



Annual Results Report

Multi-Year Assistance Programs/Development Activity Programs

Title II

Uganda/ACDI/VOCA

Fiscal Year 2007

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LIST OF ACRONYMS

AER	Annual Estimate of Requirements
AFA	Adunu Maleng Farmers Association
APEP	Agricultural Production & Enhancement Program
ARR	Annual Results Report
ASDI	Agency for promoting Sustainable Development Initiative
BHR	Bureau for Humanitarian Response
C&F	Commodity and Freight
CBO	Community Based Organizations
CF	Contact Farmer
CHAFORD	Charity for Rural Development
CO-WI	Community Welfare Initiative
CSB	Corn-Soy Blend
DAP	Development Activity Proposal
DNA	Data Not Available
FaaB	Farming as a Business
FADEP-EU	Farming For Food and Development Eastern Uganda
FANTA	Food and Nutrition Technical Assistance (Project)
FAS	Free Alongside Ship
FEWS	Field Extension Workers
FFP	Office of Food for Peace
FSF	Food Security Fund
FY	Fiscal Year
g	Gram
GDU	Grants and Development Unit
HIV	Human Immunodeficiency Virus
HIV/AIDS	Human Immunodeficiency Virus/Acquired Immunodeficiency Syndrome
HRW	Hard Red Winter
IDP	Internally Displaced Person
IPTT	Indicator Performance Tracking Table
LGDPs	Local Government Development Projects
LOA	Life of Activity
LWF	Lutheran World Federation
M&E	Monitoring and Evaluation
MCHN	Maternal and Child Health and Nutrition
MOF	Ministry of Finance
MT	Metric Ton
MUAC	Mid-Upper Arm Circumference
MYAP	Multi-Year Assistance Program
NAPSG	Northern Area Project Small Grants
NGO	Non-Governmental Organization
NSARWU	National Strategy for Advancement of Rural Women in Uganda
NTUs	Nephelometric Turbidity Units
PHH/M	Post Harvest Handling and Marketing
PLWHA	People Living With HIV/AIDS
PMP	Performance Monitoring Plan
RAA	Recipient Agency agreement
REDSO	USAID's Regional Economic Development Services Office

SLW	Special Loan Window
TASO	The AIDS Support & Counseling Organization
TOT	Training of Trainers
TPO	Transcultural Psycho-social Organization
UGT	Uganda Grain Traders
UMR	Usual Marketing Requirements
UN	United Nations
URADI	Uganda Rural Development Initiative
US	United States
USAID	United States Agency for International Development
USDA	United States Department of Agriculture
USH	Ugandan shillings
VAT	Value Added Tax

I. RESULTS REPORT

A. ANNUAL RESULTS

Introduction

In FY 2007, ACDI/VOCA completed the first eight months¹ of its Multi-Year Assistance Program (MYAP) activities with overall positive results. Despite a late start (February 2007) and major challenges related to setting up the program in a new and relatively insecure environment in the northern part of Uganda, ACDI/VOCA was able to reach thousands of beneficiaries through grants provided to local and international non-governmental organizations (NGOs) and community-based organizations (CBOs) as well as through the program's direct distribution activities. Utilizing a Training of Trainers (TOT) methodology, ACDI/VOCA was able to provide technical assistance in agronomy, post harvest handling/marketing, savings mobilization and group formation, Farming as Business (FaaB), hygiene and nutrition and financial management to the grantees to build their capacity and provide them with the tools to effectively carry on their field activities. Using a three-layered grant award mechanism involving specialized external reviewers, pre-award surveys and field verifications, ACDI/VOCA was able to award four grants to local NGOs and CBOs in northern and eastern Uganda in FY 2007 with a total beneficiary target of 5,400 over the life of the grants.

Additionally, the Lutheran World Federation (LWF) and The Aids Support Organization (TASO), two of ACDI/VOCA's MYAP partners, were able to start field activities and to reach thousands of beneficiaries. TASO, for instance, provided invaluable support to ACDI/VOCA's distribution team in identifying people living with HIV/AIDS (PLWHA) food beneficiaries. Despite unusual flooding that considerably affected the ramp-up of activities, LWF was able to carry out agronomy and nutrition/hygiene activities in its intervention areas, and promote a savings culture among its farmer groups through the savings and credit TOT provided by ACDI/VOCA. Africare was not able to implement its planned agricultural activities for FY 2007 due to late signing of a recipient agency agreement (RAA) in June 2007 with ACDI/VOCA.

