

Hearing on Liberia
Before the
COMMITTEE ON INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS
Subcommittee on Africa,
Global Human Rights & International Operations



Witness: Lloyd Pierson
Assistant Administrator
U.S. Agency for international Development

Wednesday, February 8

1:30 PM

Room 2200 Rayburn HOB

**HOUSE APPROPRIATIONS COMMITTEE
SUBCOMMITTEE ON FOREIGN OPERATIONS
HEARING ON LIBERIA**

February 8, 2006 - 1:30 PM - Room 2200 Rayburn Office Building

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January 27, 2006

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The Honorable Frederick W. Schieck
Acting Administrator
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1300 Pennsylvania Avenue, N.W.
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Dear Mr. Schieck:

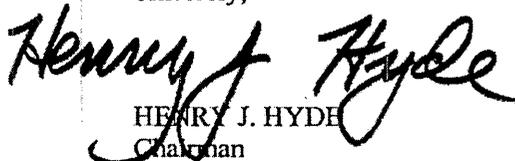
I am writing to request that you designate Lloyd Pierson, Assistant Administrator for Africa, to testify before the House Committee on International Relations' Subcommittee on Africa, Global Human Rights and International Operations on Wednesday, February 8, 2006, at 1:30 p.m., at a hearing to be held in Room 2200 of the Rayburn House Office Building, entitled, "The Impact of Liberia's Election on West Africa."

We would like Mr. Pierson to discuss USAID's plans for Liberia in light of the new government, especially any efforts to cement the democratic process. Additionally, we would like him to address U.S. assistance to Liberia in the context of known donor programs in that country.

Enclosed are the Subcommittee's instructions for hearing witnesses. Please have Mr. Pierson's biography and written statement electronically transmitted to the Subcommittee no later than 12:00 p.m. on Tuesday, February 7, 2006. This material may be sent to lindsey.plumley@mail.house.gov. If you have any questions, please contact Lindsey Plumley of the Subcommittee staff at 202-226-7812, and he will be happy to assist you.

With best wishes,

Sincerely,


HENRY J. HYDE
Chairman

HJH:lp
Enclosure

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Up

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Testimony by Assistant Secretary Jendayi E. Frazer
“The Impact of Liberia’s Election on West Africa”
House International Relations Committee
Subcommittee on Africa, Global Human Rights and International Operations
Chairman Christopher H. Smith
February 8, 2006

INTRODUCTION

Good afternoon, and thank you, Mr. Chairman, for the opportunity to testify about the positive domestic and regional implications of Liberia’s recent presidential election. President Bush and Secretary Rice have made Africa a policy priority, and I am proud to stand before you as a member of their team. It was my privilege to join the First Lady and Secretary Rice at the recent swearing in of President Ellen Johnson Sirleaf, and I believe the high level U.S. delegation conveyed our interest in renewing our close relationship with the people of Liberia.

We are living in a period of unique opportunity for Africa. Across the continent, civil conflicts are giving way to civil society and free elections. The election and inauguration of Liberia’s new president, Ellen Johnson Sirleaf, is a prime example. This is a nation with whom the United States has historically shared a close relationship. This is also a nation whose development and productivity were hobbled for 14 years by civil war; Liberia has now given the African continent its first democratically elected woman president. Changes are afoot, and there are many reasons to be hopeful for the Liberian people and their neighbors.

While working with our African partners, I am always cognizant of President Bush’s directive to make the world “safer, better, and freer.” This phrase encapsulates the President’s foreign policy objectives. President Bush supports policies that involve making real changes in the lives of real people, and this Administration’s policies on Liberia are one noteworthy piece of the larger picture being painted by Members of Congress and professional staff at various federal agencies.

This is a good news story about Americans supporting African efforts to better Africa. As Secretary Rice recently noted, “Transformational diplomacy is rooted in partnership, not paternalism; in doing things with other people, not for them. We seek to use America’s diplomatic power to help foreign citizens to better their own lives and to build their own nations and to transform their own futures.”

For a nation whose name literally means ‘land of the free’ and whose founders were freed American slaves, self-determination is not only strategically important, but also etymologically relevant. The confluence of defense, diplomacy, and development efforts that the U.S. government has undertaken are helping Liberia move from a state of war toward being a state at peace. The American people deserve to feel proud of their government and its actions.

Today, my goal is to elaborate on the three key reasons why the 2005 Liberian presidential election is a win not only for the people of Liberia, but also for the people of this country. The first is that regional stability is improved with a democratic and secure Liberia. The second is that the region's trend toward democratization is reinforced by Liberia's election. Lastly, an economically prosperous Liberia will have positive repercussions, enhancing trade and development throughout West Africa. Economic growth would reinforce the simultaneous political transformation, establishing a welcome cycle of progress toward hope, stable elected rule, and prosperity.

REGIONAL STABILITY

President Bush's strategy for national defense is one of global peace and security. In practice, this means working bilaterally or multilaterally to address given situations. It means working with regional and sub-regional organizational partners, such as the African Union and Mano River Union. Since 2001, one of the central elements of President Bush's Africa policy has been the emphasis on supporting the capacity of African countries and regional organizations to mediate conflicts and carry out peacekeeping operations.

The President understands that regional conflicts have global repercussions. Consider the fact of civilian deaths, refugees and internally displaced persons, arable land that lies uncultivated, and stagnant economies that offer parents no way to support their children. Liberia's internal conflict produced refugees, destroyed the nation's infrastructure, and exported trouble to nearby states, such as Sierra Leone.

Liberia's condition is clearly of concern beyond its own borders. If Liberia is internally secure, all of West Africa will benefit. It becomes easier for the region to address the ongoing unrest in Cote d'Ivoire, as well as fragile situations in Guinea and Sierra Leone. A stable Liberia is a force for regional stability.

With few interludes, Liberia's civil war raged for 14 years. In the spring and summer of 2003, President Bush supported the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS) in putting together a comprehensive agreement toward a lasting peace. When chaos broke out in the streets of the capital, President Bush sent diplomats and U.S. Marines into Liberia to protect the innocent and create some sense of order amid the chaos. Only Nigerian soldiers arrived earlier than our Marines.

The American action was historic, and represented the first time American boots had touched African soil for stability operations in nearly a decade. Following that deployment, the United States stayed the course in Liberia with further logistical assistance to the ECOWAS Mission in Liberia (ECOMIL) and provided extensive humanitarian assistance. On September 19, 2003, the United Nations Security Council adopted Resolution 1509, which established a peacekeeping operation in Liberia, known as UNMIL. UNMIL has consisted of 15,000 troops plus a sizeable contingent of UN police officers and military observers. This force has helped maintain calm.

The Liberians were then able to establish a transitional government that paved the way for free and fair elections in October 2005. National reconstruction is underway, and the United States has taken the lead as the major contributor. The U.S. Congress generously appropriated over \$840 million in the last two fiscal years to help with reconstruction efforts. More than \$520 million of that money has supported UNMIL. For fiscal year 2006, our request is more than \$250 million for continued support of the nation's reconstruction efforts.

Liberia continues to benefit from various U.S. Government funding, including: Economic Support Funds, Development Assistance, Migration and Refugee Assistance Account, and Child Survival Health Funds. The U.S. has the largest diplomatic mission in Liberia, and the U.S. is supporting security reforms, including the new Liberian National Police Academy. Between 2004 and 2005, the U.S. contributed \$60 million to support the training and equipping of a civilian-led Liberian military and police force. Recruiting for the new army began on January 18, and the goal is to have a new army of 2,000 soldiers ready by 2008.

Sending American Marines into Monrovia was a bold action with positive results. After years of turmoil, Liberians are beginning a long process of reconstruction and post-war recovery. Nearly two decades of conflict left the national infrastructure in shambles and left people without basic services, such as access to clean water and electricity.

The tide has turned, and since 2003, Liberians have had the opportunity to restore order, create a responsive government, and welcome refugees home. Liberia's transition from war to peace is a crucial and historic development. As former General and President Dwight Eisenhower noted many years ago, "We seek peace, knowing that peace is the climate of freedom." That remains true. Today, we seek peace by sowing seeds of democracy.

DEMOCRATIZATION

The United States has had a close relationship with Liberia dating back to the 1820s. In fact, the U.S. was Liberia's closest ally until civil war broke out in 1989. As we look to the future, there is reason to believe we can renew that close friendship.

The Liberian people had an opportunity to elect new leadership last fall, and people voted for freedom; they voted to have a voice in their national government. The U.S. government policy is to support and encourage democratic rule abroad, and for that reason, the U.S. spent \$10 million in support of last October's election. We believe that freedom is the way forward. Every nation's government will reflect local cultures and values, but only a free government can hope to protect individuals' liberty and nurture its people's untapped potential.

In Liberia, our goal is to support local efforts to stand up a freely elected government, a dynamic economy, and the health, educational, and other services that are essential to the well-being of any nation. The peaceful and fair election of Ellen Johnson

Sirleaf is encouraging. The victory for gender inclusiveness her win symbolizes is likewise positive.

We have made great progress since 2003 due to the concerted effort of the many American public servants who were mobilized to engage on so many levels. Our Congress, the Department of Defense, the Department of Treasury, the Marines, USAID, and the State Department all helped to effect this transition, and lest we forget, our diplomats stood with the Liberian people to ensure that they could express their opinions and vote, thereby formally ending the era of civil war. This is a Liberian solution to a Liberian challenge. Americans are participating, but only as partners.

The U.S. continues to support Liberian recovery efforts as an important element of our security, political, economic, and humanitarian strategy for West Africa. After all, nations with democratically elected governments can resolve internal disputes on Election Day, and they are unlikely to destabilize or terrorize their own people or adjacent nations.

Toward this end, we have and will continue to offer monetary and other assistance. The U.S. government has proactively engaged the international community and advocated on behalf of Liberia. In February 2004, this country co-hosted an international conference on Liberia's reconstruction. Donors pledged over \$522 million in assistance. The U.S. contributed \$200 million toward the critical humanitarian needs of refugees and displaced persons, community revitalization, independent media, policing, social services, and other sectors.

In fiscal years 2004 and 2005, the U.S. spent \$481 million in support of UN peace building operations, \$75 million for community reintegration including work and education programs for youths and former combatants. Another \$23 million has supported the rule of law, including judicial structures and civilian police programs. In fiscal year 2005, the U.S. spent close to \$70 million to rehabilitate and reintegrate former combatants, reform Liberia's police, military, and financial sectors, and provide medical and humanitarian relief.

The U.S. continues to support these indispensable programs. After years of civil war, the physical infrastructure needs to be rebuilt from the ground up, but in many cases, so does the social network. Almost half of Liberia's 3.24 million people were uprooted during the civil war. Some 190,000 Liberians remain in asylum countries, including: Cote d'Ivoire, Ghana, Guinea, and Sierra Leone. Interpersonal relationships and reconciliation, as well as coming to terms with the atrocities committed during the civil war, are part of the new government's agenda.

The U.S. government has funded a program in support of law and justice that will send a resident legal advisor and a five-person team of technical experts to Liberia. This team will help improve the Liberian criminal justice system. We will help launch a Truth and Reconciliation Commission, while also supporting an access to justice program to increase the confidence of Liberians to resolve disputes efficiently, fairly and effectively

through the justice sector. Additionally, we will work to establish legal advice centers and a national referral network; integrate alternative dispute mechanisms; and provide incentives to attract public defenders. .

President Bush intends to remain engaged with Liberia, while this nascent democracy finds its footing. For that reason, the Administration plans to allocate more than \$43 million in fiscal year 2006 Economic Support Funds (ESF) money. This includes some \$6 million to be made available immediately through USAID's Liberia Community Infrastructure Project for quick-impact projects, including rebuilding schools, court houses, and hospitals, and regrading roads that connect Liberia's major cities. All in all, the United States' contribution to Liberia's reconstruction for fiscal years 2004-2006 will total nearly \$1 billion. Our financial contributions underscore the seriousness of our commitment to Liberia's future. President Bush, members of his Administration, and members of Congress agree – we are all dedicated to helping Liberia realize its tremendous promise.

