

## Sustainable Food and Agriculture Systems



Growing non-traditional crops in Niger.



Displaying vegetables in Chad.



A farmer with her wheat crop in Afghanistan.



Picking up fertilizer in Lebanon.

International Relief & Development (IRD) has helped expand opportunities for farming families for nearly the entire life of our organization. Working with whole communities in affected areas, we have restored access to food through delivery of emergency food aid and food-for-work programs. Over the last 10 years, IRD has become a specialist in working in conflict and post-conflict environments, taking on the challenge of working in some of the most complex and difficult places. But we don't just focus on immediate needs; our multi-sectoral programs also try to address

the causes of chronic food insecurity such as cyclical drought or health concerns that keep farmers from their fields. We provide technical assistance to farmers so they can improve productivity and efficiency. We build local expertise for agricultural training as well as working with local businesses supplying farmers with feed, seed, fertilizer, and other inputs. All sectors of our work support citizen engagement around issues of access to economic, health, infrastructure, and social resources and services.



## Multiple Countries

### Food for Progress Program to Improve Cashew Production in The Gambia, Senegal, and Guinea-Bissau

- **Improving food security in three vulnerable West African countries.**
- **Sponsoring local research into appropriate technologies to improve production.**
- **Training farmers' organizations in business management practices.**

Donor      USDA  
Date        September 2008 – December 2011  
Amount     \$3.3 million

With funding through the sale of 4,500 metric tons of vegetable oil, which was donated by USDA, providing training to cashew farmers, seeds for a higher yielding variety of cashew plants, new techniques, nutrition education, land management practices, and small scale units that will process and help utilize all parts of the cashew fruit and nut. IRD will work with various ministries in The Gambia, Senegal, and Guinea-Bissau, as well as selected organizations with expertise in farming in those regions to develop two improved varieties of cashew that will help to increase yields. The creation of primary producer groups and hiring of value chain coordinators will help farmers' organizations better serve their members. In addition, IRD will conduct a nutrition education campaign on the nutritional values of cashew.

## Afghanistan

### Afghan Vouchers for Increased Productive Agriculture (AVIPA)

- **Targets the most vulnerable farmers, including widows and sharecroppers.**
- **Develops a sustainable network of local agricultural suppliers.**
- **Will enable 147,000 Afghan families to increase their access to food and income.**

Donor      USAID  
Date        September 2008 – September 2009  
Amount     \$60 million

During the one-year program, IRD provided farmers affected by drought with vouchers to access agricultural inputs such as seeds and fertilizer. As an alternative to direct food distribution, the voucher system underlined the importance of farmer-to-supplier/supplier-to-farmer relationships. The system not only supported agriculture input access for crop production, but more intimately engaged the supply market and farmer demand.

### Afghan Vouchers for Increased Productive Agriculture (AVIPA) Plus

- **Supports profitable farm family participation in agricultural value chains.**
- **Implements cash for work projects that enhance rural family farm production and productivity.**
- **Implements a grants component that contributes to rural family farm productivity.**

Donor      USAID  
Date        September 2009 – August 2010  
Amount     \$300 million

During the one-year follow-on to the AVIPA program, IRD builds on the success of the previous program, but shifting geographic focus from the north to Helmand and Kandahar provinces in the south. AVIPA Plus implementation will be based on Afghan government leadership and local community ownership. AVIPA Plus' impact will enhance the Government of Afghanistan's credibility in rural Afghanistan and link the Government of Afghanistan more strongly with Afghan citizens.



## Azerbaijan

### Ganja Agricultural Development Project

- Increased local agriculture production efficiency.
- Worked with local feed processors to improve the quality of available feed.
- Promoted HIV/AIDS awareness in Western Azerbaijan.

Donor      USDA  
Date        2003 – 2006  
Amount     \$2.1 million

This project provided training and technical assistance to farming communities. IRD monetized 10,000 MT of soybean meal and used the proceeds to promote private sector agriculture and market development by training current farmers in crop/livestock production, provided market development training to five poultry processors, and gave seed capital to new farmers to start businesses. The program also raised awareness of HIV/AIDS and Avian Influenza at the community level.

## Cambodia

### Improving Nutrition in Cambodia II

- Improves health of children in low-income households.
- Supports people living with HIV/AIDS.
- Bolsters school attendance and completion.

