



QUARTERLY PROJECT REPORT

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Activity: **FOOD FOR LIFE PROJECT**

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1 PROJECT SUMMARY

Background

Too many people are needlessly hungry! People, whether they live in towns or in rural areas are not hungry because there is no food; they are hungry because they cannot produce their own food or have no money to buy it from others.

It is also increasingly becoming clear that the first step to poverty alleviation is providing food security. Poverty is widespread and affects the lives of all in society. The Scout Movement recognizes that the key to addressing food security must come from the community itself. This raises some complex dynamics that often undermine the efforts of uplifting the community. Ultimately, food security lies in the hands of available skills and only later the resources within that community. This is the basis of the Food for Life project which is currently being implemented by the Kenya Scouts Association, the Burundi Scouts Association and Uganda Scouts Association with support from the World Scout Bureau Africa Regional Office.

The Food for Life project is all about skills and willingness to learn them. The project has been developed to assist a willing young person or adult to learn the skills of food gardening and involves three phases:

1. **Food for Life – Starter:** The Scout will learn how to grow a vegetable of choice in his/her own garden.
2. **Food for Life – Silver:** The Scout will learn how to plant a variety of vegetables of choice in his/her own garden and also how to take care of the vegetables.
3. **Food for Life - Gold:** The Scout will learn how to draw up a business plan, and learn more about soil types, irrigation and fruit trees.

Training of Trainers in Food for Life

To change attitudes and improve knowledge on Food for Life, a training of trainers workshop will be conducted for Scout trainers who will be expected to roll-out the project thereby training Scout Leaders and Patrol Leaders across the country.

Training of Scout Leaders and Patrol Leaders in Food for Life

Since Food for Life involves skills building and transfer, it is important that the Scout Leaders who are responsible for management and supervision of Scouts in units be trained for sustainable implementation of Food for Life.

The Scout Movement is also famed for its unique method which involves working in small groups known as patrols that are responsible for the development and implementation of a value based system through a non formal education process. With the intention of integrating Food for Life activities into the Youth Programme, a training of patrol leaders will be conducted.

Model Gardens

The objectives of the activity is to establish demonstration gardens at Scout centres so that other Scouts can be able to learn from that. The model gardens will also be used as seed manufacturing centres which will in turn be distributed to other units not initially enrolled thereby up-scaling the project and its impact.

Support Supervision and Field Monitoring Visits

For the success of a project that involves skills transfer, support supervision and field monitoring visits are very essential to establish the successes, challenges and areas for improvement. These will be conducted on a monthly basis.

2 REPORT ON EACH PROJECT ACTIVITY

2.1 TRAINING OF TRAINERS IN FOOD FOR LIFE

During the reporting period, Uganda Scouts Association (USA) held a Training of Trainers workshop for 22 participants from the districts of Mbale, Bukedea, Soroti, Manafwa, Busia, Iganga, Kitgum, Oyam, Nakasongola, Mayuge, and Kampala.

The Training of Trainers (TOT) workshop took place from the 3rd to 6th February 2011 at the Uganda National Scout Training Centre Kaazi. The Scout trainers met in a very fruitful and constructive All-hands meeting; conducted a successful review of the past project performance; had practical lessons thereby preparing the ground for the model garden; launched the annual plan for project and made commitments towards the success. The future looking activities are the most challenging, and something that will be of highest priority during the next quarter.



TOT participants in a group session

Summary of Issues



Mr. Okello Richard, USA Executive Secretary/NEC facilitating a session during the TOT

Major issue for the TOT is finding ways forward for a full participation and ownership of the project by Scouts, Scout Leaders and other stakeholders; linking up and tapping resources from other programmes like National Agricultural Advisory Services (NAADS), Plan for Modernization of Agriculture, Farmer Field Schools of FAO, the Ministry of Agriculture and District Agricultural Extension services and workers.

There was also an issue/challenge of timely delivery of project materials such as seeds and resource books in adequate quantities.

Another issue/challenge for Food for Life was support supervision and field monitoring visits where the Scout Trainers needed facilitation to enable them effectively support and monitor the implementation within the respective districts.



2.2 FIELD/MONITORING VISITS

The Field/Monitoring visits were carried out from the 3rd to 8th December 2010 and resulted into the following:

