

## **MID-TERM 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:** February 30, 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 project implemented during this reporting period:**

Following the matrix presented on the next page, we successfully implemented all activities earmarked for this reporting period, though time frame was often not respected. In this mid-term report, we recap activities undertaken since implementation began in 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 village communities (Eshobi, Eyang and Berore). We selected these three villages because they are accessible by motorbike. Eventually, we created three groups in the three villages, with a total membership of 187 members as direct beneficiaires.

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, among the three communities, the snail domestication facility would be located. 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.

The implications for this delay are devastating. Seed snails are only available between July and September when it is still raining. By the end of October it gets too hot and snails begin to hibernate in the wild due to adverse weather conditions. By November virtually every snail picked in the wild is in hibernation and is *unrearable*. Since we missed the September stocking period we could not find enough healthy snails to stock the facility to the expected capacity.

The good news is that by controlling the rearing environment (mostly through watering and artificial lighting), the present stock of 1300 'seed' snails is responding favourably. Earlier, we had suffered some casualties as about 200 snails died in the process of taking them out of hibernation. The snails in the facility are now feeding well and have started laying eggs. The hatcheries are well tended and our expectation is that by mid March we will see the first generation of snails emerge from the hatcheries.

This unexpected turn-around for the project has presented some challenges, but also some opportunities. The biggest challenge has been how to get snails out of hibernation and make them still maintain their growth cycle. This has been a learning process for all of us, and through trial and error we succeeded to strike the right balance, though not without some casualties.

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 a necessary training component.

At this point we are confident that in spite of the delay, the project is strongly back on its rails and stands the chance to deliver higher results than had been planned initially.

The matrix below shows the present status of the 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												
Reporting		X				X						
Process facilitation (Follow-ups, monitoring and, evaluation)	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X				

 Supported by RSSAF

x = Completed