



## Sustainable Development Application Form

*Please email this form in MS Word format along with detailed financials of proposed projects to  
Rev. Vy Nguyen, Executive Director ([vy@weekofcompassion.org](mailto:vy@weekofcompassion.org)).*

Submitting Partner: <i>AGRICULTURAL MISSIONS, INC. (AMI)</i>		April , 2020	
Address: <i>475 Riverside Drive, 15<sup>th</sup> Floor</i>	City: <i>New York</i>	State: <i>NY</i>	Zip Code: <i>10115</i>
Name of Contact: <i>Winston Carroo</i>		Title: <i>Coordinator for International Programs</i>	
Phone Number(s) <i>(202) 415-8014</i>		E-mail Address: <i>wcarroo@ag-missions.org</i>	
Project Name, Local Country Partner, and Location: <i>Program: West Africa Initiative (WAI) Project: YOUTH AGRICULTURE LED RESPONSE TO THE COVID-19 EPIDEMIC IN LIBERIA AND SIERRA LEONE–Community Education and Awareness and Food Security. .</i>			
Local Country Partners: <i>Village to Village Federation (Sierra Leone ) and West Africa Initiative of Liberia (Liberia) Locations: 5 Districts in Sierra Leone (Tonkolili, Bombali, Port Loko, Kambia and Kenema) and 5 Counties in Liberia (Grand Bassa, Bomi, Nimba, Bong and Grand Gedeh)</i>			
Partner’s History/Relationship with the Project: <i>AMI has been intimately involved in the WAI program since its inception in 2008, in response to the rebuilding and reconstruction efforts following the civil wars in Liberia and Sierra Leone. AMI was asked by its ecumenical partners in the USA to engage their local counterparts in the development and implementation of a rural development program that addresses the needs for food security and community centered social and economic development. Since that time, AMI has been working with the Council of Churches in Sierra Leone (CCSL) and the Village to Village Federation (V2V) (Sierra Leone), and the West Africa Initiative of Liberia (WAIOL) in the successful implementation of the West Africa Initiative in both countries. This resulted in significant increases in local food security, increased family incomes and improved nutrition and access to safe water. In addition, the program now also focuses on developing the human resources and institutional capacity of the partners to assume full responsibility for the program. The urgent problem of high youth unemployment (particularly in rural areas), unsustainable farming practices that also contribute to global warming and climate change, in both countries, led to the need for this project, within the framework of the overall WAI program. This project addresses the most urgent long term challenges facing both countries. In 2019 the Youth Agriculture Program was initiated in three villages in each country that aims to establish sedentary farms that would provide youth with livelihood opportunities and promote ecologically sound farming practices while educating the communities on the issues of climate change and building resilient communities. <b>The arrival of the COVID -19 pandemic two weeks ago led to the decision by partners to integrate the Youth Agriculture Project add a focus on the potential impacts of the disease on rural communities. This will include both the existing youth groups initiated in 2019 and the new ones planned for 2020. Based on the lessons learned during the EBOLA disease crisis in 2014- 2016 and its impact on rural communities, the importance and urgency of this modification is justified and appropriate. Integration of the COVID-19 with the Youth Agricultural Project is a rational, as there is significant overlap in terms of communities, activities and personnel for both aspects of the project, thus preventing duplication of efforts and resources.</b></i>			
<b>Description of Project</b>			
Name of Project and Purpose ( <i>agricultural, health, water, micro-credit, education, community development, etc.- and how it might address at least one of the <b>17 United Nations’ Sustainable Development Goals 2015-2030</b></i> ): Name of Project: <i>West Africa Initiative Youth Farm Project- YOUTH LED RESPONSE TO THE COVID-19 PANDEMIC</i>			

*PURPOSE: Community Education and Awareness and Food Security related to the COVID-19 pandemic and training of new youth groups in the future of farming methods.*

*This project addresses United Nations' Sustainable Development Goals 1 (Zero Hunger) and 3 (Good Health and Well Being)*

*The current situation: As of April 10, 2020, there were 37 confirmed cases with 4 deaths of COVID-19 in Liberia and 8 cases in Sierra Leone with 0 deaths. All initial cases were diagnosed in persons arriving from other countries who circulated in local communities prior to being quarantined. (On March 27, there were only 3 cases in Liberia and 0 cases in Sierra Leone). Although the numbers are low at this point, the following assumptions can be safely made for both countries.*

- 1. There are significant numbers of undiagnosed cases due to the lack of testing and the fact that transmission by asymptomatic or mildly symptomatic individuals is likely.*
- 2. The number of cases will rapidly increase due to the lack of information about the prevention and containment measures and socio economic conditions that preclude mitigation measures such as "social distancing" and "shelter in place".*
- 3. The fragile health systems in both countries terms of infrastructure, supplies and personnel will be overwhelmed in a short period of time.*
- 4. People living in isolated rural villages will receive less attention and lower priority than their city and large town dwelling counterparts. The farther from the center of political and economic power, the lower the priority and less attention.*

*With the memory of the Ebola epidemic crisis just five years ago, the population is on edge and is bracing for hard times and suffering in the weeks and months ahead as the governments respond with measures that restrict movement and economic activities.*

*Rural communities are especially vulnerable as they are mostly remote and the residents do not have savings which they can use when income from daily economic activities, mainly sales of farm produce and petty trading activities, are curtailed.*