ECONOMIC PROSPERITY

Direct aid is helpful, but it is by no means a panacea. As Secretary Rice recently remarked, "America's foreign assistance must promote responsible sovereignty, not permanent dependency." It is with those words in mind that we move to the third point – the importance of promoting economic prosperity and security.

Liberia has the potential to be a regional economic force. It has valuable natural resources, which could be exported abroad; this would create many local jobs and generate revenue to finance the nation's budget. Before its civil war, Liberia was a major exporter of iron ore and natural rubber. Timber and rubber have been Liberia's main exports since the end of the civil war, typically earning the nation \$85 million and \$57 million respectively, each year. Alluvial diamond and gold mining are another source of economic activity.

Spurring widespread economic growth poses both short-term and long-term challenges for the new Liberian government. Since Liberia's prolonged crisis was in large part financed by illegal sales of the nation's major natural commodities, the UN passed Resolution 1343 in 2001 to forbid the import of Liberian diamonds by any member countries. Another resolution forbidding the import of Liberian timber followed in 2003.

The new Liberian government is expected to encourage the UN to reverse these sanctions and prod the growth of export-oriented jobs within Liberia. Toward this end, Liberia must move quickly and aggressively to address the concerns underlying those sanctions. The United States is working with the Liberian government through the Liberia Forest Initiative (LFI) to establish transparency measures to fortify the government's oversight of this important sector. In a similar fashion, the U.S. is working with the international community to bring better governance and transparency to Liberia's diamond export industry.

In addition to sector-specific work, the U.S. government is involved with big picture economic policy. The United States is a driving force behind the well regarded Governance and Economic Management Assistance Program (GEMAP). GEMAP is intended to reduce corruption and improve revenue collection, thereby channeling Liberia's revenue-generating resources for use by the Liberian government. It is widely assumed that international financial institutions (IFI) will track Liberia's progress with this program before providing new assistance and debt relief, especially since the nation currently owes the Paris Club creditors \$783 million. Liberia owes \$327 million to the U.S. Government alone.

This might seem an insurmountable obstacle, but there is good reason to believe that Ellen Johnson Sirleaf and her government will negotiate with the World Bank, the IMF, and others to alleviate her nation's inherited debt burden. The U.S. is prepared to take the lead again if need be, having already taken the lead on debt forgiveness with heavily indebted poor countries and offering grants, rather than loans to our friends in Africa.

The U.S. Treasury Department's Office of Technical Assistance has been heavily engaged in Liberia, providing assistance on budget and debt management, banking supervision, and tax collection systems. There are currently two resident advisors, one in the Bureau of the Budget and one in the Central Bank. The budget engagement has focused on building capacity within the Bureau of Budget, so that the Ministry of Finance can better formulate and execute the budget. The banking supervision program has focused on building capacity within the banking supervision department to improve its ability to properly regulate and oversee the banking sector. The tax project is a comprehensive plan involving technical assistance, as well as hardware and software, in an effort to stem corruption and increase revenue flows to the newly elected government.

Otherwise, the Administration will look into putting Liberia on the fast track to join the African Growth and Opportunity Act. We will encourage economic coordination and collaboration with the nations of ECOWAS, as well as with Liberia's Mano River neighbors. Liberia is ready to join the international community, and it is important to welcome them to the global marketplace as well. For the stability of the nation, as well as the region, economic development is a wise and necessary policy objective.

CONCLUSION

In closing, I would like to reiterate my appreciation for having the opportunity to testify and share my enthusiasm and optimism about the future of Liberia. This is a nation that is emerging from the shadows and greeting the hope of a promising tomorrow. Ellen Johnson Sirleaf has an enormous task ahead of her as her nation attempts to rebuild after 14 years of bloodshed, but I believe that President Sirleaf is undoubtedly equal to the task. She will have the cooperation of the Liberian people, as well as the support of President Bush and his Administration.

This nation's relationship with Liberia stretches back nearly two centuries, and we remain as committed to our Liberian friends as ever. There is great reason for the Liberian people to be hopeful that the years ahead will be more peaceful and more secure. They have elected a new leader in a free and fair election, and economic recovery is coming.

The African Union, the United Nations – international and regional organizations will do their part, and of course, so will the United States. We have been fully committed to helping Liberia make the transition from war to peace since 2003, and we won't quit now. We can't. This is too important. Liberia's security ensures our security. Liberia's situation and the U.S. response represent the perfect confluence of defense, diplomacy, and development. The three are inextricably linked and mutually reinforcing. Thank you, Mr. Chairman and members of the Committee for the work that you do. We are effecting transformational diplomacy. The work that we do in support of the Liberian people is likely to have lasting implications. Freedom is, indeed, the way forward.

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Drafted: AF Melissa Langsam, x3-0529

Approved: AF Jendayi E. Frazer

Cleared:	AF	BJPittman	--
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	S/P	MJames	--
	R	ARuppe	--
	E	SNewhouse	--
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	EB/ODF	LSpecht	--
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	DRL	KBrokenshire	--
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	OES/ETC	PO'Donohue	--
	L/AF	GTaft	--
	USAID/AF	CGrigsby	--
	USAID/OFDA	MMarx/DDeBernardo	--
	NSC	MSwayne/TShortley	--
	Treasury	ASeverens	--
	OMB		--
	Emb. Monrovia	DBooth	--

LIBERIA



Liberia Budget Summary:

FISCAL YEAR	USAID SUPPORT BY BUREAU (and ESF)	TOTAL
FY 2004	AFR, FFP, OFDA, OTI (total = \$28,330,183) Plus \$107,900,000 IDFA	\$136,230,183
FY 2005	AFR = \$10,825,000 DA/CSH FFP = \$22,550,000 OFDA = \$9,766,323 OTI = \$6,469,030 ESF = \$24,800,000	\$74,350,353*
FY 2006 <i>Estimate</i>	AFR = \$23,926,000 DA \$3,164,000 CSH FFP = \$20,000,000** OFDA = TBD OTI = 4,600,000 ESF = \$42,719,000**	\$94,409,000
FY 2007 <i>Request</i>	AFR = \$32,500,000 DA/CSH FFP = TBD OFDA = TBD OTI = TBD ESF = \$40,000,000	\$72,500,000

*Does not include \$46,266,000 of IDFA carryover from FY 04.

** FY 06 ESF and FFP levels are not final

Liberia's Pipeline:

DA – 11 months

CSH – 14 months

IDFA – 8 months

All of the pipelines are within acceptable, normal parameters in keeping with the Agency guidelines.

SUMMARY OF USAID OBLIGATIONS ON IDFA FUNDS UNDER FY 2004 SUPPLEMENTAL

BUDGET REQUIREMENT	FUNDS ALLOCATED	ACTIVITIES	FUNDS OBLIGATED
Agricultural Livelihoods (AFR)	\$1M	Resuscitate small holder cocoa (STCP) Economic livelihood	\$1M
Averting Health Emergency (AFR)	\$1.5M	National prevalence survey, HIV testing and education, Blood banks, Comprehensive Care initiative	\$1.5M
Forest Sector Rehabilitation (AFR/EGAT)	\$1.1M	Support to the Forest Development Authority and conservation	\$1.1M
Reintegration, Rehabilitation (AFR/OTI)	\$60M	LCIP, WCRR, ALP, YES RR for ex-combatants, women and children associated with fighting forces, and non-combatants	\$60M
Election Preparations (AFR/DG)	\$10M	Strengthen electoral commission, train political parties, train for election day observation, voter and civic education	\$10M
Rule of Law (AFR/DG)	\$2.8M	Access to justice programs (with collaboration of State/INL and DOJ)	\$2.8M
IDP & Humanitarian Assistance (OFDA)	\$24.5M	Health activities, relief, support, and/or resettlement for approx 100,000 IDPs	\$24.5M
Governance, Media (OTI)	\$7M	Provide support to NTGL, support civil society, increase capacity of media	\$7M
TOTAL	\$107.9M		\$107.9M obligated

SUMMARY OF *NON-USAID* SPENDING ON IDFA FUNDS UNDER FY 2004 SUPPLEMENTAL

BUDGET REQUIREMENT	FUNDS ALLOCATED	ACTIVITIES	FUNDS OBLIGATED*
Treasury Advisors (US Dept of Treasury)	\$3.5M	Advisors to NTGL for budget, debt and tax	\$3.5M
Forest Sector Rehabilitation (State/OES)	\$2.9M	Support to Forest Development Authority through USFS	\$2.9M
Leveraging Debt Relief (US Dept of Treasury)	\$15M	Reduction of Liberia's debt arrears to the African Development Bank	\$15M obligated to Africa Dev. Bank)
Security Sector Reform (State/RSA and DOD)	\$35M	New Liberian military. US contractors have drawn plans to rapidly stand up new 2000 man military as soon as previous military demobilizes.	\$35M
Rule of Law (State/INL)	\$4.2M	Justice support, providing a justice team and courthouse rehabilitation	\$4.2M
Police/Judicial Structures (State/INL)	\$12M	CIVPOL, developing of law enforcement capacity (police, corrections)	\$12M
Refugee Assistance (State/PRM)	\$19.5M	Relief and resettlement for more than 100,000 refugees	\$19.5M
TOTAL	\$92.1M		\$92.1M obligated

*Obligation/expenditure levels are based on information from other USG agencies

LIBERIA: FUNDING SUMMARY*(all figures in thousands)***Summary of FY 2004-2006 Annual Funds**

Account	FY04 Supp	FY04 Approp	FY04 Total	FY05 Actual	FY06 Estimate
Foreign Operations:					
CSH (Child Survival and Health)	0	2,819	2,819	3,971	3,164
DA (Development Assistance)	0	0	0	6,854	23,926
Title II Emergency Funding			21,573	22,904	20,000
TI (Transition Initiative)			3,177	3,615	4,600
ESF (Economic Support Funds)	0	0	0	24,800	42,179
Special Self-Help Fund				69	
Peacekeeping Operations				25,000	20,000
Migration Refugee Assistance			8,389	28,187 <small>(9,631 of which is sup MRA)</small>	TBD
Democracy and Human Rights Fund				50	
IDFA-SUP (Int'l Disaster and Famine Assistance – Supplemental)	198,900	0	200,000	10,311	0
INCLE (Int'l Narcotics Control and Law Enforcement)	0	0	0	5,000	1,000
NADR-SALW (Non-proliferation, Anti-terrorism, Demining and Related Programs – Small Arms Light Weapons)	0	160	160	0	0
Foreign Operations Total	198,900	2,979	236,118	130,761	115,840
State Operations (CJS):					
CIPA-SUP (Contributions for Int'l Peacekeeping Activities)	245,000	0	290,342	230,060	157,180
Grand Total (Foreign Ops and CJS)	443,900	2,979	526,460	360,821	273,020

USAID Transition Support

Question: How is USAID supporting the new democratically elected government? What is your short-term plan to provide immediate support to President Sirleaf's government as well as your long-term strategy?

- President Ellen Sirleaf has stressed the need for “quick and visible progress,” within the first hundred and fifty days of her term. To achieve such “quick wins,” USAID is undertaking nearly \$6 million in quick impact projects in Monrovia and more remote regions through the Liberia Community Infrastructure Project (LCIP). The activities will focus on rehabilitation of schools, roads and other public facilities. Work on completion of the Barclayville Bridge, which will allow access to isolated regions, is near completion. This program will not only yield rehabilitated infrastructure, but employment, community development, and income generation.
- We also recognize the need to support the Liberian administration over the medium to long term. As such, in consultation with Congress, USAID is planning to substantially increase the DA and CSH resources to be made available to Liberia in FY 2006. The use of these funds will be guided by a new strategy for Liberia for 2006-2009, recently submitted for approval.
- USAID's work in Liberia is focused on four strategic objectives designed to avert and mitigate conflict, help manage crises, and promote reform and stability. Our objectives in the strategy are 1) to promote local capacity to mitigate conflict; 2) to increase access to social services provided by local and national institutions; 3) to advance inclusive governance; and 4) to restore livelihoods.
- We will work to build the capacity of the Liberian government and civil society to address sources of conflict, through early warning mechanisms and activities focused on helping restore the social fabric of Liberian communities. This will include expanded employment and training programs. Community Development Committees (CDCs) will engage local officials and community members in prioritizing local development activities.

