



STRENGTHENING LIVES IN CHAD (SLIC I & II)

FINAL PERFORMANCE REPORT

May 20, 2010-March 31, 2012

For

**THE UNITED STATES AGENCY
FOR INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT**

OFFICE OF FOREIGN DISASTER ASSISTANCE

GRANT NO. AID-OFDA-G-10-00035-00

Submitted by:

**World Concern Development Organization
19303 Fremont Ave. N.
Seattle, WA 98133
206-546-7201**

June 26, 2012

FINAL PROGRAM REPORT

REPORTING PERIOD: May 20, 2010 – March 31, 2012 (total grant period)

GENERAL REFERENCE:

- A. NAME OF PVO: World Concern Development Organization (WCDO)
19303 Fremont Ave. N.
Seattle, WA 98133**
- B. HQ/FIELD CONTACT PERSON: Nick Archer
TELEPHONE: (804) 726-0847
FAX: (206) 546-7269
EMAIL ADDRESS: nicka@worldconcern.org**
- C. AID AGREEMENT NO: AID-OFDA-G-10-00035-00**
- D. DATE OF THIS REPORT: June 26, 2012**

Program Goal: Vulnerable, rural populations in Dar Sila Region are increasingly able to support themselves in a sustainable manner.

PROJECT SUMMARY:

This program started with a rainy season agricultural campaign in May 2010 and ended in the counter season agriculture harvest in March 2012. The program focused on two major components: (1) agriculture and livestock that included rainy season and counter season agriculture, Cash For Work (CFW) and fodder production for domestic animals; and (2) Economic Recovery and Market Systems that included rent-to-own and microcredit activities. IDPs were originally targeted in three different sites (Gourouchoun, Gassire, and Ganachour) together with their host communities and program activities accompanied their return and relocation in more than twenty different villages of Goz Beida Sub Prefecture.

All activities within the program were implemented without any major interruption and most beneficiaries received their expected support. However, the program experienced two major challenges: the flooding caused by heavy rain in 2010 that washed away seeds after farming in some parts of the operational area and the 2011 poor and sporadic rain leading to droughts that destroyed crops before maturity. WCDO mitigated the flooding effects in 2010 by redistributing seeds to those who had lost them and providing counter-season seeds to beneficiaries with access to the 'wadis' for chickpeas and vegetable production. The overall performance was good as most objectives and indicators were met; target beneficiaries were supported with materials, equipment and cash, and empowered with agricultural training, fodder production skills, and IGA management tips. Throughout the project cycle the security situation recorded a number of incidents (armed group banditry, carjacking, and small tribal disputes). The WCDO team directly experienced two holdups without any significant injuries.

AGRICULTURE AND FOOD SECURITY

In the two years of project implementation, the popular CFW activities involved IDPs in construction and rehabilitation of soil retention rock lines, planting trees, developing silage through planting and harvesting fodder and fermenting it using silage pits and salt, and building sheds for storing the fermented fodder in all the sites. The participants not only received a supplemental income while in IDP camps, they were trained in techniques that can mitigate the effects of poor grazing of their animals during the dry season. Each CFW participant received at least US \$111.25 for the work they have invested in these activities. While the primary objective was to support IDPs who had limited access to income generation, by targeting vulnerabilities in the host agro-pastoral community, this activity was a strong peacebuilding activity, as other community members learned the benefits of these environmental practices for increasing the health of their livestock and protecting their crops from soil erosion and flooding.

Fodder seeds of various types and 150 trees have been planted over the rock lines and forestry sites at Ganachour, Gouroukoun and Gassire. Volunteer farmers planted nitrogen fixing plants, such as beans and peanuts in between trees on two of the forestry sites most troubled by animal grazing. The areas needing re-seeding were selected in collaboration with the forestry service and traditional land authorities. This has acted as an excellent deterrent to the loss of trees and re-planted fodder grasses on those sites. The slopes of hills protected by the rock lines have allowed for excellent pasturage of the wild species. This is because of increased water retention, scattering of wild seeds in CFW activities and a natural re-establishment of grasses along and between the rock lines. A number of beneficiaries have spontaneously announced that they will practice fodder regeneration in their home villages upon return. Two women's groups have expressed interest in beginning silage production for income revenue in the future. The program has demonstrated to the community that the chronic shortage of fodder in the area can be mitigated by the production of silage using the remains of their cereal harvest to feed animals.

