

Catholic Relief Services

Sahel Generic Grant

(AID/AFR-C-1467)

625-0930

Project Paper

FY 78



CATHOLIC RELIEF SERVICES

UNITED STATES CATHOLIC CONFERENCE

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May 25, 1978

Mr. Ullmont L. James
AFR/DR/PVO
Agency for International Development
Department of State
21st & C Streets, N.W. Room 2926
Washington, D. C. 20523

RE: Project Proposal for Institution Building
and Socio-Economic Development Projects
in the Sahel Countries of the Gambia,
Mauritania, Senegal and Upper Volta

Dear Mr. James:

In reference to Mr. Redder's meeting with you on Friday, May 19, I am happy to provide you with the additional information that was requested in relation to the CRS request for a \$4,000,000 grant for "Institution Building and Socio-Economic Development Projects in The Sahel Countries of The Gambia, Mauritania, Senegal and Upper Volta".

* Enclosed for your perusal is a copy of the revised CRS Program Management Manual. (This is only a next-to-final draft.) It contains the procedures for program and project development, criteria for projects and evaluation as well as other information pertinent to the operation of CRS' overseas programs.

* Also, attached to this letter you will find a short description of the three types of project modalities CRS uses in its Africa programs.

In reviewing our cash flow requirements for the first 90 days of the grant period, we believe that \$150,000 will be an adequate amount as an advance.

As for the first evaluation, given the nature of the projects in agriculture and water, we feel that no useful in-depth evaluation can be carried out before the 18th month after the start of the grant period and therefore, we request that the first evaluation be set at 18 months after

the effective date of the grant with annual evaluation thereafter. Progress reports will be presented every six months and financial reports will be quarterly as required. CRS would, of course, be closely supervising and evaluating progress at every step.

* We are requesting an initial grant of \$1,000,000 with increments bringing the total to \$4,000,000 over a three-year period. With the first evaluation set at 18 months, we estimate that we would require a total funding of up to \$2,000,000 before the evaluation date.

Finally, we request that the grant be made effective as of May 1, 1978.

Hopefully, this information will be helpful to you in preparing a PIOT document for the requested grant.

Your cooperation and helpful suggestions are most appreciated.

With kind personal regards, I remain

Sincerely yours,



Rev. Robert L. Charlebois
Special Assistant

RLC/akw

Food and Nutrition Program

Catholic Relief Services in Africa has concentrated its efforts during the last ten years or so implementing a program which considerably decreases the devastating impact on children of inadequate food intake. Our studies show that children up to five years old and children from six to sixteen are the most severely affected by poor nutritional practices on the part of their mothers (food preparers) and by the shortages of food that are endemic to virtually every country, or selected parts of every country, where we operate in Africa.

In an effort to address these problems, CRS has developed a program with an immediate impact on deficient absorption of nutrients. Such interventions as agricultural production, storage, adequate systems of credit, and improved water supply, are taking place simultaneously with the Food and Nutrition Program.

The Food and Nutrition Program collaborates with the local government ministry that cares for these target groups, a collaboration which provides Title II Food supplies, directed toward those responsible for providing the family diet. A system of food rationing, commensurate with the assessed nutritional deficit of the child and family, coupled with a program of nutritional growth surveillance, has been put into place in each of the countries where CRS operates.

This surveillance consists of weighing and measuring the child, plotting the results on a specifically designed chart, and interpreting it to the mother in relation to the growth patterns of the child. These activities are in conjunction with maternal and child health programs conducted at governmental and private health centers, as well as activities sponsored by village groups outside specific health settings and at schools.

In many instances, staff from local government ministries participate directly in carrying out and supervising these programs in specified regions under the guidance, and with the support, of a CRS public health nurse or nutritionist. The individual interpretations of the child's growth pattern are complemented by group demonstrations, lectures and discussions on related nutrition/health topics. Most governments, where financially able, cover costs of transporting all food supplies to each center site. Program participants also contribute financially at the rate of approximately 25¢-50¢ per child. The immediate objective is achieving and maintaining adequate growth for the children participating.

We find this program becomes the basis of other interventions which can be undertaken or supported by CRS, other agencies, or the community itself. Some of these optional interventions are described below.

CRS's role in the Food and Nutrition Program starts in a collaborative effort to identify areas of concern within the country. This is done in most cases with either the Ministry of Social Affairs or of Health. After areas of concern have been identified, CRS programs the food supplies needed to cover the nutritional deficits of the recipients who will attend these centers. The government, in turn, programs in their budgets an appropriate allocation for the transport of this food. Once the food supplies arrive at the port of entry, CRS arranges the documentation for the shipping to each specified center on a periodic basis. CRS has a staff of field supervisors who visit each center on a regular basis to check on the program's operations, on whether the program is implementing its activities in accord with the prescribed plan of operation. In many cases, this supervision is undertaken jointly with the appropriate government official. CRS also provides material support in the form of medicines, and CRS covers costs of all supervision of the program and, at times, such as in Senegal, helps finance the government's participation and supervision through the provision of vehicles.

The Nutritional Surveillance System, which is in place in each center, provides a feedback mechanism to CRS and to the government on the nutritional status of the

target populations; appropriate adjustments or additional interventions can then be programmed on the basis of this information.

Water Programs

CRS has found that many of the diseases that destroy nutrients in the child's body are water-borne. Therefore, specific attention is given in many countries to improve, enlarge or establish water-supply systems that provide clean, disease-free water. While the CRS Food and Nutrition Program provides an understanding of the magnitude of water problems, CRS uses whatever income it can find to support programs for improved water supplies.

Where communities desire to improve their water supply, qualitatively or quantitatively, CRS responds in the following manner: ¹ first, priority is given to supporting efforts that complement the Food and Nutrition Program by means of geographical proximity; ² second, CRS's concern is in channelling support to areas where community action, both in terms of financial and labor contributions, is provided by the villagers themselves.

