

**United States Agency for International Development
Bureau for Democracy, Conflict and Humanitarian Assistance
Office of Food for Peace**

**Fiscal Year 2010: Title II Proposal Guidance and Program Policies
Supplementary Fiscal Year 2010 Title II Multi-Year Assistance Program
Country Specific Guidance: Liberia**

I. Background

The Office of Food for Peace (FFP) has funds available for a Multi-Year Assistance Program (MYAP) in Liberia in fiscal year 2010. This document supplements the *Title II Proposal Guidance and Program Policies* with information on USAID/Liberia and FFP's food security programming priorities.

II. Food Security Situation and Geographic Priorities

Following two civil wars lasting more than fourteen years in total, Liberia is currently in the process of rebuilding its economic, social service sector and basic infrastructure. Current food security concerns include low crop yields, scarcity of livestock and limited financial and physical access to health services, education opportunities and economic growth. MYAPs should complement USAID/Liberia objectives and the Government of Liberia's *Liberia Poverty Reduction Strategy*, as well as sector-specific plans and policies. Proposals should include sound food aid commodity management measures to minimize commodity loss.

The MYAP should primarily focus on implementing activities in the Northern and Southeastern regions of the four contiguous counties of Bong, Nimba, Grand Geddeh, and River Gee, and emphasize how implementation will address logistic and coordination challenges of working in these regions.

III. USAID/Liberia and FFP Programming Priorities

The MYAP focus is '*to improve the food security of vulnerable rural households and communities in Liberia*'. The MYAP proposal should encourage an enabling environment for promoting gender equality and local nongovernmental organization capacity building, where feasible.

FFP anticipates making one award for a total of \$15 million per year for five years, subject to the availability of funds. This award will include anticipated funding of \$9 million per year focused on the priority objectives and recommended actions summarized below. In addition, this award will include anticipated funding of \$6 million per year to support a pilot Food Based Crop Insurance and Community Food Reserves program. The pilot program should be linked to a broader agricultural activity and integrated with the MYAP, and it should include a research component to be designed with IFPRI and FANTA. For more detailed description of the pilot program please refer to *Food Based Crop Insurance and Community Food Reserves*, available on the FFP website.

Mission and FFP priority objectives and recommended activities for the proposed Title II MYAP are summarized below:

1. **Reduce chronic malnutrition among children under five by:**
 - A. Preventing malnutrition among children under two approach (PM2A)*;
 - B. Improving infant and young child feeding practices;
 - C. Preventing and treating childhood illness;
 - D. Introduction of effective referral systems for illness and severe acute malnutrition;
 - E. Improving maternal health and nutrition status, with a focus on adolescent girls; and
 - F. Enhancing access to water and sanitation and improving hygiene practices.

2. **Increase agricultural production and productivity by:**
 - A. Promoting cash crop integration;
 - B. Increasing training in the prevention of post harvest loss;
 - C. Improving agricultural practices through farmer-to-farmer extension services;
 - D. Strengthening market linkages for vulnerable farmer households;
 - E. Applying a value chain approach to farmer planning and management; and
 - F. Improving basic services and infrastructure (e.g. roads, bridges and markets).

3. **Promote increased access to education opportunities by:**
 - A. Providing food assisted support to targeted primary and preschool children;
 - B. Enhancing quality of education access through increased access to food; and
 - C. Improving integration of mission education and title ii programming.

For additional information, the [Liberia Food Security Country Framework](#) is available via the FFP website.

** PM2A is a food-assisted approach to reduce the prevalence of child malnutrition by targeting a package of preventive health and nutrition interventions to all pregnant and lactating women and children under age two. Participants in targeted food insecure, high-risk areas receive a conditional food ration based on program participation, to prevent the onset of malnutrition before it occurs. This population-based approach differs from many maternal child health and nutrition interventions that target children after they have become malnourished to help them recuperate from malnutrition. To ensure long term benefits from prevention, other MYAP components should serve the same population, bringing improvements to their household food and livelihood security. This approach has been successfully tested in a Title II setting and had a significant impact on reducing malnutrition through prevention.*