

## Liberia

**The Development Challenge:** Liberia is widely seen as one of Africa's preeminent "failed states" in which the central government has ceased to provide essential security and services. In the absence of state authority, territory is, in effect, ceded to contending militia groups that operate lawlessly and with impunity for crimes against civilians. In addition, conflict re-erupted in mid-2000 following cross-border incursions by the insurgent group Liberians United for Reconciliation and Democracy (LURD). The LURD consists of various militias that oppose President Charles Taylor; they are driven as much by economic depredation as by any clearly defined political agenda. Currently, there is an oscillating stalemate on the ground. The rebels occasionally advance toward Monrovia, while at other times the Government of Liberia (GOL) forces push the insurgents into the hinterland and into refugees in Guinea and Sierra Leone. Tens of thousands of combat-related fatalities have occurred. The Liberia conflict is interwoven with violence in neighboring Sierra Leone, Guinea and Cote d'Ivoire. Much of the blame lies with the Charles Taylor-led government, which has been in power since he won the presidential election in 1997 following over a decade of civil war. President Taylor is the major force in Liberian politics, and his policies remain a major obstacle to internal and regional stability and the development of a democratic Liberia. Under Taylor, the GOL has done little to improve the lives of the Liberian people.

The humanitarian consequences have been severe. According to the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), there are about 158,000 refugees from Liberia and about 130,000 internally displaced persons (IDPs) living in camps within Liberia. The actual number of displaced may be two or three times the number living in the camps. This crisis is occurring in one of the poorest countries on earth, with 80% of Liberia's approximately three million people living in poverty. Severe unemployment, amounting to 80% of the workforce, is the norm. Corruption is widespread. The capital, Monrovia, is without functioning electricity, water and sewerage systems. All basic human needs are supplied through the international donor community or through church groups. Most of the formal economy is controlled by Taylor or his close associates. The current government's policies on human rights and fostering regional instability have prevented the international community from providing the support that Liberia desperately needs to adequately address the growing humanitarian crisis and to overcome its serious social and economic problems. The USAID program supports U.S. national interests through reducing human suffering and promoting regional stability.

**The USAID Program:** If the International Contact Group that has been established can bring about a cease-fire and begin to lay the groundwork for a sustainable peace, USAID will support its attempts to resolve the conflict through a peace process and the eventual reconstruction of Liberia. Even in the current environment, USAID has been able to have a significant impact, by providing social and economic support such as primary health care, basic education and agricultural inputs to Liberians and their struggling communities trying to overcome the impact of national mismanagement and conflict. Through civic education and public information programs, USAID has supported community groups and non-governmental organizations (NGOs) in keeping a fragile civil society alive and functioning. U.S. humanitarian assistance has saved lives and lessened the misery of countless Liberians. Finally, U.S. assistance has served as a beacon of hope to the Liberian people, a reminder that the United States has not abandoned them in their desperate time of need.

The attached Data Sheets cover the three objectives for which USAID is requesting funds. These concentrate on increasing civil society's capacity for peace-building and supporting the eventual restoration of good governance, while improving food security and access to essential health care and services. Over the past year, USAID has successfully awarded two contracts which will consolidate and better integrate USAID programs and attempt to address long-term development issues. The consolidated program funds activities with international NGOs to support community groups and local NGOs that deliver quality primary health care, increase food security through better food crop production, processing and marketing; and provide resources for adult literacy, civic education and public information programs. USAID's assistance will increase the capacity of civil society to take a greater role in the future of Liberia. USAID will also provide resources to help strengthen opposition political parties in preparation for planned elections in October 2003. In February 2003, USAID will review the impact of its current

strategy. Given the current political and security dynamics of Liberia, USAID does not expect major changes in approach, and likely will extend the current strategy for an additional three years (through FY 2007).

**Other Program Elements:** Liberia receives funding from the Leahy War Victims Fund and the Displaced Children and Orphans Fund. The Leahy War Victims Fund, implemented through a grant to the United Methodist Committee on Relief, provides corrective surgical services as well as prostheses and physiotherapy for the disabled. Physiotherapy for children affected by polio and other mobility disorders is also being provided. Thus, 422 Liberians (250 males and 172 females) have received physical rehabilitation services, including prosthesis and physiotherapy, from the Ganta Prosthetic and Orthopedic Center, while 467 children (201 males and 266 females) have received physical rehabilitation services, including corrective surgery, prostheses and physiotherapy, from the Benedict Menin Rehabilitation Center.

