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# LIBERIA COMMUNITY INFRASTRUCTURE PROJECT II

QUARTERLY REPORT APRIL – JUNE 2009

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## INTRODUCTION

This report covers the Liberia Community Infrastructure Project II performance period of April, May and June 2009, and is the sixth Quarterly Report submitted under LCIP II. This Quarterly Report includes a brief narrative of the project achievements, including a report on beneficiary targets versus actuals, and an explanation of the results including reasons for achievement or difficulties experienced. The targets are based on the November 1, 2008 Year II Annual Work Plan and Fiscal Year 2009 Targets submitted in October 2008 to USAID. This report does not provide a detailed list of progress and challenges on technical deliverables, grants, or other project activities; these are provided in the monthly technical progress reports.

The report provides a list of the 16 required performance indicators that are contained within the LCIP II Year II Work Plan. A brief narrative on the quality of the data, how it was obtained, and how project performance is being monitored is provided. The report also details what LCIP II is planning in the next 3 months.

## PROJECT DESCRIPTION

The Liberia Community Infrastructure Project (LCIP) began in 2004 essentially as a post-conflict relief effort for war-affected populations, rehabilitating small-scale community infrastructure, and preventing new outbreaks of conflict. In April 2007, DAI was awarded with LCIP II. This program shifted its focus away from immediate post-conflict relief works to a long term development initiative.

LCIP II aims to move away from a focus on relief to longer term development efforts. The program aims are not only to provide support for rehabilitating smaller scale community infrastructure and improving availability of essential services, but has expanded to provide substantial support for larger scale national infrastructure, including major roads and government institutions.

### LCIP II Objectives

The overall objective of the program as stated in the LCIP II contract is to restore and improve basic economic activity and livelihoods in Liberia. To achieve this objective, the program focuses on achieving the following expected results:

1. Restore the financial self-sufficiency of war affected persons (particularly youth and women), through activities that will provide employment and skills development opportunities;
2. Contribute to social cohesion in the communities, particularly through activities to restore community infrastructure and essential services; and,
3. Link communities to government by rehabilitating and reconstructing key national, county and local level infrastructure (such as administrative buildings, roads, and schools).

In the phase II Work Plan, LCIP expanded its existing scope of work to include the following activities:

- Planned, national infrastructure projects, including the rehabilitation of the National Elections Commission, Tubman National Medical Institute for the Arts (TNIMA), Engineering Building of Fendall Campus, four border posts, Maryland County Administrative building, Robertsport to Medina Highway, Sanquin River Bailey Bridge (on the Grenville-Buchanan Road), complete of rehabilitation and maintenance of the Grenville to Buchanan Road, and additional feeder roads (farm to market).
- Technical assistance, workshops, and study tours in support of institutional capacity building at the Ministry of Public works.
- Small scale community infrastructure projects that incorporate water supply and sanitation systems.
- The assessment of potential rehabilitation projects funded by partner donors or through multi-donor fund mechanisms.
- Activities focused on sustainable food production, value chain enhancement, security of staple agricultural commodities – those that either will employ significant numbers of rural populations or those that have the opportunity to provide jobs for targeted participants.

## LCIP II Components

To achieve these new goals, LCIP II is divided into two main components:

### Component One: Public Infrastructure (INF)

This component is focused on the rehabilitation of public roads and buildings. The projects include rehabilitation of hospital buildings, university selected buildings, primary, secondary and feeder roads, that connect urban and semi-urban development areas, and incorporating small community level structures as part of the ESR activities in rural development areas.

### Component Two: Economic and Social Reintegration (ESR)

ESR activities aim to support and strengthen capacity of micro and small enterprises through direct technical assistance and training. Project grants range from agricultural farming techniques to artisan training to micro-financing for small enterprises.

Though each component focuses on two different aspects of the program, the two will often work hand in hand in order to achieve greater impact. By having dual intervention in both road works and capacity building activities, the aim is to achieve a stronger outcome for beneficiaries of capacity building trainings by also providing better access to markets and businesses beyond the communities in which the activities are taking place.

## SUMMARY OF MAJOR ACCOMPLISHMENTS

During the third quarter of Fiscal Year 2009, project management focused on submitting Economic and Social Reintegration grant proposals to USAID for approval (21 grants in total), while it continued with its design, subcontracting, supervision, of national infrastructure items. Originally – 31 grants were proposed by DAI to USAID – however, USAID advised DAI to adjust its program to reduce the number of grants – focusing on managing fewer grantees and focusing on larger development impact and sustainability opportunities – ensuring no activity was “orphaned” at the end of the task order. By the close of June 2009, 17 grants were approved by USAID – totaling \$4.35M. The following early accomplishments were noted for this quarter:

- During this quarter 100% of POTUS furniture was constructed and 91% was delivered to five of the six counties that are receiving furniture.
- 497 of apprentices were recruited in 7 counties
- 102 of interns were recruited in Montserrado county
- 687 MOUs were signed with farming families, and additional 113 are under consideration.
- 3,139 acres of farm land has been rehabilitated, and additional 2,607 acres are under survey.