Project start-up and uncertainty related to the pending approval of the Performance Monitoring Plan (PMP) played a major role in delaying the implementation of some key MYAP activities in FY 2007. ACDI/VOCA spent many of the first months of the program hiring new staff, conducting eligibility assessments, registering PLWHA beneficiaries, and identifying potential sub-grantees. In addition, ACDI/VOCA was not able to carry out the baseline and other annual impact surveys due to the fact that the implementation of these monitoring and evaluation activities depended heavily on the start-up of activities and approval of the PMP plan. The delayed PMP plan has, in turn, affected the completeness of the Indicator Performance Tracking Table (IPTT) as most of the proposed performance indicators lack data for reporting.

Weather conditions in program implementation areas have been unfavorable to the program. Heavy torrential rains have hampered agricultural efforts in parts of the MYAP northern Uganda intervention areas. Food security has been affected in the districts of Katakwi and Amuria with approximately 20,000 households in the districts of Katakwi and Amuria threatened by hunger as a result of submerged agricultural fields and delayed planting for the

¹ Although the ACDI/VOCA Uganda MYAP was signed with an October 1, 2006 start date, the MYAP activities did not actually begin until February 1, 2007. From October 1, 2006- January 31, 2007, the program operated under a 4 month no-cost extension to its previous Development Assistance Program (DAP).

second growing season. Most of the roads in the program districts were cut off due to broken bridges, flooded swamps and muddy roads. This situation resulted in a significant setback to the early accomplishments of the program. Among the 1,333 households that the MYAP had begun working with in Katakwi and Amuria districts, 650 reported destroyed crops. Access to the beneficiaries in the affected areas also limited most of the planned activities in the fourth quarter of FY 2007, such as TOT training activities.

Steve Gilbert, USAID FFP/Washington and David Rinck, USAID FFP REDSO Nairobi visited the program in May 2007. Mr. Gilbert travelled to Gulu district to meet with ACDI/VOCA staff and also observed LWF agriculture interventions and ACDI/VOCA food distribution warehouses. Leslie Peterson visited in September 2007 and observed FADEP-EU agriculture interventions including farmer group training, demonstration gardens and model homes for nutrition and hygiene. Mr. Peterson also met with ACDI/VOCA food distribution staff.

STRATEGIC OBJECTIVES & INTERVENTIONS

Strategic Objective 1:

Reduced food insecurity and increased nutrition status through better production and use of food by 170,600 farmers.

Grantee Selection

A total of 130 concept papers in response to a *Call for Concept Notes/Proposals* were received in January 2007. After two levels of review, ten organizations were visited to assess their capacities. Five (5) potential grantees were then invited to submit proposals for funding.

- Hunger Alert based in Gulu and formerly funded in the FY 2002-2006 DAP
- Transcultural Psychosocial Organization (TPO) based in Soroti
- Adunu Maleng Farmers Association (AFA) based in Kitgum
- Agency for Promoting Sustainable Development Initiative (ASDI) based in Apac
- National Strategy for Advancement of Rural Women in Uganda (NSARWU) based in Dokolo

Small grants²

A total of twelve small grant applications were received in response to a call for applications in June 2007. Of these, four were chosen to develop a full application:

- Community Welfare Initiative (CO-WI) based in Gulu district, Ongako Sub-county
- Charity for Rural Development (CHAFORD) operating in Amuru District, Attiak Sub-county
- Uganda Rural Development Initiative (URADI) based in Amuru district, Amuru Sub-county
- Foundation for Community Development (FCD) based in Amuru district, Attiak Sub-county.

The following proposals were approved for funding:

- TPO
- ASDI

² The ACDI/VOCA Northern Area Program field office in Gulu awards small grants (up to a maximum of \$16,000/year) to CBOs working in food security in Gulu and Amuru districts. A primary purpose of these grants is to build organizational capacity.

- CO-WI
- CHAFORD
- URADI

Capacity Building

In FY 2007, two organizations, Farming for Food and Development-Eastern Uganda (FADEP-EU) and LWF, received both financial resources and technical assistance through the ACDI/VOCA TOT package which included group formation and management, savings mobilization, agronomy, FaaB, post-harvest handling & marketing (PHH/M) and nutrition/hygiene education and counselling. TOT is conducted for field extension workers (FEWs) and selected contact farmers (CFs) and enables them to perform their individual jobs effectively while ensuring that the grantees meet targets and achieve objectives. The trainings focus on content, approaches, methodologies, development and use of local training materials. The purpose of the TOT training is to build the capacity of trainers in different technical areas so that they can contribute to the success of the projects in their communities. After the ACDI/VOCA TOT training, the FEWS and CFs train the farmers groups in the various technical areas.

