

Mercy Ships - Cause 2: Help people in Africa become economically self-supporting

Empowering Women (Skills Training for Women) * Featured Program *****

Goal: To increase the capacity and decision-making ability of Liberian women in the spheres of health, home-life, and money management.

Objectives: 80 women equipped with materials and skills to start their own micro-enterprise farming initiative. 8 women trained as trainers who will perpetuate micro-enterprise farming initiatives, health education, money management, and decision making skills to enable project sustainability.



Cheesemenburg Wat/San Project (Clean Water/ Sanitation Services and Training)



Goal: Sustainable improvement to the health of targeted communities by reducing the incidence of water related diseases.

Objectives: To improve safe water, sanitation, and hygienic practices for **2,125** Liberians. Construct **5** new wells with hand-pumps. To deepen **4** additional wells. Demonstrate building **16** simple, private, household latrines to eight villages. Train 2 technicians to maintain facilities.

Congo Town School Project

Goal: Partner with established school (founded in 1976) in Congo Town to construct appropriate facilities for the continual education for 650+ students and adults.

Objectives: Help an established school with a good reputation build a facility on property that they already own so that viability maintained – currently under threat by high rental environment. Build **8** classrooms measuring 18’ x 24’. **1** toilet block, male and female, totaling **8** toilets. Increase employ-ability of 150 – 200 adult students. Decrease the cycle of violence for **200** ex-child combatant students due to lack of education and resulting unemployment.



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Food for Life - Liberia



Goal: To increase food security and agricultural production in targeted Liberian communities

Objectives: Increase agricultural capacity of 120 small-scale farmers from urban and rural settings to manage their local resources for increased food security (measured by pre/post tests). Increase agriculture productivity and availability of locally-grown food through the establishment of 60 household gardens by Dec '07. Mentor 12 Liberian agriculturalists to promote agricultural resource management in their respective communities (measured by pre/post tests). Increase diet diversity and nutritional completeness in 60 household

gardens by increasing the variety and quantity of agricultural products available. Promote local food production as a means to reduce poverty, increase income, and improve quality of life for 60 households. Demonstrate increased knowledge of land and resource conservation by students (measured through pre/post tests). Incorporate training for students in organic fertilizers, herbicides, and pesticides into 60 household gardens and demonstrate increased knowledge of their effectiveness (measured through pre/post tests).

II. Program Activities & Budget – Cause 2 – Help people in Africa become economically self-supporting

A. This project is a response to the invitation by the Liberian government for Mercy Ships to return in March of 2007 to continue collaboration in development, including the advancement of Liberia's women.

Women are considered the backbone of Africa's rural economy, accounting for 70 percent of food production.¹ This includes Liberia. In addition, by default of many Liberian males, women are expected to actively generate the means to meet the daily expenses for themselves and their children which often leads to a cycle of poverty and food scarcity where over 75% of household income is spent on food.² This conflicts with the definition of food security established by the World Bank in 1986 as the "access by all people at all times to enough food for an active and healthy life."³

The goal of *Empowering Women: Liberia* is to increase the earning capacities of four groups of 20 women in the Greater Monrovia area (80 women total) by offering business, financial and life skills training, and the start-up materials for small scale business ventures. As a result, financial security should increase, boosting the ability of the women to meet the educational, healthcare and food security needs of their families more effectively.

The *Empowering Women* program is culturally sensitive yet seeks to elevate the self worth of trainees, encourage them to live up to their potential and help them in their own initiatives as they learn to work together. They become a visible force in their communities and the status of women is raised as their contribution is recognized. The program aims to develop confidence, empowerment, and communication skills in order to improve the quality of life for women and enhance their role in the communities in which they live. The participants will also be encouraged to take what they have learned further and teach other women.

In addition to receiving training and start-up materials for micro-enterprise ventures, women receive biblically-based training in business and financial management, co-operation and decision-making, and organizing group co-operatives. Some of the biggest problems facing households are food security (lack of predictable nutritious food supply), lack of income generating skills and opportunities and a heavy workload. Program content aims to overcome these obstacles by providing training in food security and income generation that does not add to workload.

Four training seminars will be held targeting on average, 20 women per program, 80 women overall. At least two trainers per course will be trained to continue the program after *Mercy Ships* leaves. The course will run five days per week intermittently over the ten month deployment and will cover the following subjects:

- **Overcoming Obstacles**
Recognizing and overcoming problems within the home and the community.
- **Basic Business Studies**
Learn practical business skills: marketing, costing, budgeting and saving.
- **Food Security and Income Generating Skills**

Snail farming - Training and equipping families to house and breed the giant African snail. The snail is a delicacy in Liberia and this program will promote food security, health and income generation and is not labour or land intensive.

Rabbit farming - Training and equipping families to house and breed rabbits. Rabbits are eaten in Liberia and this program will promote food security, health and income generation and is not land or labour intensive.

Dried mango production - Training families how to process mangoes for the home or to generate income.

