

**AKWI MEMORIAL FOUNDATION**  
**TUGI SILVOPASTORAL PROJECT – INTERIM REPORT OF THE GENDER**  
**MAINSTREAMING COMPONENT**

**By**

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## **A. INTRODUCTION**

This report covers the Gender Mainstreaming component of the Tugi Silvo Pastoral Project (TUSIP) for the period 1<sup>st</sup> September 2010 to 15<sup>th</sup> March, 2011. This component was introduced after it was recognized that women are also involved in livestock production on the Gutah Hills in a Family Farm farming system. The funds to do this were obtained through a Gender Trust Fund facility offered by the World Bank and carried out as a short term consultancy (STC) by the team leader. The main objectives of the component are: i) to promote and ensure the participation and inclusion of women in livestock production which is the main income generating activity in Gutah area, where TUSIP is operating; ii) to promote access by Tugi women to improved livestock production technologies with a view to increasing their income.

Tugi Silvopastoral Livestock Project (TUSIP) is a World Bank-funded initiative located in Tugi village of the North-West Region of Cameroon and implemented through a South-

South Technology transfer strategy involving CATIE in Costa Rica and Akwi Memorial Foundation in Cameroon. The overall objective of TUSIP is to assess and improve the environmental benefits from the positive experiences of CATIE in fodder and forage grasses technology transfer. An interim report on TUSIP has already been submitted as well and can be consulted on the websites of the implementing organizations ([www.akwimemorial.com](http://www.akwimemorial.com), [www.akwimemorial.org](http://www.akwimemorial.org), [www.catie.ac.cr](http://www.catie.ac.cr) and [www.worldbank.org/ard](http://www.worldbank.org/ard)).

## **B. CONTEXTUAL ISSUES**

Tugi village is an agricultural community where people earn their livelihoods mostly from subsistence agriculture characterized by a traditional crop-livestock farming system. Although men and women participate in agricultural production in a family farm system, agricultural activities are carried out along gender lines. Sex-typing in agriculture is not specific to the Gutah Hills but generalized to Cameroon rural economy. The men tend to do those tasks that require much energy and physical strength such as raising large ruminants like cattle, building farm houses and clearing the bushes for cultivation. The women are generally and historically responsible for crop farming and raising small ruminants such as goats, sheep and pigs—in addition of course to the daily chores of taking care of the home and children (Nji,1985a; 1985b;2000).

The livestock sector and its associated value chains contribute significantly to Cameroon's GDP and serve as a source of income for the majority of the people of Gutah Hills. Cattle management has been done in traditional ways that are inefficient, unfriendly, unsustainable and economically unproductive (Nji, 1995). Population pressure, policy constraints, as well as the growing threat of climatic change conspire to exacerbate constraints to livestock production as well as increase social, cultural and political conflicts. The growing number of conflicts between livestock breeders who are predominantly men and food crop producers who are predominantly women conspire to worsen the management of the environment and natural resources in the general project area (Nji and Harsbarger, 1991; Nji, 1995; Manu et al.). Furthermore, the

growing level of poverty in the country (Nji, 2004) contribute to modify traditional roles of farm families such that of even children below 8 years old are actively involved in agricultural activities including tethering small ruminants and herding cattle (Fon and Nji, 2009). All these factors contribute to reinforce environmental degradation due to over grazing, jeopardize food security and threaten the sustainability of the agricultural system and thus the survival of farm families.

### **Tugi Women and Development**

Through involvement in the economic lives of Tugi women through this project, we are able to recognize the existence of formal and informal structures that cater for the needs of women in the village. These structures need restructuring to meet the challenges of a changing environment and to capture the opportunities offered by science and technology. Therefore, this add-on project to TUSIP has tried to tap on existing resources and strengthen them through the activities implemented to encourage a more effective and efficient use of the resources available to women for food security and the satisfaction of basic needs.

