

END OF PROJECT REPORT

Name of organization: United Vision

Title of project: Snail Domestication for Victims of Early and Forced Marriages

Grant amount: £1390

Date of Award: July 2012

Date of Report: July 15, 2013

Goal of project

To enable victims of early and forced marriages gain hands-on skills in all aspects of snail domestication, processing and marketing.

Name and Title of person submitting this evaluation. Mallah Enow Tabot, Team Leader

Components of the entire:

As shown in the matrix on the page 3, we successfully implemented all activities earmarked for the project, even though for reasons beyond our control, time frames were often not respected. In this end of project report, we recap activities planned for implementation beginning July 2012, pointing out our successes and some challenges. In an effort to be consistent and to capture the whole picture this report covers project components directly funded by RSSAF as well as those financed by United Vision.

In July and August 2012, we mobilized women in three accessible village communities (Eshobi, Eyang and Berore) in Manyu Division. The mobilization exercise resulted in the creation of three groups in the three villages, with a total membership of 187 disenfranchised members as direct beneficiaries.

The mobilization exercise was closely followed by group formation and institution-strengthening. In the latter, we supervised the election of 5 group leaders each, and gave them the responsibility to decide where to locate the snail domestication facility. After consultations, the village of Eshobi was unanimously chosen to host the facility and United Vision immediately negotiated with traditional leaders in that village for a piece of forested land for the facility. By the end of July the land had been prepared. The construction of snail pens and

hatcheries began at the start of August and was scheduled to be completed at the end of September 2012.

However, things did not happen as planned. Pen construction turned out to be more complicated than initially thought and we had to enlist the assistance of the Traditional Council to ask the youth of beneficiary villages to lend a helping hand in building the pens. Following the delay, construction of growing pens and hatcheries could only be completed at the end of November 2012, two months behind schedule.

Though the implications for this delay were initially devastating because seed snails are mostly available between July and September when it is still raining, we succeeded in controlling the rearing environment (mostly through watering and artificial lighting). Eventually, the initial stock of 1300 'seed' snails is responding favourably after we suffered some casualties as about 200 snails died in the process of taking them out of hibernation.

In February 2013 we started giving out young snails for to groups populate their group farms and in April they did their first harvests. Group farms are now functioning well with regular monthly harvests. Snails are mostly sold on-farm to community members who contact farm owners directly.

The income generating potential of the project is high and given the resounding success of the initiative, many other women who were not part of the initial project are now attempting to rear snails small scale behind their houses.

The unexpected negative turn-around that the project faced at the start presented some challenges, but also some opportunities. The biggest challenge was how to get snails out of hibernation and make them still maintain their growth cycle. This presented a huge learning experience for all of us, and through trial and error the women finally internalized the delicate process of striking the right balance.

Another positive aspect is that groups have learned how to manage snails in emergency situations and under adverse weather conditions. By the same token, egg management that we had taken for granted has now become the life wire of the project and the women take pride in sharing their skills and experience with their community peers.

In an end of project participatory evaluation we carried out from June 24 through June 28, it stood out that our direct beneficiaries have gained valuable skills in managing all aspects of snail domestication, including processing, keeping records of their production and generating additional incomes. This has equally enabled their households to improve their protein intake with snail diets. Of more importance, the project has introduced a culture of snail rearing that is gradually permeating the entire region. When this becomes entrenched as it promises to be, it will not take long before all sixteen enclaved villages in the region become reference points for snail domestication.

The matrix below shows the status of the entire project in graphical form.

Graphical status of the project

Activities	2012						2013					
	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun
Mobilizing, sensitizing and organizing direct beneficiaries	X											
Site Selection and land preparation	X											
Pen/hatcheries Construction		X	X	X	X							
Stock farm with 'seed' snails					X							
On-farm training of target group representatives						X	X	X				
Provision of startup support									X			
Reporting		X				X						X
Process facilitation (Follow-ups, monitoring and, evaluation)	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X

 Supported by RSSAF

x = Completed

Below are some project pictures.



Healthy snails in breeding pens



Women enthusiastically populate demonstration snail pens

