



WEST AFRICA INITIATIVE PHASE 2
REPORT FOR PERIOD MAY 1 TO AUGUST 31, 2010.
Prepared by Winston Carroo
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INTRODUCTION

This report describes the activities of and developments in the program in both Liberia and Sierra Leone since the previous report was submitted for the period January 1 to April 30. Included in this report is an update of the production activities and plans as well as training events for the period under review. The data and information contained in this report was collected from four major sources:

1. An interim report for the period, submitted on standard format, on forms completed and submitted by the facilitators.
2. Reports of training events submitted by the trainers and/or Coordinators
3. Regular reports submitted by Coordinators
4. Correspondence with Coordinators

A final report, to cover the entire program year, will be submitted by the end of January 2011.

LIBERIA

Currently there are six active groups with a total of 170 members in three counties, compared to 133 in 2009. There are an additional 6 “new” groups, with about 150 members that are being assisted by the current groups but which are not directly affiliated with WAI in terms of financial support, and they do not fall within WAI’s coordinating structure at this time. There are plans to include these groups in 2011, following an assessment and orientation.

All groups report an increase in the area under cultivation as well as in the quantity of food produced and consumed at the community level, resulting in an increase in the food security status of the communities. At the same time, the strength of the groups, in terms of their cohesiveness and functional capacity is reason for continued concern. This is also true of the competence of the facilitators, many of whom appear to be reaching their limits in terms of providing the leadership and technical support that the groups require for further development. These issues were discussed in the previous report and an assessment of the status of the groups and facilitators is currently underway. A report of this assessment will be sent by October 31.

The current (2010) production activities and plans of each of the six WAI groups is summarized below:

BARMAI: Current membership: 25 (18 in 2009)

Actually planted: Rice: 15 Acres – Projected Yield 50 bags
Cassava: 10 acres – Projected Yield 100 bags
Groundnut: 1 acre – Projected Yield 10 bags
To be planted: 3 Acres Vegetables – Varied
Other Activities: Completed Crop Storage Facility
Bee keeping: 10 hives completed, 8 colonized. Harvest in November

BARLINE: Current membership: 35 (30 in 2009)

Actually Planted: Rice: 7 acres – Projected Yield 30 bags
Groundnuts: 3 bags (Approx 1 acre) Projected Yield 10 bags
To be planted: Vegetables: ¾ acre
Other Activities: Bee keeping: 10 hives completed, 3 colonized.

BORBOR TOWN: Current Membership: 45 (30 in 2009)

Actually Planted: Rice: 10 acres – Projected Yield 50 bags
Cassava: 1 acre Cassava – Projected Yield 10 bags
Other: Completed housing for rice mill/storage. Mill operation to start by end of year
Bee keeping: 10 hives completed, 4 colonized. Harvest in November.

CFM/SEAMA: Current Membership: 35 (30 in 2009)

Actually Planted: Rice: 4 bags -Expected Yield: 25 bags
Groundnuts: 1 bag - Expected Yield 5 bags
Cassava: 5 acres - Expected Yield 50 bags
To be planted: Vegetables: 3 acres
Other: Storage facility to be completed by end of November.
Bee keeping: 10 hives completed, 7 colonized. Harvest in November

DAMALA: Current Membership 30 (25 in 2009)

Actually Planted: Rice: 10 bags – Expected Yield 50 bags
Cassava: 15 acres – Expected yield 150 bags.
Other: Bee keeping: 10 hives completed 7 colonized

HARLANDSVILLE: Current Membership: 48 (32 in 2009)

Actually Planted: Groundnuts and vegetables: 5 acres
To be planted: Cassava: 10 acres - Expected Yield 250 bags

Other Activities: Construction of storage/housing for cassava machine completed
 Cassava grinding machine to start operation by end of year
 Bee keeping: 10 hives constructed, six colonized. Harvest in October

The facilitators and groups reported that they are assisting other groups in or around their locations in their production and group formation activities. The following is a summary of these reports:

<u>Group</u>	<u>Number of Groups</u>	<u>Number of Members.</u>
Barline	0	0
Barmai	2	42
Borbor Town	2	45
CFMSEAMA	1	50
Damala	1	20
Harlandsville	0	0
TOTAL	6	207

A verification process will occur within the month of October by the Country Coordinator, followed by a process of integrating those groups that meet the criteria into the WAI program.