Tugi village is one of the original 29 villages of the Meta fondoms (Nji et al., 2009) located on the Gutah Hills in Momo Division of the North West Region of Cameroon. Tugi women are highly involved in subsistence crop farming and the rearing of small livestock such as pigs, and small ruminants including sheep and goats. All families also keep a few chickens for home consumption, entertainment of guests, cultural ceremonies and sometimes for sale as a source of cash income or a store of value. Small livestock production in the community contributes to improve the nutritional levels of the family. For decades, the production of small livestock has remained an important and growing source of farm income, which particularly provides a source of financial earnings and savings for the women. In a community where there is no formal banking or financial service institutions, livestock is kept as a source of savings and store of value, and sold for cash in times of need. Because of the prevailing cultural value system where women are expected to submit to men, some women may not have

complete control over the income generated from their livestock operations even though their husbands generally use farm income to finance family welfare (e.g. education of children, health, and shelter).



The women of Tugi cultivate crops such as beans, maize, cassava and Yams

The Women of Tugi are engaged in subsistence agriculture as a source of livelihood where they keep small ruminants such as sheep, goats and pigs; and cultivate crops such as beans, maize, cassava and Yams



Women are predominantly involved in keeping small ruminants such as sheep, goats and pigs which are tethered or kept around the home

### **C. METHODOLOGY AND OPERATIONAL PROJECT OBJECTIVES**

The funds for this component were channeled through a short term consultancy (STC) for the chair person and founder of the Akwi Memorial Foundation (which is already working with CATIE on TUSIP). The methodology also involved the recruitment of a rural facilitator to carry out the field work. Two female field workers were recruited because

it was difficult to find one person with all the skills required in the Terms of Reference (skills in gender studies plus strong agricultural scientific background). The two gender facilitators recruited served to complement each other in that one is a crop-livestock specialist without gender mainstreaming experience and the other is a gender specialist with no agricultural background nor training. The activities for this component started in August 2010 with the recruitment of staff. The operational objectives of the project can be stated as follows:

- 1) Strengthen the active participation and inclusion of women in the productive sector of the community
- 2) Enhance, and diversify opportunities for income generation for Tugi women within the livestock-crop/agroforestry productive sector;
- 3) Provide solutions to crop destruction by marauding animals so as to promote productive and profitable crop farming by women around the homesteads;
- 4) Create an enabling environment for ownership building of the crop-livestock farming system as an economic and sustainable family farm enterprise;
- 5) Empower the women and groups through capacity building and the transfer and adoption of appropriate technologies for improved livelihoods and poverty reduction

#### **D. ACCOMPLISHMENTS**

In relation to the above objectives, the following activities have been successfully implemented:-

**a. Collection, collation and documentation of baseline data:** A baseline study was conducted from August to September 2010 on the constraints to livestock production faced by Tugi women. Using a random sample of 59 respondents who are members of nine existing women groups in Tugi Village, structured closed-ended and open-ended questionnaires were administered. The sample represents women from three quarters

within the project area: Tugi-Tugi and Acha-Tugi (in Tugi Village) and Tuochup quarter in Chup village.

**b. Mobilization of women through existing groups:** A number of cultural groups already exist in Tugi village and commonly referred to as “dance groups”. These are individuals who are predominantly women who get together to discuss matters of common interest and practice cultural dances. The male members in these groups are often the husbands or close relatives of the women and all constitute a human (secondary group) as described by Rogers (1960). Since most of the men in these groups are already involved in the pilot TUSIP project, working with the women implies creating separate women’s groups. Thus, the dance groups were restructured with all of them comprising not more than four men. The men were encouraged to be part of the “women” groups for strategic and practical reasons. Strategically, they will share the experiences from the livestock components with their wives and the wives their own experiences with the men when the family gets together. For practical reasons, there are some tasks in the group activities that require skills and energies that are best provided by men. And it will be more costly and most inconvenient for the women to source these skills from individuals outside the group. Of the nine groups the project is working with, two groups in Acha-Tugi are registered Common Initiative Groups (CIG). They are the Acha Social Farming Group and the Acha Social Women Farming Group. The other seven groups were created or restructured in the other quarters. The number of members per group is summarized in Table 1.

