



Annual Results Report

Multi-Year Assistance Programs/Development Activity Programs

Title II

Uganda/ACDI/VOCA

Fiscal Year 2008

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LIST OF ACRONYMS

ARR	Annual Results Report
ART	Anti-retroviral Treatment
C&F	Commodity and Freight
CBO	Community Based Organizations
CF	Contact Farmer
CHAFORD	Charity for Rural Development
CSB	Corn-Soy Blend
DAP	Development Activity Proposal
DNA	Data Not Available
EIA	Environmental Impact Assessment
FaaB	Farming as a Business
FADEP-EU	Farming For Food and Development—Eastern Uganda
FEWS	Field Extension Workers
FDP	Food Distribution Point
FFP	Office of Food for Peace
FY	Fiscal Year
GDU	Grants and Development Unit
HIV	Human Immunodeficiency Virus
HIV/AIDS	Human Immunodeficiency Virus/Acquired Immunodeficiency Syndrome
HRW	Hard Red Winter
ICB	Institutional Capacity Building (Grant)
IDP	Internally Displaced Person
IPTT	Indicator Performance Tracking Table
KMs	Kilometers
LOP	Life of Project
LWF	Lutheran World Federation
M&E	Monitoring and Evaluation
MCHN	Maternal and Child Health and Nutrition
MT	Metric Ton
MYAP	Multi-Year Assistance Program
NARO	National Research Organization
NGO	Non-Governmental Organization
NRM	Natural Resource Management
PHH/M	Post Harvest Handling and Marketing
PLWHA	People Living With HIV/AIDS
PMP	Performance Management Plan
RAA	Recipient Agency Agreement
TASO	The AIDS Support & Counseling Organization
TOT	Training of Trainers
URADI	Uganda Rural Development Initiative
US	United States
USAID	United States Agency for International Development
USH	Ugandan shillings
VAT	Value Added Tax

I. RESULTS REPORT

A. ANNUAL RESULTS

Introduction

FY 2008 marked a continuation of activities in ACDI/VOCA's Multi-Year Assistance Program (MYAP). The program was able to achieve positive results thanks to a relatively peaceful environment in northern Uganda in addition to the capabilities of qualified project staff conversant with the cultural and linguistic realities of the north.

In FY 2008, ACDI/VOCA continued to thoroughly vet additional proposals for grant awards to local and international non-governmental organizations (NGOs) and community-based organizations (CBOs) to implement agricultural activities. During the fiscal year, ACDI/VOCA was able to fund nine additional grantees in an effort to scale up activities in intervention areas. With the new grantees, ACDI/VOCA has now reached 40,000 beneficiaries from the Acholi, Lango and Teso regions under the first objective of the project: *Reduced food insecurity and increased nutrition status through better production and use of food by 170,600 farmers.* Utilizing a Training of Trainers (TOT) methodology, ACDI/VOCA provided technical assistance in agronomy, post harvest handling/marketing (PHH/M), savings mobilization and group formation, Farming as Business (FaaB), hygiene and nutrition and financial management to grantees to build their capacity and provide them with the tools to effectively carry out project activities.

Food distribution to people living with HIV/AIDS (PLWHA) was expanded to many areas of northern Uganda for a total of 47 established food distribution points (FDPs) during FY 2008. Additionally, ACDI/VOCA was able to formulate, through the collaboration with various stakeholders, a transition strategy for PLWHAs to graduate from food supplementation into livelihood activities.

MYAP partners Lutheran World Federation (LWF), Africare and The Aids Support Organization (TASO), continued implementing field activities and were able to reach thousands of beneficiaries in FY 2008. TASO, for instance, provided invaluable support to ACDI/VOCA's distribution efforts in identifying PLWHA food beneficiaries and providing them with counselling and clinical information at different food distribution points. TASO also started testing and recording CD4 counts for PLWHA participating in ACDI/VOCA's program. LWF continued working with farmer groups in Amuria and Katakwi districts with extremely positive results for target beneficiaries. After an initial delay, Africare has now started implementing its activities in Soroti and Kabermaido districts. Africare has also begun providing TOT training in natural resource management (NRM) to all MYAP partners.

