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**Fiscal Year 2009 Annual Results Report  
Title II Multi-Year Assistance Program**

Consortium for Rehabilitation and Development (CARE, Prime)  
/Sierra Leone

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## I. CONTENTS

I. CONTENTS .....	i
II. LIST OF ACRONYMS .....	ii
III. ANNUAL RESULTS .....	1
3.1 - INTRODUCTION.....	1
3.2 - PROGRESS TOWARDS PLANNED ACTIVITIES AND TARGETS .....	1
3.3 - CONTEXT MONITORING AND ASSUMPTION TRACKING.....	9
3.4 ENVIRONMENTAL MONITORING .....	9
IV. PROPOSED MODIFICATIONS.....	10
V. SUCCESS STORIES.....	10
VI. LESSONS LEARNED .....	12

## II. LIST OF ACRONYMS

<i>Acronyms and Abbreviations</i>	<i>Meaning</i>
CBO	Community Based Organizations
CCU	Coordination and Compliance Unit
CFA	Committee for Food Assistance
CHC	Community Health Committee
CHO	Community Health Officer
CORAD	Consortium for Rehabilitation and Development
CRS	Catholic Relief Services
DMO	District Medical Officer
DRP	Developmental Relief Programme
EPI	Expanded Program of Immunization
FAO	Food and Agriculture Organization
FFA	Food for Asset
FFP	Food for Peace
FFS	Farmer Field School
FFW	Food for Work
GDP	Gross Domestic Product
GOSL	Government of Sierra Leone
HDI	Human Development Index
IEC	Information Education and Communication
IEE	Initial Environmental Examination
IDP	Internally Displaced Person
IR	Intermediate Result
ITSH	Internal Transport Shipping and Handling
LEAD	Livelihood Expansion and Asset Development
LOA	Life of Activity
MAFS	Ministry of Agriculture and Food Security
MCHP	Maternal and Child Health Post
MDG	Millennium Development Goal
M&E	Monitoring and Evaluation
MOHS	Ministry of Health and Sanitation
MYAP	Multi Year Assistance Programme
NGO	Non-Governmental Organization
PITT	Performance Indicator Tracking Table
PHU	Peripheral Health Units
PLA	Participatory Learning and Action
SLRA	Sierra Leone Roads Transport Authority
TBA	Traditional Birth Attendance
UNAMSIL	United Nation Mission in Sierra Leone
USAID	United State Agency for International Development
USG	United State Government
VDC	Village Development Committees
VDHC	Village Development Health Committee

VGf	Vulnerable Group Feeding
WFP	World Food Programme
WVI	World Vision International

### III. ANNUAL RESULTS

#### 3.1 - INTRODUCTION

During FY09, the Consortium for Rehabilitation and Development (CORAD) saw significant advances as well as experienced challenges in its implementation of the Livelihood Expansion and Asset Development (LEAD) project. A strong tenet of LEAD is its emphasis on the the importance of community ownership of and leadership in implementing activities designed to foster sustainable development. Throughout FY09, community members were directly involved in the design (through selection of project areas and target beneficiaries), implementation and monitoring of project activities. In addition, CORAD's Community Help Desk has been put in place to promote downward accountability and increase the participation of stakeholders<sup>1</sup>. Training on the principles of good governance and the development of by-laws for many different community groups has led to a gradual transfer of authority and decision making from the CORAD partners to the community members. During FY09, several visits were made to project sites by donors and other partners to gather feedback through focus group discussions, interviews and community meetings. This includes quarterly post-distribution monitoring surveys, focusing on food distribution. Such visits were positively received by targeted communities and often provoke messages of thanks to the 'American people' and CORAD for the work being undertaken in these areas.

#### 3.2 - PROGRESS TOWARDS PLANNED ACTIVITIES AND TARGETS

**Program Objective I: Human capabilities of farmers in 16,000 poor farm households, 3,400 economically marginalized youth, and pregnant and lactating women/children in 16,000 poor farm households protected and enhanced.**

**Intermediate Result 1.1: The capacities of 16,000 farmers to seek out, experiment with and adapt new ideas related to market-led agricultural production are increased.**

*IR 1.1.1 Farmers participating in a 4-month series of learning sessions through farmer field schools*

The Livelihood Expansion and Asset Development (LEAD) project is building the capacity of rural farmers through experiential learning, using the Farmer Field School (FFS) methodology. During FY09 a total of 7,133 farmers completed a full learning cycle through 248 Farmer Field Schools (FFS), which exceeds the FY09 target of 7,108.

