



Africare

OFFICIAL PROJECT
DOCUMENT

"L'Amélioration de la qualité de la vie en Afrique rurale
en développant les ressources hydrauliques, la production agricole, et les services de santé."

Africare Tchad
B.P. 689
N'Djaména
Tél. 30-25

Siège Administratif :
1601 Conn. Ave., N.W.
Washington, DC 20009
Etats-Unis

Chad Relief and Rehabilitation Project

Grant N°. 677-0000-G-00-3169-00

Projet N°. 677-0041

ACTIVITY PROGRESS REPORT N°. 6

ACTIVITY TITLE: Vegetable Gardening Activity (VGA)

ACTIVITY N°: PIO/T 677-0041-3-30013

EXECUTIVE ORGANIZATION: Africare

DEPARTMENT: Chad

CERTIFYING OFFICER: Dan Gerber, Country Representative

Submitted to: USAID Representative to Chad .

cc: Office of Development Information
and Utilisation

Bureau for Development Support

USAID/W

April - June 1984

I. ACTIVITY DESCRIPTION

This relief and rehabilitation activity in the Chari-Baguirmi prefecture of Chad has as its overall goal amelioration of conditions in the agricultural sector in Chad which has been devastated by drought and war. The specific purposes of the activity are to:

- 1). Promote the timely rehabilitation of CAMAN (Agricultural cooperative of Vegetable and Fruit Growers in N'Djamena).
- 2). Distribute relief food through Food for Work.
- 3). Increase agricultural production in Chad.
- 4). Serve as a pilot project collecting baseline data which will allow for possible future development and expansion of CAMAN's activities, including improved marketing.
- 5). Test agricultural technologies.
- 6). Help maintain the Africare country office which will allow funding of other related agricultural, relief and development projects.

The sites for the Vegetable Gardening Activity are Miskine and Mallao. Miskine is located about 20 Kms West of N'Djamena. It is planned that the garden will be 8 hectares large with 80 workers. Mallao, located about 70 kms South, has 120 workers for what is to be a 12 hectares garden plot.

II. IMPLEMENTATION

The proposed implementation schedule for this activity has been set forth in the Activity Justification Paper (pp. 25-28). The VGA activity is now several months behind schedule. Delays in procurement of irrigation pumps, fertilizers, seeds, and other needed supplies delayed the project at the outset. During this reporting period, however, the material inputs have not been significantly lacking. Instead, the delays now reflect a lower than anticipated worker output at the sites and management and technical problems. As a result it is now anticipated that ^{the} April to August growing season is likely to have a much lower than hoped for vegetable production and a concurrent lower revenue from sales. The production delays have retarded various related activities as outlined in the original implementation plan.

Among the activities that have been delayed from the original implementation plan are ^{the} establishment of a marketing plan, the timing of the consultant visits, development and testing of the solar vegetable dryers, and the marketing review following the first agricultural season. CAMAN has done little to plan for marketing of vegetable production. There has been little progress in planning to open vegetable stands in N'Djamena and contracting with restaurant and other buyers. The consultant visit, originally planned for June 1984, has been put off so that the visit will take place once significant production has begun (now anticipated for October 1984). Also the review of the first partial growing season production and marketing was put off from April since no significant production had yet taken place by that time. This review is now planned for October as part of the annual Africare/CAMAN project evaluation.

During the period April 1 to June 30, 1984 the following major activities took place:

- 1)- Food Distributions on April 10, May 17 and June 25 in Miskine and on April 12, May 19 and June 28 in Maillao.
- 2)- A recommendation regarding the type of consultant needed has been made. The project seems to most need the advise of someone who has organized successful cooperatives in West or Central Africa and who has expertise in the commercialization and marketing aspect of cooperatives.
- 3)- The reassignment of the CAMAN agent in charge of the Maillao site. Significant problems had taken place in Maillao including the disappearance of materials, inadequate and inaccurate recording of sales of produce, inadequate maintenance of the irrigation pump, poor technical advising, and insufficient work output. Highlighting the problems during this period was a three day strike by the workers to protest the delay in receiving their food for work allotment. WFP had considered with holding ^{the} food payment due to the inadequate progress at this site. The fact that the workers struck shows that there has not been proper or adequate explanations given to the workers regarding the goals of the project and to whom the benefits of the project are to go.
- 4)- Completion of the major irrigation canals at Miskine and Maillao. Work was supervised by the Rural Engineering Service (Genie Rural).
- 5)- The design and initial establishment of production and marketing records at each site and at the central CAMAN office.



Background - Construction of irrigation canal.
Foreground - Radish patch.
- Miskine.



