
Final Report

Project Name: Facilitating the Replenishment of Seeds in Hosts' (FRESH) Farms

Project Number: AID-OFDA-G-11-00099

Program Period: April 15th 2011 to April 14th 2012



Farmer next to the rehabilitated lowland swamp in Loguatu, Nimba County. Photo by Caroline Anderson/CRS Liberia. April 2012

Catholic Relief Services – Liberia

Catholic Relief Services, United States Conference of Catholic Bishops	
Headquarters Contact: Paul Rebman, Public Donor Liaison 228 W. Lexington St Baltimore, MD 21201-3413 Telephone: (410) 951-7388 E-mail: Paul.Rebman@crs.org Fax: (410) 234-3189	Field Contact: Sean Gallagher, County Representative CRS Liberia Email: Sean.Gallagher@crs.org Phone: +231.886068152

Acronyms

CFW	Cash For Work
CRS	Catholic Relief Services
FRESH Farms	Facilitating the Replenishment of Seeds in Hosts' Farms
Ha	Hectare
IAP	Improved Agricultural Practices
IR	Intermediate Result
ISSHSP	Improved Seed Selection, Handling, and Storage Practices
Kg	Kilogram
MoA	Ministry of Agriculture
OFDA	Office of Foreign Disaster Assistance
SO	Strategic Objective
TOT	Training of Trainers
USAID	United States Agency for International Development
USCCB	United States Conference of Catholic Bishops
WFP	World Food Program
\$	US Dollars

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I. Executive Summary

Catholic Relief Services – USCCB, Liberia Program, and Caritas Gbarnga co-implemented a one-year food security project entitled “Facilitating the Replenishment of Seeds in Hosts' (FRESH) Farms,” agreement No. AID-OFDA-G-11-00099, to support 5,000 host families of Ivorian refugees in Nimba County, Liberia. As a result of the political stalemate that threw Ivory Coast into crisis in December 2010, tens of thousands of Ivoirians crossed over into eastern Nimba County to seek refuge. Liberians along the border villages took in the refugees and bore the cost of their food and other needs. CRS was awarded \$995,792 by USAID/OFDA to improve the food security of refugee-burdened host households in Nimba County by:

- Using the seed fair and voucher methodology to facilitate access to rice seeds and tools for 5,000 host households for upland rice production as well as access to rice seed and fertilizer for 2,000 HH for lowland rice production; and
- Providing cash to 4,000 host households through cash-for-work (for lowland rehabilitation) to address their immediate food needs.

This one year project addressed the threat to food insecurity of host families whose rice and rice seed stocks were severely depleted as a result of hosting an average of 6-7 additional persons in their households during the political stalemate that resulted in violence and the threat of violence for thousands of Ivoirians in December 2010, when tens of thousands crossed into eastern Nimba County to seek refuge. The CRS FRESH Farms project was funded later than planned and in light of the beginning of the rainy season, implementation plans had to be adjusted to ensure targeted households received the necessary inputs to address their food insecurity.

The CRS FRESH Farms project staff was based out of the CRS Sub-office in Saclepea, Nimba County, with Caritas and CRS field officers based in the districts of Twah River, Gbehley Gey, Buu-Yao, and Kparblee. The project included seed fairs, cash for work and technology transfers. **The project served 28 villages with seed fairs and 46 villages with cash-for-work.** This final report covers the project period: from April 15, 2011 to April 14, 2012.

Project highlights include the following:

Activities:

- Ten (10) upland fairs were organized with 5,026 vulnerable host households served and \$94,300 in vouchers spent on seeds and tools;
- Six (6) lowland fairs were organized with participation of 2,015 vulnerable host households and \$36,547 in vouchers redeemed for seeds and tools;
- Eighty-two (82) hectares of lowland rehabilitated and cultivated by 4,020 participants in 46 communities, and disbursement of a total of \$140,812 earned through Cash For Work (CFW);
- One hundred and seventy-four (174) farmer field school groups were established, allowing a total of 3,826 farmers to be trained on Improved Agricultural Practices (IAP) and 3,821 farmers trained on Improved Seed Selection, Handling, and Storage Practices (ISSHSP).

Results:

- Just over nine and half (9.60) months of household food self-sufficiency, an increase of 9.33% over the 8.78 months found the previous year in the baseline study;

- Following trainings, 3,167 farmers could name three of the six promoted IAP and 2,865 farmers can name three of the six promoted ISSHSP;
- Three hundred and seventy-three (373) hectares of upland and 304 hectares of lowland cultivated with seed received from the fairs;
- Yields of 1,097 kilograms of rice per hectare produced on upland and yields of 1,205 kilograms of rice per hectare on lowland versus a baseline of 427.6 kilos/ha for upland and 816.6 kilos/ha for lowland.