Some 132.9 hectares of fodder have been cumulatively planted and a total of 99 tons of fermented fodder produced. As our program beneficiaries highly esteem this activity for feeding their animals, the WCDO field team extended discussions with farmer groups regarding field protection, including live fencing, grass borders, and thorny hedges. The implementation of these ideas is gaining momentum among beneficiaries. This is on a site that has had no plant cover of any type for more than 5 years. The tree planting that was initiated under this program did not go unnoticed. Our field team conducted an evaluation to see how many trees survived weather changes, nomadic animal feeding, and beneficiary negligence. It was found that 62.5% of the trees are still alive even as we wait for a heavy rain that may impact the tree growth.

For those that had access to land, participants were supported for two rainy season agricultural campaigns but both of them were in one way or another affected by the drastic changes of the weather. The flooding of 2010 affected a few families but did not affect the expected harvest in the region. Based on data from a WFP/FAO survey in

February 2010, and WCDO data collected in June 2010, most families were only on reduced rations for two months that year, rather than the forecast of three months at one meal per day.

Unfortunately, the National Rural Development Office (ONDR) of Kimiti department (Dar Sila Region) that evaluated the effects of poor and sporadic rain among SLIC II beneficiaries estimated that about 2/3 of expected harvests in 2011 were lost to drought, insect and bird pests. Over 70% of the sorghum, millet, green bean, and peanut crops that were planted dried before they matured, leading to estimate this coming harvest to less than 30% of what was expected. The few farmers who decided to sow their seeds ahead of time around their houses are the only ones who harvested a good quantity of cereals, while those who waited for enough rain in their fields suffered incidence of locusts and bird pests which attacked their farm. The current food crisis and cereal price hikes in the Sahel Belt Region are mainly due to that poor harvest.

Counter-season distributions of vegetable seeds for kitchen gardens, planting in wadis or sack gardens were also conducted over several seasons. The fresh vegetables increased food security through these dry months, with enough harvest for a small additional income in all seasons. Many beneficiaries stated that they had kept a small portion of seeds to plant during the rains while they are managing the grain fields because they have become used to eating fresh vegetables. This is an interesting change in traditional farming cycles.

ECOMONIC RECOVERY AND MARKET SYSTEMS (ERMS)

The rent-to-own activities introduced during this project cycle were meant to help beneficiaries recover some assets they lost during the turmoil and change of conflict, displacement and resettlement. The program proved viable in both women's and men's groups but was much more successful among women than men. The women involved in rent-to-own mostly acquired some commercial goods (sacks of sugar, packets of tea, cooking oil, salt, and flour) which they sold and reimbursed the agreed-upon percentage without a single default. Men chose all kinds of assets including agricultural tools, car wash pump machines, and generators to produce electricity for sale. In-situ surveys and discussions with potential beneficiaries for the rent-to-own participants allowed us to target several specific needs (ploughs, portable flour mills, motor pumps that will allow vegetable gardening on a slightly larger scale by groups) which we were not necessarily expecting. Beneficiaries slowly repaid the agreed-upon amount but a few defaults were noticed which lead to a low repayment rate of 63%. The poor harvest has also been a factor of non-repayment. Nevertheless there is no doubt that with a little more sensitization and training this program has the potential to help beneficiaries transition well from disaster to early recovery.

The women's tontines were a great success for gender equality in our programming. They regularly met for discussions, training, savings and credit activities. It was impressive that no woman defaulted from repaying the loan she took from their money box; there were only a few delays depending on the market situation. After the first few quarters,

women were self-associating and approaching WCDO staff to see if they could get into the program. 20 women from the farmer associations in the agricultural inputs activity were recruited into four additional savings and loan circles, and were funded by the extra money available in that activity. Over 465 loans were given out to the women at a very low rate of 10% interest among themselves. Due to their low level of education, the women's groups received routine refresher training sessions to help master the different principles of savings and credit activities. Women themselves recognize their challenges and have been asking that we help them with adult literacy. This request constitutes an ongoing challenge for WCDO as functional literacy is yet to be introduced in rural Chad.

Employment opportunities were also provided for groups of young men to be trained in using brick presses. The main goal of the activity was to introduce the concept of pressed brick and to allow experimentation in using the soil types common in the zone, since no one has used brick presses here before. The bricks were being used to build a community latrine in Ganachour, and were found by brick makers and masons to be superior to local baked brick. Five groups of young men approached WCDO to find out more about obtaining brick presses and pursuing the activity for income generation.