Donor      USAID  
Date        September 2009 – September 2010  
Amount     \$114,996

Supported by the USAID's Food for Peace office, IRD is implementing Improving Nutrition in Cambodia Program, which aims to promote and increase attendance in schools in Kampong Chhnang through school feeding activities; aid treatment and promote counseling of HIV/AIDS patients; aid the families and patients in home-based care through distribution of nutritious foods through a network of local NGOs; and aid the convalescence of patients in the pediatric and infectious diseases wards in the Kampong Chhnang Referral Hospital. IRD will assist 5,500 people and distribute 75MT of vegetable and lentil blend packages.

## Clean Water and Sanitation

- Establishes year-round access to clean water and sanitation at 91 schools.
- Improves access to clean water and sanitation at the household level.
- Promotes year round gardening through training and access to water technology.

Donor      Latter-Day Saints Charities  
Date        February 2010 – January 2012  
Amount     \$175,631

IRD is constructing or rehabilitating tube wells or rainwater catchments, hand-washing stations, latrines, and drinking fountains in nearly one-third of all schools in Kampong Chhnang province. Similar projects are underway at the household level as well, along with working with families to establish household gardens.

## McGovern-Dole International Food for Education and Child Nutrition

- Provides on-site feeding for 23,000 primary school children.
- Rewards parents for keeping their children in school through take-home food programs.
- Conducts health, hygiene, and nutritional education in schools.

Donor      USDA  
Date        October 2008 – September 2011  
Amount     \$1.5 million

IRD is encouraging timely school enrollment, attendance, and completion in 51 schools in Kampong Chhnang province by providing healthy on-site meals, take-home rations for girls, take-home incentives rations for grade 6 completion and timely school enrollment, and take-home rations awards to high performing teachers. In a pilot program, IRD is mobilizing parents in one community to send their girls to school in a group by oxcart accompanied by trusted men from the community to ensure safe arrival and return.



### Soy Livelihood and Nutrition Initiatives (SLNI)

- **Created a sustainable livelihood for people living with HIV/AIDS.**
- **Improved nutrition of people living with HIV/AIDS.**

Donor University of Illinois, National Soy Research Lab (NSRL)  
 Date September 2008 – August 2009  
 Amount \$80,136

Through local NGOs, IRD helped families living with HIV/AIDS start soy processing businesses and raise hogs for sale and consumption. IRD also distributed soy mild and texturized soy protein to these families and educated communities on the nutritional advantages of soy.

### Better Foods for Better Lives (BFBL)

- **Improved health of children in low-income households.**
- **Produced affordable, nutritious food option.**
- **Developed local food production industry.**

Donor USDA  
 Date 2004 – 2007  
 Amount \$2 million

Modeled after IRD’s successful Noodle Food Assistance (NFA) program in Indonesia, this program promoted private sector development in the food processing industry, generating jobs within the milling, noodle, and bakery industries in Cambodia. For the first time in the country, a flour mill is fortifying wheat flour with vitamins and minerals, which contributes to the improved health status of low-income households and school children in Phnom Penh and other urban areas.

### Improving Nutrition in Cambodia

- **Improved health and nutritional status of children and persons living with HIV/AIDS.**
- **Increased attendance in rural primary schools.**
- **Helped local NGOs to operate supplementary feeding programs.**

Donor USAID  
 Date September 2007 – August 2008  
 Amount \$100,000

Through this project, IRD distributed some 75 metric tons of prepackaged nutrient-fortified dehydrated vegetables to vulnerable children and HIV/AIDS-affected populations in rural Cambodia. The project also increased primary school attendance through school feeding programs and helped local partners to better provide home-based care programs and manage rural health facilities. The project reached approximately 5,500 people.

## Cameroon

### Livelihood Security Restoration for Central African Republic Refugees in Eastern Cameroon

- **Assisting nearly 37,000 refugees in 30 settlements.**
- **Improving food security by providing year-round access to food.**
- **Developed a marketing strategy to establish a noodle processing plant in Douala.**

Donor US State Department  
 Dates June 2009 – May 2010  
 Amount \$720,000

Following political unrest in their home country, approximately 45,000 refugees from the Central African Republic (CAR) have settled in Cameroon. IRD is training the refugees in biointensive farming, recovering livestock, and improving potable water systems. IRD is conducting two livestock vaccination campaigns, training para-veterinarians, and providing vulnerable households with small animals such as sheep or goats. In addition, IRD will build and rehabilitate water infrastructures for both human consumption and irrigation. Over 6,000 Cameroonians will also benefit.