II. Analysis of Project Objectives

Project Goal: The food security of refugee-burdened host households in Nimba is improved

The final evaluation revealed that the FRESH Farms project successfully met its goal to improve the food security of refugee-burdened host households in Nimba County. The following information concerning the strategic objectives and intermediate results provides more detail. The baseline study and final evaluation used the same methodology, relying on farmer recall during surveys to assess the indicators.

Strategic Objective 1: 5,000 host families increase food availability in their communities

In response to two household assessments conducted in January and February of 2011 and a Seed Systems Security Assessment in March 2011, food was identified as a major concern and seed stocks were shown to be rapidly diminishing in host households. CRS addressed these risks to food security through a series of targeted interventions that helped **5,026** families with their agricultural activities on upland farms, of which **2,015** also received assistance for their lowland farms. Table 1 depicts the indicators and achievements for Strategic Objective (SO) 1.

Table 1: Indicators and Achievements for SO1

Sub-sector:	Seed Systems and Agricultural Inputs	
OFDA Indicator 1	(Projected) increase in number of months of food self-sufficiency due to distributed seed systems/agricultural input for beneficiary families *	Baseline showed 8.78 months of food self-sufficiency, final evaluation revealed 9.60 months (increase of 9.33%)
OFDA Indicator 2	Number of people benefiting from seed systems/agricultural input activities	Direct beneficiaries: 5,026 , surpassing the target of 5,000 for upland 2,015 , surpassing the target of 2,000 for lowland Indirect beneficiaries: 25,130 members of beneficiary households, surpassing the target of 25,000

Note *Indicator was replaced by the increase in the rice production yields, because many factors contribute to food self-sufficiency, but is still included for reference as the information was collected from the baseline and final evaluation.

Although this project cannot claim to be responsible for the entire increase in food self-sufficiency, during this difficult period when food self-sufficiency seemed poised to plummet, there was a **9.33%**

increase in the period in which families were able to provide food for themselves, from 8.78 to 9.60 months, as seen in the table above. While host families were burdened by hosting refugees, a shorter hunger period than what was expected during a normal year would have been extremely unlikely without the assistance provided to these border communities in Nimba County by USAID and others.

Another encouraging measure in Nimba this year comes from the quantity of rice seed stocks. In April 2011, the baseline study showed household seed stocks depleted to an average of 29kg, but in the final evaluation in April 2012 seed stocks averaged **77kg** per household.

Intermediate Result 1.1: Host families improve rice productivity on 280 hectares of lowland and upland

The total rice farmland cultivated by host families was **677 hectares**, which included 373 ha of uplands and 304 ha of lowlands, which exceeded the IR’s target of 280 ha at 241%. In large part this can be traced to beneficiaries’ decisions to purchase more seed than expected during the seed fairs. In order to harmonize CRS’ fair offerings with FAO’s standards, the voucher amount was adjusted from \$16 to \$19 for upland fairs and from \$18 to \$19 for lowland fairs. CRS planned standard packages of 8kg of rice seed and \$10 in tools for upland fairs, and 4kg of fertilizer, 4kg of seed, and \$10 in tools for lowland fairs. Beneficiaries were, however, entirely free to make their own decisions based on individual/household priorities. In the end, the average purchase of upland seed rice was 7.4 kg per household and 7.54 kg of lowland seed rice per household.

In total:

- **\$130,847** was spent on seed and agricultural inputs, surpassing the target of \$116,000;
- Lowland area cultivated per HH increased **17%**, from .53 to .62 ha, surpassing the target of a 10% increase; and
- Upland area cultivated per HH increased **9%**, from .85 to .93 ha, surpassing the target of maintaining the same area.

In addition to the number of hectares, this IR was achieved through increased rice yields.

Table 2: Rice Yields

Rice field	Baseline (kg/ha)	Target (kg/ha)	Final evaluation (kg/ha)	Yield Increase during FRESH Farms (from Baseline to Final)
Upland	427.6	855.2	1097.9	257%
Lowland (personal)	816.6	1633.2	1127.1	138%
Lowland (rehabilitated through CFW)	N/A		2339.2	N/A

As seen in the above table, rice productivity was improved through increased yields on both upland and lowland farms. The upland farms surpassed their target yields in large part thanks to the high quality seeds received during the seed fairs and the field agents’ provision of technical assistance and regular monitoring of timely weeding.

