

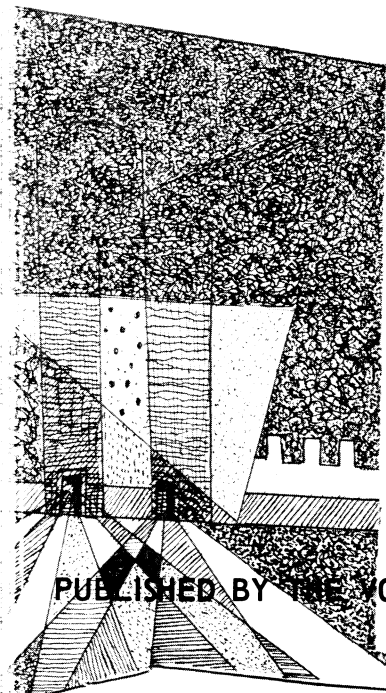
# RURAL DEVELOPMENT

## NEWSLETTER



DOCUMENT

NOT TO BE TAKEN OUT



PUBLISHED BY THE VOLUNTARY AGENCIES BUREAU - UNEP



• March / June 1975

## CONTENTS

	<i>Page</i>
African experiences - -	1
Ideas into actions -	5
L RCS and rural development in Africa - -	8
Development education -	19
News from the V A B - -	24

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RURAL DEVELOPMENT NEWSLETTER is a quarterly bulletin intended for all those who are concerned with rural transformation in Africa.

Additional copies of this periodical are available through the UNIC Centre(s) in your country or area.

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# **AFRICAN EXPERIENCES**

This is a new feature which we hope, with your co-operation, will continue as a permanent feature of this Newsletter. Under this generic title, we shall insert readers' accounts of their rural development experiences. We believe that this exchange of views and experiences will be of great benefit to all.

For this issue, our FAO/ECA Joint Agriculture Division has contributed a report on a project which was launched in Ghana a few years ago.

## **OPERATION FEED YOURSELF IN GHANA**

### **A STRATEGY FOR RURAL DEVELOPMENT**

#### **Background**

Following the change in government in January 1972, the Military Government of Ghana appointed commissioners to handle the programmes and policies of the various ministries, government sponsored organizations, and corporations. A reassessment of policies and developmental programmes resulted in the establishment of revised priorities. Greater emphasis was placed on agriculture, Ghana being predominantly an agricultural country. A national policy of self-sufficiency in as many economic and social areas as feasible was declared.

#### **Objectives**

The Operation Feed Yourself - popularly known as OFY - has, as its main objective, increased production to satisfy the demand of food for the rapidly growing population and for the factories that basically depend

on agricultural raw materials. A sideline but important aspect of OFY is diversification of agriculture and the earning or saving of foreign exchange through increased exports and/or import substitution. Thus the OFY campaign has three main phases:

- (a) to produce food to feed the people;
- (b) to produce raw materials for agriculturally-based industries, and there are quite a few in the country; and
- (c) to diversify agriculture with a view to avoiding over-dependence on one or two major commodities and increase exports to earn foreign exchange.

### The Programme and Its Implementation

OFY began by making all Ghanaians aware of the agricultural potentialities and resources, and by arousing keen interest and desire in the people to produce sufficient food to meet their own needs.

As the first phase the entire population was encouraged to turn backyards and lands around schools into farms and vegetable gardens. Backyard poultry increased in numbers. Enthusiasm was high and the demand for the services of extension workers was also high; and requests for production inputs were rapidly stepped up.

Phase II of the Operation consolidated the achievements of Phase I and offered an opportunity for tackling some of the problems of Phase I such as transportation, storage and marketing problems.

Phase II of this programme is known as "Operation Feed Your Factories", and is intended to lay the foundation for increased production of such crops as oil palms, cotton, bast fibres, coconuts, sugar-cane, groundnuts, etc. In order to maintain the enthusiasm generated throughout Phase I, effort is being made to strengthen the extension services and make them more effective, so that production inputs such as fertilizers, improved seeds and machinery services can be made more readily available; to make more attractive incentives such as marketing facilities and guaranteed minimum price, as well as make less cumbersome granting credit by financial institutions.

Farmers have been exhorted to increase their production of such staples as yams, cocoyams, plantains, millet and sorghum in addition to improving on their past production performance in rice, maize and cassava. In addition to placing emphasis on crops, livestock development, poultry, has also been encouraged during the first and second phases of OFY. More day-old chicks have been available for sale and, with the increase in maize production, the supply of poultry feed has become more regular and sufficient. Grain silos with a total capacity of 30,000 tons have been installed in the maize producing areas, thus solving one of the pressing problems of OFY.

Encouragement is currently being given to the production of raw materials to feed the existing factories. These are canning factories for spices, tomato puree and pineapples; oil extraction mills for palm oil, groundnut oil and coconut oil; sugar mills for sugar cane; textile mills for cotton; jute bag factory for kenaf and Urena lobata, and other bast fibres; tyre factory for rubber, and rice processing mills for the rice crop. It will be observed that emphasis has been placed on the production of other crops apart from the main export crop, cocoa.

Operation Feed Yourself was launched in 1972 by the Government of Ghana. The Ministry of Agriculture carries the responsibility for implementation of the programme. The institutional set-up consists of the various arms of the Ministry of agriculture; and the programme is organized at the national, regional and district levels. A Programme Control Unit has been established at the national level with responsibility for drawing up the programme and co-ordinating regional targets. It also ascertains farmers' requirements of production inputs and ensures that adequate import licences are issued to firms and trading organizations for the procurement of such farm requisites as hoes, cutlasses, tractors and accompanying equipment, outboard motors, fertilizers and other agricultural chemicals. There is also an Information and Intelligence Unit charged with responsibility for wide publicity and regular and frequent coverage of activities of the Ministry of Agriculture and farmers on radio, television, in the local dailies and also at community centres.

