



FOOD FOR WORK (FFW) COMPONENT FINAL PROJECT DOCUMENTATION

From October 2003– September 30, 2009

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*WE ACKNOWLEDGE THE SUPPORT OF
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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Annual floods mainly caused by Rivers Nyando and Nzoia bring devastation to many household livelihood securities of inhabitants of the areas in Nyanza and Western Provinces of Kenya adjacent to Lake Victoria. Plain areas adjacent to Lake Victoria through which Rivers Nyando and Nzoia flow into L. Victoria are prone to flooding whenever annual short and long rains are above average amounts. This is caused by silting of the rivers, canals and drainage channel beds that result in lower carrying capacity and inadequate maintenance of riverbanks and artificial levees. The combination of these factors during high rainfall results in rivers over-topping banks and levees, and in some cases, causing bank and levee collapse.

This has in the recent years resulted in flash flooding and the displacement of many thousands of families in Nyanza and Western Provinces.

The floods results in contamination of drinking water and environment, destruction of agricultural crops and hence the community's food and income base, displacement of families from their place, and disruption of public services such as schooling. Human trauma and suffering due to "home arrest" or forced displacement from homesteads by floods is immense. It is estimated that directly 10,000 and 20,000 persons are affected in Nyanza and Western Provinces respectively whenever the short and long rains are above normal.

To address this situation, CARE-Kenya for the last five years has been implementing a Development Assistance Program Phase II (DAP II) II titled "Sustainable Livelihood Security for Vulnerable Households in Nyanza Province, Kenya". This program has been a continuation and expansion of activities successfully implemented in DAP I during the year 1999 – 2003. DAP II has five-components that offer maximum integration and synergy. These components are namely: 1) The Improved Agriculture for Small holders in Western Kenya (TASK); 2) Water, Sanitation and Education for Health (WASEH); 3) Community Savings Mobilization (COSAMO); 4) HIV/AIDS Life Initiative and 5) Food-for-work (FFW) maintenance and repair of canal, irrigation and other public infrastructure. The DAP It's final goal is to improve in sustainable manner, the food and livelihood security of the vulnerable households in seven districts in Nyanza province during FY 2004 – 2008.

FFW component was a flood mitigation and public infrastructure restoration project. This final project documentation report provides the details of successful implementation of this component. The project concentrated in flood prone areas of Nyando and Kisumu districts. The project was implemented through Victoria Institute for Research on Environment and Development (VIRED) International. VIRED had demonstrated capacity to carry out community projects. In 2003 it successfully implemented flood prevention and control projects in Nyando and Kadibo Divisions through the community flood control committees through voucher for work system. The baseline survey conducted by the project realized that on two year average 3762 persons would be displaced.

1.0 PROJECT BACKGROUND

Flooding occurs because of the inability of available canals, dykes and water retention points along Rivers Nyando and Nzoia to control rising water levels. In particular, Rivers Nyando and Nzoia frequently overflow because the sections of dykes that were constructed along their banks have broken down. According VIRED, fallen sections of the 30 Km dyke along R. Nyando from Oketha to L.Victoria needed to be repaired and vegetation planted on the dyke to control soil erosion. Sixteen seasonal rivers with a combined running total length of 134 Km in Nyando and Kadibo divisions were completely silted. Embankments on the seasonal rivers and bunds on canals had fallen.

Silt deposition along the major and minor canals had reduced the volume of water that used to be available for irrigating community owned small scale rice paddy. For instance, the Smallholder Irrigation Support Organizations (SISO) no longer had sufficient water throughout the year to supply household irrigation units as was designed. SISO is an umbrella management body that manages numerous individual households' irrigation units measuring from 0.625 to 2.0 acres in Nyando and Kadibo divisions. It was estimated that over 6000 acres of land under the smallholder community owned small scale irrigation schemes had been severely water-starved due to silt along irrigation canals. Consequently crop production in the irrigation basin (mainly rice paddy and vegetables farming) had dropped.

Problems caused by floods range from hunger due to crop failures and reduced livestock grazing area, and prevalence of water borne diseases such as malaria, typhoid, bilharzias and cholera. Part of the problem was non-accessibility to social amenities such as schools, hospitals, markets because physical infrastructure breakdown. The community owned small irrigation schemes were silted greatly negatively impacting on agriculture. Generally, the flooding areas per se did not necessarily receive above their average rainfall amounts but get flooded with running water from highlands characterized by high rainfall amounts. Unfortunately, the community does not harness the abundant water during floods for use in future. The irony was that severe water deficit period alternate with floods. FFW component was implemented to address the aforementioned problems and provide sustainably mechanism to the community.