In total, 70 trainers received technical training directly from the ACDI/VOCA Grants and Development Unit (GDU) in FY 2007. A total of 14 TOT sessions were conducted in all the above technical areas out of a planned 16. Two TOT sessions were not conducted with LWF due to the heavy September rains and floods.

Training of Trainers carried out by ACDI/VOCA in FY 2007

	Number of Field Extension Workers Trained			Number of Contact farmers Trained			TOTAL		
	Female	Male	Subtotal	Female	Male	Subtotal	Female	Male	TOTAL
TOTAL	21	34	55	4	11	15	25	45	70

Field visits and monitoring reports from the grantees have shown that the trainers are using the acquired skills from TOT to train farmers. By the end of FY 2007, 21,914 farmers had received technical trainings. These farmers live in the grantees' implementation areas of Katakwi, Amurua, Gulu, Amuru, Pallisa, Kumi and Bukedye districts and work in groups of up to 30 members. Of these, 62% of the beneficiaries are female.

Farmers Trained FY 2007 by Organization

	Number trained	FADEP-EU	LWF	Northern Area Program Small Grants	TOTAL
Agronomy	Females	2,906	1,252	409	7,332
	Males	1,555	952	258	

Nutrition and Hygiene	Females	2,206	1,252	0	5,541
	Males	1,131	952	0	
PHH/Marketing	Females	168	0	0	248
	Males	80	0	0	
FaaB	Females	396	1,252	0	2,871
	Males	271	952	0	
Savings and Credit	Females	2,209	1,252	0	5,922
	Males	1,509	952	0	
Total		12,431	8,816	667	21,914



A grantee lead contact farmer participates in a Nutrition and Hygiene TOT session in Gulu district.

Intermediate Result 1.1:

Improved nutrition and hygiene practices at the household and community level.

Lack of knowledge as well as limited access to household farms due to prolonged conflict have contributed to poor nutrition and hygiene practices among smallholder farmers in north and eastern Uganda. As result, farmers have had to depend on wild vegetables with minimum effort to sustain the supply and variety of cultivated vegetables.

In order to equip farmers with nutrition and hygiene skills, ACDI/VOCA nutrition staff conducted TOTs for 70 field extension workers from five organizations: LWF, FADEP, and the three small grantees, namely URADI, CHAFORD and COWI. In FY 2007, FADEP-EU and LWF field extension workers and contact farmers were, in turn, able to train 5,541 farmers through group trainings and technical assistance in improved nutrition and hygiene practices.

After receiving the MYAP nutrition and hygiene training module, farmers were able to construct improved hygiene facilities such as bath shelters, latrines, dish drying racks, tippy taps, and latrine covers. The grantees have started distributing vegetable seeds and fruit tree seedlings to farmers for planting³. Beneficiary farmers now understand that poor feeding and hygiene practices can cause malnutrition and, as a result, are adopting practices such as

³ Grantee Quarterly report, 2007; GDU monitoring reports, 2007

varied diets, increased meal frequency and quantity, vegetable garden establishment, and tree planting to increase access to fresh vegetables and fruits throughout the year.

Intermediate Result 1.2:

Enhanced agricultural productivity, farm management, and marketing.

Improved Agricultural Productivity

ACDI/VOCA's agronomy training is aimed at increasing crop productivity using available land, labor, capital and entrepreneurship. During FY 2007, the ACDI/VOCA agronomist trained a total of 70 FEWs and CFs from the five grantees working with ACDI/VOCA in FY 2007. With the knowledge attained, FEWs and CFs, in turn, trained a total of 7,332 farmers in improved agronomic practices. Partner reports indicate that 64% of LWF's farmer beneficiaries and 70% of FADEP-EU's farmer beneficiaries adopted improved agronomic practices during this period.⁴ It should be noted that the implementation process in several districts was marred by a number of challenges. The most notable of these were floods that washed away several gardens in the July-September 2007 period, after farmers had planted their crops for the second planting season and prevented the execution of additional TOT training scheduled during the same period.



Farmers working with ACDI/VOCA's grantee CHAFORD, in Amuru District, treat their orang- fleshed sweet potato crop with ashes as a non- chemical method to combat destructive caterpillars. A week after this photo, ACDI/VOCA staff confirmed the method was successful and the crops were intact.