At the Regional Level, Regional Agricultural Committees, headed by Regional Commissioners and assisted by Assistant Directors of Agriculture, have been set up to co-ordinate requests for land, machinery, fertilizers and other inputs and to provide the general logistic support necessary for the achievement of the targets set. The Committee also organizes campaigns in support of the operation as well as competitions for merit awards to deserving farmers.

At the District Level, the Extension staff, directly under the supervision of the Assistant Directors provide advice and services to farmers to ensure that the targets are achieved.

#### Effects of OFY on Rural Population and the Economy

As a result of the enthusiasm generated, supported by the supply of inputs, supervised farm credit, improvements in and intensification of the extension service, price support schemes and organized marketing, farmers have, in general achieved increased production and increased their farm incomes. Evidence of this is seen in the increase in numbers of truck loads of foodstuffs particularly on market days. As one market woman put it "plenty of foodstuffs come on the market these days, so we have a lot to sell and the people also get sufficient to buy". Farmers and traders also confirm that they have comparatively large stocks of cereals (maize, sorghum, millet and rice) at a time when stocks are

generally at their lowest, that is before the next harvest. Production figures for 1972 and 1973 are given below. As regards increase in farm incomes, one could only infer this from conversations and also from the readiness and willingness on the part of farmers to improve and expand on their performance in the previous year. More tractor and other machinery operators have found jobs, particularly "way-side" fitters and mechanics. The basic foodstuffs are now available in sufficient quantities and at reasonable prices in most rural areas but not so reasonably in urban areas because of higher transportation costs.

Production (in tons)

Crop	1972	1973	% difference
Maize	396,000	422,000	+ 6.6
Rice	69,000	73,000	+ 5.8
Cassava	2,047,000	2,948,000*	+ 44
Millet	87,000	67,000	- 23 approx.

\* 1972 planted crop.

The programme has revitalized farming activities in the country and contributed to the improvement of some of the existing feeder roads. Block farming schemes have been undertaken for the production of staples such as plantains and groundnuts. Registered farmers and schools have been allocated plots of five acres (about two hectares) or more in the project area. Mechanized services, supply of inputs; supervised production credit and technical advice are centralized, and the marketing of farm produce is organized for the registered farmers.

Although there are indications of commendable achievements, the programme is considered to be really "starting". However, as a strategy for integrated rural development, which is what this article is attempting to evaluate, the programme is successful involving as it does financial institutions, the various departments of the Ministry of Agriculture, social welfare personnel, farmers' organizations, feeder road construction bodies, schools, trading firms, transport workers and drivers, "way-side" fitters and mechanics. The results have been visible in increased production, reasonable prices of the staples for the consumer in the rural areas, especially creation of employment opportunities in the rural areas, a great awareness of and incentive for continued development in the country as a whole - especially in the rural areas - and, above all, a sense of involvement of all segments of the population in national development.

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# ideas into actions



## Sussex Sherbro gets pipe borne water (Sierra Leone)

Sussex is an old seaside village in the western area of Sierra Leone, 14 miles from Freetown, the capital city. It is divided into two parts- Sussex (the upper section inhabited by Creoles) and Sussex Sherbro (the lower section inhabited by Sherbroes- an indigenous group. There is a class and ethnic disparity between these two areas as the Creoles value western education while the Sherbroes do not. The Sherbro village is divided into two secret traditional societies although they are Christians. Their total population is 130 of which only 8 out of 30 children attend school. The villagers are poor and rely on fish and coconut milk with cassava for their staple diet.

The problems of both village communities include the following:  
1) lack of a good water supply; 2) lack of toilet facilities; 3) lack of a good feeder road; 4) lack of a community centre; 5) lack of adequate knowledge of nutrition and personal hygiene. To solve these problems, several small projects were engineered with the assistance of local, national and international voluntary agencies. Such projects included the construction of a feeder road (to solve the problem of local transportation), the fencing of a village cemetery and the organization of a woman's group to educate themselves in nutrition, hygiene and village sanitation and to collect funds for a badly needed water supply system.

Through free labour volunteered by the villagers, money collected by the women's group and assistance provided by three international voluntary organizations: Catholic Relief Services (CRS), Co-operation for American Relief Everywhere (CARE) and Operation Crossroad Africa, water project was launched. In fourteen days, a 600-feet long ditch was dug amidst stones and other rough materials, and the pipes laid to serve two standpipes. The Guma Valley Water Company detailed the technicians required for efficient implementation and supervision of the project, and also contributed, free of charge, the standpipes and spouts needed.

The Ministry of Social Welfare of Sierra Leone assisted in the co-ordination of the various projects conceived by the Sussex Sherbro Community, while the groups mentioned, those locally constituted as well as the co-operating national and international agencies, participated in the planning, financing and implementation of the following projects:-

1. road project
2. sewing group lessons
3. nutrition demonstrations
4. sanitation lessons

These projects were all quite successful in introducing and implementing the idea and concept of self-help to the inhabitants of the Sussex Sherbro community by actively engaging them in beneficial programmes. This community is now planning to construct a community centre and toilet facilities. Sussex Sherbro Town is continuing to solve her problems through self-help.

### Community Government in Nigeria

In 1971, a new system of local administration known as the "Divisional Administration" was introduced in the East-Central State of Nigeria. Today, the basic unit of local administration in that region of the Federal Republic of Nigeria is the community council.

"Community Government" as it is known, has been defined as "the management of their own affairs by the people of a locality. It means, in practice, the splitting of a country or state into small units or localities for the purpose of administration, in which the inhabitants of each unit play a direct and full part, through their elected or selected representatives who exercise powers or discharge responsibilities under the authority and supervision of the central or state Government". <sup>1/</sup>

Under this Community Government system, the East-Central State has been divided into thirty-eight administrative divisions. There are in addition 640 community councils, having each one a defined area of authority and the responsibility for providing services at the community level.