DEVELOPMENT OF BEE KEEPING ACTIVITIES.

The bee keeping aspect of the program is designed to increase the income of the participants through the production and sale of honey. At the current price of \$60 USD per gallon, there is the potential to earn \$180 per hive per year, although most farmers earn about \$120 per hive, based on the level of production. The demand for honey in Liberia and in the West Africa region is very high. There is an existing marketing structure that can provide a market for these farmers.

The beehive revolving loan program is designed to facilitate access to hive ownership for those group members who cannot afford the initial capital of about \$30 (USD per hive). The loan is given, not as cash, but as materials with which to construct the hives. Hives are then constructed under the supervision of an experienced farmer. In order to participate in the loan program, the individual group member must:

- Be a member of the group
- Attend the training events
- Agree to work under the guidance of the WAI bee keeping trainer
- Sign a contract

Repayment of the loan will take place in two installments, after the first two harvests. Funds from the repayment will be used to assist other farmers to access hives or to increase the number of hives. The group assumes the responsibility for selection of farmers and the repayment of the loans.

The comprehensive program consists of three training events that are timed to coincide with production activities and availability of the revolving loan program. The complete training consists of three phases:

Phase 1: Meetings with farmers groups to explain the benefits of bee keeping, the revolving loan program and the responsibilities of the group members. This was completed during the period June 1-7.

Phase 2: Construction of Kenya Top Bar Hives; baiting, site selection and maintenance of hives. Training conducted by experienced farmer in each of the six communities on the following dates:

Barline: June 5-10
Barmai, Damala, SEAMA. : June 11 – 15
Borbor Town: June 16 – 20
Harlandsville: June 21-25

Each group received 10 hives under the revolving loan program and decided on the distribution and management among the members. The first harvest will be in October or November.

Phase 3: This will be conducted in October or November to coincide with the harvesting activities and will include construction of solar extractors, protective suits and smoker and the processing of honey.

WORKSHOP FOR GROUP LEADERS AND OFFICERS.

The goal of this workshop is to strengthen the groups by increasing the leadership skills, management abilities and technical competence of the community leaders and officers. The three-day session, conducted by Mr. Frido Kinkolenge (United Methodist Missionary working in Liberia), was held from June 10 -12 and attended by the officers from each group (a total of 25 persons).

The topics covered were:

- Leadership Practice and Stewardship
- Role and Function of the Treasurer
- Basics of book keeping (worksheet on incomes and expenditures)
- Ethics and Transparency.
- Behavior Change Communication
- Role and Function of the Secretary, including a practical on minute taking and record keeping.
- Role and Function of the President, including practical on conducting meetings.
- Decision making process

All these topics were presented using the appropriate language level, using the Adult Learning Methodologies and Practices including, drama, practical demonstrations and participant led discussions.

WORKSHOP IN DISASTER PREPAREDNESS AND MITIGATION.

The Disaster Preparedness and Mitigation Workshop was a three-day event held August 25 to 27 in Tubmanburg, Bomi County. This site was chosen because of the

concentration of groups around this town and the high number of participants living in the area. This purpose of this workshop was to assist the communities to be prepared in the event of a disaster how to respond effectively using locally available resources as a first response. In addition to three representatives from each group, there were local representatives of the Red Cross, church based programs and local public sector personnel with responsibility for disaster preparedness and management.

The specific workshop objective was to:

Train twenty-five group members from WAI participating communities and local officials in community-based disaster preparedness and management, with a focus on planning for managing emergencies in the Liberian context.

