

# **USAID/THE GAMBIA**

## **RESULTS REVIEW AND RESOURCE REQUEST (R4)**

**April 2001**

## **Information Annex Topic: Non-presence Countries - Gambia**

### **A. Contribution to Food Security**

Catholic Relief Service (CRS) has been supporting humanitarian development and relief projects in The Gambia since 1964. Currently, CRS is implementing a three and a half year DAP, comprised of the Child Survival Project and the Sesame Growers' Association (SGA) Institutional Strengthening Project. The DAP will be ending in March 2001.

The Gambia Program's Food Security goal is "to improve household food security and women's economic empowerment". CRS/Gambia's local partners, the National Women Farmers Association (NAWFA) and the Gambian Food and Nutrition Association (GAFNA), share responsibilities in addressing the three food security components of access, availability and utilization. Access and availability are addressed by NAWFA through agricultural interventions aimed at increasing sesame productivity and profitability. GAFNA is addressing the issue of utilization through interventions aimed at improving household nutrition and promoting positive maternal and child health care practices.

The Sesame Growers' Association (SGA) Project aims to empower women so that they are better able to meet household food security needs. Through the SGA project, CRS/GM promotes sesame as a cash crop for women farmers, providing an alternative food and income source. The program has demonstrated success in creating the opportunity to increase the income of women farmers, and thereby increasing access, which will improve food security.

The Child Survival Project concentrates on improving health and nutrition by promoting improved infant and child feeding practices, improved maternal health and nutrition, and improved home based care of childhood illnesses.

### **B. Effectiveness of the Program in Achieving Results<sup>3</sup>**

**Child Survival Project:** In FY00, the Child Survival Project (CSP) was able to make substantial progress in achieving its objectives on improving maternal and child health care and nutrition in project areas. Exit surveys showed that chronic malnutrition in project areas decreased, thereby improving long-term food security problems. In addition, more women received iron during pregnancy (98% of women received iron during pregnancy), attended antenatal consultations earlier on in pregnancy (51.3% women had their first prenatal care visit during first or second trimester), and consumed more nutritional food during pregnancy (45% women increased food intake during pregnancy).

The CSP has significantly increased community awareness of health-related issues and the benefits of good nutrition. CRS and GAFNA were successful in creating considerable human resource development at the community level. Community Management Committees (CMCs) have received a variety of leadership and management training. Collaboration between the

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<sup>3</sup> For more information on the CRS/GM Child Survival and Sesame Growers' Association Institutionalization and Strengthening Project, please refer to the FY2000 CSR4 and the Final Impact Evaluation conducted in September 2000 submitted to USAID by CRS/The Gambia .

implementing partner and government health officials was strengthened. GAFNA's activities have been integrated with Gambia's<sup>4</sup> Department of State for Health (DOSH) Maternal and Child Health (MCH) Services.

**The Sesame Growers' Association Institutional Strengthening Project:**

FY00 marked the commencement of operations for the NAWFA secretariat, which was established, in the latter part of FY99. This establishment has been an outstanding example of institutional building through a thoroughly democratic process. The creation of a constitution through participatory approaches has helped create a strong and viable organization. The organization was further strengthened in FY00 through regular participatory meetings between the NAWFA Secretariat and the National Executive Committee (NEC) who were elected from the SGA membership. The second Annual General Meeting (AGM) also took place at the end of the year, which was comprised of the NAWFA Secretariat, the NEC, and the democratically elected representatives from each of the 72 SGAs.

NAWFA was able to export approximately 200 metric tons of white sesame to an international market in Holland. This was a good marketing experience for NAWFA. In the future, NAWFA's participation in the marketing of sesame will focus on the purchase of sesame and negotiations with buyers at the SGA level. CRS and NAWFA were able to initiate important linkages in the areas of sesame production and marketing with some of the major sesame importers in Europe during an agricultural exposition held in Germany. The SGA project was honored to have been selected for representation at EXPO 2000 in recognition of its achievements in raising rural women's export earning through sesame cultivation.

With the current DAP ending in March 2001, a Final Impact Evaluation was completed in August/September 2000. Results of the evaluation recommended project continuation. In order to ensure successful completion of the DAP, CRS/GM, in collaboration with its partners developed an extensive phase-out plan for the FY98-00 DAP, which was submitted to USAID in December 2000. Additionally, CRS/GM funded an assessment of GAFNA and NAWFA to explore potential restructuring options and management reorganization for each agency. CRS/The Gambia in collaboration with the CRS/Senegal has submitted a DAP for FY 02-06 in which they propose to monetize and directly distribute 63,534 MT of commodity to support improved access to food for farm households engaged in sesame production, and increased availability of food for vulnerable persons in targeted areas in Senegal and The Gambia.