

SELF RELIANCE IN EASTERN CHAD (SREC)

ANNUAL REPORT

Year Ending September 30, 2007

For

**THE UNITED STATES AGENCY
FOR INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT**

OFFICE OF FOREIGN DISASTER ASSISTANCE

GRANT NO. DFD-G-00-07-00099-00

Submitted by:

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ANNUAL PROGRAM REPORT

REPORTING PERIOD: May 10 – September 30, 2007 (active grant period for the year ending September 30, 2007)

GENERAL REFERENCE:

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- D. **DATE OF THIS REPORT:** December 27, 2007

Program Goal: Internally displaced families settled around Goz Beida are increasingly able to support themselves in a sustainable manner.

PROJECT OVERVIEW AND SUMMARY:

The program began on May 10, 2007, with the subsequent six weeks focused on country registration, government ministry approval, and program set-up, including the identifying and recruiting of staff, and locating operational premises in N'djamena and Goz Beida. As international staff were not permitted to work until program approval had been received from the government, effective implementation could not begin until June 26th when verbal approval was received.

This program of food provision through dry season agriculture is premised on water being available through water pans constructed using food for work and cash for work voucher schemes, and in which the primary beneficiaries are IDPs. Income earned through work on the water pans is paid using vouchers, which are in turn redeemed by beneficiaries at local 'fairs' organized by the program at which local merchants are the sellers of food items and other goods.

With the rainy season running from mid-June to mid-September, and delayed government permission not received until the end of June, activities began within a constrained time frame. Fortunately, government permission was granted to pre-position staff to be ready to begin work once approval was received. Work on the first site began on June 29th, although it took some time to begin work in all six sites, given the complexities of beginning a program of food/cash for work using vouchers, with which the community was unfamiliar, and in an environment where free distributions of commodities remains the norm. Further complications were caused by the increased logistical problems resulting from the rains, not least the acquisition of the necessary tools which had to be brought in from outside the area by road. Household surveys showed that the payment of Cash for Work met critical needs within the households during a

time when normally scheduled aid was unavailable. The strategy of using the vouchers was key to this success as it made use of the stocks among the local merchants.

A total of eleven pan sites were identified and approved by the local Sultan, the local government, and the regional government hydrologists. Tasks and payment for labor were negotiated with community leaders through a participatory process. A total of 3,144 families within six communities worked in the construction of the pans. Eight pans have been completed. Unfortunately, the early delays noted above meant these pans were not sufficiently filled with water to be of much use for the pending agricultural season. The delays were further compounded by an early end to the rains this year. Approximately 25% of the identified beneficiary families were from the host communities, an aspect important and necessary to diffuse inter-community tensions.

As noted in the proposal, this program is partially funded through private funds from the Global Relief Alliance (GRA) partnership¹, including a grant from the Canadian Foodgrains Bank (CFGB) through CRWRC, a member of the GRA. This complementary funding allowed workers to work twice as many days per month. It also allowed 1,025 families that were unable to work and benefit from the CFW activities to purchase food in the fairs along with the CFW participants, ensuring that the most vulnerable of families also benefit from this program.

Going forward, shallow wells will be constructed near pans and wadis to compensate for the lack of water available through the pans, and thereby still attain the objective of providing water for dry season farming. Pans will be re-examined to determine the investment needed to improve their performance. Seed and tool distributions will go ahead as planned in fulfillment of the grant.

Objective: Improve access to food through increased access to income and ability to produce food.

Beneficiaries: 15,050 beneficiaries (3,010 families) are targeted for this objective, of which nearly all are IDPs.

Amount requested from OFDA for the Objective: \$400,000

Sub-Sector – Seed Systems and Agricultural Inputs

Indicator (A) – 150 hectares planted with distributed seeds

Land normally unused during the dry season was identified, and agreements reached for its use with the Sultan and local government. This land designated for dry season cultivation is still undergoing sorghum harvest and awaiting further preparation. Activities conducted to date include:

¹ The Global Relief Alliance is a partnership of six North American faith-based agencies who partner together in various relief programs around the world, leveraging and combining their respective strengths. The partners are Christian Reformed World Relief Committee (CRWRC), Food for the Hungry (FH), MAP International, Medical Teams International (MTI), World Concern, and World Relief.

- beneficiary group formation of about five families per group;
- meetings with beneficiaries and other stakeholders to discuss land allocation and cultivation approaches;
- seed and tools procurement.

Indicator (B) – 3,000 families have sufficient seeds and tools to plant a dry-season crop

As noted, this activity is still in progress, with the seed and tool distribution pending. Total target beneficiaries have been identified with a ration of 75% IDPs to 25% host population. Lists of agricultural tools and seeds have been allocated against names of families/groups.

The planned seed fair distribution process was dropped in favor of a direct purchase using local merchants, due to shortages of locally-available seed and increased local demand.