## Chad

### Emergency Food for Work and Agricultural Assistance Initiative for Affected Villages in Eastern Chad

- **Provided emergency food security and agricultural improvement opportunities.**
- **Worked with underserved members of communities.**
- **Developed an innovative response to a complex emergency.**

Donor USAID/OFDA  
 Dates May 2005 – April 2006, extended into August 2006  
 Amount \$1.2 million

This project offered agricultural opportunities to rural villages in eastern Chad affected by the influx of Darfur refugees. IRD achieved this goal through community-based food-for-work and agriculturally-based income generation activities in Iriba District, northeastern Chad. Coping with the constantly evolving realities of the region devastated by the complex emergency, IRD reached out to the most vulnerable host communities to help rebuild their livelihoods.

### Emergency Program for IDPs

- **Delivered seeds and tools to displaced Chadian families.**
- **Developed an innovative response to a complex emergency.**

Donors WFP/U.S. Embassy  
 Date June – December 2006  
 Amount \$150,000 cash; 1,000 metric tons food

To address the immediate needs of the large number of IDPs near Goz Beida in southeastern Chad, IRD provided seeds and tools from the U.S. Embassy in Chad along with food and cash resources from the World Food Program (WFP) to provide for needed crops and agricultural improvement-based food-for-work projects. IRD expanded its programming through funds provided by USAID's OFDA to continue these needed activities into 2007.

### Emergency Program for IDPs in Southeastern Chad

- **Provides emergency food security.**
- **Strengthens relationships between internally displaced persons and host communities.**

Donor UNHCR/WFP  
 Date January – December 2008  
 Amount \$386,327; \$241,814

A large number of new IDPs have been driven from their villages to the camps of Gouroukoune, Koubigou, Koloma, Gassire and Kerfi. New arrivals to Kerfi have increased the population there by 25 percent and several thousand villagers have resettled in sites next to the villages of Sanour and Ganashour. IRD has developed an emergency-relief program to provide protection, monitoring, and camp management services as well as strengthen intercommunity relationships between the IDPs, host, and Arab populations. The WFP-funded portion of the project will distribute nearly 6,000 metric tons of food commodities to more than 58,000 people.

## Georgia

### Livelihood Development for IDPs and Returnees in Shida Kartli

- **Provided financial and material support for IDP families.**
- **Built local agricultural and leadership capacity.**

Donors UNHCR  
 Dates September 2009 – December 2009  
 Amount \$193,728

The program was designed to facilitate UNHCR's role in complementing local government's goal to provide durable solutions to the war-affected communities. In particular the project's objectives included improving self-reliance and livelihoods for internally displaced persons through activities such as gardening and agriculture, and building local capacities. Nearly 4,600 families benefitted.



### Agricultural Production and Rural Enterprise Support

- Improves private sector agriculture.
- Provides technical assistance for farmers.
- Builds local expertise for providing training.

Donor      USDA/Food for Progress  
Date        2006 – present  
Amount     \$2.8 million

The project seeks to accelerate private sector development in Georgia by supplying small-scale farmers with seed potatoes, providing training on production practices, and developing a substitute import market, as well as establishing two rural enterprise centers to provide training, equipment, and individual consultation to farmers and rural entrepreneurs. Through the project, IRD will reach more than 15,000 households directly.

## Indonesia

### Noodle Food Assistance Program (NFA)

- Improved health of children in low-income households.
- Produced affordable, nutritious food option.
- Developed local food production industry.

Donor      USDA  
Date        1999 – 2007  
Amount     \$12 million

The project's overall goal was to improve food security for the disadvantaged urban population in Jakarta and other areas on the island of Java. IRD produced and sold 3 billion packages of fortified, soy-enriched wheat and rice noodles and soy sauce, reaching 4.5 million low-income consumers in seven provinces every month. As part of the program, IRD has also supported the production and daily distribution of fortified snack noodles and biscuits to 75,000 primary school students and their teachers in 500 schools in central Java.

## Laos

### McGovern-Dole International Food for Education and Child Nutrition, Phase II

- Improves children's health and nutrition.
- Provides incentives to keep children, particularly girls, in school.
- Rehabilitates school sanitation facilities.

Donor      USDA/Humpty Dumpty Institute  
Date        September 2008 – March 2010  
Amount     \$1.4 million

This program serves nutritious mid-morning snacks; for primary school children, provides take-home rations for girls and their families, and trains students and teachers in appropriate health and hygiene. Each of the primary schools will receive a \$4,000 mini-grant to be used to make structural improvements in the schools or conduct activities that improve the health of the students. IRD also teaches school personnel how to keep accurate financial records, internal audit practices, and accounting to keep track of these grants as well as student attendance and program effectiveness.

### Promotion of Education through School Feeding

- Provides food for 14,500 students and 400 teachers.

