

DI-AC9

AGENCY FOR INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT

PROJECT DATA SHEET

1. TRANSACTION CODE

C A = Add  
C = Change  
D = Delete

Amendment Number  
1

CODE  
3

COUNTRY/ENTITY

Liberia

3. PROJECT NUMBER

569-0134

BUREAU/OFFICE

AFR

06

5. PROJECT TITLE (maximum 40 characters)

Rural Information Systems

6. PROJECT ASSISTANCE COMPLETION DATE (PACD)

MM DD YY  
09 3 08 7

7. ESTIMATED DATE OF OBLIGATION  
(Under "B" below, enter 1, 2, 3, or 4)

A. Initial FY 80 B. Quarter 4 C. Final FY 86

8. COSTS (\$000 OR EQUIVALENT \$) =

A. FUNDING SOURCE	FIRST FY 80			LIFE OF PROJECT		
	B. FX	C. L/C	D. Total	E. FX	F. L/C	G. Total
Appropriated Total	3500	2000	5500	9209	2991	12200
(Grant)	500	0	500	5420	80	5500
(Loan)	3000	2000	5000	3789	2911	6700
Country		231	231		5827	5827
Donor(s)						
TOTALS	3500	2231	5731	9209	8818	18027

9. SCHEDULE OF AID FUNDING (\$000)

B. PRIMARY PURPOSE CODE	C. PRIMARY TECH. CODE		D. OBLIGATIONS TO DATE		E. AMOUNT APPROVED THIS ACTION		F. LIFE OF PROJECT	
	1. Grant	2. Loan	1. Grant	2. Loan	1. Grant	2. Loan	1. Grant	2. Loan
ARDN 243	290		5000	6700	500	0	5500	6700
TOTALS			5000	6700	500	0	5500	6700

10. SECONDARY TECHNICAL CODES (maximum 6 codes of 3 positions each)

610 560

11. SPECIAL CONCERNS CODES (maximum 7 codes of 4 positions each)

BR

12. PROJECT PURPOSE (maximum 680 characters)

To develop a rural based radio network which will carry development-oriented programs in English and in local languages. This will be accomplished by building and equipping three radio stations and a Central Programming Unit and by training the necessary staff to produce, broadcast, and evaluate approximately 6-10 hours of programming daily over the new facilities.

13. SCHEDULED EVALUATIONS

Interim MM YY MM YY Final MM YY  
1 1 8 3 0 2 8 6 1 0 8 7

14. SOURCE/ORIGIN OF GOODS AND SERVICES

000  941  Local  Other (Specify)

15. AMENDMENTS/NATURE OF CHANGE PROPOSED (This is page 1 of a 7 page PP Amendment) (with appendices)

To increase the level of technical assistance effort to the project by 50 person-months and to extend the technical assistance contract to the end of the project.

APPROVED BY

Signature: Mary C. Kilgour  
Title: Director, USAID/Liberia

Date Signed: MM DD YY  
12 26 86

16. DATE DOCUMENT RECEIVED IN AID/W, OR FOR AID/W DOCUMENTS, DATE OF DISTRIBUTION

MM DD YY

Rural Information Systems Project  
(669-0134)  
Project Paper Supplement No. I

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## I. SUPPLEMENTAL PROJECT DESCRIPTION

### A. BACKGROUND

The Rural Information Systems (RIS) project (669-0134) was conceived as a means of disseminating relevant, development-oriented information to the widely dispersed rural population of Liberia through radio. The project responded to the GOL's emphasis on integrated rural development and to the perception that previous rural development efforts had been limited by inadequate communication among Government agencies, their development programs, and their target populations. Accordingly, the project's objectives, which remain unchanged, are:

- (1) to inform the rural population about improved practices in health, nutrition, family planning, and agricultural extension activities; and
- (2) to supplement the services of Government agency field personnel in rural areas.