Table 1. Name, location and membership of functional women groups in Tugi

<b>S N</b>	<b>Name of group</b>	<b>Location</b>	<b>No of Members in Group</b>
1.	Acha women farming Group	Acha-Tugi	39
2.	Acha Unity Group	Acha-Tugi	29
3.	Acha Social farming Group	Acha-Tugi	25
4.	Mbengap women Group	Tugi-Tugi	23
5.	Engweme Women Group	Tugi-Tugi	19
6.	Njang Women Group	Tugi-Tugi	17
7.	Ndongnyam Women Group	Tugi-Tugi	24
8.	Ngwassi Women Group	Tugi-Tugi	23
9.	Tuochup Women Farming Group	Tuochup	32
<b>Total</b>			<b>231</b>

These groups are now all functional production social units within the project area and serve as vehicles for channeling information to the women. The gender facilitators are building the capacity of the group members through various training on a number of modules and the use of culturally adapted methods of agro-silvopastoral activities. All the groups have been restructured and new leaders elected by their members.

**c. Capacity building for women:** Capacity building workshops are being organized to enhance and support women in the formation and management of women groups; the importance of animal keeping, farm planning and management activities; as well as organizing farmer field school sessions. The Gender facilitators have organized four such training sessions during this reporting period in Tugi-Tugi, Acha Tugi and Tuochup. The first training session took place in October 2010 on the topic “the importance of animal keeping” attended by 119 women and 7 men. The second was on “How crops grow” held in December 2010 where 97 women and 9 men making a total of 106 participants attended. The third training session organized in December 2010, was on “Group Management” where 91 women and 10 men were sensitized on group dynamics, group

resources and conflict management. Lastly, the fourth training session was held in January 2011 on compost making, and attended by 89 women and 5 men. More training sessions are planned for the remaining months of the project (March-June 2011) on topics including “Book Keeping and Farm Accounting” to give the women the capacity to manage the new resources and income generated. Other topics include water management, HIV/AIDS, human nutrition and child welfare.



*Some female participants at the capacity building workshop on group management in Tugi-Tugi*



*Participants at the capacity building workshop on How Plants grow in Acha-Tugi*

**d. Establishment of women-led Agro-forestry plots on model farms:** The women are being taught how to manage the nursery in Tugi-Tugi. The nursery was established by the TUSIP pilot project in collaboration with ICRAFT. The women have also received training on nursery management from ICRAFT office in Bamenda. ICRAFT is the World Agro Forestry Center in the North West Region of Cameroon. The women have been trained on nursery establishment, grafting and macotting among other techniques. It is expected that the knowledge gained from this nursery will enable this component to work with the women to establish two more nurseries: one in Acha- Tugi and the other in Tuochup. The places for the location of the nurseries have already been selected by the women. Work has started on the Tuochup nursery with the seed beds already established by the women.

**e. Acquisition and establishment of small ruminants and donkeys on women group farms:** Corrals for raising small ruminants by the women have been constructed for each of the nine women groups. These corrals can each house about 15 animals.



*Completed corral showing entrance*



*corral showing built-in- feeding trough*



*NdongNyam Women Group receiving the World Bank team at their project site*

Feasibility studies have been done to determine where small ruminants may be acquired within the region for placement on the women's farms. A two day visit was carried out by the gender field facilitators to Heifer-supported groups in Kumbo from 12<sup>th</sup> to 13<sup>th</sup> January 2011. The results of the feasibility studies reveal that it will be preferable to purchase the animals at the end of February when the price will go down as breeders are forced to sell their animals with the beginning of the farming season. Also, if the rains come in time, there will be more fodder in march to feed the animals than in January or February. Investigations have also been carried out on the acquisition of donkeys. This activity took project staff to Kumbo and Njikwa. The photos below show the key stages in the construction of the corrals for small ruminants in Tugi village. Virtually all the nine corrals went through the same process.

## Stages in the Construction of Corrals for Small Ruminant (photos by AMF Field Staff)



1. Transportation of the sawn poles to site 2. Laying of the Foundation Poles 3. construction of the corral floor



4. Raising the corral wall 5. construction of the built-in feeding trough 6. feeding trough completed



7. Completed corral with barbed wire fencing 7. Ram house under construction

### f. Testing and dissemination of proven efficient technologies

Improved technologies that have been proven efficient in crop-agroforestry-livestock farming system for income generation tailored to the needs of women have been introduced within the project. For example, the women are being encouraged to adopt “zero grazing” method in which with, the animals are housed and fed with fodder cut and carried from a nearby farm where the farmers themselves have planted the forages and established a permanent forage bank. The forage crops planted on the forage banks include *Guatemala sp.* and *Brachiaria sp.* for all the women groups. This explains why the corrals technology is being introduced in the project area.



