

**PROJECT INFORMATION DOCUMENT (PID)
IDENTIFICATION/CONCEPT STAGE**

Report No.: PIDC22817

Project Name	SUPPORT TO THE REBUILDING OF THE AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTIVITY IN GUINEA, SIERRA LEONE AND LIBERIA PROJECT
Region	AFRICA
Country	Africa
Sector(s)	General agriculture, fishing and forestry sector (100%)
Theme(s)	Other social protection and risk management (50%), Other rural development (50%)
Lending Instrument	Lending Instrument
Project ID	P155039
Borrower Name	CORAF/WECARD
Implementing Agency	CORAF/WECARD
Environment Category	B - Partial Assessment
Date PID Prepared	16-Apr-2015
Estimated Date of Approval	29-Apr-2015
Initiation Note Review Decision	The review did authorize the preparation to continue

I. Introduction and Context

Country Context

The outbreak of the Ebola Virus Disease in West Africa began in Guinea in December 2013 and was only detected in March 2014. The number of cases and areas affected have rapidly surged since July 2014 in the primary affected countries of western Africa, namely Guinea, Liberia and Sierra Leone. The ongoing outbreak has become the largest ever reported case in the continent. On August 8, 2014, the World Health Organization (WHO) declared the situation an International Public Health Emergency.

The primary cost of the Ebola outbreak is in human lives and suffering— To date, over 21,000 people have been infected and over 8,000 have died. Moreover, the crisis is also wiping out decades of hard-earned development gains in the affected countries, and will, should the trend continues, worsen already entrenched poverty in these countries, especially in remote semi-urban and rural areas. According to the World Bank estimates, the economies of Guinea, Liberia and Sierra Leone will lose at least US\$1.6 billion in forgone economic growth in 2015 as a result of the epidemic.

Sectoral and Institutional Context

The Ebola crisis has taken a heavy toll on the agriculture and food sectors in all impacted three countries. Overall, the risk is real that over one million people could go hungry unless they have reliable access to food, and emergency measures are taken immediately to safeguard crop and livestock production.

According to the latest estimates by FAO and the World Food Program (WFP), in Guinea, 230,000 people are food insecure and that number could rise to more than 470,000 by March 2015. Similarly, 170,000 people in Liberia are food insecure and the absence of interventions, the number of hungry people could top 300,000. In the case of Sierra- Leone, Kailahun, an epicenter of the epidemic is the country's most fertile food-producing area and over 120,000 people are food insecure and their numbers could climb up to 280,000. For all three countries, Ebola's onset coincided with the cropping and harvesting periods and rural exodus to urban settings led to large-scale shortages of farm labor.

The West Africa Agricultural Productivity Program (WAAPP), country teams recently surveyed the agricultural landscape in Guinea, Liberia and Sierra Leone and what they found was alarming. Fears of infection are scaring farmers away from their fields. Quarantines and travel restrictions are also complicating efforts to organize farming teams, market produces, prepare fields for planting and maintain a steady supply of seed. Reports also show that hungry farming families have resorted to eating seed originally stored and intended for the next cropping cycle. All of this has set the stage for a labor shortage that has left many hectares of crops unharvested and thousands of families without food on their plates.

It is within this context that the need for mobilizing seed supplies was discussed with the recipient countries and ECOWAS as the priority activity to likely mitigate the impact of the Ebola outbreak on Agriculture. It was agreed that this was a priority and sensible approach in view of the situation on the ground, while also emphasizing that speed is of the essence in view of the existing (and closing) time window prior to the upcoming planting season (crops need to be in the ground by April 2015). A draft emergency seed supply program, was then discussed with the EU in Brussels on December 17, 2015 during the Annual Meeting of the Food Crisis Prevention Network in the Sahel, organized at EU headquarters. The estimated overall cost for this program is US\$27 million. In terms of funding of this program, about US\$10 million have been allocated from the additional financing of the Ebola Emergency Response Project of the Nutrition, and Population Global Practice (GHNDR). There is also a plan to use part of the undisbursed balances under the West Africa Agricultural Productivity Program (WAAPP) up to an amount of US\$4 million to finance the activities of this program.

The funds from this proposed Trust Fund will also be used towards the financing of this emergency program. And just like the parent trust fund, this proposed grant will be processed as Rapid Response to Crises and Emergencies and OP10.00 para 12 will be applicable.

Relationship to CAS/CPS/CPF

The development objectives of the proposed Grant support the objectives of the parent trust fund (ERRTF) as it will address both the immediate need of these population through the provision of certified seeds to restore and improve productivity and production in a short run, and longer-term response through the provision of foundation seeds to rebuild the seed systems in order to produce locally certified seeds in a more sustained way. The focus will be on the most vulnerable trench of the population in the key affected countries (Guinea, Sierra Leone and Liberia) and the already established regional structures and mechanisms of WAAPP will be used to expedite the implementation of the Grant financed activities.

