

**Final Evaluation
Refugee Food Security - Rights Based Approach
CARE Sierra Leone**

Evaluation and Recommendations

Commissioner: CARE Sierra Leone

**Agro Eco
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Colophon

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Abbreviations

EFA	Environmental Foundation for Africa
FGD	Focus Group Discussion
GAA	German Agro Action
HHS	Household Survey
LRRD	Linking Relief, Rehabilitation and Development
MAFS	Ministry of Agriculture and Food Security
NaCSA	National Commission for Social Action
ProFARM	Promoting Food Access, Rights and Community Mobilisation (CARE project)
RFS-RBA	Refugees and Food Security, a Rights Based Approach
UNHCR	United Nations High Commission for the Refugees

Preface

It was a pleasure to work on this final evaluation of the RFS-RBA project. I hope that some of the findings will contribute to a wider discussion about the CARE strategy and future projects. I thank in particular the refugees and host community members for the enthusiastic discussions – even though they will not read this report. I thank Alex Macoverey, M&E Officer of RFS-RBA, and Thomas Luceni, CARE driver, for the good company during the field visits. I also should thank Samuel Abu Kargbo, Field Agent, and Solomon Khan, Monitoring Agent, who did the household survey interviews, and Massa Benya, project secretary, for the data entry. Thanks to the good teamwork we managed to include a household survey that was not foreseen. Other CARE staff I would like to thank: Tedla Assefa, Project Manager RFS-RBA; Mamy Musa, Assistant Project Manager RFS-RBA; Ahmed Ag Aboubacrine, DM&E Coordinator; Amani M’Bale, Youth and Livelihoods Coordinator; and Garth Van’t Hul, Assistant Country Director; and the other CARE staff that contributed to the discussions in the field and during the restitutions in Bo and Freetown.

The EU is acknowledged for the financial support of the RFS-RBA project in general and for this evaluation in particular.

Guide to the reader

I followed the outline as recommended in the CARE Evaluation Policy¹, which means that in the short main text you will find a very brief introduction with the objectives of this review, followed immediately by the principle findings. This allows the reader to get to the conclusions quickly without having to go through the detailed methodology and detailed results. In the Annexes, the original terms of reference, the detailed methodology and the detailed results are presented. This allows the interested reader to (among other things) follow in a transparent way how the project beneficiaries and project partners have indeed contributed to these conclusions. In addition, the reader may want to draw his or her own conclusions.

¹ CI Evaluation Policy (050428)



Executive summary

The CARE project 'Refugees and Food Security – a Rights Based Approach' (RFS-RBA) supported refugees and host community members in improving food security, reducing negative environmental impact, reducing conflict among refugees and between refugees and host communities, and increasing participation of marginalised groups. The project worked in 4 camps and 55 host villages in 3 chiefdoms of Sierra Leone, from July 2004 to July 2007.

The objectives were to evaluate project achievements, to formulate recommendations, and to build capacity of CARE staff in M&E. Focus group discussions and a household survey were held in 4 camps and 5 villages. Discussions were held with staff of the Ministry of Agriculture and Food Security, UNHCR, the National Council for Social Action, and CARE.

The project has been effective in improving food production, reducing conflict and increasing participation of marginalised groups. The project effect in reducing negative environmental effects has been modest. The project was technically, economically, socio-culturally and politically sustainable: beneficiaries continue the improved practices, which fit in the national policy. The environmental sustainability is low because the project effect was limited. The institutional sustainability is low, because one partner pulled out during the project, and the Ministry of Agriculture has limited capacity to continue this level of support. The National Commission of Social Action will continue to support refugees and host communities, but communities indicated they don't know where to seek support after the CARE project stops.

Recommendations for similar projects targeting refugees and host communities were made. Before starting activities, do a survey of suitable land, of environmental impact, of refugees' preferences, and of practices to solve problems. Use the same approach, combining agricultural production with group work and joint activities for refugees and host communities. Supply seed timely. Use seed from national sources. Set up seed banks that are replicable. Support persons who are less able to work in agriculture. Expand support to marketing, other skills training and micro credit. Adopt natural tree regeneration as a cost-effective way to mitigate future projects' negative impact on environment.

A large number of Liberian refugees intend to stay in Sierra Leone. The Sierra Leonean government plans to close down the camps and assist refugees to settle in host communities. There is a need to support this integration. UNHCR plans a 1,5 – 3 year project and is interested to work with partners such as CARE.

A couple of recommendations are made for CARE Sierra Leone in general. Move from a supply driven approach to a demand driven approach, whereby communities formulate their needs and work more motivated for 'their' project. Link communities to other service providers, including local, decentralised government, other NGO and even other donors.

One M&E Officer has participated in this evaluation and acquired knowledge and skills about evaluation methodologies (identification indicators) et techniques (data entry and analysis).



Introduction

CARE Sierra Leone

The Country Office's long range mission statement is to: address the root causes of poverty and suffering through capacity building, advocacy and partnership in order that vulnerable, disadvantaged and marginalized people are empowered to participate effectively in achieving livelihood security and realizing their right to live with dignity.

CARE Sierra Leone has been implementing a wide array of development interventions in Sierra Leone over the past decades focusing primarily on food security, building and road infrastructure, water and sanitation and preventive health care. During the civil war, interventions were mainly relief oriented. Since the official end of the war in 2002, CARE Sierra Leone has successfully transitioned its programmers from relief oriented to developmental focus.

What this means for current projects and especially for new projects is that the project approaches gradually move away from free distribution of food, seed or other inputs and move towards strategies that can be continued and replicated on a larger scale after project closure. These more sustainable strategies may include e.g. setting up revolving fund schemes and collaborating with national institutions as project partners.

The RFS – RBA Project

The project 'Refugees and Food Security – a Rights Based Approach' (RFS-RBA) aimed at supporting about 26,000 refugees and 13,000 host community members in improving food production and nutrition, reducing negative environmental impact, reducing conflict among refugees and between refugees and host communities, and increasing participation of marginalised groups. The project works in 4 camps and 55 host villages in 3 chiefdoms of Sierra Leone, from July 2004 to July 2007.

The RFS- RBA Logical Framework, the revisions, the proxy indicators and indicators as used in this evaluation, are presented as Annex 2-2, under 'Detailed Methods'.



The Objectives of this Evaluation

These objectives include the main elements of the Terms of Reference and the outcome of the discussion with Gert Van't Hul, Ahmed Ag Aboubacrine and Amani M'Bale in Freetown before starting the evaluation.

1. Evaluate project achievements:
 - a. Effectiveness: the achievement of the specific objectives
 - b. Sustainability: will benefits continue after project closure
 - c. Relevance: are project achievements in line with priorities of beneficiaries, government policy and CARE programming principles
 - d. Impact: a first simplified indication of project contribution to overall objectives
 - e. Efficiency: a simplified attempt to compare farmers benefits with project costs.
2. Formulate recommendations:
 - a. For similar project targeting refugees and host communities
 - b. For follow-up support to Liberian refugees staying in Sierra Leone
 - c. For the CARE strategy in general
3. M&E Capacity building in CARE:
 - a. RFS staff participation in the evaluation process; build the capacity of one M&E Officer in understanding those tools.
 - b. Document all the methodology and tools as an annex of the final report.
 - c. Make comments and recommendations on the project M&E system.

Principal findings

Following the objectives of this evaluation presented in the introduction, the principle findings are listed below.

1. Project achievements

a. Effectiveness

Number of beneficiaries

The absolute numbers of beneficiaries that were reached by this project, for each of the project activities, were not assessed in this final evaluation. These figures are available in the progress reports (2004-2005 and 2005-2006), which will be completed by a last and cumulative final progress report (or final project report) by the Project Manager in July 2007. Nevertheless, an internal evaluation report, written by Musa Mamy and Alex Macoverey in May 2007, already gives some interesting figures.

In the original logical framework, the target group was composed of 26,000 refugees in 4 camps and 26,000 host community members in the surrounding villages. In the revised logical framework, the number of targeted host community members was reduced to 13,000. The project document foresaw two scenarios. In the first scenario, the number of 26,000 refugees in the camps would remain stable during the project. In the second scenario, a significant number of refugees would return to Liberia during the course of the project, in which case project activities would focus more on host communities.

Scenario 2 has proven right: many refugees have returned to Liberia. At the time of this final evaluation, about 10,000 refugees were present in the 8 camps (of which the RFS project works in 4). According to the internal evaluation, 14,742 refugees and 13,869 host community members have been involved in RFS project activities. Considering the revised target and the second scenario, the RFS project has reached its target number of beneficiaries.

The figures presented in the detailed results of this evaluation are based on the results of the household survey, and are presented as 'percentage of interviewed households' or 'percentage of interviewed people'. However, the quantitative results from the household survey should receive less emphasis than the qualitative results from the focus group discussions. First of all, the sample of the household survey was small (16 households in supported camps; 16 hh in supported host villages; 6 hh in non-supported camps and 10 hh in non-supported host villages) and a few questions may have been misunderstood. Secondly, during the focus group discussions, because beneficiaries had the opportunity to explain their opinions and the reasons behind these opinions, and we had the opportunity to ask more if things were not clear to us.



General changes over the last 3 years

When asked about the general changes that have occurred to their lives over the last 3 years, both refugees and host-villagers mention that life has improved since the RFS project started. Most mentioned is the increased food production, followed by the improved availability of groundnuts and vegetable seed, and the received training in agriculture, nutrition, and production of compost and natural pesticides.

Besides, both refugees and host-villagers mention that there is more peace now due to a better awareness of unity and peace and rights.

The only 'negative' effect of the RFS project, mentioned by one chief in a host village, was that the chief now receives less income from fines, because the RFS project's efforts to resolve problems without levying fines. For sure most other villagers find this a positive effect.

There were a few disappointments about the project. The most important one, mentioned in both camps and villages, was the late supply of seeds (2004 and 2005). Refugees hoped to receive training certificates that may help them finding a job later on. In one camp, refugees had made proposals for a youth group and a women group, which were not supported by RFS.

Effect on food production, consumption and sales

Beneficiaries views

Camps

In the camps some refugees say production has increased (and some even sold seed to CARE), whereas others say it decreased. Against a background of gradually decreasing food aid in the camps, production initially increased with seed support from the project, but then decreased again because of the refugee's uncertainty about how long they will stay in the camps.

The household survey confirms this mixed picture: most refugees (88%) say food production had increased, but when asked in detail about their rice and groundnut production, this seems to have decreased.

As for food production, refugees give a mixed picture of the trend in food consumption. With on the one hand a gradual decrease of food aid, and on the other hand a diversified food production with more groundnuts and cassava, some refugees now eat less, some eat more, and most eat the same number of meals per day.

The household survey further shows that the number of refugees selling produce has not really changed. Compared to the baseline, sales seem to have decreased – probably due to the decreased food aid. I expect that the production increase only partly compensated for the decreased food aid.



The vast majority of refugees received agricultural training, seed and tools.

Villages

In the host villages, all say that food production has increased, thanks to the RFS project support in seed and tools, and thanks to the work in groups on collective fields, which farmers say is more productive than individual work. The household survey confirms this food production increase. Rice and groundnut production seems to have increased by about 70%, from 10 bags of rice and 3 bags of groundnuts in 2004, to 17 bags of rice and 5 bags of groundnuts in 2006.

In all host villages, people say that food consumption has increased, due to RFS support, especially rice seed and cassava processing. The household survey confirms the increased consumption (88% of the households eat more).

According to the household survey, now more villagers sell surplus product, although the comparison with the baseline does not confirm this.

The majority of interviewed villagers received training (69%), seed (94%) and tools (94%).

Partners' views

Food production has indeed increased in the RFS-supported camps (UNHCR, NaCSA, MAFS). Refugees have even been selling food, to host communities and even to NGO such as CARE and German Agro Action (GAA) (UNHCR, NaCSA). The supported food production may even explain why some refugees want to stay (NaCSA).

CARE staff views

The comparison between the RFS-supported camps with their host villages, and the other visited camp (Bandajuma) with their host village (Bandajuma Sowu), is complicated because this other camp was supported by another NGO (German Agro Action), also supplying agricultural support. So we don't expect to see a difference in production between places 'with CARE support' and places 'without CARE support'. All 8 camps received some support from the EU-funded 'Linking Relief, Rehabilitation and Development' (LRRD) programme, even if it was not from CARE.

Besides, some differences in production between locations can be explained by other factors. Gerihun and Jembe are diamond areas where people are less interested in agriculture. In Taiama town, people are more educated and less interested in agriculture, according to CARE field staff. Tobanda area has fertile soils, favourable for rice and groundnuts and is therefore more involved in agriculture. The refugee camps Taiama, Gerihun and Jembe are close to the tar road. Refugees in these camps tend to sell more, even seed, and farm less. In the GAA-supported Bandajuma camp, rice production is higher than in the RFS-supported camps. This could be due to the much larger amounts of rice seed given by GAA.



Personal addition

I now realise that it is difficult to appreciate the project achievements in the refugee camps, where most project beneficiaries have left, and where the remaining beneficiaries, a selective group, are uncertain about their future (go back to Liberia, move to host villages, or stay in the camp). Nevertheless, I think that even with the current dip in food production and consumption during this uncertain period, the project support will have some longer-term benefits for the refugees, wherever they end up settling.

Effect on nutrition

Beneficiaries' views

All refugees and villagers say they eat more vegetables than before, mainly due to the availability of vegetable seed, and to a lesser extent due to the nutrition training and to the work in women groups. The household survey confirms this. The majority (56% of the refugees and 69% of the villagers) says that they eat now more vegetables than before. All eat at least vegetables 2-4 times a week; the majority (60% of the refugees and 88% of the villagers in the rainy season) eat vegetables every day. In contrast, during the baseline survey, only a minority (37% of the refugees and 30% of the villagers) ate vegetables every day.

The main problem encountered was that the first distributed vegetable seed was imported, of a poor quality, and sometimes of species that were not preferred. Later, local vegetable seed was supplied that performed better.

The majority of both refugees and villagers that were interviewed received vegetable seed (88% and 100%), training in nutrition (88% and 75%) and training in vegetable growing (88% and 69%).

CARE staff views

Indeed, the first lot of imported vegetable seed performed badly. The last lot came from the seed multiplication farm in Makeni (Sierra Leone), and performed better.

Effect on the environment

The RFS project supported 3 different specific activities to reduce the negative effect on the environment, supported by a more general awareness raising about the environment: 1) lowland rice cultivation, which not only increases food production but also reduces the pressure on upland (shifting cultivation); 2) tree planting; and 3) the use of the fuel-efficient 'eco-stoves'.

Beneficiaries' view

Both refugees and villagers say there is an increase in rice cultivation in swamps, because of the project training, because the availability of upland is decreasing, and because it gives higher yields. Some refugees say there is still insufficient swamp available to them. The household survey confirms the increase in lowland rice cultivation (56% of the refugees and 94% of the villagers cultivate rice in swamps), also in comparison with the baseline survey (15% and 32% respectively). Most farmers are involved in collective rice cultivation (35% of

the refugees and 69% of the villagers), but many farmers cultivate in swamp that is not yet under improved management - water management with dikes (25% of the refugees and 63% of the villagers). The vast majority of refugees (93%) and villagers (94%) are member of a project-supported agricultural group, and most have also received training in rice cultivation (60% and 88% respectively) and rice seed (75% and 100% respectively).

