

## INTRODUCTION

A brief project visit was conducted by the Project Advisor between the 3rd and the 8th September 2014 in Sololo Obbitu Children Home. The visit included the following official meetings:

- Meeting with Pino Bollini, member of Sololo Project Management Team;
- Meeting with Gufu Guyo (Chariman CIPAD) and Pino Bollini;
- Field visit to Obbitu Farming Unit;

General discussions have been ongoing between the Project Advisor and the following partners: Gufu Duba Jaldesa, Paul Guyo, James Bonaya Roba and the Farming Unit's team members Mr. Guyo and Mr. Bonaya.

## DETAILS:

- Meeting with Pino Bollini, member of the Management Team

Outcome:

- we drafted the agenda for the following meeting with CIPAD (refer to point 2.)
- we drafted our personal suggestion for a strategic plan (Mondeco) to be implemented as soon as possible and in 2015, identifying the following areas of intervention:
- ***Food-security, Livelihood and Shelter, WASH***
  - Extend the water collection from Dakakate hill so to improve productivity from the farming unit;
  - Expand drip irrigation system (purchase of new drip lines) and optimize cultivating areas in the farming unit;
  - Purchase a petrol water pump to facilitate the transfer of water from pan1 to pan2 or from the pans to mid-tanks for irrigation purposes;
  - Increase the cultivation of fruits (mango, pow-pow, possibly oranges and lemons and grapefruits). Note: a map of the plot has been drafted including new cultivation area to be implemented. The map was shared with CIPAD, Pino Bollini. Hard copy is available through Mr. Guyo.
  - Purchase a small herd for Obbitu and promote bio-gas cooking solutions for house 1 and house 2 in Obbitu;

- Start-up **beekeeping** and honey production in Obbitu Farming Unit;
- Continue **promoting** Income Generating Activities by assignment of donkeys to OVC families;
- Start-up the mechanic workshop as a for profit organisation and Vocational Training Centre for OVC in Obbitu;
- Plan the distribution of Non food items (plastic sheets) to OVC families;
- Support Amballo community with water facilities (1 tank linked to 1 drinking area for cattle);
- **Health**
  - HIV/AIDS: promotion of testing, counselling and accessibility to ART for OVC families;
  - Paediatric service: to continue with classic PFL activity to OVC;
  - Continue the NHIF program to 106 OVC families;
  - Call for evidence of birth certificates from 90 families previously supported by CCM and inclusion of eligible beneficiaries in NHIF program;
  - Advocate to CCM and Guido Villa about funds for those beneficiaries previously supported in the CCM-NHIF program;
  - Strengthen support to chronically ill people (adults and kids) (PFL-CIPAD program);
- **Nutrition**
  - Keep on delivering regular nutritional assessment to OVC;
  - Keep on delivering targeted food distribution to OVC, even with food vouchers, including specific actions when Moderate - Acute Malnourished (MAM) or Severe Acute Malnourished (SAM) children are detected (promotion of supplementary feeding through Sololo Project and/or referral to health centre, when available);
  - Approach the leading agency for food distribution (Concern or World Vision?) and possibly WFP to advocate for CIPAD as local implementing partner;
- **Education**
  - Keep on promoting access to primary education for OVC by supporting them with



school fees, books, stationaries, uniforms and incentives;

- Keep on delivering performance benefits/incentives to brilliant students (keep on evaluating the quality of their studies during the quarters);
- Start-up a role-model program and promote a wide vision of the world to OVC.  
Note: The traditional local culture is constantly deteriorating while OVC are growing in a world that keeps on changing and might offer them unexpected opportunities in future. We believe it is urgent to promote a wider non scholar education to OVC by promoting regular meetings with role models such as adults that are actually delivering positive changes in society through their work and life experience. Sharing skills and positive stories will surely motivate the OVC in learning more about their possibilities and how to further develop their skills in life.

- **Meeting with Gufu Guyo (CIPAD) and Pino Bollini**

Agenda:

- Critical review of the agreement between CIPAD and AMREF for the implementation of Aphyaplus program (2014 and overview on 2015 strategy);
- Inclusion of meals (lunches) for 2 Farming Unit workers in the scheduled meals for Obbitu's staff;
- Planning the procurement of new items to be allocated to Obbitu Farming Unit;
- Discussion on the collaboration of Marko Lokunyo Lorem in the farming project;
- Discussion on the status of implementation of Obbitu Farming project and honey project;
- Audit on registers and record tracking (Store);
- Contents of the future policy that regulates the use of a new vehicle;
- *Critical review of the agreement between CIPAD and AMREF for the implementation of Aphyaplus program (2014 and overview on 2015 strategy);*