The technology of improving water supplies, especially in the drought-stricken countries, is sometimes beyond the capabilities of communities, for example when 100-meter wells have gone dry. In these instances, CRS acts with other agencies, such as local government ministries of water supply, CARITAS groups and Peace Corps, to provide such technical skills as drilling or deepening wells and constructing cisterns or catchment basins. CRS will then channel financial support to these intermediary agencies

on the basis of a specific plan of action and budget, and monitors the performance of the plan, rather than mobilizing its own operational network.

Of secondary attention for CRS in this Region, although primary in some countries, is the provision of water for agricultural activities. Here also, CRS collaborates with agencies possessing competent technical expertise in water supply and irrigation. Involvement of a community is still a primary concern, for it is found that only where a community has a defined sense of responsibility and participation in such projects, will a project have a long-range impact and the water system be maintained.

Here again, CRS's role is basically that of a financial support mechanism. However, because of CRS's access to rural communities, thanks to the Food and Nutrition Program, CRS is able to mobilize, through a series of both governmental and private contracts, the energies of rural communities. In a few instances where no local intermediary agency is able to provide technical services, CRS itself becomes operational and implements these programs with its own staff, funded in major part by private resources.

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Agriculture Development Programs

An integral part of CRS's concern are programs that attempt to make food more accessible to rural communities. Through contacts with communities and through health and education, CRS has become aware of areas where it is able to assist in growing more food, reducing food wastage through grain storage programs, and assisting farmers to form cooperatives or other groupings where agricultural credit will be more available. Once areas or projects have been identified and written up by CRS, funds are secured from private U.S. and European sources, and the U.S. Government through OPC's. These are channelled back to the community, or through the intermediary agency, such as a local government department, to a Catholic or non-sectarian counterpart. Funds and activities are monitored on the basis of the project proposal and budget submission. CRS maintains a degree of physical and operational control by periodic visits to the project sites. In certain instances, CRS has become operationally involved to the extent that it will provide staff and technical capabilities to a community.

CRS's agriculturally related programs attempt to complement, in most cases, its efforts in the food and nutrition program. It is seen as a logical follow-through toward dealing with the lack of adequate food supplies during certain times of the year.

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May 1, 1978

file 625-0930
JL

Honorable Robert H. Nooter
Deputy Administrator

Agency for International Development
Department of State
Washington, D.C. 20523

Dear Mr. Nooter:

Kindly find attached a "Project Proposal for a United States Government Grant for Institution Building and Socio-Economic Development Projects in the Sahel Countries of The Gambia, Mauritania, Senegal and Upper Volta."

I believe this generic grant proposal meets all the criteria and guidelines of A.I.D. It is my belief that effort by Catholic Relief Services of the United States Catholic Conference to reach the poorest of the poor by basic projects of development in these Sahel countries will be a perfect complement to our common development assistance programs.

I would be remiss if I were not to express my personal appreciation to you for the professional and kind assistance given to me by Mr. Chris Holmes, Mr. Bill Kelley, Mr. Tony Schwarzwald, and Mr. Haven North of your staff. You can be proud of their professional expertise, and more than this, of their sensitive concern for their fellowmen.

With kind personal regards and gratitude for your interest in this project, I remain

Sincerely yours,

Robert L. Charlebois

(Rev.) Robert L. Charlebois
Special Assistant

RLC:mr
Att.

PROJECT PROPOSAL FOR
A UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT GRANT
FOR INSTITUTION BUILDING AND
SOCIO-ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT PROJECTS
IN THE SAHEL COUNTRIES OF THE GAMBIA,
MAURITANIA, SENEGAL AND UPPER VOLTA

GENERAL STATEMENT:

Catholic Relief Services - United States Catholic Conference has been operating food and development programs and projects in the Sahel region for almost twenty years. Focusing on the specific countries of Senegal, Upper Volta, The Gambia and Mauritania, we find a CRS process of development that pivoted from a basic PL 480 program with the utilizations of all its categories of recipients with professional results in two directions. Food assistance programs became the catalytic source of basic socio-economic development projects necessitating the basic component of self-help and participatory planning. This initiative on the part of CRS in the area of development organized the basic infrastructure, as primitive as it was into a functional distribution for food, medicine and clothing that realized the beginning of tribal, district, mission and national effort of basic private and public agencies, governmental ministries, simplistic co-operative movements, and organized developmental activity within the private and public sections of Africa.

In November of last year, the Executive Director of Catholic Relief Services - United States Catholic Conference after lengthy discussion and consultation with his American, International and local personnel, both on a country and regional level issued an agency priority for preventative programs and projects in the Sahel region that were related to the Sahel Drought. CRS funds and personnel were immediately released for these purposes.

The CRS priorities for project planning, funding, and implementation are based upon the following criteria:

1. Participation and involvement of the recipients in all phases of project process.
2. An evaluation component is built into the development process.
3. Participatory funding from more than one source (this demands and encourages international co-ordination and involvement).
4. Meets all the professional criteria for a development project as required by the CRS International Development Management Systems (available upon request).
5. The projects requested from this AID Grant proposal must meet the Category requirements of the African Region, which are:

- a. Development expansion or institution building of counterpart or indigenous agencies and services from the private or public sector.
- b. Agricultural Projects - with priority given to food production, food storage, training, pilot project system.
- c. Nutrition - Health - emphasis on nutrition programs and projects - target group - children and lactating mothers.
- d. Water Resources - their development, irrigation systems, wells, sanitation, catchment dams, etc.
- e. Reforestation - see CRS project: "Establishment of a Prototype of Rural Integrated Agriculture in Niger".
- f. Training and Consultation

Catholic Relief Services - USCC assures AID that the projects selected and implemented under this grant proposal meet the goals and objectives as contained within the document Sahel Development Programs (Annual Report To The Congress, Agency For International Development, Washington, D. C., February 1978, Page 8 and Page 9.)