Most farmers and refugees have planted some trees, as windbreak or for shade, motivated by training and to compensate for the cut trees. The sales of wood and charcoal has increased according to some and decreased according to others. The fact that refugees are leaving reduces the pressure on wood.

All refugees and some villagers appreciate the fuel-efficiency of the eco-stove. Other advantages are that it can be used with both wood and charcoal, and that if charcoal is used, it produces less smoke and more heat. The main problem with this type of eco-stove is that it does not support water, which is a problem in the rainy season, and that it is breakable and difficult to move. Many said they do not use it now, during the rainy season. Many villagers don't experience a firewood shortage (yet) and are used to the traditional 3-stone fire. Nevertheless, the household survey shows that a majority of both refugees (69%) and villagers (63%) uses the eco-stove. Most refugees (63%) and half the villagers received training on how to make an eco-stove.

Partners' view

A few general comments, not related to the RFS project. The negative environmental impact of the refugee camps in general is huge (MAFS, UNHCR and NaCSA).

Part of the problem is that no environmental impact assessment was done before setting up the camps. This was because the camps for Liberian refugees succeeded the camps for Sierra Leonean IDP. Therefore, the pressure on natural resources has been too high. After camp closure, an impact assessment will be done soon, followed by a rehabilitation plan (NaCSA). A better investigation of the habits of the refugees (e.g. Liberians typically use charcoal) could have steered the environmental activities.

The tree-planting efforts by the RFS project have been very modest (NaCSA and MAFS).

CARE staff's view

Indeed, not too much environmental impact can be expected from the RFS project, for a number of reasons. The project partner EFA (Environmental Foundation for Africa) was supposed to work a lot on environmental issues, but they pulled out halfway the project. The CARE response to EFA pulling out was perhaps poor. Rather than allocating more staff to environmental activities, to compensate EFA's pull-out, the RFS environmental officer directed his time more to training and food production. More in general, the project assigned more staff to other areas (food production, training, conflicts) than to environmental issues. The RFS project made an effort in awareness raising, through environmental action groups, and in tree planting. Sometimes refugees were poorly motivated and asked for incentives to participate in any activity (training, action groups).

There was no environmental impact assessment done of the specific RFS activities before the project started, but many activities, including promoting lowland rice, were meant to reduce

negative impact of the camps. Some refugees who have been trained have left the camps, reducing the effect of the project efforts.

The low usage of eco- stoves during the rainy season can be explained by the little space refugees have in the camps, and by the fact that much cooking is now done in the field.

Personal addition

I think that the project did well in giving food production and conflict resolution a higher priority than environmental issues.

I think it was a very good idea to promote a type of eco-stove that people can make themselves. However, giving the disadvantages (does not support water; breakable), the project could consider introducing a different, more durable type of eco-stove – either home made as well, or locally made in a metal workshop. The metal types that are currently popular in the rural areas of India and China cost about 8-10 US\$.

Assisting natural regeneration of trees is much more effective and cheaper than planting trees. You may want to plant trees of some valuable species (e.g. fruit, rubber, medicinal uses) that don't regenerate easily, close to the house where trees are well taken care of. But for the rehabilitation of degraded bush land, and for the provision of firewood, I would not recommend to plant trees, but to organise and train farmers in forest regeneration. This has been successful in Mali and should be much easier to do in Sierra Leone because of the more favourable climate and the abundant tree re-growth.

Effect on conflict resolution

Participants' views

Among refugees within the camp

In all camps refugees said conflicts among refugees have been reduced. The household survey confirms this (100% of the refugees say conflicts have reduced). When refugees had just arrived in the camps, there were many conflicts related to the distribution of food / non-food items. Conflicts have reduced because distribution is more fair, many refugees have left, and because of some peace building efforts, also by other NGO (e.g. a workshop peace building by Christian Children's Fund). Besides, some now spend their energy on agriculture or vegetable growing, and this also reduces conflicts. Finally, many refugees have left, reducing tension in the camps.

Between refugees and host communities

Refugees in all camps and villagers in all host communities say unanimously conflicts have been reduced and that there have been no recent conflicts between camps and host community. The household survey confirms this (100% of the refugees and the villagers say conflicts have reduced). The conflicts that arose previously were often related to the access to land, cutting of wood, illegal harvesting of other one's harvest, and selling on the local market. The main reason for this reduction in conflict is that there is now more clarity of where refugees can go for land and wood, and that refugees now ask the host community



leaders first before using land or wood. This clarity has come gradually by more interaction between refugees and hosts, and by some mechanisms put in place by NGO (including CARE) to facilitate communication and explanation of rights, roles and responsibilities (see next section). Besides, intermarriage has also improved relations between host and refugees.

Partners' views

The RFS project used a participatory planning and trained the beneficiaries on peace and conflicts. This has helped avoiding and resolving conflicts (NaCSA).

Effects on mechanisms for conflict resolution

Beneficiaries' views

Refugees and villagers explain that conflicts have reduced by, among other factors, the mechanisms put in place for interaction between refugees and hosts and for conflict resolution.

Some mechanisms are put in place in all camps, e.g. the refugee authority, the chair committee, the grievance committee, the distribution team, the camp executive, camp management, NaCSA and UNHCR.

The RFS project has made additional efforts by organising training on conflict resolution and organising events jointly for hosts and refugees: Peace & Right Days, Festive Days & Seed Fairs, and many joint training events. The project has set up Human Right Clubs in camps and villages, composed of both men and women, advising the chairman, before a conflict is brought to the chief. The project has also trained a 'Liaison Officer' on the side of the host communities, to resolve conflicts between refugees and hosts.

All refugees and villages interviewed during the household survey have participated in joint events such as the Peace and Right Days, the Festive Day and Seed Fair, and many have participated in joint training sessions on rights and governance (94% of the refugees and 75% of the villagers).

Partners' views

Fortunately, the cultural background of Sierra Leone and Liberia is similar, which made it easier to live peacefully together (UNHCR). There were good mechanisms in place to avoid and resolve conflicts. The RFS project had a good effect through organising joint activities. Besides, RFS staff participated in camp meetings where conflicts were discussed. CARE involved the communities in planning, which also reduced the risk of conflicts (NaCSA).

CARE staff view

Initially, part of the conflicts over bush arose because there was no Memorandum of Understanding yet between the refugees and the host communities.

Personal addition

I am impressed that refugees and host communities live together this peacefully. Even though it is difficult to assess what the contribution of the RFS project has been, the joint effort of all partners together has been very successful.



Effect on participation of women and youth

In all camps and villages, refugees and villagers say women and youth participate now more in community-level decision-making. This is due to the training and awareness efforts made by the RFS project as well as by other NGOs and the government of Sierra Leone, and also by their own understanding that participation is important.

Examples of community-level decision-making where women are now involved in are: this project evaluation meeting, village meetings to resolve conflicts, the decision and contribution towards a community centre, and in planning meetings with UNHCR.

The household survey confirms this trend: 86% of the young men, 100% of the young women (< 35 years old), 100% of the older men and 82% of the older women (>35 y) say they participate now in community-level decision making.

Partners' views

NaCSA and UNHCR work with humanitarian code, which prescribes involving women. The camp executive consists for 40-45% of women (NaCSA). However, in some places women participation is still (traditionally) low. CARE has stimulated women participation.

CARE staff views

In RFS meetings, staff asked women who were silent in the back to come more in the front and to participate. The trend of increased women participation is also noticeable outside the RFS working area. In a non-RFS village (Bandajuma Sowa), women were not afraid to question the position of the paramount chief.

b. Sustainability

The different aspects of sustainability are: technical sustainability, economical sustainability, environmental sustainability, socio-cultural sustainability, institutional sustainability, and political sustainability.

Technical sustainability

Beneficiaries' view

All activities that have been promoted by the RFS project, from farming practices to conflict resolution, are technically sustainable. After the project stops, beneficiaries are technically able to continue. Refugees mention that they will continue these farm practices when going back to Liberia. It will even be easier because there is more land available.

CARE staff view

Part of the sustainability of agriculture practices is in 1) the trained community facilitators, and 2) the farmer groups, and 3) the fact that farmers are convinced by the comparison between traditional and improved farm practices. This remains after the project stops.



Personal addition

What interests me is that both in the RFS project and in the ProFARM project, farmers are very positive about the agricultural work in farmer groups: they say it is more productive than individual work. Yet, other NGO (e.g. GAA) are of the opinion that farmers feel more responsible for their own individual work. It would be very interesting to invite farmers from villages having received support with different approaches and discuss among them the advantages and problems of these approaches.

Economical sustainability

Beneficiaries' view

Farmers will be able to continue farming practices, and most will be able to buy seed and tools when needed. Money will come from crop sales, and some may organise small credits among themselves. Some have already expanded e.g. cassava fields without project support. Some women fear that they may not be able to buy seeds or imported tools (shovels, hand trowels, watering cans) but will nevertheless continue with local tools (bucket with holes as watering can).

Environmental sustainability

Beneficiaries' view

Most farmers don't see, nor expect, environmental problems. Villagers explain that refugees did not uproot the trees, so re-growth will be fast. Interestingly, in one village the men did not see a problem and pointed at the fact that the project had trained them in tree nurseries, whereas the in the same village the women did foresee a deforestation problem [they fetch the wood!] and asked for support to plant economic trees: orange, coconut, oil palm and cashew. Only in one camp, refugees saw deforestation as a problem. Some refugees propose more emphasis on income generating activities as alternative for selling wood and charcoal.

Partners' view

As mentioned earlier, UNHCR, NaCSA and MAFS estimate the negative effect of the camps is enormous.

CARE staff view

For farmers the cultural value is the land itself, not the tree on the land. As long as the host communities get their land back, they are happy. Farmers believe that these trees will come back.

Personal addition

I think the resilience of the land around the camps is very good: one notices the vigorous tree re-growth. But it will need an effort to assist and protect the natural regeneration. This will involve a bit of technical work, but much more agreements between villages about where and how to allow degraded lands to regenerate, without prohibiting all forest use. There have been successful cases in Mali, in more difficult agro-ecological zones which are based on local policies (agreements, '*conventions locales*').



Socio-cultural sustainability

Beneficiaries' views

Nobody expects that problems and conflicts will increase again after the project stops. Both refugees and villagers expect to continue resolving problems the way they have now learnt to do. Besides, many refugees are leaving and there is no reason to believe that more conflicts will arise. Both refugees and villagers expect that women and youth will continue to be involved in community-level decision-making. Besides, not only CARE promotes participation of women and youth. The Sierra Leonean policy continues to encourage women and youth participation. There is a clear perception of the 'rights' on conflict resolution and participation.

However, in a new situation where refugees have to live in host communities, refugees are worried that new problems may arise (will be discussed later).

Institutional sustainability

Beneficiaries' view

All villagers and some refugees ask about what will happen after CARE pulls out, and where they can seek assistance in the future. Although NaCSA will be responsible for the support to both refugees and host communities, beneficiaries apparently don't feel sure about future support. There is no clear perception yet about the 'rights' on support, e.g. from the ward and district councils.

Personal comment

Even though the RFS project worked with partners such as MAFS, the beneficiaries foresee an empty gap in support when the project stops. This does not mean that CARE should continue supporting these communities forever, but there seems to be too little handing over to other, more permanent institutions that can continue a (modest) support to these communities. This will be discussed further in this report under 'strategic considerations'.

Political sustainability

Partners' view

Ideally, the government has updated policies in place. In practice however, implementing partners find themselves on the edge of policy formulation and can assist the government with this, provided that there is sufficient communication between government and implementing agencies (NaCSA).

The RFS objectives 'food security' and 'conflict management and participation' are well in line and relevant to the SL government policy (MAFS).

Personal addition

The policy of the government of Sierra Leone continues to support agricultural production and aims at food self-sufficiency. The policy also continues to support participation of marginalized groups such as women and youth. In other words, the RFS objectives are well in line with the policy of Sierra Leone.



c. Relevance

The project relevance is assessed by comparing the project objectives and achievements with:

- the priorities of the beneficiaries
- the policy of the Sierra Leonean government
- the policy of CARE, especially the programming principles

Government policy in Sierra Leone

The RFS project is well in line with the policy of the Sierra Leonean government, as was mentioned earlier under 'Political sustainability'.

Priorities of the beneficiaries

One way to find out whether the RFS objectives match the priorities of the beneficiaries is to ask them in an open question what their urgent needs are (although these reflect more their current than their past needs).

Refugees came up with three issues: micro-credit to start small businesses, support to those who are not or less able to work in agriculture, and skills- raining such as carpentry. Besides these two issues that were not covered by the RFS project, refugees recommended the same RFS approach of CARE were to support other refugee projects elsewhere. In conclusion, the RFS project was certainly relevant for refugees, but some other activities, besides agriculture, could have received some attention.

Villagers from host communities came up with a range of issues: the most urgent was assistance in how they can contact other service providers after CARE stops the RFS project. Other requests included some construction work (store, toilets, water well, medical facility), and skill-training in e.g. tailoring or carpentry. When asked for recommendations for projects elsewhere, the same RFS approach was recommended. The same conclusion applies here: the RFS was relevant for the villagers, but additional effort on linking them to other service providers would be very welcome.

CARE's programming principles

The CARE International Code contains a set of six programming principles, to which all CARE programming should conform:

Principle 1: Promote Empowerment

Principle 2: Work in partnership with others

Principle 3: Ensure accountability and promote responsibility

Principle 4: Oppose discrimination

Principle 5: Oppose violence

Principle 6: Seek sustainable results

The RFS project objectives match explicitly some of these principles. Principles 1 and 4 are taken care of because the marginalized groups such as women, youth and refugees, are specific target groups, invited to participate. Principle 5 is also taken care of because conflict resolution, both among refugees and between refugees and hosts, was one of the project objectives.



Principle 6, sustainability, has already been discussed in a separate chapter above. The two remaining principles: partnership (2) and accountability & responsibility (3) will be discussed here. They were discussed with the implementing partners UNHCR, NaCSA and MAFS.

Partnership and collaboration

Partners' views

Initially, there was an EU-funded Technical Unit in charge of coordinating the LRRD programme. Funding of this TU stopped in July 2006, after which the LRRD coordination was the joint responsibility of UNHCR and NaCSA. Only few coordination meetings have been held since. Nevertheless, the LRRD coordination is OK (UNHCR). According to NaCSA, one problem was that UNHCR was supposed to monitor the LRRD programme, but that partners had not submitted a monitoring plan to UNHCR.

UNHCR and NaCSA are very positive about the collaboration with CARE. Their contribution to, participation in, and reporting of the LRRD coordination meetings have been very good – better than some of the other LRRD partners.

MAFS confirms that collaboration was there, but that collaboration could be improved.

MAFS would like to see the collaboration improved, with more frequent information about activities.