Donor      USAID  
Date        September 2009 – September 2010  
Amount     \$114,000

This program was designed as an add-on to the above McGovern-Dole Food for Education program. IRD is providing 75 metric tons of Breedlove dehydrated foods to 109 primary schools in three districts—Boualapa, Gnomalat and Mahaxay—in Khammouane Province.



### Safe Educational Opportunities

- **Improved children’s health and nutrition.**
- **Provided incentives to keep children, particularly girls, in school.**
- **Taught school personnel basic bookkeeping and accounting skills.**

Donor      USDA/Humpty Dumpty Institute  
 Date        2007 – 2009  
 Amount     \$1 million

This program was the precursor to the above McGovern-Dole Food for Education program, and had similar activities.

## Mauritania

### NGO Program in Mauritania Benefiting Mauritanian Refugees

- **Trains farmers in efficient irrigation techniques.**
- **Works with women’s cooperatives to set up input banks.**
- **Provides basic supplies.**

Donor      U.S. State Department  
 Date        May 2009 – April 2010  
 Amount     \$299,763

IRD is working with over 2,600 Mauritanian returnees to best make use of land that has been given to them and to maintain a dignified quality of life. IRD is providing seeds, tools, and basic irrigation systems, as well as training farmers in simple hydroponic gardening and providing nutrition education sessions.

## Mozambique

### Reduction of Drought and Cyclone Vulnerability in Southern Mozambique

- **Taking a holistic approach to the reduction of drought and cyclone vulnerability.**
- **Helping local government develop a cyclone early warning and response plan.**
- **Benefitting over 55,000 people.**

Donor      USAID/OFDA  
 Date        June 2009 – May 2011  
 Amount     \$3.9 million

IRD’s local agricultural experts are encouraging the planting of drought-resistant crops like sorghum, cassava, and legumes. At the same time, IRD is helping farmers gain market access for cash crops like vegetables and processed cassava, and establish other income generating activities like beekeeping and marketing of oil seeds. Agricultural activities are complemented by increased water supply for home and irrigation uses through improved water catchments, repaired water points using appropriate pump technology, and the installation of rooftop rainwater harvesting systems at 20 schools.

### The River Value: Converting Risk to Opportunities

- **Expanding opportunities for income generation.**
- **Increasing access to sanitation and clean water.**
- **Establishing local disaster risk management committees.**

Donor      USAID  
 Date        July 2009 – July 2011  
 Amount     \$1.8 million

This program works with riverside communities to create opportunities for income generation and to encourage healthy and sustainable water and sanitation practices. IRD’s extension workers identify successful techniques developed by local farmers and replicate them across the area. IRD is training and equipping masons who will install water wells and rainwater harvesting systems at schools and construct bio-sand filters.



### Food Distribution in Two Provinces

- **Distributed WFP food supplies.**

Donor World Food Program  
Date August 2009 – April 2010  
Amount \$123,052

When the harvests in Inhambane and Sofala provinces failed, IRD, with the support of WFP in three separate programs, stepped in to distribute staple foods to vulnerable families to tide them over until the next harvest.

### Drought Mitigation through Community Management of Water Harvesting Systems and Conservation Farming in Massinga and Funhalouro Districts

- **Community-based approach to mitigate the affects of cyclical droughts.**
- **Increase crop yields through run-off farming water harvesting and conservation tillage techniques.**

Donor USAID/OFDA  
Date January – May 2006  
Amount \$399,991

The project increased water availability through the construction of 14 cisterns in rural schools and improve captured water levels from eight water catchments. It also provided capacity training and hygiene promotion at each newly constructed water source. The program relied on community participation in partnership with local governments and community-level associations.

## Niger

### Food For Work Training

- **Implements food for work and farm-based income generation activities.**
- **Helps local NGOs respond to community needs.**
- **Increases vegetable and livestock production.**

Donor USDA  
Date 2007 – 2009  
Amount \$2 million

Community leaders selected women and men for participation based on the greatest needs; work

groups were rotated as appropriate to ensure that the largest number of families benefited from the food provided. The program reached more than 20,000 people in the Azawak and Tadress regions of Northern Niger. The program extension through 2009 focuses on sustainable small livestock and vegetable production.

## Serbia

### Serbia Agribusiness Project (SAP)

- **Builds capacity among the producer organizations and service providers that support Serbia's agribusiness sector.**
- **Works directly with businesses, developing their marketing skills and knowledge.**
- **Works with government agencies to educate producers on international market offerings.**

Donor USAID  
Date October 2007 – September 2012  
Amount \$2.2 million

This project will improve agricultural productivity, expand value-added agricultural processing, and open new export markets, specifically for berry fruits; dairy; herbs, spices, and mushrooms; livestock; tree fruits; and vegetables. The ultimate aim is to develop a Serbian "brand" for export markets, enhancing the competitiveness of Serbian producers and affirming their place in the international markets.