Farm Planning and Management

At the inception of the program, traditional farming that produced low yields was a common practice among Ugandan farmers. Under the traditional system, the farmer uses inputs and produces outputs with no systematic method for minimizing costs and maximizing benefits.

FaaB training has enabled farmers to develop work plans and schedules, keep records, and acquire basic business and planning skills useful in farming. A total of 46 field extension workers from both FADEP-EU and LWF received FaaB training and later trained 2,871 farmers. After the trainings, 63 farmer groups under LWF and 20 farmer groups under FADEP-EU developed work schedules and model "Projected Income Statements" which are used by members to more systematically manage their crops and savings. They also used projected income statements to make decisions regarding crop selection out of the wider

⁴ *Grantee Fourth Quarter Results Reports FY 2007*

variety of crop categories available. This enables them to diversify their income sources and increase household savings. A total of 146 FaaB training sessions were conducted (20 with FADEP-EU and 126 with LWF) out of the planned 546 (20 in FADEP-EU and 526 for LWF). The small number of training sessions with LWF was the result of heavy rains and floods which affected the project activities.

Discussions with farmers in the field during monitoring visits revealed that the farmers' records, such as work plans and projected income statements, facilitated better farm planning and management thus enabling farmers to better project and analyse profits and losses. Though program-wide level of bookkeeping is still low due to illiteracy, projects are working hard to involve more capable household members in the trainings and preparation of records. An increase in the number of household members participating in the trainings progressively increased over this period.⁵

Post-Harvest Handling and Storage

The first step towards increasing food reserves or incomes after production is application of proper post-harvest practices and technologies. Specifically, ACDI/VOCA's post-harvest handling training addresses timely harvesting to minimize field losses, proper crop drying to acceptable moisture levels to avoid molding, correct threshing/shelling methods to minimize damage of the grains and appropriate low-cost farm storage structures to preserve crop quality. Training sessions were held for 24 field extension workers and contact farmers working with FADEP-EU in August 2007, in turn trained 248 farmers. During FY 2007, field extension staff of FADEP-EU mentioned that due to the technical skills they have developed as a result of training by ACDI/VOCA, some local NGOs have approached them requesting assistance in constructing storage structures, such as cribs. Of the targeted 150 local cribs to be set up by FADEP-EU in FY 2007, only eight cribs were constructed. This is because the construction of drying and storage structures, which is usually done in the dry season, was affected by the heavy rains during the months of July and August. However, FADEP-EU has set a target of establishing a crib and a drying rack for the remaining 142 groups (each group has an average of 30 people). It is therefore envisaged that 150 cribs and 150 drying racks will have been established by the end of the first quarter of FY 2008.

Improved Agricultural Marketing

Most food grains in Uganda have been subject to a recent decline in prices due to increased production and limited internal markets. ACDI/VOCA's training of grantees in agricultural marketing is aimed at increasing local and regional market access of farmers' produce. ACDI/VOCA works with its grantees to develop innovative methods, in the Ugandan context, to better market their crops. During FY 2007, FADEP-EU was able to assist farmers to collectively sell approximately 198 MT of maize, at an average price of \$147-\$177 per MT compared to \$106-\$118 MT before FADEP-EU's intervention. This is roughly a 50% increase in sales price. The farmers have marketing committees (composed of the farmers) that direct the bulking and marketing of their produce. ACDI/VOCA's PHH/M training encourages the formation of these marketing committees and provides guidelines for their roles/management.

Intermediate Result 1.3:

Increased road access to local and regional markets and social services.

Per the MYAP implementation plan, the rehabilitation of roads to create access to local and regional markets and social services will commence in FY 2008. In FY 2007, ACDI/VOCA

⁵ Source: Grantee Quarterly and Annual Reports

and Africare worked to lay the ground work for a speedy and efficient start-up of the road rehabilitation activities. Africare was able to shift their road construction equipment from southwestern Uganda to northeastern Uganda (Soroti district), their proposed area of operation in the MYAP.

Together with Africare, ACDI/VOCA initiated contact with the road rehabilitation stakeholders including the local governments of the targeted districts as well as the consulting engineers to develop a strategy for this activity. Part of this strategy is to form a joint team of ACDI/VOCA staff, local government representatives and successful farmers participating in the MYAP activities to determine roads that provide better access to markets in any given district.

Intermediate Result 1.4:

Enhanced community and household capacity to withstand shocks.

Savings Mobilization and Management

Limited access to credit for agricultural production is one of the major constraints facing smallholder farmers in Uganda. To address this and promote a culture of saving, ACDI/VOCA trains extension staff of partner organizations who in turn train farmer groups on best practices in formation and management of savings and credit groups.