CARE staff views

MAFS is sufficiently informed about all RFS project activities. RFS involved all stakeholders, including MAFS, from the start of the project. RFS sends reports, and the 2-3 MAFS field agents who work 15 days per month for RFS, should inform their bosses.

However, there has been a change in staff at the District Office, which may explain that not all are well informed.

Personal addition

I did not have the opportunity to meet staff from the partner EFA that had pulled out.

Apparently, EFA has no longer an office in Bo, and CARE staff assured me that partnership has been extensively discussed with EFA by CARE staff in Freetown. It is difficult to judge whether an NGO will sustain activities after a partnership finishes (institutional sustainability), or simply implements the contracted work only as long as this is paid.

Accountability and responsibility

Partners' views

RFS did well on accountability: They always informed others, also beneficiaries in the field. RFS worked with District Council, gave info, and invited them on field visits. Communities have a structure to monitor project (NaCSA).

RFS (and also other projects under LRRD) did well on making beneficiaries responsible: They involved farmers and refugees in registration and distribution of inputs. Refugees managed even the RFS tool banks (UNHCR).



d. Impact

The impact, defined as the contribution to the overall objective, beyond the target group of beneficiaries, was not evaluated during the group discussions or household surveys with beneficiaries, nor during discussions with partners. We can nevertheless say something about the expected impact by considering the overall objectives here.

Both the Millennium Development Goals as the Poverty Reduction Strategy Paper indicators (two of the three indicators mentioned at the RFS project overall objective) are served by an improved food self-sufficiency. The RFS project has indeed improved food production, most noticed in the host villages.

For example, according to the household survey, the rice production per household increased from 10 bags in 2004 to 17 bags in 2006. Considering the number of household members, the current rice production is about 2 bags of 50 kg per person per year. Rice is the main staple food, and if it were the only calorie source, 4-5 bags per person would be needed. We did not estimate the contribution of other energy crops (cassava, sweet potato), but assuming that rice contributes to at least half of the calorie needs, we can conclude that even the farmers in RFS-supported villages are not yet food self-sufficient. This shows that the RFS objective to increase food production is still very relevant, even after the project closure.

One other aspect of impact is the gradual spread of new practices to other, non-project villages. This was discussed during focus group discussions. Farmers in project-supported host villagers indicated that farmers in neighbouring non-supported villagers are copying some of the practices. For example, they are growing now more groundnuts and more cassava, which they bring to the project village for cassava processing. Another example is that a neighbouring village now also improved their road, after the project village had improved their part of the same road. During some training sessions in project-supported villages, neighbouring villagers participate. Village chiefs visit each other and discuss some of the project activities, including the participation of marginalised groups. This all shows that the eventual impact is larger than the direct effect on project beneficiaries alone.

e. Efficiency

The group discussions and household survey were not set up to evaluate the efficiency, but we can nevertheless spend a few words on this. There are different ways to evaluate efficiency.

One way is to compare the project outputs (e.g. number of farmer assisted) with the total project costs. This would be interesting when comparing the different projects with the same objectives in the same LRRD programme.

Another way is to compare the farmer benefits with project costs. As an example, we extrapolate the rice production increase, from 10 to 17 bags per household, to the number of about 2,500 households that have been assisted in the host communities. With a price of



76,000 Leones, about US\$ 25, per bag of 50 kg rice, this means that the total value of the increased rice production in 2006 is about US\$ 440,000 – in one year.

This value can be compared with the total project costs, even though the project has more benefits than increased rice production alone. One could then assess after how many years the benefits for the target group exceeds the total project costs.

Having done this simple calculation for the RFS project as well as for the ProFARM² project, it seems to me that any effort in increasing food production pays itself back in a relatively short time in Sierra Leone. This is due to the large room for (technical) improvement in agricultural production, the high motivation of the beneficiaries to use the project outputs (training, seed) and to the relatively high price of food and the low opportunity labour costs in Sierra Leone.

² Another sister project implemented by CARE in Bo district which has two components: Agriculture and Governance.



2. Recommendations

a. Recommendations for similar projects targeting refugees and host communities

Food production

Beneficiaries' views

Refugees and villagers recommend the same approach as the one used by the RFS project: inputs (seed and tools), training, and group work. There should be a timely supply of seed. Put more emphasis on training of trainers. Possibly give assistance with livestock. Pay attention to those who work less in agriculture; single mothers, and weak and old people. For vegetable growing and improved nutrition, beneficiaries confirm that vegetable growing was a good income source, especially mentioned by women refugees. Supply local seed varieties that are of preferred species and adapted to the local ecology. They recommend the training in vegetable growing and in nutrition.

Partners' views

Use the same approach as RFS: targeting both refugees and host community members (UNHCR). Undertake first a survey on current farm practices and preferences of refugees, before planning activities (NaCSA). Undertake a survey of suitable land first, to assure refugees have good production opportunities – this may also avoid conflict (UNHCR, MAFS).

Assist farmers not only with production but also with marketing (NaCSA, UNHCR, MAFS). For marketing, one could think of rehabilitating feeder roads and setting up food processing facilities for value adding (MAFS). Gradually expand to larger areas around the camps (MAFS).

Avoid having to give free seed every year. One could think of a seed on loan scheme, whereby farmers return seed to a community-run seed bank. This makes the scheme replicable and sustainable (UNHCR). MAFS would like to get project support to make an inventory of land suitability and land use. So far, MAFS in Bo does not use satellite images yet.

CARE staff views

Work with farmer groups, which has proven successful not only in the RFS project but also in the ProFARM project. Working with farmer groups has several advantages. Farmers learn from each other, and for the project groups are easier to train and to monitor than individuals. Marketing can be facilitated by linking producers (farmers, farmer groups) with buyers. E.g., some farmers now produce Gari (grated cassava) but don't know (yet) where to sell it. Assist farmers to plan their farm so that they at least meet the food requirements of the household.

When production increases, more processing machines will be needed, e.g. (mobile) rice milling machines.



It will not be possible to ask refugees to pay for seed (or tree seedlings), as was proposed by some other LRRD project partners.

Environment

Beneficiaries' views

The main recommendation by hosts and refugees is tree planting. Some recommended training of farmers to leave some trees in their cultivated fields.

Partners' views

Do an Environmental Impact Assessment before planning the camps. Survey the habits of refugees (e.g. charcoal use by Liberians) (NaCSA).

Make a joint effort by the Ministry of Agriculture together with implementing NGO in a land suitability study for swamp development. MAFS has the capacity to undertake hydrological surveys to plan swamp development. For swamp development, give farmers incentives: training, food for work, improved varieties and tools (MAFS).

Make more effort on awareness and on IGA as alternative for charcoal selling (NaCSA). Host communities can mark trees that should not be cut down. Besides, start a campaign encouraging farmers to plant 2 trees for each tree they cut (experience Uganda, UNHCR).

CARE staff views

There are many trees that are very useful, e.g. Neem or Moringa, of which the uses are not well known. Training on these uses will motivate people to plant. Timber or firewood use only will not motivate people enough to plant trees.

Personal addition

Look into 1) protection of certain areas or certain trees that should not be cut down; 2) assisted natural regeneration of trees, which includes some inter-village conventions on NRM mgt; 3) supporting tree nurseries for economic trees, preferred by the beneficiaries; and 4) a more durable type of eco-stoves.

Conflict resolution

Beneficiaries' views

Beneficiaries recommend the same CARE approach, where refugees and hosts are invited together to joint events. The policy of the host country needs to be explained to refugees. A good relation between refugees and host government is needed, and NGO could help with this.

Besides training a liaison officer on the host side, also train a mediator on the refugee side. Beneficiaries explain that when food security is improved, it is less likely that conflicts will arise.

Partners' views

The agreement on land allocation to refugees should be very clear to all; this avoids conflict (UNHCR).



Study first how traditionally conflicts are resolved. Compare the system of refugee-population and host population. then, organise joint meetings to discuss the differences (NaCSA).

Create a forum for refugees and hosts, that meet more frequently than e.g. the joint events in the RFS project (NaCSA).

CARE staff views

Assure and explain that for every problem there is a mechanism in place to resolve it.

Personal view

CARE has been very successful in combining social change issues (conflict resolution, participation or marginalised groups) with productive issues (agriculture, vegetable growing) and group work. A formula worth replicating.

Participation women and youth

Beneficiaries views

Use the same approach as CARE used: awareness raising and training, preach unity and promote group work (e.g. vegetable gardens).

Partners' views

Perhaps motivate women with some incentive to participate? (NaCSA)

CARE staff views

Participation can be encouraged by giving responsibilities and feedback: show that something is happening with your participation effort. Leaders should recognise the good work done by participating community members.

CARE's effort for improved participation seems to work well at the community level. We don't know how much this also impacts decision-making at the household level. However, some women explained that even some conflicts between husband and wife are now discussed in a group including women, whereas before some of these conflicts were only discussed with the chief and elders. We assume that changes at the community level eventually also changes decisions at the household level.

Collaboration and partnerships

How such joint programmes, with several partners, can best be organised and coordinated depends on the coordinating capacity of the home government (NaCSA). Besides, relationships between implementing agencies may complicate collaboration: in some cases there is even competition between agencies.

There should be regular meetings between partners working in the same programme (as LRDD).

There should be one single approach towards beneficiaries (e.g. free seed or seed on loan) among all partners working in the same programme.

The different roles of the different partners, as well as the approach, should be clearly explained to the beneficiaries.

There should be sufficient and continues reporting on activities among partners.



b. Recommendations follow-up support to Liberian refugees staying in Sierra Leone

Although this issues was not taken into account at the start of the evaluation of the RFS project, this issue kept coming up during our discussions with refugees and partners (UNHCR, NaCSA) We therefore decided to ask refugees about their expectations of what will happen after the camps close, which was expected to happen by the end of June 2007.

Beneficiaries' views

Return to Liberia or stay in Sierra Leone

Of the refugees still in the camps, most prefer to stay in Sierra Leone. Reasons to stay include: the bad experiences of the war and fear to face old enemies; some have no family or support in Liberia; houses and possessions are destroyed; some don't feel safe (yet) in Liberia; the difficulty for single mothers to re-start in Liberia; and the lack of medical care in Liberia.

Camps / settlements or host communities

Many prefer that they can stay in the camps, which could be turned into settlements as is happening in Ghana, rather than moving to host communities.

Problems they expect when living in host communities are: discrimination, especially between children; problems between refugee single mothers and host men and wives; access to land.

Support

Support refugees would like include: housing, education, and medical facilities, and support to improve the relations with host communities. Pay special attention to single mothers and to weak and old people who cannot work in agriculture.

Partners' views

UNHCR estimated (June 2007) that about 10,000 refugees are still in the 8 camps, and 5,500 refugees are still in the larger towns. A survey in August 2006 indicated that about 6,000 refugees want to stay, but UNHCR now estimates that about 10,000 refugees want to stay in Sierra Leone.

The government plans to support the 6,000-10,000 refugees who want to stay, to integrate in 152 host communities in a radius of 15 km around the 8 camps. The government and partners are discussing a 'Self Reliance Strategy' for after camp closure. No decision has been taken yet about whether the camps will be converted into settlements. UNHCR foresees a programme supporting refugees who stay, that will run at least for 1,5 years and possibly for 3 years. UNHCR, NaCSA and MAFS would like to collaborate with partners such as CARE in a support programme for Liberian refugees staying in Sierra Leone.



Roles that CARE could play are: 1) legal aspects and conflict and peace issues, and in 2) agricultural issues, developing capacity to improve production without competition for natural resources (water, land). CARE has the capacity and knows the communities (NaCSA).

CARE staff views

The date for camp closure, 30 June 2007, was related to the upcoming elections. Since the elections have been postponed from July to August, it is possible that the government postpones the camp closure as well. The government will most likely want to avoid communities dominated by Liberians. If camps will be turned into settlement, the govt would like to see SL people moving in and mixing with refugees. Even for the host communities the government may try to limit percentage Liberians to e.g. 10%.

It is not clear either who will be the owner of the camp: there are families owning the land; and who will become the chief? Will host families reclaim their land as soon as the camps close? Who will manage the facilities (clinic, toilets, etc.)? Who will manage the RFS project Tool Banks?

The RFS project efforts have reduced conflict: how come refugees are still afraid for integration? There are already Liberians living peacefully in other host communities, especially closer to the border. Refugees may fear the move from camp to host village because the modalities are not yet in place. With about only one week to go before the camps close, refugees still don't know what will happen and what sort of support they will get.

The way a refugees (or any other stranger) will have access land, is through integration in a host family. The refugee can then ask for access to land of that host family. There is no 'sale' of land ownership.

Neither settlements nor host communities will receive free food, but perhaps food for work. There may be need to advocacy, to avoid stigmatisation of refugees, and prevent or mitigate conflict. Especially in the Mende culture, an integrated refugee remains a stranger. If a refugee marries a local, their children will be considered locals. Hosts and refugees should be treated equally, once integration starts, to avoid conflict.

Personal addition

I have no idea whether CARE has the intention and possibility to find funding for a follow-up project to support Liberian refugees that want to stay in Sierra Leone. But I have the impression that support from a CARE project is very welcome and is likely to be successful, given the experiences with both social issues (conflict management, participation) and productive issues (agriculture). UNHCR counts on a 1,5 to 3 year programme. They would be the first to contact to find out possibilities.

c. Recommendations for the CARE strategy in general

During the discussions with CARE staff, a few issues came up that go beyond the evaluation of the RFS project, but that are relevant for the wider CARE strategy.



One of the problems that was mentioned by CARE staff was the low motivation by some of the refugees to participate in training or other activities. The problem is partly that the assistance was too much supply driven (by CARE) rather than demand driven. If refugees formulate their own needs, e.g. in training, they would be more motivated or ask less likely for incentives. The shift from a supply driven to a demand driven assistance goes hand in hand with the shift from emergency relief aid to development aid. How to organise aid more on a demand driven basis requires a more thorough discussion within CARE. I know about some interesting experiences with demand driven support by a small Swiss NGO in Mali.

Another problem mentioned by beneficiaries is that they don't know where to seek support after the CARE project stops. This could indicate that beneficiaries are ready to start formulating their needs, rather than wait for projects to come to them. The CARE project ProFARM has as a specific objective to help communities to create linkages with other service providers. This approach fits well with the wish to shift towards more demand driven assistance. CARE could help communities in addressing requests to e.g. local government (ward and district council) – which would at the same time support the decentralisation process, to other government services (MAFS, NaCSA) or to other NGOs or even donors. Unfortunately, the councillors don't have funds to respond to community requests. MAFS possibilities to support local demand have (theoretically) improved since the decentralisation.

I hope that the ProFARM effort in linking communities with other service providers while at the same time supporting the decentralisation process, will stimulate CARE Sierra Leone to move towards a demand-driven support.



3. M&E Capacity building in CARE

a. RFS staff participation in the evaluation process

Alex Macoverey, M&E Officer for RFS, and Musa Mamy, Assistant Project Manager of RFS, were involved in discussing the original indicators in the logframe, the proxy indicators that were developed later, and the eventual list of indicators that we used in our final evaluation. We then decided which indicators could be used in the household survey (simple multiple choice questions) and which indicators should be used in the focus group discussions (qualitative, open questions). Tedla Assefa, project manager of RFS, has been guiding and discussing the mainlines, without being involved in too much of the details.