Community councils are said to have accomplished self-help projects valued at about 9 million nairas (approximately 15 million US dollars) since

<sup>1/</sup> Cf. Community Government in the East-Central State, Official Document, No. 16 of 1974, page 5.

their inception in 1971. During the 1972/73 financial year, a total of 200 food-crop community farms, 63 poultry projects, 57 weaving centres, and 145 palm plantations were established by various community councils.

These undertakings include: a water project by Okwuato community council, a market development project in Ezi Centre, a postal agency, road construction and market development projects in Obodoukwu. 1/

1/ Information collected from OLU OBODO, the East-Central State Review, November/December 1974.

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# ***LRCS and Rural Development in Africa***

On the occasion of the recent LRCS Development Symposium, held at Montreaux, Switzerland, 1/ from 24 February through 8 March 1975, the Secretary-General of the League of Red Cross Societies, kindly gave the following interview to the Editor of your Bulletin

Mr. Henrik Beer, born in Stockholm in 1915, has been the Secretary-General of the League, since 1st October 1960. From 1947 to 1966, he served as Secretary-General of the Swedish Red Cross. He has also served as Convener and Chairman of NGO Assemblies on environment and is an Adviser to the UN Environment Programme.

The membership of the League, during his tenure of office, has increased from 86 to 122 National Societies, with individual Red Cross, Red Crescent and Red Lion and Sun membership, adult and youth, rising from some 157 to 250 million. Mr. Beer has been responsible for setting up the League's Red Cross Development Programme for the provision of assistance to newer Societies and those in process of formation in the newly-independent countries.

VAB : Thank you Mr. Beer for kindly agreeing to meet me and giving this interview. The Red Cross, on all continents and in most of the countries of the world, in war as in peace, has been a symbol of relief, extending its activities to countless individuals and groups

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1/ A brief report on the Symposium is presented in "News from the VAB" in this issue.

and representing millions of people of goodwill. Will you please, for the information of our many readers, give information on the International Red Cross: its history, structure, and activities ?

BEER : Yes, most certainly. I should like to thank you for affording me this opportunity to speak to the readers of your very useful Newsletter.

The International Red Cross is a term covering two international institutions with headquarters in Geneva, namely the International Committee of the Red Cross and the League of Red Cross Societies and, scattered throughout the world - 122 National Red Cross, Red Crescent and Red Lion and Sun Societies which are duly established.

Each of the two international institutions of the Red Cross has its own individual character, and their very different activities supplement each other: the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC), founded in 1863, is an independent and neutral institution composed of 25 Swiss citizens. It is the founder organization of the Red Cross and also the promoter of the Geneva Conventions. The ICRC intervenes as a neutral intermediary in armed conflicts on behalf of the wounded, sick, prisoners of war and civilians. The League of Red Cross Societies (LRCS), founded in 1919, is the international federation of Red Cross, Red Crescent, and Red Lion and Sun Societies. Its purpose is to facilitate the development of its member Societies at a national level, to co-ordinate their activities at an international level, and to encourage the establishment of new National Societies.

The National Red Cross, Red Crescent, and Red Lion and Sun Societies each has its own character; and their activities vary according to the needs of their country and population. The independence which they possess enables them to act without taking into account differences of race, religion and political opinion.

The ICRC's activities are briefly,  
At all times:

- Maintenance of the fundamental principles of the Red Cross
- Development of the international humanitarian conventions
- Recognition of national societies
- Forwarding of relief supplies
- Central Tracing Agency
- Preparation of medical personnel in the event of conflicts

In times of war, conflict and disturbance:

- Application of the conventions
- Relief of prisoners, civilian internees, etc.
- Visits to camps and presentation of reports to the Powers directly concerned
- Central Tracing Agency
- Civilian messages
- Relief supplies for victims of the war (foodstuffs, medicaments, clothing, books, etc.)

At all times, the LRCS:

- encourages and promotes in each country the setting up and development of a National Society;
- constitutes the permanent body ensuring liaison between the National Societies as well as co-ordination and research;
- co-operates with the National Societies in all their spheres of activity, particularly for the purpose of improving health, preventing sickness, etc.
- assumes the organization and co-ordination of emergency relief to victims of natural disasters and to refugees;
- watches over the development of programmes for the Junior Red Cross Sections;
- ensures the development of means of dissemination of information, recruitment of members and appeals for funds.

The activities of the National Red Cross, Red Crescent, and Red Lion and Sun Societies are,

At all times:

Acting as auxiliary services to the public authorities, the National Societies carry out their functions mainly in the following fields:

- relief to victims of natural disasters
- prevention of sickness and improvement of health

- training of nursing and first-aid personnel and other auxiliaries
- education of the young in the preservation of life and health, mutual assistance and international friendship

In times of war:

- adjunct to Military Medical Service, care of wounded and sick of the armed forces
- aid to prisoners and civilian internees
- transmission of civilian messages

The International Conference of the Red Cross, which is the highest deliberative authority of the International Red Cross, meets every four years. Representatives of Governments that are parties to the Geneva Conventions of internationally recognized National Societies, and of the ICRC and the League, take part in this Conference. The latest International Conference of the Red Cross was held in Teheran, Iran in November 1973.

VAB : What is the LRCS Development Programme - its background, objectives, present status and future role ?

BEER : Ever since the Red Cross was founded, mutual help among its members has been inherent, either through counsel or active assistance. The ICRC promoted the creation of National Societies from the beginning of the movement and, after World War I, the League was founded for the purpose of extending the Red Cross network around the globe. Today, of the 122 member Societies in almost an equal number of countries, many are well established, while others are in the process of development. Since 1963 special effort has been made to accelerate the growth of league membership and to enhance the quality of work of the newer Societies. From 1969 on, DEVELOPMENT has become a high-priority programme.

