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SUCCESS STORY

A project uses a mobile smart phone application to better respond to beneficiary needs.



Photo Credit: ACDI/VOCA

A LAUNCH staff member captures beneficiary registration data on the EpiSurveyor mobile application.

“Using EpiSurveyor has allowed our program to be more responsive to beneficiaries, with faster registration and more accurate distributions”

**- Ahmadou Ndiade,
Chief of Party,
LAUNCH**

In Liberia, mobile phones improve data flow, nutrition interventions

When the Liberia Agriculture Upgrading, Nutrition, and Child Health (LAUNCH) project used to register new beneficiaries to receive food rations, the process involved multiple paper forms that had to be filled out in the field, then transported to the project offices for transcription.

Not only was the burden on the LAUNCH employees high, the lengthy registration process meant that the mothers and pregnant and lactating women often had to wait for several months before receiving their first rations, despite their obvious need.

Since April 2012 LAUNCH has been relying on a different system to quickly respond to the needs of those women; a system that makes use of more modern technology.

The USAID LAUNCH project operates in Liberia’s populous Bong and Nimba counties striving to improve the food security, and reduce chronic malnutrition, among vulnerable women and children under five years old.

Using EpiSurveyor, a mobile application designed by DataDyne, LAUNCH staff are now able to capture registration information for new beneficiaries on ‘smart phones’ and transmit the data back to the project offices via the internet for immediate processing. No more paper or lengthy transport and processing times.

Following the training of LAUNCH staff in March, the new technology was put to use in April and quickly made a positive impact.

In just the first month of use over 1,000 new beneficiaries were registered as LAUNCH staff found the new process sped up the data entry process and reduced the number of errors in the data as it was merged with the existing beneficiaries database.

“Using EpiSurveyor has allowed our program to be more responsive to beneficiaries, with faster registration and more accurate distributions” says Ahmadou Ndiade, Chief of Party for ACDI/VOCA, the project implementer.

Ndiade adds “in turn, this has made us able to help more Liberians with the money we get from Food For Peace.”

Just 6 weeks after registration using the new technology over 400 women began receiving their food rations, bringing them welcome respite from food insecurity concerns.

The EpiSurveyor application has also been put to use by the LAUNCH project to collect information from beneficiaries on a variety of health and nutrition indicators such as hygiene practices, diarrhea prevalence, exclusive breastfeeding, and minimum acceptable diets, allowing the project to accurately respond to information gaps.

Mobile technology has allowed the LAUNCH project to better serve some of Liberia’s most vulnerable populations with more accurate and timely health and nutrition information, as well as much needed food rations, even in remote communities.