



LIBERIA: Combating the effects of the Ebola Crisis

\$5 million investment in Wienco Liberia

SINCE 2003, LIBERIA HAS MADE ADMIRABLE ECONOMIC STRIDES IN OVERCOMING THE LEGACY OF TWO CIVIL WARS THAT LEFT THE COUNTRY'S INFRASTRUCTURE AND INSTITUTIONS IN RUINS. BUT IN 2014, LIBERIA WAS ONCE AGAIN PLUNGED INTO THE ABYSS BY THE DEADLY EBOLA CRISIS WHICH STALLED THE COUNTRY'S CONSIDERABLE ECONOMIC PROGRESS.

Wienco Liberia is a project to support Liberian cocoa farmers in their efforts towards economic recovery following the Ebola crisis. This project is part of IFC's Ebola Recovery Program which required a timely reaction to provide financing to local private companies in order to reach outgrowers and smallholder farmers and increase agricultural productivity.

The project is a blended finance solution from IFC and the Private Sector Window of GAFSP to provide long-term affordable financing to small cocoa farmers through Wienco Liberia. The funding will provide capital for Wienco to build increased storage facilities across Liberia and offer pre-harvest financing of fertilizers and agricultural inputs to benefit small cocoa farmers in the country.

The project consists of a six-year loan of up to \$5 million in which IFC provides up to \$2.5 million and GAFSP provides a concessional loan of up to \$2.5 million.

EXPECTED RESULTS:

This project aims to deliver transformative and sustainable benefits to local communities in Liberia as they emerge from the height of the Ebola crisis.

Supported by training, innovation and product development, Wienco Liberia is partnering with farmer associations to provide affordable agricultural inputs to farmers on a reliable and efficient basis.

It is expected that this project will reach up to 7,500 farmers in the next five years from the current base of 1,500 farmers.

The farmers in this project can expect a significant total increase of 200 percent in their cocoa yields over the next five years -- from approximately 750 kgs per hectare without the use of inputs to 2,250 kgs per hectare -- based on the disciplined application of Wienco's input package.

This also translates into an expected increase of 160 percent in farmer incomes over five years.