

Liberia

The Development Challenge: Except for the two years from 1997 to 1999, Liberia was in a constant state of conflict from 1989 until the Accra Peace Accords were signed on August 18, 2003. Over 250,000 people, most of them civilian non-combatants, have lost their lives in the civil war. More than 1.3 million have been displaced, including hundreds of thousands who fled the country. Abductions, torture, rape and other human rights abuses have taken place on a massive scale. It is estimated that at least one in ten children may have been recruited into militias at one time or another. A similar percentage has been traumatized by seeing their families and friends murdered and raped.

The United Nations estimates that over 80% of the population lives below the poverty line. Thirty-five percent are undernourished. Less than ten percent of arable land is cultivated. Only 28% of the population is immunized, only 25% of the population has access to safe drinking water, and just 36% has access to proper sanitation facilities. The number of health workers has decreased by 40% since 1990, and most of the health infrastructure has been destroyed. Approximately 80% of the population is illiterate.

As a result of the Accra Peace Accords, Charles Taylor abdicated his presidency and a National Transition Government of Liberia (NTGL), composed of the warring factions, civil society and political parties, assumed power on October 15, 2003. The NTGL has a two-year mandate in which to implement the Peace Accords and prepare Liberia for free and fair elections. On September 19, 2003, the United Nations Security Council, in Resolution 1509, established the United Nations Peace Keeping Mission in Liberia, thus beginning an important new phase in Liberian history. However, failure to establish the building blocks of a new Liberia and consolidate peace could jeopardize the fragile security environment in neighboring countries and the entire sub-region.

The USAID Program: During the Charles Taylor regime, USAID resources were directed solely to supporting civil society organizations, particularly for primary health care, agriculture, and peace-building. Work in rural areas was drastically curtailed in April 2003, when the warring factions began their serious campaign to oust Charles Taylor. Thus, the USAID program was inactive for much of FY 2003. As the fighting neared Monrovia in May and June, most of the international community evacuated, including USAID-financed NGOs. During this period, Monrovia experienced a serious humanitarian crisis, as thousands of people took control of housing and business compounds, schools, hospitals, and public buildings to seek refuge from the violence.

With the advent of peace, USAID is well placed to modify its existing limited program to fit the new realities of Liberia. To support the Peace Accord, USAID/Liberia has also begun planning for an expanded program, which will utilize some of the \$200 million allocated for Liberia in the International Disaster and Famine Assistance (IDFA) account from the Emergency Supplemental Appropriations Act for Defense and the Reconstruction of Iraq and Afghanistan.

Primary Health: Resources are in place to provide primary health care to 500,000 people in 450 communities in Bong, Nimba and Montserrado counties, as soon as the security situation permits. Working with a three-organization consortium headed by Africare, USAID is funding the \$7.5 million five-year Improved Community Health Project, which began in July 2003. The program will: (1) deliver primary health care services in the target areas; (2) build the institutional capacity of Liberian NGOs to deliver primary health care services; and (3) address primary health care policy issues with the NTGL.

Agriculture and Economic Livelihood: Several of the older USAID-financed agricultural programs ended in FY 2003. Others had their activities stalled by the fighting and violence. However, activities did continue under the Community Peace Building and Development Program (CPBD), implemented through the Academy for Educational Development and Mercy Corps. Working in 38 communities, CPBD has begun to develop models for economic sustainability in communities. This includes promotion of best practices for crop production, storage, food processing and marketing. CPBD has also begun to assist

450 vegetable growers in 15 communities. As the security situation improves, CPBD will expand to other areas and has targeted over 150 additional communities in the next year.

Peace Building: The \$12 million, five-year CPBD is currently the flagship for USAID's peace-building activities. Program activities focus on developing the institutional capacity of Liberian NGOs and communities to be more effective and sustainable. The program also trains local leaders in governance skills and participatory planning for development and conflict resolution. The program places emphasis on developing leadership skills among women and young people. A vital part of CPBD is the Community Communications Unit, which manages a series of activities to strengthen information and community communications systems and helps communities access, utilize and contribute to these systems. The Unit plans to help establish 20 licensed community radio stations, develop rural production centers, and provide extensive training of production staff. The Unit also supports the production and dissemination of radio and media programs on health, civic education and human rights, agriculture, and peace and reconciliation. In addition, the International Foundation for Election Systems is helping the independent radio station, Radio Veritas, to provide programming, and is assisting the Press Union of Liberia to operationalize the free press of Liberia and provide printing services to the local media.