The Displaced Children and Orphans Fund, implemented through UNICEF, promotes the social and economic reintegration of war-affected youth through their participation in vocational and literacy education, child's rights advocacy, youth networking and HIV/AIDS education and awareness activities at the community level. Under this program 352 girls (including 194 teen mothers) have enrolled in life skills education programs at sites in five counties; 202 peer educators have received training in HIV/AIDS prevention and control interventions; 25 community-based sessions on sexually transmitted infections and HIV/AIDS prevention and control have been conducted; and 677 youths (515 females and 162 males) have enrolled at the Accelerated Learning Program operated by Calvary Chapel of Liberia, Don Bosco Homes, the Children Assistance Program, and the Community Health and Development Agency. These activities have empowered the youths in the project areas to take appropriate actions to control the spread of sexually transmitted infections and HIV/AIDS in their respective communities and has facilitated their socio-economic reintegration.

P.L. 480 Title II assistance has allowed Catholic Relief Services (CRS) and the World Food Program (WFP) to improve food security and nutrition for internally displaced people, vulnerable groups, and students. CRS provided a daily lunch for over 25,000 students in 200 rural schools, in addition to daily meals to 5,500 handicapped, sick, or terminally ill people in welfare institutions. The WFP feeding program has provided food to over 182,000 people monthly.

**Other Donors:** The deteriorating political and security situation coupled with the GOL's involvement in regional conflict resulted in increasing alienation from the international community. United Nations sanctions against members of the current Government remain in force, as do those against diamond trading and the importation of weapons. The overall political and diplomatic situation has manifested a significant decrease in donor engagement in Liberia. The United Nations is the largest donor in Liberia, followed by the United States. The European Union (EU) is third among Liberia's significant donors. Other donors include: the United Kingdom, the Netherlands, Germany, Denmark and Finland. Neither the World Bank nor the International Monetary Fund is active in Liberia. Donor activities include assistance to improve food security, democracy and governance, income generation and primary health, in addition to significant humanitarian assistance. In addition to international donors, religious organizations including the Catholic, Lutheran and Methodist Churches provide significant assistance in the education and health sectors, as well as humanitarian assistance.

Coordination among donors is excellent. USAID, the European Union, and the United Nations Development Program (UNDP) meet twice a month to discuss political and development issues. Coordination is further strengthened through membership on advisory boards of different donor projects.

**Liberia**  
**PROGRAM SUMMARY**

(in thousands of dollars)

Accounts	FY 2001 Actual	FY 2002 Actual*	FY 2003 Prior Request	FY 2004 Request
Child Survival and Health Programs Fund	1,850	1,600	2,100	2,045
Development Assistance	5,720	3,725	3,100	1,100
Economic Support Fund	0	1,150	0	0
PL 480 Title II	3,062	5,643	1,027	0
<b>Total Program Funds</b>	<b>10,632</b>	<b>12,118</b>	<b>6,227</b>	<b>3,145</b>

**STRATEGIC OBJECTIVE SUMMARY**

669-003 Improved Community Health				
CSH	1,850	1,600	2,100	2,045
DA	850	0	0	0
669-004 Improved Economic Livelihood				
DA	3,270	2,665	2,500	1,100
669-005 Community Peace Building and Development				
DA	1,600	1,060	600	0
ESF	0	1,150	0	0

\* FY 02 appropriated CSH excludes \$400,000 in polio funds programmed under Africa Regional.