	Ages 15-35	Ages over 35	Total
<b>Male</b>	2,440	1,358	<b>3,798</b>
<b>Female</b>	2,421	914	<b>3,335</b>
<b>Total</b>	<b>4,861</b>	<b>2,272</b>	<b>7,133</b>

Through FFS, poor farmers were trained in varietals selection, soil fertility experiments and plant populations; as well as governance, inland valley swamp management and farming as a business. The FFS methodology stimulates a process of innovation and discovery among farmers through local trained facilitators. The use of local facilitators is a key factor in influencing farmers' participation in FFS and their adoption of new technologies taught. There are currently 1,398

<sup>1</sup> Although to date comments have focused on requests for inputs, this may also be a reflection on the levels of literacy in Sierra Leone that make this new and innovative slow to bear fruit.

people (see table below) enrolled in 44 FFS that have yet to complete the full learning cycle. Of these, 40 FFS are scheduled to graduate in November 2009.

	Ages 15-35	Ages over 35	Total
Male	555	148	703
Female	599	96	695
<b>Total</b>	<b>1,154</b>	<b>244</b>	<b>1,398</b>

#### ***IR 1.1.2 Farmer field schools undertaking experiments***

A key component of FFS is undertaking experiments to improve yield and productivity using demonstration plots. During FY09, each CORAD supported FFS conducted an average of 5 experiments, which is 87% of the FY target. Experiments included plant populations, varietal trials, method of land preparation (flat, ridges, mounds), comparison of vine cuttings (apical versus basal), and the effects of weeding and transplanting at different stages in crop growth. Use of organic manure led to an increase in yield (vegetables, sweet potato) in FY09. The most widely adopted technique was in plant populations where increased space facilitated weeding and reduced the amount of seed material needed. With similar efficiency concerns, the least practiced technique was sorting of vine cuttings which was said to be labour intensive and time consuming. Grasshopper attacks reduced the harvest in some demonstration plots; these occur with little or no prior warning making it difficult for communities to protect their crops.

#### **Intermediate Result 1.2: The capacities of 3,400 Economically Marginalized Youth (EMY) able to effectively manage income-generating activities or small businesses are increased**

##### *IR 1.2.1 - Economically Marginalized Youth (EMY) participating in Business Management Training*

In Sierra Leone, small business owners' major challenge in efficiently and profitably managing their businesses is limited knowledge of formal business skills. Under LEAD, 1,229 economically marginalized youth (542 men, 687 women) were trained in business management during FY09; an achievement of 12% over the target (1,094). Of those trained, 56% were women. Trainings were designed to provide essential knowledge for profitable and sustainable management of businesses; including marketing, book keeping, financial planning, production & operation, cost and benefit analysis, calculating profit and loss, and developing action plans for business implementation. This activity has been very successful: 2 LEAD youth groups (currently being registered as companies) have been identified by the World Food Programme (WFP) as contractors for the supply of clean rice for its School Feeding Program.

##### *IR 1.2.2 - Economically Marginalized Youth participating in VS&L activities*

CORAD partners formed a total of 85 Village Savings and Loan groups during FY09. These groups have a collective membership of 2,150 EMY (1,434 women, 766 men), more than double the annual target (927). A further 716 EMY (424 women, 292 men) were participating in 52 VS&L mixed aged groups during FY08, which was not reported last year. This brings the total to 2,866. The success of this activity is due to the rate at which the communities are embracing the VS&L methodology and the enthusiasm of youth to become involved in economic activities. During the FY, 10 people were trained as community VS&L facilitators and encouraged to form a business group to provide services (such as training and monitoring) to VS&L groups, charging fees for advice.

##### *IR 1.2.3- Economically marginalized youth who gain access to and complete vocational training facilitated by the program*

A total of 103 EMY completed vocational training in FY09, consisting of 61 women and 42 men. This marks 41% of the target for the year (250). A further 247 are currently enrolled and

have yet to graduate (145 men, 102 women). Courses range from 6 months to 3 years, the latter for those undertaking the National Certification for Technical and Vocational Award (NCTVA). The areas of study chosen include I.T, tailoring, engineering, carpentry, building & construction, HR, secretarial studies, development studies, and accounting & finance amongst others. All courses end in 2010.

