CHF recognizes that dynamic agricultural systems, particularly those that incorporate poor smallholders and microenterprises, are the best way to ensure reliable availability, easy access, and proper utilization of food. In rural communities that depend primarily on small-scale farming, CHF works with small farmers, cooperatives, associations, and experts to build business and farming skills, leverage local resources, introduce productivity-enhancing technologies and effectively market their goods in order to increase household incomes. In more developed agricultural industries, CHF implements its value chain approach, advising farmers and entrepreneurs on value-added processing, facilitating access to credit to make high-impact investments, and helping link them to more lucrative markets to maximize enterprise profitability. CHF also knows that truly food security communities are characterized by resilience, achieved through strong local disaster response capacity, strong social networks, and diverse sources of income and food. CHF is a leader in handling complex emergencies involving chronic food insecurity through focusing on livelihood recovery and income generation. CHF tailors its approach to varying circumstances, using a combination of tools to stabilize livelihoods including: replenishment of livestock assets, provision of basic agricultural equipment, productivity-enhancing agricultural trainings, and the rehabilitation of key economic infrastructure.

**Agriculture Value Chain & Smallholder Integration**

CHF’s pro-poor value chain approach includes advising farmers and entrepreneurs on post-harvest processing, facilitating high-impact investments through effective delivery of credit, and linking agribusinesses to the markets that will maximize profitability. In rural communities that depend primarily on small-scale farming, CHF International works with farmers, cooperatives and local experts to leverage local resources, introduce technologies that enhance productivity and add value to agricultural products, and effectively market their goods in order to improve household incomes. Interventions are designed to work at the community, enterprise and industry level, building the capacity of private and public entities, and encouraging economic integration of value chain actors in growth sectors. In communities, CHF programs aim to strengthen value chains by encouraging cooperative economic activity of small producers to affordably access inputs and services, add value to agricultural produce and better establish and service client relationships. At the enterprise level, CHF programs provide customized business and technical assistance, targeted joint investments to upgrade operations, improved access to financing, and development of business and marketing strategies. In more developed economies, programming is oriented toward enabling local farmers and enterprises to better meet market demand by improving business practices and linking farmers and enterprises to processors, distributors, and retailers. In less-developed, resource-constrained settings, pairing skills building with infrastructure improvement and provision of agricultural assets helps minimize the detrimental impacts of food insecurity.

**Agriculture Infrastructure & Systems**

CHF International seeks to restore the communities, economies, and infrastructure of crisis-affected populations across the globe, as well as to rebuild and conserve natural ecosystems and arable cropland. CHF’s approach to economic recovery takes a system-wide approach to rebuilding agricultural production and supplies chains, and emphasizes sustainable construction practices and capacity building. Renewed, arable land can catalyze the rural job market. Roads linking markets to communities facilitate a return to “business as usual” and promote stability. Proper post-harvest, processing, packaging, and storage facilities can reduce losses and make the difference between agricultural sector recovery in one harvest season, or many. In addition to extensive experience with land rehabilitation and roads construction around the globe, CHF has built production facilities for local fruit, vegetable, and flower (FVF) production, as well as improved greenhouses to increase production capacities. CHF has constructed markets for the processing and sale of poultry, fish and produce. As part of market construction, CHF also ensures a healthy environment by incorporating training on proper washing and disposing of poultry and fish products as well as ensuring the construction of the markets allow for adequate drainage and processing facilities. To date, CHF has planted over 25,000 trees, rebuilding forests lost to natural disaster or over-cultivation. Thousands of hectares of land have been quenched by new, more efficient irrigation systems, including the use of new technology such as drip irrigation that uses less water in an effort to conserve the resource.

**Livelihoods & Household Resilience**

CHF’s approach to working with vulnerable populations is premised on reducing vulnerability and building resilience of families and communities against economic, health, and social shocks. Our underlying strategy is to promote people’s access to a comprehensive set of services that are targeted to the specific needs of each individual family. This approach is integrated into a community-wide network of service in health, education, social services, food security, economic stability and water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH) that underpins people’s resilience. CHF designs and implements each of its livelihoods programs based on the economic strengthening pathway. CHF first identifies sources of household vulnerability by conducting Household Economic Assessments (HEA) and/or by using other relevant assessment tools. CHF experts in livelihoods and food security then analyze the results of these assessments and develop a targeted strategy for addressing those vulnerabilities so that families are able to move from vulnerability through a series of phases ultimately to “market readiness”. A key component of this process focuses on understanding a household’s assets and prioritizing their strengths rather than their weaknesses.