2014 implementation of Aphyaplus is overall positive because it provides budget for the whole "Sololo Project". Anyway some critical aspects have been raised by CIPAD and acknowledged by Mondeco. The main one is the lack of practical service

delivery compared to the amount of nonsense data collection that is constantly required by Aphyaplus. Also, the motivation of the enumerators in the villages is deteriorating due to low salary and benefits. Overall, the OVC families are raising expectations (throw all of the information that are asked to them every month). CIPAD is recognised as one of the best implementing partners in the program; as so, beside the critics, there are some good chances for CIPAD to be influential in the consortium for a better implementation in 2015. Therefore:

- CIPAD should keep separate the image of Sololo Project from the one of Aphyaplus (Mr. Abdi Wario should never collect Aphyaplus data at household level and, whenever possible, he should underline to the families the distinction between A.plus and Sololo Project;
- CIPAD should prepare a list of complains and suggestions to be presented to the consortium at the next mid-term review. By doing so, CIPAD is preparing the ground for a stronger proposal to be submitted for 2015;

- *Inclusion of meals (lunches) for 2 Farming Unit workers in the scheduled meals for Obbitu's staff;*

In order to optimise the productivity of the farming unit, it has been agreed to include Mr. Bonaya and Mr. Guyo in the list of those adults receiving meals in Obbitu

- *Planning the procurement of new items to be allocated to Obbitu Farming Unit;*

A map for the future development (2015) of the farming unit has been shared and accepted. It includes a wider use of land which requires the procurement in the next future of the following items:

- 4 or 5 drip irrigation sets to be located according to the indications of Mr. Guyo; one or more sets might even just be stored as spare parts or stored for future usage. At least 1 drip irrigation set should be dedicated to provide water to moringa trees in open fields;
- A nursery area (5mtx5mt) covered with green net should be prepared beside pan2 (we advise to involve mr. Antonio Cazzaniga in the preparation of this activity, under the surveillance of Mr. Guyo and Mr. Bonaya;
- Plan the procurement of a small patrol water pump, including the needed mts of



line needed to connect pan1 with pan2;

- Set up a system that facilitates the management of overflow from the roof of pan2;

Recommantation:

Revise the contract with Bonaya James

- **Field visit to Obbitu Farming Unit**

The site resulted to be positively impressive. Outcomes are visible and well managed both in terms of production and recording of sells or internal consumption. Two talented staff are managing the practical work; they appeared to be motivated and responsible. This is encouraging because the project is now close to start-up other 2 greenhouses. An overall view on the results suggests that profit (social profit on top of the coverage of salaries and running costs) can be obtained by implementing two new greenhouses that are to be managed by the same 2 workers. Workers might complain about this solution (overwhelming of working time), but the profits we will obtain from the next greenhouses will allow us to increase their salary in a sensible manner. As so, CIPAD is invited to carefully look at the behaviour of this key-workers with the goal to motivate them and let them understand that they are doing a good and essential job, which the organisation acknowledges and recognise in terms of benefit (such as salary increasing and provision of meals).

A beekeeping program has to be started as soon as possible. More focus has to be given in the plantation of new seedling both in the farming unit and in the Obbitu village area. In fact, the desertification of the area (both from internal operations and community operations) is warring and is visible. Though wildlife is active in the area and though the community needs wood for their households, we must protect Obbitu environment and facilitate seedling to grow. Particularly for the farming unit, it is advisable to start as soon as possible fruits plantations. Pow pow (in big quantities), mango, oranges, lemons, grapefruits are recommended. Mr. Dako reported he will look for oranges seedlings from Ethiopia. I suggest CIPAD to go and get seedling of Tamarind tree from Sister's house in Sololo mission. Kirkide demonstrated to grow up very well and is not much water demanding; the staff is highly recommended to dedicate at least a 5x8 plot for this particular tree. Further technical guidance on kirkide will be provided from our advisors abroad.

We have to optimise the plantation of Moringa seedlings with the final goal to enjoy it for human and animals consumption, especially when poultry and herds are planned to be in Obbitu any time soon. Moringa can be planted both in the farming unit and in Obbitu compound though is recommended to plant local seedling in all the empty areas in Obbitu Village.

Grapes braches have been provided from Nairobi, at least 80 of them. Hopefully they will germinate. A location has been indicated to Mr. Guyo, just along the wider side of the open

fields (15 mt). Plants are to be put 4 feet far from one another, on the same line. Irrigation can be provided by hand. The future use of grapes, if successfully growing, can be done through sun-drying the fruits and market them in the south. Further technical guidance will be provided by our advisors.

Locally made “manyua” has to be started by creating holes in front of each plot. Organic waste of food from the kitchens is to be delivered in the holes. Further instructions about the management of the holes are to be provided.