## Data Sheet

<b>USAID Mission:</b>	Liberia
<b>Program Title:</b>	Democracy and Governance
<b>Pillar:</b>	Democracy, Conflict and Humanitarian Assistance
<b>Strategic Objective:</b>	669-001
<b>Status:</b>	Continuing
<b>Proposed FY 2003 Obligation:</b>	\$0
<b>Prior Year Unobligated:</b>	\$0
<b>Proposed FY 2004 Obligation:</b>	\$0
<b>Year of Initial Obligation:</b>	
<b>Estimated Completion Date:</b>	

### Summary:

**Inputs, Outputs, Activities:**  
**FY 2003 Program:**

**FY 2004 Program:**

**Performance and Results:**

**Data Sheet**

**669-002: No Summary and/or Pillar information entered for this SO.**

## US Financing in Thousands of Dollars

Liberia

669-002	DA
<b>Through September 30, 2001</b>	
Obligations	10,704
Expenditures	9,980
Unliquidated	724
<b>Fiscal Year 2002</b>	
Obligations	0
Expenditures	557
<b>Through September 30, 2002</b>	
Obligations	10,704
Expenditures	10,537
Unliquidated	167
<b>Prior Year Unobligated Funds</b>	
Obligations	0
<b>Planned Fiscal Year 2003 NOA</b>	
Obligations	0
<b>Total Planned Fiscal Year 2003</b>	
Obligations	0
<b>Proposed Fiscal Year 2004 NOA</b>	
Obligations	0
Future Obligations	0
Est. Total Cost	10,704

## Data Sheet

<b>USAID Mission:</b>	Liberia
<b>Program Title:</b>	Improved Community Health
<b>Pillar:</b>	Global Health
<b>Strategic Objective:</b>	669-003
<b>Status:</b>	Continuing
<b>Proposed FY 2003 Obligation:</b>	\$2,100,000 CSH
<b>Prior Year Unobligated:</b>	\$619,000 CSH
<b>Proposed FY 2004 Obligation:</b>	\$2,045,000 CSH
<b>Year of Initial Obligation:</b>	FY 2001
<b>Estimated Completion Date:</b>	FY 2004

**Summary:** The USAID primary health care objective focuses on strengthening the role and capacity of community-based organizations and local NGOs to deliver quality primary health care services. This will be done by conducting awareness campaigns about prevalent diseases and the appropriate community interventions; training of health care professionals and community health workers to improve the quality of service delivery; strengthening organizational capacity of local organizations through improved management skills gained through design, implementation and evaluation of health and development activities; and addressing key primary health care delivery policy issues that support health care delivery through civil society organizations.

### **Inputs, Outputs, Activities:**

#### **FY 2003 Program:**

Access, quality and demand for primary health services are improved (\$1,900,000 CSH). Using FY 2003 and prior-year funds, USAID will support integrated primary health care in 40 rural clinics serving approximately 500,000 people in 400 communities in Montserrado, Bong and Nimba Counties. These clinics are the only source of primary health care for most of these people. The USAID program will improve maternal and child health services, improve reproductive health and reduce HIV/AIDS transmission. USAID will reduce childhood mortality through expanded vaccination coverage and early diagnosis of critical childhood diseases such as malaria, respiratory infections, and diarrhea. This will be enhanced through early diagnosis and appropriate management of common childhood illnesses, along with communications to promote the increased utilization of health services. At least 30 community gardens will be developed to produce locally available weaning foods, such as peas, peanuts and beans. This will promote appropriate child feeding practices and will reduce the rate of malnutrition, especially in children under five years of age. Reproductive health services will focus on technical assistance, training and the provision of family planning commodities. USAID will enhance the distribution of home-based delivery kits to traditional birth attendants/traditional midwives, prevention of infection, and the appropriate management of sexually transmitted infections (STIs). USAID will help reduce the transmission of STIs and HIV/AIDS through the promotion of safe sexual practices by assuring a reliable supplier of condoms for the reproductive health program. Principal contractors and grantees: Africare (prime) and the World Health Organization (WHO) (prime).

Liberian NGOs are working more effectively to deliver primary health care services (\$100,000 CSH). Five NGOs, both national and local, will be strengthened in organizational development, accountability, transparency, and will participate in strategic networks with other NGOs to deliver quality primary health care. Principal grantee: Africare (prime).

Policy framework for improved delivery of primary health care services is improved (\$100,000 CSH). USAID will provide technical assistance to support decentralization of primary health care decision making to county health teams. Principal grantee: Africare (prime).

