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# FOOD AND ENTERPRISE DEVELOPMENT (FED) PROGRAM FOR LIBERIA

MONTHLY REPORT: FEBRUARY 2012



# MONTHLY REPORT

## FOOD AND ENTERPRISE DEVELOPMENT (FED) PROGRAM FOR LIBERIA

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## ACRONYMS

ADF	African Development Fund
ASRP	Agriculture Sector Revitalization Program
BWI	Booker T. Washington Institute
CAC	Chief Agricultural Coordinator
CEDPA	Centre for Development and Population Activities
COP	Chief of Party
COSEO	Community Sustainable and Economic Empowerment Organization
DCOP/FAM	Deputy Chief of Party/Finance Administrator
EPA	Environmental Protection Agency
FED	Food and Enterprise Development
FTF	Feed the Future
GATE	Greater Access to Trade Expansion Project
HDF	Human Development Foundation
HP	Horse Power
HR	Human Resource
IFAD	International Fund for Agriculture Development
LOL	Land of Lakes
LPG	Liquid Petroleum Gas
LTTA	Long Term Technical Assistant
MOA	Ministry of Agriculture
MYS	Ministry of Youth and Sports
ODAFARA	Organization for the Development of Farmer Related Association
PUA	Peri Urban Agriculture
SP	Samaritan's Purse
STTA	Short Term Technical Assistant
TAMIS	Technical and Administrative Management Information System
USDA	United States Department of Agriculture
USAID	United States Agency for International Development
VES	Vocational Education Specialist

ZRTTI      Zorzor Rural Teacher Training Institute

## **I. Executive Summary**

February was an active month for the FED team, with accomplishments in the area of training, continuing organizational set up and implementation in various components of the project.

A variety of trainings occurred during the month. Farmers in the peri-urban area were trained in the usage of treadle pump and market development. Training was also conducted in vegetable production which enables farmers to advance their skills in seedling bed preparation, maintenance, planting, and irrigation. This training benefited a total of 150 individual farmers in urban and peri-urban parts of Montserrado.

A one-day training for project staff which provided them the understanding of key gender concepts and terms, gender-based constraints facing women in agriculture in Liberia, and best practices for promoting women in agriculture through LFED programming.

There was also a four day participatory Enterprise Development Training Workshop that was held for the Bonpain's Women Group in Duompa, Nimba County. This workshop brought together 30 participants (29 women and 1 man).

FED launched on February 10, 2012 in Montserrado County, the Baseline survey to determine the current status of agricultural and livestock practices from households in the FED program's selected regions. The M&E team conducted the survey in all four core counties.

## II. Program

### A. Agriculture

#### ***Urban and Peri-urban Agriculture***

Component 1 has focused on the Peri-Urban Agriculture sub-component during February 2012. Activities have included:

- Treadle pump manufacturer training
- Post-workshop training and treadle pump market development
- Vegetable producer training
- Vegetable producer monitoring
- Vegetable demonstration site further developed in Kakata
- Preparation for rainy season vegetable production
- Preliminary preparation for launching the commercial production and demonstrations of new vegetable and other targeted value chain technologies
- Further consideration of future activities

#### **Treadle pump manufacturer training**

Two treadle pump manufacturers were trained during February – Moonlight Metal Work Garage and SMART Welding Garage. Using special tooling to guarantee the interchangeability of parts from one pump produced to another, they were trained to fabricate the suction-only and pressure versions of the pump. Sharing in the training costs, each enterprise became the owner of three of the six pumps manufactured.



FED sponsored treadle pump manufacturer training session

## **Post-workshop training and treadle pump market development**

Following training in pump production, the two workshops were trained in pump installation, use, maintenance, and troubleshooting during the week of February 20. They were also instructed in performing demonstrations. This instruction was provided during the course of ten demonstrations that attracted approximately 100 farmers. Initially, project staff took the lead in doing the demonstrations and showing farmers how to properly use, maintain, and troubleshoot the treadle pump. After the first few demonstrations, the manufacturers took the lead.



Demonstration of treadle pump by FED sponsored manufacturer

## **Vegetable producer training**

Following several weeks of preparation (finalizing the selection of participants, identifying training sites, and procuring the seed), training of more than 150 individuals in seven Monrovia urban and peri-urban communities began on February 13. For onions, watermelon, Cayenne pepper, and six-week okra, farmers were trained in field and seedling bed preparation and maintenance, planting, and irrigation.