After discussion with both the Office of Food for Peace (FFP) as well as project partners, ACDI/VOCA decided to remove the mother/child health nutrition (MCHN) component from the project. This decision was made with the approval and support of FFP and resources previously dedicated to MCHN activities were removed from the project.

ACDI/VOCA conducted a baseline survey for its intervention areas in March 2008. As a result of this study, ACDI/VOCA was able to collect baseline values for all indicators reported to FFP. A copy of the baseline study is provided with this report as Attachment 10.

Sudden and significant hikes in world prices of agricultural inputs (improved seeds, fertilizers) presented significant challenges to the implementation of activities in FY 2008. During the fiscal year, ACDI/VOCA worked with grantees to realign and re-adjust budgets so that grantees could purchase the amount of inputs required for project activities. The delay (and sometimes reduction) in input purchase negatively affected the adoption rate of agricultural technologies by the grantees. However, ACDI/VOCA continues to work with grantees through TOT trainings and consultation to ensure that grantees are able to utilize assistance provided by the program.

Despite early planning and sustained exchanges with relevant authorities in some of the districts in the MYAP intervention area, ACDI/VOCA was not able to start feeder road rehabilitation due to recent administrative reshuffling in certain districts in northern Uganda. As a result of the reshuffling, certain districts targeted for road rehabilitation activities were under-budgeted and not able to provide necessary resources for project contribution (heavy road equipment). ACDI/VOCA is, however, working with district officials as well as other stakeholders to address this issue.

The project hosted many visitors during FY 2008. Judy Canuhati, USAID FFP/Washington travelled to Gulu district to meet with ACDI/VOCA staff and visit some of the small grant agricultural beneficiaries among whom are PLWHAs. She also attended an ACDI/VOCA food distribution activity at FDP around Gulu. In addition, ACDI/VOCA hosted three volunteers recruited by the Uganda Title II program and also by ACDI/VOCA's Institutional Capacity Building (ICB) grant funded by USAID. Uganda Title II volunteers provided invaluable technical assistance in monitoring and evaluation (M&E), group producer organizations and training. Two ICB volunteers visited the program in January and February 2008 and provided recommendations on graduation strategy for food distribution beneficiaries. The recommendations provided by the ICB volunteers have already been incorporated into the program's overall graduation strategy. Each volunteer visited the program, on average, for three to four weeks during the fiscal year.

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

During FY 2008, nine additional local grantees were selected and approved for funding. To date, a total of 15 local grantees have been funded by the program. In addition, project partners LWF and TASO continued activities in target areas. Currently, through signed agreements, the program is ramping up to reach a total of 90,600 beneficiaries, approximately 53% of the targeted beneficiaries for the life of project (LOP). Additional sub-grantee agreements are currently in the pipeline to be funded in FY 2009.

Capacity Building

In FY 2008, 15 ACDI/VOCA grantees received both funding and technical assistance through the ACDI/VOCA TOT package. This package includes training in: (1) group formation and management, (2) savings mobilization, (3) agronomy, (4) Farming as a Business, (5) post-harvest handling & marketing and (6) nutrition/hygiene education and counseling. 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.

Table 1: Number of Beneficiaries Trained in FY 2008

	Course	Staff/Contact Farmers			Farmers		
		Male	Female	Total	Male	Female	Total
1	Agronomy	135	44	179	10,364	13,862	24,226
2	Hygiene and Nutrition	97	52	149	12,711	7,247	19,958
3	Farming as a Business	87	28	115	5,956	7,987	13,943
4	Group Formation and Savings Mobilization	159	54	213	7,146	11,522	18,668
5	Natural Resource Management	30	6	36	0 ¹	0	0
6	Post Harvest Handling and Marketing	157	63	220	3,229	4,660	7,889
7	Compliance and Accounting	17	6	23	NA ²	NA	NA
	TOTAL	682	253	935	39,406	45,278	84,684

Intermediate Result 1.1: Improved nutrition and hygiene practices at the household and community level

The project's nutrition and hygiene trainings aim to improve nutrition and hygiene practices at the household and community levels. The trainings, which include instruction on the construction of sanitation and hygiene facilities as well as guidelines for the maintenance of safe food and water, focuses on hygiene and sanitation practices that are vital for the nutritional well being of beneficiary households. In addition, the trainings help beneficiary households make informed decisions on what nutritious foods needed to be consumed by members of the household. Specifically, the trainings promote the establishment of kitchen/vegetable gardens for the provision of fresh vegetables in the family diet.