Management Modalities For Proposed Grant:

The immediate supervision of all project activity under this grant is the professional responsibility of the CRS Program Director in the designated country. In those projects where the technological content or project goals require, or where the project is in excess of \$100,000, a Project Director is responsible to the CRS Program Director. The Program Director responds to the management expertise of the CRS Regional Director, who relates to the Office of the Special Assistant to the Executive Director. This is standard CRS management procedure.

Type of Grant Requested:

A Generic Grant, modeled after AID/NE-G-1211.

CRS requests an initial advance of one-third of total grant contracted as of the date of said contract. CRS accepts all other AID payment provisions.

Budget: For Socio-economic development projects in the Sahel \$950,000
For CRS Administrative Process 50,000

Time Frame:

Initial Request for immediate funding	\$1,000,000
Request for project funding for FY 79	3,000,000
<u>Total Grant Request</u>	<u>\$4,000,000</u>

CRS proposes to fund the following general types of development projects under the requested grant. CRS already has commitments for more than \$500,000 towards these activities, which represents in matching funds, 50% of the immediate funding of the \$1,000,000 requested herein. These projects are grouped according to three general priorities: Nutrition Health, Water, and Agricultural Development.

It should be noted that CRS has on-going development projects in the four Sahel countries, for which it has provided \$1,694,722. (Please see addendum #2.)

Upper Volta Nutrition Intervention Proposal - \$100,000

CRS/Upper Volta is attempting to ameliorate the disastrous impact of food deficit in the Mossi Plateau Area by means of immediate intervention through a number of different venues. At the same time, CRS Program is attempting to maintain the adequate growth of their children in other geographic areas of the country.

Presently, 135,000 mothers and children attend programs, schools and pre-school centers throughout the country. CRS must increase its capability to adequately supervise the educational aspects of the program to keep pace with the long-term program objectives and the immediate nutritional needs. Unless the disastrous impacts of poor availability of food are addressed during the period - April to November, the impact of additional longer-range development efforts, which can be undertaken with these populations, will be marginal at best, and negligible at worst.

In 1977 CRS was able to put over \$200,000 of support into this program in addition to over \$350,000 contributed from local sources, i.e., mothers and local government. This request is to provide the basic assistance necessary to carry out the program in its supervisory training and technical assistance aspects. It will complement the input from CRS and local sources.

SENEGAL FOOD AND NUTRITION PROGRAM - - - - \$100,000

CRS/Senegal is attempting to focus priority attention in its food and nutrition programs to areas of nutritional deficit caused by shortage of rain and low levels in the Fleuve River. The program is basically a collaborative effort of CRS, the Ministry of Health and the village mothers. By CRS being able to provide Title II Food supplies through health centers managed or supervised by the Ministry of Health, a more significant extension of effort has evolved.

Health education, nutritional growth monitoring, both in terms of the individual child and entire populations of children and immediate provision of supplementary food supplies which act as, not only a nutritional assistance to the family, but also an economic aid, comprise the basic elements of the program. Since the program takes place in a rural village setting, where CRS supports other developmental efforts, most times our programming is viewed by the community not as sectoral interventions but in a comprehensive manner.

The specific proposal requests support for the vital management components and material necessary to implement the program in a cost effective manner. CRS has provided over \$80,000 last year toward the administrative costs of the program. The Government of Senegal and the mothers participating provide further significant assistance to the activity.

Mothers contribute twenty-five cents per child per month and this amount remains with the centers for the most part, and is used toward their improvement. The G.O.S. provides transport for food as well as supervisory staff

Overall, the effort is seen as a collaborative response to immediate needs and provides forum and opportunity to reach into communities with additional interventions which will affect long-term change.

GAMBIA FOOD AND NUTRITION PROGRAM - - - - - \$40,000

CRS/Gambia initiated what it terms the Pre-School Program in 1975. Our rationale in establishing this program, which attempts to make mothers aware of the impacts of poor nutritional practices of the health of their children, was to deal in an immediate way with a problem of considerable urgency to the country, that is, poor infant and child nutrition, malabsorption and inadequate dietary practices for maintaining an adequate growth velocity for pre-school aged children.

This program is in a stage of considerable growth at the present time in terms of both its extension (out-reach) and its impact in relation to the nutritionally related activities covered and by CRS and the Government of Gambia. With a countrywide population of approximately 550,000 people of which it is estimated 115,000 are less than six years of age, CRS is presently reaching approximately 1,000 and plans, during 1978, to cover approximately 13,000 or roughly 10% of the pre-school aged population.

This is to be accomplished by means of extending the out-reach capability of the program through one mobile team with the possibility of extending the number of teams in the near future. It is of particular note that the Ministry of Health has agreed to assign under-utilized staff, in particular, Public Health Inspectors, to the mobile team. Further, the M.O.H. has instructed the Area Council Nurses and the newly constituted Community Health Nurses to work within the program.

This is a major step forward for a Ministry of Health that had, in the past, been heavily oriented, not only to a curative approach, but basically urban in location. However, the program has also been able to animate Community Development Field Workers and Ministry of Agriculture Animatrices to participate in the pre-school program at the twenty-two centers throughout the country.

The request is for support to extend the program by means of a mobile team, provide some administrative support and materials for ongoing operations and training sessions. Since the program is directly tied into the Ministry of Health, and a few private health establishments, any improvement becomes directly absorbed as part of the Ministry of Health's working policy for health out-reach.