In the aftermath of the 1980 coup, the new Government became convinced of the value of broadcasting in local dialects. Under Decree No. 20 of the People's Redemption Council, the Government reorganized and expanded the country's public broadcasting system and in so doing, created the Liberian Rural Communication Network (LRCN). The LRCN is charged with supporting rural development by producing radio programs which:

- (1) increase utilization by the rural population of existing GOL services;
- (2) transmit information about these services to a greater portion of the rural population;
- (3) increase communication among villages and all levels of government; and
- (4) increase self-help activities.

The RIS was designed to help LRCN carry out these activities by financing equipment, training, and technical assistance as the Network established and operated seven regional broadcasting stations. Each would be capable of producing and broadcasting programs in the languages of its service area. The stations would be supported by a Central Programming Unit (CPU) responsible for the development of general policy and national information campaigns for broadcast by the regional stations.

## B. PERFORMANCE

The early life of the project (1980-1983) saw extensive implementation delays. There was a 16-month lag in signing the technical assistance contract. Subsequent commodity and construction procurement delays put the project two years behind schedule. Procurement and construction cost increases due to inflation and the worsening economic crisis in Liberia, called into question LRCN's ability to operate and maintain seven stations. Accordingly, the number of regional stations was reduced to three. Concurrently, the regional station staff was cut from 60 to 27. Equipment requirements were also reduced accordingly.

The delays in the availability of broadcast facilities caused major dislocations in the project. Nevertheless, the LRCN staff used the time productively. By concentrating on such activities as training of personnel from various ministries in broadcast techniques, the staff fostered a deeper sense of project institutionalization. Staff members underwent more extensive training, and numerous workshops broadened the general understanding of the role of rural communications through radio, both in Monrovia and in the rural areas.

Presently, the technical assistance contractor, the Institute for International Research (IIR), has a five-person team in place. Their positions are as follows:

- (1) Chief of Party
- (2) Regional Production Advisor - Gbarnga
- (3) Regional Production Advisor - Voinjama
- (4) Regional Production Advisor - Zwedru
- (5) Administrative Assistant

A sixth advisor, to cover the Central Programming Unit, is expected to arrive by October 1986.

The advisory team has a strong radio production orientation, and has used these skills to train the Liberian staff in production skills and to produce a library of programs for future broadcast. This will enable the stations to begin broadcasting as soon as the facilities are completed and installed.

Construction and installation of all the facilities is nearly finished. The stations at Voinjama and Zwedru are complete, while the station at Gbarnga will be completed by July, 1986. The building housing the CPU in Monrovia is finished and the equipment enabling production of broadcast-quality programs has been installed. Each of the regional stations will be on the air by August 1986.

C. RATIONALE FOR AMENDMENT

With the three regional stations and the CPU on the verge of completion, the RIS is at a critical stage in that it is prepared to go on the air. In order to consolidate the progress to date and to enhance the prospects for project success, the March 1986 mid-term project evaluation recommended that the existing technical assistance contract with IIR be extended from its current termination date of January 31, 1987 to the Project Assistance Completion Date (PACD) of September 30, 1987. The evaluation team concluded that such an extension was necessary for the following reasons:

- (1) To continue intensive training of station personnel;
- (2) To provide training in the operation and maintenance of the broadcast equipment; and
- (3) To assist in the collection and analysis of data relating to the impact of the radio programs.

In the absence of an extension of technical assistance, the evaluation team expressed great pessimism concerning project continuity.

D. REVISED PROJECT DESCRIPTION

The scopes of work for the technical assistance team members remain unchanged. This project amendment will add funding for one additional position, that of advisor at the Central Programming Unit.

Following is a list of the termination dates of the contract of each member of the technical assistance team, along with the number of months required to extend existing contracts to the PACD.

	<u>Termination Date per Existing Contract</u>	<u>Months Needed to Extend to PACD (9/30/87)</u>
Chief of Party	1/31/87	8
Administrative Advisor <sup>1</sup>	12/31/86	9
Regional Production Advisor - Voinjama	12/31/86	9
Regional Production <sup>2</sup> Advisor - Gbarnga	12/31/86	9
Regional Production Advisor - Zwedru	7/1/87	3
Production Advisor - CPU <sup>3</sup>	6/30/86	12
Total Amendment Person Months		50

<sup>1</sup>Local hire only

<sup>2</sup>Position vacated prematurely; to be filled o/a 10/1/86.

