

Laura Ann Dills

WORK EXPERIENCE:

Deputy Regional Director Catholic Relief Services (CRS), Kenya August 2015 - Present

- Ensuring that the Agency's overall vision is understood and incorporated into strategic planning and management in all country programs in East Africa
- Providing strategic and programmatic leadership to regional technical staff – a team of 10 expats;
- Providing technical and programmatic support to country program staff – 6 countries;
- Ensuring close and efficient coordination with headquarters (HQ) departments on common programming initiatives and departmental mandates;
- Ensuring that all appropriate opportunities for growth throughout the region are pursued.

Country Representative Catholic Relief Services (CRS), Madagascar February 2012 – August 2015

- Provided leadership to both emergency and development programs valued at over \$23 million in FY13 , \$10.2 million in FY14; \$11.2 million in FY15
- Proposal Coordinator, led the country program to successfully develop and win an innovative \$38million Development Food Assistance Program from Food for Peace;
- Managed relationships with key donors; USAID, OFDA, EU, UNDP, UNICEF, and other private donors (Semnani Foundation);
- Member of the Madagascar Country Coordinating Mechanism (CCM) for Global Fund since August 2012
- Ensured compliance with the close-out of the USAID funded SanteNet2, RANO HP, Ranon'ala, Network, and SALOHI (Title II);
- Provided supportive supervision to four international staff and from 80-120 national staff;
- Established Madagascar Emergency Response Team (multi-sectoral) for rapid response;
- Promoted ICT4D for more efficiency and effectiveness in project monitoring, communication, and compliance; especially the use of Gateway, i-Forms, and mobile money – CRS MG has three accounts and has transferred over \$500,000 to staff for advances and payments to vendors;
- Established a multi-sectoral partnership with Villanova University; including a two-year graduate student, data for multiple classes, technical assistance for several CRS sectors including WASH;
- Maintained innovative Public Private Partnerships with small businesses in the WASH sector and in the vanilla sector.

Deputy Country Representative – Programs Catholic Relief Services (CRS), Haiti 1/10 – 2/12

- Provided leadership to emergency and development programs valued at over \$70 million/year;
- Assisted with finalizing the Strategic Program Plan for 2011-2014;
- Managed relationships with key donors of the emergency response including a \$24 million grant from OFDA, over \$ 4 million from CAFOD, and several other major donors; Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation, and Caritas Australia;
- Ensured compliance with the close-out of the \$24 million award from OFDA; especially with sub-grantees of Habitat and Cordaid;
- Provided supportive supervision to seven international staff including the two Heads of Program (Central and North), Head of Business Development, Head of Program Quality Support Unit, and the Director of Health/COP of AIDSRelief;
- Co-facilitated French and English ProPack trainings to improve the quality of project design and proposals for both international and national staff;

- Promoted the establishment of the Haiti Emergency Response Team; team members across the sub-offices and sectors trained to mobilize and respond in 48 hours after a disaster;
- Assisted with the development of the APP for FY11, FY12 and
- Representing the CR when needed in meetings with UN, International NGOs, OFDA, local authorities (Mayors of Port-au-Prince, Delmas), and the Church (Nuncio, Caritas Haiti).

Assistant Country Representative – Program Quality CRS, India 12/08 – 1/10

- Provided leadership to 15 members of the national program quality team that provided support to a diverse and large portfolio of CRS programs in Health, HIV, Livelihoods Security and Disaster Management;
- Provided supportive supervision to eight team members whom supervised teams, including one international program manager;
- Developed new projects valued at approximately \$10 million for FY 09 and ensured program quality standards for high quality submissions – 60% approval rate for FY09;
- Oversaw the development of a monitoring and evaluation system for each project including the M&E plan, detailed implementation plan (DIP), baseline, and monitoring tools per ASIA region guidelines including the final evaluation for the Title II Phase Over Program
- Facilitated training of ProPack, DIP and M&E workshops and Training of Trainers with regional support for all program quality team members in 10 State Offices;
- Ensured strong programmatic partnerships with Caritas India, USAID, and other International Non-Governmental Organizations (INGO); and
- Lead the process to finalize the CRS/India Strategic Program Plan from 2008-2012.