Samuel Abu Kargbo, Field Agent, and Solomon Khan, Monitoring Agent, did the household survey interviews, and Massa Benya, project secretary, entered the data in Excel.

Alex Macoverey was involved in all the focus group discussions and all discussions with partners. Musa Mamy assisted in one camp and in one host village. Alex Macoverey has learned how to use the Excel tool 'pivot table', which eases the analyses and presentation of household survey results in simple cross-tables, that can be copied into a Word report. This will eventually save time and reduce the risk on errors.

Many RFS staff and other CARE staff participated in the restitution meeting and discussion on 22 June in Bo.

b. Document all the methodology and tools as an annex of the final report

Part of the general evaluation methodology has also been described in the Annex 2 of the ProFARM mid-term review. However, I decided to repeat this 1,5 page here, because I hope this will be of use for the RFS staff as well. (see Annex 2-1)

The detailed methodology is presented in Annex 2. Hereunder a brief summary:

- First we compared the original logframe indicators, the indicators in the monitoring plan, and the proxy indicators that were developed later. Based on this, we suggested a number of simpler indicators that reflected well the specific objective (the beneficiaries using the project outputs) and the project results (project deliverables). We had to redefine not only some of the indicators, but also the level to which such indicators belong (specific objective, result and activity). The results of this comparison is given in the Annex 2-2.
- We then summarised the list of indicators that we maintained for our final evaluation and decided which should be used in the household survey and which in the discussions (see list in Annex 2-3)
- Then the household survey was made, tested in 3 locations, and adapted. (see Annex 2-4)



- A guideline for the focus group discussions in camps and villages was made. (see Annex 2-5)
- A separate discussion guide was made for the discussions with partners (MAFS, UNHCR, MAFS), which focused more on the sustainability aspects, recommendations and on some of the CARE programming principles that were not explicitly covered by the RFS project objectives: partnering and collaboration, and accountability and responsibility. (see Annex 2-6).
- Due to the limited time, we only visited 3 out of the 4 RFS camps, plus 3 host communities. Besides, we visited 1 camp and 2 villages that were not supported by RFS. However, a ‘with – without project’ comparison could not be made because the camps and host communities that are not supported by CARE were supported by other NGO (in this case German Agro Action). The camps and villages are listed in Annex 2-7.
- In some camps or villages, the discussions did not cover all subjects, because it took more time and people started to lose interest or concentration. The average discussion took between 45 and 75 minutes. Besides, in some camps or villages we had a separate discussion with women, which would allow them to speak more freely, especially about subjects like participation of marginalised groups in community decision-making. The list of subjects and the type of group is listed in Annex 2-8.
- The names of people from partner organisations who we discussed with is listed in Annex 2-9.
- To make this evaluation transparent, and to allow the reader to verify what the conclusions are based on, and what comment was made by whom (or in which camp or village), all results are presented in tables, organised per subject, in Annex 3: Detailed results.

c. Make comments and recommendations on the project M&E system

Hereunder I make a few comments and recommendations on the logframe, the baseline survey, the progress reports, the internal evaluation, and the final progress (or project) report that is still to come.

The logframe suffered from a few problems, which complicated the monitoring and evaluation later on. The first problem is that there has been no rigid distinction between the different levels in the logframe indicators, especially: activities, results and specific objectives. Indicators are often placed on the wrong level of the logframe. I hope that a couple of examples will clarify the distinction of these 3 levels.

- An activity is e.g. that the project supplied 100 kg seed, or organises a Peace and Right Day. (under control of project)
- A result is that e.g. 25% of the targeted households have received seed, or that 500 refugees and 500 host community members have attended Peace and Right Days. (project deliverables, under control of project)
- An outcome (is achievement of specific objective) is e.g. that on average the food production has increased by 20%, or that the number of conflicts between refugees



and host communities reported to the court has reduced by 50%. (beneficiaries using the project deliverables, not under project control)

A second problem is that some of the original indicators were too complex or too little specific to monitor (e.g. what is 50% reduction of negative environmental impact?). The later-developed proxy indicators have well addressed this problem: they are simple and specific. However, some are at the wrong level of the logframe (e.g. some proxy indicators at the SO or R level in fact represent activities).

The baseline survey was thoroughly done, with 600 households. However, many important indicators were omitted. There was nothing on conflict resolution. The information on food production that was collected was too problematic (units) to analyse. On the other hand, some detailed indicators were included that were not that necessary considering the project logframe (e.g. nutrition of children, sanitation). In the end, we did include at least some indicators in the effect household survey that could be compared with the results of the baseline survey, but these are only few. The baseline survey would have been a good moment to reflect again on the logframe and the indicators, knowing what data can reasonably be collected.

The progress reports (2004-2005 and 2005-2006) give an overview of the number of people, number of households or number of farmer groups that have received support of different kind. However, the units are not always consistent: sometimes people, sometimes households and sometimes groups is used, which makes it difficult to keep track of achievements and compare them with targets.

The internal evaluation is a very good attempt to involve project staff in reflecting on the project activities and outputs. It encourages staff to look beyond project activities and results, and think about the contribution towards the project specific objectives. It is a trend, which I very much support, that project staff be more and more involved in internal evaluations, preferably already half-way the project. Not only learn staff from it, but when done halfway it also enables to steer the project activities towards a greater contribution to project objectives. The only problem I have with the internal evaluation is the same problem I have with the logframe and indicators (see above) – but this is not due to the internal evaluators.

A final project report will be made by the Programme Manager presenting the cumulative number of beneficiaries per type of support. Unlike this final evaluation, which focuses on the achievements above the result level, the final project report will also report on activities and results. And unlike this final evaluation, which contains mainly qualitative data from the discussions (and only limited quantitative data from the household survey), the final project report could complement this by presenting more quantitative data, similar to the information presented in the progress reports.



Annex 1. Terms of Reference

Below are the original term of reference, plus the additional comments made in Freetown before the evaluation started.

Attachment of Schedule A

Term of Reference for final evaluation

Project: Refugee Food Security – A Rights-Based Approach (RFS-RBA)

1.0 Introduction:

In response to Objective 3 of the EC's LRRD 'proposed transitional support programme, CARE Nederland, CARE Sierra Leone and Environmental Foundation for Africa (EFA) have collaborated to implement a follow-on three-year refugee-focused project. Overall, the project proposes to improve the food and livelihood security of Liberian refugees living in Sierra Leone and the impact their presence has on host-communities they through increasing their overall capacity in food production.

The project is located in refugee camps and surrounding host communities of Bo, Moyamba and Kenema districts in Sierra Leone's Southern and eastern Provinces. CARE Sierra Leone in partnership with the EFA have been working in and around: (1) Taiama Camp in Moyamba district; (2) Jembe and Gerihun camps in Bo district, and; (3) Tobanda camp in Kenema district.

2.0 Background

In November 2002, a refugee camp assessment was undertaken by CARE Sierra Leone to: (1) develop a better understanding of the refugee situation; and (2) to identify potential activities to improve the livelihoods of refugees and, simultaneously, lessen their impact on host Sierra Leonean communities.

Based on the 2002 assessment and the successful implementation of a 12 month pilot project, CARE Sierra Leone was able to secure a 3 year (16 July 2004 – 15 July 2007) refugee focussed development project from the European commission through CARE Netherland. The project was designed to (1) promote conflict reconciliation; improve food and environmental security and promote social development.

The project, Refugee Food Security – Rights Based Approach (RFS-RBA) is designed to: (1) actively engage refugees in productive works, particularly farming and income generating activities, and; (2) develop mechanisms/initiatives to address increasing hostilities/conflicts amongst both the refugees themselves and between refugees and contiguous host community populations. Overall, the project aims at achieving the following two specific Results/Objectives,

1. 26,000 Liberian refugees and 13,000 host community members will have improved food and livelihood security as measured by increased household crop production; improved nutritional status; increased income from crop surplus; and improved management of environmental resources.
2. Systems and mechanisms in place to support a culture of human rights, peace-building and harmonious co-existence amongst diverse groups, including the refugee population of 26,000 and 13,000 members of host communities.



Results and indicators: Intermediate results and Indicators, Project Log Frame, monitoring plan or any other relevant information is provided at the outset of the consultancy. In addition proxy indicators are developed to help measure achievement of intended results.

Implementation Progress:

By employing rights base approaches, methodologies mentioned above and the associated activities, the Project aims to achieve the objectives as set in logical framework of the project proposal, monitoring plan and necessary data collection tools have been developed to aid measurement of impact of activities on the intended beneficiaries. However, summarized below are some of the key challenges faced to date.

Challenges Encountered:

The RFS-RBA has faced a few implementation challenges and some of which are summarized below:

- While progress continue to be achieved on community (Refugee & Host) understanding of their rights, challenges exist in getting people to embrace responsibilities that go hand in hand with the rights and how to respond to potential implications associated with some of the rights.
- There are limited vendors with the capacity to supply quality seeds in a timely manner. Seasonal fluctuation has affected production of some food crops such as groundnuts,
- Partnership is not equally recognized by all and the implementing partner EFA has disappeared after the end of the 1st year.

The Final Evaluation

Objective: The objective of this final evaluation is to evaluate the results and impact of the project interventions. Lessons will be used in future program design initiatives.

The evaluation will assess whether set targets and anticipated results were achieved and gauge the level of efficiency, effectiveness, impact on the target beneficiaries.

The exercise is also designed to increase staff capacity in evaluation. In ensuring staff participation in the process, the consultant will document the methodology and tools used during this evaluation as an annex of the final report and help build at least one ME Officer's capacity in understanding those tools.

Issues to be reviewed: The study will appraise problems being addressed by the project and partners and specifically look at:

- **Impact:** While it may be a bit early to assess the impact of the project interventions, considering the official closure of refugee camps the study should assess and evaluate prospects for desired impacts and effects of project interventions towards the achievement of project purpose. NB: In order to facilitate the process, the program staff has updated and will make available all data on project indicators (activities, results and specific objectives).
- **Project Compliance:** Based on the project logical framework assess activities that have been undertaken in order to achieve the results and draw observations as to whether the interventions were consistent with the proposal. The analysis will include the work plan, the monitoring systems applied, and a review of the approach and methodology of interventions, including community contribution and participation to gauge the level of local ownership.
- **Sustainability:** While considering the following factors: Policy environment for refugees and host communities, economic and financial viability; socio-cultural aspects, gender issues, appropriate technology, environmental protection, institutional and management capacity; the evaluator will assess the sustainability of project interventions.

Proposed Review Methodologies: The consultant will develop an evaluation methodology in consultation with the project manager which is expected to include:

- An in-take discussion with the ACD, the sector coordinator, the project manager and other relevant project staff.



- Orientation of the RFS-RBA ME Officer to ensure that he understands the evaluation methodology and the tools used. The ME Officer will act as an assistant to the consultant during the evaluation.
- On going update and discussion with the PM, APM and M&E officer about the progress of the evaluation
- Exit de-briefing

Evaluation Outputs:

The evaluation will produce a comprehensive report detailing the assessment of RFS-RBA results/achievements (Effects & Impacts) based on the logical framework, lessons learned, conclusions and recommendations for future consideration by the CO. For each conclusion there should be a corresponding operational recommendation. A draft report should be submitted within one week of field work completion.

In short, "The evaluators will provide her/his findings on the overall result (effect & Impact) of the project on refugees and host communities. Conclusions and recommendation will be provided both for each individual intermediate result and general recommendation for future consideration".

Location: districts of Bo, Moyamba and Kenema.

Time Frame: The total time frame of this consultancy period will be (2 weeks) 15 days (10 for field work and 5 days travel and writing) to be completed before June 21st 2007.

Costs: CARE SL will provide payment of travelling costs (road or air-fare) and guesthouse facilities. In addition to this remuneration, the consultant will be entitled to usual per-diem, lodging and transportation cost as per CARE SL policy, if applicable. A daily consultancy fee will also be agreed upon.

Qualifications: Community Development Specialist, with at least 10 years experience in emergency and development work, preferably in Africa/West, well versed in emergency/Refugee context and Community Empowerment programmes, experience in post conflict assistance programmes, human rights, gender, and good governance in either refugee management and rural development with emphasis on integrated agricultural development programs. Experience in monitoring and evaluation of emergency (conflict) and development projects is a must and preferred previous working experience in Sierra Leone.

Outcome of discussions with Gart Van't Hul, Ahmed Ag Aboubacrine and Amani M'Bale in Freetown, before the evaluation:

- This is a relief oriented project. CARE Sierra Leone moves from relief to development support. Evaluate to what extent this RFS project has some sustainable achievements.
- A baseline survey was done, but an effect household survey was not. In addition to focus group discussions, this final evaluation will also accommodate an effect household survey, in a small sample of households.
- CARE has a set of 6 programming principles (see Strategy paper). Evaluate to what extent the RFS project complied with these principles.
- (later, by e-mail) With Ahmed Ag Aboubacrine we discussed possible indicators at the overall objective level. However, we concluded that we limit ourselves to indicators at the specific objective level: the direct effect on the target beneficiaries.



Annex 2. Detailed Methods

Annex 2-1. Complete evaluation

A complete final evaluation normally involves the following five aspects: effectiveness, impact, efficiency, relevance and sustainability.

Evaluating effectiveness is defined as the contribution of project outputs towards the higher-level specific objectives. In the RFS project, I interpreted the following specific objectives: improved food production and nutrition, reduced negative environmental impact, reduced conflict among refugees and between refugees and host communities, and increased participation of marginalized groups.

Evaluating impact looks at changes at the overall objective level, beyond the project direct beneficiaries. In the RFS project, the overall objective indicators are: 1) contribute to the Millennium Development Goals, 2) the indicators of the Poverty Reduction Strategy Paper, and 3) the phasing out of the ECHO project without funding gap. However, after discussion with the CARE D,M&E Officer, we limited our evaluation to the 'effectiveness', the achievement of the specific objectives.

Evaluating the efficiency includes a comparison of costs with output, outcome or impact. In the last case this is also called a cost-effectiveness analysis. This enables to compare e.g. the costs of different project activities resulting in the same type of output, or comparing different projects resulting in the same type of outcome or impact. In our example of a cost-effectiveness calculation, we estimated the value of improved crop production for farmers. This can be compared with the project costs, giving an idea about many years it would take before farmer benefits will outweigh the project costs – the so-called 'payback period'.

Evaluating the relevance includes the comparison of outcome or impact with the needs and priorities of beneficiaries, with the country policy and with the donor policy. We compare the RFS project with the 6 CARE programming principles.

Evaluating sustainability assesses whether benefits continue after external project support has stopped. Different aspects of sustainability are distinguished:

- Technology: Are beneficiaries capable of using the chosen technology after outside support has ceased?
- Economic and financial benefits: will in the long run the benefits continue to be higher than the costs, which will now have to be entirely borne by the target group itself?
- Socio-cultural: have measures been taken to ensure ongoing participation of all members of target group?
- Environment: Is continuation of environmental protection guaranteed?
- Policy support: Does the country policy allow for continuation?
- Institutional: have measures been taken during project to ensure future functioning of organisations?