Supporting the Peace Process: Allocation of the full \$200 million supplemental appropriation for Liberia has not yet been finalized. However, a significant portion of the funds may be channeled through USAID. Program revisions will be made once allocations are determined and approvals are granted. In preparation, USAID has conducted an assessment of the needs of child soldiers and women combatants and is in a position to address these needs. In addition, USAID has begun the procurement process for a labor-intensive public works program to provide education, skills and employment to ex-combatants and other war affected groups.

Other Program Elements: USAID's Office of Foreign Disaster Assistance (OFDA) and the Office of Food for Peace (FFP) have implemented important humanitarian assistance programs. OFDA provided more than \$5.5 million in FY 2003 to address humanitarian food, shelter and health concerns, and to support United Nations Agencies. FFP contributed 43.8 thousand metric tons of PL 480, Title II Emergency Food assistance, valued at over \$28 million. These food resources are supporting emergency school feeding for children; targeted programs for refugees, internally displaced persons and other vulnerable groups; and food for work programs.

A three-year, \$1.5 million program to assist vulnerable children was recently started with funding from the Displaced Children and Orphans Fund. War Victims Funds are being used to assist disabled children. The West Africa Regional Program has provided funding for a small HIV/AIDS information program.

Other Donors: The number of donors in Liberia is limited. Currently the United Nations is the largest entity funding relief, rehabilitation and development activities, although it is not strictly classified as a donor. The United States is the second largest donor followed by the European Union. The Scandinavian countries have much smaller budgets but are significant players in the relief sector. The People's Republic of China has recently begun programs in Liberia. The Catholic Church and other religious organizations are also major local donors.

Data Sheet

USAID Mission:	Liberia
Program Title:	Improved Community Health
Pillar:	Global Health
Strategic Objective:	669-003
Proposed FY 2004 Obligation:	\$2,400,000 CSH
Prior Year Unobligated:	\$0
Proposed FY 2005 Obligation:	\$1,997,000 CSH
Year of Initial Obligation:	FY 2001
Year of Final Obligation:	FY 2007

Summary: USAID's Improved Community Health Program is aimed at improving quality, coverage, management and efficiency of health services delivery in targeted communities in Liberia by strengthening the role and capacity of community-based organizations and local non-governmental organizations. This will be done by: conducting awareness campaigns about prevalent diseases and appropriate community interventions; training health care professionals and community health workers, including Traditional Birth Attendants (TBAs), to improve the quality of service delivery; strengthening the organizational capacity of local organizations to design, implement, monitor and evaluate health and development activities; addressing key primary health care delivery policy issues; and supporting the role of health care delivery through civil society.

Inputs, Outputs, Activities:

FY 2004 Program:

Improve access, quality and demand for health services (\$2,400,000 CSH). USAID will support integrated primary health care in 40 rural clinics that serve an estimated total of 500,000 people, including 85,000 children under five years of age and 100,000 women of reproductive age, in 450 communities in Montserrado, Bong and Nimba Counties. Activities will begin in the catchment communities of the six accessible clinics in Montserrado and gradually extend to those of the 34 clinics in Bong and Nimba Counties as the security situation allows. The Mission's new five-year health program, Improved Community Health Project, which began on July 1, 2003, is being implemented through a consortium formed by Africare. Working with a selected group of national NGOs, the consortium will support 40 clinics in Montserrado, Bong and Nimba Counties.

The USAID program will improve maternal and child health services, improve reproductive health and reduce the transmission of STI/HIV/AIDS. USAID will reduce child mortality through expanded vaccination coverage and early diagnosis of critical childhood diseases, such as malaria, acute respiratory infection and diarrhea. This will be enhanced through early diagnosis and appropriate management of common childhood illnesses, along with community-based behavior change communication, to promote increased utilization of health services. Radio education for under-served populations will be another substantive USAID effort. STI/HIV/AIDS messages, as well as pertinent information on other prevalent health issues, will be incorporated into public service announcements. Community gardens will be developed to produce locally available weaning foods such as beans, peanuts and peas. This will promote appropriate child feeding practices and reduce the rate of malnutrition, especially in children less than five years of age.