## South Sudan

### Sustainable Community Food and Livelihood Initiatives

- **Creates economic alternatives for returnees.**
- **Offers training in food preservation techniques.**
- **Makes clean water more widely available.**

Donor Sudan Recovery Fund/UNDP  
Date January 2009 – May 2010  
Amount \$3 million

IRD is working with county agriculture departments to help local farmers establish cooperative, demonstration gardens that will showcase a variety of crops and growing techniques. IRD is establish-



ing livestock cooperatives, which will receive training on animal health, veterinary services, livestock feed options, livestock water supply, and marketing of livestock products. IRD is also repairing and constructing boreholes with hand-pumps and constructing multi-toilet public latrine sites with hand-washing stations for schools, health centers, and markets.

### Return and Reintegration of Refugees through Livelihood Promotion in Upper Nile State

- Provides infrastructure for IDPs and refugees returning to Southern Sudan.
- Builds capacity of communities to absorb, accommodate, and cope with the influx of new residents.
- Enhances community conflict resolution and peace-building skills.

Donor UNHCR  
 Date May 2009 – December 2009  
 Amount \$571,369

This multi-donor, multi-sector program will rebuild health clinics and schools, train health personnel, provide livelihood materials such as agricultural and fishing tools and seeds, and enhance community conflict resolution and peace-building capacity, as well as increase the skills of local NGOs.

### Livelihood Recovery and Stabilization for Southern Sudanese Returnees and Receiving Communities in Upper Nile State

- Promotes agricultural diversification through community gardens and agronomic training.
- Helps receiving communities to absorb, accommodate, and cope with the influx of returnees.
- Develops community water points for crops and livestock.

Donor BPRM  
 Date March 2009 – February 2010  
 Amount \$499,750

Building off a UNHCR-funded project in 2006 and FAO- and WFP-funded activities in 2007, IRD supports the recovery and reintegration of some 21,500 returning IDPs and the communities receiving them in Upper Nile State of Southern Sudan.

The project expands livelihood opportunities and self-sufficiency by providing agricultural trainings and introducing community gardens and orchards and agricultural and fishing tools and seeds. It also offers community conflict management trainings.

## Swaziland

### Reduction of Drought Vulnerabilities in Southern Swaziland

- Uses community-based approach to break impact of cyclical drought patterns.
- Targets female farmers.
- Improves nutrition and income levels.

Donor USAID  
 Date May 2009 – May 2012  
 Amount \$4.1 million

A continuation of the program described below, this program expands farming training to include a voucher program to increase access to vegetable, sorghum, and legume seeds. It is also bringing new sustainable water pump technology to the target area, sharing messages about HIV prevention, and expanding the model of rooftop water harvesting systems at schools.

### Drought Mitigation through Community Management of Water Harvesting Systems and Conservation Farming

- Uses community-based approach to break impact of cyclical drought patterns.
- Increases water availability for human consumption.
- Increases farm yields through runoff farming water harvesting and conservation tillage techniques.

Donor USAID  
 Date September 2007 – March 2009  
 Amount \$400,000

IRD's drought mitigation program in Shiselweni and Lubombo is constructing engineered rainwater harvesting systems at 14 schools, and training farming households in conservation farming/tillage techniques and runoff water farming techniques. Hygiene promotion, HIV/AIDS awareness-raising, and the promotion of water demand management

techniques are essential additional components of the overall program, which will benefit an estimated 6,880 people.

## Zimbabwe

### Restoring Livelihoods – Strengthening Value Chains (REVALUE)

- **Helps groundnut and pea farmers increase their income.**
- **Works with local leaders and government AGRITEX extension workers.**
- **Supports value chain development.**

Donor      USAID  
Date        October 2009 – March 2011  
Amount     \$2 million

REVALUE supports 8,550 local farmers to increase production and commercialization of groundnuts and peas in Manicaland Province. The project is a partnership between IRD and Africa University, Cornell University, I-Train and Evaluate Center (i-TEC), and 10 Zimbabwean private-sector partners. Using a voucher system, IRD works with REDAN ProFoods, a national agro-dealer company, to revive the once vast network of agro-dealers and increase the access of vulnerable but viable farmers to agricultural inputs such as seeds, fertilizer, and tools.

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For more information, visit [www.ird.org](http://www.ird.org)

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