-harvest evaluation that we conclude that the objective of increasing self reliance through food production has been achieved.

A number of households have access to the wadis, allowing them to practice counter season agriculture with chickpea seeds and vegetables (onions, tomatoes, watermelons, etc...) immediately after the rains stop. WCDO carefully selected 1,100 HH to benefit from this further support as detailed below:

**Summary Table: Vegetable and Counter Season seed distribution beneficiaries**

#	Status	# Family Beneficiaries	%	Male	Female	Total
1	Returns	752	68%	2,497	2,670	5,167
2	Hosts	348	32%	1,177	1,244	2,421
Total		1,100	100%	3,674	3,914	7,588
Percentage (%)				48%	52%	

The counter season crops take a few months to grown to maturity and by the time the soil will be completely dry (From March up to June), farmers will have harvested, selling their produce for money but also balancing their diet with home grown vegetables. A combination of rainy and counter season crops helps farmers to reduce lean period and prolonged food insecurity. A summary of counter season seeds distributed is presented as follows:

**Counter season seeds distributed to farmers with access to wadi water after rainfall**

#	Beneficiaries	HH	chickpea seeds (kg)	Tomato seeds (g)	Watermelon seeds (g)	Béré-béré Seeds (kg)
1	Returns	752	7,520	11,280	7,520	1,910
2	Host Communities	348	3,480	5,220	3,480	90
Total		1,100	11,000	16,500	11,000	2,000

The whole agricultural process fully occupied the WCDO field team in cooperation with the local government ONDR with extending training to all of the forty farmers' groups throughout the life of the grant. The trainings were intentionally designed to change the mindset of program participants and empower them with techniques that can help them strengthen their resilience to the multiple shocks they face on repeated occasions:

**Program Training Participation Synthesis:**

TRAINING PARTICIPATION						
Training Sessions	Dates	Training Topics	# Grps	Males	Females	Total
1st	From June 19th to 22nd, 2012	Farmers' group redefined: Structure, roles and responsibilities	40	281	136	417
Percentage of participation						100

				<b>67</b>	<b>33</b>	
2nd	From September 10th to 13th, 2012	Quality Seeds production and conservation	40	197	242	439
	<b>Percentage of participation</b>			<b>45</b>	<b>55</b>	<b>100</b>
3rd	From September 17th to 25th, 2012	Silage production and management techniques	40	422	211	633
	<b>Percentage of participation</b>			<b>67</b>	<b>33</b>	<b>100</b>
4th	From October 9th to 10th, 2012	Techniques of horse rearing and animal care	40	164	249	413
	<b>Percentage of participation</b>			<b>40</b>	<b>60</b>	<b>100</b>
5th	From November 12th to 15th, 2012	Harvest Techniques, storage, and transformation products	40	292	256	548
	<b>Percentage of participation</b>			<b>53</b>	<b>47</b>	<b>100</b>
6th	From December 3rd to 6th, 2012	Management of community Cereal Bank	40	270	247	517
	<b>Percentage of Participation</b>			<b>52</b>	<b>48</b>	<b>100</b>
<b>Average percentage of participation</b>				<b>54</b>	<b>46</b>	

The table above clearly indicates a gender sensitive agricultural program purposely designed to address the gender imbalance perpetuated and avoided in the local culture. On average, 46% of farmers which attended the trainings were women, and on two occasions, women outnumbered men at the sessions. Looking at farmers' groups' demographics, 20% of the groups had all female members, while only 15% were all male.

## **Sector 2. ECONOMIC RECOVERY AND MARKET SYSTEMS (ERMS)**

Most of the activities under this sector refer to ROSCAs, known locally as women tontines. Despite the many challenges, duties, and responsibilities that women take on in Chad, particularly in the Eastern region, they are more organized and innovative when it comes to working in small groups. WCDO found that women in Dar Sila have great ambition to carry out viable businesses but lack proper training and moral boosting fora. The program started by empowering them with business oriented training, recommended to them to meet on a regular basis, make regular savings no matter how little they may be, and provided them with metal boxes and locks for the safety of their money. The small training kits provided were transformed into small businesses that help ROSCA members to make some income, hence providing regular savings to properly put into application the lessons they've learned.

ROSCA's activities have become vibrant at the village level following women's regular participation in the weekly markets, regular and rotating meetings in their respective homes, and substantial financial contributions towards social events that take place in the village (wedding ceremonies and death of village members). While their capital investments are still very low, members borrow to purchase food stuffs and resell them, with a profit margin, in the villages and at weekly markets. They earn the money that, in

return, enables them to contribute towards their savings, repay the small credits, and possibly attend to their own means.

The WCDO field team has recently carried out a survey covering 62 out of 85 ROSCA groups (73% of the total groups) in order to determine the progress made by the groups supported by this program. On average, a tontine member gets a loan of \$39 repayable within 26 days with a 10% interest rate that comes with it to increase the ROSCA capital. Within the grant period, 94% of groups surveyed had issued loans, with 65% of loans already paid back, and less than 4% overdue. Among surveyed groups, the average was carrying a loan portfolio of \$119 and cash holdings of \$113. This is an impressive achievement towards the objective of increasing immediate income through restored access to productive assets and capital.