Reproductive health services will focus on technical assistance, training, provision of family planning commodities, distribution of home-based delivery kits to Traditional Birth Attendants, infection prevention, as well as the appropriate management of sexually transmitted infections. The USAID program will continue to support efforts to reduce the transmission of STI/HIV/AIDS through the promotion of safe sexual practices.

The USAID program will support critical health reforms, including decentralization of primary health care decision making to the county health teams, and institutional strengthening of national NGOs in organizational development, accountability, transparency, program design, monitoring and evaluation.

Principal grantees: Africare (prime), Johns Hopkins University/Center for Communication Programs (sub), Morehouse School of Medicine (sub), Breastfeeding Advocacy Group (sub), Family Planning Association of Liberia (sub) and Medical Emergency Relief Cooperative International (sub).

FY 2005 Program:

Improve access, quality and demand for health services (\$1,997,000 CSH). USAID will further address critical health policy reforms, including decentralization of primary health care decision making to the county health teams; support the expansion and improve the quality of essential health services in targeted communities; and support the continuation of activities aimed at institutional strengthening of national NGOs in organizational development, accountability, transparency, program design, monitoring and evaluation. Same implementers as FY 2004.

All family planning assistance agreements will incorporate clauses that implement the President's directive restoring the Mexico City policy.

Performance and Results: As a direct result of the prevailing insecurity in the country, this Special Objective did not meet its targets last year. Forty-eight percent of the estimated 12,115 children under one year of age in the project areas received their third dose of diphtheria-pertussis-tetanus immunization (DPT 3). This coverage was less than the goal of 75%. A total of 500 health education sessions were held for 55,113 community members. Twenty-two percent of the reported 4,000 deliveries were attended by trained medical personnel, while 78% were attended by traditional birth attendants. Increased use of traditional birth attendants is a direct result of training. Last year, USAID trained 746 community health workers, including traditional birth attendants. Training has improved the quality of services delivered by these community health workers. With USAID support to Liberia's polio eradication initiative, through the World Health Organization, the accessible counties reported a non-polio acute flaccid paralysis (AFP) rate of 0.5/100,000 population under 15 years of age, and 93% of all AFP cases detected and investigated had two stool specimens collected within 14 days of the onset of paralysis. There has not been a confirmed case of polio reported in the country since 1999, but Liberia has not maintained the global surveillance certification standards for polio eradication.

USAID/OFDA supported emergency humanitarian interventions that provided primary health care services to 544,000 internally displaced persons (IDPs); emergency nutrition for 8,200 IDPs; food distribution to 45,300 non-registered IDPs; and emergency water and sanitation services to 260,000 IDPs.

Data Sheet

USAID Mission:	Liberia
Program Title:	Improved Economic Livelihood
Pillar:	Economic Growth, Agriculture and Trade
Strategic Objective:	669-004
Proposed FY 2004 Obligation:	\$0
Prior Year Unobligated:	\$1,500,000 DA
Proposed FY 2005 Obligation:	\$0
Year of Initial Obligation:	FY 2001
Year of Final Obligation:	FY 2004

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dollar amounts**

Summary: USAID's agricultural program is integrated with and complements the agricultural and economic development component of the democracy and governance program's Community Peace Building and Development (CPBD) initiative. The program aims to improve the economic condition of communities and small-scale farmers in order to promote a greater role for civil society in a successful transition towards improved social, economic and political conditions in Liberia. This will be done by providing resources to micro-level entrepreneurs for agricultural and non-agricultural income-generating activities that are market-driven, and by strengthening their organizational capacity through design and implementation of social and economic livelihood activities. The program will also focus on the development and broadcasting of radio programs that are supportive of integrated rural development and income generating activities.

Inputs, Outputs, Activities:

FY 2004 Program:

Improve the productivity of food crops (\$375,000 prior year DA). The USAID agricultural program will attempt to bridge the transition from relief to sustainable development by introducing modern agricultural practices and low-cost technologies. It will also fund activities that will increase farmers' knowledge of agriculture and rural development through messages broadcast by community radio stations. Other areas may include crop diversification and strengthening of community-based organizations (CBOs) capacity through training.