During this period many of the 2009 National Infrastructure (INF) dry-season deliverables were awarded and construction activities were begun. During this quarter the following major accomplishments were noted:

- Completion of 95% of all cross drainage structures, spot improvements and bridge repairs on the Greenville Buchanan Road. Final completion scheduled for July 31, 2009.
- Approximately 15% of the National Elections Commission rehabilitation was completed.
- Award of all Todee Road Development Corridor off-road activities was completed and work began.
- 75% of TNIMA Nurses Dormitory was completed,
- 78% of the Robertsport to Medina Road was completed,
- 75% of the Bong Mines to Yakpai Feeder Road was completed.
- The Sanquin River bridge abutments were 100% poured by the end of June – with minor works remaining on approach ramps, embankment protection, and grouted stone pitching. Deconstruction and re-launching of the Bailey Bridge is scheduled for July 2009.
- Contract for Bo Water Side Border Post was tendered and awarded and was in final negotiation with subcontractor.

Two new staff joined the LCIP team during this quarter. Joshua Palmer was mobilized for a 7 month assignment – seconded to the Ministry of Education to work with the Division of Educational Facilities (DEF) to build their capacity to design, procure and supervise the construction of rural primary schools – focusing on the 40 schools approved for the 2009 season, and to begin the process to allow construction in the coming dry season of 60 additional schools. Wambui Boulch was also mobilized during this quarter – serving as the new Monitoring and Evaluation Advisor for the LCIP II Task Order – focusing on data quality, impact, baseline surveys, and report writing.

With less than 12 months to completion of the LCIP II Task Order, the DAI team also submitted a budget realignment request to USAID – outlining its final program of activities, labor, and non-labor costs needed to support the remaining months of activities. This was approved on May 15, 2009 in Modification # 7. The DAI team has also begun preparatory work for the close down of regional offices located in the Buchanan, ITI, Nyenfues Town and Greenville – as well as the preparatory work for the full close down of all LCIP activities within the next 12 months. A pre-close down plan shall be submitted to USAID in the month of July 2009

## EMPLOYMENT DATA

The following table depicts the current list of LCIP II activities, April 1, 2008 – July 31, 2010, the original workforce and Person Days of Employment (PDE) targets (see draft Year II Annual Work Plan dated November 2008) and actual results (cumulative to date), including data from any currently active or recently closed grants that occurred within the reporting period. This data is not based on FY OP indicators/dates, but on **activity-level** details.

Type	Activity	Status	Target Workforce (A)	Apr-June 09 (B)	Actuals to Date (C)	% of Target Achieved to Date D=(C/A)	Target PDE (E)	Apr-June 09 (F)	Actuals to Date (G)	% of Target Achieved to Date (H) =(G/E)
ESR	Activities within Private Sector Development Component	O	915	642	642	70.2%	62,370	4820	4820	7.73%
ESR	Activities within Agriculture Production Component	O	1645	823	823	50%	11,550	25742	25742	223%
ESR	Activities within Small Scale Community Infrastructure Component	N	100	n/a	n/a	n/a	2,888	n/a	n/a	n/a
ESR	Activities within CPMR Component	N	250	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
INF	Rehab of Ministry of Public Works	C	*180	n/a	298	166%	*31,680		51,269	162%
INF	Rehab of Todee Road	C	*180	n/a	280	156%	*23,760		33,213	140%
INF	Rehabilitation of Maryland County City Hall	N	71	n/a	n/a	n/a	13,044		n/a	n/a
INF	Rehabilitation of National Elections Commission	O	91	206	243	267%	16,951	6982	7685	45.3%
INF	Rehabilitation of TNIMA	O	115	93	200	174%	23,019	4965	7422	32.2%
INF	Rehabilitation Four Border Posts	O	36	0	0	0%	6,906	0	0	0%
INF	Rehabilitation of Engineering Building – Fendall Campus	N	103	n/a	n/a	n/a	19,113		n/a	n/a
INF	Rehabilitation of Robertsport Medina Highway	O	344	269	269	78.2%	15,102	20118	20118	133.2%
INF	Rehabilitation of Sanquin River Bailey Bridge	O	115	148	148	129%	5,034	4798	4798	95.3%
INF	Rehabilitation of a Feeder Road Development Corridor	O	306	162	162	53%	13,424	8943	8943	66.6%
INF	Rehabilitation and Maintenance of Buchanan to Greenville Road	O	*120	175	396	330%	*7,920	8593	16783	212%
INF	Rehabilitation of Sinoe County Administrative Building	C	*30	25	42	140%	*1,980		5,694	288%
<b>TOTAL</b>			<b>4,091</b>	<b>503</b>	<b>1,403</b>	<b>34%</b>	<b>189,401</b>		<b>234,252</b>	<b>24%</b>

N = Not yet begun, C = Complete, O = Ongoing, D = Delayed

\* =Project activity from Year I Annual Work Plan, in process of being completed during this reporting period.

NA – Not Applicable

## NOTES

Most of the LCIP II grants associated with the first Annual Work Plan were closed prior to this quarter or were completed during the current reporting period. Employment and performance data for this quarter was generated through project grant activities that were continued from the second Annual Work Plan.

