Policy Round Table

Food Security In
Protracted Crisis

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Crisis Impact: Livelihoods & Gender

- Forced recruitment of men and youths by rebels
- Massive displacement; and breakdown of social structures and rule of law
- Sexual exploitation of women and girls
- Massive migration from rural areas to Monrovia
- Increase in slum populations, and poor sanitation
- Massive unemployment and crime; children as bread winners; increased drop out from school
- Rise in prostitution; increase in number of teenage mothers and single parents
Liberia’s Food Security: Context

- 14 years of war (1989 – 2003) greatly affected the country’s economy and the agricultural sector.
- During this period Liberia depended greatly on food aid and humanitarian assistance.
- The economy rests heavily on agriculture production, over 70% of the economically active population depends primarily on subsistence farming, centered on rice, cassava, and fisheries.
Liberia’s Food Security: Context cont.

- 14.3% of 3.5 million total population are food insecure, and 34.9% are highly vulnerable to food insecurity (CFSNS, 2008)
- 39.2% of the under 5 children are stunted, and 4.9% are severely malnourished (CFSNS, 2008)
- Liberia is vulnerable to global price increases due to heavy reliance on food and oil imports
Humanitarian aid and services channeled through communities

Government partnership with NGOs/CBOs in development

Capacity building support to community groups, associations, cooperatives

Decentralization of governance at county level

Revitalization of justice system; and integration of traditional governance council
Post war responses to food security and agriculture challenges

- Poverty Reduction Strategy (PRS) 2008 -2011
  - Pillar 2: Revitalizing the economy
  - Pillar 4: Improving basic infrastructure and social services


- Food and Agriculture Policy and Strategy 2008
National policy and strategy implementation

- GoL/UN JP on Food Security & Nutrition 2008
  - Construction of facilities and technology transfer;
  - Food and nutrition provision for special groups;
  - Treatment of severe acute malnutrition;
  - Infrastructure and policy development
National policy and strategy implementation cont.

- Liberia Agriculture Sector Investment Program (LASIP) 2010
- Food crop production and productivity enhancement; value addition and market links
- Promotion of diversified local crop and food consumption;
- Tree crop, agro-forestry, livestock development and promotion;
- Special women and youth initiatives
Challenges to Food Security
Main challenges

- Infrastructure: roads, farm-market roads, storage facilities

- Human Resource capacities: agriculture education, food security research and information exchange at regional and international levels.

- Implementing land reforms: arable land access and ownership by women and enhanced demand for land as a productive asset.
Main challenges cont..

- Increasing opportunities and incentives for private sector investment in agriculture
- Transforming Liberian farmers into commercial farmers by increasing their productivity and income
- Integrating health and agriculture including support for food and nutrition to mitigate impacts of HIV AIDS and other diseases
Way forward

- Review of policy and strategy outcomes to identify and manage implementation gaps.
- Strengthening of network of partners implementing the policies and strategies.
- Improvement of agricultural research and extension services
- Shifting to modern farming technologies while addressing environmental concerns
Thank you