MAURITANIA NUTRITION PROGRAM DEVELOPMENT -- \$170,000

CRS/Mauritania, in spite of the difficulties in carrying out any sort of developmental or emergency assistance program, has been able to undertake a moderate size (13,000 recipients) nutritional/health education program in Nouakchott during the last two years. It is our plan to expand this effort both in the tent camps of Nouakchott and in the interior of the country.

Where mothers can be brought together to participate in a joint learning especially aimed at bettering the health of their children, our experience has indicated that fertile ground exists for longer range development efforts in the fields of agriculture, water resource development, literacy and overall community mobilization.

The pre-school program nutrition education, based upon a system of growth surveillance, supplementary food distribution and basic medical care, has always been a focus for potential community action. Mauritania does not have the developed infrastructure which exists in its neighboring countries. For this reason, any effort undertaken by CRS must mobilize the total personnel and infrastructural resources to implement such a scheme. The external benefits of the program will be the trained health cadre of village level workers and an awareness by the Ministry of Health of the possibility of preventative health out-reach programming.

Financing will be needed for all aspects of the program from salary costs of village workers to transport of supplies training searches, teaching and surveillance materials.

A rural development movement called "Maisons Familiales" based in Senegal has been operating among villages, especially young farmers to bring them into the full force of decision making. This group in conjunction with CRS has identified the need for a well-drilling program at its numerous centers throughout the country. Irrigation and the availability of water should help to diversify agriculture beyond the cultivation of ground-nuts.

Funds are needed to purchase equipment and materials, especially cement, iron rods and gravel for the deepening and construction of village wells. The Maisons Familiales movement active in Senegal since 1964, will be the responsible agent for the upkeep and functioning of each of these wells. In addition, these wells at each of the Maisons Familiales centers will provide proper hygienic measures for an adequate year-round supply of drinking water for humans and animals. Technical assistance to the project will be provided by the appropriate government and agency technical personnel.

Caritas Hand-Dug Wells - Fleuve Region - Senegal Requested US\$67,155

Due to continual erratic rainfall over the last three years, the Fleuve region of Senegal (over 500,000) has been suffering from an acute food shortage for many rain crops, and natural irrigation crops from the overflow of the Senegal River have failed.

The deficit in annual rainfall is about 50% off and the food deficit has been estimated at 150,698 metric tons. Funds requested would be applied to the purchase of materials (cement, brick, molds, bits, tools) to dig wells which will be able to hold water over a longer period of time than now possible and at the same time provide pumps, and other minimally accepted water distribution systems, to each of the villages so not only can adequate water be stored, but also a better distribution of same can take place in the villages and areas where the wells will be dug.

*The Caritas
was perf. help*

Due to the hydrogeological situation in this area of Senegal, an important layer of grit makes it difficult to dig traditional wells, as manual work is really impossible. Because of grit, rainfalls are withheld at a depth of around 2 to 4 meters. The multiplication of water holes, which generally give improper water leads to drying up at the sources of water, forcing people to go far to obtain water. Using a system of boring, deep wells can be constructed, which can provide up to 40m³ of unsalted water an hour to cover human needs.

Funds are requested to support the efforts of this community, in conjunction with local Senegalese Government agencies in constructing deep wells, through the furnishing of equipment, which consists of concrete, water troughs, construction of a pump house, construction of a reservoir, piping installations, and the purchase of motors and pumps.

By strengthening the basic structures, it is expected that the water problem could be solved. The community involved numbers an estimated 12,000 persons within a radius of 5 km from the main center, Noiaganaw.

As part of the overall effort at dealing with the effects of the drought, which is affecting this country, attempts are being made to deal in the drought area through a series of pre-school, agricultural development and young farmers' clubs programs.

Key to the success of these projects is the basic supply of water resources. For these reasons, resources are requested for the purchase of cement, iron, pumps, piping materials to deal in those areas where possibilities exist of better storage of water, by strengthening existing wells, or the digging of new ones.

With the improvement of existing wells, it is expected that increased usage of home and village gardens and of agricultural production can take place. It has been recognized that home and village gardens are important sources of community nutrition and health, and subsequently the digging and deepening of wells will enforce these main areas of activity.

The development of Upper Volta's water resources is the key to this country's agricultural development, not to speak of its direct effect on the local population. The famine period of the early 1970's and the current drought perspective put additional stress on all sectors of society.

CRS proposes to deal in a concrete way with the lack of wells with sufficient storage capacity to last year round, by combining forces with the local government agencies in deeping, digging and cementing existing wells over a one year period. Besides a concentration on community sources of water, the project will also deal with the water problem in areas proximate to local schools, and agencies so the direct effect is not only an increase of agricultural production but also to preserve an already delicate health and welfare infrastructure of the local populace.

Resources requested will be applied to the cost of cement, iron, steel, bits, tools and other miscellaneous equipment.

WASSADOU AGRICULTURAL DEVELOPMENT -- \$85,000

SENEGAL

The purpose of this project is to launch a large-scale, multi-faceted agricultural and cooperative development program in Senegal's most impoverished region, Senegal-Oriental. The overall objective is to increase the production of basic foodstuffs.

Objectives of the project are:

- a) to develop basic food crops on a large scale and improve the distribution and marketing of these same products;
- b) create maximum employment in rural areas, slow down the large urban centers;
- c) integrate the small producers of the region into cooperatives of production, supply and distribution which will guide the project;
- d) train at all levels, the specialists and the intermediate technicians necessary for the realization of the project;
- e) reflect and exchange ideas with "outside assistance", to give a real and authentic content to cooperation and development.

This project is coordinated by the African Office for Development and Cooperation, and is already well underway. The present request is to consolidate the final financial needs of the Wassadou Cooperative (the original project

participants) to assist them in their final push towards self-sufficiency

The funds requested will be used for certain farm machines such as a rice husking machine, rice threshing machine, a motorpump (500 cubic meter/per hour) as well as some administrative and labor costs.

