

ASSISTING RETURNEES IN SILA (ARIS)

FINAL PERFORMANCE REPORT

February 1, 2013 – April 30, 2014

For

**THE UNITED STATES AGENCY
FOR INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT**

OFFICE OF FOREIGN DISASTER ASSISTANCE

GRANT NO. AID-OFDA-G-13-00030

Submitted by:

**World Concern Development Organization
19303 Fremont Ave. N.
Seattle, WA 98133
206-546-7201**

July 30, 2014



Cover Sheet

<u>Applicant Organization Name:</u> World Concern Development Organization (WCDO)	
<u>Headquarters Contact Information</u>	
<u>Name:</u>	Nick Archer
<u>Mailing Address:</u>	19303 Fremont Ave. N. Seattle, WA 98133
<u>Telephone:</u>	(804) 726-0847
<u>Fax:</u>	206-546-7269
<u>E-mail:</u>	nicka@worldconcern.org
<u>Field Contact Information</u>	
<u>Name:</u>	Athanase Ndayisaba
<u>Mailing Address:</u>	PO Box 61333-00200 Nairobi, Kenya
<u>Telephone:</u>	+235 6620 2443
<u>Fax:</u>	none
<u>E-mail:</u>	chadcountrydirector@wcdro.org

Grant No: AID-OFDA-G-13-00030

Program Title: Assisting Returnees in Sila (ARIS)

Country/Region of Country: Goz Beida Sub-prefecture, Kimiti Prefecture, Sila Region, Chad

Reporting period: February 1, 2013 to April 30, 2014

1. **Executive Summary**

In February 2013, World Concern Development Organization launched the ARIS program in eastern Chad. It replicated the SLIC program, which was successful in providing agricultural inputs to IDP returnees in their villages of origin, and training women's savings groups on microcredit and small business principles. The ARIS program added the introduction of a participatory approach to disaster risk reduction (DRR), engaging communities in identifying natural hazard risks and developing action plans for mitigation.

ARIS provided seeds to 18,255 people, and subsidized the purchase of non-mechanized farm implements to farmers' associations, also providing them with training on best practices and group organization. Where viable, farmers were also assisted with seeds for counter-season and dry season agriculture or market gardening.

159 women self-selected into 29 rotating savings and credit associations (RoSCA), which were trained on financial management, bookkeeping and local market analysis. They were coached through rotating loans at interest and growing their capital.

For the first time in eastern Chad, 31 communities engaged in disaster risk management (four of them in a detailed participatory process), and generated action plans to mitigate identified vulnerabilities.

This program did not achieve all its targets, but can be seen as successful in achieving intended outcomes – increased food security and increased livelihood diversity among women in 25 villages in eastern Chad.

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Program Overview

1. Program Goal and Objectives

Program Goal:

Vulnerable, rural populations in Sila region are more resilient to shocks, both at the community and household level.

Agriculture & Food Security Sector Objective:

Increase food security in 30 communities in Sila Region.

Economic Recovery & Market Systems Sector Objective:

Increase livelihood diversification among returnee women in 25 communities of Sila Region.

2. Beneficiaries Targeted and Reached by Objective

Sectors	Actual Beneficiaries for Grant Period							
	Targeted				Reached			
	Total	IDP	Male	Female	Total	IDP	Male	Female
1 AFS	17,200	10,770	9000	6200	18255	17,054	8816	9439
2 ERMS	150	60	0	150	1720	60	660	1060

3. Geographic Location

This project was located in eastern Chad, in 31 villages, within the sub-prefecture of Rural Goz Beida, within the Kimiti Departement of Sila Region. This is an increased response compared to the original proposal for response in 25 villages. The list of villages is in Appendix A.

Agriculture & Food Security

1. Rainy Season Agriculture

WCDO distributed cereal and cash crop seeds (millet, sorghum, peanuts, and sesame) to 18,255 people within 31 villages of Rural Goz Beida. While WCDO wanted to introduce improved seeds (which take a shorter period to mature and have a higher yield), none of the approved agro-science institutions in the country had stock for sale. We were informed that last year's heavy rains combined with floods destroyed all their experimental crops. We therefore invited the National Office for Rural Development (ONDR) to help us in the selection of appropriate locally produced seeds by carrying out physical verification and germination tests of all the seeds (millet, peanuts, sesame, and sorghum) we were to purchase. The work of ONDR was of paramount importance, as they are the only licensed and technically able agency in Goz Beida to do this kind of analysis.

WCDO purchased seeds which were cleared by this institution from all the merchants who had won the purchasing tender. A number of seed stocks failed ONDR tests, and merchants were required to provide alternate seeds for testing, until results were achieved. The process went slowly but ended up well for WCDO, ONDR, and the merchant community. WDCO ended up purchasing an additional 194 metric tons of seeds to meet the additional need, with no additional budget required, since the open bid competition to suppliers of seeds brought lower prices than budgeted. It is worth noting that 91 metric tons of seeds (29%) were procured directly from farmers' groups that WCDO supported over the last one or two years. This was a great

achievement, as it injected some \$45,000 into the hands of rural farmers. For all types of seeds WCDO bought from the farmers, we paid the same price we paid to merchants who supplied seeds in Goz Beida. This is a clear indication that OFDA funded support to farmers of proper tools, right seeds, and training can help returnee communities produce food for their families and engage in the local market.