### PROJECT SUMMARY

A summarized report on various indicators' achievements against expected results per program sector is as follows:

<b>Sector: Agriculture and Food Security</b>		
<b>Objective 1:</b> Improved access to food through increased food production for sale and consumption.		
<b>Indicator</b>	<b>Achieved during October - December 2012</b>	<b>Cumulative achievements</b>
<b>Sub-sector: Livestock (Traction Animals)</b>		
<b>Indicator 1:</b> Number of animals benefiting from or affected by livestock activities ( <b>40 horses</b> )	No additional animals were purchased during this period.	A total of 40 male horses has been purchased by this grant and given to farmers' groups.
<b>Indicator 2:</b> Number of people benefiting from livestock activities ( <b>5,000 people</b> )	No additional beneficiaries except by demographic increases.	The 40 farmers' groups represent 828 families with 5,126 people that will continue benefiting from these animals even after this project.
<b>Sub-sector: Seed Systems and Agricultural Inputs</b>		
<b>Indicator 1:</b> (Projected) increase in number of months of food self-sufficiency due to distributed seed systems/ agricultural input ( <b>2 months</b> )	The harvest estimates are said to be the best of the previous five years: On average every participant harvested 1.3 metric tons of sorghum, 600 Kg of millet and 400 Kg of peanuts. This can take them to 5 months of food security.	Despite the flooding, insects and animals effects, the harvest is still at a level that will help people reducing their lean season to a strict minimum.
<b>Indicator 2:</b> Number of people benefiting from seed systems/ agricultural input activities (Target: 6,000 people)	1,100 HH with 7,588 people received and planted counter season seeds (Chickpea, Tomato, Watermelon and 'Bere-Bere').	A total of 28,138 people represent the total number of seed distribution beneficiaries for both rainy season and counter season agriculture.

<b>Sector: Economic Recovery and Market Systems (ERMS)</b>		
<b>Objective 2:</b> Increase immediate income through restored access to productive assets and capital.		
<b>Indicator</b>	<b>Achieved during October – December 2012</b>	<b>Cumulative achievements</b>
<b>Sub-sector: Micro-Credit / Savings and Loan</b>		
<b>Indicator 1:</b> Number of people assisted through economic assets development activities ( <b>Target: 425 women</b> )	403 Women attended Tontine training this quarter	A total of 439 women undertook the tontine training. It is interesting to note that the 14 additional women who participated in the training came through curiosity and not as part of a WCDO ROSCA.
<b>Indicator 2:</b> Number and percent of people utilizing economic assets created to support their livelihood pattern ( <b>425 individuals; 95%</b> )	467 (111%) women have received loans this quarter and the last one combined. This is to say that all 425 women have received loan at least once and some 42 women have received loans twice.	A total of 425 women have received loans throughout this program, some receiving more than one.

## **COLLABORATION**

Working with the government National Rural Development office (ONDR) has never been as successful as it was last year. The team helped in carrying out transparent seeds and tools bidding processes, accurately carried out seeds germination tests, examined all traction animals before purchases, empowered communities with agricultural training, harvest conservation, animal care, and carried out an investigation on the extent to which flooding had affected crops and families together with pre-harvest evaluation to appreciate the impact of the program in the communities.

## **CONSTRAINTS**

1. The poor state of the roads, damaged by rainwater and clogged ‘wadis’, meant that maneuvering vehicles in the mud caused multiple setbacks. The time for usual accessibility to a village was tripled or quadrupled, hence delays in implementing planned activities occurred.
2. Heavy and prolonged rainfall recorded in the region caused significant damage to the fields causing floods with a loss of 373 hectares of sorghum, millet, and peanuts combined.
3. Insects and wild animal (monkeys and warthogs) attacks on the field crops negatively affected the harvest.
4. Gold mining in Sudan and in Guérééré village (Chad) attracted the ablest men creating a human labor deficit for weeding and harvesting various crops in the village.
5. Watching over fields against wild and domestic animals prevented some ROSCA group members from participating in training.

6. There were delay getting to the training centers due to long distances and poor roads.
7. Farmers had to persevere in the fight against many enemies attacking their crops such as wild animals (wild boars, monkeys, squirrels, etc.), insects, and birds. There was also the threat of stray animals belonging to nomadic transhumance, which forced farmers to set aside other activities to concentrate on protecting their fields. Indeed, this is a total fight engaging all family members (children, mother, and father) permanently standing in the control tower of the farm. Fortunately, their efforts have paid off with the above described harvest.

### Testimony of ABEICHE women Farmers' Group



The Women Farmers' Group named **Gamarbane** (Moonrise) was created in 2008 and has a local government certificate issued in 2010. It is located in Abéché, some 2km away from Doroti. Its membership stands at 24 women, and it is chaired by **Mrs. Achta Ahmat**.

Gamarbane farmers' group members give us their impressions of the program: we started this group to help us sort out a number of issues

we face, as it is said "one hand cannot clap by itself", we therefore created this group to combine our efforts to solve numerous problems in our village. From when we started this group until recently, this group did not do much. However, in order to keep our initial dream alive, we made small contributions and worked on a group farm annually. This strategy has helped us to store some agricultural produce that we have sold over the lean period.

Exceptionally this year, we started our agricultural campaign and carried our produce to the market in time, courtesy of WCDO support, and we are thankful to God. Indeed, we planted a hectare of peanuts, one hectare of sesame, and two hectares of millet. Only that the millet farm did not produce as expected due to an overwhelming amount of rainfall, soil depletion and pest attacks. The group has so far made an income of XFA 150,000 (approximately \$ 300) cash with a stock of 20 bags of peanuts and 5 bags of sesame. It should be noted that this unprecedented achievement is a result of modest support from WCDO with agricultural tools, seeds, training, and technical advice; in the past, the lack of supervision and adequate basic agricultural equipment, almost forced the group to break up because any efforts to revitalize was not giving satisfactory results.

In the future, our group wishes to buy a mini mill, more agricultural tools, and build a store to keep our agricultural harvests safe. As women of this group, we greatly thank God for guiding WCDO to touch on our real issues by opening our eyes with knowledge and providing tools necessary for agriculture, our main activity. May his blessing remain on WCDO staff for encouraging and helping us to taste a real change for us and our God-given children. Thank you and once again thank you!