

Narrative Report
(Standards A and A-flexible)**Financial Support**

For all projects supported by Protestant Agency for Diakonie and Development Bread for the World Protestant Development Service (hereafter referred to as Financing Partner) a progress report is required after every six months. The report shall be sent to the Financing Partner 3 months after the end of the reporting period at the latest. Its volume should not exceed a total of 12 pages. Any additional information should be added as appendices. This applies also to statistical data, photographs, etc.

1. General Information

Name of the Organisation	ACCION FRATERNA
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P.O. Box	
Contact Person	Dr.Y.V.Malla Reddy
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Phone number	9849056555
Fax number	
Project title	Promotion of sustainable Agriculture & diversified livelihood in Anantapur District
Project number	N-IND-2017-0397
Project period	From 01.04.2018 till 31.03.2021

Reporting period	From 01.04.2020 till 30.09.2020
Date of report	30.12.2020
Author	Dr.Y.V.Malla Reddy

2. Change within the Organisation

During the reporting period, did any important events or changes take place within your organisation?

2.1

related to the management structure?

Yes

No

If Yes, please describe:

2.2

related to your planning system?

Yes

No

If Yes, please describe:

2.3

related to the composition of your staff? YES

The Andhra Pradesh Drought Mitigation Project (APDMP) being implemented by AF and other NGOs in the state with support from Government of Andhra Pradesh was withdrawn by Government as the Government has decentralised their administration to Grama Panchayath (Village Local Self Government Body) called Village Secretariat. The project now will be implemented by the Village Secretariats. Consequently, AF had to withdraw 11 staff from the project. Some staff who were trained and experienced were retained and allocated to other projects and inexperienced staff were retrenched. However, the retrenched staff got the employment in the new Village Secretariats.

2.4

related to other issues?

Yes

No

If Yes, please describe:

The Covid 19 had affected the pace of our work due to lockdown to some extent. However, the staffs were fully involved in Covid relief and rehabilitation operations being implemented by AFEC with financial support from Bread for the World, Azim Premji Philanthropic Initiatives and AEIN.

3. Changes of social, political, economic and ecological project context

3.1

Are there important changes (social, political, economic, ecological) in the projects' immediate environment since its inception?

Yes

No

If Yes, please describe:

3.2

Is the underlying problem analysis of the project still valid considering possible changes in the context?

Yes

No

If No, please describe:

3.3

Do these changes have implications for the work, the project objective and the latter's achievement?

Yes

No

If Yes, please describe:

4. Outcome and Impact

Project objective: With the promotion of sustainable agriculture, drought mitigation and alternate livelihoods, food and livelihood security have improved in 230 villages of Anantapur District.

Indicators	Achievement of objectives (Assess using indicators)	Planned activities for the reporting period	Implemented activities during the reporting period April 2020 to September 2020 and cumulative achievement from April 2018 to September 2020
<p>1. Atleast 30% of the target population has increased their income by 20% from which 50% are women.</p>	<p>During the project phase from April 2018 to September 2020, 6240 families (39% of 15774 families from 759 active SMGs in 218 villages) have adopted more than 2 sustainable Agriculture practices and increased their incomes by atleast Rs 3000 .</p> <p>Mostly women farmers (>70%) have adopted the sustainable Agriculture practices promoted by the project.</p> <p>The women leaders have actively participated in implementing different program activities.</p>	<p>Promotion of CBOs</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Strengthening of CBOs with monthly meetings, savings and credit. • Participatory approach in planning and implementation of activities. • Convergence with Government programs, Banks and Industries. <p>Sustainable Agriculture Practices & Drought Mitigation Technologies</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Farmer Field Schools 2. Demonstration plots with ZBNF Practices 3. Fodder Development 4. Protective Irrigation 5. Contingency crops 6. Kitchen Gardens 7. Farmer shops 8. Community Managed Seed System 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • During the reporting period, 3258 SMG meetings were conducted against the planned 6680. Due to Covid Pandemic, only 49% meetings were conducted and attendance is 55%. During the project phase from April 2018, the cumulative achievement was 20823 meetings against the planned 34055. • During the reporting period, 671 GSMS meetings were conducted against the planned 984. 42% of GSMS members attended and attendance of women was 46%. During the project phase from April 2018, the cumulative achievement was 4324 against the planned 5170. • During the reporting period, 59 cluster level MSMS meetings were conducted against 168 planned. Attendance was 40% and women participation was 42%. During the project phase from April 2018, the cumulative achievement was 236 meetings against the planned 360. • The savings in SMGs in 6 months were Rs. 5.6 million and cumulative savings at the end of the reporting period stood at Rs. 72 million and 9,300 SMG members have borrowed loans for improving their livelihoods, crop investments, children's education or health needs. <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. During the reporting period, 16 FFS sessions were conducted with 128 women rainfed farmers in 8 villages in 8 mandals. During the project phase, a total of 618 FFS sessions were conducted. 2. During the reporting period, 8079 farmers have taken up demonstration of Rainfed Natural Farming in 8169 acres. During the project phase 10464 farmers have taken up demonstration plots in 10691 acres. 3. During the reporting period, improved Fodder production was taken up by 121 farmers in 308 acres. During the project phase a total of 426 families have raised improved varieties of fodder in 829 acres. 4. During the reporting period, 109 farmers utilised protective irrigation technology in 246 acres. During the project phase, 769 farmers utilised protective irrigation technology in 2080 acres. 5. During the reporting period, 640 farmers had sown contingency crops in 1279 acres with Horsegram and Jowar. During the project phase since April 2018, 6792 farmers had benefitted with contingency crop in 16669 acres. 6. During the reporting period, 9266 families have raised Kitchen Gardens and consumed a variety of vegetables. 7. During the reporting period, all the 8 MACS have sold to the farmers the tarpaulins, contingency seed, 3 layer bags and cycle weeders at reasonable rates through Farmer Shops. 8. During the reporting period, the 8 Mandal MACS have procured 11445 quintals of Groundnut seed from 1020 farmers for AP State Seed Distribution Company Limited.