It should be noted that many of the projects that are reported on in the summary table above were not completed within the First Year of LCIP II, therefore the employment targets are based on the FY08 targets and are now carried through to FY09. These projects include the completion of the following major infrastructure activities:

- a. Rehabilitation of the Greenville to Buchanan Highway
- b. Rehabilitation of the Sinoe County Administration Building
- c. Rehabilitation of the Todee Road

All of these projects were completed during this quarter; therefore employment figures are lower than during peak performance.

During this period, several infrastructure projects were begun, including:

- a. Rehabilitation of the Maryland Administration County Building
- b. Reconstruction of the National Elections Commission Building
- c. Rehabilitation of the Bo Waterside Border Post
- d. Bong Mines Gate – Yakpai Town Feeder Road
- e. Rehabilitation of the Sanquin River Bridge Abutments

Because many of these activities were only begun during this quarter, the subcontractors are mobilizing to site and gearing up their labor force. As a result of this, lower than peak-performance actual results for employment were achieved.

## PERFORMANCE INDICATORS

The following tables show the **required** performance indicators (including USAID Annual Report data), as per the November 2008 LCIP II Draft Annual Work Plan.

**Type of Indicator: Required**

**Project Strategic Objective: Restore and Improve Basic Economic Activity and Livelihoods**

#	Indicator	Component	Target FY 2009	Current Reporting Period	Cumulative to Date	Types of LCIP Activities included
1	Number of additional hectares under improved technologies or management practices ( <i>FY 2009/10 OP indicator</i> )	ESR	2,333	3,139	3,139	Agricultural productivity
2	Number of persons participating in workforce development program ( <i>FY 2009/10 OP indicator</i> )	ESR, INF	2,910	1,403	1,403	Agricultural productivity, Workforce development, Microenterprise productivity
3	Number of persons completing workforce development program ( <i>FY 2009/10 OP indicator</i> )	ESR, INF	200	0	0	Agricultural productivity, Workforce development, Microenterprise productivity
4	Number of persons gaining employment or more remunerative employment as a result of participation in workforce development program ( <i>FY 2008 OP indicator</i> )	ESR	100	0	0	Agricultural productivity, Workforce development, Microenterprise productivity
5	Number of farmers trained in agricultural sector productivity ( <i>Proposed new FY 2009/10 OP custom indicator</i> )	ESR	2,970	0	0	Agricultural productivity
6	Number of micro enterprises receiving business development services( <i>FY 2009/10 OP indicator</i> )	ESR	1,110	63	63	Agricultural productivity, Workforce development, Microenterprise productivity
7	Number of micro enterprises linked to larger-scale firms as a result of assistance ( <i>FY 2009/10 OP indicator</i> )	ESR	45	0	0	Agricultural productivity, Workforce development, Microenterprise productivity
8	Number of producers organizations, water associations, trade and business associations, and community-based organizations (CBOs) receiving assistance ( <i>FY 2009/10 OP indicator</i> )	ESR & INF	30	4	4	Agricultural productivity, Workforce development, Microenterprise productivity, Community infrastructure,
9	Value (in US\$) of community contribution to LCIP II activity	ESR & INF	Min of \$USD 200/ community	435,857.90	435,857.90	Agricultural productivity, Workforce development, Microenterprise productivity, Community rehabilitation

#	Indicator	Component	Target FY 2009	Current Reporting Period	Cumulative to Date	Types of LCIP Activities included
10	Number of person days of employment generated ( <i>FY 2009/10 OP custom indicator</i> )	ESR & INF	176,000	17,681	41,417	All INF Activities, RAP Apprentices, PIP interns, Rubber Rehab, SSCI, Fisheries, POTUS Furniture
11	Kilometers of transport infrastructure constructed or repaired ( <i>FY 2009/10 OP indicator</i> )	ESR & INF	75 km	131.8km	131.8km	Greenville to Buchanan Road** Robertsport to Medina Road Todee Road already reported Feeder Roads ESR Community Infrastructure
12	Number of bridges rehabilitated or reconstructed	ESR & INF	7	3	10	Bridge repairs on Todee Road Sanquin Bridge ESR Community Infrastructure
13	Number of person days of training to improve local capacity for management and implementation of infrastructure activities ( <i>FY 2009/10 OP custom indicator</i> )	INF	600	0	400	Training of subcontractors on road maintenance in Buchanan
14	Square feet of buildings rehabilitated ( <i>revised</i> )	INF	59,000	0	0	TNIMA, NEC, Fendall, Maryland County Admin, 4 Border Posts
15	Number of classrooms repaired ( <i>USAID FAF Standard Indicator – Program Element Basic Education</i> )	INF	18	0	0	Fendall Campus, TNIMA
16	Number of sub-national government entities receiving assistance to improve their performance ( <i>USAID FAF Standard Indicator – Program Element Local Government and Decentralization</i> )	INF	12	8	9	Buildings (ministries, including line ministries at border posts) and Roads (county governments) JFK Medical Center, MPW, Ministry of Internal Affairs, Montserrado County, Grand Cape Mount County, NEC, Ministry of Finance

#### List of IRs

1. Employment and skills development opportunities for unemployed youth expanded;
2. Community infrastructure and essential services strengthened
3. Public infrastructure rehabilitation and reconstruction links communities to government

\*\* - Please note that the target for Indicator 11 excludes Greenville Buchanan Road activities as this activity was not included in the second annual workplan.