CRS funding of project to date: \$176,000.

RURAL SCHOOLS (CFJA) CENTERS AND AGRICULTURAL

PRODUCTS ----- \$100,000

UPPER VOLTA (Bobo-Dioulasso Area)

The purpose of this project is to introduce an efficient protein production program, chicken raising, to the Young Farmers Training Centers (CFJA) and thus to the village as a whole.

Chicken raising is an established part of traditional Voltaic life. The Agriculture Center in Ouagadougou estimates that there are 7 to 10 million chickens in Upper Volta at any one time. Almost all of these, however, are of local breed, raised in the traditional manner, i.e., loose on the range with little if any care. The end result being that these chickens are of very poor quality, low producers and poor nutritive value.

This project will train "Young Farmers" and initiate them: to appropriate chicken raising techniques; to the improvement of food, health and hygiene; to the management of small livestock production, and to marketing techniques.

Expected long-term results are: the protein supply of the village will increase; the use of modern techniques in chicken and other livestock raising will expand to the non-trainees in the village; and the trainees, once graduated, will start their own chicken raising units.

Materials and equipment for small modern chicken raising units will be provided to each of 50 training centers in seven ORD.

Total cost of project is \$360,770. Funds provided through CRS - \$260,770.

GARDENING IN FLEUVE REGION ----- \$50,000

SENEGAL

The purpose of this project is to introduce and implement vegetable production through gardening. The vegetables produced will be introduced for consumption at pre-school centers in the region. Secondly, for consumption of the local population and thirdly, for dispatching and marketing in nearby areas where vegetables are not being produced.

Funds will be used to supply seeds and tools and basic administrative costs of implementing project. Project should become self-sufficient after third year. Local inputs in labor and materials will be supplied by the participants.

The objectives of this project are:

- to introduce consumption of vegetables in the pre-school age group for better nutrition;
- produce sufficient vegetables to meet the needs of the local population;
- provide cash crop to be marketed in neighboring villages.

This activity is presently in the planning stage, but will be tied into the on-going pre-school nutrition education programs for maximum effect.

AGRICULTURE PROJECT DEVELOPMENT -- 150,000

MAURITANIA

Purpose of this project is to obtain the services of full-time technician in agriculture/water resources to develop small scale projects in food production and water supply.

While there is no scarcity of possibilities to plan and program water supply and food production activities in many areas of Mauritania, there is indeed a total dearth of qualified local technicians.

Funds for this purpose would be the most useful way of developing sound projects at this time.

We are especially interested in the possibility of digging wells and establishing gardening projects for vegetable production. Also introducing drip-irrigation schemes where feasible.

YOUNG FARMERS' CLUB ----- \$50,500

THE GAMBIA

Until recent years the Department of Agriculture has concentrated on the cash crop of the country - groundnuts. This crop was produced for export and supplied the Government's principal source of income.

During the past few years, the drought has affected this traditional farming and, consequently, the economy of the country. The cost of imported rice was beyond the means of many people, and other foods were not available. The realization that, while cash crops for export are necessary, the availability of sufficient food for home consumption is vital to any economy and agricultural program; hence, the recent planned effort to diversify agricultural production.

This project is to support the development of a Young Farmers' Clubs Program aimed at training rural youth in improved agriculture and diversified cropping. This project is within a large socio-economic program which includes the training of adult farmers and youth under the Department of Agriculture and coordinated by the Extension Service.

There are over 50 clubs with a total membership of over 3,600 youth ranging in age from 12 - 30. The clubs

are engaged in vegetable gardening, rice farming, poultry raising, bee keeping and other crop production.

Funds are required to supply materials and some administrative support over a period of three years. Also support will be given to selected clubs which are clearing land to establish rice farms as in the case of the young farmer club clearing space on a 2,000 acre island in the Gambia River near Sapu.

In addition to the \$50,500 requested from AID, funds totaling \$85,000 will be from other sources.

Additional Information:

Kindly find attached Addendum #1, very brief summaries of the CRS Programs in Upper Volta, The Gambia, Senegal and Mauritania, as they relate to our on-going PL 480 programs. The various offices within AID/Washington have on file the CRS AER's as well as the individual Country Plans for these four designated countries of the Sahel.

Also on-going project activity summaries and estimated costs. (Addendum #2)

Also see "Project Proposal for A United States Government Grant through the Agency for International Development to Catholic Relief Services for the Sahel Drought Emergency Program."

Brief Summaries of the CRS Programs in
Upper Volta, Senegal, Mauritania and The Gambia
as They Relate to the On-Going PL 480 Programs.

UPPER VOLTA

Catholic Relief Services operates a Title II PL 480 program in Upper Volta that is active throughout the country and in all recipient categories. Special effort has been made to increase professional nutritional programs and projects for the most vulnerable groups and to encourage economic development in the impoverished Sahel regions in the north by expanding the geographical base of our existing program.

The Upper Volta Government provides duty-free privileges, assures payment of unloading and handling fees, warehousing facilities, distribution to centers from the warehouses, and transport. CRS has full supervisory jurisdiction over the commodities and their use by recipients.

An important aspect of the CRS school feeding program is the project in the rural education centers, where the students are provided with food for the period when students are planting. By the end of the harvest season, these same students do in fact provide their own garden-grown foodstuffs in return to their schools. As part of its effort to make the schools sufficient in agricultural production, CRS has been operating a program which supplies needed tools and agricultural equipment to increase production capacity.

The number of MCH-child recipients is expected to increase by 10,000 this coming year because of anticipated growth of the local women's associations to a total of 90,000 recipients. The School Feeding category on the newest AER is 130,000 recipients. Thus it is seen that the children are a priority of CRS in Upper Volta, the only other recipient group being for Food For Work, for whom there are 2,500 recipients.