- We will pursue increased access to health and education, critical to restoring and improving the quality of life in Liberia. Our work will also focus on building the capacity of government to provide these services, thereby enhancing its legitimacy.
- Activities focused on enhancing inclusive governance will promote increased political participation, expanding access to the justice sector, and reforms which address corruption. In particular, USAID is supporting the Governance and Economic Management Assistance Program (GEMAP) to improve economic governance and financial management in the Government of Liberia.
- Our final objective is to restore basic economic activity and livelihoods, in order to both raise standards of living and engage the population in productive and peaceful activities. Our programs will address agriculture, food security, and economic growth, through technical and financial assistance. These activities will encompass training in business management and leadership skills, as well as good governance.

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Democracy and Governance

QUESTION: The election and peaceful inauguration of President Ellen Sirleaf is a great accomplishment for democracy in Africa. What is USAID doing to sustain democracy and good governance in Liberia?

- Support for democracy and good governance is integrated throughout USAID's program, as we have sought to rebuild communities and ensure that the will of the people is reflected by the Liberian government. Activities since the signing of the peace agreement have focused on the electoral process (which culminated in the successful election and inauguration of Ellen Sirleaf) and support for civil society and community-level governance mechanisms.

Elections and Political Parties

- USAID worked through the International Foundation for Electoral Systems (IFES), the National Democratic Institute (NDI) and the International Republic Institute (IRI) to support Liberia's historic national elections in Fall 2005, including:
 - Training, technical assistance and selected commodity procurement to strengthen Liberia's National Elections Commission (NEC), which effectively registered an estimated 1.3 million eligible voters at 2,000 sites;
 - Civic and voter education; and
 - Training and technical assistance in developing electoral procedures, dispute adjudication, and political finance monitoring and disclosure.
- USAID support for political party development helped to build a more representative and competitive multiparty system in Liberia through:
 - Building political party capacity for internal organization;
 - Assistance with policy and platform development;
 - Building links between the parties and citizens to promote participation and accountability in the political process; and

- Promoting the signing of Liberia's first-ever Political Party Code of Conduct.

Civil Society and Community-level Governance

- USAID's Community Peace Building and Development Program (CPBD) supports 97 Community Development Committees that manage communities' socio-economic development initiatives and interface with local leadership on decisions regarding development and peace building projects.
- The Locally Initiated Networks for Community Strengthening Program (LINCS) is building the capacity of local citizens and groups to participate in their communities' development. LINCS is supporting 70 community peace councils, which have resolved more than 130 community level disputes, including issues over land, belligerence from returned ex-combatants, petty theft, and domestic disputes.
- The Youth Education for Life Skills Program (YES) and the Community Youth Peace Education Program are helping 30,000 youth to overcome the mentality of "survival at all costs," which grew out of the years of conflict, and consider ways that they can help both themselves and their communities. YES includes small grants and a five month non-formal training, including modules on citizenship and democracy.

National Governance

- Reflecting the needs of Liberia's new democratically elected government, critical new programs which address the role of the national government are beginning in FY 2006.
 - The Rule of Law Program will support expanded access to quality justice services, establishment of legal advice centers, support for legal reformers, and assistance to the law school;
 - USAID is helping to implement the Governance Economic Management Assistance Program (GEMAP) to improve economic governance and financial management within the Liberian Government; and
 - A legislative strengthening program will increase the capacity of the newly elected legislature to address

development priorities and legal reform, provide budget oversight, and help newly elected members learn to respond to their constituents.

- These programs are the logical next steps in helping to sustain the transition from crisis to recovery.

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Governance and Economic Management Assistance Program

QUESTION: Can you tell us a little bit about GEMAP? Do you think it will be successful in curbing the rampant problem of corruption and what is your exit strategy?

- The Governance and Economic Management Assistance Program (GEMAP), developed by Liberia's International Contact Group (including the UN, EC, EU, ECOWAS, AU, IMF, World Bank and the USG) in conjunction with the National Transition Government of Liberia (NTGL) was created in response to the urgent need for robust interventions to curb corruption. The Chairman of the NTGL, Gyude Bryant, signed GEMAP on September 9th.
- The overall goal of GEMAP is to reduce corruption and improve both revenue collection and expenditure thereby ensuring that Liberian resources are used for the benefit of all Liberians.
- President Sirleaf confirmed her commitment to GEMAP in her inaugural speech. Donors are working to ensure that the preliminary steps, including placement of advisors, to implement GEMAP are in place this month.
- All GEMAP activities funded by the USG will be managed and coordinated by USAID. USAID is currently finalizing agreements to implement GEMAP, beginning with positions financed at six government entities to improve transparency, financial management and revenue controls. These include:
 - Four Internationally Recruited Financial Controllers at the **National Port Authority (NPA)**, the **Liberia Petroleum Refining Company (LPRC)**, **Roberts International Airport (RIA)**, and the **Forestry Development Authority (FDA)**;
 - A senior advisor at the NPA to lay the foundation for a future management contract;
 - An Internationally Recruited Concessions Expert at the **Ministry of Lands, Mines and Energy**; and
 - An Internationally Recruited Budget Expert at the **Bureau of the Budget**.

- Other donors—primarily the EC, World Bank, and IMF—are funding other aspects of the program.
- USAID GEMAP advisors will also help the Government of Liberia to weed out old contracts and concessions that should be cancelled and to introduce competitive procedures for new licenses, concessions, and private management contracts that will hasten Liberia's financial recovery.
- The goals of the GEMAP can only be sustained if the capacity of the GOL is concurrently built up. We are, therefore, providing a capacity building component. The exit strategy for GEMAP is connected to Liberia's attainment of the Completion Point under the Enhanced Heavily Indebted Poor Countries (HIPC) Initiative.
- GEMAP is essential for future international engagement in Liberia. Its success in curbing corruption will be dependent on the political will and commitment of the GOL. We continue to engage the Liberian Government at the highest level to ensure coordination and cooperation so that GEMAP can obtain its intended objectives.

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LIBERIA - USAID ROLE IN GEMAP IMPLEMENTATION

Timeline for SOE Financial Mgt Reforms & Management Contracts/PSPs

Liberia SOE or Resident Personnel	Prospective Elements or Options for PPP & requirements 1)	Illustrative Steps 2)	Illustrative Timeline
USPSC GEMAP Coordinator Financial Controllers	FDA, NPA, RIA, & LPRC	TOR Completed and Advertised; applications arriving TORs Completed; RFTOP issued; proposal w/candidates due back Jan 18	March 2006 February/March-06 (residents in place)
Concessions Expert for the Senior Advisor, Port Operations	Ministry of Land, Mines and Energy National Port Authority (NPA)	TORs Completed; RFTOP issued; proposal w/candidate due back Jan 18 TORs Completed; RFTOP issued; proposal w/candidate due back Jan 18	February/March-06 (resident in place, assisting Procurement Commission review of old concessions) February/March-06 (resident in place, assisting WB with prep and selection of management contractor)
Forestry Development Authority - FDA	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Managing Chain of Custody (COC) for logs and wood products. 2. Managing and monitoring the transfer of taxes, levies, and fees due from holders of forest concessions contracts. 3. Training of FDA and relevant Ministry staff in management of the COC system. 4. Training of FDA field staff to monitor the COC system. 5. Strengthening institutional capacity to manage the FDA. 	<p>For 3-5 year management contract</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Circulate Request for Information (USFS-FDA) - USFS consultant to prepare & FDA to issue Request for Proposals - Offers from qualified bidders - Contract awarded & signed - Operator Mobilization 	<p>January-06</p> <p>February-06</p> <p>April-06 May-06</p> <p>June 2006 (concurrent with lifting of UN timber embargo)</p>
National Port Authority - NPA (Port of Monrovia)	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Marine Services 2. Container Park Management/ Operation 3. Safety & Security Services 4. Maintenance dredging, other 	<p>For 3-5 year management contract/s:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Request for Expressions of Interest (draft to be included in World Bank Royal Haskoning phase 2 report) - New GOL Procurement Commission review/decision re cancellation of GSS long-term contract for container park - Request for pre-qualification - Issue Bidding Documents - Pre bidders conference w/ short-listed firms - Offers from qualified bidders - Contract awarded & signed (self-financed) - Operator/s Mobilization <p><i>Initiation of 10-15 year, wider-scope concession</i></p>	<p>January/February-06</p> <p>January/February-06</p> <p>February/March 2006 April-06 May-06 July-06 August-06 October-06</p> <p>October-09</p>
Roberts International Airport - RIA	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Flight operations handling 2. Maintenance 3. Safety & Security Services 4. User fees and collections handling 	<p>Review WB consultant report re emergency works and use of service contractors</p> <p>Mobilize USAID controller/operations expert/s Evaluate and assist realignment of airport services provided by RIA, UNMIL, airlines, Ecobank, Firestone Monitor growth of passenger & cargo traffic for possible management contract in 2007 or later</p>	<p>January-06</p> <p>March-06 April/May 2006</p> <p>July 2006 onward</p>

Note: 1) World Bank in 2006 to provide \$5M grant for emergency works and assistance at NPA and \$0.5M for RIA. Capital investment needs far exceed these amounts.

2) Short term Management/Operations Contract (3-5 years) recommended at NPA, to replace flawed, longer term contract with GSS that was approved by NTGL. To be followed by a longer term PPP model (concession, lease, etc) when conditions are appropriate.

Support by Sector

Question: Liberia needs to be rebuilt from its 14 years of devastating civil war. What actions is USAID taking to promote conflict mitigation and good governance, to rebuild the education system, expand access to health services, support management of natural resources, and enhance livelihoods in Liberia?

- Liberia has suffered from years of armed conflict and predatory governance, to the detriment of all sectors in the society. USAID is responding with assistance in a broad range of areas.
- **Conflict Mitigation:** Peace-building programs will focus on expanding conflict prevention mechanisms, and encouraging communities to work together on planning and implementing of projects. Quick impact projects, supporting employment and improvements in infrastructure, are also currently being carried out to demonstrate peace dividends, and build support for the democratic process.
- **Democracy and Governance:** USAID is working to promote good governance by building capacity of both public and civil society groups. In partnership with other donors we are supporting Governance and Economic Management Assistance Program (GEMAP) to improve economic governance and financial management in the Liberian government. USAID is supporting programs to promote reforms and increase access to the justice sector. Finally, we are working with the newly elected legislature to build capacity to address development priorities and legal reform, provide budget oversight, and effectively manage constituent outreach and responsiveness.
- **Education:** USAID is supporting school rehabilitation, teacher training, curriculum development, and education governance reform through Parent-Teacher Associations and community learning committees to promote effective school administration. Literacy and numeracy skills and vocational training are being provided to youth, ex-combatants, and others impacted by the war. The education program supports strengthening of the Liberian government by

preparing citizens to be active and productive members of the economy.

- **Health:** USAID programs in Liberia are working to improve vaccination coverage among children, control malaria, and promote polio eradication. Training of nurses, midwives, and physician assistants; communicable disease surveillance; and HIV/AIDS care and prevention efforts are also being supported.
- **Biodiversity and Natural Resource Management:** We are supporting activities that promote conservation of natural resources, particularly in the forestry sector, a pillar of Liberia's economy. This involves promotion of alternative income generation activities, activities to disseminate information on natural resource management and build capacity of community organizations.
- **Livelihood promotion:** USAID is working to increase food security, boost economic growth, and enhance capacity of selected farmers' groups and community-based organizations. This includes financial and technical assistance to rehabilitate smallholder rubber and cocoa farms, to restock livestock within communities, and to rehabilitate community fish ponds. We are also training farmers' groups and community-based organizations in business management, leadership, and governance skills, in order to promote engagement in micro-enterprise activities.