*Women planting Guatemala grass to be used as forage using the cut and carry technique*

Another technology that has been introduced by the project is the construction of fences to protect women's farms from destruction by cattle being raised in the current practice of free-extensive grazing. The women identified the areas where most crop farms are located and subjected to rampant cattle damage. The project has constructed three fences using barbed wires, poles and nails to protect cropland from animals within the report period (September 2010 to March 2011). The total length of the dry fences is 5 kilometres.



*Fence Line to protect farm land from cattle and small ruminants*

In addressing income generation for the women, efforts have been made to provide food processing machines to the women groups. Cassava and maize are produced in large quantities in the project area and constitute part of the main diet. But the women

have been using the stone to process the crops. Two Cassava graters and two corn mills have been acquired and installed for the women groups. To ensure that the machines were technically, economically, socially, culturally and politically appropriate (Nji, 1992), a local manufacturer in the project region was identified and the machines custom-designed and manufactured. They were consequently tested in the manufacturer's workshop for efficiency before transporting and installation in the village. One set of the machines (cassava and maize) is electricity-driven; and this set has been installed in Acha-Tugi where the national electricity grid is available. The second set of the same kind of machines (cassava and maize milling) is petrol driven. This set has been installed in Tugi-Tugi because there is no electricity yet in that part of the village. The women groups will subsequently receive training on the use, handling and management, maintenance and safety of the technologies.



*Photos of the cassava and maize milling machines for women groups*

#### **g. Linking the women to markets for crop/agroforestry/livestock products**

One exchange visit has been organized involving two representatives from each of the nine women groups from February 7<sup>th</sup> - 8<sup>th</sup> 2011. Also on the visit were the leaders and farm managers of the TUSIP pilot farms including the traditional hierarchy of Tugi village, His Royal Highness Fon Wilson Mbakwa IV. The traditional ruler's participation is instrumental not only as the village head but also as the head of the community farm in Gyindong with an estimated surface area of 80 hectares. The aim of the exchange visit was to give the project beneficiaries the opportunity to learn from other farmers, see best practices in improved livestock production and meet other women involved in similar activities. The women and men visited Societe De Developpement et

D'Exploitation Des Production Animales (SODEPA), a Para public Institution with improved cattle varieties in Jakiri, some 120 km from Tugi palace where intensive livestock rearing and artificial insemination is practiced; PRTC Fonta some 70 km from Tugi palace (a Presbyterian training center for rural farmers) and the Monastery in Mbengwi. During this visit the women were able to appreciate different breeds of cattle, lay outs of the treatment unit for animals and methods of coping with the dry season.



*Participants at the medicinal plant section of nursery Mfonta*

*Family Picture at SODEPA in Jakiri during exchange visit*

## **E. Outcomes during this Period**

Outcomes were accomplished according to plan for the period under review. Specifically, the following outcomes were realized to the satisfaction of project implementers:

### **1. Published Report on the Constraints and Opportunities to livestock production**

A baseline study conducted in Tugi village during the months of August and September, 2010 sought to find out the constraints to livestock production by women. A final copy of the report entitled “The participation of women in livestock-crop production in the Gutah hills, North-West Region of Cameroon with an exploratory case study of Tugi village and Tuochup quarter” was formally presented to the World Bank in November 2010. The results of the study revealed that women face broader constraints in

livestock/crop production such as lack of sufficient capital to keep animals; ageing population of the women themselves, and difficulties to control sheep and goats on tether. In the area of crop production the women face problems such as lack of farming equipment; crop diseases and pests; difficulty in transporting crops from farm; lack of processing equipment for value addition and limited access to markets for farm products.

The women of Tugi do not only face problems, they also have resources that serve as an opportunity for their development. First, the project recognizes that the Tugi woman is very hard working and serves as a key provider of the food that feeds the entire family. The women share a spirit of solidarity and love for each other. This traits enable them to achieve a large and diversified agricultural production. The good news is that all the women in Tugi have access to, and have control over the land they cultivate. This is very important for rural women.