Effectiveness and intended impact need to be evaluated before unintended impact, efficiency, relevance and sustainability can be evaluated. Evaluating effectiveness and intended impact requires that changes can be attributed to the project.



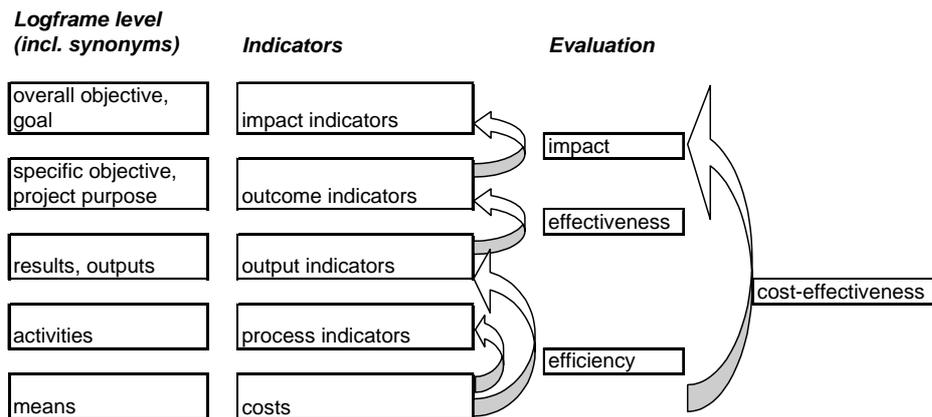


Figure 2. The relation between the logframe, indicators and different evaluation aspects

The relation between the objectives at different levels of the logframe, the related indicators and the different aspects of evaluation is presented in the Figure 2 above. Sustainability and relevance are not specifically attached to one level in the logframe. The RFS logframe is presented as Annex 2-2.



Annex 2-2. Logframe indicators

Logical framework for RFS-RBA

Original indicators, M&E plan, proxy indicators, final evaluation indicators, and renamed Specific Objective or Result

	Intervention logic	Original OVI	M&E Plan	Proxy OVI	Final OVI	Renamed SO-R		
Overall objective	Sierra Leone will achieve economic recovery, sustainable social and economic development, and peace and justice	Progress is made towards achieving the Millenium Development Goals	ns					
		Phasing out of ECHO without funding gap	ns					
		Social, economic and development indicators of the I-PRSP	ns					
Specific objective	50% (sustained) improvement of 'living conditions' for 26,000 Liberian refugees and 26,000 Sierra Leoneans in host communities	50% reduction of negative environmental impacts (through education, awareness raising activities, increased use of ecostoves, various tree species planted, community nurseries established)	c, i, 1)		% HH x change in food production	Increased food production		
					rice production per HH last 3 years			
					groundnut production per HH last 3 years			
					% HH x change in number of meals per day	Increased food consumption		
					number of meals per day			
					% HH x change in vegetable consumption	Improved nutrition		
					frequency of vegetable consumption			
					% HH x change in sales of rice, groundnuts and vegetables	Increased income		
				Area upland cultivated	ok		% HH x change in cultivation in swamps	Reduced pressure on upland
				Area IVS cultivated	ok		% HH cultivating valley swamp % HH cultivating in developed swamp	
Cooking practices (traditional and eco-stoves)	ok	# eco-stoves produced	ok	% HH use eco-stoves	Reduced pressure on wood			
Tree planting / nurseries. (forest / economic trees crop nurseries and planting)	ns	# trees planted	ok	% HH change in sale wood / charcoal; # communities planting trees				
		# people trained on environmental protection and management	r					



Logical framework for RFS-RBA (continued)

Original indicators, M&E plan, proxy indicators, final evaluation indicators, and renamed Specific Objective or Result

Intervention logic	Original OVI	M&E Plan	Proxy OVI	Final OVI	Renamed SO-R	
	Conflict prevention and reconciliation activities improve relations between Liberians in camps and their host communities	ns # of court cases involving Liberians and host communities # of conflicts reported to grievances committees and management agencies	ok ok		% HH x change in conflict between refugees and hosts	Conflict resolution between ref. - host
		# joint activities undertaken	a	# training and awareness sessions provided # independent initiatives taken by trained beneficiaries	a ?	% HH x change in conflict among refugees Conflict resolution among refugees
	Protection and reconciliation measures are mainstreamed and adopted by communities	ns Systems of conflict management are put in place and actors are adopting developed methodologies: (i.e.) Ward Development Committees in collaboration with liaison officers, community facilitators, Peace and Right Days celebration. Reduction in human right abuses; human right clubs discussions and community level; and media production.	ns	# of conflicts peacefully solved in the target communities	ok	Examples of conflicts Examples of conflict resolution Conflict resolution mechanisms
	2)				% men, women, elders, youth, participating in community decision making % participants x change in participation Examples of community decisions	Participation by W and Y in community decisions



Logical framework for RFS-RBA (continued)

Original indicators, M&E plan, proxy indicators, final evaluation indicators, and renamed Specific Objective or Result

	Intervention logic	Original OVI	M&E Plan	Proxy OVI	Final OVI	Renamed SO-R	
Result 2	R2. Systems and mechanisms in place to support a culture of human rights, peace-building and harmonious co-existence amongst diverse groups, including the refugee population of 26,000 and 13,000 members of host communities	80% target population benefiting from forums for refugees and community members to address, discuss and resolve conflictual issues	# of court cases involving Liberians and host communities # of conflicts reported to grievances committees and management agencies # joint activities undertaken by refugees and host communities Human Right Clubs activities, report and record Activities of ward development committees in relation to conflict resolution between refugees and host communities	so, x so, x a, x ok, ns ok, ns	# of target communities who put in place a forum for refugees issues including conflict management within communities as well as between refugees and host communities # Peace and Rihgt Days organised # Festive and seed fairs organised # of trainings conducted (IGA, Crop production, environmental management)	ok a a a # communities with human rights club	Conflict resolution mechanisms
		60% of the targeted population, specifically marginalised groups of women and men, participating and involved in community decision-making	# of marginalised group representation in ward development committees and attendance at forums # of marginalised group representation at camp management committees and participation in meetings Inclusion of marginalised groups in participants' targeting / input distribution Active participation of marginalised groups in decision making process Emergence of women development groups Structures advocating for women's rights and protection	so so ok, ns so so so	% of beneficiaries received inputs (seed, fertiliser, tools) # of target communities involving women and other marginalised groups in community decision-making	r so	% HH participated in training human rights and governance



Logical framework for RFS-RBA (continued)

Original indicators, M&E plan, proxy indicators, final evaluation indicators, and renamed Specific Objective or Result

	Intervention logic	Original OVI	M&E Plan	Proxy OVI	Final OVI	Renamed SO-R
		80% of the targeted population is satisfied with agreed modalities for implementation, including inputs and dividends distribution	Level of participation of targeted population in developing project implementation criteria	(Drop)		
			Representation of targeted population on development committees in camps and host communities	(Drop)		
			# of awareness raising sessions on project approaches in camps and host communities	(Drop)		
		Enhanced community self-management and self-reliance by all groups in both camps and host communities		# of human right clubs formed and functional		

Those who made the original logframe did not understand the differences between SO (beneficiaries use project deliverables) and R (project deliverables): sometimes, the same indicator was used at both SO and R level.

Add codes that refer to comments:

ok) good indicator at the light level in the logframe

a) should be at activity level

r) should be at result level

so) should be at specific objective level

ns) is not specific (not quantitative, not objectively verifiable)

d) is too detailed

c) is too complex

i) is incomplete: does not cover the core of the objective / result

x) is repetition of another indicator already used for a different R or SO

1) Food production is omitted in original SO

2) Participation marginalised groups is omitted in original SO



Annex 2-3 Logframe and indicators as used in the final evaluation

Specific objectives*	OVI	FGD	HHS
1 Target group increased food production, consumption and sales	% HH x change in production		x
	# communities x change in food production	x	
	average rice production / HH / last 3 yrs		x
	average groundnut production / HH / last 3 yrs		x
	% HH x # meals per day		x
	% HH x change in consumption		x
	# communities x change in consumption	x	
	% HH x portion rice sold		x
	% HH x portion groundnuts sold		x
	% HH x change in crop sales		x
2 Target group improved nutrition	% HH x frequency of vegetable consumption		x
	# communities x change in vegetable consumption	x	
3 Reduced negative environmental impact on upland and wood	% HH growing lowland rice		x
	% HH growing lowland rice in groups		x
	% HH developed swamp		x
	% HH x change in lowland rice		x
	# communities x change in lowland rice	x	
	% HH made eco-stove		x
	% HH using eco-stove		x
	advantages and problems ecostoves	x	
	% HH selling wood or charcoal		x
	% HH x change in wood sales		x
4 Reduced conflicts among refugees	# communities x change in wood sales	x	
	# communities planted trees	x	
5 Reduced conflict between refugees and host communities	% HH x change in conflicts among refugees		x
	# communities x change in conflicts among refugees	x	
6 Mechanisms for conflict resolution adopted	% HH x change in conflicts between refugees and hosts		x
	# communities x change in conflicts between refugees and hosts	x	
	Examples of conflicts		x
7 Increased participation of women and youth in community decision-making	Examples of conflict resolution		x
	# communities with human right club		x
	% women, men, youth and elders, participating in community decision making		x
Results	% HH x change in participation		x
	examples of decisions where W and Y participate	x	
1.1 target group received agricultural training	% HH received agricultural training		x
1.2 target group received seed	% HH received seed		x
1.3 target group received tools	% HH received tools		x
2.1 target group received training in nutrition	% HH received training in nutrition		x
2.2 target group received training in vegetable growing	% HH received training in vegetable growing		x
2.3 target group received vegetable seed	% HH received vegetable seed		x
3.1 target group organised in farming groups	% HH member of ag. group		x
3.2 target group received training in swamp rice	% HH received training swamp rice		x
3.3 target group received rice seed	% HH received rice seed		x
3.4 target group received training in eco-stoves	% HH received training in making eco-stoves		x
3.5 target group received training on environment	% HH received environmental training		x
3.6 target group received tree seedlings	% HH received tree seedlings		x
4.1 refugees attended training on human rights	% refugees attended training on human rights		
5.1 target group participated in peace & right days	% HH participated in peace and right days		x
5.2 target group participated in festive days and seed fairs	% HH participated in festive days and seed fairs		x
6.1 (covered by activities 5)			
7.1 target group participated in awareness / training to include marginalised groups	% HH participated in training governance and human rights		x

Note that I have split up the Specific Objective in 7 objective components: this forces us to use a consistent logic between Specific Objective and Results. Alternatively, I could have used 2 specific objectives: one about food production and environment, and one about conflicts.

Note that the focus group discussions include also questions about what exactly has changed, why a change has occurred, what (project activity) has contributed to this change. In contrast, the HHS questions were simple, closed, multiple choice questions.

The FGD also asked questions beyond the logframe indicators: the changes over the last 3 years in general, the sustainability of the desired changes, and the relevance compared to other needs of the beneficiaries



Food production

12. Did HH production increase, remain the same, decrease over the last 2-3 years?
 1. increase 2. remain the same 3. decrease
13. How many bags of rice did you (your HH) harvest last year? [bags: _____]
14. How many bags of rice did you/HH harvest the year before, in 2005? [bags: _____]
15. How many bags of rice did you/HH harvest two years before, in 2004? [bags: _____]
16. How many bags of groundnuts did you/HH harvest last year? [bags: _____]
17. How many bags of groundnuts did you/HH harvest in 2005? [bags: _____]
18. How many bags of groundnuts did you/HH harvest in 2004? [bags: _____]
19. * Did you/HH receive training on farming? 1. yes 2. no
20. * Did you/HH receive seed? 1. yes 2. no
21. * Did you/HH receive tools? 1. yes 2. no

Sale of surplus food

22. How much of your rice did you/HH sell last year?
 1. nothing 2. about 25% 3. about 50% 4. about 75% 5. all
23. How much of your groundnuts did you/HH sell last year?
 1. nothing 2. about 25% 3. about 50% 4. about 75% 5. all
24. How much of your vegetables did you/HH sell last year?
 1. nothing 2. about 25% 3. about 50% 4. about 75% 5. all
25. In general, did you/HH sell more / the same / less product than before? [of any crop]
 1. more 2. the same 3. less

Food consumption

26. How many meals do you eat in a day, now in the rainy season? 1. 2. 3.
27. How many meals do you eat in day, in the dry season? 1. 2. 3.
28. Compared to 2-3 years ago, do you eat more, the same or fewer meals in a day?
 1. more 2. the same 3. fewer

Nutrition

29. How often do you eat leaves or vegetables in the dry season?
 1. every day 2. 2-4 x p week 3. once a week 4. 2-3 x p month 5. once a month 6. never
30. How often do you eat leaves or vegetables in the rainy season?
 1. every day 2. 2-4 x p week 3. once a week 4. 2-3 x p month 5. once a month 6. never
31. Do you eat more, the same, or less vegetable than 2-3 years ago? 1. more 2. same 3. less.
32. * Did you/HH receive vegetable seed? 1. yes 2. no
33. * Did you/HH receive training in vegetable growing? 1. yes 2. no
34. * Did you/HH receive training in nutrition? 1. yes 2. no

Environmental impact

Rice in swamps

35. Do you/HH cultivate rice in valley swamps? 1. yes 2. no [if no, continue with 39]
36. Is this: with a group on a collective field / individually / both?
 1. collective 2. individual 3. both



37. Is this just a cultivated valley / a developed swamp? (dikes, water mgt)
 1. undeveloped 2. developed
38. Do you/HH cultivate more / the same / less rice in valley swamps than 2-3 years ago?
 1. more 2. the same 3. less
39. * Are you/HH member of a supported agricultural working group? 1. yes 2. no
40. * Did you/HH receive agricultural training on valley cultivation of rice? 1. yes 2. no
41. * Did you/HH receive rice seed? 1. yes 2. no

Eco-stoves

42. * Did you/HH receive training on how to produce an eco stove? 1. yes 2. no
43. * Did you/HH make an eco stove? 1. yes 2. no
- * Do you/HH still use an Eco-Stove? 1. yes 2. no

Selling wood and charcoal

44. Do you/HH sell firewood or charcoal (income)? 1. yes 2. no
45. Compared to 2-3 years ago, do you/HH sell more, the same, or less wood and charcoal?
 1. more 2. the same 3. less

Tree planting

46. * Did you/HH participate in training or awareness meetings about environment and deforestation?
 1. yes 2. no
47. * Did you/HH receive tree seed / seedlings 1. yes 2. no

Conflict

Conflict frequency

48. [for refugees only] Considering conflicts among refugees, have conflicts increased / remained the same / decreased over the last 2-3 years?
 1. increased 2. remained the same 3. decreased
49. Considering conflicts between refugees and host community members, have conflicts increased / remained the same / decreased over the last 2-3 years?
 1. increased 2. remained the same 3. decreased
50. Did you participate in a peace and right day? 1. yes 2. no
51. Did you participate in a festive days and seed fairs? 1. yes 2. no
52. Did you participate in training on governance and human rights? 1. yes 2. no

Participation of marginalised groups in local governance

53. Do you participate in discussions and decisions taken at the community level? 1. yes 2. no
54. Compared to 2-3 years ago, do you participate more, the same or less in community discussions and decisions?
 1. more 2. the same 3. less

Additional observations / comments



Annex 2-5. Focus Group Discussion Guide

Introduction persons

Objective of this evaluation:

CARE has implemented the RFS project that is coming to an end. We want to evaluate this project: see what went well and what went wrong, and what could be done better if somewhere else a new refugee project would start.