**Intermediate Result 1.3 - Members of 16,000 households demonstrate understanding and skills related to improved health and nutrition practices.**

*IR 1.3.1 Growth promotion weighing of children under five conducted*

During the course of FY09, 53,942 Growth Monitoring and Promotion (GMP) weighings were conducted, of which 53% were weighings of girls and 47% were weighings of boys, far exceeding the annual target of 29,500. The weighing sessions are used to determine children's levels of nutrition and to counsel and teach mothers.

	Male	Female	Total
<b>Adequately nourished ("normal")</b>	16,514	17,337	<b>33,851</b>
<b>Moderately malnourished</b>	7,653	9,702	<b>17,355</b>
<b>Severely malnourished</b>	1,307	1,429	<b>2,736</b>
<b>Total</b>	<b>25,474</b>	<b>28,468</b>	<b>53,942</b>

Of these weighings, 63% found the children to be adequately nourished, 32% moderately malnourished and 5% severely malnourished. Children identified as severely malnourished were referred to the nearest Peripheral Health Unit for rehabilitation, while children that were moderately malnourished were incorporated into CORAD's PD Hearth activities for rehabilitation. Discussions with mothers/care givers typically reveal that male children are better nourished than female children, as evidenced by the results above. Unsurprisingly there were decreases in the numbers of malnourished children during harvest when more food varieties are available.

*IR 1.3.2 Children who gain at least 600gramms after six weeks of participation in Hearth*

The premise of PD Hearth is that people should be able to effectively feed their children using locally available produce, thus the HEARTH menus are energy, protein and micro-nutrient rich meals that are prepared in the communities by mothers/caregivers under supervision of locally trained volunteers. From the table below, it can be seen that 685 children gained 600 grams after participating in Hearth for 6 weeks, representing 67% of the FY09 target of 1,016. However, it is 74% of the total number that participated in HEARTH, which shows that this approach has significant impact. Even those children who did not gain as much as 600g may still have made significant progress towards being rehabilitated.

	Children participating in PD/Hearth	Children who gained at least 600 g
<b>Boys</b>	432	324
<b>Girls</b>	496	361
<b>Total</b>	<b>928</b>	<b>685</b>

*IR 1.3.3 – Village Development Health Committee (VDHC) / Community Health Committee (CHC) member trained in malaria, acute respiratory infection and diarrhea*

During FY09, nearly ten thousand (9,737) VDHC and CHC members (3,398 men, 6,339 women) were trained in prevention and treatment of malaria, acute respiratory infection and diarrhea. Training sessions also focused on health topics including personal hygiene, maternal and general health and nutrition as well as safe water and environmental sanitation. This far exceeds the

annual target of 2,541; evidencing that CORAD’s low cost approach to spreading health messages continues to be effective.

*IR 1.3.4 women practicing exclusive breastfeeding with their under-six-month babies*

Under LEAD, 211 breastfeeding support groups were established in communities in FY09, with a membership of 3,166 including Traditional Birth Attendants, Community Health Volunteers and, in some cases, community elders. CORAD partners celebrated World Breastfeeding Week 2009, disseminating information on the benefits of early initiation and exclusive breastfeeding. It has been observed that increases in EBF are in part due to the willingness of husbands to support mothers as they see the benefits from other healthy babies in the communities. Sensitization during outreach sessions has also contributed. Mothers were supported with advice on EBF, as well as encouraged to establish and cultivate 265 new baby friendly farms. These gardens are planted with local, nutrient-rich vegetables for household consumption, including okra, cucumber, cassava, groundnut and tomatoes. Crops grown both improve the nutrition of the family and provide a source of household income as surplus can be sold to prepare for shocks, such as obstetric emergencies. A total of 3,100 mothers were practicing EBF during the reporting period, which is 97% of the FY09 target (3,198).

**Program Objective 2:  
Livelihood capacities of 16,000 poor farm households and 3,400 economically marginalized youth protected and enhanced.**

**Intermediate Result 2.1: 505 Farmer groups/marketing associations are formed or strengthened to support increased agricultural production and better prices for production sold.**

*IR 2.1.1 Farmer groups, marketing associations functioning*

During FY09, 200 farmer groups/marketing associations were established, involving 11,010 people (5,449 men and 5,561 women), representing 85% of the annual target. Such groups provide a medium for training in agro-production alongside building skills in marketing.