In FY 2007, ACDI/VOCA trained 41 field extension workers and contact farmers from LWF and FADEP-EU on formation and management of group savings and credit groups. The field extension workers and the contact farmers, in turn, trained 5,922 farmers on group formation and management (213 farmer groups). The trained groups have written by-laws, elected leaders and established record-keeping systems. Of the 2,204 farmers trained by LWF, 1,890 save regularly and borrow money from their groups to buy agricultural inputs such as simple

tools and seeds.⁶ Even though FADEP-EU only started training farmers in savings and credit management in the fourth quarter of FY 2007, they were able to train 210 farmers (seven groups) that also save regularly, meeting the target for the period after the TOT.

Additionally, reports from the two partner organizations indicate that farmers have increased savings in non-cash forms such as farm produce, land and poultry. The farmers use land for further investment in agriculture while poultry and farm produce can be sold easily in case of immediate cash needs.

Strategic Objective 2:

Reduced food insecurity and improved nutrition for 53,100 particularly vulnerable people through distribution of supplementary food per year.

Intermediate Result 2.1:

Increased access to nutritious foods through direct distribution of supplemental rations to 42,000 PLWHA, including their families and 11,100 malnourished children 6-23 months of age including their families.

ACDI/VOCA began direct food distribution to PLWHAs to supplement their diets in July 2007. Prior to this, nineteen distribution staff members were hired and three satellite warehouses with offices were opened for distribution teams based in Soroti, Lira and Gulu districts. In March, a RAA was signed with TASO and meetings were held with TASO field

⁶ Source: Grantee Reports

office representatives in Gulu and Soroti to begin project implementation.⁷ TASO and ACDI/VOCA staff met with host government officials in Gulu, Lira and Soroti districts to introduce the USAID funded distribution activity and inform them of the pending launch of food distribution.

ACDI/VOCA worked closely with TASO to develop a PLWHA eligibility assessment survey form and to identify distribution clients to be assessed for entry into the program.

Collaborating with TASO client representatives, ACDI/VOCA carried out a client eligibility survey that was used to qualify PLWHA clients. With this information, clients were clustered and 39 food distribution point (FDP) sites were identified that could serve the clients most effectively. By the end of FY 2007, ACDI/VOCA had qualified over 22,000 PLWHA supplementary food ration clients and 13,355 rations had been distributed.⁸ The remaining 8,645 PLWHA had not yet come for registration as of the end of FY 2007.

ACDI/VOCA staff monitoring visits to food distribution points revealed beneficiaries had limited ideas of how to prepare and consume corn soy blend (CSB) and were getting bored of eating it as porridge. This prompted ACDI/VOCA to develop nutrition information banners for display at all food distributions. The nutrition banners highlight the benefits of CSB and vegetable oil when consumed in appropriate quantities and suggest different means for preparation. They also offer guidelines on good feeding for PLWHAs. The banners give pertinent information to beneficiaries on good feeding practices the day they receive their food at the FDPs.

ACDI/VOCA anticipates initiating mother/child health and nutrition (MCHN) activities in FY 2008. MCHN implementing partners LWF and Africare are currently identifying intervention areas and beneficiaries and have already hired staff to implement the program. They are awaiting administration of the baseline survey in December 2007/January 2008 and approval of the MCHN plan to begin implementing the program. In October 2007, ACDI/VOCA received additional issues from USAID Office of Food for Peace (FFP) regarding the MCHN plan and, along with Africare and LWF, will work with FFP and the Food and Nutrition Technical Assistance Project (FANTA) to make further revisions before submitting the plan for final approval.

Intermediate Result 2.2:

Improved health and nutrition practices through behaviour change education.

Behavior change education in improved health and nutrition practices to the MCHN households will also commence once the MCHN supplemental food distribution begins in FY 2008. Key behaviors to be targeted by the program will include: child-feeding practices, breastfeeding, nutritional management of childhood illnesses, and hygienic preparation of food.

Intermediate Result 2.3:

Increased access to complementary services for food beneficiaries.

FADEP-EU has so far integrated 348 households affected by HIV/AIDS (TASO clients) into its agricultural interventions. Ninety-eight of these households continue to benefit from the ACDI/VOCA direct food distribution.

⁷ Through its partnership with TASO, ACDI/VOCA provides qualified TASO clients and their families with food supplements, and TASO assists ACDI/VOCA in client selection, the collection of nutritional and CD4 count data, and the provision of complementary services to the food aid beneficiaries.