**Urban Food Security**

Global urbanization trends, especially in the developing world, are having an increasingly profound impact on the environment and food security for millions of urban poor. From the Gaza strip to mega cities throughout Asia, Africa and Latin America, urban food security is rapidly becoming one of the chief concerns for urban planners and municipal governments. CHF is working with local stakeholders to address urban food security throughout the developing world. Through the promotion of home gardens, small animal husbandry and backyard composting, using modern and environmentally sustainability processes, CHF is helping the urban poor to diversify their diets and ensure that at the most basic levels households are sufficiently food secure. CHF supports the integration of urban smallholders into domestic value chains and promotes cooperative development to maximize efficiencies and facilitate economies of scale. Through the introduction of new technologies in small scale irrigation, composting, and processing, CHF is facilitating environmentally sustainable growth in urban agriculture yields and providing households with the skills and tool necessary to grow, harvest, process and store crops in the most efficient manner possible thereby increasing food security for the most vulnerable urban households.

**Illustrative Programming in Agriculture & Food Security**

In Liberia, the Youth Engagement in Service Delivery (YES) program utilizes a value chain approach to support the development of a compost industry in and around the capital city of Monrovia with the intention to grow industry as a means for expanding job opportunities for urban youth. CHF is assisting the public and private sectors to develop collection, processing and distribution systems for the city’s nascent compost industry. Additionally, CHF is working to develop awareness
and education campaigns to create market demand for organic compost in Monrovia’s urban and peri-urban agricultural zones. [Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation / $5 million / 2009-2012]

In Mongolia, CHF’s Growing Enterprises Rapidly (GER) Initiative expands economic opportunities for poor, peri-urban populations in Mongolia’s four largest cities through microenterprise and value chain support, association development, credit facilitation, market linkages and employment matching. CHF is integrating peri-urban businesses into the urban economy through the mining, farming, animal production and food processing sectors. Following a sub-sector selection and value chain analysis, CHF is facilitating value chain interventions in the pork sector. This program has also created a local business service provider, Development Solutions, which is now providing fee-based business support and brokerage services to MSMEs. Under the Mongolian Agribusiness Support Program (MASP), value chain interventions are occurring in the pork meat and dairy sectors. To date the two programs have facilitated over 3,000 loans worth $2.8M; facilitated business linkages valued at over $150,000; created nearly two hundred new micro and small enterprises, expanded or improved nine hundred existing micro and small enterprises; matched over 3,000 unemployed peri-urban residents to long term jobs; and generated nearly 1,000 long term jobs. [USAID & USDA / $10 million / 2002-2011]

In Lebanon, CHF implemented the Cluster for Economic Development and Revitalization of Industry Sectors Plus (CEDARS - Plus) program in conflict-affected areas of rural Lebanon. Working in the olives, bananas, forage, and floriculture sectors, this program strengthened and supported the agribusiness industry as an engine of economic revitalization and helped reintegrate rural areas into the national economy. Over 350 new marketing outlets were accessed, whereby $14,267,583 in agricultural sales and services were locally generated; $2,558,536 in agricultural exports generated; and 10,848 cooperatives/associations/enterprises were supported, assisted and/or sustained. By the end of the project: $3,313,550 in loans were brokered via CHF’s for-profit service and/or linkages to local financial institutions; and 3,265 jobs created and sustained. [USAID / $8.4 million / 2005-2008]

CHF’s Georgia Employment and Infrastructure Initiative (GEII) is a transitional Local Economic Development (LED) program designed to introduce and support effective market-driven development practices among micro and small enterprises at the community level. Value chain assessments in conjunction with local communities led to targeted investments in rural enterprises in agriculture and tourism. As of December 2007, $3,867,818 worth of domestic sales were facilitated; 1,493 long-term jobs created; 193 loans taken; 583 businesses started or expanded; and 795 business linkages made. [USAID / $20 million / DATES?] With funding from the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) Food for Progress program, CHF Honduras implemented a multi-faceted agricultural development program to develop technical skills and raise incomes of small farmers in the Ocootepeque and Valle regions. Through this program, CHF International Honduras assisted over 1,000 small/medium farmers to diversify their agricultural crops and production methods, improve irrigation facilities, access new technologies, develop value-added products and reach new local, regional and export market opportunities. [USAID / $X million / DATES?]