Foster micro-enterprise (\$225,000 prior year DA). USAID will support communities engaged in income generation/small-scale business development in both agricultural and non-agricultural activities. Technical training on business management and other relevant skills will be provided. Self-Help Groups (SHGs), community groups comprised of 15 to 20 community members who work together to achieve a common economic goal, will be encouraged through the development of relevant skills and infusion of modest financial resources.

Strengthen community capacity for self-help (\$150,000 prior year DA): USAID will provide resources to support communities to identify, prioritize and address their evolving needs, i.e., educational, social and/or economic empowerment through a participatory approach. Other specific efforts may include developing markets for agricultural inputs and outputs and encouraging smallholder enterprise development. USAID will also fund training to build the institutional capacity of communities and implementing partners. The focus of training will be situation-based programming, strategic management, as well as accessing internal and external resources. Principal grantees: Academy for Educational Development (prime), Mercy Corps (sub).

Liberia Community Infrastructure Program (\$750,000 prior year DA) USAID will work to strengthen the rural infrastructure damaged through conflict and neglect during the conflict, including market places, roads and bridges, and training institutions. The work will be labor intensive and productively employ and provide income to ex-combatants. Principal contractors and grantees: to be determined.

In FY 2004, PL480 Title II commodities will reach 45,000 non-registered IDPs covering 29,000 households in Monrovia. CRS, Africare and World Vision International will implement the program, with CRS as the Cooperating Sponsor. A total of 640 metric tons of assorted food commodities valued at \$1.8 million will be used in two activity areas: food for work and supplementary feeding.

FY 2005 Program:

No new funds will be used for this Special Objective in FY 2005. USAID is planning to begin a new Special Objective in FY 2004.

Performance and Results: This Special Objective did not meet its targets during the reporting period. The program intended to cover 300 communities from Montserrado, Bong, Margibi, Grand Bassa and Nimba Counties. However, only 242 communities (81%) were reached, and of a target of 675 metric tons of food crops, only 34.3 metric tons were harvested. The actual production might have been higher, but fighting between rebel and government forces prevented normal farming activities and caused widespread looting of crops, agricultural inputs and infrastructure. Consequently, the average productivity of food crops (0.54 MT/HA) was far below the planned target of 2.4 MT/HA. Insecurity led to a massive influx of residents from communities into IDP camps in Montserrado, Margibi and Bong counties. Program activities were terminated in Bong and Nimba Counties and seriously scaled down in Montserrado and Margibi Counties. The focus of the agricultural program switched from a community-based program to one of humanitarian relief, with implementing partners refocusing activities to provide inputs and technical assistance to internally displaced people (IDPs).

In spite of lower than expected results this year, some progress was made: i) solid contributions were made in community organization and provision of technical assistance and training to IDP farm families, and agricultural inputs and extension services were provided to 2,405 IDP farm families in five IDP centers in Montserrado and Bong Counties, allowing them to produce 34.3 metric tons of assorted food crops for sale and consumption; ii) radio programs, including 285 minutes of dramas and talk shows in English, and local vernaculars on agricultural production and economic development themes, were produced. The programs focused on production practices for food crops, particularly rice and cassava, the nation's staples; and iii) under the economic livelihood component, selection criteria for owners of small and medium enterprises and self-help groups were developed.

Data Sheet

USAID Mission:	Liberia
Program Title:	Civil Society and Democracy
Pillar:	Democracy, Conflict and Humanitarian Assistance
Strategic Objective:	669-005
Proposed FY 2004 Obligation:	\$0
Prior Year Unobligated:	\$1,000,000 DA
Proposed FY 2005 Obligation:	\$0
Year of Initial Obligation:	FY 2001
Year of Final Obligation:	FY 2007

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Summary: The USAID/Liberia civil society and democracy program is focused on promoting a greater role for civil society in a successful transition toward improved social, economic and political conditions in Liberia. The Community Peace Building and Development (CPBD) Initiative supports an integrated set of community mobilization and project implementation activities to promote citizen participation. CPBD attempts to address priority needs for the economic and social revitalization of villages and towns.

Inputs, Outputs, Activities:

FY 2004 Program:

USAID will use funds obligated in previous years to continue to strengthen civic organizations, increase civic actions in targeted communities, and improve conflict management practices at community and cluster levels. Principal grantees: Academy for Educational Development (prime), Mercy Corps (sub).