## **Vegetable producer monitoring**

Trainees have been visited once a week following the start of training to reinforce initial instruction messages and to correct improper application of that instruction. Lower rainfall than usual during this dry season has diminished the amount of ground and surface water available, forcing some farmers to await the rainy season to begin planting.



The PUA team has also worked closely with the M&E unit to collect baseline data on PUA farmer participants as well as a control group. These data will determine the production impact of the PUA interventions.

### **Vegetable demonstration site further developed in Kakata**

The demonstration site continues to take shape. At the end of February, seedlings are being transplanted from the nursery to the demonstration site. Issues addressed have included:

- Procurement of a motorized irrigation pump
- Purchase of compost

A request was also made, and agreed to, to purchase materials for the construction of a shaded area at the demonstration site.

### **Preparation for rainy season vegetable production**

A preliminary work plan for rainy season vegetable production has been developed and is currently being discussed and finalized by the Peri-Urban Agriculture team. Proposed activities include:

- Preliminary Crop Selection
- Radio Ad Production
- Radio Broadcasts to Raise Awareness about Training to be Offered by FED
- Group Selection Criteria Determination
- Consultation with Informed Sources for Pre-Selection of Interested Groups
- Pre-Selection of Groups
- Meetings with Groups
- Final Group Selection (8-10 groups/250-300 farmers)
- Training (plot establishment, composting, planting, etc.)
- Connection of farmers to input & equipment suppliers

These activities will be implemented between March and September 2012.

## **Preliminary preparations for second quarter 2012 Agriculture and PUA activities**

### Commercial dissemination of shallow tube wells

Ample water supply for irrigation is critical to productive dry season vegetable cultivation. Without this vital input, production will falter. In Liberia, despite high average annual rainfall, a long dry season and hydro-geological conditions unfavorable to the installation of even shallow hand-dug wells make sub-surface water scarce beginning as early as February in parts of the country. These conditions inhibit vegetable production during this time of the year when agro-climatic conditions are the most favorable. Scarce sub-surface water is a particular problem this dry season as observed by recent visits to Mount Barclay, Zubah Community, and rural communities in Nimba County.

Beginning in late March or early April, a West African consultant will assess local conditions for the successful installation of shallow low-cost tube wells, including a technique that increases the recharge rates of existing shallow wells, and train the FED project technical trainer and workers from two local enterprises in the manual installation of tube wells.

### Commercial fabrication of vegetable dryers

Liberian households produce and consume significant quantities of dried vegetables, especially peppers and okra. Unfortunately, climatic conditions for drying such produce are highly unfavorable, especially during the rainy season, slowing drying times and creating losses during the drying process estimated at approximately 25 percent.

In June/July, a Central African consultant will train the FED technical trainer and local manufacturers in the fabrication of LPG-heated forced-air dryers. In collaboration with a US-based consultant, he will also develop a charcoal-heated forced-air dryer for secondary town and rural markets in Liberia.

### Decentralized vegetable seedling production

Many farmers are prevented from producing certain high value vegetables because they lack the ability to produce high quality seedlings or have no access to seedlings produced by others in other parts of the country. Other farmers may know how to produce seedlings but lack the time needed to nurse them. Strategically located vegetable nurseries will address these constraints while at the same time generating increased income and employment for the seedling producers.

A Liberian consultant has been identified to train the FED Peri-Urban Agriculture staff and the first local seedling producers to be supported by FED. This activity is tentatively scheduled to start at the beginning of next dry season.

#### Demonstration of the fiber-discharge cassava flour mill

The high price of gari has increased demand for lower cost cassava flour, which keeps better than gari and can be consumed or sold many months after processing. The fiber-discharge cassava flour mill removes the fibrous strand that runs down the center of the tuber and produces cassava flour of the fineness desired by Liberian consumers.

The Central African dryer consultant will collaborate with the FED technical trainer to produce several mill units for market testing. The results of this testing will determine whether commercial production will be promoted or not by the FED project.

#### Demonstration of the agricultural waste-fueled steam generator

The high cost of petroleum fuels in Liberia makes the introduction of mechanized processing and other productive technologies prohibitive, considerably limiting the potential for agricultural development and improvement in the livelihoods of Liberia's rural population. The ground-breaking 8 HP biomass-fueled steam engine has the potential to effectively address this bottleneck. In addition to the direct powering of processing equipment (e.g., Engelberg hullers, cassava mills, and Freedom Mills), the exhaust is usable for the drying of large quantities of key crops such as rice, cassava, vegetables, fruits, and cocoa. Lighting will be supplied at night to the homes of villagers.