Topics covered in workshop:

- Definition and Classification of Disaster:
- Mapping of disaster that occur in Liberia
- Rescue and relief before and during natural disaster
- From relief & response to disaster risk management
- Poverty and Vulnerability
- Integrating poverty reduction programs with the disaster management sector: some approaches
- Tools of community risk assessment
- Risk transfer and finance
- Reconstruction and long term mitigation planning
- Community based disaster risk reduction process
- Role of People in Disaster Management:
- Risk Assessment
- Networking and Collaboration

The Workshop entailed specific emphasis on the Community Based Approach to Disaster Management with a focus on the importance of teamwork and a community- based approach to disaster, taking into account mobilization, getting opinion leaders or the community stakeholders involved in the process. The importance of building a team to manage the disasters, which must include the youth, women, men and persons with

special skills such as those with medical training. Subtopics under this general heading included:

- Why community based approaches
- How to transform at-risk communities to disaster resilient communities
- Elements and features of community-based disaster mitigation
- Who initiates community-based approaches, who sustains community-based approaches
- Appropriate methods to enhance community participation
- Effects in improved safety, livelihood and well being
- Measuring the impact of community-based disaster mitigation
- Complexities to face
- Some lessons learned

Methodology

The workshop was highly participatory, using adult learning methodologies and techniques including group discussions, plenary and field trips as well as role-plays.

Activities

- Guided discussions to ensure that participants are in tune with the topics/subjects under consideration
- Highlighted key issues generated from the presentations and guided the process accurately
- Critique presentations delivered by various groups identifying gaps, strengths and opportunities and came up with action points on how these gaps identify can be addressed
- Field trip to various locations so as to enable participants to see the effects of failing to prepare mitigation plans and the dangers of building in vulnerable and even dangerous places

Next Steps:

The participants learned how to develop mitigation plans for disaster that may occur in their communities based on past experiences and will implement this in their communities.

IMPACT:

The six groups reported a total 1155 (group members and members of their households) that benefited directly from the project. The indirect beneficiaries – extended family members, friends and neighbors etc, could not be accurately quantified, but estimated to about five times the number that benefited directly.

SIERRA LEONE

The program in Sierra Leone is going as planned with significant progress being made in the level of food security and economic activities in the participating communities as a direct result of WAI. The membership of the groups has increased significantly while new groups are also being assisted to develop their organizations and food production capabilities. The facilitators are highly motivated and innovative in terms of introducing new activities in the communities with which they work. There are currently a total of 577 members in the 10 groups, compared to 338 in 2009.

A summary of the activities of the individual groups for 2010 follows.

ATAYA BASE: Current Membership: 35 (30 in 2009)
Actually Planted: Rice: 3 bags – expected yield 50 bags
Cassava: 10 acres – expected yield 200 bags
Other Activities: Construction Housing for Cassava Processing Machine
Cassava Processing to commence in November

BUNUMBU WOMEN’S ASSOCIATION: Current Membership: 40 (35 in 2009)
Actually Planted: Rice: 40 bags – expected yield 90 bags
Groundnut: 10 bags –expected yield 22 bags
Cassava: ½ acre – expected yield 12 bags
Vegetables: 1 acre

COMMUNITY BLIND FARMERS ASSN: Current Membership: 90 (50 in 2009)
Actually Planted: Rice: 52 bags – expected harvest 85 bushels
Groundnuts: 30 bags – expected harvest 52 bags
Cassava: 10 acres – expected harvest 300 bags
Other Activities: Micro-credit: Program initiated with initial capital of 3,500,000 Leones – 35 persons at 100,000 Leones each.
Handicraft: Mats, baskets and hammocks made for sale in village markets

COMMUNITY IDEAS DEVELOPMENT ASSOCIATION: Current Membership: 60 (30 in 2009)
Actually Planted: Rice: 90 bags – expected harvest 350 bags
Groundnuts: 30 bags-expected harvest 90 bags
Cassava: ½ acre – expected yield 12 bags
Other Activities: Honey production: 10 x 5 gallon containers harvested and sold by

members, from 38 hives. Plan to add another 20 hives.

Micro-credit: Started 2010 with 4.8M Leones. -2009 interest of 800,000 on 2M starting capital, plus new capital of 2M Leones. Loans made to 53 individuals.