Method

This evaluation involves some household interviews and group discussions.

We are not focussing on activities – these have already been monitored by CARE staff – but we focus now on what change these activities have brought to your lives: the lives of the refugees in camps, and of the refugees autochthon population in host communities. We also like your opinion about the sustainability of the benefits, and your recommendations for future refugee projects in other locations.

In some cases, we like to discuss with all together, and in other cases we may discuss with e.g. refugees separately or with women separately.

Impact indicators according to villagers

1. What change to your lives have you experienced during the last 2-3 years in this location?
2. Besides the effects planned by the project, there may also be unplanned or unexpected effects. Were there any unexpected effects?
3. Besides positive effects, there may also be negative effects. Were there any negative effects?

Specific questions, following project objectives

Food production

4. Did HH production increase, decrease or stay the same over the last 2-3 years?
5. What are the causes of the change?
6. For future projects in new refugee camps, what would you recommend for improved food production?

Food consumption

7. Compared to 2-3 years ago, do you eat more, the same or fewer meals in a day?
8. What has caused the change in number of meals per day?

Nutrition

9. Do you eat more, the same, or less vegetable than 2-3 years ago?
10. What are the causes for this change?
11. For future projects in new refugee camps, what would you recommend most for improved nutrition?

Environmental impact

12. Do you cultivate more, the same or less rice in valley swamps?
13. What are the causes for this change?



14. Has this community / camp planted trees? [collective woodlot]
15. What motivated you to plant trees?
16. What is your opinion (advantages, problems) about the Eco-Stoves
17. Compared to 2-3 years ago, do you sell more, the same, or less wood and charcoal?
18. What are the causes for this change?
19. For future refugee projects, what would you recommend to reduce the negative environmental impact by refugees [deforestation]?

Conflict prevention / resolution

20. Considering conflicts among refugees, have conflicts increased, remained the same or decreased over the last 2-3 years?
21. What are the causes for this change?
22. Considering conflicts between refugees and host community members, have conflicts increased, remained the same or decreased over the last 2-3 years?
23. What are the causes for this change?

Conflict resolution mechanisms adopted

24. How are conflicts among refugees being resolved?
25. Is there a human rights club in this community
26. [depending on mechanisms mentioned] Are these mechanisms still functional?
27. How are conflicts between refugees and host community members being resolved?
28. [depending on mechanisms mentioned] Are these mechanisms still functional?
29. For future refugee programmes, what would you recommend to reduce and resolve conflicts?

Participation of marginalised groups in local governance

30. Compared to 2-3 years ago, do women and youth participate more, the same or less in community discussions and decisions?
31. Can you give examples of decisions that women and youth have been involved in?
32. What has causes that change in participation?
33. For future refugee programmes, what would you recommend to increase participation (by women / youth) in community decisions?
- 33b. [accountability] When CARE came with support, e.g. seed or training, were all people sufficiently informed and involved? (was it clear to all?)

Technical sustainability

34. Do you expect to be able to continue the new agricultural practices (low land rice, vegetables, cassava, etc) without project support?

Economic sustainability

35. Will you be able to buy seeds and tools when the project will no longer cover some of the costs?
- 35b. Do you somehow preserve seed, e.g. in a seedbank?

Environmental sustainability

36. May on the long term some environmental problems occur? [Think of deforestation, land degradation, water]



Socio-cultural sustainability

37. Will the village continue resolving problems and making decisions by including women and youth, once the project will no longer support peace and right days or festive days / seed fairs?

Spread of useful practices to other communities

38. Some of the improved farm practices, environmental practices or conflict resolution practices may also be useful for other, non-project villages. Do you know whether there is a change in practices in non-project villages?

Relevance

39. We have discussed the support that CARE has given, especially food production and conflicts / local governance. What are the issues that you consider perhaps even more important, which were not taken care of by CARE?

Returned refugees

40. Some refugees have returned to Liberia and you are here. Why is that - what is the difference between you and those refugees who have returned?



Annex 2-6. Guide for Discussions with Partners

Objective of this evaluation:

CARE has implemented the RFS project that is coming to an end. We want to evaluate this project: see what went well and what went wrong, and what could be done better if somewhere else a new refugee project would start.

Method

This evaluation involves some household interviews and group discussions in camps and host villages, with refugees and autochthons. Besides, we want to discuss with a few key organisations that collaborated in this project: UNHCR, MAFS, NaCSA, District Council.

In this discussion, we will look at the specific project objectives (O), at CARE's programming principles (P), as well as some general aspects of final evaluation (E).

Food security and nutrition (O)

1. Considering food production and nutrition, has the project improved this?
2. How do you assess the sustainability of these activities?
3. What could have been done better?

Environmental impact – environmental sustainability (O+P+E)

4. Considering the environment, has the project contributed to reducing the negative environmental impact?
5. How do you assess the sustainability of these activities?
6. What could have been done better?

Conflict resolution – social sustainability (O+P+E)

7. Considering conflict resolution, both among refugees and between refugees and host communities, has the project contributed to reducing these conflicts?
8. How do you assess the sustainability of these activities?
9. What could have been done better?

Opposing discrimination - Participation marginalised groups – social sustainability (O+P)

10. Considering the participation of marginalised people (women, youth) on local decision-making, has the project contributed to increase their participation?
11. How do you assess the sustainability of these activities?
12. What could have been done better?

Partnering and collaboration - Institutional sustainability (P+E)

13. Did the project share sufficient power and responsibilities with partners?
14. More specifically: Do you think your organisation has been sufficiently involved in this project?
15. Have measures been taken during project to ensure future functioning of organisations? (continuation by MAFFS, NaCSA other national NGOs?)
16. What recommendations would you make for future CARE projects?



Policy sustainability (E) – relevance for SL national policy

17. Policy support: Does the country policy allow for continuation? Are food security and local governance still priorities?

Underlying causes of poverty (P)

18. Did the project sufficiently address the underlying causes of poverty?

19. What could have been done better?

Promoting accountability and responsibility (P)

20. Did the project have a system in place to be held accountable to beneficiaries?

21. What could have been done better?

22. Did the project promote the responsibilities of policy makers?

23. What could have been done better?

24. Have policy makers taken up more responsibilities to serve marginalised groups, because of the project?

25. [cancelled]

Relevance

26. Relevance for beneficiaries (E)

27. Did this project address the priorities of the beneficiaries?

28. What could have been done more?



Annex 2-7. List of camps and villages

	Location	FGD/HHS	name village	code	date	other support	
CARE supported	Camp	Gerihun	FGD/HHS		c1	15-jun	
		Tobanda	FGD/HHS		c2	18-jun	
		Taiama	FGD/HHS		c3	19-jun	
	village	Gerihun	FGD/HHS	Konia	h1	15-jun	
		Tobanda	FGD	Bandawor	h2	18-jun	
		Tobanda	HHS	Lollela		18-jun	
		Taiama	FGD	Kondebotihun	h3	19-jun	
		Taiama	HHS	Bongama		19-jun	
Not-CARE supported	camp	Bandajuma	FGD/HHS		nc1	20-jun	GAA; KNSL
	village	Gerihun	FGD/HHS	Komende	nv1	15-jun	
	village	Bandajuma	FGD	Bandajuma Sowa	nv2	20-jun	GAA; KNSL
	village	Bandajuma	HHS	Kobeibu		20-jun	GAA; KNSL

Household survey: 16 households in CARE-supported camps, 16 hh in CARE-supported host villages, 6 hh in camps not supported by CARE and 10 hh in host villages not supported by CARE.

Annex 2-8. Subjects covered and type of groups per camp and village

Subjects (and questions) covered in focus group discussions, per location and per group

	RFS supported:								not RFS			
	c1	c2	c3		h1	h2	h3		nc1	nv1	nv2	
all, men, women	a	a	w	m	a	a	m	w	a	a	a	w
general changes (1-3)	1	1	1	1	1	1	1				1	
food production (4-6)	1	1	1		1	1	1		1	1	1	
consumption (7-8)	1	1	1		1	1		1	1	1		1
nutrition (9-11)			1	1	1	1		1	1	1		1
environment (12-19)	1	1	1	1	1	1		1	1	1	1	1
conflict among (20-21)	1	1	1		1		1		1		1	
conflict ref-host (22-23)	1	1	1	1	1	1	1		1	1	1	
mechanism among (24-26)	1				1		1		1		1	
mechanism host-ref (27-29)	1	1	1	1	1	1			1	1	1	
participation W Y (30-33)	1	1			1		1	1		1		1
sustainability (34-37)	1	1	1		1		1	1				
replication (38)	1				1					1		
relevance (39)	1	1			1							
refugees motivation to stay (40)	1	1		1					1			
refugees: problems expected				1					1			
refugees: support needed				1	1				1			
questions to me?		1	1	1	1	1	1	1			1	
extra: decentralisation							1				1	

Note: 'relevance' is often covered by the requests for assistance they have 'questions to me?'



Annex 2-9. Persons and partners discussed with

Partners	location	Persons	date
UNHCR	Kenema	Gabriel Bagi, head of office	15 June 2007
		Aboubacar Diallo, programme officer	18 June 2007
NaCSA	Bo	Abdou Sherrif, Regional Coordinator South (introduction)	21-June 2007
		Seku Munirr Turay, District Humanitarian Officer South (main discussion)	
MAFS	Bo	Mr Kallo, District Agricultural Officer	21-June 2007

Restitution meeting with CARE staff in Bo, 22 June 2007

Musa Mamy, Assistant Project Manager RFS

Alex Macoverey, M&E Officer RFS

Samuel Abu Kargbo, Field Agent RFS

Solomon Khan, Monitoring Agent, RFS

Peter Ghombo, M&E Officer ProFARM

Monica, Human Resources, Freetown

(not complete)

Restitution meeting with CARE staff in Freetown, 25 June 2007

Alex Macoverey, M&E Officer RFS

Amani M'Bale, Youth and Livelihood Coordinator

Ahmed Ag Boubacrine, Design, M&E Paul Coordinator

Paul Touré, Programme Officer

Josephine Kainessie, HIV/Aids Prevention Programme Coordinator

Alfana Be, Programme Quality and Compliance Coordinator



Annex 3. Detailed Results

The presentation of results are organised as follows:

- Spontaneously mentioned changes over the last 3 years, general, unexpected and negative
- Food Production
 - Farmer group discussion (FGD)
 - Household survey (HHS)
 - Discussions with partners
- Food consumption and nutrition
 - FGD
 - HHS
- Environmental impact
 - FGD
 - HHS
 - Partner view
- Conflict resolution, mechanism adopted and participation
 - FDG
 - HHD
 - Partner view
- Sustainability
 - FGD
- CARE principles (partnering, accountability), political relevance
 - Partner view
- Extra requests from hosts (relevance)
 - FGD
- Recommendations for Liberian refugees staying in Sierra Leone
 - FGD: difference between those who left and those who stay?
 - FGD: extra questions: problems expected, and support required?
 - Partner view

At the end of the detailed results, an overview table with selected results from the household survey is presented in a 1-page table, following the logframe (proxy) indicators.



Spontaneously named changes over the last 3 years

			RFS supported						not RFS			
			c1	c2	c3	h1	h2	h3	nc1	nv1	nv2	
1 General changes		better life	1	1		1						
		less distress	1									
		thanks to care	1	1			1					
		now: development						1				
		Besides govt, Care has brought development						1				
		Better school structures									1	
		Health centre, nicely built									1	
		Market structure									1	
food	prod.	now: more food	1		1		1	1				
		now more vegetable production					1					
		benefits from vegetable garden			1							
		now mgt pests and diseases				1						
		production compost and naural pestices			1		1					
		group work is more productive			1				1			
		individual farming has improved too			1							
		now no food storage				1						
inputs		groundnuts	1	1		1						
		used to buy groundnuts elsewhere, but now they have them here					1					
		vegetable seed	1	1		1						
		rice	1			1						
		sweet potato vines				1						
		cassava cutting				1						
		tools				1						
		drying floor				1						
		cassava processing machine				1						
		machine encourages women group to grow more casava				1						
		now we can keep food for long time (food processing)						1				
		training		nutrition training	1		1		1			
				training vegetable growing			1					
agriculture training					1	1		1				
training as group facilitator, group work, more productive					1							
other		Now they can buy clothes and food for children		1								
		parents can pay school fees from crop sales				1						
		with this experience we can build life in L	1									
peace		Unity						1				
		now: no harrasment	1									
		Now more peace because of Peace and Right days that brought refugees and hosts together			1		1					
		Care exposed them to rights			1							

2. Unexpected changes		RFS supported						not RFS		
		c1	c2	c3	h1	h2	h3	nc1	nv1	nv2
food	rice yield improved more than expected			1						
	Cassava processing machine						1			
	vegetable gardening						1			
	Hunting nets (animals ate harvest)						1			
training	workshops						1			
	meetings						1			
	festive day and seed fair						1			
other	Access to health centre in camp, due to better relation with refugees						1			
	Football, CARE organised matches, contact with other villages									1
	an NGO gave shoes for children			1						

3. Negative changes (more: disappointments)

project effect	Chief receives less fines						1			
disappointments	late supply of seeds			1	1			1		
	no training certificates			1	1					
	Youth group had submitted proposal (for drama) to UNHCR, but was not supported	1								
	Women group, not supported			1						
	EFA pulled out			1						
	they were promised a seed store, but did not receive			1						
	This year, there are 4 groups, but only few groups received groundnuts; Women's group is most supported						1			
	single mothers have less time to farm and cannot pay workers			1						
	Refugees who stay like continued support						1			
	CARE stopped support abruptly						1			
Other changes	Bush is set back by refugees									1
	Now, more theft of crops in field (unclear by whom)									1
	difficult to find wood, sticks and tatching grass nearby									1
	Toilets and sanitation is poor									1



