

**“Wrapping up” Concept Note for the Disaster
Emergency Committee to be executed by the CRAC-
GRN in collaboration with Action Aid Ghana**

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1. Background

Between August 2005 and June 2007 the CRAC-GRN worked with Action Aid Ghana in order to attenuate the effects of the 2005 food crisis in Zinder region, Niger with the help of funds from the DEC. The work has been carried out in three phases as outlined below:

- Disaster Response Programme (DRP): August 2005 to April 2006
- Extended Response Programme (ERP): May 2006 to January 2007
- Special Extension for Drip Irrigation activities : November 2006 to End June 2007

The CRAC-GRN specifically worked in Zinder region with local populations from 4 different locations in Mai Salka, Kup Kup, Mairemi and Moa with an estimated 88,000 people¹ in the case of the DRP and ERP. The approach used was to work through existing local management structures (LMS) at each site in a way which respected local social dynamics. This meant that the latitude was given to communities (within and between societies) to decide for themselves on what types of intervention should be put in place in their areas. By using an approach which ensured the real representative inclusion of all the stakeholders from the conception of ideas to the actual execution and management of the chosen options the CRAC-GRN believes that all the interventions decided upon have had the best possible chance of sustainable success².

Concerning the promotion of drip irrigation activities, the whole of Zinder region was able to be covered by working through the agricultural department with aid of about 30 agents.

Today, at the end of 23 months of intervention the following summarised results have been able to be achieved with the help of DEC funding :

- Construction of 17 Cereal Banks, 3 Fodder Banks and 6 joint Cereal/Fodder Banks;
- Rehabilitation of 9 Cereal Banks;
- Training and equipping of 78 Mobile Veterinary Agents (MVA's);
- Training and equipping of 80 Crop protection agents (CPA's)
- Training and retraining of 424 community leaders to form over 35 management committees for the management of cereal and fodder banks;
- Purchase of over 120 tonnes millet and sorghum by local communities for stocking in their cereal banks and support for de-stocking and repurchasing;
- Purchase of 122 tonnes of wheat chaff and cotton seed for animal fodder purposes and support for de-stocking and repurchasing;
- Putting into action a working drip-irrigation strategy for Zinder Region through the purchase of over 3,500 drip irrigation kits and the installation of over 1,000 kits using a policy of subsidised sale to the poorest and most vulnerable stakeholders in the region;
- Rehabilitation/Construction of an information and exchange centre to allow people to be better informed and prepared for regional and local crisis's.

¹ The intervention area for CRAC-GRN SFCP activities was defined as the areas (affected by food/fodder insecurity) where the CRAC-GRN is already working. A major advantage here was that the CRAC-GRN team was already very familiar with the local situations and could therefore sensibly and constructively intervene in each area making best use of the available resources for ensuring sustainable interventions.

² This belief is also shared by the DEC Evaluation team who quoted the CRAC-GRN in January 2006 as achieving “Best Practice” in it's approach

2. Project Rationale

Given the huge investment made, particularly in the four above mentioned sites and more generally for drip irrigation in Zinder Region, *it is proposed that this proposal will focus on consolidating all the activities initiated during the course of the DRP and ERP in order to help ensure their long term sustainability.*

The consolidation of these activities that they better serve the communities in question in the long term but the strategic support of the project (analysis, lesson learning, capacity building within and between stakeholder groups) at this time in the decision making processes will help by:

- Continuing to recognise and valorise local knowledge in decision making processes;
- Continuing to reinforce the capacities of local populations so that they can take charge of their own development in the long term leading to the best sustainable communal use of their natural resources on which they totally depend;
- Continuing to support representative local management structures by promoting decision making processes through them for the long term development of their areas ;
- Continuing to support local government so that they can more effectively do their job in the long term

3. Programme Proposal

The objectives which we have assigned to this proposal are as follows:

- Decrease the long term risks and effects of food insecurity through *the consolidation of all the activities started during the course of the DRP and ERP.*
- Through different consolidation processes, reinforce the capacities of local communities and their leaders (elected local representatives, LMS’s etc) so that they can better analyse, learn and plan for the future

Taking into account the above objectives, the proposed activities are:

- Continue support helping to ensure effective community controlled systems of food security (storage, distribution and purchase) through lesson learning and experience sharing forums between :
 - 424 community leaders from over 35 management committees for the management of cereal and fodder banks and
 - The 4 Local Management Structures of Kupkup, MaiSalka, Mairemi and Moa.
- Refresher training of 80 Crop protection agents in order to help minimize risks to rain-fed agriculture through the use of proper crop protection techniques
- Continue support to the improvement of animal health through capacity building workshops and appropriate (re)training of 78 (Mobile Veterinary Agents) MVA’s ;
- Support to the promotion of Drip irrigation technology for high nutrition/value crops in July/August through active extension support for existing and new Drip Irrigation users³

³ This support is required prior to hopefully receiving funding from another donor (ECHO (European Union)) for the continuation/consolidation of this activity for another 15 months from October 2007

3.1. Ensuring Effective Community Controlled Systems of Food Security

- Continue support helping to ensure effective community controlled systems of food security (storage, distribution and purchase) through lesson learning and experience sharing forums between :
 - 424 community leaders from over 35 management committees for the management of cereal and fodder banks and
 - The 4 Local Management Structures of Kupkup, MaiSalka, Mairemi and Moa.

This activity will be carried out in two phases:

- Monitoring visits will be made to all the sites to visit the LMS's and management committees to assess the different situations of the various management structures, and to identify weaknesses and needs. This will take place in July, August, September at the most opportune moment (very dependant on the rains).
- At least 4 workshops will be organised (one at each site) to bring together the LMS's and management committees to discuss, learn from each other and plan for the future. This will take place from November to December⁴.