#### **FY 2004 Program:**

Pending review and approval for extending the current strategy, the following activities are proposed:

Access, quality and demand for primary health services are improved (\$1,845,000 CSH). FY 2003 activities will continue. The program will expand the quality of service delivery to an additional 10 communities. National Immunization Days (NIDs) will continue to be supported. Principal grantees: Africare (prime) and WHO (prime).

Liberian NGOs are working more effectively at delivering primary health care services (\$100,000 CSH). An additional two local NGOs will receive funding and institutional strengthening support. Public information programs addressing critical public health issues will begin. Principal grantee: Africare.

Policy framework for improved primary health care is improved (\$100,000 CSH). The FY 2003 decentralization program will continue. National level policies are expected to be formulated. Principal grantee: Africare.

All family planning agreements will incorporate clauses that implement the President's directive reinstating the Mexico City Policy.

**Performance and Results:** USAID consolidated its health program in 2002. The new program, Improved Community Health, will be implemented by Africare, an international NGO. The program will be more proactive in building the capacity of local NGOs and in addressing policy issues vital to a decentralized primary health care system. USAID-funded primary health care activities have been successful. As a direct result of USAID intervention, access to primary health care services has risen by almost a third in communities served by USAID. Primary health care services continue to improve in both quantity and quality throughout the targeted communities. Coverage rates for routine immunizations have exceeded planned targets, and have led to significant reductions in the incidence of vaccine-preventable diseases (measles, diphtheria/pertussis/tetanus, polio and tuberculosis) in the project areas. In Liberia's fourth year of polio eradication activities, the target of vaccinating 854,000 children under five years of age was surpassed. There have been no confirmed cases of polio in Liberia since 1999.

By the end of this program, USAID's work with local NGOs and community-based organizations will foster the development of civil society in Liberia, as well as provide essential primary health care for participating communities.



## US Financing in Thousands of Dollars

Liberia

669-003 Improved Community Health	CSH	DA	DFA
<b>Through September 30, 2001</b>			
Obligations	4,984	881	1,245
Expenditures	3,119	581	1,044
Unliquidated	1,865	300	201
<b>Fiscal Year 2002</b>			
Obligations	981	1,050	0
Expenditures	1,833	751	201
<b>Through September 30, 2002</b>			
Obligations	5,965	1,931	1,245
Expenditures	4,952	1,332	1,245
Unliquidated	1,013	599	0
<b>Prior Year Unobligated Funds</b>			
Obligations	619	0	0
<b>Planned Fiscal Year 2003 NOA</b>			
Obligations	2,100	0	0
<b>Total Planned Fiscal Year 2003</b>			
Obligations	2,719	0	0
<b>Proposed Fiscal Year 2004 NOA</b>			
Obligations	2,045	0	0
Future Obligations	0	0	0
Est. Total Cost	10,729	1,931	1,245

## Data Sheet

<b>USAID Mission:</b>	Liberia
<b>Program Title:</b>	Improved Economic Livelihood
<b>Pillar:</b>	Economic Growth, Agriculture and Trade
<b>Strategic Objective:</b>	669-004
<b>Status:</b>	Continuing
<b>Proposed FY 2003 Obligation:</b>	\$2,500,000 DA
<b>Prior Year Unobligated:</b>	\$65,000 DA
<b>Proposed FY 2004 Obligation:</b>	\$1,100,000 DA
<b>Year of Initial Obligation:</b>	FY 2001
<b>Estimated Completion Date:</b>	FY 2004

**Summary:** USAID's agricultural objective focuses on improving the economic condition of communities and small farmers in order to promote a greater role for civil society in the transition toward improved social, economic and political conditions in Liberia. This will be done by providing training and inputs to communities and small farmers to increase productivity in food crops; providing training, credit and resources to community groups to support the development of social and economic infrastructure, such as schools, clinics, roads and bridges; and providing resources to micro-level entrepreneurs for income-generating activities.