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Political Support

QUESTION: We are all excited to see such a strong and competent President and government in Liberia. However, does the President have the political support to carry through on her promises to the Liberian people and to the donors? How is USAID ensuring that we are making wise investments in Liberia that are truly affecting change and supporting the President?

- President Sirleaf will certainly face opposition as she attempts to implement and enforce reforms. Individuals who have benefited from the current way of doing business are expected to resist the change in approach and leadership.
- President Sirleaf's bold action last week in dismissing all officials appointed by the transition government from the Ministry of Finance is a sign of her commitment to combat corruption. We will work to ensure that the President has the political support and protection she needs to implement such reforms.
- Our Department of State colleagues are working to ensure that Sirleaf President has the physical protection she needs through the training of the Special Security Service and vetting and training of new apolitical police force and army. I can let Ambassador Frazer expand on those programs if you wish.
- Successful elections are only a beginning to the rebuilding of Liberia. USAID's strategy is to directly address two of the key sources of Liberia's conflict.
 - The first is the deliberate exclusion, throughout Liberia's history, of the majority of Liberians from political life and economic opportunities. If the pattern of exclusion is not overcome, the marginalized population is likely to continue to foment violence and/or engage in criminal activities.
 - The second potential source of conflict is competition for national resources. This diversion of resources, through a variety of mechanisms, has resulted in a severe lack of funding for essential public services. This, in turn fosters disaffection

with the government among the public, and contributes to renewed instability.

- USAID's work in Liberia is focused on four strategic objectives, as follows: 1) to promote local capacity to mitigate conflict; 2) to increase access to social services provided by local and national institutions; 3) to advance inclusive governance; and 4) to restore livelihoods.
- Through our programs, USAID will work to directly address these key sources of conflict thereby ensuring that U.S. foreign assistance is targeted and will truly affect sustainable change in Liberia.
- Part of that will be training and supporting the new legislature as well as a robust capacity building program for both national and local government to form an educated and responsive government and public sector.
- As usual, our aid in Liberia will aim to be as responsive and flexible as possible to the changing and dynamic situation in Liberia. We will hold the government to the standards it has set for itself and aim to support it in every possible way.

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Donor Coordination

QUESTION: What are the other donors doing in Liberia? Are we carrying the whole load? Is there sufficient donor coordination? Have all the pledges come through from the February 2004 donors conference?

- The United States has led the world's response to Liberia's efforts to recover from fourteen years of civil war, working with other bilateral and multilateral donors, primarily the European Commission (EC), World Bank, United Nations (UN) and the International Monetary Fund (IMF).
- The full \$200 million pledged by the USG at the 2004 Liberia Donors Conference has been obligated. Over 75% of the pledges made by other countries at the donors conference as well as subsequent pledges have been fulfilled. (Total pledges to date are \$822 million)
- Donor coordination has proven generally successful as demonstrated by the signing of Governance and Economic Management Assistance Program (GEMAP).
- The EC, World Bank and IMF are all participating in the funding of the GEMAP.
- Most of the IMF's resources for Liberia will go towards arrears clearance (approximately \$729 million).
- The Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS) and the African Union (AU), while neither are large donors, have been pivotal players in Liberia's post-conflict transition. In particular, ECOWAS has played a key role in investigating corruption within National Transition Government of Liberia and in planning and negotiating the GEMAP.
- The EC supports infrastructure, specifically electricity, water, community reintegration, governance, and humanitarian assistance.
- The World Bank is awaiting progress on Liberia's external debt arrears clearance before it can launch its regular program. However, a

Post Conflict IDA grant of \$25,000,000 was announced during the recent visit of a high-level World Bank delegation. The Bank will continue to use grant money, for infrastructure, community development, and advisors in economic policy. As part of its support of GEMAP, the Bank will place financial advisors in the Ministry of Finance.

- The United Nations is a major actor in reintegration, governance, health, and community development.
- The UK contributes towards reintegration, health and humanitarian relief. Japan, Germany, the Netherlands, Canada and smaller donors such as Sweden, Denmark, and Ireland, are also active in the country and contribute to a range of sectors.
- International donors, regional actors, and Liberian government officials meet regularly in Monrovia to coordinate activities.
- With the new government's inauguration, there is an even greater need for donors to coordinate approaches to build capacity and advance reform. This is currently occurring as the donors work to organize around the new government's priorities. We are pleased with President Sirleaf's early efforts towards promoting effective donor coordination. She has instituted an integrated framework called the Liberian Reconstruction and Development Committee (LRDC). She will serve as the chairperson of the committee.
- Although the USG is the lead bilateral donor, we find constant support and partnership from the international community.

Cote d'Ivoire

QUESTION: The recent events in Côte d'Ivoire could have a very negative impact on Liberia's and the region's peace. What is USAID doing to address this?

- The situation in Côte d'Ivoire remains a concern for our progress in the region.
- In particular we remain alert to the implications of potential refugee flows over the border into Liberia. We are engaged in monitoring events in Côte d'Ivoire, such as the violent clashes that occurred two weeks ago, which caused the UN to evacuate its international staff from that area. A contingency plan has been developed by UNHCR, WFP and USAID/OFDA in anticipation of refugee flows.
- Despite concerns, UNHCR has reported no significant population movements from Côte d'Ivoire to Liberia. We will continue to monitor the situation in light of its potential impact on Liberia's transition.
- USAID has not had a bilateral presence in Côte d'Ivoire for many years, and since the 1999 coup d'etat, legislative restrictions on assistance limit USAID options. Likewise, USAID's West Africa regional office in Côte d'Ivoire closed in 1998.
- However, Côte d'Ivoire benefits from several regional programs—including ones to combat trafficking in persons and HIV/AIDS—as well as humanitarian assistance. Humanitarian assistance efforts include support to IDPs and refugees, primary health care clinics and reproductive health, addressing gender-based violence, water and sanitation projects, seeds and tools, food security monitoring, protection, and humanitarian coordination. These programs were active in FY 05 and will continue through non-governmental organizations and the UN in FY 06.
- We continue to work closely with the Department of State's Bureau of Population, Refugees and Migration in providing support for these essential reintegration efforts.

- In particular, our regional programs encompass efforts to improve the human rights situation, combat corruption, and prevent conflict. Côte d'Ivoire benefits from the Trafficking in Persons media awareness activity to prevent child trafficking. Likewise, the West Africa Network for Peace building (WANEP) and its country affiliates are active in promoting dialogue in Côte d'Ivoire. Finally, the country was a participant in WANEP's Conflict Analysis & Monitoring Training.
- In Liberia, special attention is being given to the southeast, which borders Côte d'Ivoire. This region is a focus of both the new government and USAID. In particular the Liberia Community Infrastructure Project (LCIP), through which USAID is currently implementing nearly \$6 million in infrastructure projects, will be working in the southeast. Our goal for the region is to accelerate reconstruction and restore economic activity, thereby reducing the temptation and vulnerability of youth to engage in fighting in both Côte d'Ivoire and Liberia.

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Liberia: Private Sector

Question: How will USAID ensure that the private sector reengages in Liberia and economic revitalization truly occurs?

Answer:

- In fiscal year 2006, we plan to provide approximately \$9.0 million in economic assistance to Liberia, which will re-engage the private sector in energy, agriculture, and economic growth activities.
- Our approach to engage the private sector includes:
 - Supporting activities that develop the capacity of private sector enterprises;
 - Creating public-private partnerships to increase investment in infrastructure, particularly in the energy sector, education and agriculture; and
 - Forming alliances with the U.S. private sector to increase investment in productive market development and social service sectors.
- Our program strategy includes the following elements:
 - Reinforcing the capacity to mitigate conflict by expanding conflict prevention mechanisms, encouraging community collaboration on projects, and introducing quick impact projects that create jobs and improve infrastructure.
 - Increasing access to essential services in education -- including vocational training for ex-combatants, and in health;
 - Supporting micro finance and micro enterprise activities;
 - Advancing inclusive governance to improve economic governance and financial management; and
 - Restoring and maintaining economic activity and livelihoods to:
 - increase food security;
 - enhance farmers' and community organizations capacity; and
 - stimulate micro-enterprise growth.

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Liberia Diaspora

QUESTION: How is USAID supporting the large Liberian diaspora to come back and reinvest in their country?

- The Liberian diaspora grew out of the breakdown of security and rule of law in Liberia. By helping Liberia address these fundamental conditions, we will make it possible for Liberia to engage the energy, talent and resources of Liberians in the diaspora. The United States encourages the involvement of interest groups in America and Europe that wish to see Liberia succeed in its reconstruction efforts.
- Liberians in the diaspora who want to participate in the process of national reconciliation and rehabilitation should be able to do so. Re-instituting the rule of law and rebuilding the private sector will enable members of the diaspora to return to Liberia to assist in the rebuilding of the country. Helping Liberia re-establish the rule of law and jump-starting the private sector is and will continue to be a principal priority for both USAID and the Department of State.
- N.B.: We are looking, with other donors, at opportunities to collaborate with the Government of Liberia, organizations, and businesses to encourage members of the diaspora to either return home or contribute financially to Liberia's reconstruction. However, at this time, USAID has no currently active program specifically geared toward the Liberian diaspora.
- N.B.: When recruiting international financial controllers for GEMAP, USAID has made a special effort to recruit qualified Liberians.

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Rebuilding Liberia

QUESTION: Do you believe USAID has committed adequate resources to rebuilding Liberia?

- Thanks to strong Congressional support, the United States has been able to play the leading role in helping Liberia begin recovery from fourteen years of civil war, generations of corruption, and a near-total absence of government services and of respect for human rights and the rule of law.
- Beginning with the two-year 2004 supplemental of \$200 million, Congress has generously appropriated additional funds which have allowed the USG to contribute substantially to Liberia's reconstruction. In FY 2005 USAID directed \$10.8 million in DA and CSH resources, and \$6.2 million in FY05 ESF to support rebuilding in Liberia
- In consultation with Congress, USAID is planning to make \$27.1 million in DA/CSH available to Liberia in FY 2006. Of that amount, \$19 million will be devoted to Economic Growth, Agriculture and Trade including almost \$8 million in basic education and over \$3 million for energy development. Additionally, we propose to spend \$5 million on democracy and governance activities and over \$3 million in child survival and health programs. We likewise expect USAID to implement a substantial portion of the ESF directed to Liberia for 2006.
- We are pleased with the Administration's FY 2006 funding level and believe it demonstrates the USG's strong and continued support for Liberia.
- We will continue to assess Liberia's needs against current funding levels and will consult with Congress as needed.

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USAID/Liberia Health Program Focus

Question:

What is the focus of USAID's health program? Who are your partners?

Answer:

- The USAID/Liberia health program supports the development and delivery of a package of high-impact integrated health services with four components, including support for:
 - Improved child survival, health and nutrition;
 - Prevention and control of infectious diseases of major importance;
 - Improved family planning and reproductive health; and
 - Reduced transmission and impact of HIV/AIDS.

- Planned fiscal year (FY) 2006 Obligation: \$3.164 million, including:
 - \$1.6 million to improve child survival, health, and nutrition and support activities to prevent and control infectious diseases of major importance;
 - \$981,000 to reduce transmission and impact of HIV/AIDS; and
 - \$593,000 to provide support for family planning and reproductive health.

- These programs will contribute to the stability and recovery of Liberia by providing basic health services, and rebuilding the preventive and curative health care systems that were weakened and destroyed during the war.