II. Project Development Objective(s) Proposed Development Objective(s)

The specific and immediate objective of the project is “to support the rebuilding of the farm assets of small scale producers including women producers, through the provision of improved certified and foundation seeds for rice and maize in Guinea, Sierra-Leone and Liberia in order to mitigate the current and forthcoming impacts of the Ebola outbreak on the vulnerable poor rural households”.

Rice and Maize are the major food crops in all three countries.

The project will also contribute to a higher objective of food security and poverty reduction in these selected countries.

Key Results

The outcomes of the project will be observable in the medium-to-long run as lessons are assimilated and scaled up in changed agricultural practices. For the purpose of tracking results in a shorter time frame, the following indicators will be used as: (i) PDO level indicators: (a) Tons of certified seeds produced; (b) Tons of paddy rice and maize grain produced; (c) Number of Direct beneficiaries; and (ii) Intermediate level indicators : (a) Quantity of foundation seeds distributed to beneficiaries (Maize, Rice); (b) Quantity of certified seeds distributed to beneficiaries (Maize Rice); (c) Quantity of fertilizer distributed to foundation seed growers.

III. Preliminary Description

Concept Description

The proposed project being a response to an emergency it will be processed under OP10.00 para 12. The project will have three components, namely:

(a) Component 1. Provision of certified and foundation seed to producers (US\$2.10 million)- Under this component the Grant will procure and distribute to targeted beneficiaries: i) 1,000 tons of certified seeds and 170 tons of foundation seeds of improved rice varieties, and ii) 370 tons of certified seeds and 45 tons of foundation seeds of improved maize varieties. It is expected that women beneficiaries will reach at least 40 percent of total beneficiaries. The countries who are supplying the seeds have already been identified through the West Africa Agricultural Productivity Program (WAAPP) which is supporting the strengthening of the seed systems in 13 ECOWAS countries in collaboration with the USAID funded West Africa Seed Project (WASP). Both Funding are managed by the West Africa council for Agricultural Research and Development (CORAF/WECARD).

(b) Component 2. Provision of inputs for foundation seed multiplication (US\$0.6 million). Under this component the Grant will support the procurement and distribution of 850 tons of fertilizer to producers involved in foundation seed multiplication which will ensure the future scaling up of seed availability in the countries and also the medium and longer term sustainability of the productivity increase expected from this operation.

(c) Component 3. Operational cost (US\$0.3 million)- includes among others the coordination of the operation by CORAF/WECARD, M&E activities, the audit of the Grant, consultant services, etc.

The implementation will be done through the existing WAAPP organizational structures and implementation mechanisms. WAAPP is coordinated at the regional level by CORAF/WECARD and at country level by the national Project Coordinating Units (PCUs). WAAPP is implemented in 13 ECOWAS countries namely Guinea, Liberia, Sierra-Leone, Cote d'Ivoire, Senegal, The Gambia, Mali, Burkina Faso, Niger, Ghana, Togo, Benin and Nigeria. An emergency program that matches needs for certified and foundations seeds in Guinea, Liberia and Sierra Leone with identified supplies from neighboring countries has already been identified by WAAPP using its regional

network and experience.

The proposed project will be managed by CORAF/WECARD which will be responsible for the procurement and transportation of the goods to the countries. This will be done on the basis of an MOU between CORAF/WECARD and the respective suppliers. The WAAPP PCU in each beneficiary country will be responsible for the selection of the end beneficiaries ensuring that the gender target is met and the in-country distribution of the goods to producers is well organized. CORAF and the PCUs have competent multidisciplinary fiduciary and technical teams who are familiar with bank procedures. An external auditor will be recruited by CORAF to audit the Grant account.

IV. Safeguard Policies that Might Apply

Safeguard Policies Triggered by the Project	Yes	No	TBD
Environmental Assessment OP/BP 4.01	x		
Natural Habitats OP/BP 4.04		x	
Forests OP/BP 4.36		x	
Pest Management OP 4.09	x		
Physical Cultural Resources OP/BP 4.11		x	
Indigenous Peoples OP/BP 4.10		x	
Involuntary Resettlement OP/BP 4.12		x	
Safety of Dams OP/BP 4.37		x	
Projects on International Waterways OP/BP 7.50		x	
Projects in Disputed Areas OP/BP 7.60		x	

V. Financing (in USD Million)

Total Project Cost:	3.2	Total Bank Financing:	0
Financing Gap:	0		
Financing Source			Amount
Ebola Recovery and Reconstruction MPF			3.2

VI. Contact point

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