The lowland personal farms increased their yield as well, though less dramatically. The lowland farms that were rehabilitated through CFW were extremely successful, as they benefited from the most technical guidance, giving yields of 2,339.2 kg/ha, which is **286%** of what was typical for lowland paddies in the previous year. The final evaluation concluded that there was a significant impact from farmer training (through Farmer Field Schools) on farmers' lowland yields.

Intermediate Result 1.2: Host families adopt improved rice production techniques

The FRESH Farms project aimed to go beyond the immediate emergency response to address food needs by teaching farmers improved rice production techniques. CRS and Caritas field agents, as well as Ministry of Agriculture (MoA) District Agriculture Officers, were trained on seed fair and voucher methodology, Farmer Field School (FFS) methodology, and improved rice cultivation techniques through a series of Training of Trainers (TOT) workshops. They in turn formed 174 FFS groups, averaging 29 members and ranging from 25 to 35 members each, including both men and women. Each FFS group has a committee headed by a Chairperson, a Secretary, and a Lead Farmer who were identified by the members of the FFS group.

In total, the CRS and Caritas field agents trained:

- 3,826 farmers on six Improved Agricultural Practices (IAP) and
- 3,821 farmers on six Improved Seed Selection, Handling and Storage Practices (ISSHSP).

The target for these trainings was 4,500 farmers, but delays were encountered in the implementation schedule of the FFS trainings in the first quarter due to the intense level of effort needed to undertake 16 seed/tool fairs prior to the onset of the rainy season and the need to complete the lowland rehabilitation to ensure available land after the seed/tool fairs.

Not only did farmers need to be trained, but they needed to retain that knowledge in order to adopt the new practices. The final evaluation survey found that **63%** of beneficiaries could name at least 3 of the 6 IAPs without prompting, compared to only 17.5% who knew them at the time of the baseline survey. The target for the number of farmers that adopted new practices was 65%. Due to the delays in beginning the trainings, farmers had not yet practiced some of the IAP techniques on upland farms. However, **60%** of farmers are planning to adopt at least 3 of 6 IAPs during the upcoming growing season.

As for the ISSHSPs, only 2.8% of beneficiaries could name at least 3 of 6 at the time of the baseline and the target was set at 50%. The final evaluation found that **57%** of farmers could name at least 3 of 6 ISSHSPs, and that **54%** intend to adopt them.

Further analysis by the final evaluation found that the FFS trainings highly impacted lowland farm yields and rice seed storage:

- Households that could list at least 3 IAPs harvested 1,000 kg/ha more rice than other farmers;
- Households that could list at least 3 ISSHSPs reserved 38 kg more rice seed than other farmers.

Strategic Objective 2: 4,000 host families temporarily employed in lowland rehabilitation

To address the short-term cash needs of host families affected by the refugees, CRS implemented a Cash-For-Work scheme to rehabilitate lowland swamps for additional rice production, thereby simultaneously improving both food availability and access. Table 3 depicts the indicators and achievements for SO 2.

Table 3: Indicators and Achievements for SO 2

Sub-sector Name:	Temporary Employment	
OFDA Indicator 1	Number of people employed through Cash-for-Work (CFW) activities	4,020 people, surpassing the target of 4,000
OFDA Indicator 2	Average USD amount per person earned through the Cash-for-Work (CFW) activities	\$36 on average earned per participant, meeting target of \$36 exactly
OFDA Indicator 3	Number and percent of women employed through Cash-for-Work (CFW) activities	1,441 women participated in CFW (36% of total participants), 159 below the target of 1,600 women

The 4,020 beneficiaries who were selected for participation in CFW were locally identified as being among the most in need of cash transfers. Each CFW participant earned an average of \$36, with participant earnings ranging from a minimum of \$24 to a maximum of \$49.

The final evaluation found that CFW significantly influenced households' coping strategy for the hunger season, as 65% of households cited 'buying food' as their major coping strategy when their own rice supplies ran out. It also protected last year's harvest from being sold for immediate cash needs, with many families using their CFW earning to pay for school fees.

Intermediate Result 2.1: 4,000 households earn cash-for-work rehabilitating 80 hectares of lowlands

A total of **\$140,812** was spent to rehabilitate 78 ha, coming in slightly less than the budgeted \$144,000. Encouraged by this effort and eager to expand on the new method of rehabilitated lowland farming, other community members rehabilitated 4 additional hectares. The **82 hectares** rehabilitated slightly surpassed the target of 80 ha.

Intermediate Result 2.2: Participating households of both sexes gainfully engaged in lowland rehabilitation

As seen in Table 3, **1,441 women** participated in CFW, representing 36% of total participants. The target had been 1,600 women, or 40% of total participants. Although the number of female participants fell slightly short of the target, the final evaluation concluded that the ratio corresponded to the number of female heads-of-household participating in the project.

