

PD-AAV-366
Bookcase -
Liberia

TRIP REPORT

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Period Covered: 9/6/82 - 9/10/82

Prepared by: Edward W. Abel

City and Country Visited: Monrovia, Liberia

Submitted to: Adrienne Allison

Date Drafted: 9/30/80

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Purposes

Edward Abel of The Futures Group visited Monrovia, Liberia from September 6 to September 10, 1982 for the purposes of : (1) collecting additional data from the government ministries; (2) consulting with government planners and USAID personnel regarding the content, format and timing of the final RAPID presentations; and (3) eliciting government support of presentations, aimed ultimately at the ministerial level.

Summary

Mr. Abel had several meetings to discuss the focus of RAPID:Liberia and collect additional data for RAPID with GOL officials from the Ministry of Planning, Ministry of Health, Ministry of Education, and the Ministry of Agriculture. In addition, a formal presentation, sponsored by the Ministry of Planning, was given to USAID personnel and GOL officials. The meetings and presentation were extremely productive and enthusiastically received by GOL officials. A final presentation, to be sponsored by the Ministry of Planning, is scheduled for late November or early December.

Background

There has only been one other visit to Liberia by a RAPID team. Philander Claxton and Murray Kenney visited Liberia in February 1981 and made a draft RAPID analysis presentation at that time. A committee of GOL officials and AID personnel reviewed the draft analysis and made comments regarding the focus of the analysis. In addition, the review committee sent additional information to be incorporated into the RAPID analysis.

Activities

The largest portion of the trip was spent meeting with various GOL ministries and USAID personnel. The purposes of these meetings were twofold. First, the current RAPID:Liberia analysis, especially the sector germane to the participants of the particular meeting, was presented. Discussions then followed as to whether the analysis was appropriate and what could be done to improve the analysis. The second purpose of the meetings was to obtain additional data that would improve the RAPID:Liberia analysis. In general, the meetings were very productive, and the analysis done prior to the trip was appropriate. There were, however, a few areas suggested by meeting participants that would improve the analysis.

1. The GDP per capita analysis in the economic sector should not be included in the final presentation. This point was mentioned by several meeting participants. The main objection to this analysis was that since the majority of the economic transactions in Liberia occur outside the formal economic sector, the reported GDP in no way reflects the wealth of the country.
2. The opportunity cost for rice self-sufficiency in the agriculture sector should not be included in the final presentation. The main objection to this analysis is the underlying assumption that land not used for rice production would be put into cash crop production. First, according to the GOL Ministry of Agriculture, there is an abundance of productive land in Liberia and, therefore, no competition for the land. Second, rice in Liberia is traditionally grown by women and cash crops grown by men so that even if less rice had to be grown, it is doubtful that women would shift from rice production to cultivating cash crops.
3. A nutrition analysis in the agriculture sector should be added, providing adequate data are available.
4. A primary education expenditure analysis should be added in the education sector. Data for this analysis were collected and the final presentation will include such an analysis.
5. Finally, the health sector should include, rather than future requirements for doctors and hospitals, an analysis of the number of rural health personnel as well as the number of rural health posts to be required in the future.

On the final day of the visit, a draft RAPID:Liberia presentation was made to several representatives from various GOL ministries and AID personnel. The comments made during the discussion that followed were generally the same ones that were mentioned during the meetings held previously in the week. In addition, several participants were interested in what would be the next step in adopting a national family planning program. Ms. Lois Richards, USAID Director, explained that while The Futures Group and USAID would continue making RAPID presentations to various GOL ministers and train GOL government personnel to run the RAPID model, it would be up to the GOL itself to adopt such a program.

It became apparent during the presentation that a current modulating device would be required for the final presentations. The modulator has been purchased and will be used during the final presentations to be conducted in late November.

SCHEDULE OF ACTIVITIES

September 7

- 8:30 a.m. meeting with Mr. Curt Wolters, USAID Economic Officer
- 9:00 a.m. meeting with Dr. Glenn Post, USAID Health Officer
- 10:00 a.m. meeting with Mr. Phillip Gadegbeku, Assistant Minister of Planning Ministry
- 1:00 p.m. test equipment at U.S. Cultural Division in preparation for September 10th RAPID:Liberia presentation
- 2:00 p.m. meeting with Mr. Augustus Hare, Director of Statistics for the Ministry of Education

September 8

- 9:00 a.m. collection of data from the Ministry of Education
- 10:00 a.m. meeting with Mr. Abdul R. Kiawu, Statistical Analyst for the Ministry of Health
- 1:00 p.m. meeting with Mr. J. Boima Weedor, Sr.--Director of Research & Statistics for the Ministry of Agriculture and several technicians from the Ministry of Agriculture
- 3:00 p.m. meeting with Mr. Henry Reynolds, USAID Education Officer

September 9

- 9:00 a.m. meeting with Mr. John Pielemeier, USAID Deputy Director
- 10:00 a.m. meeting with Mr. Curt Wolters, USAID Economic Officer
- 1:00 p.m. meeting with Dr. Glenn Post, USAID Health Officer
- 2:00 p.m. meeting with Dr. Richard Edwards, Contractor for USAID Agriculture Sector Analysis Project

September 10

- 9:00 a.m. meeting with Dr. Richard Edwards, Contractor for USAID Agriculture Sector Analysis Project
- 10:00 a.m. meeting with Ms. Lois Richards, USAID Director
- 2:00 p.m. presentation to various GOL ministry personnel and USAID staff
- 3:00 p.m. discussion of presentation

ATTENDANTS AT PRESENTATION
(9/10/82)

<u>NAME</u>	<u>TITLE</u>	<u>MINISTRY/ORGANIZATION</u>
Abdul R. Kiawu	Statistical Analyst	Health & Welfare
L. Pabs-Garnon	H. Q. Veterinarian	Agriculture
Evelyn C. McLeod	Program Officer	USAID
Jacob W. Wilson	Assoc. Peace Corps Dir.	Peace Corps
A. F. Tural	Asst. Minister	Ministry of Planning and Economic Affairs (MPEA)
Felix Awantang	USAID Consultant	
R. R. Tripathi	Cartographic Advisor	MPEA
S. Fegaw	UNICEF Project Officer	UNICEF
Alan Foose	Health Devel. Officer	USAID/Liberia
Glenn Post	Health Officer	USAID/Liberia
May Post	Public Health Physician	
John W. Davies	Asst. Min. Health & Welfare	
Philip Gadegbeku	Asst. Minister Planning for Statistics	
Z. Maulas Reeves	Economist	MPEA
John R. Riddle	Economist	U.S. Embassy
Lois Clarke Nyama	Coordinator	Family Plan. Assoc. of Liberia
Peter O. Tge	Statistician	Family Plan. Assoc. of Liberia
R. Edwards	Ag. Economist	USAID/MOA
Aaron Page	Director Rural Devel.	MPEA
Al-Hasan Conteh	Assistant Prof./Demo.	University of Liberia
Arnold J. Kandakai	Deputy Commissioner	Maritime Affairs, Finance
W. Newton	Research Analyst	National Investment Comm.
B.S. Abasi	Investment Analyst	
Lois Richards	Director	USAID
Curt Wolters	Economist	USAID
Lucy W. Page	Director of Human Res.	Labour
F. D. Giddings	Deputy Chief Nursing Off.	MOH/SCI
Wolor Topa	Deputy Minister of Justice	
J. Robert Ellis	Deputy Minister of Health	
Massaquoi, Foday J.	Legal Counsel	Ministry of Education
Jenkins Cooper	Program Assistant	USAID