- USAID/Liberia's health program focuses on women and youth, including vulnerable children who were recruited as child soldiers or traumatized by seeing their families and friends raped and murdered. Through ongoing community-based health and reintegration programs, these efforts include:
 - Addressing the severe lack of maternal and reproductive health services, widespread use of rape as a weapon of war, and other traumatic experiences; and
 - Focusing on strengthening psycho-social counseling and other services targeting vulnerable children and victims of war.

- The USAID Mission also provides commodities and services to reduce unintended pregnancies and improve overall reproductive health behavior.
- Malaria remains the highest cause of morbidity and mortality in Liberia. USAID supports the distribution of insecticide-treated nets and capacity building for prompt diagnosis and treatment.
- USAID is a lead contributor to polio eradication efforts and will also take a leading role in establishing a surveillance and response capacity for avian influenza.
- USAID is the lead donor for the Demographic and Health Survey (DHS) to be conducted in 2006/2007 that will provide valuable data to improve the surveillance of HIV/AIDS and other diseases.
- These programs are implemented through partnerships with organizations that include:
 - Government of Liberia;
 - Africare;
 - Pact;
 - Measure DHS;
 - International Rescue Committee;
 - Christian Health Association of Liberia;
 - World Health Organization;
 - United Nations International Children's Emergency Fund; and
 - United Nations Development Program.

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Charles Taylor, Transitional Justice Activities

QUESTION: HOW ARE YOU ENSURING CHARLES TAYLOR WILL BE BROUGHT TO JUSTICE?

- For detailed questions relating to the USG plan to bring Charles Taylor to justice I would refer you to my colleague, Ambassador Frazer.

Transitional Justice Activities:

- USAID OTI's work in Democracy and Governance in Liberia has supported transitional justice activities. These activities include conducting a nationwide qualitative survey on truth and justice issues; providing technical assistance to the Transitional Justice Working Group which led to the passage of the act establishing the Truth and Reconciliation Commission; training the selection panel for the Truth and Reconciliation Commission; and funding the development of an early warning conflict mechanism through a local partner.
- Further, the USG plans to commit \$500,000 in FY 06 to support the initiation of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission.
- N.B.: While Taylor's ex-wife, Jewel Howard Taylor, won a Senate seat, and former son-in-law Edwin Snowe became Speaker of the House, they seem more interested in promoting their own interests than in doing Taylor's bidding as long as he is outside Liberia. The same is true for the National Patriotic Party, which is represented in the legislature. What we know less about is what power Taylor may hold over former combatants who might be dissatisfied with the reintegration process and might rally to a released Taylor.

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Howard Wolpe's Leadership Training Program

QUESTION: Former Congressman Howard Wolpe has achieved strong results working with leadership in post-conflict Burundi. At the invitation of Ambassador Donald Booth, Ambassador Wolpe conducted an assessment of Liberian leadership and determined that Liberia is a good candidate for his program. What is USAID doing to support Ambassador Wolpe's leadership training program in Liberia?

- USAID is providing \$125,000 to carry out Ambassador Wolpe's Unity Workshop, planned for this April. This grant was made through an existing arrangement between USAID's Office of Conflict Management and Mitigation (CMM) and the Woodrow Wilson International Center (WWIC), where Ambassador Wolpe is Director of the Africa program.
- We have communicated with Ambassador Wolpe that future funding would depend on the preferences of the new government with regard to leadership training. Many proposals which appear similar to WWIC's have been presented, and we must determine whether the new government sees WWIC's program as uniquely suited to the Liberian context.
- We are eager to see the results of the Unity Workshop in April and will be communicating with the Liberian government and civil society groups regarding the future of this or other training programs.

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Reintegration of Children and Women Soldiers

QUESTION: A LARGE NUMBER OF YOUTHS WERE COMBATANTS IN LIBERIA'S CIVIL WAR. WHAT IS USAID DOING TO REHABILITATE AND REINTEGRATE CHILD SOLDIERS, AS WELL AS WOMEN ASSOCIATED WITH ARMED GROUPS?

- We estimate that over 15,000 fighters in Liberia's civil war were under the age of 18, and that over 1,000 were women. Since 2004, USAID has funded the Women and Child Soldier Rehabilitation and Reintegration Program (WCRR) to assist with the educational, social and economic reintegration of these vulnerable groups, thereby promoting sustainable peace and security in Liberia.
- WCRR is being implemented by three international NGOs: Save the Children – UK (SC-UK), Christian Children's Fund (CCF), and International Rescue Committee (IRC).
- SC-UK has exceeded its targets, and is providing a range of care, protection, and reintegration services for more than 5,600 children associated with the fighting forces (CAFF) and other children, as well as 35,000 family and community members affected by conflict. Their program includes community-based drop-in centers, accelerated learning and community education programs, and livelihood programs.
- CCF's project targets 3,000 beneficiaries including 1,500 CAFF, 750 women associated with the fighting forces (WAFF), and 750 war-affected community members. CCF's activities include child rights promotion training programs; support for non-formal education, recreation, and vocational training; water and sanitation activities; and interim care centers for CAFF at demobilization sites.
- IRC's project directly benefits 3,500 WAFF and CAFF and reaches 7,000 vulnerable, conflict-affected community members. These target groups are receiving psychosocial support, both formal and non-formal education, and income generating assistance. Activities include:

- Establishment of Community Reintegration and Development Committees and Child Welfare Committees;
 - Community sensitization campaigns addressing Gender Based Violence (GBV), substance abuse, HIV/AIDS, child protection and girls' education;
 - Services for victims of gender-based violence;
 - Support for retention of girls and young women in formal schooling and accelerated learning programs;
 - Promotion of apprenticeships and job training; and
 - Support for small enterprise development.
- Some target communities have expressed their dismay that child soldiers are being rewarded for their actions, while other vulnerable children have been overlooked. Our partners are responding to these community concerns by including all war-affected children in programs where possible.
 - The needs of youth and women have also been integrated into other USAID programs, such as the Liberia Community Infrastructure Project (LCIP) and the Community Peace Building and Development Program (CPBD).

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USG Accomplishments

QUESTION: THE ADMINISTRATION HAS RECEIVED A LARGE AMOUNT OF FUNDING FOR LIBERIA. WHAT HAS BEEN DONE WITH THIS FUNDING AND WHAT RESULTS HAVE BEEN ACHIEVED?

The United States supports security, community reintegration, education, rule of law, health, and humanitarian activities to assist the Liberian people in building a democratic and peaceful society.

From FY 2004-05, the U.S. committed over \$880 million to Liberia.

USAID PROGRAMS

- **Over \$90 million** in humanitarian assistance through USAID and Department of State to refugees, internally displaced persons (IDPs), and conflict-affected communities, in all sectors and throughout Liberia.
 - Helped secure durable solutions for roughly 200,000 Liberian refugees and over 270,000 IDPs by supporting facilitated returns and creating conditions in Liberia that encourage both facilitated and spontaneous returns, including provision of medical services, water/sanitation programs, education, support to victims of gender-based violence, family tracing/reunification, and non-food items/transportation to refugees and other displaced/conflict victims.
- **More than \$9 million** to improve health services.
 - Trained 90 physician assistants, registered nurses, certified midwives and licensed practical nurses in treatment of malaria;
 - Provided more than 10,250 insecticide-treated nets (ITNs) for use by pregnant and lactating women and children under five, and acquired needed drugs, commodities and other supplies;
 - Funded community organizations and local NGO's to provide health services for more than 500,000 people in 450 communities;

- Supported the National Immunization Days for polio which have advanced the goal of polio eradication in Liberia; and
- Supported a Demographic Health Survey (first in over 20 years) that will include a component on HIV/AIDS.
- **More than \$75 million** for reintegration and peace building programs, including work and remedial education programs for youth, ex-combatants, and women.
 - Employed and/or provided vocational training for over 30,000 ex-combatants and war affected persons and provided over 2.7 million person-days of employment or vocational training;
 - Supported participation of over 25,000 Liberians in psychosocial support activities, such as counseling, sensitization, and sports;
 - Renovated Administrative buildings in five counties, reconstructed four clinics in two counties, and furnished 17 schools in four counties;
 - Provided education, training and/or employment for more than 10,000 women and children associated with armed forces, through Women and Child Soldier Rehabilitation and Reintegration Program (WCRR); and
 - Trained 554 teachers as well as 50 master trainers through the Accelerated Learning Program (ALP), and supported renovation of fifteen parochial schools to accommodate ALP students.
 - 4,275 participants have completed the first cycle of the Youth Education and Life Skills training (YES) in 163 communities. YES is being conducted in a total of 324 communities. Community focused reintegration small grants in these communities support a range of activities from small infrastructure to community seed banks.
- **\$44 million** in food assistance to support IDPs and livelihood regeneration activities.
 - Provided more than half of all funding for United Nations World Food Program (WFP) activities in Liberia, which benefits more than 1.1 million persons, including 700,000 who received monthly food assistance to support their return and reintegration into their home communities; and
 - Through WFP supported Food for Work, Food for Training and Food for Agriculture programs for over 66,000 persons,

including former combatants, returnees and community members.

- **\$10.4 million** to support the October 2005 elections.
 - Strengthened Liberia's National Elections Commission (NEC) in registering an estimated 1.3 million eligible voters at 2,000 voter registration sites, providing civic and voter education, and managing election day voting at 3,070 polling stations; and
 - Trained and deployed 700 domestic voting monitors in 15 counties.
- **\$2.9 million** for sustainable forestry through USAID and the Department of State.
 - Completed a multi-agency and multi-stakeholder review of more than 70 existing forestry concessions;
 - If the concessions review recommendation is accepted by GOL, it will help create conditions favorable to lifting the sanctions of timber export;
 - Helped protect Sapo National Park by developing park management plans, training personnel, and removing illegal loggers, miners and squatters;
 - Completed a multi-stakeholder assessment in three different regions of the country to identify options and opportunities for improved livelihood through improved natural resource and forest management by local communities in Liberia; and
 - Held capacity building workshops on community forestry. Helped achieve consensus across the forest sector in Liberia that community forestry is an essential part of a reformed forest sector.
- **Over \$6 million** to promote the Governance and Economic Management Assistance Program (GEMAP) to help Liberia raise revenues and tackle its debt and development issues.

Other USG Programs

- **More than \$520 million** in assessed contributions to the UN Mission in Liberia.
- **\$60 million** for Security Sector Reform to train and equip Liberian military and police.
 - Demobilized all of the more than 16,000 members of the old armed forces of Liberia;
 - Refurbished Barclay training center, which is currently in use for the recruitment program for the new army; and
 - Secured Camp Scheffelin with fencing erected around the camp perimeter, and commenced refurbishment of the camp.
 - 2600 police trained through the UN academy
 - non-lethal equipment procured and donated
- **\$23 million** through to support Liberia's rule of law, civilian police and judicial structures.
 - 37 U.S. police officers – one of the largest police contingents in Liberia - assigned to UNMIL training, advising and monitoring the LNP
 - A team of U.S. justice experts providing one-on-one technical assistance to their Liberian counterparts
- **\$15 million** toward leveraging grants and loans from the African Development Bank.

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HIV/AIDS in Liberia

Question:

What is the HIV/AIDS prevalence rate in Liberia? How is USAID addressing HIV/AIDS in Liberia and in the region? How are you ensuring that the Abstinence-Be faithful-and-Correct and Consistent use of Condoms (ABC) approach is implemented?

Answer:

- According to the Joint United Nations Program on HIV/AIDS (UNAIDS), Liberia has an adult HIV prevalence rate of 5.9% (end 2003).
- The destruction of the health infrastructure during the war thwarted all efforts to collect reliable data. USAID is currently the lead donor for the Demographic and Health Survey (DHS) in partnership with the Liberian government, the United Nations International Children's Emergency Fund (UNICEF) and the United Nations Development Program (UNDP). The DHS, planned for 2006/2007, will include HIV testing. The findings of the survey will inform HIV policy formulation as well as provide valuable baseline data to improve surveillance of HIV/AIDS and other diseases.
- USAID is addressing HIV/AIDS in Liberia with nearly \$1.0 million for fiscal year 2006. The Liberia HIV/AIDS program focuses on:
 - Behavior change;
 - Primary prevention;
 - Voluntary counseling and testing;
 - Care for orphans and vulnerable children;
 - Disease surveillance, and;
 - Strengthening the government system through technical assistance.
- In addition, USAID supports regional activities through the West Africa Regional Program (WARP) to reduce the impact of HIV/AIDS in border areas and high risk areas throughout the region.