<sup>3</sup>Position to be filled o/a 10/1/86.

(See Annex B for Scopes of Work for long-term technical assistance team members.)

This increased level of technical assistance effort also includes approximately seven person-months of short-term technical assistance consultancies in the following areas:

- (a) radio engineering;
- (b) health programming;
- (c) agriculture programming;
- (d) educational programming;
- (e) anthropology;
- (f) financial management; and
- (g) research/evaluation.

E. END OF PROJECT STATUS AND POSSIBLE CONTINUED A.I.D. SUPPORT

By the PACD of September 30, 1987, the three rural radio stations will have been on the air for one year. Training of the staffs in broadcasting and production of programs will be complete. In addition, the staffs will have been trained in, and carried out, field surveys of listener response. The analysis of this survey data will permit evaluation of programming effectiveness and suggest possible areas for modification. It is this feedback mechanism that will enable LRCN to assess listener needs and thereby to achieve the objective of providing relevant, development-oriented programming to some of Liberia's rural population.

The March 1986 evaluation recommended a two-year project extension following the current PACD. The extension would fund additional technical assistance, and would be for the following purposes:

- (a) To meet the objectives of the project through two additional years of on-air operation;
- (b) To complete training of LRCN interns from other development agencies;
- (c) To increase the broadcast schedule to ten hours per day.

The Mission will decide on whether or not to proceed with the recommended extension of the PACD in January, 1987, after the stations have been broadcasting for approximately six months.

Due to the limited nature of this amendment, the Mission has not done revised analyses of the technical feasibility, social soundness, and economic viability of the project. If a decision to extend the project beyond the existing PACD is taken, the Mission will carry out complete analyses.

II. REVISED COST ESTIMATE AND FINANCIAL PLAN

Under this amendment, the total LOP project funding will increase from \$11.7 million to \$12.2 million. The additional funding will be in the form of grant, which will increase that component of assistance from \$5.0 million to \$5.5 million. The level of loan funding will remain at \$6.7 million.

Table 1 summarizes the project funding levels, including the incremental increase under this amendment. Table 1 also shows the shift within the loan funds to fund technical assistance. The increase in funding and the shift of loan monies total approximately \$1,262,000.

Table 1: Revised Financial Plan Summary  
(\$'000)

GRANT	PROJECT TO DATE			THIS AMENDMENT			REVISED L. O. P.		
	AID	GOI	TOTAL	AID	GOI	TOTAL	AID	GOI	TOTAL
-----									
Technical Assistance	3,799	---	3,799	526	---	526	4,325	---	4,325
Personnel/Operating Costs	---	5,827	5,827	---	---	0	---	5,827	5,827
Training	421	---	421	---	---	0	421	---	421
Commodities	90	---	90	---	---	0	90	---	90
Other Costs *	690	---	690	(26)	---	(26)	664	---	664
-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----
Total GRANT	5,000	5,827	10,827	500	0	500	5,500	5,827	11,327
LOAN									
-----									
Technical Assistance	---	---	0	736	---	736	736	---	736
Construction	2,510	---	2,510	(362)	---	(362)	2,148	---	2,148
Commodities	3,725	---	3,725	(374)	---	(374)	3,351	---	3,351
LRCN Recurrent Costs	185	---	185	---	---	0	185	---	185
Other Costs	260	---	260	---	---	0	260	---	260
-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----
Total LOAN	6,700	0	6,700	0	0	0	6,700	0	6,700
PROJECT TOTAL	11,700	5,827	17,527	500	0	500	12,200	5,827	18,027

\* includes the following items:  
local support (rent, utilities, maintenance, security,  
generator operation); travel and shipping; gasoline;  
and dependents' tuition.