	Ages 15-35	Aged Over 35	Total
<b>Male</b>	3,738	1,711	<b>5,449</b>
<b>Female</b>	3,796	1,765	<b>5,561</b>
<b>Total</b>	<b>7,534</b>	<b>3,476</b>	<b>11,010</b>

Of the members, 51% are women and 68% are youth. Groups are encouraged to cluster together for enhanced productivity and sustainability. Additionally, these groups and associations contribute to building social capital, critical to a post-conflict environment such as Sierra Leone.

*IR 2.1.2 Developing input supply and marketing plans*

In FY09, 102 input supply and marketing plans were developed by farmer groups, which is 86% of the annual target. The groups were trained on the development of input supply and marketing plans. Topics included: the value of working as a group, conflict management, developing and following up on business plans, keeping accurate records, transparency and leadership.

*IR 2.1.3 Farmer groups successfully operating agro enterprises*

CORAD partners supported the establishment of 125 farmer groups which are operating agro-enterprises. The majority are engaged in food production, stocking and selling at best price (after appreciation due to scarcity) with crops such as groundnut, rice, cocoa and vegetables. Other examples of enterprises are ‘gari’ processing and the buying and selling of husk rice. In the next FY, groups will continue to be supported with equipment (e.g. rice mills) and training.

**Intermediate Result 2.2: Access to viable economic activities in agriculture, agro-processing or micro-enterprise is facilitated for 3,050 economically marginalized youth.**

*2.2.1 Economically Marginalized Youth participating in Farmer Field Schools*

A total of 3,222 economically marginalized youth (1,478 men, 1,744 women) participated in FFS, during FY09 representing 67% of all youth in CORAD's FFS (see IR 1.1). This far exceeds the annual target (166) and reveals the extent of enthusiasm of youth to be involved in economic development activities. Some CORAD partners observed a significant increase in the participation of youth who were formerly involved in mining.

*IR 2.2.2 Average savings accumulated per youth savings group*

The Village Savings & Loan (VS&L) methodology continues to be embraced by communities in LEAD's operational areas. Eighty five saving and lending groups were formed during FY09 in LEAD operational areas. Of a total membership of 2,749 people, 56% are women and 77% are youth.

	<b>Ages 15-35</b>	<b>Aged Over 35</b>	<b>Total</b>
<b>Male</b>	936	272	<b>1,208</b>
<b>Female</b>	1,167	374	<b>1,541</b>
<b>Total</b>	<b>2,103</b>	<b>649</b>	<b>2,749</b>

The average saving *per group* during FY09 was \$265, exceeding the target of \$200.

*IR 2.2.3 - Economically Marginalized Youth accessing start up capital (Loans) from youth group savings*

During FY09, a total of \$54,029.95 in the form of loans from youth group savings was disbursed to 1,927 EMY (704 men and 1,223 women). Seventy two per cent of borrowers are youth (out of a total of 2,668). This exceeds the FY09 target (1097) by 829 EMY or 75%.

*IR 2.2.4 - Economically Marginalized Youth accessing start up capital (Loans/Grants) from program / other sources.*

A total of 181 groups consisting of 1,198 members (444 men, 754 women) accessed start up capital to the value of \$85,436.74. This was made up of 57 start-up grants and 124 capital grants. Grants included inputs such as gari processing machines, roasting trays, rice mills, small ruminants or capital. One of the CORAD partners had serious challenges in the dispersal of start up grants to youth and stopped activities immediately. However, due to the success of this activity in other operational areas, the FY09 target (1,415) has been exceeded.

**Program Objective 3: 375 rural communities have improved community infrastructure and stronger linkages to service providers**

**Intermediate Result 3.1: 16,000 households in 375 communities have access to comprehensive maternal and child care services, through Maternal Child Health Posts and/ or Outreach Clinics.**

*IR 3.1.1 - Providing TBAs with refresher training*

During FY09, 100 TBAs were trained on topics such as referral system, obstructed labour, post partum and ante partum hemorrhage and HIV/AIDS and malaria in pregnancy, representing 77% of the target (130). In response to the policy shift in the Ministry of Health and Sanitation to strongly advocate for institutional delivery, CORAD partners redefined TBA training sessions, with MOHS. Meetings held with TBAs in FY09 were used to emphasize their role as Blue Flag volunteers, community growth monitors and the need to advocate for institutional delivery under the supervision of a trained staff.