## ANALYSIS OF IMPACT DATA

For most of the indicators listed above, actual results can be explained by understanding project implementation methodology.

### INFRASTRUCTURE - ROADS

The achievements outlined above for road infrastructure include eight major activities during this reporting period,

The **Buchanan to Greenville Road** rehabilitation was about 97% completed in June 2009. During this reporting period, the following progress was achieved on the road under this grant to the Ministry of Public Works:

- Completion of laterite filling in 25 bad spots along the road.
- Shaping of 78km of road
- Installation and completion of end structures for 32 culverts
- 175 construction workers were employed during the quarter, generating 8,593 person days of employment.

Five of the nine subcontractors that received training in December 2009 were issued training trial contracts on the Greenville – Buchanan road to do drainage works installation. Of the five, four were used to carry out both cross-drainage and routine maintenance work, which included unblocking culverts and cutting back vegetation from the road, while one was specifically assigned to cross-drainage works. The quality and speed of drainage construction works on the road was noticeably more improved this quarter due to the use of the LCIP trained subcontractors for the drainage works. Spot improvement works were carried out by LCIP engineers with SMD, a Liberian company, rented equipment. All works are expected to be completed by the end of July.

During the quarter, there were a few challenges faced along the road. Delays were caused by rains starting as early as April hampering the speed of execution of road earth works. In order to make up for days lost to the rains, subcontractors worked longer hours.

Unreliable supply of labor also caused further delays. The labor supply fluctuations were mainly due to increased competition for labor between road improvement works and other activities, such as logging and agricultural farming activities, which have picked up due to improvements in the road. In order to adjust, subcontractors needed to bring in people from other communities, and in some cases, Monrovia.

On May 4<sup>th</sup>, Her Excellency, President Ellen Johnson Sirleaf, paid an unexpected visit to the staff along the Greenville Buchanan road, stopping at three different sites to talk to and congratulate the LCIP staff. She was impressed with the quality of the works done and the use of Liberian labour and community involvement, especially the integration of youth and women into project activities. She expressed her hope that this model could be replicated in other parts of the country.

The **Todee Road**, (31.25km) was handed over to the GoL on May 13, 2009 after all rehabilitation works on the road and 7 bridges were completed. However work continues to provide support, in the form of training, towards labor-based routine maintenance by Community Based Organizations (CBOs) and to complete off road community infrastructure. During the quarter, 8 CBOs in the road development corridor and 3 technical NGOs received labor based routine road maintenance training as part of a training and development scheme to introduce and support maintenance for sustainability of the road and other community access infrastructure.

By the end of the quarter, the Todee Road development corridor achieved:

- Total employment of 162 laborers creating 8,943 person days of employment.
- Completed rehabilitation of 31.25 Km of rural road including 7 bridges, thus providing access to and from communities in the Todee district, the national highway, the district headquarters, and social and economic services.
- Community social structures were set up, consisting of 20 Community Development Committees (CDCs) and 8 CBOs, to represent, plan and communicate the interests of their communities to potential donors and the various GOL entities.

Work commenced on some of the priority community access infrastructure identified during integrated access planning sessions by CDCs and CBOs. The subprojects include:

- Improving access to elementary education facilities through the rehabilitation of 3 classroom blocks in Nyehn, Manjoe and Yoa public elementary schools, the works for which commenced on May 18, 2009.;
- Improving access to health services by providing 7 accommodation facilities (nurses quarters) at the Nyehn District Health Center, works of which started on May 18, 2009. This Health Center has been assisted by Merlin and Irish Aid.
- Improving access to safe water by rehabilitating 16 wells and providing 20 hand-dug lined wells fitted with lift pumps, and training local CBO members in repair and maintenance of the pumps plus allocating a small inventory of spare parts. The works and training started on May 7, 2009;
- Improving community access roads through the rehabilitation of minor bridges, removal of bottle necks, foot bridges etc. The procurement of subcontractors for 3 structures consisting of 1 composite bridge and vented drift was completed during June. Contract signatures between DAI and the subcontractor will occur in the following quarter. The procurement of the remaining access infrastructure is expected for the next quarter.

The **Medina – Robertsport** Road (41.34 Km) rehabilitation works, packaged into 2 subcontracts that were signed at the end of the last quarter (March 24, 2009) effectively picked up at the start of April 2009. By the end of the quarter, the following had been achieved:

- Rehabilitation works had progressed to 78% representing a total completion of 36.8km of road formation with gravel surface and 55 of the estimated 62 lines of various sized RC culverts.
- HIV / AIDS awareness campaigns designed as mitigation measures to avert potential risk of infections generated from the unusually heightened social interactions caused by construction projects were implemented in the villages of Bomi, Fali, Latia, Teh and Torso along the road. These were received with great enthusiasm by workers and residents. The subcontractor has been approached by several community members requesting additional awareness campaigns. (Note that the topic of HIV/AIDS is one that generates much interest as there is so much misinformation and rumor. Solid information and facts from reliable sources is much sought after.)
- The project employed 269 workers during the quarter, resulting in a total of 20,118 person days of employment to date.
- Cost estimates were finalized for a 1 km stretch of alternative low cost surface using Otta seal technology, planned to be implemented under the grant.