Milk, cornmeal, rice and oil are the commodities distributed under PL 480 in Upper Volta.

SENEGAL

The Catholic Relief Services program in the Republic of Senegal is operational throughout the country, and is being expanded geographically to those areas gravely affected by the drought, such as Fleuve, Diourbel, Louga, Senegal Oriental and Sine-Saloum. This intensification and expansion pivot from the basic CRS professional thrust of its Pre-School Program.

Senegal is a struggling country and is suffering particularly during the present drought. Even under normal climatic conditions, Senegal has found it impossible to meet its own food needs and has had to have outside food aid. The long, slow recovery from the last drought only aggravated the situation, and the threat by the new drought makes the problem intense. Therefore, CRS Maternal-Child Health, Pre-school feeding and community development are of vital importance to the neediest people in Senegal. This CRS professional nutritional program on-going in Senegal is the greatest preventive measure against malnutrition.

The original agreement of CRS with the Government of Senegal was signed on August 18, 1960 and renewed on May 23, 1973. The Pre-School Program is covered by a separate agreement because of its priority, signed on

January 5, 1973. The Ministry of Plan and Cooperation acts as primary coordination point, while the Ministry of Health and Social Affairs and the Commissariat a l'Aide Alimentaire are the CRS liaisons on the operational level.

There is duty-free entry for PL 480 Title II food and other supplies; the GOS bears the cost of inland transport, handling and warehousing of these commodities. CRS has complete freedom of action to carry out supervision responsibilities for all phases of the Title II food program. The GOS permits inspection of food in storage, examination of records pertaining to PL 480 Title II food, audit and end-use checks by U.S. Government officials and CRS personnel.

Under the current AER, of the 204,000 recipients in Senegal, 119,000 are children in Maternal-Child Health, 60,000 are pregnant and lactating mothers in Maternal-Child Health, 11,000 are Adult Health cases, (including lepers, the blind, and handicapped). Sorghum grits, cornmeal, CSM and vegetable oil are the commodities distributed by CRS in Senegal. It is doubtful if these very needy people could receive help without these commodities. The children, in particular, would suffer, as many of them have acute malnutrition and are plagued with infectious childhood diseases.

Coupled with the distribution of PL 480 commodities are education of mothers in health and nutrition, periodic assessments of the child's weight and development, food demonstrations (stressing locally grown food). The CRS infra-structure includes the utilization of 199 centers for these programs.

Food For Work provides food as an incentive for development activities such as communal gardening, village alignment, school and road construction. Communal gardening is of particular importance as it provides locally produced foodstuffs to enhance the basic diet and complement the CRS nutritional programs and projects.

MAURITANIA

Catholic Relief Services in Mauritania submitted an AER that would provide Title II PL 480 foodstuffs to 9,500 recipients. Presently CRS is prepared to reach a total of 30,000 recipients upon the solution of some in-coming logistical and storage problems.

Mauritania's basic economy provides neither its own limited governmental agencies nor agencies from the private sector any economic assistance for their implementation of basic humanitarian programs. While unable to cope with basic and simplistic response to human needs of its people, Mauritania has not been able to encourage or become financially involved with any emergency drought-related programs let alone a basic introduction to the development process. Mauritania, it is generally agreed, is one of the most seriously affected areas, of all the countries of the Sahel, by this drought.

The country agreement between Mauritania and CRS, signed in 1962, is our basic operational base. We were recently informed a new agreement has been signed to continue the CRS endeavors in Mauritania. CRS has contributed extensive funds so this impoverished country would not be denied the help its people deserve, especially in this unusually trying time of drought. CRS has experienced

serious problems relating to the storage and logistical support for the movement for PL 480 commodities. These serious problematic areas constitute the focus of on-going discussions between the Government of Mauritania, CRS and FFP/Washington.

Presently CRS has vegetable-production and water projects in Mauritania which, while experiencing some expected difficulties, provide sufficient identifiable indicators for CRS to continue its thrust in the socio-economic development project area.

THE GAMBIA

The Catholic Relief Services Title II program has been operating in four of the five administrative divisions of the Gambia, with operations concentrated in the Western, Lower River and North Bank Divisions. Planned Maternal Child Health expansion will include the Upper River and North Bank Divisions, with some expansion also at existing centers in the Western, Lower River, and MacCarthy Island Divisions. This expansion program will concentrate in the area hardest hit by the 1977-78 drought, the western and eastern thirds of the Gambia. Those areas are still affected by the extended lack of rainfall.

The current agreement between CRS and the Government of the Gambia includes provisions relating to duty-free importation of Title II and other supplies; importation, distribution and utilization of PL 480; it stipulates that the GOTG will subsidize costs of inland transport, handling and warehousing of these commodities; CRS enjoys complete freedom of action to supervise the Title II Food Program. Also the host government allows inspection of food storage facilities and of records on PL 480 Title II food, audits and end-use checks by U. S. Government officials and CRS personnel. CRS has complete control over food in storage. All food movement is done

by truck, over the one paved primary road and the unpaved secondary roads.

While the Gambia is one of the smallest and least developed countries in Africa, the self-sufficiency goals it set for itself have had to be postponed indefinitely because of the present drought. The grave problems caused by the present drought and climatic conditions are surfacing at an alarming rate, necessitating an immediate preventative project approach to causative factors within the categories of both nutrition and agriculture. Maternal Child Health development efforts are particularly beneficial for the neediest people who continue to suffer from the weather irregularities because of their marginal existence even in the best of times. Therefore, a main objective of the First Five Year Development Program is "To increase greatly the emphasis on maternal and child health services within the national network." This plan recognizes the relationship between nutritional deficiencies and infant mortality rates. Therefore over 90% of the CRS beneficiaries are included in the Maternal Child Health and Preschool Child Feeding categories. CRS is currently operating under an AER that shows that, of the 24,000 recipients of Title II commodities, 23,000 are in the Maternal Child Health and pre-school child categories. WSB, sorghum grits and vegetable oil are the PL 480 commodities distributed.