- USAID/Liberia's prevention programs include the implementation of the Abstinence, Be faithful, and Correct and Consistent use of Condoms (ABC) approach as outlined in the guidance from the Office of the Global AIDS Coordinator, under the President's Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief.
- This includes an emphasis on:
 - Abstinence programs for youth and other unmarried persons, including delay of sexual debut;
 - Mutual faithfulness and partner reduction for sexually active adults; and
 - Correct and consistent use of condoms by those whose behavior places them at risk for transmitting or becoming infected with HIV.
- USAID ensures the implementation of this approach through the dissemination of the guidance, review of partner workplans, and program management and oversight.
- These programs are implemented through partnerships with organizations that include: the Government of Liberia, Africare, MeasureDHS, Christian Health Association of Liberia, UNICEF, and the World Health Organization (WHO).

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Question:

What is USAID's plan to rebuild Liberia's education sector?

Answer:

USAID is committed in fiscal year (FY) 2006 to transfer \$7.7 million to support the Mission's education programs. Also, through Phelps-Stokes Foundation, the Africa Education Initiative has committed an additional \$250,000 to assist youth leadership training, institutional capacity building, and rehabilitation of ex-combatants for reintegrate into Liberian society. In FY 2007, USAID has requested \$10 million in support of education programs, thus yielding a two-year commitment of nearly \$18 million to support education development in Liberia.

- **Improved Quality of Learning:**
 - Training of teachers and administrators;
 - Curriculum development;
 - Improvement and updating of pedagogy;
 - Development of learning materials; and
 - School rehabilitation.

- **Democracy:**
 - Civic education throughout the curriculum in schools and communities;
 - Democratically formed Parent Teacher Associations;
 - Governance training for transparency at all education levels; and
 - Creation of a democratically based learning environment.

- **Youth**
 - Focus on demobilized soldiers;
 - Accelerated learning programs including vocational/technical training and literacy/numeracy;
 - Expansion of the Community Youth Peace Education Program (CYPEP) to develop peace building and conflict transformation skills among urban youth; and
 - Development of more accessible and affordable learning programs.

Current status of the Liberia Education Program (AEI)

- **Vocational Education:**
 - Phelps-Stokes Foundation is working with youth training and rehabilitation of ex-combatants for reintegration into Liberian communities. 35 scholarships have been provided to Liberians to facilitate their reintegration into the formal economy.

- **The Ambassadors Girls Scholarship Program** has been working for the past two years in 24 schools in 2 counties:
School year 2004 – 2005 400 girls' scholarships awarded; and
School year 2005 – 2006 1,018 girls' scholarships awarded.

CLEARANCE PAGE FOR ACTION MEMORANDUM on
Education in Liberia

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FROM THE AMERICAN PEOPLE

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OVERVIEW OF USAID ACTIVITIES IN LIBERIA

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INTRODUCTION

The United States Agency for International Development (USAID) has a long and proud tradition of promoting economic and social development in Liberia. Since 1962 USAID has provided nearly \$1.5 billion of assistance to support sustainable development, ensure food security, promote peace and reconciliation, and provide emergency assistance in times of political crisis and humanitarian need. USAID remains steadfast in its commitment to work side by side with the people of Liberia as they strive to maintain peace and stability and to improve the health and well-being of all.

Excluding the period from 1997 to 1999, Liberia was trapped in a constant state of conflict that erupted in 1989 and persisted until the signing of the Comprehensive Peace Agreement on August 18, 2003. The Peace Agreement ended a civil war which had claimed the lives of over 250,000 people, most of them civilian non-combatants. Abductions, torture, rape and other human rights abuses were commonplace in this war-torn environment leading to serious post-war ramifications. It is estimated that approximately 10% of Liberian children have been traumatized by witnessing close friends and family members suffer through murder and rape. A similar percentage of children are believed to have been recruited into the militias over the course of the war. Amongst the general population, more than 1,300,000 persons were displaced from their communities, including hundreds of thousands who fled the country.

Liberia was in a constant state of conflict from 1989 until the Comprehensive Peace Agreement was signed on August 18, 2003, after the departure of President Charles Taylor from the country. As a result of the Comprehensive Peace Agreement, the National Transition Government of Liberia (NTGL), composed of the warring factions, civil society and political parties, assumed power on October 15, 2003. The NTGL has a two-year mandate in which to implement the Peace Agreement and prepare Liberia for free and fair elections. On September 19, 2003, the United Nations Security Council, in Resolution 1509, established the United Nations Peace Keeping Mission in Liberia (UNMIL), thus beginning an important new phase in Liberian history. Failure to establish the building blocks of a "New Liberia" and consolidate peace could jeopardize the fragile security environment now existing.

USAID is taking concrete steps to help the people of Liberia begin the process of recovering from years of devastating civil war. USAID's primary goal is to stabilize Liberia during this critical transitional period. To accomplish this end, USAID is addressing immediate humanitarian needs, community revitalization and reintegration issues, democracy and governance concerns, food security issues, and community health needs. USAID's integrated approach for assistance to Liberia incorporates programs implemented through USAID's Office of Foreign Disaster Assistance (OFDA), Food for Peace (FFP), and the Office of Transition Initiatives (OTI).

As we approach the national elections on October 11, 2005, Liberia is at the most important crossroads in its history. The Liberian people must grapple with the difficult challenge of creating a new, peaceful Liberia or risk descent into the familiar horrors of war. USAID is working diligently to assist the NTGL, civil society, and the Liberian people to address the systemic problems and societal inequities that have led to repeated conflict in the past. Reviving hope amongst Liberia's youth and incorporating them into the re-building process has emerged as a critical necessity in the establishment of a New Liberia. The following pages provide a brief description of the programs USAID/Liberia is implementing to work towards the New Liberia.

OVERARCHING EMERGENCY RESPONSE

An immediate response to Liberia's humanitarian crisis was an essential first step in USAID's integrated approach towards the stabilization of Liberia. USAID's Office of Foreign Disaster Assistance spearheaded the emergency response effort and continues to play an important role in providing crucial life-saving interventions to the Liberian people.

USAID/OFDA deployed a Disaster Assistance Response Team (DART) to Monrovia following the signing of the Comprehensive Peace Agreements in August 2003. The DART's mission was to assess humanitarian needs and coordinate the provision of US government-funded assistance to vulnerable populations in Liberia's more accessible areas.

OFDA's core programming in Liberia supports critical life-saving interventions including therapeutic and supplementary feeding, primary health care, emergency vaccination campaigns, provision of emergency shelter and non-food items, emergency water and sanitation, humanitarian assistance coordination and logistical support, and mainstreaming protection elements into humanitarian response activities including sexual and gender-based violence prevention. In addition to assisting overall humanitarian coordination, OFDA continues to be a critical agent in mobilizing the humanitarian community in Liberia to coordinate a well-planned return of war-affected populations to their communities as security conditions improve.

In order to maintain flexibility and creativity in its response to the crisis in Liberia, OFDA funds programs through grants as well as through cooperative agreements with NGOs. This funding mechanism facilitates OFDA's ability to respond rapidly to humanitarian needs as they arise. OFDA programming is needs-based and funding decisions are driven by the realities in the field. USAID Humanitarian Assistance to Liberia between FY02 and FY04 totaled \$31 million.

COMMUNITY REVITALIZATION AND REINTEGRATION

Critical to Liberia's continued stability is the successful reintegration of ex-combatants, refugees and internally displaced persons into the fabric of their communities. Achieving this requires that USAID assist programs that address a multitude of issues including training and education, psychosocial support, civil society development, and peace-building. Revitalizing communities and ensuring that they can provide livelihoods for their returning community members is also essential to building a lasting peace.

Liberia Community Infrastructure Program (LCIP)

USAID's LCIP is designed to create a favorable environment for sustainable peace and development through partnerships with communities to promote reconstruction, education, training, and enterprise development for all war affected groups. Over 30,000 people will be directly assisted over the life of the LCIP program.

Initiated in April 2004, the program was amended in December 2004 to address the increasingly large numbers of ex-combatants concentrated in the greater Monrovia area. The LCIP is promoting the economic and social reintegration of ex-combatants, returnees, and those who remained in their communities while working to revitalize communities by addressing critical infrastructure needs and rebuilding the social fabric of the country. Community-based, labor-intensive construction brigades of skilled and semi-skilled tradesmen and unskilled laborers are rehabilitating urban and rural roads, urban and rural water and sanitation systems, community buildings, hospitals, clinics, schools and community offices. Sustainable agricultural projects are planned for the dry season. All of the work undertaken involves on-the-job training and is labor-intensive in order to re-

activate the cash economy of the rural areas, thereby encouraging productivity among farmers and artisans who will have a viable market for their goods and produce.

In order to ensure sustained improvement in infrastructural rehabilitation, the LCIP will also support apprenticeships and the training of artisans, and will encourage and assist the promotion of sustainable rural livelihoods. The LCIP is carried out in co-ordination with the NTGL, UNMIL, and other implementing agencies and donors. The management of the work program is undertaken primarily by experienced local NGOs and contractors and includes appropriate counseling to promote reconciliation between the various disparate groups.

To date, over 30,000 Liberians have been directly employed through the project. They are employed in Grand Geddah, Bomi, Bong, Nimba, Lofa, Grand Cape Mount, Bopolu, and Monrovia.

Youth Education for Life Skills (YES)

The YES community reintegration program is implemented through USAID/OTI's Liberia Transition Initiative (LTI). The YES program will provide 30,000 youths, ages 18 to 30, with the life skills needed to make responsible decisions for themselves, their families, and their communities. YES is being implemented by Mercy Corps and a consortium of World Vision International, Action Aid Liberia and Search for Common Ground in 40 rural communities in Grand Bassa, Grand Cape Mount, Margibi and Bong Counties.

In the wake of the October 2004 riots when youth burned schools and places of worship, LTI modified the YES curriculum to include modules on conflict resolution and peace building and provided grants to engage youth in seven flash point communities in and around Monrovia. The program has since expanded to an additional 88 other urban communities in Bomi, Bong, Margibi, Buchanan and Nimba counties targeting 6,600 participants. To date, approximately 800 young people have "graduated" from the Community Youth Peace Education Program (CYPEP).

LTI works closely with national and local transitional government authorities, non-governmental organizations, informal community groups, and the local media. LTI manages a portfolio that provides fast, flexible assistance targeted at key transition needs through the YES program and a small grants program. Eighty percent of LTI's small grant activities will be focused on YES communities, allowing participants to exercise their new skills through the implementation of community-based programs. OTI works closely with partner Creative Associates International, Inc., to implement LTI.

Community Peace Building and Development (CPBD) Program

The CPBD is USAID's flagship program for peace-building activities in Liberia. Locally the program is referred to as "Diompilor" which in the Kisi language means "oneness." This five-year program aims to strengthen civic organizations and communities, enabling them to participate in a peaceful transition towards social, economic, and political transformation in Liberia. The three components of the CPBD program are social mobilization and civil society development, agriculture- economic development, and community communications.