*IR 3.1.2 - Increasing access to outreach clinics (Consultations)*

Building on progress made in FY08, CORAD continued to facilitate increased access to basic health care services for rural populations through outreach clinics. These clinics offer a range of services including immunization (EPI), growth promotion monitoring, antenatal consultation, health/nutrition education, iron tablets for pregnant women and vitamin A supplements for post partum women. A total of 47,818 consultations were held during FY09 of which 37,771 were with children under five<sup>2</sup>. This represents 99% of the annual target.

Consultations	Pregnant Women	Children Under Five		Total (women, children)
		Male	Female	
	10,047	18,191	19,580	47,818
		37,771		

Training was conducted for 11,361 pregnant women and 9,190 lactating women (20,551) through outreach clinics and CHCs. Topics included nutrition and dietary diversity, HIV/AIDS sensitization, prevention and management of communicable diseases, and environmental sanitation. Emphasis was placed on health during pregnancy, including recognizing danger signs, promoting institutional delivery and EBF, and the importance of ante natal care. A range of training methods were used including role play, drama, songs and practical demonstrations.

**Intermediate Result 3.2: 2200 targeted households in 55 communities have expanded access to safe water and sanitation through community-managed wells, household-based water purification technologies and/or latrines.**

CORAD views water and sanitation as being extremely important. However, the funding pledged for planned activities by the Government of Sierra Leone has not been forthcoming, severely affecting progress towards targets. The US Embassy in Freetown and CORAD CCU continue to advocate with GoSL to meet its commitment.

*IR 3.2.1- Households with access to potable water from new wells*

During FY09, 6 wells and 3 hand pumps were constructed serving an estimated 405 households with approximately 2,623 people. By-laws were developed to govern the maintenance of the new wells including a mandatory household contribution of Le 1,000 (26 cents). SODIS (Solar Water Disinfection), a simple method of purifying water for drinking purposes, was piloted in some communities by one CORAD partner.

*IR 3.2.2 Communities with access to new sanitation facilities in public areas*

In FY09, 19 new sanitation facilities were constructed (2 seater and 3 seater VIP latrines), benefiting 15 communities. Sensitization on the proper use of these facilities and the importance of hand washing were carried out. Foods for Asset payments totaling 2.28 MT of food were issued.

*IR 3.2.3 Forming functional community water management committees*

Six community water management committees were formed to support the maintenance of the 6 new wells, with a total membership of 45 (29 men and 16 women). The low rate of achievement is due to the non-disbursal of GoSL funds, as explained above.

**Intermediate Result 3.3: Community-managed infrastructure associated with production, marketing, storing or processing agricultural commodities rehabilitated in 375 communities.**

<sup>2</sup> It is important to note that CORAD tracks the number of consultations conducted, not the number of women and children participating as the walk-in policy for outreach clinics would create a strong possibility for double counting.

*IR 3.3.1 - # of Kilometers of farm to market roads rehabilitated*

‘Food For Assets’ was used to rehabilitate 458km of farm to market roads in LEAD operational areas in FY09. This significantly exceeds the target of 355.8 km. A total of 1,681.039 MT of food were distributed to participants. Communities were supported to develop maintenance plans and put structures in place to ensure that these plans are adhered to, thus promoting the sustainability of the road.

*IR 3.3.2 Community assets rehabilitated, constructed or established*

Over the course of FY09, CORAD partners worked with communities to rehabilitate and construct 75 community assets, serving approximately 8,428 households. This represents 50% of the annual target. Food for assets was provided to 5,360 workers (3,642 men, 1,718 women).

Type of Asset	# of assets	# of MT used for FFA	Workers		# communities benefiting	# of HH benefiting
			Male	Female		
<b>Fish ponds</b>	11	145.38	987	474	11	2,136
<b>Community market</b>	4	19.20	500	166	1	2,364
<b>Drying floor</b>	13	7.11	548	503	32	1,907
<b>Grain store</b>	5	13.82	188	165	5	793
<b>Community IVS</b>	14	58.60	518	202	14	730
<b>Community farm</b>	14	11.61	717	75	14	153
<b>Community plantation</b>	14	24.76	184	133	14	345
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>75</b>	<b>280.48</b>	<b>3,642</b>	<b>1,718</b>	<b>91</b>	<b>8,428</b>

A total of 16 communities markets are in the process of being constructed and food payment has been received by participants for the work done so far (as stipulated in the signed MOU), however only 4 have been completed to date. These assets are serving 8,428 communities in LEAD operational areas.