In addition to the seeds distributed to vulnerable families (returnees and hosts alike), WCDO supported 25 different farmers' groups with 80% subsidized tools (horse carts, plows, and peanut shellers), and traction animals (horses) to increase their acreage under production, facilitate transportation from farms to markets and vice versa, and reduce the manual labor of shelling peanuts, which is traditionally a role for women. On average, beneficiary households harvested 181 kg. of sesame, 159 kg. of millet, 103 kg. of sorghum, and 55 kg. of peanuts from the rainy season agriculture. This average harvest would yield \$322 USD at harvest time, and considerably more if retained until the next planting season. Due to rain deficits during the planting season, the harvest was below expectation, and only two months of increased food sufficiency is expected from this harvest.

The horses of 9 farmers' groups were checked both at purchase and again mid-project by a certified veterinarian. Seven needed to be treated for various diseases (lung infections, intestinal worms, fungus and lymphangitis).

2. Dry and Counter Season Agriculture

Seventeen farmers' groups (288 households) received vegetable market seeds and gardening tools during the dry season, and, trainings were provided on "gardening techniques and management of subsidized kits" with 101 farmers in attendance. One of these groups reported a harvest of carrots with a value of \$60 USD, an extra few weeks of food self-sufficiency.

A total of 325 households, spread over 19 villages, were registered to counter-season crop seeds. The target villages are those with close access to the wadis to facilitate the watering of their crops. Each beneficiary household receives a kit equivalent to 10 grams of watermelon seeds, 10 grams of tomato seeds, and 7.5 kilograms of chickpea seeds. These households were able to consume melons during the counter season, and had mixed commercial success, from \$5 to \$50 in additional revenue.

3. Training of Farmer Groups

Recognizing the local structure where farmers form registered associations, WCDO facilitated training of 30 groups together with local agricultural officers. This included the following trainings:

- Silage production techniques,
- Diverse techniques of quality seed identification and storage
- Fighting against harvest enemies (fungicides, insecticides, treatment of seeds)
- Agricultural harvest and storage processing
- Group leadership, bookkeeping and business management
- Choosing income generating activities

4. Participatory Assessment of Disaster Risk (PADR)

WCDO, in partnership with Tearfund UK, introduced a formalized disaster risk reduction (DRR) training in three selected communities. While it was intended to introduce this process in 25 communities, the availability of a trainer delayed the process significantly. However, the villagers of Rigildouth, N'djamena, and Chakoura participated in the PADR process, which facilitates the identification of capacities and vulnerabilities, and develops plans for mitigating disaster risk. From the three different communities, the most recurring disaster is fire. These communities developed action plans, including the construction of fireproof storage for their harvests.

Even though the complete participatory process was not completed, 22 additional villages developed action plans for DRR. The exercise shows that the most recurring disasters are fire and drought. Thus, to reduce the risks of these hazards, two main activities emerged in the community plans, namely the construction of community fireproof cereal storage containers and market garden agriculture. Four communities (Douloum, Chakoura, Rigildout and Anguereda) made bricks to build fireproof cereal storage containers; other communities could not start brick-making due to the lack of access to water. It was planned that WCDO would provide financial support through this award; however, the drive towards communal grain storage was not in line with OFDA funding principles. WCDO will look at other ways of supporting these community initiatives, and supporting market gardens in subsequent dry seasons.

Economic Recovery and Market Systems

1. Rotating Savings and Credit Associations

WCDO continued building on the local model of 'merry-go-round savings groups called *tontines*. 159 women, organized in 29 new groups of approximately 5 members each, have been trained in microfinance concepts and small business management principles to support small trade activities through their neighboring markets. The 29 target women tontine groups are spread over 21 different villages (12 are returnee villages). 16 of the groups (63%) are made of returnee women while the other 14 are comprised of vulnerable host women (47%) who did not move out of their villages. A survey carried out by the WCDO team indicated that women had accumulated an average of \$196 of capital investment per group and 120 women out of 150 received loans. The average loan was \$53 at an interest rate of 11% per month to grow capital. Average repayment was 24 days.

WCDO's team surveyed women's savings groups to learn how far and well these groups have been functioning. Savings, loans given out, timely repayments and weekly meetings held are the indicators of properly functioning ROSCAs. Due to the short cycle of the program, not all of the groups had seen repayments during the award period, but this was a target miss of one group.