ACDI/VOCA conducted four TOTs in nutrition and hygiene during FY 2008. Nutrition TOT trainings are 3 day long trainings aimed at developing grantee staff and contact farmers' skills to deliver training in nutrition to farmer groups. A total of 149 grantee staff and contact farmers (52 females/97 males) from 12 ACDI/VOCA grantees were trained. To date, a total of 219 staff and contact farmers have received TOT training in nutrition and hygiene.

¹ No farmers have been trained in Natural Resource Management because the TOTs were done late in the year. Farmers will be trained in FY09 in Natural Resource Management as a course or through integrating natural resources during training in agronomy.

² Compliance and Accounting training is for staff of grantees only.

The 219 staff from partner and grantee organizations, in turn, trained a total of 19,958 farmers (12,711 females/7,247 males) in nutrition and hygiene during FY 2008.

As a result of the training, farmers from 14 ACDI/VOCA grantees have set up thousands of hygiene facilities as well as kitchen/vegetable gardens. See Table 2 for more information.

Table 2: Number of Hygiene Facilities and Kitchen Gardens Created by Beneficiaries

Hygiene facilities and kitchen/vegetable gardens	FY2008
Latrines	8,487
Tip-tap	4,908
Bath-shelters	8,833
Rubbish pits	7,351
Plate racks	8,380
Kitchen/vegetables gardens	8,734

In addition, grantee staff and farmers have reported increased:

- Use of latrines
- Hand washing after latrine use and before eating with clean soap and water
- Intake of vegetables in households
- Cleanliness in homes as a result of bath shelters, plate racks and rubbish pits

Intermediate Result 1.2: Enhanced agricultural productivity, farm management, and marketing

Improved Agricultural Productivity

ACDI/VOCA's agronomy training program focuses on maximizing yields per unit area through better farm management, increased usage of improved inputs, integrated pest management, and soil preservation. The main activities implemented during FY 2008 included training grantee staff in proper agronomic techniques.

During FY 2008, the ACDI/VOCA technical staff trained a total of 179 (24.6% females/75.4% males) grantee staff, FEWs and CFs from 13 local grantees as well as staff members of project partner LWF. Using the knowledge and skills obtained, the staff of ACDI/VOCA grantees, LWF and Africare trained a total of 24,226 farmers (57.2% females/42.8% males) in improved agronomic practices.

Table 3: Number of Grantee Staff, Contact Farmers and Farmers Trained in Agronomy

	Grantee staff and contact farmers	Farmers
Males	135	10,364
Females	44	13,862
Total	179	24,226

A total of 2,928 demonstration sites were established and used for farmer training in FY 2008. The crops utilized in these sites were primarily cassava, groundnuts, beans and potatoes (See Attachment 6 for more information). These sites have been used to demonstrate and promote the following improved agronomic practices: line/row planting, proper spacing of

plants/crops, use of improved seeds/planting materials, application of fertilizers and timely weeding.

ACDI/VOCA grantees and LWF are collecting data on acreage planted by each household as well as outputs after harvest. Number of acreage planted with crops and output in tons will be reported in the FY 2009 quarterly and annual reports.

Despite the achievements in crop production, several challenges were reported during the year including:

- Crop diseases affecting crop yields;
- Dry spell resulting in late planting and destruction of crops; and
- Poor planting materials due to delayed procurement or poor handling of procurement processes.³

ACDI/VOCA will continue to work with grantees to address these challenges in the remaining years of the project.

Farm Management: *Farming as a Business (FaaB)*

ACDI/VOCA's FaaB training focuses on improving household food security by stressing the importance of cultivating strategic crops, income diversification, household savings and benefits of farmer groups.