The aim of the Development Programme is to ensure that National Societies greatly in need of outside assistance in their development receive it. The Programme was launched following its approval by the Executive Committee of the League at its meeting in Geneva in 1962. Its establishment came as the culmination of five years of investigation of the most suitable way of ensuring that two basic responsibilities of the League were fulfilled. These are set forth in the Constitution as follows:

- (a) "... to encourage and facilitate at all times the humanitarian activities of the National Societies ..." (Article 3), and

- (b) "... to encourage and promote in every country the establishment and development of a duly authorized and independent National Red Cross Society ..." (Article 6).

With these responsibilities in mind, the problems of providing assistance for younger Societies were discussed in New Delhi in 1957.

Resolution XXII of the XIX International Conference referred in particular to this subject and is, perhaps, the specific resolution on which the programme is based. Much more remained to be done however, before substance could be given to the programme.

Financial limitations were an early concern, for at the 1959 meeting of the Board of Governors, held in Athens, National Societies were asked to finance missions and study visits through which technical assistance could be given.

It is obvious that progress remained less than satisfactory and the Board of Governors, in Prague 1961, took the concrete step of asking the Secretary General to examine the whole subject and report his findings to the Executive Committee at its 1962 meeting. He set up a Task Force: The Development Programme resulted from its very good report which was approved by the Executive Committee in 1962. The programme, therefore, dates from 1962.

A step of major importance was taken late in 1964 when an "Advisory Panel for the Development and Expansion of the Development Programme" was established. Prior to this event, the programme had gone forward through normal staff channels within the Secretariat and it became obvious that the importance of the programme demanded special treatment, and acceleration, if the many new Societies were to receive the help they needed so badly. It would appear also that there had been a feeling that the programme was a temporary expedient that might be needed for five years or so. The formation of the Advisory Panel may have been the beginning of recognition that the programme was not temporary in nature.

The history of expansion of Red Cross in recent years is pertinent.

1957 - Technical assistance was discussed; there were 73 recognized Societies.

1962 - Development Programme was approved; there were 90 recognized Societies.

1972 - There were 116 recognized Societies; in addition, there were some 20-25 countries without recognized Societies where the lack should be corrected.

There are many Societies that existed prior to 1962 which, for a variety of reasons, are in need of assistance. Obviously the need today is far greater than it was when technical assistance was first considered. Assistance to Societies has been provided in many forms:

Missions undertaken by senior representatives of the League or of other Societies. These have provided assistance in initial phases of the life of Societies and have been directed toward the recognition of a Society by its government, the establishment of a workable organization, interesting leaders in the community in Red Cross, paving the way for specific projects or programmes.

The provision of delegates. Red Cross experts have served with National Societies, for short or long periods of duty, to assist them in the running of the Society or to train their personnel in the handling of various programmes. In all cases, the aim of the delegate is to train the counterpart who will take over or train instructors who can then carry the instruction to classes in the country.

On occasions teams have been sent out rather than individual delegates in order that broader coverage might be provided more quickly. Youth teams have had conspicuous success in this role.

Financial assistance. Financial assistance is often required by developing Societies; and much help has been given in this way. (Demand always exceeds supply by a wide margin). Such assistance has been directed in the main to the establishment of much-needed activities such as nutrition and other training centres, health centres, rehabilitation centres, garden and poultry projects, health and sanitation projects, the production of training aids and equipment, provision of local staff to take over from delegates, resettlement projects, vocational training and recreational centres, blood programmes, day nurseries, and many others. Direct financial assistance has also been given to permit certain delegates, youth and adults, to attend seminars and other similar activities.

Material assistance. Material assistance has taken many forms: first aid equipment and kits, training equipment and manuals, ambulances and other vehicles, mobile clinics, blood transfusion service equipment and supplies, clothing, medical and surgical equipment and supplies, sewing machines, knitting machines, vocational training equipment, rescue boats and many others. The aim of material assistance is to enable Societies, as they become able to do so, to undertake programmes of benefit to those in need in their countries and to provide training for their volunteers and staff so as to establish themselves as effective Red Cross Societies.

Scholarships and study visits form an important part in the process of development of younger Societies for it is through them that competence can be raised both in the professions that are important in Red Cross work and in the more general aspects of Red Cross.

Seminars have been particularly useful since the earliest days of the programme. Youth seminars sponsored by countries in all parts of the world, and attended by thousands of young Red Cross workers, have added greatly to the strength of the movement and to international understanding. Already one sees the results of these seminars in the leadership of National Societies.

Regional Training Institutes approved by the International Red Cross Conference, Istanbul 1969, have become the principal, and probably the most promising, long-term means of assisting Societies in their development. They involve staff and volunteers from the region in the exploration and solution of Red Cross problems in fields of activity that are most appropriate to the region. The League finances them, assists local authorities in their design and planning, and provides resource persons to assist those who conduct the sessions.

Funds required by the League are provided, in the main, by voluntary contributions from National Societies. These have, so far, been quite inadequate to allow for the implementation of approved Plans of Action of League-financed portions of the programme. The Executive Committee, at its 1972 meeting, directed the Secretary General to approach National Societies with a strong appeal for far more generous and more regular support. It is to be hoped that this will be effective.

It is important to remember, also, that it is not only the donor Societies that carry the financial load; heavy costs accrue also to beneficiary Societies both in respect of individual projects and to support the advancement that results from them.

Finally, while there was probably a feeling originally that the Development Programme would not be a permanent programme of the League, it seems clear that it will be. To this end, the ad hoc panel that had guided the programme from 1964 was replaced by a formal Advisory Committee by the Board of Governors at its meeting in Istanbul in 1969, thus placing development on the same basis as the other programmes of the League.

VAB : Could you please tell us the purpose of the Symposium which just closed, who the participants were and the highlights ?