III. Analysis of Project Learning

3.1 Successes

➤ **Flexibility and Adaptability**

The flexibility of the donor (OFDA) in authorizing or accepting strategic changes without passing through major, long bureaucratic procedures was one of the keys to the success of the implementation of the project. Conflicts with FAO on targeted villages and the need to harmonize the input packages to match that of other organizations resulted in increased voucher value and the expansion of the CFW area outside of the seed fairs area to serve other un-served host communities and meet the target. In addition, with the later than planned startup, CRS adopted complementary training or learning methods (listening sessions and rice production DVD screenings) were introduced in the FFS to buttress capacity building activities.

➤ **Government Officials' Involvement**

The involvement of county-level authorities was another important key to the success of the project. The Nimba County Superintendant and Development Superintendant offices sent representatives to attend all project quarterly review workshops, taking active part in the planning and evaluation of the activities. The project also benefited from the full collaboration of the Ministry of Agriculture (MoA) extension agents. The County Agriculture Coordinator and the District Agriculture Officers assigned to the project area participated in all project activities starting from the seed fairs preparation to the presentation of the final evaluation results. The County Agriculture Coordinator, at the presentation of the final evaluation results, expressed his satisfaction, "The collaboration was very good, in large part because we took part in all the project activities. By doing so, we know the farmers and we also know what was done with them and where they stand with it; this is the best exit strategy we could ever have. Now we will be able to build easily upon what the project has achieved and direct other partners to come and build on it."

➤ **Linkage to the World Food Program's (WFP) Purchase for Progress initiative (P4P)**

Rice production in the rehabilitated lowland was particularly successful, as shown by the final evaluation. A few beneficiaries succeeded in producing enough rice to sell to WFP's P4P project. CRS requested WFP to participate in the last quarterly review in time for the second lowland harvest to explain how P4P worked. As a result, some farmers registered in P4P in 20 communities with 74.5 metric tons available for sale, and 427 empty 50kg bags were collected from P4P groups and distributed in the communities. At the time of the FRESH Farms project closure, the sales had started in Garplay, Twah River with 2.5 metric tons sold for \$900.00.

3.2 Problems, Constraints and Actions

- Timing between the project startup and the onset of the rainy season did not allow for enough preparation and FFS groups were formed later than the ideal period. CRS undertook the formation of groups immediately after the SVF and CFW activities, and complemented face-to-face trainings with video cassettes;
- Coordination with FAO, who leads the Food Sector Working Group in Nimba, was challenging as CRS had selected a number of communities with large numbers of refugees in proximity to each other along the border and informed FAO, who then chose to intervene in them while CRS awaited approval from USAID. The County Agriculture Coordinator recommended that CRS

direct its efforts in host communities that were not receiving any support. Though this greatly increased the project area, CRS succeeded in reaching its project targets.

- The rainy season and bad roads made accessing the targeted, widely-dispersed 46 communities very difficult. CRS used additional vehicles when necessary to address this challenge.
- The potential insecurity around the presidential election during the project period reduced project momentum, as campaigns and staff travel to communities to vote reduced beneficiary participation and CRS and Caritas work in this period. There was nothing that could have been done to change this; the project succeeded in meeting most of its targets.

3.3 Lessons Learned

- Timely submittal, review, and approval of emergency proposals are key to ensure proper project implementation and timing;
- The co-implementation structure put in place, with CRS' own field staff overseeing the implementing partners' field staff, was challenging in the beginning but turned out to be very good in terms of stimulating competition for accountability and responsibility of the achievements and setbacks. It also facilitated smooth circulation of information, and therefore timely reactions to mitigate challenges and constraints. As the CRS' field agents were used to some extent as liaison agents, it also facilitated the easy implementation of formative supervision activities;
- Community leaders require additional sensitization to ensure that project beneficiaries reap the benefits of the project rather than the leaders. Notwithstanding that some leaders were indeed hosting refugees, some tended to demand in-kind contributions for access to the lowlands, though memoranda of understanding were signed to try to avoid this very problem;
- Use multiple forms of communication (film, cassettes, Farmer Field Schools) seem to increase the effectiveness of trainings.

IV. Monitoring and Evaluation

In addition to the routine monitoring and quality control surveys conducted quarterly that served to feed the indicator performance tracking table for the purpose of accurate reporting, the following major monitoring and evaluation activities were rolled out in the course of project implementation.

➤ **Baseline Study**

CRS conducted a baseline survey in May-June 2011, and the report was submitted to OFDA on August 1, 2011. Some of the pertinent findings focused on rice grain stocks, the onset of the hunger period, access to land, typical yields, and familiarity with improved farming techniques. In light of these and other findings, recommendations were made for modifying or removing original indicators and their targets and for proposing new indicators. The revised targets from the baseline study report are summarized in Annex 3.