During FY 2008, ACDI/VOCA technical staff conducted FaaB TOT for all ACDI/VOCA grantees. A total of 115 people were trained (87 males/28 females). Following the TOT training, grantee staff, MYAP partners and contact farmers trained 13,943 farmers (42.7% males/57.3% females) in FaaB.

Table 4: Number of Grantee Staff, Contact Farmers and Farmers Trained in FaaB in FY08

	Grantee staff and contact farmers	Farmers
Males	87	5,956
Females	28	7,987
Total	115	13,943

As a result of FaaB training, farmers are expected to develop work plans and schedules, keep records and acquire basic business and planning skills useful in farming. An annual survey conducted in FY 2008 showed that:

- 22.4% had created workplans; and
- 28% had completed farm records including projected income statements⁴

Challenges in FaaB activities included the fact that low literacy levels among beneficiaries accounted for the low adoption of work plans and record keeping. To address this challenge,

³ ACDI/VOCA now requires that grantees procure planting material from agricultural research stations instead of from local farmers. In addition, ACDI/VOCA continues to work with grantees on proper procurement practices and timetables.

⁴ Adoption percentages are expected to increase as the FaaB curriculum is refined throughout the remainder of the program. Also, ACDI/VOCA is currently recruiting for a replacement FaaB technical expert who will examine ways to increase adoption rates for beneficiaries.

ACDI/VOCA staff and extension workers intend to identify literate persons in beneficiary households for training. These individuals would then support the household in record keeping.

Post-Harvest Handling and Storage

Post-harvest handling training activities aim to reduce post-harvest losses (both in-field and on-farm) to increase value to farmers produce after harvest. To improve the quality and quantity of produce after production, a total of 220 people were trained (157 males/63 females). Following their training, grantee staff, MYAP partners and contact farmers trained 7,889 farmers (41% males/59% females) in PHH and marketing. Training specifically focused on timely harvesting, improved drying, threshing and storage. ACDI/VOCA trainings for grantees underscore the importance of practical training since the majority of the target beneficiaries are adult learners. Maize cribs, drying racks and granaries were constructed as demos.

Table 5: Number of Beneficiaries Trained in PHH and Marketing

	Grantee staff, contact farmers	Farmers
Males	157	3,229
Females	63	4,660
Total	220	7,889

Several facilities have been adopted by grantees as indicated in Table 6 below. The low figures in replication of PHH/M facilities are explained by the following reasons:

- limited supply of wood for construct of PHH/M facilities;
- facility like maize crib is too expensive for most of the farmers due to limited incomes; and
- low attendance by farmers in PHH/M due to farmers' busy schedules when the trainings were held.⁵

ACDI/VOCA will ensure that grantees increase the number of farmer trainings in post harvest handling and marketing in the FY 2009 workplans. In addition, farmer trainers will be encouraged to support adoption by discussing with farmers reasons for non-adoption and identifying creative ways to address them. ACDI/VOCA will also implement a rapid assessment to determine possible solutions to the low adoption rate of PHH facilities.

Table 6: Number of PHH Facilities Constructed by Beneficiaries

Facilities	Number of facilities adopted by farmers
Tarpaulin	107
Maize cribs	4
Drying racks	122
Granary	31
Mats	230
TOTAL	494

⁵ PHH/M training is usually held at a time when farmers are both harvesting as well as preparing land for the subsequent season. This partly accounts for low attendance by farmers.

Improved Agricultural Marketing

Training in agricultural marketing is aimed at improving farmers' incomes through collective marketing by farmer groups. Grantees who have worked in the program longest (for example Farming for Food and Development—Eastern Uganda (FADEP-EU) and Charity for Rural Development (CHAFORD)) had few farmers participating in collective marketing. The main challenge during FY 2008 in terms of achieving a collective marketing strategy was the relatively low crop output, the need for money to meet the immediate family needs and the relatively high prices at harvest (due to increase in world food prices) which entice farmers to sell immediately rather than bulking for future sales.