BEER : For many years now a number of separate actions have taken place. This has revealed a lack of cohesion and long range planning. During the institutes arranged by the League during the last years, a request was made by both African Societies and

the League staff for an evaluation of what had been achieved and to draw up plans for the future. This resulted in preparations for the Symposium:

As regards participants, they were firstly representatives who had been actively involved in the leadership of their Societies. This meant that you had a highly qualified active group of African Red Cross/Red Crescent Presidents, Vice-Presidents, Secretaries General, Treasurers General, or other high-level executive officers. A second category was distinguished African academic leaders, sociologists, economists etc., who had given time during the past year as leaders of the training Institutes mentioned. They had thereby both the independence of "outside" qualified experts, but with knowledge of the Red Cross. A third was a group of equally highly qualified representatives of the UN system, notably the ECA, who also contributed with basic papers, giving a most valuable new dimension to the work of the Symposium. A fourth was a selected group of leaders from those non-African Societies participating in the Development Programme, and interested in continuing to do so. Finally, a task force from the League Secretariat, some of them like the African Desk Officers for the preparation, but also including a Vice-President of the League, the Chairman of the Development Advisory Committee, the Secretary General, and representatives of major Sections of the Secretariat.

The highlights must be listed as follows:

A most interesting report, covering almost all fields of Red Cross activity, was presented on the last day - a proof of the very lively interest of participants, having worked in plenary sessions and groups.

- The need for more systematic short, medium and long-range planning, both on the League and National Society level. Co-operation, closer than before, but with respect for Red Cross special character, with inter-governmental institutions, governments, other organizations. Understanding for the fact that National Red Cross Societies are a part of their nations, and should be associated with national planning. A practical approach to co-operation with the UN at field level.
- Strengthening of the League's administrative resources for Africa, both in Geneva and in Africa.
- Africa to be treated as a unity. A deepened feeling of responsibility for the future of the Societies themselves - they are the League!
- Better, more simple and logical discussion of work between the League, the ICRC and the National Societies.

- Collective responsibility for the financing of the Development Programme.
- Specific interest in the betterment of National Societies' preparations for Disaster Relief, where the Red Cross has a unique position as the "fire-brigade", able, with support from Geneva and participating Societies, to react immediately.
- Special interest in training and advice for delegates, for relief and development - satisfaction that recruitment of delegates from African Societies has begun.
- A great interest in taking a more active and practical part in rural development in Africa.
- Accent on Youth-participation of Youth Red Cross also on the planning and policy level.
- A basic interest in problems of education and training.
- On a general level - a friendly, honest, free and open spirit both of solidarity and constructive criticism.
- and finally, a practical spirit - interest not merely in voting resolutions, but seeing a follow-up, resulting in a more efficient work as such by the Red Cross in Africa.

VAB : What will be the future activities of the League in Africa ?

BEER : We think that there is a great future for the Red Cross in Africa, both for positive and negative reasons.

To start with the negative ones: in many countries in Africa one does lack an organization of a non-political, humanitarian nature which has an ideal accepted by all religions and all political ideologies and which is created for the individual citizen so that he can better organize himself to help his fellowmen in the village, in the city, in the country, and if possible extend this help also to the outside world. If such an organization does not exist, it has to be created; for the needs are obvious. Another "negative" reason are the enormous needs for actual assistance, within the family, to the neighbour, to the greater community. Here the Red Cross first counts on the local forces, the hands and hearts of those who might be in as bad a situation as those who need assistance but still can help. But it could also call upon other units within the country and on international assistance.

But there are also positive elements which overshadow the negative ones. One is the freshness interest and dynamism of African youth. We have seen in some countries how the young people have more or

less taken command of the Red Cross - how they have created their own units, taken advantage of all the training offered them, used the material put at their disposal in an excellent way, and how they have found out that an international contact by a national organization, in the interests of peace and better understanding but notably also with practical procedures, is something they can work for.

There is also a growing interest and motivation by government leaders - notably those in the fields of health and social welfare. There has been the realization that a popular organization such as the Red Cross is fulfilling a useful role in the national plan and the national effort in specific field.

This also goes for the co-operation with the UN family, with the Economic Commission for Africa, with WHO, UNICEF, FAO, World Food Programme, the High Commissioner for Refugees, the UN Disaster Relief Co-ordinator, etc. Here one now sees better opportunities to create contacts and co-operation at the field level and this, in Africa, could be a source of mutual benefit. This is why we think, and we are specifically happy that the Symposium in Montreux gave rise to such thinking, that the Red Cross - if we do things rightly - has a great future in Africa.

VAB : What role can you foresee for the League to play particularly in the development of rural areas ?

BEER : It is an unfortunate fact that in most African countries, partly as a heritage from the old systems, the Red Cross was mostly an organization for the capital city and some major agglomerations. The main task, however, lies, as we now see it, in the rural areas. We have seen with great interest that the countries themselves supported by international organizations are giving more emphasis not only to agricultural problems, but to a general development of the rural areas. Here the Red Cross, which should be a part of the national pattern and national planning, should follow and in some cases, if they can, take the lead. Here I think the simplicity of the Red Cross approach, the human touch in creating motivation to do something, the easiness to get people to understand that the fight against insects, cleanliness in taking care of food, pushing practical possibilities to obtain abundant and clean water - that all these things do not need to await Government initiatives, if they can be solved by private initiative. Here those who now inspire rural development should use the Red Cross as one of their vehicles and help with imagination and constructive fantasy, to motivate the popular groups which already have an interest in problems concerning health and environment, to see to it that Red Cross develops quicker in rural areas. We, on our part, will do our very best to see to it that training courses, material for first aid and home nursing etc., will be adapted for use in rural areas.