The social mobilization and civil society development component supports capacity building of local NGOs, community development committees, and community based-organizations and associations through training and technical support in a range of organizational development and program skills. Special emphasis is placed on developing leadership among women and youth. The Agriculture-economic development component supports community self-help projects including social infrastructure

rehabilitation and agricultural development. Agricultural development is promoted through several means including training for communities in best practices for crop production, storage, food processing and marketing and through efforts to strengthen existing micro-credit systems. The final component of the CPBD program is Community Communications. This element helps communities access, utilize, and contribute to community communications systems. In addition to providing training for radio station and production center staff and stakeholders, USAID will support the production and dissemination of media programs on health, civic education and human rights, agriculture, and peace and reconciliation.

The program, which began in January 2003, is involved with 97 local communities in three (3) counties; and has assisted local communities develop and upgrade 13 community radio stations. It is implemented through the Academy for Educational Development and Mercy Corps.

Women & Child Soldier Rehabilitation and Reintegration Program (WCRR)

The WCRR assists with the educational, social and economic reintegration of up to 10,000 former child soldiers, women ex-combatants and women and children associated with the fighting forces throughout Liberia. Program activities are designed to promote the survival, development, and participation of these groups in Liberian society while limiting discrimination against them.

The WCRR assists these target groups through a variety of means. WCRR activities provide formal education opportunities including training in literacy and numeracy, vocational skills, and entrepreneurship skills. To date USAID has provided funding through OTI to fund the printing of 10,000 books and the training of 800 teachers under the UNICEF/Ministry of Education Accelerated Learning Program (ALP). This program condenses the normal six year primary school curriculum into a three year program and is targeted to older children who have missed normal opportunities for education. Through ALP, USAID/OTI has assisted in the rehabilitation of primary and secondary schools.

All WCRR activities are designed to provide psycho-social assistance; to strengthen social support networks; to build the capacity of existing support institutions; and to raise awareness on relevant issues including substance abuse, HIV/AIDS, Sexually Transmitted Diseases (STDs) and Sexual and Gender-based Violence (SGBV). The International Rescue Committee, Christian Children's Fund and Save the Children/UK are the implementing partners for this program. WCRR operates in Grand Gedeh, Nimba, Bong, Lofa, Bomi and Gparpolu, and the greater Monrovia area.

Psychosocial Support and Protection for War-affected Children and Youth

This three-year program focuses on mitigating the effects of violence and displacement on Liberian youth. The program accomplishes this through the engagement of young people and their communities in program activities designed to increase communities' ability to identify and respond to protection concerns affecting children and youth. Activities also create supportive school environments for children affected by armed conflict and ensure that children and youth both in and out of school participate in activities promoting their psychosocial and educational development. Particular attention is paid to vulnerable children defined as former child soldiers and children separated from their families. USAID provides funding to this program through the Displaced Children and Orphans Fund through July 2006. USAID's implementing partner is the International Rescue Committee.

Locally Initiated Network for Community Strengthening (LINCS)

This one-year program supports the building and strengthening of peace constituencies at the community and district level in the Voinjama, Zorzor, and Salayea districts of Lofa County. Activities will support collaboration and linkages with national and local (within Lofa County) groups, accelerate

the flow of information on the national peace process, and encourage civil society links across ethnic and tribal lines. Technical and organizational support is provided to community councils and other legitimate peace constituencies to help them promote the fair and peaceful adjudication of claims and the creation and improvement of reconciliation mechanisms. Activities also address issues such as local security, substance abuse, and violent behavior in ex-combatants. The LINCS program began in May 2004 and to date has worked in 53 local communities. The program targets 70 local communities. USAID implements this program through CHF International.

Next Steps to Peace Program

This program aims to strengthen and expand constituencies for peace and address causes and consequences of conflict. Results from local community engagement will feed into the Community Peace Building and Development (CPBD) community radio stations. The Next Steps to Peace Program is implemented through Search for Common Ground (SFCG) and capitalizes on the well-established reputation of its multi-media programming studio, Talking Drum Studio (TDS). The program supports a sensitization campaign utilizing radio, video, and drama in three targeted counties, Bong, Nimba, and Grand Gedeh, to support the implementation of the peace accord and the disarmament, demobilization, rehabilitation, and reintegration (DDRR) process. Additionally, the organization will establish a production facility in central Liberia, Bong County. Under a two year grant, Search for Common Ground (SFCG) is partnered with three Liberian NGOs to implement this peace building program which began in September 2004.

Democracy and Governance

An accountable, democratically elected government is fundamental to the creation of a stable, New Liberia. The October 11, 2005 elections are a primary means by which Liberian citizens will ultimately have a voice with which to address the systemic inequities that have led to violent conflict in the past. USAID programming supports preparation for the elections through the provision of resources and training.

USAID OTI's work in Democracy and Governance in Liberia has primarily focused on supporting the start-up and development of local NGOs who work on democracy, governance, legal and human rights issues. These include: The Foundation for Human Rights and Democracy, Liberia Democratic Institute, National Human Rights Center of Liberia, Liberia Democracy Resource Center, Liberia NGO Network, Center for Democratic Empowerment, and the Legal Association of Female Lawyers in Liberia. The other primary focus is to support transitional justice activities. These have included a nationwide qualitative survey on truth and justice issues; support to the Transitional Justice Working Group; and support to the Truth and Reconciliation Commission which led to the passage of the Truth and Reconciliation Act.

Elections Management and Assistance

The holding of free and fair elections in October 2005 is one of the USG's top priorities in Liberia, and is essential to the completion of the transition to a legitimate government. USAID's program is providing financial assistance for the preparations and conduct of the scheduled October 11, 2005 national elections that will choose Liberia's President, Vice President, the entire Senate (30 members) and the entire House of Representatives (64 members). USAID is providing essential material and technical assistance to Liberia in preparation for the upcoming elections. Specific material contributions include ballots, ballot boxes, forms, and various other election equipment and supplies. With regards to technical assistance, USAID is strengthening the capacity of Liberia's National Elections Commission (NEC) to administer the national elections, supporting political party development and training, preparing NGOs for election observation, and training polling place officials. Additionally, the agency is

supporting “get out the vote” initiatives, training civil society organizations to educate voters, and providing nation-wide coverage of the election process. The assistance is being provided through the Consortium on Elections and Political Process Strengthening, which includes the International Foundation for Election Systems (IFES), the International Republican Institute (IRI), and the National Democratic Institute (NDI).

Food Security

Resolving Liberia’s immediate and long-term food needs is a priority in securing a stable environment. The ravages of war destroyed many farmers’ livelihoods and left segments of the population vulnerable to malnutrition. USAID’s integrated approach to food security assistance includes Food for Peace (FFP) programs to address immediate hunger issues and projects to increase long-term food production. Since the summer of 2003, FFP has contributed food commodities valued at \$48 million to benefit Liberians through its programs.

Food Commodity Assistance

USAID/FFP contributes commodities to several critical World Food Programme (WFP) activities including the emergency school feeding program, the therapeutic and supplementary feeding program, and a food assistance program for pregnant and lactating mothers with poor nutritional status as well as people living with HIV/AIDS. By December 2004, FFP’s substantial contributions had enabled the WFP to reach up to 875,000 displaced Liberians, Sierra Leonean and Ivorian refugees, malnourished children and women, and people living with HIV/AIDS.

Food Support for Community Resettlement and Rehabilitation in Liberia

The consortium led by Catholic Relief Services (CRS) brings together Africare, World Vision Liberia (WVL) and Samaritan’s Purse (SP) to support communities in their aim to rehabilitate communities in Liberia. It is funded through an innovative mechanism combining funds from the USAID Mission (IDFA) and from Food for Peace in one agreement, complemented by a separate cooperative agreement from OFDA primarily to cover non-food costs of the agricultural rehabilitation component. The activities center on areas of high return of displaced persons, recent low agricultural productivity, low food and/or cash reserves, and high infrastructure damage. This broad target definition permits the consortium to work in areas of high return but also in traditionally underserved areas in the southeast.

The program focuses on infrastructure rehabilitation with Food for Work support benefiting an estimated 16,000 households and on the return of 35,000 hectares of farm land under cultivation. Some 35,000 farm households will receive agricultural inputs and the most vulnerable 15,000 of them will also receive food support. A total of 5,500 metric tons of assorted commodities will be distributed.

Food Support for Local Initiatives

FFP also supports a new "Food Support for Local Initiatives" program which provides a family food ration to every participant in infrastructure rehabilitation projects or to a farmer who rehabilitates the rice farm. In 2005, 143 projects of both types have included 11,200 participants resulting in food rations to 56,000 people.

Rehabilitation of Liberia Food Production Capacity

The goal of this project is to improve Liberia’s food production capacity by presenting agriculture as a business where lost livelihoods can be regained and developed. The program aims to develop sustainable agro-based livelihood systems that target demobilized ex-combatants to be reintegrated within the Todee District of Montserrado County. In addition to ex-combatants, returning IDPs and

refugees as well as the resident community will be incorporated in the program in order to facilitate the reintegration process. Activities include the provision of agricultural inputs such as seed and tools on credit, training in agro business, and training in seed multiplication and other agricultural techniques to develop beneficiaries' capability to design, manage and operate viable businesses. In an effort to expand the impact of the project and increase its sustainability, the program is also focusing on developing mechanisms whereby trained beneficiaries provide technical and resource support to non-target beneficiaries. USAID's implementing partner is World Vision Inc.

Improved Community Health

A healthy active population is fundamental to the success of a New Liberia. USAID plans to support this goal through programs that address health issues ranging from primary health care service availability to the physical rehabilitation of disabled persons.

Improved Community Health Project

The objectives of this program are to deliver primary health care services in target areas, build the institutional capacity of Liberian NGOs to deliver primary health care services, and address primary health care policy issues with the NTGL. The project focuses on six priority health technical areas including malaria, childhood immunization services, reproductive health, HIV/AIDS, control of diarrheal diseases, and nutrition, micronutrients and breastfeeding. This five-year program aims to provide primary health care to 500,000 people in 450 communities. It is being implemented by a consortium headed by Africare.

Additionally, approximately half of OFDA's projected Liberia FY 05 budget will fund emergency health grants for IDPs, returnees, and other conflicted-affected and vulnerable Liberians. These health programs focus on IDP camps, conflict affected communities, and key areas of return. Activities focus on primary healthcare including Expanded Programs of Immunizations, surveillance, health education, mother-child health, reproductive health, mental health, gender based violence prevention and response, communicable disease and malaria prevention, as well as basic curative health with referral systems.

**USAID/Liberia
Strategy Statement
2006-2009**

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2006-2009
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I. Program Rationale

Fourteen years of armed conflict have rendered Liberia one of the poorest countries in the world and a failed state in a fragile region. During the analytical process undertaken to develop this strategy, USAID together with implementing partners linked many sources of Liberia's fragility to 1) political and social exclusion and 2) competition over resources. The difficulty and costs incurred while working in a fragile environment are evident in Liberia. Decades of destabilization and 14 years of civil war reversed many development gains and delayed planned activities in areas of insecurity. However, the signing of the 2003 Comprehensive Peace Agreement (CPA) and subsequent improved security and conduct of peaceful elections in 2005 present Liberia with an historic opportunity for sustained peace and recovery. Taking into account consultations with partners, what other donors are doing and Liberia's recovery priorities, USAID will better align its strategy with the Africa Bureau's strategic framework for Africa. USAID will orient programming to establish the conditions necessary for transformational development to take place in Liberia through two goals: 1) Avert and resolve conflict and 2) Manage crises and promote stability, recovery, and democratic reform.

A. Foreign Policy Importance

In Liberia, decades of instability, violence, and the failure of the central government to provide basic services and security have resulted in significant direct costs to the United States in terms of humanitarian aid, economic loss sustained by American firms, and increased insecurity for American citizens. Liberia played a central role in the promotion of armed conflict among the Mano River Union (MRU)ⁱ, countries which include Liberia, Sierra Leone, and Guinea. The violence spread across fluid borders and engulfed the region in a catastrophic humanitarian crisis. Violent conflict and chronic instability in the Mano River region has resulted in gross human rights violations, the death, injury, and mutilation of hundreds of thousands of people and the displacement of millions. The continued fragility of the Liberian state and those surrounding it makes it susceptible to contagion from neighboring countries and the growth of terrorist networks and international criminal organizations.