ACDI/VOCA will continue to refine the collective marketing strategy so that farmers continue to see the advantages of bulking despite the attractive prices at the farm gate. ACDI/VOCA has already recruited a volunteer to examine best ways to achieve this goal. The volunteer's recommendation of working with mid-size and urban traders to aid ACDI/VOCA supported farmers in their collective marketing strategy is being considered in the light of ACDI/VOCA past experiences in other parts of the Uganda.

Intermediate Result 1.3: *Increased road access to local and regional markets and social services*

As mentioned above, the project was not able to complete targeted road rehabilitation activities during the fiscal year. However, project staff identified possible areas for rehabilitation as well as continued discussions with district officials. Specifically, approximately 22.7 kms of road were identified by Africare and 110.4 (out of 112 kms for FY 2008) were identified by ACDI/VOCA to be rehabilitated. Areas for rehabilitation include Soroti, Kumi, Bukedea and Budaka districts. In addition, Africare carried out an Environment Impact Assessment (EIA) of the Arapai-Tubur road and received approval from USAID to begin rehabilitation. By the end of September 2009, up to 130 kilometres of roads will have been rehabilitated. Despite this unfortunate delay, ACDI/VOCA will be able to achieve all its LOP road rehabilitation targets by the end of the program.

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 to promote a culture of savings, ACDI/VOCA conducts TOT in the formation of farmer savings groups.

In FY 2008, ACDI/VOCA trained a total of 213 staff of grantee FEWs and contact farmers (25.3% females/74.7% males) from 14 organizations. As a result of the TOT, a total of 18,668 farmers (61.7% females/38.3% males) were trained in group formation and savings mobilization. Subjects of the training included group formation, farmer group constitutions, group leadership, record keeping and group savings and credit.

Table 7: Number of Beneficiaries trained in Group Formation and Savings

	Grantee staff/contact farmers	Farmers
Males	159	7,146
Females	54	11,522
Total	213	18,668

In FY 2008, grantee organizations continued to form new savings and credit groups as well as strengthen existing ones. A total of 558 savings groups belonging to 11 grantees funded by the MYAP have been formed. The 558 groups have made a cumulative savings of \$80,108 in 15 months (an average of \$146 per group). Out of 657 farmer groups of the 11 grantees with savings groups, eight out of every 10 groups (85%) had a savings scheme (See Attachment 6 for more information). It is worth noting that in communities where a “culture of savings” is not frequently practiced, simply increasing the number of groups practicing collective savings is an enormous achievement.

Besides monetary savings, grantee reports also indicate an increase in in-kind savings. Beneficiaries are using proceeds from the sale of surplus produce and excess to purchase domestic animals such as cattle, goats and livestock. Cattle are reared for milk and for cultivation to expand acreage. Goats and poultry can be sold easily in case of immediate cash needs such as agricultural inputs and school requirements for children.

Strategic Objective 2: Reduced food insecurity and improved nutrition for 42,000 particularly vulnerable people through distribution of supplementary food per year

36,180 total beneficiaries out of 42,000 were registered⁶ for food distribution activities as of September 2008. Because of distribution commodity cuts by FFP for FY 2008, ACDI/VOCA had to restrict total beneficiary clients to 32,262 so as to not have a commodity pipeline break. ACDI/VOCA, however, expects to reach the full 42,000 beneficiary target by April 2009, barring any unforeseen commodity cuts.

Intermediate Result 2.1: Increased access to nutritious foods through direct distribution of supplemental rations to 42,000 PLWHA, including their families

PLWHA food client ramp-up continued through late FY 2008 culminating in 32,262 total beneficiaries by September 2008. A cumulative total of 289,309 monthly PLWHA food aid rations were delivered in FY 2008. This translated into a total of 2,070 metric tons (MT) of corn soy blend (CSB) and 130 MT of vegetable oil delivered to beneficiaries in FY 2008⁷.

Intermediate Result 2.2: Improved health and nutrition practices through behavior change education

A total of 44 food and cooking demonstrations were conducted in 44 FDPs out of 45. Cooking demonstrations were conducted to help clients maximize the benefits of Title II distribution commodities by utilizing various recipes prepared including fish, greens, meat, bread, pan cakes, porridge and groundnut paste using CSB and vegetable oil. All

⁶ Clients are first registered and vetted through an eligibility survey before they are admitted into the program.