➤ **Project Quarterly Review Meetings**

Three quarterly coordination meetings were held over the course of the project. These quarterly review meetings were a key part of project implementation and provided a forum for exchange and learning. Each review meeting included the CRS and Caritas Project Managers, CRS staff based in Monrovia (i.e.

M&E Manager, Head of Programs, Country Representative), CRS and Caritas field agents, MoA representatives, farmers, and other stakeholders. Each meeting's agenda included a review of objectives and accomplishments, progress made to date, discussion of potential challenges along with strategies to mitigate them, and work plan development for the upcoming quarter.

➤ **Final Evaluation**

A final evaluation was conducted in April 2012 by an independent consultant. As with the original baseline, it was conducted with a sample of 388 randomly chosen farmers and used probability proportional to size sampling method. The consultant also interviewed many key stakeholders, who were then invited to a Preliminary Restitution of the results on April 12th in Saclepea, Nimba County. The final evaluation provided the statistics cited in Section II: Analysis of Project Objectives and was overall positive, particularly about how CRS managed to include elements of sustainable development (e.g. inclusion of the MoA agents, FFS and other trainings) in an emergency project.

➤ **Exit Strategy**

The exit strategy was designed in the last quarter and fine-tuned with a quality control survey that revealed the necessity to reinforce the trainings particularly in Gbehley Geh District and to prepare the communities for the closure of the project. The exit strategy was implemented in light of these conclusions, with a focus on re-training the field staff and MoA extension agents and replication of the trainings to reach 1,892 farmers. The final evaluation report mentioned that intensive accompaniment by project field staff of participating households relieved the target population by comforting them and giving them confidence and orientation to better handle the impact of the crisis and to reorganize in order to emerge as better farmers. Although the late improved agriculture practices training did not have an immediate impact on the project's year rice crop, the knowledge acquired will certainly benefit farmers in upcoming planting seasons.

Community level meetings were also held to inform communities of the closure agenda, along with the preparation of the final evaluation survey. In those meetings, emphasis was put on helping the constituted groups (FFS and lowland work group) to prepare the following cropping season without any support. Some of the groups in Buu Yao and Kparblee Districts were handed over for additional support and agricultural activities by Action Contre la Faim (ACF)'s livelihoods project through a joint meeting, and the final list of the other communities supported by FRESH Farms was shared with FAO. A small number of farmers also benefitted from linkages to WFP's P4P program.

V. Success Stories

“We received help during a tough time.”

Victoria Wreh and her husband are farmers in Nimba County. They have four children of their own, but when three refugees from Cote d’Ivoire came to their home seeking shelter, they never considered turning them away. However, it was clear that their food supply and even the rice intended as seed for next year’s planting season would suffer.

Victoria participated in the lowlands seed fair and swamp rehabilitation in her village of Duoplay, Tappita District, Nimba County, sponsored by the “Facilitating the Replenishment of Seeds in Hosts’ (FRESH) Farms” project, funded by USAID/OFDA and implemented by Catholic Relief Services (CRS)/Liberia and local partner Caritas Gbarnga.

At the seed fair, Victoria received fertilizer and rice seed. She and her husband worked to rehabilitate an unused swamp into rice paddy, and this Cash for Work project gave them enough money to buy their children’s school uniforms and to pay laborers to help them plant rice in the lowlands, where they had never tried cultivating before.

“In the end, our rice yield was increased and it met the increased need in our household. Thank God for this project, because it would have been so tough without it. Feeding was becoming so difficult, but we received help during a tough time,” Victoria explained while breastfeeding her baby.



Victoria, 37, with her baby Patience. Her family benefitted from a CRS/Caritas seed fair and swamp rehabilitation through the FRESH Farms project, funded by USAID/OFDA, providing them with extra rice to meet the increased demand for food in their household while hosting Ivoirian refugees. Photo by Caroline Anderson/CRS Liberia, April 2012.

The three refugees are still living with her family, so Victoria’s family plans to plant rice in the lowland swamp again this year, in addition to producing and selling more palm oil to provide for the enlarged household. They are grateful to have had the means to provide for their enlarged household.

When A Household of Six Becomes Thirteen Overnight

What can a man do to provide enough food when his household more than doubles overnight? Tongor Leehlo, 43, found himself in this dire situation when seven refugees fled Cote d'Ivoire and arrived at his home in Duoplay, Liberia, in September 2010.

Tongor had enough food stored for his family of six, he explained, "After the refugees came, my stock of rice finished early. We started cutting palm to sell oil for more money. I was worried about how to feed everyone, but I was determined to find a way."