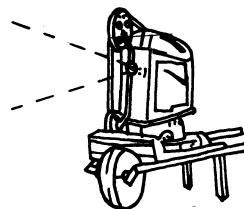
Our thanks go out to Mr. Henrik Beer for the highly illuminating responses - which, we are certain, our readers will find of interest.

It is perhaps not out of place to mention here that the value of total assistance provided by LRCS to African countries during 1972 and 1973 amounted to Swiss Fr. 5,728,562, for rural projects alone.

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# DEVELOPMENT EDUCATION



## JUNIC and Development Education

The Joint United Nations Information Committee (JUNIC), a new machinery established by the UN in 1974 to co-ordinate UN information efforts, is composed of representatives of the UN and all the Specialized Agencies. One of its working groups, entrusted with the promotion of development education and the diffusion of printed material, is preparing a draft UN plan of action to support and service national activities in the field of development education for the period 1975 - 1980, i.e. for the second half of the Second Development Decade.

FAO/Action for Development, the convenor of this working group, has reproduced in its bulletin 1/ a draft definition of development education which is worth considering. 1/

"The objective of development education is to enable people to participate in the development of their community, their nation and the world as a whole. Such participation implies a critical awareness of local, national and international situations based on an understanding of the social, economic and political processes.

"Development education is concerned with issues of human rights, dignity, self-reliance and social justice in both developed and developing countries. It is concerned with the causes of under-development and the promotion of a new inter-national economic order.

"The objectives of development education can be achieved through formal and non-formal education but in the formal context in particular these long-term objectives inevitably imply fundamental educational reforms. While the starting point will generally be an effort to introduce some elements of desired change into existing educational systems and processes, it cannot be expected that the goals of development education will be attained through the use of existing educational programmes, methods and materials which do not

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1/ Cf. Ideas and action/102.

keep the ultimate objectives clearly in view. The task requires the application of new concepts, new approaches and new techniques, emphasizing the social role of educational institutions and the establishment of new relationships between all those involved in learning situations."

Action for Development started in 1973 as a regional programme on the Role and Training of rural development agents in Africa. This original programme came to an end last December during a Consultation held in Tananarive. The interim reports on the programme, the provisional report summing up the findings of this two-year project, and the conclusions of the Tananarive consultation should be given careful consideration by all those concerned with rural development in Africa. A gist of the programme is presented in the Bulletin of FFA/AD. 1/

( \* )

#### Training for school drop-outs in Egypt

Last year, a project was launched in six Egyptian provinces, to train 25,000 school drop-outs yearly in the cotton industry, agricultural mechanization, building, poultry farming, etc. for the boys, and in knitting, weaving, sewing, tapestry, dairywork, etc. for the girls. Five ministries, namely Labour, Education, Industry, Higher Education and Social Affairs are co-operating in the implementation of this vocational training project. Assistance from the World Bank for this development education project intended to provide solutions to unemployment and lack of professionally qualified labour is planned to include technical equipment and expertise needed. It is envisaged that the project will expand until it covers all the provinces of Egypt.

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1/ Cf. Ideas and action/102

## AFROLIT Fourth Biennial Seminar

The Society for the promotion of Adult Literacy in Africa (AFROLIT) convened its fourth biennial seminar in Addis Abava, from 21 to 30 May 1975. Jointly sponsored by AFROLIT, the Ethiopian Ministry of Education, and UNESCO, the seminar considered in detail a theme which is closely related to the objectives of ECA's Development Education Programme. Literacy as non-formal education : multi-media supports for programmes for new readers (with emphasis on better family living) retained the attention of about 130 participants who, during plenary sessions and in discussion groups, considered ways and means of linking literacy campaigns with continuing education through mass media, for the benefit of new literates. The opening session of the Seminar was addressed, on behalf of the Executive Secretary, by the Head of our VAB, who drew participants' attention to the need for inter-agency co-operation in education programmes for new readers, and to the appropriateness of establishing national AFROLIT branches in order to foster co-operation in the field of adult literacy.

The findings and recommendations of this important gathering could be obtained from:

AFROLIT Society  
P.O. Box 72511  
Nairobi - Kenya

( \* )

"... To reach the village ..." is a UNESCO illustrated publication which reviews the efforts spent to foster rural press in African countries. Its 16 pages contain information on rural newspapers launched in Africa and intended to be instrumental as an extension to functional literacy. The briefs we have inserted in former issues of this bulletin on periodicals launched to provide reading materials for new literates 1/ could be considered as an introduction to what this booklet now presents in a more comprehensive way.

Copies of this interesting publication could be secured from UNESCO, Information Division, Paris.

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1/ Cf. RDN, Vol.II, No.1, pages 17-18 and No.2, pages 15-16.

New Paths to Learning for Rural Children and Youth is the title of a report prepared for UNICEF by the International Council for Educational Development (ICED) following an extensive research study. It examines how non-formal education - outside regular school systems - could cater for the essential learning needs of millions of rural children who have been educationally deprived in the developing countries of the world. It includes brief presentations of existing non-formal education programmes and 12 case studies from 11 countries.

Copies may be obtained from:

ICED Publications  
P.O. Box 601  
West Haven, Connecticut 06516  
U. S. A.

( \* )

Productive Farming, official journal of the Commercial Farmers' Bureau of Zambia is now publishing a monthly guide to farming step-by-step. It is intended to give the farmer a better understanding of agricultural technology, thus enabling him to insert himself in the commercial circuit. This monthly publication relies basically on the principle of on-the-job training: experienced farmers assisting their colleagues with the help of instructional material thus supplied. 1/

For more information please write to:

Commercial Farmers' Bureau  
P.O. Box 395  
Lusaka - Zambia

( \* )

The 23rd International Course in Rural Extension is organized this year in Wageningen, The Netherlands, by the International Agricultural Centre(IAC).