The US inventor will ship two steam engines to Liberia in April/May to demonstrate to entrepreneurs and farmers. These units will be installed in July in rural communities meeting important selection criteria, including a proven track record of organizational capacity, existing motorized equipment, production of crops requiring drying, and cash incomes to pay for the capital cost – in whole or in part – and the operation of the equipment.

## **Further consideration of future Agriculture and PUA activities**

Preliminary consideration for future implementation is being given to the following:

- Cooling and cold storage for perishable vegetables
- Super low-cost treadle pumps to address purchasing power of smaller vegetable growers
- Furrow irrigation to allow for fuller benefits from pump use
- Low-cost impact rice hullers for low-income rice producers
- Power tillers, including possibly IRRI hydro-tillers in some cases, for reduced labor times and laboriousness and expanded rice surface areas and sources of local employment
- Mobile cassava graters

Established demand-driven, supply chain models exist for each of these possibilities.

**With the possibility that FED will be promoting a number of equipment technologies (e.g., tube wells, dryers, cassava mills, steam generators, etc.), consideration will need to be given to adding one to two additional technical staff with metal working and/or mechanical skills.**

On the February 3, 2012, en route from Lofa County, the COP and his team, consisting of Albert N. Bass, Vocational Education Specialist and Chloe Wardropper, FED Intern, visited the Johnsonville Women Organization in Johnsonville Township and there the team met Madam Ethel Wion, Coordinator of the organization. The team was subsequently taken to the field to view the preparation activities of lowland rice production. The women were scaring birds from the plot and digging and leveling the area.

The team also visited the Taylor Town Foundation Seed Producer headed by Madam Martha Johnson. Madam Johnson who received her agricultural training at CARI has two hectares of swamp rice (Wita-4) planted and a labor force of five women. The team then visited the Pulukpeh Multipurpose Cooperative Society in Kpatawee, Bong County before travelling to Zorzor. The Manager of the cooperative informed the COP and his team that their co-op has 197 members and 1,300 acres occupied with oil palm and rice.

## Cuttington University Agriculture Fair

Olivia, Mak, a project STTA has been assigned to work with Cuttington University on planning for the upcoming agricultural show. Most recently, she has been supporting the Trade, Marketing & Promotions Committee and has helped it to develop a media plan and publicity materials. Olivia has also provided support around fund raising and facilitated discussions which led to the executive committee agreeing to a new, structured approach to sponsorship/fund raising. She is also working with Cuttington University to improve coordination and reporting of the organising sub-committees, and has been liaising with other USAID and donor projects to ensure support for the show is coordinated.

## Enabling Environments

During the month of February, Malcom Toland, STTA for enabling environments met with a wide variety of stakeholders including government, importers, farmers, butchers, NGOs and other donor-supported projects. He participated in meetings of several existing dialogue forums including for rice and cassava, also the Agriculture Coordinating committee led by MoA and a multi stakeholder workshop of non-state actors. Through his research he has identified an initial set of enabling environment barriers including:

- Customs, including levying of excessively high duty rates and bias against medicinal/pharmaceutical products used to treat animals
- Product quality/ fake products entering country
- Poor state of feeder roads
- Lack of food safety standards
- Access to land
- Lack of a national seed policy
- Investment incentives which are biased against livestock.

## Goat Value chain.

During the month of February 2012, Dennis B. McCarthy, PhD, a STTA for Goat Value Chain established FED Project on the revitalized Ministry of Agriculture (MOA) Livestock Working Group. Goal of the group, meeting monthly, will be to "Coordinate Development Efforts in the Livestock Sector". Membership is to include all of the major donors and implementing agencies, NGOs, Projects, together with Private Sector operators, etc, current or planned to have activities in the Livestock Sector. Garnered agreement within the group to make increased efforts for active participation of any and all Project actors in the sub-sector.

Working off of initial contacts made in the MOA Livestock Working Group, began individual reviews of projects in progress in order to capture any lessons learned as well as accomplishments in these programs. Carried out initial follow-up meetings with Private Sector actors such as Liberian Butchers & Traders Union Association, Liberian Cattle Union Association, AGRO-VET Inc, CARE, Concern World Wide, Human Development Foundation (HDF- local NGO). These initial contacts have resulted in solid working relationships established between the FED Project and other programs in the sub-sector.