Beekeeping - Providing bee hives and apiary tools as well as training keepers to harvest and market their honey, bee's wax and other hive products.

Others- Soap making, health and nutrition of food types, etc.

The main reason program beneficiaries would be unable to take up the activities of *Empowering Women* is because of the combination of skills and training offered with start-up materials. Culturally appropriate ventures that are also technology appropriate, helps the women trainers begin a venture that has a good chance of success. However, likelihood for success is enhanced by the training that is both practical and motivational.

¹ United Nations – *African Recovery*, 1998

² *International Fund for Agriculture Development*, 1998

³ World Bank, 1986

B. Mercy Ships develops local level partnerships with local communities and churches which are involved in selecting participants (including future trainers). This provides support for trainees and the program after the initial program has been completed. It also helps in program multiplication as these local entities utilize their own networks and infrastructure to expand the program in the future. Because the local partners select participants, Mercy Ships is removed from the selection of individuals and more local “ownership” of the program is achieved.

C. Budget allocations as requested. Please note: all start-up material is donated to trainees who meet program requirements during course period – therefore, no loans are offered or in effect. Cooperatives have developed where trainees have brought others into their group and provided start-up materials from the materials supplied from the initial Mercy Ships program (see attached report – success story 3) – thus achieving program multiplication/expansion.

Empowering Women: Liberia	Mercy Ships Contribution	Balance Requested	Total
Staffing			
Field Coordinator	\$27,000		\$27,000
Non-Mercy Ships Staffing :			
Ghanaian Trainers fees		\$1,000	\$1,000
Translators		\$1,000	\$1,000
Subtotal Staffing	\$27,000	\$2,000	\$29,000
Travel			
Ghanaian Trainer Return Airfare - ACC-MON		\$1,120	\$1,120
Subtotal Travel		\$1,120	\$1,120
Food & Housing			
Ghanaian Trainer - two weeks x 2		\$490	\$490
Subtotal Food & Housing		\$490	\$490
Transport			
Vehicle Use 2273 km x .22 rate		\$500	\$500
Subtotal Transport		\$500	\$500
Site Meals			
Site meals		\$500	\$500
Subtotal Site Meals		\$500	\$500
Incidentals			
Telephone		\$100	\$100
Subtotal Incidentals		\$100	\$100
Project Materials			
Student teaching Materials		\$1,000	\$1,000
Income Generating Materials		\$10,000	\$10,000
Subtotal Project Materials		\$11,000	\$11,000
Monitoring & Evaluation			
Monitoring & Evaluation (post program)		\$3,000	\$3,000
Subtotal Monitoring & Evaluation		\$3,000	\$3,000
Subtotal Project Cost	\$27,000	\$18,710	\$45,710
Ship Service Cost	\$16,108	\$3,090	\$19,198
Total Direct Project Cost	\$43,108	\$21,800	\$64,908
General & Admin @15.4%	\$6,639	\$3,357	\$9,996
Total Project Cost	\$49,747	\$25,157	\$74,904

III. Evaluation for featured program– Cause 2 – Help people in Africa become economically self-supporting

A. Program monitoring will be conducted by Mercy Ships Community Development Services staff. Progress will be measured against the project timeline and efficient use of budgeted resources. *Empowering Women* will measure the number of women attending training as well as the number of enterprises begun as a result of the program. This information will be detailed in a Final Report within 90 days of Project completion. Future follow-up will report on enterprises still in existence after one year and chronicle impact on families and communities.

The project code assigned to this program will track project donations (income) and expenses for all major categories. The budget document serves as a strategic tool for each key program category. At the mid-point of the ten-month field service, the program will be evaluated in terms of:

- Objectives reached
- Key measurable outputs
- Recommendation for mid-project adjustments
- Challenges
- Budget

Adjustments can be made based on this evaluation. The program also has an associated final report including the same components as the mid-term evaluation along with lessons learned, recommendations for the future, and explanations of variances greater than 10%.

In addition to this program's comprehensive proposal, mid-term evaluation, and final evaluation, Mercy Ships external reporting is accomplished through weekly reports showing statistics and project highlights published on the Mercy Ships website, monthly reports mailed to constituents and a comprehensive Annual Report published annually. Customized individual project reports are produced for major funders such as Foundations and Corporations who sponsor particular programs. The Mercy Ships Reporting Officer manages and records all statistics in a tracking database profiling each field service. A public annual report is made at the end of each year.

Mercy Ships is a signatory to the International Red Cross Code of Conduct. MSI is registered as a charity in the United States with key support offices in the UK, Netherlands, Germany, Spain, Switzerland and Canada. Mercy Ships complies with all auditing and tax laws of those countries.

B. Please find a written report for the equivalent of *Empowering Women* program conducted in Ghana in 2006. This was named *Multi-Track* and contributed to the planning of *Empowering Women* in Liberia – particularly in the line-up of training and business start-ups offered and through the increased involvement of Mercy Ships crew volunteers in trainee mentoring.