Sector: Agriculture and Food Security			
Objective 1: Improve access to food through increased food production for sale and consumption.			
Indicator (Combined SLIC I-II)	Achieved under SLIC I May - December 2010	Achieved under SLIC II January 2011-March 2012	Cumulative Results (SLIC I-II) May 2010- March 2012
Sub-sector: Livestock (fodder production)			
Indicator 1: Number of animals benefiting from or affected by livestock activities : 4,500 (SLIC I) and 6,000 (SLIC II) totaling 10,500 animals	The census over all restored areas over 4 days found 7,322 animals of mixed species (cows, donkeys, sheep, camels, horses etc..)	5,157 additional animals have been estimated to be grazing on our rock line foders.	Cumulatively, the total animals benefiting from this activity was estimated at 12,479 animals.
Indicator 2: Number of people benefiting from livestock activities: 5,500 (SLIC I) and 15,000 (SLICII) totaling 20,500 people	The direct beneficiaries of this activity are 6,500 people (1,300 families x 5 members = 6,500 people).	7,005 additional people were estimated to benefit from the animals grazing on fodder planted through this program.	The cumulative estimates of people benefiting from the livestock activities stand at 13,505 individuals.
Indicator 3: Number of hectares planted with fodder: SLIC I, 45 hectares and SLIC II, 45 hectares totaling 90 hectares	A total of 52 hectares were planted with fodder in the area, harvested and fermented in 66 silage pits during this project phase.	80.9 hectares of rock lines have been planted with fodder during this project phase.	Cumulatively, 132.90 hectares were planted with fodder and 99 tons of fermented fodder produced.
Sub-sector: Seed Systems and Agricultural Inputs			
Indicator 1 (SLIC I&II): (Projected) increase in number of months of food self-sufficiency due to distributed seed systems/agricultural input for beneficiary families (2 months)	The overall cereal production in the villages that received seed distribution resulted in harvests sufficient to feed a family of five for 12 months.	The poor harvest, which was 30% of what was expected as per ONDR evaluation, provided food for the beneficiaries only to March 2012 is far better than if we did not distribute seeds	Usually, a good harvest would provide beneficiaries with food for up to 7 months (end of July). The 2011 drought caused a food crisis that will take time to recover from.
Indicator 2: Number of people benefiting from seed systems/ agricultural input activities: 1,700 (SLIC I) and 500 (SLIC II) totaling 2,200 families (11,000 individuals) of five each	1,700 families received seeds for rainy season agriculture and an additional 500 families received vegetables seeds and chickpeas for counter-season agriculture totaling 2,200 families.	500 families (2,500 individuals) for rainy season and an additional 500 families (2,500 individuals) for counter season agriculture) received seeds during this project phase.	Cumulatively, 3,200 families (16,000 individuals) benefited from seed systems over rainy season and counter-season agriculture.

Sector: Economic Recovery and Market Systems (ERMS)			
Objective 2: Increase immediate income through restored access to productive assets and capital.			
Indicator (Combined SLIC I-II)	Achieved under SLIC I May – December 2010	Achieved under SLIC II January 2011-March 2012	Cumulative Results May 2010- March 2012
Sub-sector: Economic Asset Restoration			
Indicator 1: Number of people assisted through economic asset restoration activities: 300 families (SLIC I) and 300 Families (SLIC II) totaling 600 families	296 families received agricultural equipment assets for free based on the agreed-upon criteria.	365 families received rent-to-own assets for agriculture and commercial uses as the concept of rent-to-own gained credibility among beneficiaries	Cumulatively, 661 families were direct recipients of this activity representing 110%.
Indicator 2: Total USD amount channeled into the local economy: \$30,000 (SLIC I) and \$525,000 (SLICII) totaling \$555,000	\$22,664 was injected into the economy during the first phase of the grant.	\$558,458 was injected into the economy through the second phase.	Cumulatively, \$581,122 has been injected into the local economy through this grant.
Indicator 3: Reduction of days or money spent in preparing fields due to the use of agricultural assets (80% of beneficiaries cut their preparation time or costs by half as compared to previous years (SLIC I & II)).	As measurement of this indicator was not yet mastered among rural and ill educated communities, their testimonies indicated that they gained more than 50% of the time and some income by lending out tools.	All beneficiaries using animal-drawn plows reduced by 2/3 the time traditionally spent on a particular piece of land	All beneficiaries using animal-drawn plows reduced by more than 50% the time traditionally spent on a particular piece of land.
Sub-sector: Micro-Credit / Savings and Loan			
Indicator 1: Number of individuals/Small Micro-enterprises (SMEs) receiving loans: 175 (SLIC I) and 150 (SLIC II) organized into groups of 5 individuals for a cumulative total of 325 (SLIC I-II)	240 women organized into 48 groups of 5 have been empowered with small business training and matching grants	225 women organized into 45 groups of 5 have received training on merry-go-round principles.	Cumulatively, 465 women organized into 93 groups of 5 have been trained and organized into small business groups.
Indicator 2: Number and percent of micro-credit loan installments 85% repaid according to schedule: 280 loans to individuals (SLIC I) and 128 (SLIC II) for a cumulative total of 408 .	495 women received loans with 100% repayment. The women reduced the loan cycle to 1 month and got more money as the dollar added 25% value during this time.	A total of 380 loans have been given out with 100% repayment rate. Women receive small loans to be repaid within a shorter period.	Cumulatively 875 women have been given loans with full repayment (100%), the majority of them within the timeframe set by the group.
Sub-sector: Temporary Employment			