Overall Performance

1. Constraints/Weaknesses

One of the suppliers of locally manufactured horse carts was challenged as the 10 carts he had supplied were with poor quality materials. The WCDO team and beneficiaries unanimously rejected them, and the supplier had to return them and was given one working week to replace them with the agreed upon quality of tools. This incident was smoothly managed and

beneficiaries cooperated and accepted the wait period of an extra week for good tools rather than rushing to take those which would not last.

Also, 10 farmers' groups who wanted the imported plows couldn't get their tools on time, as the suppliers were out of stock. Instead of waiting until after the farming season has already started, they agreed to take locally made plows.

The PADR for WCDO staff was delayed while waiting for our partner organization, and then postponed until after the planting season. As people were so busy during the farming period, it was difficult to run this set of activities with an adequate level of community participation.

The implementation of DRR-identified hazards was a challenge in many communities. Many communities wanted fireproof cereal storage containers to mitigate harvest losses due to fire. Not only is fireproof construction far beyond the budget of \$5,000 for community actualization, many communities lack access to water to make bricks.

There were difficulties in recovering 20% of the price from vegetable garden group members for subsidized equipment, due to the previous poor harvest. Households were cash-poor, lacking goods to sell and earn money. The recovering of co-payments ranged from 5% to 12%, leaving an outstanding amount of 15% for some groups and 8% for others. We distributed the equipment, recovering as much as each farmer group was able to pay, with the condition that they will pay the remainder out of profits made from the garden yield.

2. Adjustments Made

The outbreak of malaria in many households has caused many of our program beneficiaries to frequently travel to health centers or spend much time with their sick relatives. A number of them died, and communities took time away from agricultural production for funerals and condolences. WCDO addressed the effective use of bednets through DRR trainings.

Fire broke out in Maramara, one of the ARIS beneficiary villages, on March 17, 2014 and affected 85% of households. While the tragedy caused no loss of life, property damage included loss of homes and animals (goats, sheep, donkeys, and horses). In partnership with a private donor, WCDO supplied food and nonfood items to sustain the residents for two months. This community was also supported in the subsequent BREC project.

3. Summary of Cost-Effectiveness

Cost Benefit Analysis			
Sector	People reached	Total Cost	Cost / Person
1 AFS	18,225	\$664,982	\$36
2 ERMS	1720*	\$176,335	\$103

*This number includes the participants of the community action plan process.

4. Cumulative Achievements

SUB-SECTOR: Improving Agricultural Production/Food Security

Indicator 1: <i>Projected increase in number of months of food self-sufficiency due to distributed seed systems/agricultural input for beneficiary households</i>	Cumulative progress to date:	Target for life of project:	% of progress towards target:
	2	2.5 months	80%
Indicator 2: <i>Number of people benefiting from seed systems/agricultural input activities, by sex</i>	Cumulative progress to date:	Target for life of project:	% of progress towards target:
	F: 9439 M: 8816	F: 6,000 M: 9,000	F: 157% M: 98%

SUB-SECTOR: Livestock

Indicator 1: <i>Number of animals benefitting from or affected by livestock activities</i>	Cumulative progress to date:	Target for life of project:	% of progress towards target:
	25	25	100%
Indicator 2: <i>Number of people benefitting from livestock activities, by sex</i>	Cumulative progress to date:	Target for life of project:	% of progress towards target:
	F: 1,477 M: 1,515	F: 1,250 M: 2,000	F: 118% M: 76%
Indicator 3: <i>Number of veterinary interventions</i>	Cumulative progress to date:	Target for life of project:	% of progress towards target:
	34	50	68%
Indicator 4: <i>Number of animals treated</i>	Cumulative progress to date:	Target for life of project:	% of progress towards target:
	25	25	100%

SUB-SECTOR: Microfinance

Indicator 1: <i>Number of people, by sex, or MSEs newly receiving financial services or continuing to receive financial services due to USAID/OFDA support</i>	Cumulative progress to date:	Target for life of the project:	% of progress towards target:
	159	150	106%
Indicator 2: <i>Percentage of financial service accounts/groups supported by USAID/OFDA that are functioning properly</i>	Cumulative progress to date:	Target for life of project:	% of progress towards target:
	90%	95%	95%
Indicator 3: <i>Total USD amount channeled into the program area through sub-sector activities</i>	Cumulative progress to date:	Target for life of project:	% of progress towards target:
	\$156,459	\$348,538	45%

Appendix A - Villages for ARIS Project

Villages for ARIS Project			
1	Amkharouba	17	Karouf Tama
2	Amkhéribé	18	Kirkidang
3	Abéché	19	Kororé
4	Amchelil	20	Koutoufou
5	Amhidjarat	21	Krégou
6	Anguereda	22	Loubané
7	Bandar	23	Maramara
8	Chakoura	24	Modo
9	Djeguina	25	N'djamena
10	Doroti	26	Ngorloli
11	Douloum	27	Rigildout
12	Faridé Dadjo	28	Tamadjour
13	Gondogna	29	Tebessé
14	Harako	30	Tessou
15	Itéchané	31	Zabout
16	Karona		