In Ethiopia, CHF implemented the OFDA-funded Gurage Livelihoods and Agriculture Development (GLAD) program. The GLAD program strengthened the livelihoods of rural populations in Ethiopia to increase their resilience in times of severe economic or climatic disaster. By increasing diversification of resources and improving the management of those resources, communities are better prepared to respond to and recover from the negative effects of recurrent drought. GLAD activities included trainings on high-yield methods of beekeeping and diversifying the income generating activities of farmers otherwise dependent on low-yield crops. Upon program completion, CHF had distributed agro-forestry seedlings, beehives and chickens to hundreds of farmers and women. Of equal importance, recipients were trained on best practices to maximize the economic potential of these agricultural assets. To further enhance livelihoods and agricultural yields, GLAD organized income-generating activities for two hundred women, and constructed 82 shallow wells for water supply and vegetable gardening. [OFDA / $X million / DATES?]

Working in Sudan since 2004, CHF programs address the critical needs in the areas of agriculture, food security, and income generation. To date, CHF programs have achieved major results, including: training 20,000 farmers on improved agricultural techniques; 55,000 families are making use of 69 community-managed grinding mills each month; 20,000 chickens, goats and donkeys were distributed to vulnerable families; and over 100 metric tons of cereal and vegetable seeds and over 13,000 farm tools were distributed to restart the farming cycle. These programs include CHF’s Livelihoods and Income Revitalization Initiative for Mundi (LIRIM) and the Supporting Protection through Economic Enterprise (SPEED) program. [DONOR / $X million / DATES?]

In the West Bank/Gaza, CHF is implementing the Gaza Urban Agriculture Revitalization and Development (GUARD). To address the problem of food insecurity and take advantage of the conditions favoring urban agriculture in Gaza, over a period of a year from 2010 to 2011, CHF International will establish a home gardens program aimed at increasing the availability of a variety foods from local sources that are unaffected by border closures, thereby improving both food security and nutrition. In order to effectively implement the development of these gardens CHF will train and equip 1000 beneficiaries on producing working gardens in an urban community. Additionally, a model garden will be established to emphasize urban agriculture concept and practices. [DONOR / $X million / 2010-2011]

In Ethiopia, CHF recently completed the Livelihood Support for Somali Agro-Pastoralists (LSAP) in June 2010. The L-SAP program, which received several cost extensions to expand program activities, assisted agro-pastoralists and pastoralists in the Gode, Afder, and Warder zones of the Somali Regional State (SRS). The program was structured upon a holistic and participatory methodology, where beneficiaries were selected by the community and organized into Asset Building Groups (ABGs). The ABGs served as the primary mechanism for asset protection and generation and as a platform for the dissemination of technical activity and health related training. The slaughtering, processing and sale of meat products in the Gode zone lack basic sanitation and hygiene necessary to mitigate against serious health concerns. On land generously provided by local authorities and clan leadership in Gode, CHF constructed three slaughterhouses and 20 centrally located market sales stalls, providing an individual stall to each ABGs. Additionally, CHF trained farmers on clan-administered land in the production of fodder, food, and cash crops for support of livestock assets, food security, and income generation. [DONOR / $X million / DATES?]

Funded by USAID, CHF partnered with the Rene Moawad Foundation (RMF) in Lebanon to implement the Apple Harvesting Aid (AHA) program that provided training on proper harvest and postharvest techniques for unskilled labor, and to generated short-term cash-for-work opportunities for university students and unemployed workers during the 2006-2007 economic downturn affecting the agricultural community. As a result, 4,979 tons of apples were harvested estimated at a value of $2,987,400 and 2,979 tons of apples marketed by farmers valued at $1,787,400. [USAID / $X million / 2006-2007]

The Lebanon Apple Production Improvement (LAPI) project aims to develop a mechanism for quality control and food safety for the production of apples in the producing areas of Mount Lebanon, Bekaa, and North Lebanon. LAPI seeks to empower owners of agricultural holdings by providing training in and access to good agricultural practices and production techniques, integrated through all stages of production to enable them to produce a sound and competitive fruit in the domestic and foreign markets. It is anticipated that 55 hectares of land will be cultivated for apple harvesting and 33,000 seedlings will be distributed to improve the quality of apples. [DONOR / $X million / 2009-2010]