Rainfall increased during June 2009, the usual trend, and is expected to rise through the next quarter. The condition may continue to affect progress by causing delays, especially in earthworks and cross drainage works.

**Feeder Roads Projects** – Three (3) feeder roads are planned to be implemented. The projects in this category include:

- The rehabilitation works of Bong Mine Gate – Yakpai road totaling 19.6 km. This subcontract was signed on April 27, 2009 and commenced on May 1, 2009. During the quarter, approximately 70% progress had been achieved with 13 Km of road shaped. The rainy season, which began in June 2009, is expected to continue generating sporadic delays on the project works. By end of the quarter a total of 8,943 person employment days were generated.
- Identification and assessment of Spot Improvement works on the Koon – Yapkai road (20 Km) comprising 246 linear meters of cross drainage structures and 8.45km of road formation was completed. Procurement of the subcontractor for formation works was completed and contract signatures will occur at the start of the next quarter.
- A feeder road planned to be implemented in Bong County will also be used as practical experience in a work process training for County and Headquarters MPW Engineers involved in rural feeder road works. One goal of the training will include improvement of an estimated 20 km of the Maimu – Tokpaikpolo feeder road.
- Routine maintenance training is planned for 3 CBOs along the Bong Mines Gate – Yapkai road.
- A local NGO is to undertake a baseline survey and create 3 CBOs along the Bong Mines Gate – Yakpai road. The proposal was finalized and the services are expected to commence during the next quarter.

As stated in the Year II Annual Work Plan, LCIP committed to helping the Government of Liberia achieve part of its PRS goal to rehabilitate secondary roads around the country.

These feeder roads are intended to open up access to different communities and towns, connect farmers to markets, stimulate micro enterprises and allow greater local community interaction and benefits from the GOL. LCIP ESR agricultural activities have also been planned along feeder road areas.

The **Sanquin River Diversion Channel Bridge** rehabilitation was started in December 2008 with the launch of the Bailey Bridge super-structure, as an emergency and temporary measure to provide access to Sinoe County following partial failure of the original log bridge. Commencement of work on the permanent structure was supposed to begin in the previous quarter but was delayed due to high water levels within the watercourse during January – March, preventing any work from being started.

Excavation for the abutment foundations started in early April. They were completed by the end of the month. Concrete works (400 m<sup>3</sup> or 1000 tons) for the foundations and wall stems and forming of the abutments were executed during May and June. Access ramps, (7,500 m<sup>3</sup> or 15,000 tons of lateritic road gravel), linking the new bridge with the existing road were undertaken concurrently with the concrete works.

The delivery methodology adopted was designed to maximize the use of local resources. Thus labour based activities focused on:

- sand extraction for both concrete and a free draining back fill to both abutments,
- concreting aggregate, crushed locally,
- concrete mixing and placing, construction of form work for the concrete,
- finishing of the approach ramps
- grass planting for the protection of the approach ramps embankments.

The removal, dismantling and re-launch of the Bailey from the original bridge position to the new bridge position will be executed when rains abate. This is expected to occur at the end of July 2009, during the small dry periods normally experienced during the month.



**Presidential Motorcade Arriving at Sanquin**



**President Sirleaf Meeting Two of the LCIP Sanquin Team (Augustus Bia & Farwen Jekepei)**

## INFRASTRUCTURE - BUILDINGS

During this reporting period, three new building projects were started. These buildings include the Bo Waterside Border Post, National Elections Commission and the Maryland – Harper Administration building, all summarized below:

The **Border Post** rehabilitation project was tendered out this quarter and is expected to begin in the next quarter. As part of improving national security, LCIP, at the request of the Government of Liberia, will rehabilitate 4 border posts to strengthen border crossing controls. Currently, the border posts do not have adequate facilities to house immigration officials or secure storage for items that need clearance or may be confiscated. Due to the lack of capacity and the conditions of the border posts, officials have offices disbursed throughout the towns where the posts are located. The lack of a centralized facility allows porous entry and exit points and inadequate verification of people and goods crossing the borders into and out of Liberia. Another issue is adequate collection of customs duties and visa fees. Time delays are also created as officials must be located to conduct searches and approve crossings. The intention of rehabilitating these four key posts is to increase security and decrease the time it takes to cross.

The Border Posts will be rehabilitated in the following four sites:

### *Bo Waterside (Sierra Leone Border)*

This project was in the pre-construction stage for the duration of the reporting period. LCIP is managing the design, tendering process and the construction supervision. The technical drawings, bills of quantities, specifications and Conditions of Contract were all finalized. A total of 13 contractors were pre-qualified of which 9 bid. The contract was awarded to Seek Engineering. Construction and work will commence early July.