<p>2. Atleast 50% skilled youth (girls and boys) have increased their income to average 60 Euro per month.</p>	<p>During the reporting period, 30 rural women were provided skill training in millet snack preparations.</p> <p>During the project phase from April 2018 to September 2020, 964 rural youth (365 women and 599 men) were given trainings and of them 515 (53%) were employed with income to average 60 Euro per month.</p>	<p>Diversified/ Alternate Livelihoods</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Training in LMV & HVM driving • Training on two wheeler mechanism • Training on mobile phone mechanism • Advanced Training on Garment Making • Facilitating bank linkages & market linkages for women to set up garment making units. 	<p>During the reporting period from April 2020 to September 2020</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Due to Covid 19, the driving school was closed during the reporting period • 30 rural women were provided training in cooking millet snacks and baked foods and 5 of them are earning Rs.3000 per month by cooking snacks and selling them. • 140 women trained in garment making were involved in stitching of masks and earned Rs.250 to Rs. 300 per day during the Covid period, when almost all employment was shut down. They stitched totally 400,000 masks for Government and AFEC. • Small loans were provided to 13 women for petty businesses and they are earning Rs. 250 per day by managing their small shops at home. <p>During the project phase from April 2018 to September 2020, the cumulative achievement is</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 317 rural youth were trained on LMV driving out of which 180 are employed. • 117 men were trained in HVM training out of which 63 are employed • 116 young men were trained in two wheeler mechanism out of which 78 are employed • 86 youth trained in mobile phone mechanism out of which 57 are employed. • 72 rural women were provided training in cooking millet food items and 25 women have started preparing millet snacks and sell them in market. • 256 young rural women provide training on Garment making and support was provided to interested women in setting up garment making units • Also 113 women employed were provided employment in Garment industry.
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If the project is more complex and composed of different project components, kindly use the spread sheet attached.

4.1

What other changes beyond the ones described in the above table did you observe/detect? Please mention anything that may be of relevance to the project progress.

COVID-19 pandemic has created a panic all over the country. With the sudden implementation of country-wide lockdown from 24th of March 2020, all the economic activity had come to a sudden standstill. To control the spread of the pandemic all the public transport including trains were suspended. Daily wage earners and people dependent on petty businesses were seriously affected during lock down. Though Government has provided additional ration and some

money through Public Distribution System, it was not enough. The lockdown had severely affected the livelihoods of our target community who are part cultivators and part labourers. Some of them seasonally migrate every year during summer months (March to May) to cities like Bangalore and Hyderabad to earn money for living. And some of them work as wage seekers in the village & nearby villages and also work under MGNREGS. They are affected by Covid as they could neither leave the village, nor could find any work in the village during lockdown. They could barely survive the lockdown with ration support from Govt and other NGOs. Many migrant labourers who had migrated to cities for employment were forced to return to their native villages abruptly. However, AF and other CSOs lobbied with Government to implement Employment Guarantee programme in order to create employment rural labour and the migrant returnees. The Government started providing employment from May 2020 onwards. About 60 SMGs were affected as the regular meetings and thrift could not be conducted for 3-4 months during Covid lockdown. 25 groups were disintegrated and 998 members have left the SMGs during Covid lock down.