## **2. Active involvement and participation of women in project activities**

Identifying, creating and restructuring women's groups 'with them' and 'for them' has created a strong sense of belonging and inclusion in the women. They now feel they are a part of the larger TUSIP with just as many responsibilities as the men. They are fully involved in all project activities taking part in the decisions that affect the village, and in the strategic management of the project. The women's involvement and participation have been noticed in the following ways:

- Active interest and participate in training sessions;
- Meaningful participation in the selection and preparation of sites for the construction of corrals and demonstration plots;
- Aggressive transportation of poles for the constructions of the corrals;
- Seriousness in the planting of forages for small ruminants
- Contributions in kind (labour and local resources) to the construction of corrals.

### **3. Dissemination of knowledge through farmer field schools and capacity building**

The women have obtained knowledge on several issues during this period from the training sessions and capacity building workshops that were organized. It was noticed during the study that lack of knowledge is one of the greatest constraints to women's participation in crop-livestock production. Women needed to build their capacity on certain issues such as the use of animal dung for manure, housing of livestock, animal breeding procedures and experience sharing through exchange visits.

### **4. Adoption through imitation**

Gabriel Tarde, the French sociologist, posited that individuals and groups adopt technology through the rhythm of invention and imitation (Sorokin, 1966). Through this project, it is impressive to note that Tugi women are rapidly inventing new ways of working on their farms while at the same time adopting new technologies by imitating what they observed on the farms of their counterparts in other villages during the field trips as well as from their fellow farmers in Tugi. Now that their farmland is protected from destruction by cattle with barbed wire fences, the women have engaged in a very aggressive farming around the homesteads. The group particularly impressed by this new technology is the older women (above 60s) who can no longer travel long distances to cultivate far away fields. The enthusiasm of the women has also been heightened by the provision of food processing machines as these will reduce post harvest losses and minimize drudgery of grinding maize on stones and cassava on a sheet of metal with holes pieced through using a zinc nail. One elated woman said on seeing the new machines arrive the village in the project truck "now, I can make garri<sup>1</sup> from cassava for my children to take back to school".

### **5. Improved Relationship between Men and Women**

Some women have reported that there have been improved relationships with their husbands first because they can share their experiences from the farm on different but complementary aspects of farming. Secondly, some of the women feel that their

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<sup>1</sup> Garri is a fried or baked cassava flour used in making a quick meal particularly for students and people in a hurry to eat a quick meal.

husbands now respect them more because they are increasingly demonstrating improved personal and professional behaviors as a result of their participation in women group activities. The women have developed more self esteem because they have been assisted by the project to participate in national public events such as the Youth Day (11 February), and the International Women’s Day (8<sup>th</sup> March). Most of the capacity building workshops were organized with the women and male members of their groups participating. It is hoped that the confrontation between crop and livestock farmers will reduce as well to make “a dream come true” for the senior administrator of Momo Division who said on the first inception visit “if this project can reduce farmer-grazer conflicts in this Division, I will be happiest administrator in this Region”.

## **6. Use of Animal Dung**

Since the women groups have been trained on how to make a compost to produce manure, it is expected that more of the animal dung that the women will collect from the sheep and cattle raised in the corrals around their homesteads will be applied to the farms with the objective to obtain higher productivity. This will minimize the trips to the hill tops to collect cow dung for fertilizing their farms.

## **F. MAJOR CHALLENGES FACED**

### **1. Project Time Frame**

Virtually all agricultural activities are seasonal and respond to a specific agricultural calendar. The project started in August which is the middle of the rainy season in Tugi. Consequently, the timing was not right for complete and proper establishment of the forages planted by the women. As a result, it was not good timing to stock the corrals, coupled with the fact that the prices for small ruminants are at their peak during the dry season. Most of the planned activities had to be rescheduled. For example activities such as capacity building on routine management practices on livestock farms have been rescheduled for March/April which corresponds to the beginning of the rainy season. But climate change brought the rains earlier in February, further compounding

the agricultural puzzle not only for project staff but most especially for the project beneficiaries.