It allows an exchange of ideas and experience among people with differing backgrounds. It is a refresher-type course which keeps the participants

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1/ Information from IFAP Liaison Bulletin, Vol.XI, No.1, 1975.

abreast with new developments and insights in their field. Emphasis is now put on extension management, communication, target group identification, extension planning ... etc. The training method combines lectures, visual aids, group discussions, field-trips, workshops and a two-day visit to a local Dutch extension service.

Workers in rural areas can benefit from participating in this course. Fellowships from the Netherlands Government can be obtained to participate in such courses.

If you wish to participate in next year's course, you can secure additional information from:

The Director  
International Agricultural  
Centre  
P.O. Box 88  
Wageningen  
The Netherlands

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# NEWS from the VAB

## NGO-UNDP Field level collaboration

Commitment, a UNDP service bulletin for NGOs, reproduced, in its first issue for 1975, the operative sections of the recommendations for field level collaboration issued by non-governmental organizations to their national units and field staff, and those sent out by UNDP to its field offices. Both sets of recommendations are inserted here, because of their relevance to the principles which we have been advocating since the inception of our Voluntary Agencies Bureau.

### Suggested practices for NGO field staff

1. Designate a person from the NGO office to be responsible for continuing liaison with the government and agencies of the United Nations system.
2. Brief memos should be sent on a regular basis to government officials and United Nations contacts on new development projects, or their termination, noting successes or failures, problems, conditions, attitudes, etc.
3. NGOs should send memos to relevant government offices and United Nations system field offices on visits of their own consultants, experts, new staff, etc. - indicating how long they will be in the country, the projects they will be working on, and their special expertise.
4. NGOs should keep alert to opportunities to engage their members in governmental development programmes, such as UN system assisted workshops and training sessions held in conjunction with government projects. NGOs should encourage their members to apply through the proper government office.
5. The NGO Liaison Officer should make frequent reports to the Executive Board of the organization and to the international headquarters his organization may be affiliated with. It is the responsibility of international headquarters to resolve any field level problems with the appropriate United Nations Office.

6. It is mutually beneficial for international and national NGOs to report all successful contacts, so each may learn from the other.

#### Suggested practices for UNDP field offices

1. Draw up a list or inventory of NGOs engaged in development assistance work. A staff member should be assigned to establish and maintain contact with those NGOs providing significant technical assistance and development support activities.
2. When data exists, take account in your planning of the external assistance provided by non-governmental organizations. Where applicable, include this information in country programming documentation.
3. Keep NGOs informed of the Country Programme and forthcoming UNDP-supported project activities so that they may tailor their own activities appropriately. Make available to NGOs derestricted information that could assist them in their project work.
4. Advise NGOs of forthcoming training opportunities, workshops, and similar sessions in order that they may submit applications through their government.
5. When feasible, explore with governments and with NGOs potential inputs which NGOs might be able to apply to the country's development effort at research, planning, implementation and evaluation stages.
6. Keep Project Directors and staff apprised of NGOs that are supporting efforts and activities similar to their own. When possible, facilitate direct contacts between professional operative NGOs and appropriate UN system project staffs.
7. Encourage UN system agencies to keep you informed of their collaboration and contacts with non-governmental organizations; facilitate exchanges when opportune.
8. Take advantage of major NGO meetings and conferences to acquaint those present of UNDP-supported activities, including WFP projects, and to search out potentials for NGO inputs of ideas and resources.
9. Ascertain the types of informational materials that NGOs will find most useful for their development information and support activities.
10. Consult with the UN Information Centre on ways to increase communication with NGOs.

The implementation of these guidelines will entail successes and failures which could be recorded and forwarded to the UNDP - NGO Liaison Office, Room CN-300, United Nations, New York, N.Y. 10017. This new venture in co-operation between UN and the voluntary agencies' community will certainly be supported by all of you who are keen on mobilizing resources for development efforts.

Your bulletin welcomes any comments you would wish to make on these suggestions, and/or any communication related to their implementation.

( \* )

13 African countries participate in a Commonwealth Ministerial Meeting on Food and Rural Development

In March 1975, ministers and senior officials from 33 Commonwealth countries, including Botswana, The Gambia, Ghana, Kenya, Lesotho, Malawi, Mauritius, Nigeria, Sierra Leone, Swaziland, Tanzania, Uganda and Zambia, met in London to seek ways of increasing food production and accelerating development in rural areas.

While food production was taken to include fisheries and forest output, it was emphasized that developing Commonwealth countries should strengthen and adapt their institutions for rural development, by encouraging co-operatives and other community undertakings, by paying particular attention to land reforms, to inputs such as water and fertilizers, to the pricing of farm products and to helping farmers to improve their techniques. The meeting recommended that a new division concerned with rural development be established within the Commonwealth Secretariat, and that the Commonwealth Fund for Technical Co-operation (CFTC) should promote exchange of information and assist with the expertise needed to raise food production.

Additional information could be obtained from:

Commonwealth Secretariat  
Information Division  
Marlborough House  
London S.W.1  
U.K.

( \* )

• AARRO Fifth General Session, February - March 1975

Among the topics for discussion submitted to the participants to the Fifth General Session of the Afro-Asian Rural Reconstruction Organization (AARRO) held in Manila, The Philippines, the following two items deserve special attention:

1. Problems in the field of agro-based industries faced by the rural communities in the Afro-Asian countries.
2. Special problems of the small artisans and handicrafts men in the Afro-Asian countries.

The background papers related to both items contain, inter alia, developments quite relevant to common concern about the need to facilitate and develop the exchange of information, and the sharing of knowledge. Due to lack of space, we cannot reproduce even excerpts from those documents. We would, however, recommend their substance to whoever is interested. The resolutions and recommendations of this Fifth AARRO General Session are not yet available to us for insertion in this bulletin. But we feel that you can secure copies of both the working documents and the recommendations if you write to:

The Secretary General  
AARRO  
C. 117/118  
Defence Colony  
New Delhi - 3  
India

( \* )

OLC inaugurates its "Rural Development Network Bulletin"

The Overseas Liaison Committee (OLC) of the American Council on Education has recently launched a Rural Development Network Bulletin which aims at "facilitating inter-regional contacts among scholars, researchers, administrators and practitioners involved in rural development activities throughout the world".