⁸ Through its PLWHA food distribution, ACDI/VOCA distributes a monthly ration equating to 38g of corn soy blend (CSB) and 15 g of vegetable oil per person per day.

On commencement of the MCHN program in FY 2008, all MCHN households will be integrated into agricultural extension activities of Africare and LWF. Beneficiaries will continue in the agricultural training program after they stop receiving food rations.

MONITORING & EVALUATION, AUDITS & STUDIES

Results Data Sources

The results mentioned in this report were derived from grantee quarterly reports and staff field reports with completed monitoring checklists.

Evaluations

Two monitoring and evaluation (M&E) consultants, Joseph Mwangi and Constance McCorkle were hired in FY 2007 to revise the MYAP draft Performance Monitoring Plan (PMP) for submission to FFP. In addition, ACDI/VOCA also hired a MCHN consultant, Circe Trevant, who assisted in selecting and refining MCHN indicators to be included in the PMP. Initially scheduled towards the end of FY 2007, the baseline survey did not take place during the planned period due to pending approval of the PMP which is a requirement for the administration of the baseline and the various evaluations and impact surveys. ACDI/VOCA intends to conduct the agricultural portion of the baseline survey beginning in December 2007 or January 2008.

Quarterly Reports

ACDI/VOCA designed and gave partners and grantees reporting guidelines and formats during the FY 2007 fiscal year. Grantees and partners were required to use these formats for their quarterly results and financial reports. Each grantee compared their actual accomplishments to the targets agreed upon in the monitoring and evaluation section of their approved proposal. The results section of the report documented the progress made to date on specific implementation plan objectives, with explanations of any variances between actual achievements and targets, and highlighted any technical assistance or guidance required. The financial reports included quarterly expenditure projections and actuals and were used to monitor resource allocation and financial governance. Grantees submitted reports for various periods depending on when their particular grants were awarded after the February 2007 MYAP activity start date. LWF started project activities in February 2007, and submitted reports for February-June, 2007 and July-September 2007. FADEP-EU started its project activity implementation in May 2007 and, therefore, reported for May-June 2007 and July-September 2007. Africare started project activities in August 2007 and submitted one report for the entire 2007 fiscal year. The three small grantees, CO-WI, CHAFORD, and URADI, started project activities in September, and submitted a one month report for September 2007.

Monitoring Visit Checklists/Reports

ACDI/VOCA continued to monitor output and impact of both agriculture and food distribution interventions through frequent field visits. Team members used developed checklists to assess progress in both the agriculture technical areas and food distribution. The information on these checklists contributed to field trip reports. The GDU team submitted trip reports following each visit to grantee/partner offices or field activities, and food distribution field trip reports were used for internal monitoring and coordinating with TASO.

B. PROPOSED MODIFICATIONS

ACDI/VOCA is currently working on a revision of the MCHN component of the program as well as a revised M&E plan. These are anticipated to be submitted to FFP in January 2008.

C. SUCCESS STORY

Odipai group, a smallholder farmer group in Kumi district is composed of families recently re-settled from internally displaced people's camps. The group members lived under severe food shortage as they have only been able to access food aid. Malnutrition was strongly evident among children, pregnant women and lactating mothers due to consumption of poor dietary-value foods. Having lived in the camps for so long, the farmers developed negative attitudes towards work and developed poor social habits like excessive drinking which perpetuated food insecurity.

FADEP-EU, an ACDI/VOCA agricultural grantee, started working with this group of 30 members (including 20 females) in May 2007. The group has been supported through trainings on group formation and management, agronomy, post harvest handling, nutrition and FaaB. Making use of the practices imparted, the 30 members work together through the labor loan system. In the second production season of FY 2007, FADEP-EU supported the group with 100 kg of maize seed, 300 kg of bean seed, 500 kg of DAP, and 500kg of UREA to supplement their input requirements. With this support the group planted 17 acres of maize, 12 acres of beans and established a one-acre mother garden to multiply improved cassava and sweet potato planting materials.

The group was able to harvest at least 340 kg of beans from half-acre plots, compared to the locally known level of 60 kg per half-acre. This increase of about six times the common practice has greatly stimulated interest of the farmers towards production. After the trainings in nutrition, the farmers are now knowledgeable on better feeding practices, have established vegetable gardens to provide green vegetables as a source of micronutrients and are promoting local poultry production to address the problem of protein deficiency.

D. LESSONS LEARNED

ACDI/VOCA has nothing to report for FY 2007.