A. USE OF REMAINING PROJECT FUNDS

The funds remaining in the project, as well as the increased funding in this amendment, will be used for technical assistance. Of this total (\$1,262,000), \$548,870 will be used to complete funding of the existing IIR contract, while the balance will be used to finance the contract extension.

B. COST ESTIMATE

The estimated cost of the contract extension under this amendment is approximately \$713,000. The estimate is based on the current cost of maintaining the technical assistance team and on USAID/Liberia's best projection of future technical assistance costs.

C. FINANCIAL PLAN

The project as currently funded includes the direct AID technical assistance contract with IIR. This extension will not alter the manner in which technical assistance is contracted.

Table 2: Method of Implementation and Financing

<u>Implementation Method</u>	<u>Financing Method</u>	<u>Approx. Amt. (\$000)</u>
Technical Assistance	direct payment	\$713



REPUBLIC OF LIBERIA  
MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND ECONOMIC AFFAIRS  
P. O. BOX 9016  
MONROVIA

OFFICE OF THE MINISTER

MPEA-822/D-7.18/'86

August 27, 1986

Madam Director:

The recent Evaluation of the Rural Information System (RIS) Project (669-0134) recommends among other things the continuation of technical assistance at this critical point of the project life, to ensure that:

- (a) Training is provided for the newly installed broadcast equipment;
- (b) Additional training for program production;
- (c) The Technical Assistance (TA) will assist in the collection and analysis of survey data relating to the evaluation of the program impact after several months of broadcasting.

Discussions held with the Project Staff, USAID, and the Management of LBS reveal that there is a need for extension of Technical Assistance from January 31, 1987 to September 31, 1987, which will be equivalent to 50 person-months of long-term technical assistance, approximately 7 person-months of short-term TA and limited commodities purchases.

The amount to fund this TA extension has been agreed upon accordingly:

1. USAID will provide additional funding in the amount of \$500,000 (Five Hundred Thousand Dollars);
2. USAID, LRCN and LBS have agreed to the re-programming of approximately \$762,000 in existing project funds;
3. Concurrence in LRCN commitment to provide level of counterpart staff and administer services required by this technical assistance extension.

Realizing the importance Government attaches to this project in its attempt to develop an efficient, reliable and effective Rural Communication Network System, the Government of the Republic

Ms. Mary Kilgour  
Director  
USAID  
Monrovia, Liberia

REPUBLIC OF LIBERIA

MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND ECONOMIC AFFAIRS

- 2 -

of Liberia hereby requests USAID to provide the required \$500,000.00 (Five Hundred Thousand Dollars) and to re-program existing funds as stated above to facilitate the extension of technical assistance to this project.

Kind regards,

Sincerely yours,



Paul R. Jeffy  
MINISTER

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THE LIBERIA RURAL COMMUNICATION NETWORK  
LIBERIA BROADCASTING SYSTEM

August 12, 1986

Ms. Mary Kilgour  
Director  
USAID  
Monrovia, Liberia

Dear Director Kilgour:

The Rural Information Systems (RIS) Project (669-0134) is about 12 months away from its completion date Sept. 30, 1987, while the Technical Assistance component is scheduled to end on Jan. 31, 1987. These dates were originally agreed upon with the hope that the Project would have been in full operation in 1984.

Because of delays in procurement and construction, LRCN is late in beginning regular broadcasting. Although these delays have been used positively to strengthen research, production, administrative activities and planning, insufficient time is left for the 18 months of technical assistance that was to follow the sign-on of LRCN. It is during this critical period that technical assistance will be extremely important to help establish the network on a firm foundation.

In their recent report, the Evaluation Team, which was here in March, 1986, strongly emphasized the need for extension of T.A. input from Jan. 30, 1987 to Sept., 1987 for the following reasons:

- 1) To continue training in:
  - Production
  - Technical services
  - Strengthening management procedures & capacity
- 2) To design and implement the Impact Evaluation
- 3) To help forge ties with development-oriented agencies and projects as a means of insuring LRCN's financial stability

Per our discussions with USAID, you have assured us that, of the \$1.2 million needed for the T.A. extension, USAID can provide \$500,000.00 while of the \$1.2 million available in the Loan Fund, \$736,000.00 could be transferred to support the Technical Assistance extension.