Tongor had typically only cultivated rice on his upland farm, but when he heard about the opportunity to participate in one of the seed fairs in CRS' "Facilitating the Replenishment of Seeds in Hosts' (FRESH) Farms" project, funded by USAID/OFDA and implemented by Catholic Relief Services (CRS)/Liberia and local partner Caritas Gbarnga, he was encouraged to try something new in order to have enough food for his enlarged household.



Tongor, 43, has a family of 6 and hosted 7 refugees. His family benefitted from CRS/Caritas seed fairs and farmer trainings through the FRESH Farms project, funded by USAID/OFDA, providing them with extra rice to meet the increased demand for food in their household while hosting Ivoirian refugees. Photo by Caroline Anderson/CRS Liberia.

At the upland seed fair, Tongor received two kilos of seed rice, a machete, and a file. He also participated in the lowland seed fair, where he received two kilos of lowland seed rice, a shovel, and fertilizer. "I was so happy to receive these new tools – I had never had enough money for these things. I couldn't wait to go to work in my fields," exclaimed Tongor.

Not only did Tongor receive tools from the fairs, but he also participated in trainings with FRESH Farms project field agents to learn new techniques for improved farming. Five of the original seven refugees are still living with his family, so the tools and knowledge he received last year will remain important as he cultivates rice this year. He earnestly added, "This project really helped my family. Thank God for CRS, its staff, and the donors who support its projects."

Helping a Family Welcome Refugees During Trying Times

Betty Albertine was born in Liberia approximately 70 years ago, though she is not sure. Her husband Charles came from a village not far from her own, across the border in Ivory Coast. They raised three children together, and in their old age were pleased to have their children nearby and one daughter and four grandchildren living with them in Loguatou, Gbeley Geh district, Nimba County.

The household of seven opened its doors to some of their Ivoirian relatives when violence erupted in neighboring Ivory Coast in late 2010. When asked about food, Betty explained, “I have my little farm every year, which was usually just enough for my family, so it was tough when the refugees came.”

Betty and Charles were excited to receive help from Catholic Relief Services through the OFDA-funded FRESH Farms project. They participated in the upland farm seed fair in nearby Karnplay and chose to use their vouchers for four kilograms of seed rice, a shovel, a hoe, and a machete.

Using their new tools, Charles worked their field and planted more rice than usual. Betty was feeling confident about their ability to provide for the household when the unthinkable suddenly happened. Charles fell ill and before they could get any help, he passed away. The entire family was devastated, and on top of their grief was a real concern about how they would harvest their crops and provide food for the family.

Even through her grief, Betty attended farmer trainings held by CRS and Caritas field agents. With Charles no longer there to provide for their family, Betty was determined to learn as much as possible about farming. “Thanks to the seed fair, Charles had planted enough so that we had more rice than usual, which was really helpful. In our farmer trainings, I learned the proper time to plant crops, weed control, and pest management. I will use this knowledge this year as I plant rice with my daughter’s help.”

Betty is still hosting one woman and her two children, and they do not seem eager to return to Ivory Coast anytime soon. She is grateful that CRS and the FRESH Farms project helped her family during a truly difficult time and also provided training that will help them for years to come.



Betty, 70, with her daughter Mami and three of her grandchildren. Her family benefitted from a CRS/Caritas upland seed fair and farmer trainings through the FRESH Farms project funded by USAID/OFDA. The project provided them with extra rice to meet the increased demand for food in their household while hosting Ivoirian refugees. Photo by Caroline Anderson/CRS Liberia, April 2012.

VI. Budget

CRS will send the SF-264 upon official close out from Headquarters detailing all FRESH Farms program costs.