Present CRS Food For Work Projects touch the lives of some 800 recipients with the projects focused on village development. CRS uses the Food For Work as an incentive for local involvement for projects in food production, water control, sanitation and basic agricultural schemes.

Summaries of On-Going Development Projects
Funded by CRS in
Upper Volta, Senegal, Mauritania and The Gambia

I. Agricultural Program:

A. Upper Volta:

a. 73/33 - Small Ranch Development

Description: In the Sahel drought famine region for the purpose of retraining and development of small ranches for 85 individual families who have been resettled. As an economic, socially integrated program, it will include: 1) water utilization projects; 2) improvement of crops and pasture land; 3) animal husbandry projects for improving local breeds of cattle; 4) animal and crop market formation; 5) cooperative food reserves program; 6) cooperative saving and investment program; 7) health program for animal development.

Technicians and studies are provided by Private Organizations and G.O.U.V. and material assistance (CRS 73/33) will provide each family with animals, temporary shelter (tent) and food assistance.

Funding Source: Internal - \$27,210

External - \$22,060

A. Upper Volta (continuation)
b. 73/8 Reforestation

1. Description: This project aims to demonstrate how reforestation schemes can provide food, firewood and seeds, and in the long run, will show how the schemes will retard the desert advance and stabilize the water supply. This project is sponsored by the Ministries of Education and of Agriculture. Two-thirds of this project are supervised by Peace Corps. CRS contributed in providing barbed wire, tools and miscellaneous equipment for fencing for 138 reforestation projects.

2. Funding Sources: Internal - \$40,124.33

External - \$70,000.00

c. 75/13 - Pre-School Centers Demonstration Gardens

The mothers enrolled in the pre-school centers in the southwest part of Upper Volta are taught cultivation of new varieties of vegetables and are trained to prepare them to augment the nutrition of their families' diets. Ms. Helen Baron, Supervisor of CRS Pre-School in Bobo-Dioulasso, supervises this 3-year program. Money is spent for materials and tools needed for these demonstration gardens.

B. Gambia

a. 76/10 Vegetable and Fruit Tree Development
(ext.76/4)

This project is a continuation of a successful gardening program for improved crop husbandry and variety of vegetable growing in Busura, Penyemu and Marakissa Villages. A total of 150 families will participate in cultivating 3½ acres of land for vegetable growing and seven acres of fruit-tree growing. The project started in 1976 and is expected to end this year. CRS has contributed funds for the purchase of hand tools, fencing materials and seeds. Other activities like construction of hand dug wells are being incorporated in this project. The creation of a Farmers' Association is also foreseen.

Total Amount Funded: \$10,000

Internal - \$10,000

External -

b. 75/6 - Rural Health Centers & Demonstration Garden

Program is to improve value of CRS pre-school program by constructing fifteen meeting centers and fifteen demonstration gardens at approved pre-school program sites. These shelters insure regular attendance of the mothers and the gardens help provide locally grown food for the nutrition

Gambia 75/6 (continuation)

demonstration components of the program. The project started in late 1976 and is expected to end this year. CRS has provided overall supervision to the project and the village people contributed land and labor.

Total Amount Funded: \$26,000 - USAID

c. GH-6D-003 - Request for Motorcycle

Mobility is very much needed by the V.S.O. horticultural worker, Ms. Susan Tattershall, to enable her to function effectively in her survey work. CRS offered to help her by giving a motorcycle she could use in her job.

Total Funded: \$750.00 (Internal)

C. Senegal

**1. Senegal 75/11 - Village Level Gardening -
Drip Irrigation Scheme**

Description: To cover the expenses of a SUCO volunteer, a V.W. camper, and project materials (drip irrigation kits and miscellaneous tools) in the Fleuve Region of Northern Senegal. The volunteer will work with local counterparts in encouraging the cultivation of vegetable gardens using the drip irrigation scheme which maximizes the use of water. CRS/Senegal has already done the groundwork in this project. In the past, some six thousand men and women have implemented the scheme with good results in terms of food to eat and to sell.

Total Funded \$415,915 (External)

b. Senegal 76/10 - Wassadou Agricultural Project

This project is located in Senegal Oriental, the most impoverished area of Senegal. It aims to develop basic food crops on a large scale and improve the distribution circuits of these products. In the long run it aims to integrate the small producers of the region into cooperatives of production and distribution which will guide the project. CRS has

b. Senegal 76/10 - Wassadou Agricultural Project (cont.)

contributed both to administrative and financial support.

This two-year project has already planted 201.6 hectares of rice, corn sorghum and millets in the immediate areas of Wassadou. Its first rice and corn harvest started September of last year.

Total Funded \$175,000 (Internal)

c. Senegal 76/15 Sebikotane - Gardening Program

The project helps rural juvenile delinquents by giving them basic training in agriculture and livestock production. By providing exposure to profitable vegetable farming and animal breeding the problem of unemployment which is chronic in Dakar, may somewhat be alleviated.

CRS gave financial aid for this two-year project. Forty boys are participating in cultivating ten hectares of land from the Ponty Williams School.

Total Funded - \$18,022 (Internal)

d. Senegal - SN-7D-005 - Pilot Silo In Thies

This project aims to develop a silo storage system in Thies Region, geared towards the needs of Senegal. CRS plans to design a system for reducing

d. Senegal - SN-7D-005 - Pilot plant in 1975

wastage and increase sale price for farmers.

CRS helped cover construction costs, materials, equipment, testing equipment and management cost for the two years project implementation. Fourteen villages in the Region of Thies are being served by this project.