Please be informed that you have the approval of LBS Management to transfer the amount mentioned above from Loan Funds to augment the budget for T.A. extension.

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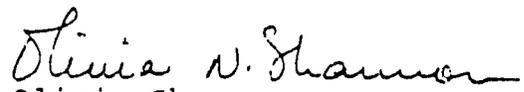
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Although the Government of Liberia is facing a serious financial crisis, it is in the best interest of institutionalizing the Project and ensuring its viability that the above approval is made.

Sincerely,

  
Olivia Shannon  
Director-General, LBS

/acd

Scopes of Work for Long-term  
Technical Assistance Team

(A) Chief of Party

Duties and Responsibilities

- (i) Continue to advise the Project Director and senior staff on development planning, the management of the network and effective development operations.
- (ii) Continue as a member of the Steering and Technical Committees which are responsible for monitoring the development of the project.
- (iii) Assist LRCN management in preparing for the final project evaluation.
- (iv) Work with the Steering Committee, the Technical Committee, LRCN and LBS management in the merger of LRCN and LBS.
- (v) Assist in the setting up of the Program Review Committee.
- (vi) Prepare the final project report and assist USAID in
- (vii) Continue to coordinate the work of the TA team.

(B) Administrative Assistant

Duties and Responsibilities

- (i) Assist the Chief of Party in contract administration.
- (ii) Advise and assist in the setting up of administrative, financial, procurement and procedures for the network.
- (iii) Undertake procurement and control of items for office, training and production purposes.
- (iv) Be responsible for communications with IIR Head Office and confidential typing.
- (v) Be responsible for maintenance and oversight of accounts, disbursements, petty cash transactions, banking, money transfer, etc. for the technical assistance team, and the filing of regular reports.

- (vi) Control project vehicles (their maintenance and servicing, provisions for fuel, records, etc.).
- (vii) Liaise with USAID/Liberia Project Officer and his staff in matters related to customs clearance, cablegrams, and other administrative matters related to the contract and the technical assistance team.
- (viii) Keep records, equipment and furniture inventories, files, etc.
- (ix) Carry out duties and responsibilities as delegated or assigned by the Contractor's Chief of Party.

(C) Central Programming and Production Advisor

Duties and Responsibilities:

To advise the Chief of Programming and, through him, the staff of the department on:

- (i) the organization and management of the department;
- (ii) the design and implementation of training systems to ensure a high level of production proficiency among the CPU staff;
- (iii) the development of work plans for the department and the CPU staff;
- (iv) the development of recruitment criteria and training requirements for the CPU production staff;
- (v) the design and teaching of the production components of the LRCN training programs;
- (vi) the development of system of communication, supervision, and coordination of program production and scheduling functions of the network;
- (vii) the development of work relationships with development-oriented ministries, agencies, and organizations in order to produce and broadcast radio programming (with graphic materials) which supports efforts which are national or multi-regional in scope;
- (viii) the development of a system for determining CPU program production priorities through the LRCN Steering Committee;

- (ix) the development of quality control standards and mechanisms for CPU programming;
- (x) the application of program evaluation data to program design and re-design, and to staff training and development.

(D) Regional Production Advisors (3)

Duties and Responsibilities

To advise Regional Station Managers, and through them, the regional production teams on:

- (i) the design and implementation of training systems to insure a high level of production proficiency among the RPU staff;
- (ii) the gathering and compilation of research data and program data and information;
- (iii) the gathering of content and the writing and production of programs which will address audience needs and reinforce local and national development efforts;
- (iv) the development of effective utilization of outreach personnel and local authorities in the furtherance of media messages;
- (v) the methodology for assessing the attitudinal and behavioral changes brought about by LRCN program;
- (vi) the role of Program Advisory Committees;
- (vii) the management of the stations particularly in relation to production and broadcasting;
- (viii) the ways and means of assisting development agencies to develop effective media programs to further their goals and objectives.