Placing of fencing along river to deter hippopotami from entering garden site - Miskine.



Manufacturing of mud bricks for

- 6)- Production of one third of a ton of vegetables (90 % from Miskine) which were sold for approximately \$ 100. Based on these very preliminary records revenue per kilo is less than originally planned but loss through spoilage has been less than the 50 % anticipated. Vegetables produced have included okra, cucumbers, carrots, beans, red pepper, and corn.

III. Objectives / Targets

Through the reporting period there has been progress in achieving some of the objectives of the activity. Comments regarding progress toward the six stated objectives are listed below:

- 1)- Promoting the rehabilitation of CAMAN. The activity has given CAMAN an opportunity to function again. Besides providing work for the field agents the activity also requires the CAMAN administration to get involved with planning and organization of market gardening. While it is too early pass final judgement on its work, it is clear that CAMAN's administration, which had not functioned for a number of years due to the civil disturbances, will need more time than initially expected to become an efficient and effective organization. CAMAN has a number of serious and conscientious workers but due to the non-functioning of CAMAN for a number of years there is a lack of practical experience in the operating of the cooperative. The project is giving agents and administrators an opportunity to obtain practical experience.
- 2)- Distribution of relief food through Food for Work.
Food is reaching rural workers though there needs to be better orientation given to the workers regarding the aims and purposes of the FFW component of the project.
- 3)- Food Production
Food production and marketing have begun though at a slower and smaller rate than originally planned.
- 4)- Collecting data . Market surveys of vegetable produce were made from December 1983 to the end of May 1984. As production and sales of vegetables have ^{now} begun CAMAN will ^{be able to} keep records of their sales to continue charting the price fluctuations of produce in N'Djamena without needing to expend money on surveys.

- 5)- Testing agricultural technologies: Construction of solar driers has been delayed awaiting the production of significant amounts of vegetables. Information has been requested regarding solar powered pumps which may be used in a possible spin-off project.
- 6)- Helping establish the Africare office this allowing the development of other projects. The Africare program continues to grow in Chad. During the last three months 13 tons of medical supplies arrived (via the AID Ocean Freight Reimbursement Program). These supplies, which are the equivalent of 4 packaged hospitals, will be distributed to needy hospitals and medical centers by the Government of Chad. Preliminary agreement was also reached to fund two Village Development Projects in Abougouaye and N'Djamena-Fara. These projects will provide self-help funds to construct a clinic and school in each village.

IV. Physical Progress

- 1)- Mis^kine - CAMAN estimates 3.5 hectares have been worked and 2 hectares have been planted. The major irrigation canal has been built and the warehouse constructed.
- 2)- Maflao - CAMAN estimates 2.5 hectares have been worked and 1.5 hectares planted. The major irrigation canal was only recently completed. The warehouse and rooms for the field agents are nearly completed.
- 3)- N'Djamena - Produce stands have yet to be opened.

V. Major Accomplishments with Respect to Overall Purposes.

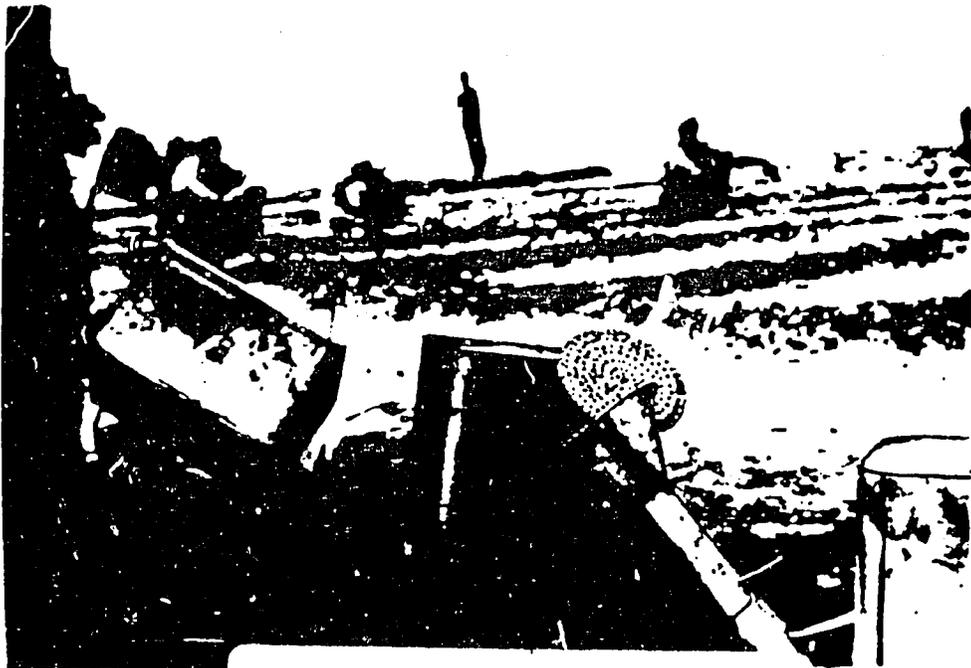
- 1)- Major irrigation canals have been completed at both sites with the assistance of Rural Engineering.
- 2)- Some limited production and marketing have begun.
- 3)- We have sought and received the involvement and interest of the local authorities (Sous-Prefet Rural) in making the project successful. This support is most welcomed.
- 4)- Data regarding price of vegetables in N'Djamena has been collected.
- 5)- A portion of each site has been prepared and planted.