⁷ Client rations are 7.5 kg of CSB and 0.518 liters of veg oil per client. ACDI/VOCA gives individual rations to up to six family members in a household.

demonstration recipes were made using affordable locally available ingredients. Food clients reported improved health due to proper utilization of supplementary food aid through various recipes.

Most beneficiaries interviewed reported cooking CSB and vegetable oil using other locally available resources in addition to what was demonstrated. Clients explored various recipes such as mixing CSB with maize grain before taking it to the grinding stones, eating CSB paste with cassava or potatoes for breakfast, mixing it with white ants, grinding it into paste and cooking CSB with other vegetables.

Intermediate Result 2.3: Increased access to complementary services for food beneficiaries

In its guidelines for its food security grantee awards, ACDI/VOCA encourages potential grantees to form farmer groups with at least 12% of the members as PLWHAs. As of the end of FY 2008, grantees have reported a total of 940 households affected by HIV/AIDS as part of the farmer groups. These farmers are community members who have chosen to be open about their HIV/AIDS status and are not necessarily food aid clients.

Furthermore, ACDI/VOCA has commenced designing a transition strategy targeting the incorporation of households affected by HIV/AIDS (who are now food distribution recipients) into the food security and livelihoods programming (agricultural or income generation activities). The current transition strategy design is based upon the findings of two different volunteers recruited by ACDI/VOCA to look into the practical implementation of this transition. So far ACDI/VCA has presented a draft of the transition strategy to its sub-grantees, partners and USAID Uganda and is currently incorporating their comments and feedback.

In addition, during the FY, food aid clients received complementary services from TASO such as counseling and medical care, anti-retroviral (ART) treatment, child support, and income generating activity training/support.

Clients accessed counseling and medical care services both at outreach clinics and health centers with a total of 1,027 food clients counseled and 1,422 receiving medical care in FY 2008. Due to the benefits of being enrolled onto the food program, clients generally have fewer problems and counselors are no longer overwhelmed with clients' needs for food.

It has been noted that the majority of clients on ART receiving food from ACDI/VOCA have shown high levels of adherence (91 % of the 580 clients on ART) to the drugs compared to those who do not receive food. In addition, TASO has been able to sensitize food aid beneficiaries on proper condom use. TASO has also provided a number of beneficiaries with condoms to prevent the further spread of HIV among the population.

MONITORING & EVALUATION, AUDITS & STUDIES

MYAP Baseline Survey

The Makerere School of Public Health and Agricultural Management Associates conducted the MYAP baseline study in March 2008. The aim of the study was to obtain quantitative and qualitative data from a population-based sample in project implementation areas. A copy of the baseline report is attached to this report as Attachment 10.

FY08 MYAP Annual Survey

The overall objective of the FY 2008 annual survey was to assess the progress of the MYAP towards achieving its objectives. The study informed ACDI/VOCA, its partners and grantees on the level of adoption of practices promoted in the households. Results from the survey are included in the IPTT (Attachment 1).

Monitoring and Evaluation Training Workshop

The M&E Specialist and the M&E Officer conducted M&E training for 42 staff of 14 program grantees. The training was designed to address reporting related challenges, support the establishment of computerized databases for grantees and to orient grantees on data collection tools and reporting formats. One immediate effect of the training has been improvement in the timeliness of reports and quality of data from grantees.

Reporting Documents

In FY 2008, ACDI/VOCA completed standardization of all its programmatic as well as financial reporting documents for use by all grantees and partners. Both grantee and partner feedback was solicited for the revision of the reporting documents.

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 checklists to assess progress in both the agriculture technical areas and food distribution. The information on these checklists contributed to field trip reports. The Grants Development Unit (GDU) 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 coordination with TASO.

B. PROPOSED MODIFICATIONS

During FY 2008, changes were made to the program's M&E plan due to the elimination of the MCHN component in addition to the need to finalize all indicators, targets and baseline numbers. During FY 2008, updated baseline values were inserted into the IPTT/PIRS, annual survey indicators were updated and MCHN indicators were removed from the M&E plan. ACDI/VOCA's revised IPTT was submitted to FFP in July 2008 following a request from FFP. Indicators have not been adjusted since that time.

