

Executive Summary
Mid-Term Evaluation
Africare's Lake Nasho Resettlement Project
RWANDA.

I. Introduction:

On September 30, 1983 Africare received a \$ 4, 400, 672 grant from the Department of State's Office of Refugee Assistance to be administered through the United States Agency for International Development. It is a 4 year project scheduled to end on September 29, 1987.

The goal of the project was to settle and provide assistance to 400 refugee families.

The specific project purposes were to:

- a) assist the host country government and the international donor community with support and maintenance for 2,800 refugees (400 families of herders),
- b) assist the refugees to become more productive and self-sufficient, and
- c) strengthen the infrastructure needed to support the refugees.

Outputs called for establishing an improved pasture management program; establishing a tse-tse fly control program; introducing the use of bio-gas as an alternative energy source; providing accessible improved water supply for humans and animals; constructing two health centers and a veterinary center and establishing a reforestation program for erosion control and firewood.

II. Brief Project History:

Africare signed the project grant agreement with A.I.D. September 30, 1983. The overall country agreement between Africare and the GOR was signed December 13, 1983. The project accord between Africare and the GOR was signed May 31, 1984. Thus 8 months of the project life were lost to "contract" negotiations. The key issues were whether or not the GOR would allow permanent resettlement of refugees from Uganda and how the selection of beneficiaries would be made. It was finally agreed that the project would serve both the refugees and persons already settled in the area or to be settled there. Hence rather than an initial beneficiary population of 2,800 refugees (400 families) the project began with a beneficiary population of 8,400 people and 11, 000 head of cattle. The refugees (7,000 people) were all herders from Uganda.

Upon signature of the Africare/GOR project accord, Africare posted a technical assistance team to Rwanda. Between June 1984 and October 1985, Africare fielded its technical assistance team (Project Director, Administrative Officer, Livestock/Agriculture technician, Sociologist and Consultant Water Engineer), designed the water systems, provided expanded veterinary services, began a tse-tse fly control program and implemented improved ranching practices. A major difference in project execution as compared to the project design was that the GOR insisted that Africare execute and manage the project directly and totally rather than serve in an advisory capacity to the BGM project which was to have been the project implementor according to the project design and accords.

In December 1984, 2,300 hectares of project land were reserved by the GOR for a sugar cane plantation reducing project size from 7,400 hectares to 5,100 hectares.

The next major event in the project was that in October 1985 virtually all the refugees and their cattle left Nasho and returned to Uganda. They were replaced in November, 1985 by 500 families (2,500 people) of repatriated Rwandans who had been living in refugee camps in Kibondo in northern Rwanda since fleeing from southwestern Uganda in 1982. These people were almost exclusively farmers and as a group possessed fewer than 150 head of cattle. Thus, virtually overnight, the project changed from one of assisting refugee herders to one of helping repatriated Rwandan farmersto become self-sufficient and fully integrated into Rwandan society.

Between October 1985 and September 1986 (at the time of this evaluation) Africare accomplished the following: a) five villages of repatriated Rwandans (roughly 500 per village) established; b) residential parcels and one and a half hectare farm plots distributed; c) farm tools and seeds distributed; d) food production of beans, sorghum and sweet potatoes ongoing; e) 70 hectares of woodlots planted; f) two 60,000 seedling tree nurseries established; g) 2 ranches for improved grazing established; h) three water systems, a health center, staff housing and repatriate housing under construction; i) tse-tse fly control program installed and functional, j) veterinary services provided; and k) systems of village governance in place.

III. Summary Findings of Evaluation

1. Settlement of repatriates in 5 villages well-done and functional.
2. Excellent collaboration between GOR, Africare, UNHCR, Caritas and Red Cross.

3. Forestry activities well-ahead of schedule and successful.
4. Range management activities greatly reduced due to lack of cattle and herders.
5. Effective veterinary services for the few repatriate cattle and the cattle of neighboring Rwandan residents.
6. Tse-tse fly control program extremely successful.
7. Food production underway but requiring an accelerated and more intensive farmer training component to achieve self-sufficiency by the end of the project.
8. Water systems being well-constructed with one system already providing potable water.
9. OAR/Rwanda has not been receiving timely written financial or programmatic reports from Africare.
10. Project Coordinating Committee has not been meeting as often as scheduled or desirable.
11. GOR cooperation in terms of assigning project personnel to Nasho and assistance from regional and local government officials has been good.
12. Food self-sufficiency for repatriates is likely to occur by December 1987.

IV. Recommendations

1. Build two brick primary schools of 8 classrooms each in Ibanda and Thutu.

There are currently two temporary, rudimentary schools staffed by Ministry of Education teachers. The construction of two permanent schools is seen as the major contributor to the integration of the repatriates into Rwandan society. The schools will also serve a large resident population from the surrounding under-served area. Construction money is available due to the elimination of the planned water system for zone 1 and part of zone two.

2. Cancel the water system for zone 1 and part of zone 2.

This area was removed from the project by the GOR for a sugar cane plantation. There is no population in this area.

3. Elaborate and implement a farmer training program concentrating on farmers having the most difficulty. Hire an A-2 level agronomist to assist this activity.

This is necessary to assure food self-sufficiency. Part of this effort should include introduction of dry season irrigated gardening and small ruminant production.

4. Pay salaries of auxillary health staff from January 1, 1987 (end of UNHCR funding) until end of project or until Ministry of Health takes over full operational responsibility for the health center.

Health problems remain a serious constraint to food production. Malaria is a serious problem throughout the year. The Ministry of Health has already begun paying two health personnel and needs time to inscribe the added costs of the remaining personnel into its budget.

5. Make previsions for an emergency food stock for children, infirm people and pregnant and lactating women in case of disastrous harvests.

UNHCR food rations will be terminated March 31, 1987. It will take two more growing seasons to fully exploit all the agricultural parcels and to have full benefit of fruit trees, manioc and small ruminant production.

6. Pasture management and bio-gas activities should be reduced and eliminated respectively.

Small numbers of livestock and high cost of bio-gas make these activities senseless.

7. Convert existing hangar at Ibanda into a food storage silo and warehouse for agricultural inputs. Building should also have a small boutique for consumer necessities and a honey extraction room for a planned apiculture activity.

This is a needed building and will cost only \$ 12,000.

8. Expand reforestation efforts in Rukira and Rusumo communes and in the Nasho basin.

Reforestation is critically needed in this fragile ecological zone and has proven to be a very succesful project component. Peace Corps Volunteers can be recruited to manage this effort. Improved wood stoves should be vulgarized in the zone as part of this effort.

9. Conduct en ecological study of the project zone using a consultant;

This formerly under inhabited zone is undergoing a rapid change due to the settlement of the agricultural repatriates. It is vital to learn as much as possible about how to protect the natural environment and the fertility of the soils for future generations.

V. Requested Changes in Budget and Outputs

1. Approve revised Changes in Budget of September 1, 1986 - September 29, 1987.

Approval of this detailed budget will require minimal changes in the eight major budget categories originally called for in the Africare/A.I.D. project accord.

2. Approve construction of two schools.
3. Approve elimination of water system for zone 1 and part of zone 2.
4. Approve transformation of hangar at Ibanda into food storage silo and warehouse.
5. Approve basic reorientation from pasture improvement and livestock raising to agricultural food production and social integration.

VI. Waivers

1. Approve purchase of non-American pick up truck and land cruiser to replace aging vehicle fleet.

Spare parts for American vehicles are not available in Rwanda.