

The ASA/WISHH program is a partner in a multi-year program funded by USAID and lead by Opportunities Industrialization Center and carries responsibilities for the development of three sustainable components to improve the nutritional status in two targeted counties of Grand Gedeh and River Gee in Liberia, including food processing and blending, aquaculture, and nutrition education.

The program components complement and increase the sustainability of each other:

- *Aquaculture* ➤ *Nutrition Education*: Messaging on importance of having protein in diets, including Super Gari, soymilk and fish
- *Food Processing* ➤ *Aquaculture*: Leftover and rejected gari from food processing component can be absorbed by aquaculture component where farmers are trained to develop on-farm byproducts to improve program sustainability
- *Nutrition Education* ➤ *Food Processing* ➤ *Aquaculture*: Improving nutritional status with emphasis on dietary protein consumption

The program has built capacity for hygiene/sanitation, good manufacturing practices, quality control, marketing activities and business operations. It will support income generation and improved nutrition as facilities act as incubators for business development.



Project Summary

- Food Processing & Blending includes setup, training, and management of processing facilities in the two counties which previously had no capacity for medium-scale processing. Facilities use locally sourced cassava to produce "gari" to be blended with soy flour and a micronutrients premix, producing one kilogram packages of "Super Gari" for distribution as part of the Health, Agriculture, Nutrition, Development and Sustainability (HANDS) program.
- Aquaculture component provides technical assistance to local aquaculture farmers for sustainable production of fish. Government alignment with the Bureau of National Fisheries has been key to success; by the end of year four, 32 fishponds were in service. Fingerling ponds will be phased into government-run production while farmer-run ponds will transition into commercial fish production for sales.
- Nutrition Education component builds capacity in growing and changing government policies to standardize health and nutrition of Liberians. Teams were developed to align with government plans, support government Community Health Volunteers (gCHVs), and build on existing nutrition messages, called "Essential Nutrition Actions". Maintenance of the program will gradually be turned over to the government County Health Teams and (gCHVs) while ASA/WISHH personnel are phased out.