In addition, ACDI/VOCA re-evaluated the program's vulnerability strategy and trigger indicators to more accurately reflect the current needs of the program. A complete description of ACDI/VOCA's vulnerability assessment and trigger indicator approach can be found in the PMP Narrative attached along with this report (Attachment 8).

C. SUCCESS STORIES***Katie Saram—Farming for Food & Development-Eastern Uganda (FADEP-EU)***

Uganda's agricultural potential is tremendous. The land is fertile, the climate is mild, there is enough rain for two growing seasons and there are nearby markets that are nowhere near saturated. Most of Uganda's agricultural activity, however, is conducted by smallholder farmers—usually women—at a subsistence level. Women in rural Uganda give birth to an average of seven children and are responsible for caring for the children while also hauling

water and growing and cooking food. When all her other responsibilities are taken care of, the most a woman can typically cultivate is about one hectare of land, usually just enough to feed her family.

Since 1989 ACDI/VOCA has been helping Ugandan smallholder farmers through the USAID-funded PL 480 Title II program. These programs have helped farmers increase and improve production so that they can not only achieve food security but also make money selling part of their crops to nearby markets. Currently, ACDI/VOCA is implementing a program which started in 2007 and will end in 2011.

Many of the beneficiaries of the program are women like Katie Saram. Like most rural Ugandan women, Saram used to work alone, cultivating a small plot of land using traditional techniques. In July 2007, Saram learned about a demonstration garden created by a Ugandan NGO called Farming for Food and Development-Eastern Uganda, known as FADEP. ACDI/VOCA supports this organization through their Title II project in Uganda. FADEP helps farmers form farmer groups, grow better crops, reduce waste in post-harvest handling and storage of their crops, and sell their surplus. Its field extension workers and trainers conduct training for farmers in modern farming techniques, farmer group formation and management, nutrition and hygiene, and post-harvest handling and management. It also offers training in *Farming as a Business*, ACDI/VOCA's signature curriculum that exposes smallholder farmers to advantageous business principles and practices.

Saram took the training offered by FADEP and learned new techniques, such as proper spacing and weeding of crops, cultivation of better varieties of seeds and the use of technologies such as maize cribs and elevated cassava-drying racks to reduce post-harvest losses. She also learned about improving the health of her family by growing vitamin A-rich foods in the family's kitchen garden. Her farm now has a pit latrine, shower and tippy tap (a simple device for washing hands), which reduce the risk of diarrhea, typhoid and cholera.

Today, Saram is the contact farmer for her farmer's group, which means that her farm serves as a model of good farming, health and hygiene for the other farmers in the group, as well as her neighbors. She is responsible for gathering data on how much land is cultivated by her group, how much they spend on inputs, and how much they plant, harvest, sell and keep for their own use. She is also a main point of contact for sellers of inputs, buyers of the group's produce and FADEP.

Katie Saram no longer farms in isolation. Under the Title II program, her hard work, skills and knowledge have given her a position of responsibility and respect in her community and enabled her to play a significant role in achieving local food security.

Additional Success Stories from the program's FY 2008 interventions may be found in Attachment 7.

D. LESSONS LEARNED

1. Acquisition of cassava cuttings by grantees without technical guidance from national research stations (National Research Organization-NARO) has resulted in supply and planting of mixed and poor quality varieties. To address this challenge, ACDI/VOCA will involve NARO in the process of supplying cassava cuttings to grantees.
2. In the course of interacting with some of the grantee organizations, ACDI/VOCA noted low management skills of some of their key staff. ACDI/VOCA will now provide input

on the recruitment of key positions such as the project managers, M&E officers or accountants for CBOs.

3. Price hikes have negatively impacted the adoption rate of some of the technologies (use of improved seeds, fertilizers) ACDI/VOCA is promoting. ACDI/VOCA is looking at developing some proxy indicators that can show effectiveness of its training even if adoption is hindered by factors beyond the program's direct interventions.