2.0. PROJECT DESIGN

The project Specific Objective (SO5) stated that *by September 2008, the number of people displaced by floods in Nyando and Kisumu districts will have declined by 25%.*

The project intermediate result: *By September 2008, key canals, irrigation and other public infrastructure will be protected to provide reliable services - even during times of flooding - in Nyando and Kisumu Districts of Nyanza Province.*

Implementation methodology

CARE identified VIRED International as a key partner because of its experience in 2003 when it successfully implemented flood prevention and control projects in Nyando and Kadibo divisions using a similar approach to FFW called Voucher for Work (VFW) to compensate for community labor. In VFW, organized community members cleared canals in exchange of voucher. CARE developed a sub-grantee agreement with VIRED International to implement FFW component. VIRED International remobilized the existing community

structures such as village flood committees to plan and carry out food for work activities. In return for their labor, each community member that satisfactorily completed work compensated with food rations of pinto beans /split peas and vegetable oil. Work piece was issued depending on the nature, i.e. canals, earth pans, dykes, embankment. For a day's work 2 kg of pinto beans /split peas and 0.5 liters of oil was paid. This translated into KShs. 150 equivalent to a day's manual labor wage. In cases when oil was missing beans /peas ration was doubled to compensate for the oil. Efforts to request the GOK to add maize (corn) because of its popularity in FFW ration failed as GOK could not provide maize. Flood control committee was trained on work prioritization and specification to be able to respond to key priority areas and have work performed according to specification. Review meetings were conducted with committees on quarterly basis to review progress and develop away forward. VIRED staffs were also trained on technical work supervision, commodity distribution, warehousing and commodity reporting. Food was distributed per respective location after work on monthly basis. Commodity reconciliations were done in each store to ensure quantity issued per waybill was properly accounted for.

Food for Work (FFW) Component blended TASK, WASEH and COSAMO components to increase both food availability and accessibility by concentrating on improving productivity of small-scale community owned irrigation systems. De-silting canals and earth pans to enhance water retention for future use and training farming households on sustainable use of irrigation water will achieve this. As a result, produce from the schemes for both domestic use and market access has been enhanced. The major achievement of restoring canals, dykes, earth pans and any other water structure has brought significant decrease in occurrence of flooding and in turn reduced incidences of water borne diseases and human trauma

3.0 KEY ACTIVITIES UNDERTAKEN

Key project activities are outlined below

3.1. Rehabilitation of Rural access roads

There was a total of 382 KM of rural access roads rehabilitated against a target of 50Km by FY08. Although it had been agreed that the government of Kenya through the Ministry of Roads and Public Works would provide gravel and heavy machinery to compact the roads rehabilitated, this did not take place. This negatively influenced the quality of work on the roads. However the roads are passable during dry seasons providing easy access for the community in transporting farm produce to the markets. The idea used by Government of Kenya through SIDA Roads 2000 to construct the Masogo –Riat road using human labor borrowed heavily from the FFW concept.

3.2. Drainage & Irrigation Canals

A total of 820KM of both irrigation and drainage canals were rehabilitated against a target of 210Km by FY08. The rehabilitation of these irrigation canals resulted in the establishment and/or rehabilitation of the smallholder irrigation schemes, which were used for paddy production. This resulted in improve household food security and revenues from sale of rice.

3.3. Seasonal Rivers & Streams

These formed the main source of floodwaters within the basin and it was important to have their beds cleared and banks reinforced. A total of 403 km of seasonal rivers and streams were rehabilitated against a LOA target of 200Km to allow free water flow and banks raised to increase the capacity of the streams to hold more water.

3.4. Earth pans and Dykes

A total of 59,708 M³ of earth pans was excavated and desalted against a target of 63000 M³ of earth. The excavation works were mainly in the drier parts of Lower Nyakach and Nyando divisions which suffer from persistent drought. Water collected in these pans is used for domestic consumption and livestock watering, the former significantly reducing the distance women and children walk searching water. This freed up their time for other household chores and economic activities.

All the above activities surpassed their set targets except the de-silting of earth pans which community felt it was not necessary to do more since some areas had permanent rivers and streams. Priority in such areas was put on flood control canals and waterways. The over-achievement of most flood mitigation activities was due to the increased demand for work by the communities due to the community's realization of the impacts of these activities. In fact in some areas the communities were willing to work and receive food later when the same becomes available.

3.5. Flood Control Committee (FCC) Meetings

Meetings were held with the FCCs to review the work and to re-strategize on the priorities. The FCCs proposed better ways of addressing problems earlier on experienced and ways of improving on the deliverables. Proper collaboration between the FCCs and the VIRED field staff, who together with the respective line ministries staff assessed the work done.