**Intermediate Result 3.4 - Community-managed safety nets in 375 communities serving 2,746 chronically vulnerable households established.**

*IR 3.4.1 & 2 Distributing food rations to chronically vulnerable households*

During FY09, a total of 1271.194 MT of food was distributed to 3,187 vulnerable people and their households by the CORAD partners. There were 9, 561 indirect beneficiaries (4,425 men, 5,136 women). The volume of food distributed represents 34% of the annual target. However, this is dependent on actual food received and FY09 distribution is low due to pipeline breaks in food provision.

	Chronically Vulnerable		Acutely Vulnerable	
	Direct	Indirect	Direct	Indirect
<b>Male</b>	1,475	4,425	76	228
<b>Female</b>	1,712	5,136	35	105
<b>Total</b>	<b>3,178</b>	<b>9,561</b>	<b>111</b>	<b>333</b>

A total of 111 households were classified as ‘acutely vulnerable’ due to localized emergencies (in this case, fire, which destroyed homes and seed crops), to which 20.38 MT of food were distributed, benefiting 333 people indirectly (228 men, 105 women).

*IR 3.4.3 Forming community welfare committees to implement safety-net action plans*

CORAD partners supported the establishment of 10 new community welfare committees during the course of FY09, which created 10 safety net action plans. Monitoring of the previously created community welfare committees took place, giving a total of 230 safety nets being implemented in FY09. Some CWCs have ceased to function due to a lack of input support (e.g.

seed rice, cassava cuttings). However, in other areas, partners observed informal safety nets being implemented (55). Most action plans centre on community farms created to increase food crop production. Harvests from the farms are used to support the most vulnerable people within their respective communities while a small portion is reserved as seeds for the next planting season.

**Program Objective 4: 990 community-based organizations in both rural and urban areas are able to practice and demand the basic principles of good governance, i.e., transparency accountability and representation.**

**Intermediate Result 4.1: 90 Groups (Village Development Committees, farmer groups, community health clubs, youth groups and community welfare committees) participating in the program understand and implement principles of good governance in their group activities.**

*IR 4.1.1 Training groups on Principles of Good Governance*

CORAD partners facilitated training in principles of good governance for 4,520 people (2,321 men; 2,199 women) during FY09, representing 416 groups. This is an achievement of 82% of the target (506). Topics included: the concept and principals of good governance, leadership training, transparency in management, consensus orientated decision making, accountability, community participation and inclusion, holding elected office, development of by-laws, decentralization, exercising the power of the individual vote and volunteering for the good of society. Examples of groups trained are community based organizations (CBOs), Village Development Committees (VDCs), Farmer Field Schools (FFS), Village Savings & Loans (VS&L) groups and Community Health Clubs (CHCs).

*IR 4.1.2 - Developing group by-laws that clearly define the principles of good governance*

During FY09, a total of 132 groups formed by-laws incorporating principles of good governance. This represents almost 50% achievement above the target of 90 groups. Five groups recalled and amended their draft by-laws, putting into practice what they had learnt through CORAD trainings to bring the by-laws up to date and strengthen them as a management tool. Group members observed improved cohesion and a strengthened democratic approach to decision making since the development of by-laws.

**Intermediate Result 4.2 - Community-based groups in 200 communities practice the training they have received on principles of good governance in periodic meetings with district leadership, chieftom leadership or other government institutions to discuss issues**

*IR 4.2.1 - Facilitating meetings between groups and governmental agencies*

To strengthen relations between government and civil society, CORAD partners encourage meetings between governmental agencies and community based groups with a focus on key sectors such as health, agriculture, youth and emphasizing cross cutting issues of good governance, gender, inclusion, integration and the establishment of safety nets for the most vulnerable. During FY09, the total meetings held were as follows:

	Total # of meetings	Target for ave. # of meetings	Ave. # of meetings during FY09
<b>Health</b>	95	2	7
<b>Agriculture</b>	93	2	6
<b>Youth</b>	48	2	3
<b>Safety Net</b>	79	2	6

Such meetings require the financial support of the community members themselves, and while some groups have yet to see the value of engaging in networking with government representatives, it continues to be a challenge to facilitate them. Meetings on issues affecting youth remains challenging. Chiefs, religious leaders, TBAs, farmer based organizations, community health volunteers, village development committees, line ministries and local council authorities were represented in these meetings.