*Through the West Africa Initiative (WAI) program, Agricultural Missions, Inc. (AMI) and its local partners have been working with farmers' groups and rural communities for the past ten years. This work included training and material support in agricultural production and marketing, water wells and hand pump installation and repair, grain storage facilities and microcredit for women. At the same time the building and strengthening of local organizations has been ongoing. To date 22 farmers groups have been organized in Liberia and 26 in Sierra Leone, serving 700 farmer members in Liberia and 860 in Sierra Leone.*

*Target Population (children, women, farmers, urban poor, etc. - priority will be given to projects that enable the empowerment of women and children):*

*Primarily residents of rural villages who are not likely to be serviced by government and non-governmental organizations. Youth from these communities will be trained and empowered to address needs brought on by the Corona Virus, with deliberate emphasis on the inclusion of women.*

*How many persons are/will be served? (Please give as specific a figure as possible)?*

*Several thousand will benefit from the education and awareness activities and potentially 800 from the food security activities.*

*Key Objectives:*

*Objective 1: Thirty 30 rural communities (15 in each country) participate in a program of education and awareness on the causes, etiology and prevention of COVID-19 pandemic.*

<i>Objective 2: Three hand washing stations established at strategic locations within each community.</i>
<i>Objective 3: 5 acres of staple foods crops in each of six communities cultivated by Youth, dedicated toward a community food security food reserve stockpile.</i>
<i>Objective 4: 3 new youth groups added to Youth Agriculture Program and 90 youth trained in each country. (Concurrent with Objective 3)</i>
<i>Objective 5: Policies, procedures and criteria developed by each community for managing food reserve to ensure support to the most vulnerable.</i>
Key Activities: <i>Related to objective 1: (a) Select up to 15 of the most isolated and vulnerable communities in each country where the leadership and community members are receptive to the idea and are willing and cooperative. Priority will be given to communities with active WAI groups; (b) Select two youth from each county or district to be trained as community educators; (c) Conduct Training of Trainer (TOTs) events for facilitators and selected youth together; (d) Facilitators and trained youth conduct sessions in communities under the supervision of staff.</i>
<i>Related to Objective 2: (a) Prepare village Water Sanitation Committees and provide orientation on operation and monitoring of the hand washing stations; (b) Purchase and transport buckets (3 each) and soap and chlorine to selected villages; (c) Consult with local leaders on sites for installation to maximize use and effectiveness e.g. entrance to village and close to well or other highly used facility; (d) Teach community members to make hand sanitizer from bleach and water and distribute bleach.</i>
<i>Related to Objective 3: (a) Consult with youth and village leaders to secure access to land for 3 new youth groups; (b) Youth organize themselves in work teams; (c) Hand tools and planting materials secured; (d) Youth cultivate and harvest crops; (f) Harvested crops purchased from youth and stored; (g) Distribution of food at appropriate times, based on guidelines developed.</i> <i>Related to Objective 4: (a) Land secured from community leaders, groups selected and submit operational plans; (b) Youth attend training in farm planning for ecological farming led by youth previously trained; (c) Initiate establishment of farms using the farmer field school methodology led by youth trained in previous year.</i>
<i>Related to Objective 4: (a) Staff and facilitator meet with group members to discuss and agree on terms and conditions for storage and criteria for distribution of food in times of food insecurity resulting from the COVID-19; (b) Discuss and agree on disposal of stored produce if not required for designated purpose.</i>
Duration of Project: <i>May 1, 2020 to April 30, 2021</i>
<b>Project Budget</b>
Total Budget: \$67,727.00
Amount Requested from Week of Compassion: <i>\$40927– Designated for THE WEST AFRICA INITIATIVE</i>
Is this a one-time request or an on-going request? <i>One time request for 12 month period indicated</i>
Please provide a cost breakdown for the requested funds (A detailed, itemized budget is required. May be provided on a separate sheet, if easier): <i>See Attached Excel file for comprehensive budget</i>
If this project has been funded previously or is in the same geographical area, please specifically state when and how much was granted: <i>In 2016 -2017 \$30,000 and 2017-2018: \$27,600 – for water (wells and pumps) – 2019-2020- \$29,590 – for Youth Agriculture Project. Same geographic area but not same project.</i>
Dates and project names of previous approved proposal submissions within the last 5 years: <i>See above</i>

Other Funding Sources: US Climate Action: 10,000 (confirmed); Presbyterian Disaster Assistance: 10,000 (confirmed) Local contributions (Project Farming Activities) 5700, (confirmed); Individuals (through AMI) 1100 (confirmed).	
How do you plan to monitor, evaluate, and report back to Week of Compassion? <b><i>(Please note that future funding is contingent upon reporting, and that reports should be made between 6 months- 12 months after funding. In addition to reporting, please provide at least one story of transformation and photos.)</i></b>	
<i>Ongoing monitoring is an integral part of the program implementation plan, conducted by groups (self –evaluation) and local partner organizations. There is also a mid-year and end of evaluations conducted by AMI. Mid-year and end of year reports are submitted in December-January and May-June.</i>	
Have all reports and stories from previous projects been submitted to WoC? <i>Yes.</i>	
If granted, is there a deadline by which to receive funding? <i>May 15, 2020.</i>	
If granted, please provide full information for how (wire transfer, check, etc.), where, and to whom funds should be sent: <i>Checks made out to Agricultural Missions, Inc. and mailed to: Agricultural Missions, 475 Riverside Drive, 15<sup>th</sup> Floor, New York, NY 10115. Wire transfer details: Provided upon Request</i>	
Application prepared by: <i>Winston Carroo</i>	Contact info: Email: <a href="mailto:wcarroo@ag-missions.org">wcarroo@ag-missions.org</a> . <i>Phone 202-544-9184 or 202-415-8014</i>

**Week of Compassion Contact Information:**

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