VII. Annexes

Annex 1: Final Indicator Performance Tracking Table

Annex 2: Memo – No Fixed Assets

Annex 3: Modifications to Project Indicators

FRESH Farms impact and monitoring indicators

Level	Indicator
SO1: 5,000 host families increase food availability in their communities	
SO1: 5,000 host families increase food availability in their communities	(Projected) increase in number of months of food self-sufficiency due to distributed seed systems/agricultural inputs for beneficiary families
Yield increase	1.1. Baseline average upland yield is increased by 75% by the end of the project (sqare yields/final evaluation)
	1.1. Baseline average lowland yield is increased by 85% by the end of the project (sqare yields/final evaluation)
Knowledge	1.2.A. 75% of beneficiaries can name at least (3 of 6) improved agricultural practices (final evaluation)
	1.2.B. 50% of beneficiaries can name at least (3 of 6) improved seed selection, handling or storage practices (final evaluation)
Adoption	1.2.C. 65% of beneficiaries adopted at least (3 of 6) improved agricultural practices (direct observation/final evaluation)
	1.2.D. 50% of beneficiaries adopted at least (3 of 6) improved seed selection, handling or storage practices (final evaluation)
Intermediate Result 1.1: Host families improve rice productivity on 280	
Output 1.1.1. 5,000 households redeem livelihood vouchers	1.1.1.. Number of people benefiting from seed systems/agricultural input activities
	1.1.1.1.a Number of people that received vouchers for upland fairs
	1.1.1.1.b Number of people that received vouchers for lowland fairs
	1.1.1.2.a Number of people that redeemed their vouchers in the upland fairs
	1.1.1.2.b Number of people that redeemed their vouchers for lowland fairs
	1.1.1.3.a Number of upland fairs organized
	1.1.1.3.b Number of lowland fairs organized
	1.1.1.4.a Number of vendors that participated in the upland fairs
	1.1.1.4.b Number of vendors that participated in the lowland fairs
	1.1.1.5.a Quantity of upland seed purchased by the beneficiaries
	1.1.1.5.b Quantity of lowland seed purchased by the beneficiaries
	1.1.1.5.c Quantity of fertilizers purchased by the beneficiaries
	1.1.1.6. Total cash value of seed and agriculture inputs purchased by the beneficiaries
	1.1.1.6.a Total cash value of upland seed purchased by the beneficiaries
	1.1.1.6.b Total cash value of lowland seed purchased by the beneficiaries
	1.1.1.6.c Total cash value of tools purchased by the beneficiaries
	1.1.1.6.d Total cash value of fertilizer purchased by the beneficiaries

Output 1.1.2. 280 hectares of land cultivated with rice	1.1.2 Number of hectares of land cultivated with rice, disaggregated by ecology (lowland/upland) 1.1.2.1. Total surface area planted with the upland seed rice received in the fairs 1.1.2.1. Total surface area planted with the lowland seed rice received in the fairs
Intermediate Result 1.2: Host families adopt improved rice p	
Output 1.2.1: 5,000 households' knowledge of improved agricultural practices is increased	1.2.1.# of households who can name (3 of 6) improved agricultural practices 1.2.1.1.a Number of CRS staff trained in the Farmer Field School Methodology 1.2.1.1.b Number of Caritas staff trained in the Farmer Field School Methodology 1.2.1.2.a Number of CRS trainers trained in improved agricultural practice 1.2.1.2.b Number of Caritas trainers trained in improved agricultural practice 1.2.1.3. Number of Farmer Field School Groups created 1.2.1.3.a Number of lead farmers trained in improved agricultural practice 1.2.1.3.b Number of demonstration plots put in place 1.2.1.4. 90% of farmers trained through the FFS sessions on improved agricultural practice 1.2.1.5.60% of farmers participated in radio-cassette listening session on improved agricultural practices 1.2.1.6. 20% of farmers that attended DVD screenings on improved agricultural practice
Output 1.2.2: 5,000 households' knowledge of seed selection, handling and storage is increased	1.2.2.: # of households who can name at least (3 of 6) improved seed selection, handling or storage practices 1.2.2.1 Number of lead farmers trained in improved agricultural practice 1.2.2.2. 90% of farmers trained through the FFS sessions on seed selection, handling and storage practice 1.2.2.3 60% of farmers participated in radio-cassette listening sessions on seed selection, handling and storage practice 1.2.2.4. 20% of farmers attended DVD screenings on seed selection, handling and storage practices
SO2: 4,000 host families temporarily employed in lowla	
SO2: 4,000 host families temporarily employed in lowland rehabilitation	Number of people employed through cash for work
Intermediate Result 2.1: 4,000 households earn cash-for-work rehabili	
Intermediate Result 2.1: 4,000 households earn cash-for-work rehabilitating 80 hectares of lowlands	2.1. Total amount earned by households from cash-for-work
Output 2.1.1: 4,000 host family members receive cash-for-work for the rehabilitation of lowlands	2.1.1 Average USD amount per person earned through cash-for-work activities
Intermediate Result 2.2: Participating households of both sexes gainfully	

Intermediate Result 2.2: Participating households of both sexes gainfully engaged in lowland rehabilitaion	2.2. Total number of people (men and women) employed through cash for work activities
Output 2.2.1: Female heads of households actively participating in cash-for-work activities	2.2.1. Number and percentage of women headed HHS employed through cash-for-work activities
	2.2.1.i Percentage of women employed through cash-for-work activities
Output 2.2.2: 80 hectares of lowlands and upland rehabilitated by host family representatives for rice cultivation	2.2.2. Number of hectares of lowland and upland farms rehabilitated