- **Achievements:**
 - There was a high level of interest in the project by Scouts, Scout Leaders and School Management which provided an opportunity for engaging more Scouts into this important Intervention;
 - As of December 2010, over 2,700 Scouts were involved in the project;
 - A total of 347 Scouts from the districts Kampala, Wakiso, Mukono, Jinja, Mayuge, Iganga, Nakasongola and Bushenyi had set up individual gardens;
 - A total of 372 Scouts were awarded their starter badges upon meeting the requirements for the awards. They are from the districts of Kampala, Bushenyi, Jinja and Wakiso. Some leaders from Mbale, Jinja, Mukono, and Nakasongola communicated that their Scouts have also completed and needed badges, but haven't been awarded yet.
- **Challenges:**
 - Transfer of some Scout leaders to other schools/districts. There is a policy by the Ministry of Education and Sports to transfer teachers who have served in one School for long to another. This exercise has also affected some of the teachers who happen to be Scout Leaders. Eight of the Schools implementing the Food for Life project have been affected by this exercise, and have been left with no scout leader to handle the scouts in implementation of project activities. Three of these schools are from Kampala district, two from Mayuge district, then Jinja, Nakasongola, Iganga had one school each affected. In the case of the school in Jinja, the scout leader introduced the project in his new School, though the Scouts in the former School have been left with no leader to support them;
 - Some Scouts on the project have shifted to Schools without the project. The issue of transfer has not affected only the Scout Leaders, but also the Scouts. It is even worse with Scouts, since many of the Scouts have moved to other Schools. This has made it impossible for the Scout Leaders to follow up on them, and have ended up dropping out from the project. This is one of the reasons as to why the numbers we started with is fast dropping;
 - Drought and floods in some areas of implementing districts;
 - Breaking of schools for holidays which is longer during the 3rd term holiday. By the time monitoring was carried out, schools (including implementing units) had gone for holidays. Therefore, we had to get information from District Executive Commissioners, some head teachers and a few leaders who were still around instead of the Scouts themselves. We also observed that most school gardens were not well maintained during this period;
 - In some areas it was discovered that materials did not get to Scouts after distribution through their leaders;
 - Distance between the units and Scouts' homes limits the frequency of support visits to the Scouts' gardens by the Scout leaders;
 - There was also a complaint that some Schools did not receive materials such as seeds for implementation;
 - Negligence of some Scout leaders. It was observed that some units received all the required kits and other materials but they did not implement. There were no gardens at the school premises. It was discovered that it was mainly due to negligence of some Scout leaders;
 - Poor means of communication. It was also observed that some implementing units are situated in hard-to-reach areas. This was mainly because of poor road networks mainly due to bad weather (heavy rains – e.g. districts around Mt. Elgon and Teso region);
 - The project risks not being sustainable. Scouts not taught how to store seeds for planting during the next season. Scouts not owning the project totally.



- **Possible Solutions to the Challenges:**

- We need to train more Scout leaders i.e. 2 leaders per school. In a situation where one has been transferred or left the school, the other leader takes over.
- There is need to find and plant drought resistant seeds, consult the National Agricultural Research Organization (NARO) offices at the district for information about agriculture and the meteorological centre for more information about the rain and dry season throughout the year.
- Follow the Ministry of Education and Sports curriculum.
- Ensure that kits and other materials are distributed to Scouts during camps or at schools.
- Making a follow up to ensure that all FFL units in all implementing districts receive materials in time.
- Consistent monitoring of scout leaders in those implementing units in their respective schools and districts.
- Uganda Scouts Association has adopted the use of the SMS based communications, where a specified day, date and time in a week, month or term will be fixed specifically for reports from all implementing units. This in turn will cut the cost of communicating, sending reports as well as transport to and from the field. In the long run the savings made can be used to procure more materials or diverted to other pressing needs.
- Scaling up of the project by adopting the use of potential farmer field schools or school gardens approach implemented by NAADS and FAO in Northern Uganda.



3 OTHER INFORMATION

3.1 DELIVERABLES DUE THIS QUARTER

Activity No	Deliverable / Milestone title	Nature (***)	Type	Original Delivery date(*) ¹	Revised delivery date(*)	Status (**)
1.1	Training of Trainers in Food for Life	R	Workshop	27 th – 29 th January 2011	3 rd – 6 th February 2011	USA Approved
4.1	Field/Monitoring Visits	R	Field	3 rd – 8 th December 2010	3 rd – 8 th December 2010	USA approved
PM 1	Quarterly progress report	R	Documentation	1 st – 5 th February 2011	5 th April 2011	USA approved

3.2 DELIVERABLES DUE NEXT QUARTER

Activity No	Deliverable / Milestone title	Nature (***)	Type	Original Delivery date(*) ²	Revised delivery date(*)	Status (**)
2.1	Training of Scout Leaders and Patrol Leaders in Food for Life	R	Workshop	February 2011		
3.1	Establishment of 5 Model Gardens	R	Field	February 2011		
4.1	Field/Monitoring Visits	R	Field	February, March & April 2011		
PM 1	Quarterly progress report	R	Documentation	April 2011		

¹ (*) Dates are expressed in project month (November 2010 to October 2011).

(**) Status = Not started – In preparation – Status – USA approved

(***) Nature = **R** = Report **O** = Other, Deliverable id: for Milestone attached to a deliverable

² (*) Dates are expressed in project month (November 2010 to October 2011).

(**) Status = Not started – In preparation – Started – USA approved

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4 PLANS FOR THE NEXT PERIOD

Training of Scout Leaders and Patrol Leaders

The training of 240 Scout Leaders and Patrol Leaders in Food for Life will be conducted in two rounds with the first round taking place from the 11th to 13th February 2011 for 150 participants from the districts of Iganga, Manafwa, Mbale, Bukedea and Soroti while second round will take place after the general elections from the 25th to 27th February 2011 targeting 90 participants from the districts of Kitgum, Oyam and Busia.

Model Gardens:

5 Model gardens are expected to be set-up in Kaazi, Mbale, Soroti, Iganga and Kitgum. The 5 Model gardens will be established during the Scout Leaders and Patrol Leader's training in February 2011.

Field/Monitoring Visits

It is expected that on a monthly basis, a field monitoring and support supervision visit will be conducted in all the 8 implementing districts of Food for Life project. The aim will be to assess the progress made, achievements, challenges and possible solutions to improve the implementation of the project.

The work should be started with the next bunch of applications to get them grid-enabled for the end of the project.