Reviewed Progress and issues surrounding the IFAD funded Agriculture Sector Revitalization Program (ASRP) implemented since 2006 and now in its final year of operation. This Program has focused on major national livestock restocking efforts targeting small farmers who lost their livelihood assets during the war years. In process of analyzing problem areas experienced in the restocking programs which have resulted in high mortality rates and reluctance of the sub-sector actors to engage.

Established professional contact with the USDA Land O' Lakes personnel in country and organized initial coordination meeting with the MOA regarding initial planning and coordination of both FED strategy and LOL Strategy in the sector. LOL and FED participated in these meeting together in order to convey partnership in the subsector of these two major USG funded programs. Initial discussions surrounded initial workplan drafts and resulted in decision to carry out joint field trip next week to review on the ground assumptions made in initial planning.

Began initial assessment of requirements of upgrading the Central Veterinary Laboratory in order to make it a truly national scope disease surveillance facility.

## **B. Enterprise Development**

### ***Private Sector Development***

In February the Private Sector Development Department of FED worked with the Community Sustainable and Economic Empowerment Organization (COSEO) to complete the Enterprise Development Plan form. COSEO is a group that is predominantly women with a total membership of 25 people (20 women and 5 men).

There was a meeting held with the Executive Director and the accountant of the ODAFARA team and the way forward was discussed as well as their draft proposed activities for the development of 5.58 acres (2.232 hectares) of lowland in Duompa Township, Nimba County.

From February 8 – 10, a successful four day participatory Enterprise Development Training Workshop was held for the Bonpain's Women Group in Duompa, Nimba County. The workshop brought together farmers and gardeners planting a variety of crops, including rice, eddoes, plantains, cassava, potatoes, pepper, bitter ball, okra etc. The purpose of the workshop was to introduce participants to the enterprise aspect of transitioning from subsistence agriculture farming to commercializing methods of agriculture farming into business, productivity, and to shift the focus from supply driven production to demand driven production. This process forms part of the USAID Feed the Future Initiative, where FED intends to assist the enterprise with technical assistance in order to overcome constraints and meet its objectives. The three modules covered during the workshop were: 1. Farming as a Business 2. Selling Techniques, and 3. Customer Services.

There were 30 participants: (29 females and 1 male) from the Bonpain Women Group. The training went very well and the participants were excited about the new approach and thanked the facilitators for the training.

A one day field site follow up visit was made to the Welekamah Women Group in Gbarnga, Bong County and during our visit we realized that the group was involved in activities that were expected of them since we conducted the first enterprise development training workshop for them.

## ***Curriculum Development and Vocational Education***

During the period under review, February 1 to 29 the following activities were undertaken:

A team from the FED Monrovia Office, comprised of the Chief of Party (COP) and the Vocational Education Specialist, traveled to Lofa from February 1-3, 2012 to visit the Zorzor Rural Teacher Training Institute, during their visit they met with the Lofa County Agricultural Coordinator-MOA and Technology Center in Voinjama City, visited the office of Samaritan's Purse and the INTOFAWOR Multipurpose Cooperative Society in Foya.

At ZRTTI, the Team was greeted by Mr. Jerome Huaz, the Academic Dean, who informed the body that the Institution has an enrollment of 220 students. He also informed the COP that the institution has three fish ponds that needed some technical assistance because the fish presently harvested are very tiny. The COP promised to send a technician as soon as he can locate one to give technical advice.

During the visit in Voinjama, they met with the Chief Agricultural Coordinator, Mr. John B. Dwee, and informed him that his mission to his office was to discuss the offer the Minister of MOA made regarding office space for FED in Lofa. The CAC told the COP that his Minister had not informed him about the office space for FED. He advised the COP to remind the Minister about the offer and that he will happily receive FED.

The team paid another visit to the Samaritan's Purse (SP) office in Foya to acquaint themselves with the SP activities in Lofa county. They met Mrs. Elizabeth Renner, the coordinator of the SP program in Foya. She informed the team that the SP program is funded by USAID and that it is to empower women in an integrated setting. They are training women how to grow lowland rice, vegetable, rudiments and teaching them how to do business. Mrs. Renner said that the lessons they have learned are: that production increases when the farmers use the spacing method and that vegetables grow well on the margins of the lowland/swamp.