Head of Programming CRS, Rwanda, 10/05-11/08

- Provided leadership and oversight to \$7.2 million program with over 50,000 direct participants and 125,000 indirect, mainly focusing on food distribution to vulnerable populations and community service including care and support to orphans and people living with HIV.
- Supervised eight department team leaders and coordinators including three international staff in HIV & AIDS, Peace and Justice, Monitoring and Evaluation Officer and Institutional and Economic Strengthening;
- Developed new projects for donors and ensuring that all internal quality controls processes are respected
Wins: \$16 million Nutrition and Food Security Project funded by PEPFAR
\$10 million Close-Out Strategy Amendment to the DAP by Food for Peace/Washington
\$150,000 in microfinance funding for Savings and Internal Lending Communities
\$400,000 in private money for orphans and vulnerable children
- Lead the process in developing and writing the CRS/Rwanda 2007-2011 Strategic Plan
- Represented the Country Representative when requested

Education and Food Security Program Manager CRS, Democratic Republic of the Congo 06/04 – 10/05
Education and Agriculture Coordinator - Oversaw an extensive project rebuilding 65 schools, training 3,000 teachers, and raising awareness of the importance of girls' education in war-torn communities. Developed several partnerships and proposals with USAID, UNICEF, United States Institute for Peace (USIP) and the Belgium Cooperation; Oversaw all of the private projects for the Diocese of Tshumbe (\$500,000) including the building of bridges, purchasing supplies for a hospital, programming for two orphanages and building a training center.

Emergency Education Food Security Program Manager, CRS, Zimbabwe Emergency Response Team 01/04 – 6/04

Implementing a new European Commission Humanitarian Aid Office (ECHO) school-based emergency food relief program for over 60,000 beneficiaries; building capacity with local partners by co-organizing training in logistics, monitoring and evaluation and emergency program management systems; supervising

two national staff and one consultant and representing CRS at United Nations Development Program (UNDP) coordination meetings with other INGO.

International Development Fellow, Catholic Relief Services (CRS), Burkina Faso 08/03 – 1/04
Participated in data collection, analysis, concept paper development, project formulation, reviews, and finding partners for three HIV/AIDS programs, one of which will integrate HIV/AIDS awareness into the catholic school system and coordinated and assisted with the writing of CRS/BF strategic program documents for donors.

ESL Teacher, International Center for Language Studies, Washington, D.C. 09/02 – 06/03
Taught and perfected English with development professionals at the World Bank, Inter-American Development Bank and International Monetary Fund through a method of induced discourse.

Summer Intern, Economic Section of the U.S. Consulate, Lagos, Nigeria 05/02 – 08/02
Assessed the microeconomic impact of HIV/AIDS in Lagos State by interviewing people living with HIV/AIDS, local non-governmental organizations and Nigerian government officials. Produced, edited and co-wrote cables on diplomatic visits, assisted with mission diplomatic events, and learned the functions of the different sections of a Consulate and an Embassy.

Teaching English as a Foreign Language (TEFL) Education Volunteer, 06/99 – 06/01
Peace Corps, Benin, West Africa
Created, designed, and transferred a complex curriculum to approximately 330 students a year. Contributed to the curriculum development for teachers of English in Benin, organized HIV/AIDS seminars for students and teachers, created and coached a young women's basketball team, and represented volunteers at a national level.

EDUCATION:

Masters Business Administration – Regis University, Denver, Colorado; August 2008

Masters of Science Development Management – American University School of International Service, Washington, D.C.; May 2003;

Bachelors of Arts English and Psychology, Spalding University, Louisville, KY graduated December 1998;

Study Abroad Spring 1998, Universite de Rennes II, Haute-Bretagne, France

OTHER QUALIFICATIONS

*Proficiency in Microsoft Word, Excel and WordPerfect

*Professional proficiency in French

COMMUNITY SERVICE

Volunteer, Court Appointed Special Advocate (CASA), Louisville, Ky 09/94 – 04/99
Served as an advocate for two abused children in the Jefferson County Family Court system; gathered information from all involved parties in the case and reported back to the court, with recommendations to ensure the best interests of the children.

Volunteer, Seven Counties Crisis and Information Center, Louisville, Ky 08/98 – 12/98
Answered troubled callers dealing with abuse, domestic violence, suicide, death, and troubled relationships as part of an undergraduate psychology practicum.

Member and Volunteer, Kentuckiana Girl Scout Council, Louisville, Ky 1982 - 1996
Served as an adult leader for a Junior Girl Scout Troop, organized and planned activities for meetings; Involved as a Girl Scout from preschool through high school and into college.