Project Year

Fiscal Year

Baseline data	Annual target	Total Achieved	% of Achievement	Gap
their communities				
		0	#DIV/0!	0
	750	1098	146.39%	348
	1500	1205	80.32%	-295
	3750	3167	84.45%	-583
	2500	2865	114.60%	365
	3250	3016	92.80%	-234
	2500	2714	108.56%	214
hectares of lowland and upland				
	5000	5026	100.52%	26
	2000	2015	100.75%	15
	5000	5026	100.52%	26
	2000	2015	100.75%	15
	10	10	100.00%	0
	4	6	150.00%	2
	10	28	280.00%	18
	10	50	500.00%	40
	20000	37262	186.31%	17262
	8000	15202	190.03%	7202
	0	8112	#DIV/0!	8112
	101600	130847	128.79%	29247
	14000	31052	221.80%	17052
	5600	9511	169.84%	3911
	50000	78947	157.89%	28947
	32000	11337	35.43%	-20663

	200	373	186.50%	173
	80	304	380.00%	224
Production techniques				
	3	3	100.00%	0
	9	9	100.00%	0
	3	3	100.00%	0
	9	9	100.00%	0
	200	174	87.00%	-26
	200	168	84.00%	-32
	200	174	87.00%	-26
	4500	3826	85.02%	-674
	3000	2297	76.57%	-703
	1000	930	93.00%	-70
	200	165	82.50%	-35
	4500	3821	84.91%	-679
	3000	2297	76.57%	-703
	1000	930	93.00%	-70
Land rehabilitation				
	4000	4020	100.50%	20
Planting 80 hectares of lowlands				
	144000	140812	97.79%	-3188
	36	36	100.00%	0
People engaged in lowland rehabilitation				

	4000	4020	100.50%	20
	1600	1441	90.06%	-159
	40	36	90.00%	-4
	80	82	102.50%	2



Catholic Relief Services Liberia Program
19th Street, Sinkor,
Monrovia,
Phone: 0886 608152, 0886384876
LIBERIA
www.crs.org 1-800-234-2772

Memo

To : To whom this may concern
From : Caroline Anderson, Project Manager for FRESH Farms Project
Date : December 5, 2012
Object: FRESH Farms Project has no Fixed Assets

The purpose of this memo is to officially state that the FRESH Farms Project purchased no fixed assets/property during the life of the project. No items purchased exceeded \$5,000. Therefore, this memo is being submitted in lieu of an inventory of fixed assets.

Annex 3: Modifications to Project Indicators as Described in the Baseline Report

Indicator proposed to be removed

SO1.Indicator: (Projected) increase in number of months of food self-sufficiency due to distributed seed systems/agricultural inputs for beneficiary families (OFDA)				
Baseline data	Source	Method of collection	Responsible party	Project objective
8.78	Baseline survey, May 2011	Household survey, recall of number of month of adequate food in past 12 months	Project coordinator	10.05

Indicators proposed to be added

Indicator: 100% increase on the baseline average of rice quantity harvested				
Baseline data	Source	Method of collection	Responsible party	Project proposed objective
766	Baseline survey, May 20011	Household survey, total quantity of rice harvested divided by the number of observations	Project coordinator	1,532

Indicator: 50% of the beneficiaries adopted three out of six IAP				
Baseline data	Source	Method of collection	Responsible party	Project proposed objective
N/A	N/A	Final evaluation and direct observation	Project coordinator	50%

Indicator: 50% of the beneficiaries adopted three out of six ISSHSP				
Baseline data	Source	Method of collection	Responsible party	Project proposed objective
N/A	N/A	Final evaluation and direct observation	Project coordinator	50%

Annex 3: Modifications to Project Indicators as Described in the Baseline Report

Indicators proposed to be modified

Indicator: 1.2.1. # of households who can name (3 of 6) improved agricultural practices				
Modification: % of beneficiaries who can name at least 3 of 6 improved agricultural practices				
Baseline data	Source	Method of collection	Responsible party	Project proposed objective
17.5%	Baseline survey, May 20011	Household survey, number of beneficiaries that can name at least 3 IAP divided by the number of observations	Project coordinator	65%

Indicator: 1.2.1. # of households who can name (3 of 6) improved seed selection, handling and storage practices.				
Modification: % of beneficiaries who can name at least 3 of 6 improved seed selection, handling and storage practices.				
Baseline data	Source	Method of collection	Responsible party	Project proposed objective
2.8%	Baseline survey, May 20011	Household survey, number of beneficiaries that can name at least 3 ISSHSP divided by the number of observations	Project coordinator	50%