Before returning to Voinjama the team visited the INTOFAWOR Multipurpose Cooperative. They met with Mr. John Saah, Senior Extensions Officer of the cooperative and he informed the team that they are planting lowland rice and that the funds were provided by the African Development Fund (ADF). The harvested rice is sold to the MOA.

On February 20, 2012 the Vocational Education Specialist traveled along with the COP to Booker Washington Institute (BWI) and had a meeting with Mr. Jackollie, the Principal of BWI concerning FED's involvement with the agriculture program of the institution. Mr. Jackollie, expressed his willingness to continue collaborating with FED for the upgrading



of their agriculture program. The Institution wants a modern library, trained instructors, an IT system and the development of their compost program as a business. In order to immediately commence the compost project, the COP promised to assist BWI with 100 empty rice bags and 21 gallons of gasoline to collect wasted vegetables, etc. from the Red-light Market for the BWI compost project.

On February 24, 2012 the VES took 100 empty 50kg bags and US\$89.00 to the Management of BWI from FED to commence their compost training program.

### **C. Gender**

Rebecca Sewall, from FED Partner CEDPA, conducted a two-week STTA to develop the project's gender strategy. The strategy will:

- Build LFED staff capacity in gender and build and utilize local talent in gender;
- Support the objectives of the Republic of Liberia Ministry of Agriculture Comprehensive Assessment of the Agricultural Sector Crosscutting Issues (2007), and its National Gender Policy;
- Support USAID's commitment to gender integration into agricultural programming including, those outlined in the USAID/Liberia Gender Assessment (2009);
- Support priority areas identified in FTF, FTF/Liberia MYS and the FTF Women and Agriculture Improved Global Food Security (2011); and
- Promote use of best practice approaches and interventions as identified in USAID initiatives such as the Initiative to End Hunger in Africa Gender Assessment Synthesis Report, and the GATE project.



A cross section of participants at the FED gender training conducted by STTA Rebecca Sewall

Dr. Sewall met with key staff members to identify key gender-based constraints in each task area and explore the possibility of expanding existing programming to better respond to these constraints. She also conducted a one-day training for project staff that provided them with an understanding of key gender concepts and terms, gender-based constraints facing women in agriculture in Liberia, and best practices for promoting women in agriculture through LFED programming. A draft gender strategy will be presented to the project for review on March 9, 2012.

## **D. Monitoring & Evaluation**

### ***Baseline Survey***

The M&E team is conducting a baseline survey to determine the current status of agricultural and livestock practices from households in the FED program's selected counties. The population based survey of households involved a two-Stage Cluster Sampling where we identified districts within the target counties, clustered villages based on population density and access to primary and secondary roads using ArcGIS, randomly selected villages within the cluster, then designated the number of surveys to be administered based on village population size. Baseline information was collected by enumerators using US\$120-240 mobile phones. The software platform used was Kobo Toolbox, which runs on mobile phone devices with Android operating systems. The software enabled the team to collect a variety of information including GPS points of surveyed households.

Enumerator training on the survey's methodology, survey best practices and interview protocols took place on February 6-9<sup>th</sup>. It included sessions on using mobile phones for data collection conducted by Jaclyn Carlsen, a DAI ICT STTA. Topics covered included using the phones, collecting data with mobile phones, and basic trouble shooting. A field test was administered in Brewersville, Montserrado on February 9<sup>th</sup> and the baseline survey launched on February 10, 2012 in Montserrado County.

In addition to DAI staff, the survey team includes 16 enumerators and an additional field monitor, Matthew Siakor Jr. After four days of work as a full team based in Gbarnga and then Ganta, the team was split into four groups based on counties, where surveying was conducting concurrently. Phase 1 of data collection in Bong, Lofa, Nimba and Grand Bassa concludes in early March. Phase 2 to complete the remaining surveys in Montserrado and Margibi will be completed by March 16<sup>th</sup> 2012.



FED's Enumerators Austin O. Koleh and Aagon A. Dahn trying to cross a river to their next survey location on the 28th of February 2012, Yarpea-Mahn District, Nimba. Co.

### Interviews completed to date

COUNTY	# Interviews
Bong	150
Lofa	150
Nimba	200
Grand Bassa	130
Montserrado	20
Margibi	0

Staffing within the Monitoring and Evaluation Department at FED continues to be a challenge. Candidates experienced in monitoring and evaluation, with reasonably strong computer skills, are difficult to find in Liberia. During the month of February, interviewing of candidates continued for one key M&E position in Monrovia and the four field office M&E positions. Three candidates emerged as possibilities for two of the positions, and follow up, with reference checking and EBD verification has begun in order to choose the best candidates for the two positions. FED will continue to advertise and solicit CVs for the remaining field positions.