### **3.3 - CONTEXT MONITORING AND ASSUMPTION TRACKING**

#### **Incidents of Regional or Localized Insecurity**

While there has been no major threat to stability in FY09 at the regional level, recent political tensions in the neighboring country of Guinea may lead to an increased inflow of people, with potential consequences of social stress, small arms movements, and increases in the price of food commodities and other merchandise in Kailahun District. Riots broke out in Diang Chiefdom, Koinadugu (February 2009) resulting in one death and one person injured. Youth prevented CORAD distributing food to community members. VGF food was resumed after a short break and FFW activities continued in another location. CORAD is closely monitoring this situation.

#### **Coordination with and Overall Support from GoSL**

A high level of coordination continues between LEAD staff, government stakeholders and line ministries. However, the GoSL's commitment to provide funds through remittance of duty paid to CORAD for implementation of certain activities remains unforthcoming.

#### **Extreme Climate Conditions**

Unpredictable rain fall continued throughout the fiscal year; incessant rain in February and March interrupted the traditional 'slash and burn' to clear land of the farming calendar, and the late start of the rains affected farmers' planting times. There were some incidents of localized flooding caused by the heavy rains.

#### **Other factors**

Programme planning and the implementation of seasonal activities were impacted by the delay in availability of monetization proceeds, 202(e) funds, and additional FY2009 obligations. Food shortages at CORAD warehouses affected delivery of outstanding VGF and FFW rations. A resurgence of pest infestation (grass hoppers) in Farmer Field School plots resulted in the complete devastation of some crop fields.

### **3.4 ENVIRONMENTAL MONITORING**

#### **Rehabilitation of community assets, feeder roads, wells and latrines using FFW**

CORAD partners complied with all IEE-approved mitigation and monitoring measures in the rehabilitation of community assets, feeder roads, wells and latrines using FFW. Rehabilitation work did not involve the removal of threatened or useful vegetation, nor the felling of large trees. Only pre-existing structures were rehabilitated. For inland valley swamp rehabilitation, care was taken to ensure no threatened or useful tree species were cleared. Road rehabilitation was constructed according to best engineering and environmental mitigation practices including incorporating proper drainage channels, planting trees and plants at the road edges and compacting of road surfaces. Before rehabilitation activities began, pre-assessments were conducted to identify potential negative environmental impacts on the rehabilitation activities (such as felling of trees, earth excavation to fill pot holes, etc). Mitigation and monitoring plans

were put in place to minimize the likelihood of adverse environmental impacts (i.e. post-rehabilitation planting of trees, backfilling open trenches, etc).

### **Conducting farmer based extension through Farmer Field Schools**

FFS demonstration plots (which average half to one acre in area), are selected by community groups from land that is already or has been set aside for agricultural use. Farmers have been discouraged from the practice of shifting cultivation where they open up new land and as a result the new trend is towards intercropping. In cultivating demonstration plots, CORAD partners provided oversight to ensure that no threatened or useful vegetation was removed, that no major earth removal was undertaken and that no agro-chemicals were used. Training was provided for FFS embarking on agro-processing including topics such as safe use and disposal of engine oil, fuel and lubricants.

## **IV. PROPOSED MODIFICATIONS**

Following the visit from FFP Dakar and the acknowledgement of the challenges facing CORAD partners in meeting all targets due to several factors, it has been proposed that LOA targets be revised for the no-cost extension. Although USAID/FFP guidance is to conduct a project's final evaluation as close to the end of the project as possible, as CORAD had not officially received the authorization for the no-cost extension of LEAD and therefore the Final Evaluation was conducted in FY09. This ensured seasonality with the baseline survey was maintained. The evaluation report will be finalized and submitted with the EOP report.

## **V. SUCCESS STORIES**

### *Community-based Mother-to-Mother Nutritional Education Approach Prevents Child Mortality*

Tomboma community is a remote village consisting of 65 households, in Kailahun District. Before CORAD began health interventions in this community, many mothers lacked the knowledge they needed to ensure appropriate child feeding and care, especially for children under five years of age. When a child died due to malnutrition or other preventable cause, many people would attribute the death to witchcraft.

Jenneh Konneh is 34 year old mother of one child, who resides in Tomboma. She had previously lost one child to malnutrition and she became pregnant four months before attending her first session. She and eight others mothers participated in the mother-to-mother group organized by CORAD and local partners. Like the other participants, Jenneh was taught the benefit and techniques for exclusive breastfeeding. During weekly discussions this practice was emphasized as the best and most affordable nutritional practice for mothers to provide healthy development of infants up to six months. Also emphasized were how to use local ingredients in preparing nutritious foods for themselves during pregnancy, and as appropriate diets for their children up to age five. The mothers contributed local food stuffs consisting of rice, oil and locally-abundant traditional leafy vegetables, called "pemahui" in the local (Mende) language. Pemahui is preferred because of its high protein, caloric and essential micronutrient content.