Pig Production: 4 pigs bought initially, now total of 33

Moringa: 5 acres planted

Ginger: Promoted as a cash crop

LILOMA YAWEIMA DEVELOPMENT ASSOCIATION:

Current Membership: 67 (45 in 2009)

Crops Planted: Rice: 10 bags – expected yield 85 bags
Groundnuts: 35 bags – expected yield 90 bags
Cassava: 10 acres – expected yield 300 bags

Other Activities: Honey: 5 gallons produced and sold by members
Micro-credit: 3M Leones capital base – loan to 30 women in first cycle

MUGOMEH FARMERS ASSOCIATION: Current Membership: 50 (38 in 2009)

Actually Planted: Rice: 20 bags –expected yield 90 bags
Cassava: 3 acres –expected yield 100 bags
Honey: 1 gallon; consumed by members
Micro-credit: 2.4M Leones loaned to 9 individuals for first cycle.

N’BIONADAY FARMERS ASSOCIATION: Current Membership: 120 (50 in 2009) in 2 subgroups

Actually Planted: Rice: 50 bags – expected yield 155 bags
Groundnuts: 23 bags – expected yield 45 bags
Cassava: 1 acre – expected yield 70 bags
Vegetables: 1 acre

Other Activities: Honey: 4 gallons harvested- consumed by members
Micro-credit: Capital of 3.203M Leones- loans to 33 persons

SANDA YOUTH DEVELOPMENT ASSOCIATION: Membership: 32 (26 in 2009)

Actually Planted: Rice: 96 bags – expected harvest 250 bags

Other Activities: Micro-credit: 7.1M Leones capital base -50 loans made in 2010
Small Ruminant: 8 sheep and goats initially, now 10

SORBEH FARMERS ASSOCIATION: Current Membership: 48 (45 in 2009)

Actually Planted: Rice: 35 bags – expected yield 105 bags
Groundnuts: 30 bags – expected harvest 120 bags
Cassava: 5 acres – expected harvest 150 bags

Other Activities: Honey: 4 gallons harvested, consumed by members

Micro-credit: 2.5M Leones, loaned to 15 persons.

WOLLENTHOR FARMERS ASSOCIATION: Current Membership: 65 (40 in 2009)

Actually Planted: Rice: 64 bags – expected harvest 145 bags
 Groundnuts: 30 bags-expected yield 75 bags
Other Activities: Honey: 11/2 Gallons, consumed by members

BEE KEEPING DEVELOPMENT:

Activities related to bee keeping are designed to follow up on initial training of farmers that occurred in 2009 and to expand the scope of this farming activity by providing additional training and access to hive ownership through a revolving loan program. Four groups that were actually engaged in bee keeping participated in the ongoing training. A total of 90 hives were constructed or rehabilitated during the training.

Content of activity or training

- Fabrication and use of solar extractor for the hygienic processing of honey and bee wax.
- Fabrication and rehabilitation of the Kenyan top bar hives.
- Hive management practices -Site selection, care, and installation of hives and ways of protecting hives from pest, predators and human activities.
- Meeting with community leaders.
- Orientation of groups on the contractual agreement for the beekeeping community-revolving loan program.

The following groups/communities participated:

<u>Group</u>	<u>Community</u>	<u># of hives</u>
Community Ideas Association	Rochen	10
Manack Beekeeping Association	Manack	10
	Majaka	10
Sorbeh Farmer's Association	Kamakontakay	5
	Fodasorie	5
Tamaraneh Bee keeping group	Rolal	55
TOTAL		90

Harvesting and processing are expected to take place during October – November

COMMUNITY TRAINING IN MORINGA PRODUCTION AND USE.

This activity was designed to train facilitators and community members in the production and use of Moringa as a source of nutrition that can be integrated into the local diet.

Moringa also represents a potential cash crop, as there is demand for the dried form of the product in towns and cities.

Goals:

1. Expose participants to Moringa plant as a way to improve nutritional status within their communities.
2. Enhance participants' skills in the cultivation and utilization of Moringa
3. Train participants in the preparation and use of Moringa with an emphasis on integration in the local diet.