### *Ganta Border Posts (Cote d'Ivoire Border)*

Discussions are ongoing with GSA/IBI regarding this collaborative effort on this project. The GSA is supposed to be the government agency that constructs and maintains the border posts. However, they currently have very limited capacity. The purpose of the collaborative effort is to use this border post as a form of training for the agency.

GSA has presented comprehensive Microsoft Project software outputs for LCIP/DAI consideration and response. (Microsoft Project is a project planning and management tool that generates resource sheets and works programs outlining details, activities, durations, human resources and material needs.) Project planning is the central theme for the GSA capacity building program implemented by IBI. A Memorandum of Understanding is being formulated outlining roles and responsibilities of the collaborating agencies.

### *Yella, (Guinea Border) and Toes Town Border Posts (Cote d'Ivoire Border)*

It is anticipated that these posts will be implemented directly by LCIP/DAI. It is intended to explore alternative materials that, when used, provide a significantly improved working environment. LCIP/DAI is also exploring the possibility of using ESR RAP beneficiaries for the fabrication of doors, windows, roof trusses etc as a way to provide further practical experience for these artisans.

The reconstruction of the **National Election Commission** building was awarded to Liberia Reconstruction Development Company (LRDC), a Liberian owned construction company as a design and build contract on March 23, 2009. All works are to be executed and completed within 274 calendar days.

During the reconstruction exercise, temporary jobs for 250 semi and unskilled laborers are expected to be created, which will include men and women. For this reporting period, the civil works were begun and nearly completed. The foundations were laid, and the columns and beams put in place. 206 workers were employed between April and June, generating 6,982 person days of employment.

There were several challenges faced this quarter during implementation. Most critically is an ambitious 11 months for design, construction, and handover. Heavy rains, poor procurement schedules, and subcontractor cash liquidity issues caused severe delays in implementation.

In order to help remedy these problems, various mechanisms were put in place by both LCIP and the subcontractor. To deal with time lost and further time lags, the subcontractor increased the working shifts to two 12 hour shifts for a 24 hour workday and brought in another Ghanaian shift manager. LCIP took over some of the procurement responsibilities to make sure that materials were purchased in a timely manner and would not be affected by the subcontractor cash shortages. LCIP also brought in a scheduling expert to work directly with LRDC on their work and procurement schedules. All these measures have helped to recoup lost time.



**Foundation dug in May 2009**



**Columns and Foundation walls begin May 2009**



**Floor slab completed, 1<sup>st</sup> floor columns – June 2009**



During this quarter, the handing over ceremony of the **Harper City Hall** to Gilgal Construction Company, who were subcontracted in June 2009 by LCIP to perform the rehabilitation services, was held. During this ceremony, all City Hall officials, Maryland County officials, and community members were present to celebrate the arrival of the reconstruction effort. Maryland County is not a primary recipient of significant development funding - due to its distance from Monrovia. Therefore, the arrival of such a large team of workers was greatly appreciated, and gratitude was expressed by both the City Mayor and the County Superintendent at this important turning over ceremony.

During the dry season it takes a minimum of 2 - 3 days to travel between Monrovia and Harper by road - due to the long distance, indirect routes, and poor conditions of the road. The subcontractor is, therefore, shipping materials by boat and by road, and is endeavoring to produce many materials locally in Harper to overcome this logistical challenge. LCIP has encouraged the contractor to pre-purchase as much as possible to avoid the additional delays expected when the rains begin.

The rehabilitation effort is expected to take 5 months - and shall provide shared offices for both the County and City officials. This is the 10th County Administration Building to be rehabilitated by LCIP. Due to its distance, size, and political importance - this rehabilitation shall certainly be the most challenging.

## **CAPACITY BUILDING: INFRASTRUCTURE**

A draft concept note was prepared for an integrated work process training of the MPW Engineers involved in rural feeder road works at both Headquarters and County level. The activities involved in the process are expected to take place during the next quarter. The expected outputs of this project are the training of 22 MPW Engineers based at County and Headquarter level, an estimated 20 km of feeder road improved and an average of 125 persons employed per month for 3 months.

A training and development scheme to introduce and support maintenance for sustainability of road and other community access infrastructure, an 8 day labor-based routine road maintenance training for 8 CBOs and 3 technical NGOs was carried out in Todee from May 11 – 19, 2009. The training was attended by 23 participants and implemented in collaboration with the MPW.

## **ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL REINTEGRATION ACTIVITIES**

In the quarter under review, 18 grants were signed and started.