Response of AF to COVID Pandemic:

As an immediate response, AF had reached out to the stranded migrant workers, stranded passengers, displaced wage seekers and destitute by addressing their immediate food and health needs. This assistance was initiated with support of local district administration. A telephone Helpline was started from April 1st for identification of migrant workers in Andhra Pradesh and this information was publicized and also shared with the concerned local administration. We linked these migrant families or groups with the support systems of the A.P. state government for shelter, food and basic necessities. Wherever needed, AF provided food rations to the stranded passengers, beggars, migrant workers and their families who are in immediate need of food.

AF also provided awareness education directly to about 100,000 population on safety measures and health protocols like using masks and using soaps to clean hands etc. AF had provided protection material like face masks, hand sanitizers and surgical hand gloves to District Health administration which were helpful to health workers and patients in quarantine centers. It has created awareness on health protocols and provided washable face masks to daily wage labourers in project villages. The stitching of masks was done by AF trained rural women (at their home) under regular expert supervision from AF. In all the project villages, covid protocols were displayed through wall writings and paintings.

Promoting Rainfed Natural Farming - Mixed cropping system with millets, pulses, vegetables etc with Natural Farming practices and Kitchen Gardens to ensure that the rural communities consume nutritious and healthy food: AF understood that it is important to consume balanced food for build immunity through to prevent Corona virus. So it had designed and promoted a mixed cropping model with pulses and vegetables for rainfed lands so that marginal rainfed farmers and farm labourers (including seasonal migrant returnees) can produce and consume balanced food like millets,

pulses and vegetables for nutritional diversity and security. More than 8000 households had grown multiple food crops and consumed them. AF has also supplied Kitchen Garden seed to 10,000 families to raise kitchen Gardens in their backyards.

(For more information please see the detailed report on Covid Relief and Rehabilitation in the annexure.)

4.2

In case you observed any direct negative outcome of the project, please describe it, too.

No Negative impact observed.

4.3

Which incidents / events could you observe, which you consider to be contributing to or interfering with the accomplishment of the development goal (impact-level)?

The decentralised village local self-governance system called village secretariats introduced by the Government of Andhra Pradesh would contribute to the development goal as the Government functionaries are deployed to closer to the rural communities. It will enhance peoples empowerment and enable easier access to the Government programmes. AFEC is using this opportunity to enable more transparency and accountability of Government system at the village level by bridging the gap between Government agencies and communities through the CBOs.

4.4

Which methods did you apply to assess your project's outcome and impact?

The methods applied for assessing Projects outcome and impact are:

- Monthly progress reports from field
- Reports from monitoring officers
- Feedback from community in SMG, GSS and MSMS meetings
- Feedback from end users
- Data triangulation from different sources
- Physical verification of records and activities by Central monitoring team
- Individual interviews
- Focussed Group Discussions

5. Conclusion for the Future Work

5.1

Based on your experience gathered, do you see a need to change the planned activities in order to accomplish the project objective?

Yes

No

If Yes, please state the reasons and elaborate on the changes:

5.2

In case you require consultancy services, please state the respective area:

No

5.3

Which are the most important lessons learned during the reporting period?

Please refer to gender equality issues also.

Learnings:

- Though AF staff could not visit villages for 3 months due to Covid lockdown, more than 80% of SMGs conducted thrift activity by themselves.
- The FPOs helped the Groundnut farmers by procuring 10,500 quintals of seed at good price when farmers were not able to sell due to lockdown.
- The Community Based Organizations (both formal and informal) need to be strengthened and streamlined to further build the social and institutional capital for availing larger economies of scale for its members. The community institutions have to be graded and relevant capacity building measures to be adopted to strengthen them.
- Virtual meetings have worked well in place of physical meetings during lockdown. There is need to improve usage of communication technology and digital platforms for data collection, reporting, providing virtual trainings to staff and target groups.

- The MIS needs to be streamlined to create evidence and also to reduce the burden of manual maintenance of registers and records at various levels.
- The planning is very systematic and the monitoring needs to be improved considerably. The line management monitoring and the role of PME team needs to be defined clearly. The six monthly reviews need to be focused on evaluating the achievements in terms of outputs and outcomes. The MIS reports and data need to be kept in a way for any staff to have open access. The data collected should be disaggregated and have stratification of information on gender, social equity and economic categories.

Annexe (Narrative Report):

Project components' objectives	Indicators (information differentiated by sex or one indicator for the gender dimension)	Achievement of objectives (Assess using indicators)	Planned Activities	Activities implemented /carried out
1.	1.			
	2.			
	3.			
2.	1.			
	2.			
	3.			
3.	1.			
	2.			
	3.			
4.	1.			
	2.			
	3.			