

The USAID Food for Peace Liberian Agricultural Upgrading, Nutrition & Child Health (LAUNCH) project (2010-2016)

Managed by ACDI/VOCA with Project Concern International (PCI),
John Snow, Inc. (JSI) and Making Cents International (MCI)

Liberian Agricultural Upgrading, Nutrition & Child Health (LAUNCH) project

- Distribute food rations
- Improve food production and access to markets, microenterprises
- Roll-out at health facility and community level of the essential nutrition actions
- Support community groups, including care groups
- Assist in improving primary school attendance and classes

Reached

- **170,000 population in 2 counties : Nimba and Bong, 7 districts**
- **10,800 farmers in 400 communities**
- **13 health facilities, 122 health workers, 204 general Community Health Volunteers (gCHV) and 754 Trained Traditional Midwives (TTM)**
- **233 care groups with lead mothers reaching 16,000 mothers**

Food distribution (2010-2014)



- Roll-out blanket distribution for pregnant and lactating women and mothers with children under-2
- Distribute bulgur wheat, vegetable oil, peas, corn-soya blend (CSB) for lean and non-lean seasons
- Introduce the use of telephone to
 - register beneficiaries to dramatically reduce time between registration and food distribution
 - monitor program outputs and trends of nutrition practices
- Organize 74 monthly food distribution points
- Reach 21,000 pregnant and lactating women and mothers with children under-2 (2013)
- Link with care groups and agriculture activities



Agriculture

Support to Ministry of Agriculture (MoA)



- Integrate gender focus from the start (parity in members in farmer groups)
 - Adapt specific crops to gender
 - Poultry/vegetables for women
 - Successfully initiate the *lead farmer* approach in each farmer group to enable them to become extension service providers in their community
 - Formalize farmer groups into farmer associations to enable them increased access to financial services
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- Adoption of many new production techniques: planting in rows, irrigation, natural pest control, composting and soil managements, seed preservation, and post-harvest handling

Nutrition and Health

Support the Ministry of Health (MoH)



- **Assist in the national roll-out of the ENA program**

- Link ENA with integrated management of acute malnutrition (IMAM) training
- Train trainers at national and county level (seasoned international consultant)
- Train health workers
- Train of general Community Health Volunteers (gCHV)
- Test supervision and monitoring checklists



- **Innovate ENA community training with trained traditional midwives as agents of change in nutrition (task shifting as they could not perform home delivery)**
- **Initiate supportive supervision through health facility survey, and on-going supportive supervision combined with on-the-job**

Communities



- Establish care groups with leader mothers reaching out to enlisted mothers for food distribution
 - Mentor women on key MCH themes: ENA, FP, ANC, newborn, iCCM (malaria, diarrhea, and pneumonia), EPI and WASH (introduce Tippy Taps)
 - Assist in transition from Title II distribution to locally made porridge through training and cooking demonstrations
 - Use homestead food production (poultry/vegetables) and market strategies to motivate lead mothers, with spill-over to household mothers
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- Mentor WASH community groups to collect and put savings to maintaining community wells and pumps
 - Assist in organizing “disaster management committees” – later used successfully as platforms during the Ebola crisis

Education



Support to the Ministry of Education (MoEd)



- Encourage primary school attendance
- Enhance teaching capacity of teachers
- Work with parent-teacher associations (PTA) and school clubs
- Provide nutrition education
- Mentor the establishment and maintenance of school gardens
- Promote handwashing and use of latrines
- Initiate literacy programs with care groups

Best practices



Some results -2015

Annual Survey



- Met or exceeded its planned targets for 3 of 4 agriculture indicators
- 63% of farmers report using at least 3 of the agronomic technologies (25% at baseline)
- 83% of smallholder households have access to cash savings and/or credit (53% at baseline)
- 93% of infants 0-6 months of age are exclusively breastfeeding (29% at baseline)
- 93% of caregivers demonstrate proper water hygiene practices (60% at baseline)
- 70% of household with school-age children reported that their children attend school regularly
- Almost 90% of households with school-aged children report they are satisfied with their children's education