

CRS IN LIBERIA

AN OVERVIEW OF OUR WORK

OUR HISTORY IN LIBERIA

Catholic Relief Services started working in Liberia in 1990, with programs in school feeding, agriculture and education. We remained in the country during the civil war from 1997 to 2003, providing food and other much-needed aid to war-affected populations in the southeast. Since 2003 CRS has moved from delivering immediate assistance to longer-term development programs in agriculture, maternal and child health, and HIV and AIDS.

WHAT WE DO

Our main goal is to help vulnerable populations lead full and productive lives and be decision-makers in their own development. We work primarily with Liberia's three Catholic dioceses and Caritas partners throughout the country. We also have partnerships with the Government of Liberia through its ministries of agriculture and health, in addition to local and international NGOs.

Our current priorities include the following areas:

- **Agriculture**, especially in emergency response and for income generation
- **Health**, especially to prevent the transmission of HIV, to help pregnant women deliver healthy babies and to immunize children

CURRENT PROGRAMS

We have four international staff and 27 national staff. Our main office is in Monrovia, with field offices in Zwedru, Fishtown and Harper.

AGRICULTURE AND EMERGENCIES

In partnership with Caritas, CRS is helping to boost the resiliency of households hosting Ivoirian refugees who fled their country in 2010 and 2011. The goal of the project is to increase cassava productivity through seed and voucher fairs and farm field schools. Currently nearly 3,000 households are benefiting from the project, made possible through a one-year US\$654,875 grant from OFDA that ends in April 2013.



Farmer harvesting ground nuts during the exchange visit.

AGRICULTURE FOR INCOME

CRS is helping to improve the availability of food and increase household incomes for farmers in southeastern Liberia by introducing high yielding rice varieties for lowland cultivation. CRS also teaches farmers how to improve their yield through timely weeding, the application of fertilizer and the reduction of post harvest losses. In the first year of this three-year US\$2.1 million contract, we reached 525 farmers. The project is financed through the Ministry of Agriculture and may be extended by an additional year or two.



A farmer in her cassava field.



Farmers taking notes during a field exchange visit

HIV PREVENTION

We are implementing an HIV prevention project in partnership with the Diocese of Gbarnga using a methodology called “The Faithful House.” Our approach increases household resilience and reduces the vulnerability of families to HIV transmission by strengthening relationships through enhanced communication. The project, to which CRS contributed US\$67,000 in private funds, has directly benefited over 1,200 couples from various churches and mosques to date.

PRE-NATAL CARE

CRS is in the process of expanding its Faithful House project to include a safe motherhood component. The newly expanded program will start in April 2013, with a target of reaching 200 pregnant women and their spouses over a six-month period. In addition to supporting Caritas in the implementation of the project, CRS partners with Maternal Life International, a US-based NGO, to develop the Safe Motherhood Curriculum and to partially fund project activities. The total budget is US\$37,000.

IMMUNIZATION

CRS receives funds from the Global Alliance for Vaccines and Immunization (GAVI) to strengthen country-level civil society networks that advocate for improved immunization coverage. The project strives to ensure that a civil society platform is capable



Participants learn how to make acheke, fufu and gari during a training on post-harvest management of cassava Sweeken community in River Gee County.

of engaging in immunization and health system strengthening processes. It also helps the platform to influence and engage with country governments and development partners, ultimately linking communities with immunization and health systems. The two-year effort, which is part of a global initiative implemented by CRS and its local partners across 14 countries, has an annual budget of roughly US\$72,000 and will end in December 2014. We are implementing this project with Curamericas.

Catholic Relief Services

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