Development of the FED M&E system continued during February with tools being drafted and preliminary TAMIS training starting. During March, monitoring tools should be finalized and up loaded on to TAMIS for staff usage. Comprehensive training for all staff on M&E tools will begin once the tools have been finalized and loaded.

### III. Administration

#### A. Human Resources

During the period under review, the HR Office was mainly concerned with the recruitment of staff to fill vacant positions.

#### Staff Recruitment, LTТА:

3 County Admin/Office Assistants were recruited for Grand Bassa, Nimba and Lofa field offices:

- Sando J. Boakai – Grand Bassa County
- Othello B. Clarence – Nimba County
- Darkannah S. Wilson – Lofa County

Jamesetta C. Kemah - HR/Office Assistant

Jean A. Nyemba - Input Supply Specialist – Home Office Recruitment

Noorie Dudley - Peri Urban Specialist – Start date: March 13, 2012

All four present international LTTAs have their own accommodation and as of the 29<sup>th</sup> of Feb. 2012, FED has recruited 18 local staff.

Arthur dela Cruz (DCOP/FAM) will be on leave from 20 MAR - 10 APR. Charles Weschler (HO Project Associate) will be replacing him during this period.

### **Currently ongoing**

Interviews, tests, background/reference checks, and salary verifications are ongoing for the following positions:

- M&E Officers
- Extension officers
- IT Specialist
- County Managers

### **Training**

Establishment of the administrative side of Technical and Administrative Management Information System (TAMIS) has been completed. This will meet the information demands of project management, TAMIS will allow the Liberia FED technical team to share a uniform set of data across all offices in Liberia, with project counterparts, USAID and the DAI/Washington office.

Staff benefited from two days of training in TAMIS and an IT User's Orientation conducted by Cecile Hipos and Sudharshini Dharmawardar.

#### *Other activities:*

The HR Office supported the M&E Team on its baseline survey currently ongoing by ensuring that the 16 enumerators were given contracts and informed about insurance while working for FED.

## *B. Operations*

- IT equipment (server & additional computers) arrived in February 2012; installation and configuration are still in progress;
- 24 units of Honda motorcycles purchased;
- 8 units of air-conditioners & 5 kva generators purchased for Sub-Offices;
- Office partition still in progress.

## *C. Field Coordination*

FED Program Coordinator for the month of February 2012 began working with Doumpa, a community in Yarwein Mehnsnonoh District, Nimba County to develop a 5.6 acres of lowland for the community. A local agriculture company has been contracted for eight months to provide technical assistance for the development of the swamp and swamp margin with rice and vegetables respectively. In addition to the support provided to the community, farm inputs were also supplied to the community for the work. Inputs supplied included wheelbarrow, shovels, rakes, spraying cans, nose masks, rain boots, cutlasses, hand gloves, twines and rice mill. The community for its part will provide the workforce (a total of 100 person-days per week) and provide warehouse with security for the farm inputs.

As part of the program coordination, FED attended the Agriculture Coordination Committee meetings in Montserrado (Monrovia-MoA), Margibi and Lofa. Stakeholders meetings attended also included the National Cassava Sector Coordinating Committee meeting and the Economic Revitalization (Pillar II) meeting.

County Office Update:

### **Bong County Office**

- County Manager recruited
- Internet cabling completed
- Additional county staff recruitment ongoing
- Procurement of office equipment and furniture ongoing
- Formal opening on March 12, 2012

### **Nimba County Office**

- Recruitment of County staff ongoing
- Procurement of office equipment and furniture ongoing

- Formal opening on March 15, 2012

### **Grand Bassa County (Compound # 3)**

- County staff recruitment ongoing
- Procurement of office equipment and furniture ongoing
- Formal opening on March 15, 2012

### **Margibi County Office-Kakata**

- Office Assistant recruited and deployed
- Office equipment and furniture procured

### **Margibi-Booker T. Washington Institute (BWI) Office**

- Negotiations for cost sharing ongoing

### **Lofa County Office**

- Facility provided by MoA
- Facility inspected and accepted by FED
- Admin/Office Assistant recruited-Deployment scheduled for March 7, 2012
- Formal opening March 15, 2012
- Recruitment of other staff ongoing
- Procurement of office equipment and furniture ongoing.

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