Indicator (C) – 10 host families are producing vegetable seed

Host families have been identified and are waiting to receive agricultural tools and seeds. The agronomist on the WCDO team is training local animators on improved seed multiplication techniques. The animators will in turn train these host families as well as other participants.

Indicator (D) – 2,700 families (90% of targeted beneficiaries) are cultivating a dry-season crop

Due to the difficulty with the availability of water, it is expected that only 2,500 families who did not cultivate last year will be able to cultivate from WCDO-created water sources this year. Water pans did not store water for the length of time anticipated, and shallow wells have been dug to compensate. Appropriate beneficiaries have been selected from among program participants and from the larger IDP community.

Cross-Cutting Themes

Cash for Work/Vouchers

Indicator - 3,000 people employed in the CFW

- An average of 3,144 people per month (each representing an entire family) from a total of six sites have been employed in the CFW activities.

Vouchers with printed money values and other tracking codes are distributed to beneficiaries who use them to purchase goods or food stuff from merchants at special fairs. Merchants then cash in these vouchers for money at the WCDO office.

At first beneficiaries were reluctant to participate, hoping to receive goods in free distributions. However, once beneficiaries saw and understood the nature of the fairs and the possibility of choosing their own goods, WCDO had difficulty in holding limits on the numbers of workers as more and more clamored to be included. Challenges included conveying the nature of the

payment and fairs to the beneficiaries, and some local leaders trying to force a wage hike above the \$4 to \$5 daily rate.

Indicator – Participating IDPs receive an average of \$60 in wages

- A monthly average of \$17 has been received by participants as of September 30th, reflecting a calculation based on a cash reimbursement to merchants of \$52,500 in support of approximately 3,144 participants;
- \$47 per participant is the projected monthly wage when considering fairs held in the latter half of September through November which have not yet factored into the scenario;
- a \$90 monthly average was actually received when factoring in an additional amount provided through complementary funding;
- most vulnerable families that were unable to provide a worker also received approximately \$43 each through complementary funding.

Indicator – Average sales of food aid are reduced to less than 40% of the total ration

Market and household surveys show very little food aid is currently reaching the market-place though an amount difficult to determine is being sold from homes within the camps. Some food purchased through the fairs was resold to allow families a gradual source of income over the month rather than a single payment during the fairs and we are currently attempting to accurately quantify this amount.

HIV/AIDS

Indicator – 50 people sensitized/trained in HIV/AIDS issues

Almost 50 staff have been hired. Training is scheduled for November, and will include training on HIV transmission, prevention of infection, dealing with stigma, and supporting People Living With HIV/AIDS (PLWHA).

Internally Displaced Populations

Indicator – 3,000 IDPs will participate in CFW activities

- A total of 4,618 people have received benefits from this program. Of those, approximately 75%, or about 3,400, are IDPs and the remainder are from the host population.
- Approximately 25% of the beneficiaries (about 1,028) were very vulnerable and were not required to work, and were supported using complementary funding.

The CFW program has helped to bring IDPs and host communities much closer, reducing tension and stress as both populations are involved in both the CFW and agricultural project (vegetable gardening).

Indicator – 15,000 IDPs assisted

- An average of 3,144 workers earns a monthly wage from CFW, translating to an estimated total of 15,720 people benefiting, using an average household size of five.

Protection Mainstreaming

Indicator – 50% of female-headed households in the targeted communities receive supplemental income to protect their food rations

The number of female-headed households is not currently known, with the UN unable to provide figures. Within the program, priority is already given to female-headed households. WCDO is attempting to verify this number in order to ensure this target is met.

Indicator – 50% of vulnerable populations receiving full designated rations

Through the fairs, families are using just over half of their vouchers to purchase food. While a portion of this is complementary food, the majority is sorghum and sugar. Between earnings through various small income generating activities, the general WFP food distributions and the supplements from this program, *the majority of* the vulnerable population is estimated to have access to approximately 2,500 calories per day, exceeding the SPHERE standard of calories per day.

Due to numerous challenges, exact figures remain hard to obtain, although efforts continue to be focused in this direction.

Summary

Despite startup challenges and numerous ongoing impediments, the program has provided considerable benefit to the most vulnerable families in the Goz Beida area. Families have received funds sufficient to purchase basic necessities, and have benefited from a distribution mechanism that offers choice in terms of food items, as well as combining host and IDP families in a single project. Household surveys show that the food provided by this program filled a critical gap in the WFP food distributions. Whilst the pan constructions did not meet expectations, shallow wells to circumvent this problem will permit families to cultivate during the dry season. The targeted number of beneficiaries has been largely exceeded. By including a portion of the host population in the program activities, tension between the host and IDP communities has been reduced significantly. This factor was critical in obtaining access to land for the agricultural component of this program and is key to the success of the overall program.