USAID will use \$1,000,000 in prior year unobligated DA funds for a reconciliation program to mitigate conflict. Principal contractors and grantees: to be determined.

FY 2005 Program:

No obligations are planned.

Performance and Results: The Special Objective did not meet its targets due to the volatile security situation within the country during the year. However, USAID continued to assist civil society organizations and rural communities to develop social mobilization and project implementation mechanisms. Twelve NGOs, 109 community-based organizations and an estimated 2,500 individuals acquired skills and knowledge that will enable them to participate constructively in the peaceful transition toward social, economic and political transformation in Liberia. Additionally, in FY 2004 assistance to 20 community radio stations and previously obligated ESF funding to the Press Union of Liberia will also enhance access to information related to peace building, reintegration, human rights, voter education, elections and other civic issues.

As it relates to reducing gender disparities and perceptions, the program has made determined efforts to facilitate the participation of women in local governance and community development activities. Women have comprised an estimated 70% of the program participants.

Data Sheet

USAID Mission:	Liberia
Program Title:	Community Revitalization and Reintegration
Pillar:	Democracy, Conflict and Humanitarian Assistance
Strategic Objective:	669-006
Proposed FY 2004 Obligation:	\$0
Prior Year Unobligated:	\$0
Proposed FY 2005 Obligation:	\$545,000 DA; \$25,000,000 ESF
Year of Initial Obligation:	2004
Year of Final Obligation:	2006

Summary: The Community Revitalization and Reintegration program is designed to address the immediate need to revitalize communities and facilitate reintegration in post conflict Liberia. This program will lead to the repatriation, social reintegration of ex-combatants, rehabilitation of refugees and internally displaced people, good governance, reconstruction and economic development.

Inputs, Outputs, Activities:

FY 2004 Program:

No obligation of ESF, DA or CSH funds are planned in FY 2004. A portion of the \$200 million allocated for Liberia in the International Disaster and Famine Assistance (IDFA) account from the Emergency Supplemental Appropriations Act for Defense and the Reconstruction of Iraq and Afghanistan is planned for obligation under this Special Objective and will be notified separately.

FY 2005 Program:

Support for the political transition (\$25,000,000 ESF). USAID activities will help to strengthen civil society organizations, provide support to the National Transition Government of Liberia, promote good governance, and support the 2005 national elections. Primary contractors and grantees: to be determined.

Strengthen civic organizations (\$250,000 DA). Contingent on an enabling environment, improved security and the success of capacity building for local and community-based organizations, USAID may expand its activities to Grand Gedeh and Sinoe counties, working with an additional 100 communities. USAID would continue to provide financial and technical assistance to NGOs, CBOs and community radio stations, and promote policy reforms related to coalition building, regulatory mechanisms and resource mobilization in the NGO sector.

Increase civic actions in targeted communities (\$150,000 DA). Anticipated improvements in security will allow for additional training and project implementation in Grand Gedeh and Sinoe Counties and shift the focus of the REFLECT program to advocacy and relationship development with local government structures and representatives.

Improve conflict management practices at community and cluster levels (\$145,000 DA). USAID will increase the number of partners and training seminars in conflict and peace building.

Performance and Results: Since this is a new Special Objective, there are not yet any results to report.

**Liberia
PROGRAM SUMMARY**

(in thousands of dollars)

Accounts	FY 2002 Actual	FY 2003 Actual	FY 2004 Current	FY 2005 Request
Child Survival and Health Programs Fund	1,600	2,627	2,400	1,997
Development Assistance	3,725	3,758	0	545
Economic Support Fund	1,150	4,420	0	25,000
PL 480 Title II	5,643	17,684	10,538	0
Total Program Funds	12,118	28,489	12,938	27,542

STRATEGIC OBJECTIVE SUMMARY				
669-003 Improved Community Health				
CSH	1,600	2,100	2,400	1,997
669-004 Improved Economic Livelihood				
DA	2,665	2,168	0	0
669-005 Civil Society and Democracy				
CSH	0	527	0	0
DA	1,060	1,590	0	0
ESF	1,150	4,420	0	0
669-006 Community Revitalization and Reintegration				
DA	0	0	0	545
ESF	0	0	0	25,000

FY 2004 does not include \$200 million of International Disaster and Famine Assistance Funds from the FY 2004 supplemental, which has not yet been allocated.

Mission Director,
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