Total Funded: \$163,265 (Internal)

II. Wells:

A. Gambia

a. Gambia 75/2 Two Wells with Gardening Project

The village of Essau on the North Bank of the Gambia River has been greatly affected by the drought and unfortunately has not been given much attention by the relief agencies. CRS has been requested by the Gambia Catholic Mission to provide assistance for the purchase of seeds and small garden equipment to the villagers who are using the wells. The project duration is two years and hopes to serve 100 families in Essau.

This well project will increase gardening activities thereby improving the nutritional value of the diet and also will create interest in keeping these people in their home area rather than migrating across the river to the capital city, Banjul.

Total Funded \$5,000 (Internal)

B. Upper Volta

Upper Volta 72/5B (ext. 76/5) Utilization of Ponds and Wells for Agricultural Production

The goal of the project is to aid the Sahel and EASTERN/ORD, both poorly financed and young areas,

in developing six promising water sources for local agricultural production in Dabesma and Tangaye. The main emphasis is the planning and construction of irrigation facilities. The project has divided its work into two seasons. During the first season, six sites have been developed. In this year's season, four more sites were developed while still keeping close surveillance of the first six. CRS has agreed to give administrative support to this project as well as vehicles and well digging tools and equipment.

Approximately 15,000 people benefitted from this project in terms of having immediately made available water for their personal needs and needs of their animals.

Total Funded \$150,000 (Internal-\$125,000)
(External- 25,000)

b. Upper Volta HV-7D-002 Upper Volta Wells

The project involves the digging and cementing of 90 wells scattered all over Upper Volta; 32 for rural schools, two for infirmaries and the rest for fruit nurseries, vegetable gardens and poultry raising projects. It opened in 1973 and is in its final stages. It aimed at helping villages to dig their

own wells for general domestic use. From this evolved other CRS project activities such as gardening and poultry raising. In conclusion, well deepening and constructing activities have increased the availability of water for human and animal consumption as well as necessary irrigation for small-scale agricultural production.

Total Funded : \$74,287.50 (Internal - \$70,000)
(External - 4,287)

C. Senegal

a. Senegal 74/43 Sine-Saloum Well Project

This project was submitted by the Ministry of Planning and Cooperation as a result of the efforts of ten Peace Corps Volunteers to organize with the Senegalese Government a major well-digging program in the Region of Sine-Saloum. The main goal of this project is to provide adequate drinking water for the villages in this region which has been hard hit by the drought in the past. To accomplish this goal, 200 wells are to be constructed. Existing wells in this region are few, mostly hand dug and caving in. CRS provided funds for well construction materials. The local government is to provide food and lodging for the well-diggers as well as unskilled

labor. The project is in its final stage.

It started in 1973.

Total Funded \$78,012 (Internal)

b. Senegal 76/11A&B Maisons Familiales Well Deepening Program

This well-digging program is in the west African nation of Senegal. A rural development movement called "Maisons Familiales" has been operating among villagers, especially young farmers to bring them the full force of decision-making. This group has identified the need for a well-digging program at its numerous centers throughout the country. Irrigation and water availability should assist many Senegalese to diversify their agriculture beyond the cultivation of ground-nuts. The abundant but almost exclusive cultivation of groundnuts is impeding its producers from achieving an improved and healthy way of life. CRS funds are presently being used to purchase equipment and materials, especially cement, iron rod and gravel for the deepening and construction of village wells at MF centers. The villagers contributed labor and the MF movement were responsible for the upkeep and functioning

of all equipment and construction materials. Fifteen village wells will be deepened or built within two years and will hope to benefit approximately 150,000 people. Total funded \$15,305 (Internal)

c. Senegal 76/18 Village Extension of Animal-Powered Water-Lifting System

To improve traditional methods of drawing water from village wells in Senegal through the introduction of animal power. The project is in Ndiamsil-Sessene and Layabe, two small villages in the heart of groundnut belt of west central Senegal. Animal-powered water-lifting system is a teepee-like metal frame set over the top of an open-faced well. This system is to obtain maximum amount of subsurface water for human and animal consumption by the simplest technical means. CRS is providing materials for this water lifting system while villagers provided the labor. This project will benefit approximately 305 people in Ndiamsil and 330 in Layabe. Total Funded \$3,435 (Internal).

d. Senegal 77/3 Caritas Well-Drilling

The area for CARITAS well-drilling is a short distance southeast of Thies and is one of the

most densely populated areas Senegal. During dry seasons, many wells in this area dry up altogether and villagers are often forced to walk several kilometers to find drinking water at the few remaining wells. Deep wells, such as CARITAS is capable of drilling, reach a more permanent water table and thus, guaranteeing a supply of water in the driest period of the year. CRS is funding the cost of 10 wells, between 90-150 meters in depth, being drilled in a three-month period.

Total Funded: \$17,719.27 (Internal)

III. FOOD AND NUTRITION PROGRAM:

Since 1975, CRS has operated a nutrition intervention and education program designed for pre-school children and their mothers and geared towards the improvement of their nutritional status in the countries being brought to our attention, that is, Gambia, Mauritania, Senegal and Upper Volta.

Generally, the program has a two-fold operation. One is the implementation of nutrition education and growth monitoring which hopes to make mothers aware of the impacts of poor nutritional practices of the health of their families. Another is the programmed distribution of Title II Food in various pre-school centers.

In Gambia, the program has reached approximately 550,000 people of which 110,000 are pre-school children. Upper Volta is presently serving 135,000 mothers and children. Senegal has 119,000 recipients, and finally, Mauritania has reached 13,000 mothers and children.

TOTAL FUNDED:	Gambia	\$ 28,818 (Internal)
	Upper Volta	210,000 (Internal - \$110,000) (External - 100,000)
	Mauritania	38,000 (Internal) <u>31,799 (External)</u>
		\$308,617