### **Inputs, Outputs, Activities:**

#### **FY 2003 Program:**

Productivity of food crops improved (\$2,100,000 DA). Participatory strategies for developing low-land food crops, such as rice and cassava, will be developed with communities and international and local non-governmental organizations (NGOs). Training and technical assistance, through demonstration farmers, will introduce improved high-yield planting materials and the use of low-cost technologies. Specially prepared information packages will be disseminated through community radio and local NGOs to raise farmer awareness. Particular emphasis will be placed on informal and formal cooperative development. Approximately 200 communities will participate in FY 2003. Principal contractors and grantees: Mercy Corps (sub), Lutheran World Federation World Services (prime) and International Foundation for Educational Support (prime).

Community capacity for self-help strengthened (\$200,000 DA). Local NGOs will provide training and material resources so that individual communities can identify their needs and generate all or some of the funding to develop village-level infrastructure such as schools, clinics, small access roads and bridges. USAID will coordinate additional resources needed with the programs of other donors such as the United Nations Development Program (UNDP) and the European Union (EU). Examples of such income-generating activities include village agricultural projects, soap making, value-added processing and village credit programs. Approximately 50 villages are expected to participate in FY 2003. Principal contractors and grantees: Mercy Corps (sub), Lutheran World Federation World Services (prime) and International Foundation for Educational Support (prime).

Micro-enterprise fostered (\$200,000 DA). Entrepreneurship will be encouraged through the development of management and marketing skills needed to start and run micro and small businesses. A needs assessment will be done and appropriate resources will be provided to individuals and formal and informal cooperatives who demonstrate the capacity for managing profitable micro and small enterprises. Principal grantee: Mercy Corps (sub).

#### **FY 2004 Program:**

Pending review and approval for extending the current strategy, the following activities are proposed:

Productivity of food crop production improved (\$500,000 DA). All NGOs in Liberia working in the agricultural sector will utilize USAID awareness and extension materials. Farmers, cooperatives and community groups in an additional 200 communities will participate in the program. Principal grantee: Mercy Corps.

Community capacity for self-help strengthened (\$300,000 DA). An additional 100 communities will qualify for material assistance for infrastructure projects. Principal grantee: Mercy Corps (sub).

Foster micro-enterprise (\$300,000 DA). The program will begin operations in Monrovia, and ten enterprises will be functioning. Principal grantee: Mercy Corps (sub).

**Performance and Results:** USAID has had some success in mobilizing farmers to increase food crop production, mainly in rice and cassava. Experience has been limited to delivering inputs and providing minor technical assistance and training. Limited development impact has resulted. Based on the successes and failures of previous programs, USAID has reprogrammed its agricultural resources to attempt to better bridge the transition from relief to development in Liberia. The new program, entitled "Improved Economic Livelihood," is designed to bridge this gap and to focus more on sustainable activities and fostering self-help. This will address the significant dependency problem that has resulted in Liberia due to years of relief and humanitarian assistance. This program is directly integrated with and complements the community peace-building activities described in the Data Sheet for objective 669-005, Community Peace Building and Development. The program is intended to make a significant impact on the food and economic security of participating communities and will strengthen the capacity of community groups, cooperatives and local NGOs in Liberia. Principal contractors, grantees or agencies: Mercy Corps, International Foundation of Education Support and Lutheran World Federation/World Service.

## US Financing in Thousands of Dollars

Liberia

669-004 Improved Economic Livelihood	DA	DFA	ESF
<b>Through September 30, 2001</b>			
Obligations	8,788	140	500
Expenditures	4,782	52	500
Unliquidated	4,006	88	0
<b>Fiscal Year 2002</b>			
Obligations	0	0	0
Expenditures	2,004	88	0
<b>Through September 30, 2002</b>			
Obligations	8,788	140	500
Expenditures	6,786	140	500
Unliquidated	2,002	0	0
<b>Prior Year Unobligated Funds</b>			
Obligations	65	0	0
<b>Planned Fiscal Year 2003 NOA</b>			
Obligations	2,500	0	0
<b>Total Planned Fiscal Year 2003</b>			
Obligations	2,565	0	0
<b>Proposed Fiscal Year 2004 NOA</b>			
Obligations	1,100	0	0
Future Obligations	0	0	0
Est. Total Cost	12,453	140	500