Indicator 1: Number of people employed through Cash-for-Work (CFW) activities: 1,000 people (SLIC I) and 1,400 people (SLIC II) for a cumulative total of 2,400	900 workers and 100 vulnerable people totaling 1,000 individuals benefited from CFW activities.	1,400 workers and 140 vulnerable people totaling 1,540 people participated in CFW fairs.	Cumulatively 2,540 (2,300 workers and 240 vulnerable people) benefited from the CFW activities.
Indicator 2: Average USD amount per person earned through the Cash-for-Work (CFW) activities: \$95/person (SLIC) and \$140/person (SLIC II) , an average of \$117.5	At the end of the first phase CFW fairs, each beneficiary received \$103 as the dollar's value increase helped to pay more to the same number of people.	The CFW participants received an average of \$119.50/person limited to 85% of money per person as the reality on the ground required us to include more people than expected.	On average, each participant earned \$111.25 from CFW activities falling short to 95% of the expected but impacting 6% more people than expected.
Indicator 3: Number and percent of women employed through Cash-for-Work (CFW) activities: 600 (SLIC) and 840 (SLIC II) representing 60%	692 women representing 69% of CFW participants as men were venturing into more challenging activities such cutting and selling firewood.	894 out of 1400 CFW workers were women.	Cumulatively 1,586 CFW workers were women, representing 67% of the total CFW workers.

Program Beneficiary story



My name is **Abdoulaye Ibrahim** from Guindil village, living in Ganachour IDP Site, married and father of 8. I arrived in this IDP Site some 6 years ago following the turmoil in Sudan that affected my home village. Upon arrival I received food aid from the NGOs and later on I received sheeting to make a shelter for my family. I have 4 donkeys and 13 sheep that I raise at home during the rainy season and release them for free grazing after harvest when my children are attending school, their mother in the market for her small business, myself trying to earn some income and feed them. When there is plenty of fodder around the shelters, my wife, myself, or our children collect hay at 2 to 3 hours walking distance. Over the last year, I lost five of my animals while they were free grazing and I sometimes have to compensate for damage when they enter into someone else's crops.

Like many other NGOs that operate in the IDP sites since I arrived in 2007, WCDO has initiated a series of activities designed to help IDPs. In 2011 I was selected as a silage making cash-for-work committee member. Upon completion of our work we were privileged to receive a pile of hay silage on top of our wages. Excited by such an offer, our group divided the silage gift as follows: part of it was shared out among members to feed our own animals, another part was given out to vulnerable families with animals but without physical energy to collect hay at a distance, and the remaining silage was sold to the other people in the IDP site. In total we collected CFA 25,000 (US \$50) which we kept in our money box, waiting for the next crop harvest to buy some grain which we could later sell for profit. Since I started feeding my animals daily with this kind of fermented hay, they got used to it. When they get nothing by noon they start making noise to alert me of their discomfort. It is worth noting that I have not lost any more animals nor have I paid any damages. As I feed my animals with the fermented silage, I have noticed an impressive change; rather than me going out to bring my animals back home, they come by themselves at noon to wait for their special feeding.



My animals are healthy, with no signs of the malnutrition that is noticeable among many animals at the IDP site, such as donkeys used for transportation. Other people's animals require support to stand up as they cannot make it on their own. My animals are strong and my donkey is moving faster and for longer distances than before. Last week I was working my land using my donkey and I was impressed by the speed. While I normally spend a whole day for 1ha, I only spent 5 hours using my donkey. We appreciate the fermented silage that WCDO has put at our disposal.