Food production

		RFS supported:						not RFS		
		c1	c2	c3	h1	h2	h3	nc1	nv1	nv2
Change? production	production has decreased	1						1		1
	production increased		1		1	1	1		1	
	2003-2005: increased; 2006-2007 decreased			1						
	2004 and 2005: same, selfsufficiency; 2006-2007 decrease.	1								
	2006 good yield, sold even some to CARE		1							
	some are taking seed to Liberia to farm there		1							
aid	2003-2007: relief food decreased			1				1		
total	2003-2005: (total) same level food; 2006-2007: (total) decrease			1						
Reason? for increase	2-3 years ago, too much rain, difficult to clear land (burning), therefore low yield; 2006 good rains									1
	Now they plant earlier								1	
	Now they work in groups, faster, more productive						1		1	
	CARE support with seed			1		1	1			
	Support government							1		
	inputs: rice, veg seed, g'nuts, cassava, potato tools			1			1		1	
	they have more money from sales vegetables			1			1			
for decrease	Refugees expect to leave, few people have planted now (2007)	1								
	less bush available because of refugees									1
	less seed rice given by GAA							1		
	some harvest destroyed by animals							1		
	poor quality seed given by GAA							1		
Recommend?	timely supply of seeds	1	1			1				
	give seeds together with training, not after brushing		1							
	rice			1						1
	groundnuts			1						1
	cassava									1
	sweet potato									1
	vegetable garden; vegetable seed	1		1						
	tools		1							1
	recommend same care approach	1								
	group work: more productive than individual	1	1							
	training on agriculture	1			1					1
	training on swamp rice				1					
	training on vegetables gardening				1					
	training on nutrition			1	1					
	training on cassava processing and storage				1					
training on human rights			1	1						
micro credit for women			1							



Food production

Outputs

(% HH)	CARE		No CARE		Baseline	
	camp	village	camp	village	camp	village
Received training on farming?	81%	69%	50%	80%		
Received seed?	100%	94%	83%	70%		
Received tools?	100%	94%	67%	60%	34%	8%

Outcome

Food production increase?		CARE		No CARE	
(%HH)		camp	village	camp	village
increase		67%	88%	67%	38%
same		13%	0%	17%	25%
decrease		20%	13%	17%	38%

Rice production (bags/HH)		CARE		No CARE	
		camp	village	camp	village
2006		2.4	17.3	11.2	13.4
2005		2.7	13.6	29.0	12.5
2004		3.8	10.2	23.5	10.3

Groundnut production (Bags/HH)		CARE		No CARE	
		camp	village	camp	village
2006		1.7	5.1	0.7	0.5
2005		2.5	4.4	0.8	7.4
2004		1.4	3.3	1.8	5.1

Meals per day (average whole year)		CARE		No CARE		Baseline	
		camp	village	camp	village	camp	village
1		9%	9%	33%	20%	16%	15%
2		50%	59%	33%	55%	69%	70%
3		41%	31%	33%	25%	15%	15%

Increase number of meals per day? (%HH)		CARE		No CARE	
		camp	village	camp	village
More		25%	88%	17%	10%
Same		50%	13%	83%	80%
Less		25%	0%	0%	10%



Food production, nutrition and sales

1 Project achievements?

- UNHCR (GB) GB has heard that some support is given in Taiama, where food has been produced by refugees
Some refugees are now food independent.
This explains why many refugees now want to stay.
He heard that CARE and GAA have bought seed from refugees, to help them return to Liberia
- NaCSA In camps where RFS worked, food production has increased; difference with other camps
Some refugees have enough food and even sell food host communities, and to GAA
- MAFS Care, and other NGOs like GAA and Action Aid, have played their role in improving food production

2 Sustainability?

- UNHCR (GB) More sustainable if project sells seeds / inputs, rather than giving, so it can be replicated.
Experience in Uganda: WFP and Swedish NGO. WFP gives food; NGO gives seed only once.
NGO trained ag extensionist; community keeps seedbank, and sell seed to others
- NaCSA RFS has built capacity of refugees and farmers by agricultural training, e.g. IVS, and supplied new varieties (Nerica rice, new potato vines)
- MAFS Depends on future of refugees: some will go back, others may stay.

3 Recommendations?

- UNHCR (GB) CARE should work with both refugees and surrounding communities, affected by the refugees
UNHCR approach is to support also affected host villages
- (AD) Support refugees to market their produce; e.g. transport, or NGO buying from refugees, or linking with buyers
CARE could identify 'good land' to assure that the allocated land is productive enough
(some refugees complained that allocated land was poor quality)
- NaCSA First to a survey of current agricultural practices, and build on that.
This avoids that 'new crops' are introduced that are not appropriate, because refugees don't like it or there is no market for it
(e.g. sweet potato was not the preference for refugees in some cases)
Second, assist also with the marketing
- MAFS Expand the area around the camps: involve more host communities
Work MAFS likes to see done:
1. Rehabilitation of feeder roads
2. Food processing, including canning, processing pineapple and mango - value addition
New plans for host communities within a 7 mile radius.
Implementation in future by collaboration of ministry and NGO
- [extra] [this is an old wish, also expressed during ProFARM review:]
MAFS wish support in making a thorough survey with basic statistical data:
Land suitability study: area swamp, bulli land, upland; area cultivated and area not cultivated
From this, we can see the potential for swamp development, and plan
MAFS has started this inventory, but it is a lot of work
Ferko: Does MAFS use satellite images? - No [Ferko: this would save them time!]



Food consumption and nutrition

Change?			RFS supported:						not RFS		
			c1	c2	c3	h1	h2	h3	nc1	nv1	nv2
Change?	decrease	consumption has decreased	1						1	1	1
		before 3, now 1-2 meals a day	1								
		before 2, now 1 meal a day	1						1	1	
	increase	before 2-3, now 1 meal a day									1
		consumption has increased		1		1	1	1			
		before 1, now 2 meals a day							1		
		before 1, now 2-3 meals per day		1		1					
before 2, now 3 meals a day					1						
same number of meals (2-3)			1								
Reasons	decrease	relief food has reduced	1								
		Now more mouths to feed less food available								1	1
	increase	Cassava processing now cassava				1					
		now groundnuts		1							
		care support, now more farming (esp rice)					1				
extra		recommend FFW	1								
extra		because increasing population, food availability will go down in future					1				
Vegetables consumption											
Change?		eat more vegetables		1	1	1	1	1		1	
		eat less vegetables							1		1
Reasons	more	training on nutrition				1					
		before no / few vegetable seeds; now plenty		1		1	1	1		1	
		working in groups in vegetable garden				1					
		Now the preserved veg seeds from upland								1	
	eat more because they have more money				1						
	less	less seed available									
		Before, GAA supported with veg seed (no training); now, no more seed supply							1		
Recommend		Choose easy to grow (local)		1	1	1		1			
		vegetable species: bitter ball, okra; because imported seed perform badly									
		Vegetable seeds			1						1
		Timely supply of seeds					1				
		training women groups in vegetable growing							1		1
		training in compost and org pesticides					1				
		supply fertiliser									1



Nutrition

Outputs

(%HH)	CARE		No CARE	
	camp	village	camp	village
Received vegetable seed?	88%	100%	83%	50%
Received training vegetable growing?	88%	75%	33%	50%
Received training on nutrition?	88%	69%	17%	30%

Outcome

vegetable eating in dry season (% respondents)	CARE		No CARE		Baseline	
	camp	village	camp	village	camp	village
every day	93%	94%	33%	60%	41%	38%
2-4 x per week	7%	6%	67%	40%	36%	47%
1 x per week					15%	8%
2-3 x per month					5%	3%
once a month					2%	3%
never						1%

vegetable eating in rainy season (% respondents)	CARE		No CARE		Baseline	
	camp	village	camp	village	camp	village
every day	60%	88%	50%	60%	37%	30%
2-4 x per week	40%	13%	50%	40%	44%	53%
1 x per week					12%	8%
2-3 x per month					5%	4%
once a month					2%	3%
never						1%

Increase in vegetable consumption? (%HH)	CARE		No CARE	
	camp	village	camp	village
More	56%	69%	83%	33%
Same	19%	31%	17%	44%
Less	25%	0%	0%	22%

Increase sales surplus? (%HH)	CARE		No CARE	
	camp	village	camp	village
More	31%	69%	50%	0%
Same	50%	19%	50%	80%
Less	19%	13%	0%	20%

Surplus sold last year? (% of product available)	CARE		No CARE		Baseline	
	camp	village	camp	village	camp	village
Rice	8%	16%	13%	5%	19%	10%
Groundnuts	14%	19%	0%	13%	28%	41%
Vegetables	28%	20%	8%	8%	39%	53%



Swamp rice cultivation (both food production and environment)

Output

(%HH)	CARE		No CARE	
	camp	village	camp	village
Member of supported working group?	93%	94%	33%	60%
Received training valley rice?	60%	88%	50%	60%
Received rice seed?	73%	100%	83%	70%

Outcome

Do you cultivate lowland rice, and how? (%HH)	CARE		No CARE		Baseline	
	camp	village	camp	village	camp	village
Cultivates lowland rice	56%	94%	83%	90%	15%	32%
collective	38%	44%	50%	80%		
individual	19%	25%	33%	0%		
both	0%	25%	0%	10%		
undeveloped swamp	25%	63%	33%	60%		
developed swamp	31%	31%	50%	30%		

Increase swamp rice cultivation?

	CARE		No CARE	
	camp	village	camp	village
More	33%	67%	80%	22%
Same	56%	33%	20%	44%
Less	11%	0%	0%	33%

Environment

Output

(%HH)	CARE		No CARE		Baseline	
	camp	village	camp	village	camp	village
Received training Eco stove?	63%	50%	67%	0%	11%	10%
Made an Eco stove?	69%	63%	83%	0%		
Sell charcoal or firewood?	31%	38%	0%	80%	25%	25%
Received tree seedlings?	63%	56%	83%	60%		

Outcome

Do you still use an Eco-Stove? (%HH)	CARE		No CARE		Baseline	
	camp	village	camp	village	camp	village
yes	69%	63%	50%	0%	10%	13%

Increase sales wood / charcoal? (%HH)	CARE		No CARE	
	camp	village	camp	village
More	20%	38%	0%	25%
Same	50%	54%	100%	63%
Less	30%	8%	0%	13%



Environmental impact

4 *Project achievements?*

- UNHCR (GB) (no idea)
(extra) Now repatriation; after last repatriation, 30 June, UNHCR with MAFS will to an environmental impact assessment and then plan for rehabilitation
- NaCSA CARE's effort in tree planting have been modest; has not budgeted much for land owners
It is difficult to change the habit of charcoal making and selling, as this gives quicker profit than agriculture
[extra] Unfortunately, there has been not good Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) before deciding where the camps would be, because these camps (for L refugee) were before camps for IDP (SL)
Also, the habits of the refugees should have been taken into account in EIA:
Liberians use charcoal
Camps were now a too high prussure on the land - this could have been foreseen and avoided
Currently, partners discuss about when the projects will be phased out, an EIA will be done, and a rehabilitation plan will be made
- MAFS There is a large negative effect of the camps on the environment.
The efforts by RFS in tree planting were too small.

6 *Recommendations*

- UNHCR (GB) Improved stove.
In Uganda, valuable trees are marked: can not be cut down. Refugees are made aware. Has not happened in SL
People have impression that there is still enough forest
Campaign: cut 1 - plant 2 trees.
- NaCSA More sensitisation and alternative IGA would be needed
- MAFS There is a huge potential for swamp development, fields that could produce 2-3 crops per year [both food and environment]
For swamp development, farmers need incentives: no payment, but food for work, inputs (new variety seed, tools), and training, and fertiliser where possible
There is a technical team within MAFS that does hydrological surveys to plan swamp development



Conflict resolution

		RFS supported:			not RFS					
		c1	c2	c3	h1	h2	h3	nc1	nv1	nv2
Conflicts among refugees										
Change?	reduced	1	1	1				1		
Example of conflict	problems among refugees during distribution; police came in, only once in 2003	1								
Reason?	now fewer refugees, less conflict	1								
	they realise food aid will stop	1								
	training in human rights and responsibilities	1								
	now distribution is more fair	1								
	Now: women engaged in farming; no energy left for conflicts			1						
	workshop peace building by CCF (NGO)							1		
Conflicts between refugees and host communities										
Change?	reduced, now no conflicts	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
Example of conflict	before: refs not free to sell on local markets; now they can	1								
	when refugees arrived, refugees did not speak host language, and harvested in host gardens					1				
	2005-2006: conflict: host refused access to swamp before, refugees went beyond 5 km from camp; lack of understanding		1					1		
	when just arrived, difficult to get firewood			1						
	when refugees arrived, conflicts about bush; did not ask host for land							1		1
	First, refugees were not allowed to enter land; later discussion, host-camp, MoU: OK	1								
Reason?	Joint events: Peace and Right Day	1		1		1				
	Joint events: Festive day and seed fair			1		1				
	Joint event: training by Care		1	1						
	Care intervened, refugees appointed a leader, went with liaison officer (host) to host chief. After harvest, paid one bundle rice			1						
	host community also received support: less jealousy					1				
	Refugees know their rights: land allocated by UNHCR should be free			1						
	training by other NGOs			1						
	since we have food, less reason for conflict			1						
	Host explained refugees where they can farm; now refugees ask where they can farm							1		
	UNHCR and NaCSA helped with MoU, no more conflict									1
	more contact now; play football together									1
	Intermarriage			1						1
	many refugees have gone					1			1	



Conflict resolution mechanisms adopted

		RFS supported:			not RFS					
		c1	c2	c3	h1	h2	h3	nc1	nv1	nv2
Among refugees	Description mechanism: 1. Refugee authority 2. Chair committee (chairman and lady) 3. Grievance committee as judge, if this fails then: 4. Distribution team 5. Camp mgt 6. NaCSA 7. UNHCR	1 1 1 1 1 1 1								
Among host villagers	Traditional system: chief calls upon all parties, all explain, all give advice, without asking money, give right to one party Resolve in village (incl women); avoid going to court, because higher authorities ask money.				1	1				1
Human Right Club	There is a human rights club (CARE trained)	1			1	1				
	Functioning HRC HRC composed of 5p, incl W + Y HRC composed of 3 W and 3 M HRC serves as advisors to chairman HRC tries to resolve a problem before this is brought to the chief	1			1		1			
Between refugees and host communities	Camp mgt and host com elders sit together Refugees and village elders sit together Create common understanding, by joint events (like PDR and festive days if necessary, take case to camp mgt, NaCSA, CARE first liaison officer, then paramount chief		1		1					1
Recommendations	SL govt policy is different from that in L; needs to be explained Good relationship with govt is important Care can help with relation govt - refugees Refugees needs to be protected by host govt Same Care approach: training, workshop, etc Bring host and refugees together in forum (as PRD) Would like one refugee trained as a mediator, who can take the case to the host community Assistance in rights awareness Assistance in food security	1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1				1 1	1 1			



Participation of women and youth in community decision making

		RFS supported:			not-RFS					
		c1	c2	c3	h1	h2	h3	nc1	nv1	nv2
Change?	Women now participate more than before	1	1		1	1			1	
	Youth now participate more than before	1	1		1	1			1	
	Women participate as much as before									1
Example?	This meeting was announced, all were invited	1								1
	Camp executive has 1 male and 1 female Y rep.	1								
	Construction of community centre, all involved in decision how to do, and all contributed money, even youth participated and contributed money				1					
	In panning with UNHCR, women refugees are now also involved		1							
Reason?	In case of conflicts, now W are also involved		1				1			
	Decision and construction of road						1			
	Before, they did not realise participation is important				1				1	
Recommend	Unity, preached by CARE				1					
	Training / awareness in human rights		1			1				
	Training by NGO (KNSL); female peace monitor									1
Recommend	Education as CARE did (workshop ed)	1			1					
	Training on unity				1					
	Promote group work (as care promoted)									
	Vegetable growing by women groups is also good for women participation	1								



Conflict resolution and participation in decision making

Output

(% of respondents)	CARE		No CARE	
	camp	village	camp	village
Participated in a peace and right day?	100%	100%	0%	30%
Participated in a festive days and seed fairs?	100%	100%	0%	0%
Participated in training governance / rights?	94%	75%	17%	20%

Outcome

Reduction in conflicts among refugees?

