

## Project Overview

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**Tell us a little about your project. What are the main objectives of the project, and who will benefit from it?**

Remote villages in Liberia lack access to basic life necessities and are cut off from the rest of the country. The Shepherd's Heartbeat Foundation has partnered with the Rotary Clubs of Chester and Swarthmore in Pennsylvania, USA, and Sinkor in Liberia to launch an Agricultural Project in Margibi County off the Bong Mines Road near Yassah Village, Liberia. The primary goal of the Project is to develop a self-sustaining farm that offers nutrition, water, and electrical power as a foundation for on-going economic and community development in these remote villages. The Agriculture Project is designed to use the country's existing natural resources (land) to grow fresh vegetables and fish (aquafarming) to provide healthy meals to children and families in the villages served, as well as teach farming, machinery, and business/economic skills.

Specific Project objectives are to: (1) increase the farm's capabilities for water collection and irrigation; (2) create an "Earn as you Learn" revenue-generating program to address food insecurities for children and young adults; (3) provide skills training in use of farming tools, equipment, and more effective inputs (seed varieties, aquafarming, fertilizers); and (4) expand cooperative activities among local farmers and businesses.

The Project is desperately needed to break the cycle of poverty and its devastating impacts on hard-to-reach communities in Margibi County. The farm is surrounded by 22 villages with an estimated population of 750+ persons, including over 300 children and almost 500 men and women. All of these persons should benefit from the project in the future; but the most immediate beneficiaries will be the 100 persons (30 children and 70 adults) living in the three villages closest to the farm: Sao Village, Jimmiese Village and Yassah Village.