Twelve proposals that were submitted in March started in early April, including the following:

1. POTUS furniture production and distribution
2. 2009 “Made in Liberia” trade fair
3. Rehabilitation of Artisans/ Apprenticeship Program: microenterprise and workforce development in Liberia’s northwest region
4. Rehabilitation of Artisans/ Apprenticeship Program: microenterprise and workforce development in Liberia’s southeast region
5. Intern program
6. Inland fish farming
7. Cash food crop: Bong
8. Cash food crop: Grand Gedeh
9. Cash food crop: Monserrado (Todee)
10. Food processing and preservation
11. Business incubator and startup
12. Cottage industry: value added to coconuts

In early June, six more grants were signed and started, including:

1. Cash food crops: Grand Bassa
2. Cash food crops: Cape Mount
3. Small scale community infrastructure
4. Small tree crops: Cocoa, coffee, and food crops: Lofa
5. Small tree crops: Rubber in Margibi, cash food crops in Nimba
6. Cash food crops and support to the 2009 National Agriculture Fair: River Gee

During April, May, and June, LCIP focused on supporting the implementing partners individually in order to provide continued capacity and support building. Key staff members of each partner organization, including the finance manager, project manager, and executive director, have met repeatedly with ESR, Grants, M&E, and Finance teams in the LCIP office to review and improve financial management, financial reporting, narrative reporting, and indicator reporting.

In the field, the ESR team emphasized the training-of-trainers sessions (TOT), conducting multi-day workshop with the entire implementing partner staff. This tactic was employed to verify that the implementation strategy would be well communicated to all field workers. After the TOT, the same team worked on multi-day beneficiary orientation sessions. These meetings were conducted with the same objective of communicating the implementation strategy, under the premise that, if the beneficiaries were aware of the strategy from the onset, they might be better directed and more motivated to succeed.

Due to the delays in grant signing, the ESR team directly conducted the TOT and beneficiary orientation workshops to help compensate for the late start dates.

During this quarter, there were two ESR projects which demonstrated noticeable progress:

#### **COTTAGE INDUSTRY DEVELOPMENT: ADDING VALUE TO COCONUT**

In June, a 4-person team from the Filipino organization Sustainable Rural Enterprises (SRE) arrived to conduct a series of training-of-trainers workshops for a 12-person Liberian team. SRE is working in partnership with LCIP's partner Center for Energy and Sustainable Technologies (CSET) who provides logistical and administrative support. The first TOT session lasted 7 days. The teams were grouped by sectors: metal work, food processing, jewelry and mats, oil and charcoal. After that workshop, the Filipino team accompanied the Liberian trainers on a two-week field trip to conduct training with communities in Sinoe and Grand Bassa. During these sessions, the Liberian team conducted the instruction under the supervision of the SRE team. This practical application allowed SRE to observe the strengths and weaknesses of the newly certified Liberian trainers. The field trip will finish in July, after which the SRE team will conduct a final TOT based on their observations from the community training workshops.

The project will provide several success stories as the project matures over the next few months. The metal work team quickly created excellent replicas of time-saving tools introduced by SRE, including the efficient stove for oil and charcoal production and an oil press. The coconut shell charcoal has been demonstrated to be less labor and time intensive, as well as more environmentally friendly, than charcoal produced from wood. The innovative team on the ground was even able to produce a machine to expedite twine production using a damaged bicycle wheel. The trainers have realized that the new products that they are learning to make are in high demand. Their production for items including jewelry, virgin oil, diabetic-friendly sugar, and diverse coconut foods cannot yet meet the demand. We expect that their booth at the trade fair will be one of the more impressive ones.

On June 24<sup>th</sup>, 2007, USAID CTO McDonald Homer and Anthony Carvalho visited the graduation ceremony of the training of trainers and were able to see a demonstration of all the new skills that the SRE team had taught the trainers.

#### **DISTRIBUTION OF POTUS FURNITURE**

A private transport company was engaged to help deliver furniture. Of the 10,500 school furniture pieces successfully produced by LCIP's 29 carpentry shops in 7 counties, 9,500 pieces were successfully distributed to 154 schools in 6 recipient counties in the period under review. The delivery and distribution process has been a tremendous challenge considering Liberia's damaged infrastructure. Several schools in one River Cess district have not yet been accessed because the connecting bridge was damaged. Additionally, some furniture destined for Grand Kru will not be delivered until the rains subside in October. In many locations, creative distribution was employed in order to avoid delays.

For example, two schools in one district of River Cess County were inaccessible by road, so it was decided to organize a river crossing requiring canoes, kayaks, and community support. The launch site was in the heart of Cestos City's fishing village. The UN Ghanaian contingent commander provided a truck to transport furniture that had been stored in the Cestos City High School to the river bank. A fisherman who received support from LCIP in 2007 loaned two boats for the effort, and a recipient school vice president offered his canoe. We limited the effort to three canoes at a time for managerial purposes. Across the Cestos River, approximately 50 children from two recipient schools in the remote Yarne District waited on the beach to help carry furniture back to their schools. They had to walk 15 - 20

minutes on a foot path to reach the first school. The second school is located about 15 minutes beyond that. Our Cestos City carpenter, who also received LCIP support in 2007, traveled to the schools to attach the arms to the school chairs on site. It was an entertaining process. LCIP Technical Advisor Philip Zoryu crossed in a canoe, and ESR Team Leader Cynthia Mahoney crossed in her kayak, pulling the occasional overboard pieces out of the water.



Children from two schools inaccessible by road volunteered to walk 20 minutes to the river bank to meet the canoes, receive the furniture, and help carry the chairs and desks back to their village. Some children made several trips.



School children in Cestos City helping to load the canoes that will transport chairs and desks across the river.



