

Sustainable Food and Agriculture Systems



A farmer in Afghanistan.



Displaying vegetables in Chad.



Growing non-traditional crops in Niger.



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 August 2008 – December 2011
Amount \$4 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 provides 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 underlines the importance of farmer-to-supplier/supplier-to-farmer relationships. The system not only supports agriculture input access for crop production, but more intimately engages the supply market and farmer demand.

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

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 has distributed some 75 metric tons of prepackaged nutrient-fortified dehydrated vegetables to vulnerable children and HIV/AIDS-affected populations in rural Cambodia. The project has 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 has 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 2008 – May 2009
Amount \$896,402

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

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.



Mozambique

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

- Uses community-based approach to mitigate the affects of cyclical droughts.
- Increases 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 for human consumption 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 entirely on community participation in partnership with local governments and associations.

Women First Project

- Promote and foster community-based female entrepreneurs and to link them with private sector opportunities.
- Increase crop yields through run-off farming water harvesting and conservation tillage techniques.

Donor USAID/OFDA
 Date January 2006 - present
 Amount \$399,991

Building off a pilot project of 16 rural communities, Women First provides entrepreneurial training and support to women’s market groups and links them with private sector distributors of basic household consumption items. The project also provides health, nutrition and hygiene training to the groups. Products marketed via the Women First business methodology include nutrient- and protein-fortified foods, water treatment products, hygiene products such as soap, and other household and agricultural items. The project has been scaled-up to include some 1,110 female entrepreneurs.

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

Serbian 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

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 January 2008 – present
 Amount \$499,968

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

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 – present
 Amount \$400,000

IRD's drought mitigation program in Shiselweni and Lubombo will construct engineered rainwater harvesting systems at 14 schools, and train 200 farmer households in conservation farming/tillage techniques, and runoff water farming techniques. Furthermore, hygiene promotion, HIV/AIDS awareness-raising, and the promotion of water demand management techniques will all be essential additional components of the overall program, which will benefit an estimated 6,880 people.

For more information, visit www.ird.org