This training was organized as Training of Trainers (TOT) for the 9 facilitators and one member of each community. It is expected that the participants will in conduct training in each of their communities.

In addition to the distribution of seeds and seedlings to the participants and families in the training community, Moringa farms were established in the following communities:

- Mambo – 1 acre
- Rolla – 2 acres
- Rothen – 4 acres
- Mathibo – 1 acre

These farms will serve as a source of seeds and other products for distribution and promotion.

The training was conducted by Harold Tengbe, Esther Rashid and Salamatu Mustapha, who were previously trained through the UMCOR SA&D program. The workshop was held at the Pastoral Center in Makeni from the 30th June to 2nd July 2010.

List Of Topics:

- Introduction to Moringa as a source of nutrition.
- Moringa Cultivation and Management practices
- Nutritional Values of Moringa plant.
- Using Moringa in the local diet.
- Methods of Preparing Moringa for use – fresh leaves, drying etc
- Water purification processes
- Medicinal values

MORINGA PROMOTION IN SIERRA LEONE.

A one-day high profile seminar is planned to promote the use of Moringa to combat malnutrition throughout the country. This event, sponsored by the CCSL and WAI, is planned for October 6 with an expected attendance of about 120 persons from the churches and church agencies, various United Nations agencies, Ministries of Agriculture and Health, central and local government leaders, health practioners and non-governmental organizations.

GROUP LEADERSHIP TRAINING.

The workshop was organized and facilitated by staff of the Development Department of CCSL and the local consultant attached to the WAI program. The event took place at the Pastoral Center in Makeni from 28th – 29th June, 2010.

Goals

- To increase understanding and appreciation of the roles and responsibilities of group leaders (executives).
- To equip participants with knowledge and skills in leadership with a view to enhancing performance

The training community consisted of 36 participants, two trainers and one support staff making a total of 39 persons. All facilitators attended the training together with the executive of their groups - Chairman, Secretary and Treasurer.

List of topics covered:

- Introduction and Expectations
- Definition and Concepts
- Leadership Behavior / Styles:
 1. Authoritarian or autocratic style (dictator):
 2. Participative or Democratic Style:
 3. Laissez-Faire or Free Rein Style
- Shared Leadership
- Leadership Qualities and Skills
 - 1 Communication skills
 - 2 Listening and feedback skills
 - 3 Motivational skills
 - 4 Interpersonal skills
 - 5 Decision making skills
 - 6 Problem solving skills
 - 7 Organizational Management skills
 - 8 Human Resource Management skills
 - 9 Strategic Planning and Execution skills
 - 10 Other leadership traits – slow to anger and have patience regarding the work of the members.

- Leadership Roles and Responsibilities
- Harmful Behavior in the Group
- Role, Responsibilities and Function of Office Bearers.
 - 1 Chairman/ President and Vice President
 - 2 Secretary and Assistant Secretary
 - 3 Treasurer and Assistant Treasurer
 - 4 Financial Secretary
 - 5 Executive Committee
 - 6 Other Committees

Observation and Comments

The training venue and facilities were adequate and the WAI facilitator Mariatu Kargbo was very helpful in coordinating the arrangement for the venue in Makeni. The participants were very appreciative of the training, some of which have never participated in such training before. Over sixty percent of the participants were illiterate but because the language of communication was Creole, every participant fully participated in the discussions. In terms of gender composition of the participants, there were 26 men and 10 women.

Planned Follow-Up

At the end of the two days training participants accepted the assignment to put into practice what they have learnt particularly with respect to their roles and responsibilities. Each participant described how he/she intended to put into practice the new skills in their group. The Development Department will schedule a follow-up visit to each group for monitoring purposes.

OTHER TRAINING EVENTS PLANNED FOR 2010.

- Moringa Seminar – October 6
- Disaster Preparedness and Mitigation – October 7-9
- Business Management – November 6 – 19.

IMPACT:

Current estimates are that there are 2885 direct beneficiaries (members and their households) and over 5000 indirect beneficiaries, including extended families and other community members.