(%HH)	CARE		No CARE	
	camp	village	camp	village
Yes	100%	100%	100%	100%

Reduction in conflicts refugees - hosts?

(%HH)	CARE		No CARE	
	camp	village	camp	village
Yes	100%	100%	100%	100%

Increase in participation in community-level decision making?

(%HH)	CARE		No CARE	
	camp	village	camp	village
More	87%	80%	50%	30%
Same	0%	7%	17%	40%
Less*	13%	13%	33%	30%

* Note: there was a misunderstanding in the way the question was formulated. None of us believe that participation has reduced anywhere.

Participation women and youth in community level decision making?

(% interviewed)	<35 yrs	>35 yrs
Men	86%	92%
Women	100%	82%



Conflict resolution

7 Project achievements

UNHCR (GB) SL and L have similar ethnic background, therefore fewer conflicts; impressed with peace

GB has not heard about conflicts

They were condemned to live together harmoniously

NaCSA PRA was done by CARE

Care involved the communities in planning, resulting in less conflict

Among refugees

There is a good mechanism in place to resolve conflict among refugees (not specific for RFS):

A liaison office, the council elders, by-laws, NaCSA staf, camp executive, etc.

RFS has helped with training on conflict and peace

Between refugees and host communities

There is a mechanism in place (not specific FRS), camp coordination meetings

RFS staff participated in these camp coordination meetings, and discussed conflicts with hosts

Besides, RFS organised joint activities where both hosts and refugees are invited

9 Recommendations

UNHCR (AD) Good land for refugees may also reduce conflict

The land allocation must be very clear. Confusion leads to conflict

NaCSA Study first how traditionally conflicts are resolved in Liberia: this may be different from in SL

Harmonise these differences by discussing with hosts and refugees together

Fortunately, the conflict resolution mechanisms in L and SL are similar

Enhance cohesion between hosts and refugees by a more permanent forum

The RFS events (Peace and Right Days, Festive days and seed fairs) were only once a year; something more frequent is needed

Participation of marginalised groups

10 Project achievements

UNHCR

They (UNHCR / NaCSA?) work with a humanitarian code: includes women participation.

Camp executive includes 45-50% women.

However, participation can still be low in some cases; because of tradition, or because it is not paid

CARE has stimulated women participation



Sustainability

		RFS supported:			not RFS					
		c1	c2	c3	h1	h2	h3	nc1	nv1	nv2
Technical	<p>Refugees can continue same practices in Liberia where there is plenty of land</p> <p>They will continue agricultural practices</p> <p>They have already expanded: 4 acres cassava by group of women</p>	1	1							
Economic	<p>They will be able to buy seed and tools themselves</p> <p>They can buy seed with money from crop sales</p> <p>They can arrange credit among themselves</p> <p>Some fear not being able to get seed</p> <p>Buying tools may become a problem</p> <p>They cannot pay improved tools (shovel, watering can)</p>	1	1		1	1				
Environmental	<p>They do not expect problem by deforestation</p> <p>Refugees have cut trees, but not uprooted; will sprout again, wood will grow after ref's have left</p> <p>CARE trained them on tree nurseries, no problem expected (men)</p> <p>Expect deforestation, want economic trees: orange, coconut, oilpalm, cashew (women)</p> <p>They expect deforestation, want micro credit as IGA, as alternative for wood / charcoal sales</p>				1					
Socio-cultural	<p>They will continue trained way of resolving conflicts</p> <p>They will continue to involve W+Y</p> <p>Continue. Even government trains in participation [situation changes when refugees have to move to villages]</p>	1			1	1				
Spread to other communities?	<p>CARE supports host villages; trained together</p> <p>Neighbouring non-supported villages now also grow cassava and have it processed in supported host village;</p> <p>Neighbouring villages also started planting more groundnuts</p> <p>Chief receives visitors and discuss also participation issues</p> <p>The non-supported village want to copy, and they would like also a cassava processing machine and drying floors</p> <p>Neighbouring village now also constructed a road in a group by themselves</p>	1			1				1	



Partnering and collaboration

13 Project achievements

- UNHCR Before, there was a EU-funded Technical Unit, in charge of coordinating LRRD programme; funding ended July 06
Since July 06, UNHCR and NaCSA coordinate, but only 2 meetings were in 2006 (after July) and none in 2007
However, coordination works OK. [?]
Most UNHCR people, who know RFS project, have left (high turnover UNHCR)
CARE always supported, attended and reported about coordination meetings
- NaCSA (AD) CARE has made good effort: participated in coordination meetings, more than other LRRD partners
CARE informed partners well; some partners worked too much on their own.
RFS involved the line ministry (MAFS) and GAA.
One problem was that UNHCR should monitor the LRRD programme, but they were not give a monitoring plan by LRRD partners
- MAFS There was a collaboration between CARE and MAFS, but this could be improved

16 Recommendations?

- NaCSA Depends on the coordination capacity of home government.
Depends on the relationship between agencies sometimes there is competition
- MAFS A more continuous reporting on activities
Example of another collaboration that MAFS was satisfied about: Concern World Wide (NGO):
Concern invited MAFS to put in a request for mobility. Concern provided motorbikes and bicycles

17. Political relevance and sustainability

- NaCSA Ideally, the government has updated policies in place
In practice, when LRRD started, there was no clear policy yet.
Implementing partners (incl. CARE) were a step ahead on government policies
As long as partners keep the line ministries well informed in sector meetings, this is OK
Partners thus contribute in formulating government policy making
- MAFS Yes, RFS is relevant and in line with SL policy

18. Underlying causes of poverty

- MAFS MAFS can not say much about this [Ferko: perhaps interesting tool for MAFS too !]

He assumes some assessment was made by CARE before RFS started.

Accountability and responsibility

- UNHCR Although he does not know RFS project well, he was involved in assessment of NGO support
NGO support was transparent: refugees were involved in registration, refugees feel ownership of programme
refugees participate in distribution of food and non food items; even tool banks (CARE) were managed by refugees
- NaCSA RFS always informed others, also beneficiaries in the field
RFS worked with District Council, gave info, and access to field visits
Communities have a structure to monitor project.
- MAFS Yes: CARE is very clear about all inputs provided and explains well the roles and responsibilities

Relevance

- UNHCR Food security is very relevant for refugees. Most refugees are farmers.



Extra questions or requests by hosts (indicates relevance)

		RFS			non-RFS	
		h1	h2	h3	nv1	nv2
Project-related	Who will help after CARE pulls out? Where can they seek assistance?		1	1	1	1
	Youth frustrated, they want to work; refugees get free food, but host youth not even FFW.					1
	They want same support as given to camp					1
	fertiliser	1				
	drying floor			1		
	economic trees: orange, coconut, oilpalm, cashew			1		
Non-project	Store	1		1		
	toilets	1	1			1
	water well	1		1		1
	Medical facility (general)	1		1		
	Medical facility has left with the refugees (UNHCR closed clinic)	1				
	Repair: 2 out of 3 pumps are broken					1
	Bridge		1	1		
	school	1				
	roofing material, because tatching grass is disappearing	1				
	They want to construct meeting place; not yet constructed	1				
	Skill training: tailoring, carpentry, etc	1	1			
	Micro credit				1	
	Salaries for secondary school teachers					1



Difference between refugees who returned and those still in camps, and future plans

	RFS-support			non-RFS
	c1	c2	c3	nc1
Why stay?				
bad experiences war		1		1
afraid of new war		1	1	
some expect problems in L.		1		
Ex-rebels are sacked in Liberia. As long as they don't have new jobs, they are dangerous		1		
Does not want to be confronted with old enemy		1		
For single mothers is difficult to re-start in Liberia			1	1
Each refugee has their individual problems			1	
Don't feel secure in L yet			1	1
For those who speak Mende it is easier to stay			1	
SL is free and has no security problem			1	
One has lost driving licence and recommendation letters, so fears not finding a job in Liberia			1	
No family or support in Liberia				1
One has a political problem and feels a target				1
Houses and possessions are destroyed		1	1	1
Husband was killed				1
For health reasons prefer to stay in SL				1
For mental health problems, prefer to stay in SL				1
Why have others gone?				
Refugees who have returned, may have had less traumatising experiences		1		
Refugees who have returned, may have come from less attacked area		1		
Especially young healthy men want to go to L.				1
Where do they plan to go?				
most plan to stay in SL		1		1
few plan to return to Liberia		1		1
Few don't know yet where to go		1		
Want to go to overseas (US)				1
Within SL, where will they go?				
Most will stay in camp and see later where to go			1	1
Will be decided by others where they can go				1
Prefer to stay in camp (which may become a settlement) then to go to host village (happens in Ghana)			1	1



Extra questions or requests by refugees (indicates relevance)

		RFS support			not RFS
		c1	c2	c3	nc1
Requests in general project	Who will help after CARE pulls out?		1		
	Inform refugees timely about stop RFS support			1	
	They want training certificate for CARE training followed		1		
	Training in land management, how to drain swamp		1		
non-project	Medical facility, has left with the refugees (UNHCR closed clinic)			1	1
	micro credit	1		1	1
	Support to single mother refugees		1		
	Skill training: soap making, weaving, carpentry	1			
	vulnerable, weak, or disabled people cannot farm, need other assistance		1		
Problems expected when integrating in host communities?					
	problems single mothers - host men - host wives			1	1
	discrimination				1
	continue to pay hosts for using land				1
	conflict about land access				1
	between children; some say: you don't belong here, you brought war here			1	
Support for integration of refugees in Sierra Leone					
	Food			1	1
	Medical care			1	1
	Housing			1	1
	Food for work			1	
	Education, training			1	1
	microcredit			1	
	Special help for orphans				1
	SL govt should help relation refugees with SL host				1
	support with scholarships				1
	2 years support would be enough			1	
	3-6 years support needed				1
Recommendations for other refugee projects elsewhere					
	For other locations with refugees: recommend same assistance as what care gave in SL.			1	
	vegetable garden was good income source			1	
	More emphasis on training of trainers			1	
	More support for single mothers		1		
	More support for weak and old who can't work in agriculture		1		
	Assistance with livestock		1		

What support for Liberian refugees who wish to stay in Sierra Leone?

UNHCR Extra UNHCR reconns that there are still 16,000 refugees in the 8 camps, plus 5,500 in towns (Bo, Kenema, ...)
The survey from August 2006 estimated that about 6000 were likely to stay in SL

Now UNHCR count on about 10,000 refugees that will (want to) stay in SL, after last repatriation 30 June 2007.

Government / NaCSA have not yet decided about the future of camps; may become settlements

A mapping was done and 152 host villages were identified within a radius of 15 km, for integration

The aim is to limit refugee population in host communities to max 10%

UNHCR will support integration of refugees in SL at least for 1,5 year, possibly for 3 years

NaCSA Currently, SL govt, NaCSA and line ministries, develop a 'Self Reliance Strategy' for after camp closure.

The SL Govt is not planning to maintain the camps for a long time

The aim is to help 6,000 - 8,000 refugees, who wish to stay, to integrate in host communities

A mapping I done and identified 152 villages in 15 km radius around the 8 camps

Villages are willing to host. But dominance by Liberians should be avoided (max 10%?)

A programme will be made to help both refugees and hosts.

Protection issues (natural resources as well as security)

Develop leader aspects of refugees, to engage local authorities

Develop capacity of communities on how to improve production without competition for natural resources (land, water, wood)

No decision has been made on whether camps will be turned into settlements ; depends also on land owners = host villages

Role CARE?

UNHCR UNHCR is interested to work with NGO, like CARE.

NaCSA 1. Legal aspects and peace and conflict issues

2. Agricultural sector

CARE has the capacity and knows the communities



Annex 3 Overview of selected indicators and the values from the household survey.

Specific objectives*	OVI	Baseline		Effect	
		camp host	camp host	camp host	camp host
1 Target group increased food production, consumption and sales	% HH increased production average rice production in 2006 (bags/HH)			67%	88%
				2.4	17.3
	average groundnut production in 2006 (bags/HH)			1.7	5.1
	% HH eating 3 meals per day	15%	15%	41%	31%
	% HH increased consumption			25%	88%
	% rice sold	19%	10%	8%	16%
	% groundnuts sold	28%	41%	14%	19%
	% vegetables sold	39%	53%	28%	20%
2 Target group improved nutrition	% HH increased crop sales			31%	69%
	% HH eating vegetables every day in rainy season	37%	30%	60%	88%
3 Reduced negative environmental impact on upland and wood	% HH increased vegetable consumption			56%	69%
	% HH growing lowland rice	15%	32%	56%	94%
	% HH growing lowland rice in groups			38%	69%
	% HH developed swamp			31%	31%
	% HH increase in lowland rice cultivation			33%	67%
	% HH made eco-stove			69%	63%
	% HH using eco-stove			69%	63%
	% HH selling wood or charcoal	25%	25%	31%	38%
4 Reduced conflicts among refugees	% HH increased wood sales			20%	28%
	% HH x change in conflicts among refugees			100%	
5 Reduced conflict between refugees and host communities	% HH x change in conflicts between refugees and hosts			100%	100%
7 Increased participation of women and youth in community decision-making	% young women participating			100%	100%
	% young men participating			50%	100%
	% older women participating			100%	67%
	% older men participating			67%	100%
	% HH increased participation			87%	80%
Results	OVI				
1.1 target group received agricultural training	% HH received agricultural training			81%	69%
1.2 target group received seed	% HH received seed			100%	94%
1.3 target group received tools	% HH received tools			100%	94%
2.1 target group received training in nutrition	% HH received training in nutrition			88%	69%
2.2 target group received training vegetable growing	% HH received training in vegetable growing			88%	75%
2.3 target group received vegetable seed	% HH received vegetable seed			88%	100%
3.1 target group organised in farming groups	% HH member of ag. group			93%	94%
3.2 target group received training in swamp rice	% HH received training swamp rice			60%	88%
3.3 target group received rice seed	% HH received rice seed			73%	100%
3.4 target group received training in eco-stoves	% HH received training in making eco-stoves	11%	10%	63%	50%
3.6 target group received tree seedlings	% HH received tree seedlings			63%	56%
4.1 refugees attended training on human rights	% refugees attended training on human rights			100%	
5.1 target group participated in peace & right days	% HH participated in peace and right days			100%	100%
5.2 target group participated in festive days and seed fairs	% HH participated in festive days and seed fairs			100%	100%
6.1 (covered by activities 5)					
7.1 target group participated in awareness / training to include marginalised groups	% HH participated in training governance and human rights			100%	100%