## Data Sheet

<b>USAID Mission:</b>	Liberia
<b>Program Title:</b>	Community Peace Building and Development
<b>Pillar:</b>	Democracy, Conflict and Humanitarian Assistance
<b>Strategic Objective:</b>	669-005
<b>Status:</b>	Continuing
<b>Proposed FY 2003 Obligation:</b>	\$600,000 DA
<b>Prior Year Unobligated:</b>	\$13,000 DA; \$170,000 ESF
<b>Proposed FY 2004 Obligation:</b>	\$0
<b>Year of Initial Obligation:</b>	FY 2001
<b>Estimated Completion Date:</b>	FY 2004

**Summary:** The USAID democracy objective focuses on promoting a greater role for civil society in a successful transition toward improved social, economic and political conditions in Liberia. This will be done by increased participation in governance, social, and economic activities through civic education and adult literacy programs provided by non-governmental organizations (NGOs) and by independent media; strengthened organizational capacity through improved management skills gained through design and implementation of social and economic development activities; improved capacity in community level peace-building and human rights monitoring through strengthened results planning, transparency and accountability of civil society organizations; and a viable political opposition developed through strengthening political parties and election support.

### Inputs, Outputs, Activities:

#### FY 2003 Program:

Urban and rural communities implementing strategies for peace-building and economic growth (\$200,000 DA). Participatory strategies for promoting civic education and adult literacy will be developed. Civic education, adult literacy and social and economic development information will be tested and provided to selected communities. Participatory village development programs will be implemented in 150 communities. Principal contractors and grantees: Mercy Corps (sub) and the International Foundation for Educational Self-Help (prime).

Liberian NGOs are working more effectively at addressing critical civil society issues (\$200,000 DA). At least five NGOs, both national and local, will receive funding and be strengthened in organizational development, accountability, transparency, and will participate in strategic networks with other NGOs. Principal contractor or grantee: The Academy for Educational Development (AED) (prime).

Communities have increased access to public information (\$200,000 DA). The technical, programmatic and managerial capacity of 20 community radio stations will be strengthened. Approximately three hours of radio programming in social and economic development and civic education topics will be broadcast by at least 20 radio stations. Five hundred communities will receive wind-up radios, and "village listening groups" will be established. These activities will be supplemented with extensive use of local drama groups, posters, cassettes and printed material. Principal contractor or grantee: Search for Common Ground (sub).

The political process strengthened. In addition to establishing a resource center for political parties, prior year ESF will support establishment of an independent printing press in preparation for the October 2003 elections. Principal contractor or grantee: AED (prime).

#### FY 2004 Program:

No funding is requested for this strategic objective in FY 2004.

**Performance and Results:** Over the past year, USAID has attempted to consolidate and better integrate its overall program to better achieve development objectives in an extremely difficult environment. Past programs have achieved acceptable results but, more importantly, have demonstrated the potential difficulties and opportunities for strengthening civil society in Liberia. Excellent models for civic education and adult literacy have been developed but, due to capacity and management issues, implementation has been limited. Similarly, Liberia has some eager human rights groups, but capacity issues have, again, limited their impact. After reviewing what has worked in the past, USAID has reprogrammed its democracy objective to increase the capacity of community groups and NGOs and to integrate activities to a much greater extent.

## US Financing in Thousands of Dollars

Liberia

669-005 Community Peace Building and Development	DA	DFA	ESF
<b>Through September 30, 2001</b>			
Obligations	7,871	3,541	322
Expenditures	7,015	3,097	322
Unliquidated	856	444	0
<b>Fiscal Year 2002</b>			
Obligations	4,428	0	1,150
Expenditures	800	376	43
<b>Through September 30, 2002</b>			
Obligations	12,299	3,541	1,472
Expenditures	7,815	3,473	365
Unliquidated	4,484	68	1,107
<b>Prior Year Unobligated Funds</b>			
Obligations	13	0	170
<b>Planned Fiscal Year 2003 NOA</b>			
Obligations	600	0	0
<b>Total Planned Fiscal Year 2003</b>			
Obligations	613	0	170
<b>Proposed Fiscal Year 2004 NOA</b>			
Obligations	0	0	0
Future Obligations	0	0	0
Est. Total Cost	12,912	3,541	1,642