## **2. Communication**

Tugi being a rural area without electricity and telephone lines, communication between staff on the field and the project office in Bamenda have been a little difficult. To establish communication in the head office in Bamenda the field staff have to travel to Bamenda every two weeks by over-loaded and unsafe bush taxis or motor-cycle. Also, transportation was a problem as the Toyota Double cabin pick up was busy transporting materials. Tugi village is 27 kilometers away on a rough road infrequently traveled from Bamenda by public transport. Yet, the field staff had to shuttle to and forth the length of the village, sometimes on foot to meet women groups at opposite ends of the village. In addition, transporting beneficiaries from Tugi to other parts of the Region is a difficult task without dedicated resources such as a project vehicle. Because the road is not in a good state, most transporters refuse to travel to Tugi or if they do, they often charge very high fares for transporting equipment and people. For example, a 50kg bag of Portland cement bought in Bamenda for 5 400 francs (US\$12) is transported to Tugi for 1 000 francs (almost 20% of the original cost). Other problems caused by lack of dedicated transport include lateness to appointments and complete communication blackout.

## **3. Data collection and processing equipment**

The gender field staff had great difficulty collecting and storing data because there was no lap top. This was not budgeted for and so one could not be acquired. Other equipment such as digital camera with which to take the pictures incorporated in this report were simply not available. We had to work with borrowed, hired or rented equipment with the attendant inconveniences. It is probably obvious by now that internet access is a serious problem on the project site. But this difficulty was addressed by the main TUSIP project by subscribing to an internet modem that could be plugged

into the laptop for use on the hills where and when internet connectivity was possible. And once on the hills, there was always network for internet connection.

#### **4. Labour Inputs**

We faced difficulties in constructing the corrals because we did not have the prototype designs and also because skilled and reliable labour and equipment are scarce in the remote village of Tugi. There are only two or three good carpenters residing in Tugi who were constantly busy doing technical work for other villagers and for themselves. As the rainy season started much earlier than expected, this also disrupted village behavior, causing labour shortages as the women were now caught between working the crop farms and investing their time on the construction of corrals and other group activities. With the climate change induced confusion, the women often came late to meetings or were completely absent on some days.

#### **5. Lack of Group Effectiveness**

It will be untrue to say that we worked with trouble-free groups. After all, they are just other human beings. The activities of one group have been disrupted repeatedly as a result of poor group leadership, disagreements, disunity and lack of organization among its members. The members of the group find it difficult to work with the leader they themselves elected. Other groups have demonstrated cases of laziness of some of the group members, gossip and lack of trust. But thanks to the training that was organized on “group management and dynamics”, these obstacles have largely been overcome.

#### **6. Number of Small Ruminants to be stocked in the Corrals**

When the women heard it rumored that each group will receive 6-7 livestock (small ruminant), they became discouraged and reluctant to further participate in the project. They considered the number of animals too small for a group that has 19 members. The disappointment was highest among groups with 40 members. We continue to find ways to let the groups know that the project is not an end in itself but only a means to an end. They are being encouraged to understand that they too can contribute to the

project by investing their own resources to top up what has been provided by the project. But the learning curve is always slow in rural communities!

### **G. WHAT WE HOPE FOR**

Considering the enthusiasm, potential and resources available, we hope that the project will reach the following mile stones in June 2011:-

- Crop production by the Tugi women involved in the project will increase by at least 10% in the 2011 framing seasons that begins in March 2011.
- The Women will improve their knowledge through the acquisition of new skills and technology in the aspect of small livestock management, and general crop/livestock/agroforestry activities.
- More marketing opportunities for livestock and agricultural products will open up for the beneficiaries.
- There will be better living conditions and improved livelihoods in beneficiary families and that there will be spillovers to non-beneficiaries.
- Tugi women will be socially and economically empowered by the project, and
- Improved relationships will continue to be established between men and women in Tugi.

### **H. THE WAY FORWARD**

Based on the experience of running the project the past six months, we are tempted to share some of our aspirations for mooting.

- More women will express the desire to be trained on several topics on crop/livestock/agroforestry integration;
- More groups will come up for funding; but it will be unsustainable for the project to try to dish out resources to more groups than the resources can reasonable produce effective and efficient results;
- We envisage greater project impacts which should be accompanied by greater investments in equipment and resources;

- To measure progress of project impacts a socio economic component of the project should be established. This component will ensure effective follow up of project activities and its impact. This component will be able to identify measurable successes of the project, effect of the project on beneficiaries, needs assessment, livelihood strategies and will propose workable solutions where need be. In the absence of establishing a complete M&E Unit, it will be advisable to recruit a full time socio-economist for more visibility and impact.
- To ease the transportation of women from one place to another for project activities we wish to propose here that a bus can be obtained for this purpose as part of scaling up and out the project.

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