3.6. Commodity Status

This section gives an overview of the commodity situation for the entire period 2004 - 2008

Commodity Receipts

The FFW project received a total of 1300MT of pinto beans/ peas and 137MT of vegetable oil for direct distribution to labor.

Commodity Distribution

A total of 1308 MT against the planned 1632 MT of pulses were distributed under the FFW project during the reporting period. A total of 137MT of vegetable oil against the planned 284 MT was distributed by the end of the project period. The short fall is due to failure to get the FY 08 commodities due to late arrivals of commodity in the previous FY which was carried forward and commodity losses due to post election violence looting of the CARE store.

Commodity Losses

The project ensured commodity losses were minimized. About 95% losses were transporter losses which were compensated by the transporters concerned. However, during the post election violence the program warehouse was looted. This significantly reduced the amount of oil available for distribution during FY08 as more oil was looted.

4.0 COLLABORATION / PARTNERSHIPS/ LINKAGES

Food for Work was implemented through direct partnership with VIRED international. VIRED International as an organization based within the program area made linkages with various NGOs and government departments. For example the JICA in collaboration with VIRED constructed an evacuation route cum dyke (0.68km) along river Miriu. Other partners were provincial administration through the office of the area chiefs and respective district officers gave the support in dispute resolution and sensitizing the community on the need to

participate in the program. Other relevant government ministries such as Agriculture, Roads and Public Works, Water and Irrigation also gave technical inputs when approached.

5.0 RESOURCES USE

The project was implemented with one Project Officer reporting directly to the Program Manager and one warehouse clerk. The project warehouse clerk was responsible for the HIV LIFE and FFW commodities. An assistant warehouse clerk was later recruited to assist the warehouse clerk due to other added on responsibilities to the warehouse clerk in assisting the South West Sakwa Water project stores and emergency response stores.

VIRED International, the implementing partner, had a total of 32 staff who were directly involved in the FFW project implementation. These included 3 Field Officers, one project accountant 18 assistant field officers and 10 watchmen.

The project worked used one vehicle (KAL 221K) which was shared with the HIV/LIFE. In the last year, another vehicle KAK 448 K was availed to the project. One motorcycle KAE 755J was assigned to the warehouse clerk.

The project operated on total budget of US\$ 538,270 and food commodities for direct distribution worth US \$ 317,030 (810MT of CSB and 125.5 MT of Vegetable oil)

6.0. CHALLENGES ENCOUNTERED

When working on roads that had not been rehabilitated for 20yrs boundary disputes were experienced due to encroachment by the community members while farming or building their homesteads. This delayed work. However, Ministry of Lands in collaboration with the Provincial Administration stepped in to resolve the problem using the relevant survey maps from the government.

During political campaigns, politicians interfered with work as they found working crowds suitable for campaigns. This led to reduced output forcing the project to terminate the work temporarily during the period. Again work stopped due to post election violence, the programme warehouse was looted and 36Mt of commodity looted, forcing the project to compensate for work done without oil, a factor which lowered participation due to high value place on oil by the community. Despite the project providing some tools to the community, the problem of inadequate tools remained a draw back to the end of the project Most of the work force was women, some quite elderly, who could not perform certain tasks well

Getting the Ministry of Public Works to deliver on their promise to provide materials for rehabilitating access roads such as gravel even after agreements were reached was not successful. The roads done, though far much better than before, were therefore not all weather as had been anticipated.

11.0 LESSONS LEARNED

Community participation in flood control makes them understand that their involvement is critical for the success of flood control.

Food for Work activities when linked to income generation motivates the community to see the importance of their participation in flood mitigation. Rehabilitation of waterways led to rejuvenation of irrigation schemes that were abandoned due to flooding further enhancing the community's benefit from the project. Food and cash crops (rice and horticulture) are now cultivated and marketed thus increasing household incomes. CARE facilitated linkages between the farmers and the markets namely the National Cereals and Produce Board for rice and Kisumu City for horticultural produce

12.0 CONCLUSIONS

The FFW implementation was very successful because the impacts have been seen by the number of rehabilitated irrigation canals, farm land that has been reclaimed and put on agricultural production. The flooding has been controlled and water ponds accessible to both animals and domestic use.

13.0 RECOMMENDATIONS FOR FUTURE PROGRAMMING

Food for Work programs should be implemented for more than 5 years. The extra time period would also be used to scale up the impacts of reclaimed irrigation schemes and land e.g. ensuring established scheme maintenance structure and sensitization on issues of governance, and public resource management.