DAI ESR Team Leader, Cynthia Mahoney, rescuing a school chair that fell from one of the canoes.



Children helping in unloading of furniture; these children also helped carry the school chairs 20 minutes from the river bank to their village.



LCIP Technical Advisor Philip Zoryu accompanies River Cess District Education Officer to transport furniture across the river.



The canoe captains directed the loading process. .

#### **CHALLENGES AND LESSONS LEARNED: TRADE FAIR POSTPONEMENT**

The most significant challenge in the quarter under review was timing the proposal submission with the travel schedule of the Contracting Officer. In April, six grants were submitted. Two weeks later, we were informed that we had CTO approval but that the Contracting Officer had not yet reviewed our proposals and was going on leave for 4.5 weeks. Upon his return, he was able to sign them in under two weeks. However, the anticipated approval time once the proposals were submitted had been 2 – 3 weeks rather than 8 weeks.

As a result, these six partners requested that the trade fair, originally scheduled for the last week in June, be postponed. The ESR team held a meeting with all implementing partners during which a consensus was reached that the trade fair should be rescheduled. As July, August, and September typically experience the heaviest rainfall, the event has been tentatively rescheduled for the first week of October.

#### **FORECAST FOR THE NEXT QUARTER**

Early in the next quarter, four remaining grants are expected to be signed. The final grants include:

1. Cottage industry development: Honey production
2. 2009 LCIP beneficiary competition
3. Cash food crops: Upper Bong
4. Workforce readiness

## DATA QUALITY

The following is a brief narrative about how the project's performance information has been gathered, how indicators have been monitored, and any field visits and spot-checks efforts that were made.

As part of the function of the M&E Unit, among others, information was gathered and reported, including the key performance indicators. The information gathering process is two fold:

1. Information gathered directly by the LCIP M&E Unit through random site visits, as a result of questionable data reported directly by the implementing partners, analysis of performance indicator data trends which require further verification, and/or at the request of LCIP II Senior Management or by other project stakeholders; and
2. Information gathered and reported directly by the project's implementing partners (Liberian NGO grantees) and subcontractors (for-profit construction companies).

The M&E Unit gathers performance information during field visits, and spot checks from reports received from partners and subcontractors. Partners and subcontractors are requested to report information collected on indicators during their milestone and final reports. The information reported is then verified during the M&E unit's field visits and spot checks to authenticate the reported data from these secondary sources.

Field visits and spot checks are done as regularly as possible depending on the number of activities being implemented in relevant communities or counties. Field visits are conducted at least twice a month (at most three times per month) to validate information provided by partners and subcontractors. If the field visit or spot checks reveals that information provided by any of the partner or subcontractor is inaccurate or questionable, it is not utilized until further authenticated, after which it is either included in the final report or rejected. In the event the information provided directly from the Implementing Partners or subcontractors through milestone reporting is inconsistent, inaccurate, or not understood, a "validation visit" is conducted prior to inclusion in any report.

Ongoing communications with implementing partners and subcontractors is maintained via phone or email to collect information and to also do preliminary verification on information received. However, information received from partners and subcontractors through phone or email is considered preliminary until it is verified or authenticated by documentary evidence, via field visits, and/or spot checks.

For the period under review, the Monitoring and Evaluation team reviewed and screened twenty one grants and six subcontracts for potential environmental impact in compliance with the amended Initial Environmental Examination (IEE) recommendations. The grants and subcontracts were screened using an environmental review form and checklist adapted from the Environmental Capacity Building Program (USAID Africa Bureau) Environmental Guidelines for Small-scale Activities in Africa. Field monitoring visits to grants and subcontract sites were conducted assess progress of activities from the M & E and environmental compliance perspective. The purpose of the assessments was to conduct spot checks, verification of progress of grants activities and monitoring of subcontract activities to verify that mitigation measures are effective. There were no major concerns identified during these visits.

Below is a list of grants visited during this quarter:

No.	Grant Name	Grant/ Sub-contractor #	Grantee/Sub-contractor	Location	Date of Field Visit
1	Rural Artisan and Apprenticeship Program	MPA024/C/07	ECREP	Grand Gedeh	June 30, 2009
2	Cash Food Crops: Todee	MPA025/C/04	TECURD	Montserrado	May 21, 2009
3	Rehabilitation of Robertsport-Medina Road	MPA023/A/01	SSF Entrepreneurs	Cape Mount	June 9, 2009
4	Rehabilitation of Bong Mine Gate-Yarkpa Feeder Road	MPA028/A/01	SSF Entrepreneurs	Montserrado	June 16, 2009

In addition, the team attended several site progress meetings at the Tubman National Institute of Medical Arts (TNIMA) Rehabilitation Project in Sinkor, the Robertsport – Medina Road and the Todee Road Rehabilitation Project. These visits also included M&E and environmental assessments. The purpose of the assessments was to gather some firsthand information on the project, enlighten contractors to act in accordance with the environmental guidelines of Liberia, educate communities about the restoration of borrow pits, and to conduct spot checks as a way to verify workforce data reported from these sites. The team also emphasized the role of M & E in achieving LCIP project objectives, the importance of data quality and the timely reporting of employment data.