3.2 Refresher training of 80 crop protection agents

- Refresher training of 80 Crop protection agents in order to help minimize risks to rain-fed agriculture through the use of proper crop protection techniques

With the help of the ERP, 80 Crop protection agents were trained in July/August 2006. They have however had little or no experience in this activity since in 2006 very few crop attacks were (fortunately) experienced. With the start up of this new season it is proposed to carry out a re-fresher training exercise with all the agents with the help of the 4 LMS's. This will take place as soon as funds are available (July/August) in 4 separate retraining exercises.

3.3 Supporting Improved animal health through capacity building for Mobile Veterinary agents⁵

- Continue our support to the improvement of animal health through capacity building workshops and appropriate (re)training of 78 MVA's;

78 Mobile Veterinary Agents (MVA) were trained during the course of the DRP. They received continued support during the course of the ERP to help them treat livestock and better ply their trade. It is proposed that continued support to the MVA's be carried out/further consolidated by organising 4 separate workshops with the help of the 4 LMS's so that they can share experiences, learn from each other and consequently be better prepared for the future.

⁴ Best management of the Crop Protection Agents and Mobile Veterinary Agents will also be on the agenda

⁵ MVA activities help reduce food insecurity by helping to ensure fitter animals who convert vegetable matter into body mass with more efficiency (no parasites and urea treatment). These fatter animals are of course also more resistant to periods of reduced forage availability.

This activity will most likely occur in November/December when people have finished harvesting their crops and pastoral groups are coming back into the area..

3.4 Active extension for Drip Irrigation along with conceptual support⁶

- Support to the promotion of Drip irrigation technology for the productions of high nutrition/value crops in July/August through active extension along with conceptual support for existing and new Drip Irrigation users

This activity is proving to be extremely popular and since November 2006 over 1,000 kits have been sold to men and women within the most vulnerable communities (at a subsidised price) and 872 installed. This is shown in the table below.

Types of kits	Kits sold	Kits given away for experimentation purposes	Kits installed	Kits still in stock at the end of May 2007
20 m ²	943	138	806	2319
50 m ²	41	0	50	142
100 m ²	13	7	13	40
200 m ²	21	01	02	4
500 m ²	4	05	01	0
TOTAL	1.022	151	872	2.505

In order to allow the momentum to continue we are proposing continued support to the agricultural department over July, August and September so that they can continue going out in the field to support this very innovative, pertinent and apparently popular activity .

4.0 Funding

The input of staff for this proposal will consist of a core team of development facilitators and 1 driver with supervision and conceptual support coming from existing CRAC-GRN staff. This, along with field and logistical expenses is shown in the proposed budget overleaf.

⁶ It should be noted, as reported by us in previous DEC reports that the drip irrigation kits are targeting the poorest most vulnerable people with no access to irrigated land. These kits are sold at a subsidised unit price of about £1,20 each (real price is \$5 plus transport).

CRAC-GRN Draft Concept note for a “Wrapping up” Programme

4.1 Proposed Budget

Budget Footnote	Details	SOS Sahel	July	August	Sept	Oct	Nov	Dec	TOTAL Estimated Expend.	Notes
		TOTAL								
A4	Ensuring Community Controlled Food Security	13,000								
A4	Refresher Training of 80 Crop Agents	6,000	6,000	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000	5,000	5,000	13,000 Workshops at £2500 each about 150 2 for days
A4	Supporting 78 MVA's	6,000						6,000	6,000	Four 2 day refresher training courses at £1500 each
A4	Active extension support for Drip Irrigation	4,500	1,500	1,500	1,500				4,500	4 2 day Workshops estimated at £1500 each
Sum A	PROGRAMME INPUTS	29,500	7,500	2,500	2,500	1,000	5,000	11,000	29,500	Primarily logistical support to about 30 agents
B2	Fuel & Repair Costs Vehicle used for ERP	3,000	500	500	500	500	500	500	3,000	Fuel, repair & maintenance of car
B2	Vehicle Hire	2,400	400	400	400	400	400	400	2,400	Hire of 1 car @ 375 000/month
B4	Administration costs-Office	540	90	90	90	90	90	90	540	20% of CRAC Admin Costs
B4	Office rent-utilities	780	130	130	130	130	130	130	780	20% of Rent, Elec, Water Tel & small Utility Costs
Sum B	NON - PERSONNEL	6,720	1,120	1,120	1,120	1,120	1,120	1,120	6,720	
C1	Admin and Support Staff	272	45	45	45	45	45	45	272	20% of Administrators time
C2	Part of 2 In country Expat staff Salaries	4,178	696	696	696	696	696	696	4,178	20% & 5% CRAC-GRN Expat support/conceptual time
C4	2 Development Facilitators + 1 driver	2,700	450	450	450	450	450	450	2,700	
C5	Part of 1 CRAC National persons time	900	150	150	150	150	150	150	900	CRAC Nation Personal 20% conceptual/supervision
Sum C	PERSONNEL	8,050	1,342	1,342	1,342	1,342	1,342	1,342	8,050	
D1	National Staff Benefit medical insurance	480	80	80	80	80	80	80	480	Fixed Monthly Charge
D4	Staff travel and subsistence	450	75	75	75	75	75	75	450	As and when expenses arise
D5	Communication costs	240	40	40	40	40	40	40	240	Purchase of cards and out of town phoning
Sum D	PERSONNEL SUPPORT	1,170	195	195	195	195	195	195	1,170	
E2	Photocopier								0	
E3	Computer								0	
E4	Printer								0	
Sum E	CAPITAL - list specific items	-	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
H	TOTAL PROJECT COSTS	45,440	10,157	5,157	5,157	3,657	7,657	13,657	45,440	
L (J3+K)	TOTAL REQUESTED FROM DEC	45,440								

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