Cabbage patch - Miskine.



Preparing fields - Miskine.



Locally constructed

VI. Delays and Bottlenecks

The major problems facing the project which have put the project behind schedule may be summarized as:

1)- Lack of understanding on the part of the workers regarding the purpose of the project:

It has become clear that the workers are primarily working to receive food rations and not with the idea that the project could be self-sustaining. Hence there is an obvious lack of commitment to the work; they are working as if the project was for someone else rather than themselves. Once food rations are stopped (October or November 1984) it is possible that most workers will stop their participation unless this attitude is changed.

Proposed action to be taken: Discussions with workers regarding the possible long term benefits of making the project work will be held. It is necessary to show that their self-interest will be served by making the project work. Once sales are made in significant amounts the workers will be receiving revenue from their work and this may spur them on to be more committed.

2)- Lack of adequate technical expertise and extension training:

There is a lack of practical technical expertise on the part of the agents in the field and lack of extension training. Certain seeds have been planted so thickly (carrots, e.g.) that none can grow properly. Often weeds are not removed and crops are not picked at the proper time.

Proposed action to be taken: Encourage the two most competent agriculturalists in CAMAN (who are assigned to N'Djamena) to visit the sites more often and instruct the CAMAN agents in the field.

3)- Inadequate or insufficient management: As mentioned earlier, CAMAN has not been a functioning agency since the civil disturbances. Therefore there is little management knowledge or practical experience regarding the functioning of a cooperative. This constraint may disappear as the project gives experience to CAMAN agents and managers. Nevertheless, the rate of growth and efficiency is effected as on the job training is taking place.

This is partly due to logistical delays on the part of WFP and partly due to their monitoring of work to assure that an adequate amount has been completed to justify food distributions (the latter is something in which we are in full agreement).

VIII. Other comments

A. Financial Status Report

Attached is a copy of the Financial Status Report for the project covering the period 1 January to 31 March 1984. (See attachment A).

B. Non - AID Project Inputs

The first chart below details the value of the non-AID project inputs for the period 1 April 1984 to 30 June 1984. The second chart shows the cumulative total of the value of non-AID project ^{inputs} to date. Included in this total are funds expended prior to the effective date of the grant but integrally part of the Africare matching and GOC project design contribution.

CHART A. Non - AID Project Inputs for 3 Month Period 1 April 1984 to 30 June 1984

Line Item	WFP (2)	AFRICARE	GOC (3)
Salaries	-	-	1639
Fringe	-	-	164
Travel & Lodging	17,096	-	1475
Equipment (1)	-	-	-
Supplies	17,846	-	-
Bus. Cost/Other Direct	1,869	-	625
TOTAL	36,811	-	3903

- 1) Not included in this section is the value of the more than 13 tons of medical equipment and supplies which have arrived in Chad this reporting period. Due to the different age, composition, and physical condition of the packaged disaster hospitals it is not practical^{to} determine a precise value of these units.
- 2) These figures are based on computations derived from WFP Chad 2452 (March 1979). These figures probably underestimate WFP's contribution as WFP has taken in charge the cost of delivery of the food to the sites.
- 3) See Attachment B.

CHART B. Commulative Non-AID Project Inputs through June 1984

Line Item	WFP	AFRICARE	GOC
Salaries	-	12,450	7243
Fringe	-	1,494	746
Travel & Lodging	39,891	42,924	3975
Equipment	-	32,508 (1)	-
Supplies	41,641	-	100
Bus. Cost/Other Direct	4,360	5,500	5700
T O T A L	85,892	94,876	17764

- 1) This figure reflects costs of completed privately funded Africare projects in Chad excluding the packaged disaster hospital units

C. Local Expenditures

Chart C below summarizes local expenditures charged to the project during this reporting period.