In May, Jenneh gave birth to a healthy baby boy, Fomba, and immediately joined the exclusive breastfeeding support group. With the knowledge gained during weekly exclusive breastfeeding sessions, at the end of September she had exclusively breastfed her baby for 4 months and was committed to doing so for the full recommended period. As result, Fomba has consistently shown the desired weight gain at each monthly weighing period. In addition, since the advent of

the mother-to-mother program, there have been no reported cases of childhood death in Tomboma from symptoms related to malnutrition.

Jenneh has become a model to other mothers in her community. At the World Breastfeeding launching ceremony in her community in August, Jenneh Konneh narrated to hundreds of her counterparts: *“I lost my one child before its first birthday but am however thankful to the American People[ ... ]for impacting the knowledge and skills for maternal nutrition, child feeding and care that have saved my son Fomba and consequently reduces infant mortality rate in my community”*.



The mothers who participate in the weekly mother-to-mother support learning groups are shown here gathering up local food stuffs they will use to prepare nutritious meals for infants > 6months of age and pregnant mothers.



Jenneh Konneh, a proud participant in the mother-to-mother support is shown here with her healthy 4- month old son, Fomba.

#### Saving for Safer Delivery

“One in every eight women in Sierra Leone risk dying of pregnancy and childbirth complications exacerbated by a combination of poverty, discrimination, in equality and government mismanagement” reported by Amnesty International in September 2009 . This implies that Sierra Leone is the worst place for a pregnant woman to be in planet earth. Most of these women died because they are routinely denied their right to life and health the report further revealed; this situation is not different in our operational areas in rural Sierra Leone. One of the reasons attributed to this is that most rural women can not afford delivery costs that are normally charged by midwives or health centers.



Babie, Hawa and Jeneba with their babies (left to right) in the share-out ceremony in Joi

The good news is CORAD partner CRS is implementing health projects that target pregnant women in Kailahun district where the SILC project is been piloted. In various health talks delivered to pregnant women, health field agents are constantly emphasizing safe child delivery practices which include regular visits to the nearest health centers and delivery to trained TBA/midwives or to the nearest PHU.

The formation of a SILC group contributed to safe delivery of pregnant women in Joi community in Peje Bongre chiefdom, Kailahun district. Three women; Babie Samu, Hawa Alpha and Jenba Fobbay are member of the Joi SILC groups and also beneficiaries of CRS pregnant women support group. Whenever their respective delivery dates are due, these women are assisted from the SILC social fund to make safe delivery in the nearest health center in Lalehun Govenhun which is 5km away. When asked about the benefits derived from the SILC during their share out in August 2009, these women were quick to point out that the SILC had helped not only in saving their lives but also the lives of their babies.

## **VI. LESSONS LEARNED**

### What is working?

- Farmer groups coming together to form apex organizations to undertake collective marketing and overcome the challenge of supplying the required amount of quality rice, as evidenced by the introduction of the WFP Purchase For Progress Concept (P4P).
- Support to community members to lead growth promotion sessions at the community level has increased the growth promotion coverage and efficiency. From the counseling provided during these sessions, mothers now willingly undertake decisions reached in relation to the nutrition status of their children.
- The Belleh Women Support Groups (BSG) being piloted in 10 communities have created a huge impact in delivering maternal health services. Antenatal clinic attendance is increasing on a monthly basis due to the drastic reduction in services charges for ANC offered through BSG.

### What is not working?

- Livestock production is consistently affected by the lack of veterinary services; disease outbreaks often kill animals. CORAD is collaborating with MAFFS (Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Food Security) in our operational areas but they lack the capacity to monitor animal health.
- Farmers practicing small scale agriculture in target communities continue receiving low prices for farm products, due to a combination of factors: poor feeder road network (high transportation costs and limited accessibility); lack of market information; limited/poor negotiation skills of poor farmers with exploitative middlemen/private sector; limited collective planning and marketing of farm produce as groups of federated marketing associations and well as low quality and no/limited value-addition to their farm products.
- Delays in receiving obligations and transfers of funds are made it very difficult to plan effectively and to meet originally-planned targets. The ongoing issue with the GoSL contribution to the LEAD program has hindered the implementation of water and sanitation activities.