Issue No.2 of this new periodical (April 1975) provides its readers with information on the current and projected research programmes of selected social science research institutes in Africa. It is envisaged that issue No.3 will follow suit, while No.4 will include information on institutes in Asia, and No.5, on research centres in Latin America and the Carribean.

Besides short descriptions of current research and project proposals, the contents of the bulletin will include briefs on innovative rural

development projects, a bibliographical section, and another one on . . .  
"publications available" listing non-price materials which could be of  
interest to rural development practitioners.

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In the series of its Field Trips/Workshops which were launched in Ethiopia in 1973 <sup>1/</sup>, OLC has organized in Senegal and Mali, from 3 to 14 February 1975, a Field Trip/Workshop on "the drought in Africa: development projects" which was attended by 40 French- and English-speaking participants. The last two days of the workshop afforded the participants an opportunity to present, during what was called the Mianing Dialogue, their recommendations to the representatives of the funding agencies.

RDN Bulletin, the report of "The Drought in Africa" Field Trip/Workshop, as well as other papers and documents submitted to the 1973 and 1975 OLC meetings could be obtained from:

Dr. Shirley K. Fischer  
Director, Overseas Liaison Committee  
American Council on Education  
1, Dupont Circle  
Washington, D.C. 20036  
U.S.A.

( \* )

#### LRCS African Red Cross Development Symposium

The League of Red Cross Societies organized in Montreux, Switzerland, from 24 February to 8 March 1975, a Development Symposium for the African Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies. It was intended to review and evaluate the League's Development Programme in Africa, which had been in operation since 1963, and to enable the League planning its future activities in Africa in a realistic and objective way. At the request of the League, our ECA/VAB experts assisted in the organization of this important meeting, and contributed two working documents on the role of voluntary organizations in African development, and on Constraints on Development, while the Chief, Human Resources Development Division, was the moderator of the Symposium during its second Forecast week.

Although the League's Development Programme, in its first decade, was generally assessed as acceptable and useful, some of its aspects were criticised: selection of League's delegates (experts/advisers) sent to National Societies, material assistance sent without prior consultation with the receiving society. The future requires a revised and improved version of the Development Programme in Africa, which should be based on a more rational distribution of resources through appropriate

<sup>1/</sup> Cf. RDN, Vol.II, No.4, December 1973, page 18.

planning at the level of the national societies and of the League's Secretariat, on an expanded training programme, on systematic evaluation, on a stronger Africa desk at the League's Headquarters as well as on regional offices to be established in Africa, etc.

Information related to the Symposium, its working documents and final report could be obtained from:

The League of Red Cross Societies  
17, Chemin des Crêts  
Petit Saconnex  
1211, Genève, 19  
Switzerland

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ASDEAR : a new association and a new bulletin in Tunisia

The Association for Rural Development and Animation (Association pour le développement et l'animation rurale - ASDEAR) came officially into being on 24 February 1975 when it was recognized by the Tunisian Government. It is, however, a continuation of what used to be the Oecumenical Service in Tunisia (Service Oecuménique en Tunisie - SOET), a WCC-sponsored agency, which has been, since 1966, active in the field of rural development, complementing the efforts spent in training development agents, technical assistants and social workers, carrying out projects for the handicapped and for flood victims, and fully participating, since 1973, in the rural development programme of the country.

SOET was also publishing a bulletin, Informations Oecuméniques (IO) which was instrumental in keeping all those concerned - its team members and field officers, their Tunisian counterparts and other officials with whom they had developed close working relations, and the funding agencies in Europe - informed of what was being done in Tunisia in the field of rural development. I.O. issued 66 times in the span of five years. It has now been handed over to the new association and is published, since March 1975, under a new name: ASDEAR. Its contents are varied and interesting, because its editorial board endeavours to present national facts and data to the outside world, and also information to its Tunisian readership on what is being done beyond national boundaries.

ASDEAR, as an association and a bulletin, should be commended for their efforts because they are quite aware of the need to ensure a double-way flow of information, in order to sustain the interest of officers involved in rural development projects, and to give them the opportunity to air their views, problems and experiences. In this respect, we find the second issue of ASDEAR going a step further on the path of useful exchange of information, as it has included, for the first time, a feature in Arabic, the language of the rural people. This could mean that ASDEAR

is intending to address itself not only to its field staff, but to the people themselves without whose participation rural development cannot succeed.

For more information, please write to:

The President  
ASDEAR  
10, Rue Eve Nohelle  
Tunis, Tunisia

( \* )

KAF Conference on conditions, methods and instruments for rural development

The Konrad Adenauer Foundation (KAF), convened in Nairobi, Kenya, from 2 to 16 April 1975, a conference on rural development for its representatives in Africa and Asia. The main objectives of the meeting were:

1. to supply its field officers with basic information on new development and theories in the field of rural development research;
2. to redefine its rural development policy, and adapt it to the prevailing needs, in the light of its possible means of intervention.

KAF assumes that national non-governmental organizations have an important role to play in the socio-economic development of their countries. Therefore, its action is based on assisting these organizations to foster self-help and self-reliance, provided, inter alia, their action is closely related to national development plans.

The participants in the Nairobi meeting recommended that handicrafts and small-scale industries in the rural areas should be one of the sectors where KAF should concentrate its assistance.

A senior ECA/VAB expert was one of the resource persons at this KAF conference.

For further information, please contact:

The Institute for International  
Partnership  
K.A.F.  
Platanenweg 39  
5300 Bonn-Beuel  
Federal Republic of Germany

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