The fragility of the three states of the MRU countries places at risk the gains made in the effort to establish peace and stability in the West African region by members of the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS)ⁱⁱ. With recent and ongoing armed conflicts in Sierra Leone, Liberia, and Cote d'Ivoire, as well as lower intensity conflicts in Senegal, Guinea-Bissau, Mali, and Nigeria, the fifteen ECOWAS countries are characterized as weak, failed, and recovering states. As fighting and instability persists in West Africa, a number of problems start to arise: the growth of terrorist networks and international criminal organizations; the destruction of the environment; the spread of disease; the increase of refugees; poverty and ethnic strife; the fragmentation of society, and the deterioration of living conditions for the region's inhabitants.

Integral to achieving peace and security in the West African region, and of particular concern to US interests, is ensuring that Liberia's fragility does not contribute to destabilizing forces elsewhere, particularly Nigeria. Along with South Africa, Nigeria has been a key strategic partner for American foreign policy in sub-Saharan Africa, particularly with regard to Nigeria's leadership in peacekeeping operations in West Africa.

As a result of armed conflict, the Liberian toll of deaths, displacement, and physical destruction is immense. In addition to these are increased disease, poverty, social trauma, and alienation. The United States response to the human suffering in Liberia through the effective and efficient use of U.S. economic development assistance will demonstrate United States commitment to improving the lives of Africans. Lastly, robust support for the new democratically elected government scheduled to be seated in January 2006 and the nascent civil society in Liberia will bolster the status of the U.S. as the international leader for democracy, human rights, peace and development.

B. Country Context and Sources of Fragility

Since 1979, chronic instability has plagued Liberia. With the exception of a two year period from 1997 to 1999, Liberia was ravaged by armed conflict from 1989 to 2003. Root causes of armed conflict and instability in Liberia are inextricably linked to the country's history of poor governance. For most of Liberia's 130 years of relative stability, Liberia was a highly centralized unitary state. The control and flow of state resources and decision making were located in the nation's capital, Monrovia. During the

early 20th century, the one-party state expanded the central government's control over the country including the inland area referred to as the "hinterland".

Although the Liberian constitution provides for a separation of powers, the president has generally held a disproportionate amount of power which was further consolidated during 1950s and 1960s. Government resources flowed to and were controlled by an elite group tied to the president either politically (e.g. member of the ruling party), socially (e.g. family member, business partner, member of same or related social group), or economically (e.g. client of an extensive patronage network) or some combination of the three. Efforts to implement inclusive governance reforms during late 1970s were insufficient to bring about positive change and lacked the necessary support of the president.

In 1980, a military coup d'etat brought Master Sergeant Samuel Doe to power. His policies deepened inequalities and delegitimized the state, instituting another layer of division on top of an already fractious arrangement. Civil war ensued in 1989 led by Charles Taylor's fighters. War conditions resulted in 1990 in Doe's brutal murder. By late 1990, all semblance of a centralized civil authority within Liberia had ceased to exist, with warlords holding hostage various sectors of the population. The politics of plunder was installed. The war lasted until July 1997 when Taylor was elected to the presidency and then used state power to lend a veneer of legitimacy to plunder. After only two years in office new rebel movements emerged – Liberians United for Reconciliation and Development (LURD) originating from bases in Guinea, and Movement for Democracy in Liberia (MODEL) from bases in Cote d'Ivoire. By late 2002/early 2003 high intensity armed conflict returned to the country eventually engulfing Monrovia. It took a Nigerian-led effort through ECOWAS to restore a fragile peace in Liberia in August 2003. After significant regional and international pressure, Taylor was forced to resign the presidency to live in exile in Nigeria.

The National Transitional Government of Liberia (NTGL) was established under the terms of the Comprehensive Peace Agreement (CPA) signed in Accra in August 2003. Gyude Bryant was elected head of the two-year transitional government. In September 2003, the United Nations Security Council established the United Nations Mission in Liberia (UNMIL). Currently, it is the UN's largest peacekeeping effort with 15,000 troops and

more than 1,000 civilian police and staff. UNMIL successfully improved security around the country. In October 2005, national elections for the presidency and the legislature were held, concluding the transition period in accordance with the terms of the peace agreement. The new government will be seated in January 2006.

Prolonged armed conflict has had a deleterious effect on every aspect of the lives of Liberians. The armed conflicts claimed the lives of tens of thousands of people in a country of approximately 3 million people. An estimated 700,000 people were internally displaced and UNHCR reports that 277,452 were forced to flee to neighboring countries of Guinea, Sierra Leone, Cote d'Ivoire, Nigeria, Ghana and other parts of West Africa. Civic norms and the social fabric of Liberia have been significantly damaged by the protracted war. The psychological damage to communities and individuals, especially women and children, is overwhelming. Many were forced to witness and participate in heinous acts. Sexual and gender-based violence was pervasive. A weak civil society before the instability in Liberia has been weakened even further by years of conflict. The central and local governments are virtually non-existent and unable to provide essential basic security, a fundamental justice system, and basic services such as water, electricity, health, education, and road maintenance. Formal economic activity and agricultural productivity was disrupted and devastated by the years of armed conflict and the subsequent flight of most businesses and human resources. A culture of impunity persists.

Liberia's human development indicators reflect impoverished conditions caused by the armed conflict and the collapse of governance institutions. Over 80% of Liberia's population is illiterate and lives below the poverty line; unemployment exceeds 70%; 35% are chronically malnourished; only 28% are fully immunized; 25% have access to safe drinking water; only 36% have access to sanitation facilities; and almost an entire generation has missed formal primary education and honed their survival instincts without the socialization skills that come from living in a society that is not at war or undergoing cyclical violence. Large portions of the population are without durable shelter as much of the physical infrastructure was destroyed during the 14 years of conflict.

While the country avoided backsliding during the two-year transition period, the most challenging phase of rehabilitation and stabilization will begin after the elections. Liberians are eager to see the dividends from the successful

completion of the peace process. In order for meaningful changes to occur, citizens must be given opportunities to participate in political processes and social institutions where critical decisions affecting their lives are made and implemented. Given that these processes are intrinsically conflictual, this will be a precarious period that presents USAID with a critical opportunity to help Liberians avert and resolve conflict and promote stability, recovery and democratic reform in order to facilitate the movement of Liberia from a fragile state to transformational development state.

Two sources of fragility jeopardize Liberia's progress: 1) political and social exclusion and 2) competition over resources. The deliberate exclusion of the majority of Liberians from political life and economic opportunities could lead to renewed conflict and destabilize the current peace in Liberia. The political marginalization of a majority of Liberians has hampered efforts to build an inclusive participatory democratic political system. High state corruption creates vested interests and excludes potent groups and individuals who can in turn become potential threats to the peace. It also deprives the population of livelihood opportunities. A war devastated economy also makes it more difficult to expand opportunities to improve living conditions. A nascent civil society faces a huge power imbalance in seeking to democratize the political system. Opportunism among some political parties has led to exclusionary organizational practices. Communities resistant to or reluctant to receive former combatants will likely result in the alienation of a large portion of the population. A socially excluded and significantly war affected population is likely to continue to foment violence and/or engage in criminal activities.

The second source of fragility is the competition for national resources. With a culture of impunity, a debilitated judiciary, a lack of transparent and accountable governance institutions, and deficient oversight mechanisms, Liberia is vulnerable to conflict entrepreneurs seeking to exploit its rich resources. During the last two decades, there has been an increased utilization of the Presidency as a vehicle through which personal wealth is amassed by controlling the resources of the country. Government leaders have routinely manipulated markets and laws to enhance their power and wealth. State revenues have been appropriated for private use or waived in return for side payments or kickbacks. Resources that get to the Treasury have been directed from national institutions toward personal enrichment, padding of payrolls with large numbers of unqualified and unnecessary employees, or other low priorities – which has resulted in a severe lack of

funding for essential public services. An ineffective government can lead to citizen disengagement and frustration, laying the ground work for conflict entrepreneurs to manipulate this sense of anger to destabilize the newly elected government.

Sources of fragility must be addressed in a manner that lays a firm foundation for transformational development to take place in Liberia. The objectives in this strategy were chosen specifically because they address the sources of fragility described above. Achieving results over the next three years will reduce fragility in Liberia and foster stability and good governance.

C. Global Issues and Special Concerns

HIV/AIDS and other infectious diseases: As a country emerging from war in a region where infectious diseases are endemic, Liberia faces a serious challenge in rebuilding preventive and curative health care systems, as well as monitoring the spread of diseases. USAID/Liberia's programs on HIV/AIDS will focus on behavior change, abstinence, proper and constant use of condoms, prevention of mother-to-child transmission, voluntary counseling and testing, care for orphans and vulnerable children, HIV/TB co-infection, antiretroviral therapy and technical support to the government. USAID is the lead donor for the Demographic and Health Survey (DHS) to be conducted in 2006 which will provide valuable data to improve the surveillance of HIV/AIDS and other diseases. Malaria is the highest cause of morbidity and mortality in Liberia, and USAID will support the distribution of insecticide treated bednets, prompt diagnosis and treatment. USAID is a lead contributor to polio eradication efforts and will also take a leading role in establishing a surveillance and response capacity for avian influenza.

Vulnerable children and reproductive health: USAID/Liberia's ongoing community-based health and reintegration programs place significant emphasis on women and youth, including vulnerable children, who suffer from severe lack of maternal and reproductive health services and from widespread use of rape as a weapon of war and other traumatic experiences. It is estimated that at least one in ten children may have been recruited as child soldiers, and a similar proportion traumatized by seeing their families and friends raped and murdered. Approximately 13 percent of Liberian children are orphans. Some estimate that 40 percent of women have been

raped. Though USAID does not expect to receive Displaced Children and Orphans or Leahy War Victims Funds during this strategy, we will continue and strengthen psycho-social counseling and other services targeting vulnerable children and victims of war in our community-based programs. The Mission will also provide both commodities and services to reduce unintended pregnancies and improve overall reproductive health behavior.

Biodiversity: Liberia's forests constitute the largest remaining blocks of the Upper Guinean forest ecosystem, a biodiversity hot spot that is home to a number of threatened species. Sapou National Park was established in 1983 to conserve one of the largest blocks of protected forest in the sub-region, but it is in danger of being destroyed by illegal logging, mining and hunting. USAID will promote community-based activities in support of a multi-donor plan to remove "unauthorized" people from the park and re-establish state authority through park management and development opportunities for surrounding communities. This effort complements USDA's Liberia Forest Initiative, which is working to re-establish sustainable forest management practices in the wake of a review recommending the cancellation of all existing concessions, and thus the eventual removal of UN sanctions on commercial timber sales.

D. Linkages to Initiatives

Liberia benefits from two presidential initiatives. USAID/Liberia receives support from the Africa Education Initiative (AEI) to strengthen basic education. Delivered through the Ambassador's Girls Scholarship Program (AGSP), AEI assistance further enhances girls' education opportunities. In 2005, the AGSP provided scholarships and is expected to do so in 2006. The Mission expects to receive AEI funds directly in 2007. USAID/Liberia also receives funds from the Global HIV/AIDS Initiative to support expanded assistance to help stem the spread of AIDS.

E. Strategic Issues

The goals of this strategy are directly related to the strategic issues of counter-terrorism and extractive industries. High-value natural resources are conflict sources in this region. Corrupt deals for Liberian timber and Sierra Leonean diamonds, among other resources, financed the conflagration that engulfed the region in the past decades. Moreover, the toxic combination of

chaos and illicit use of resources fosters international criminality and possibly terrorism.

In a properly regulated environment, revival of production and exports of timber, revival and expansion of Liberian diamond and gold mining, and the reopening of iron-ore mining and exports, the country can generate substantial new employment opportunities as well as substantial revenue for the treasury. In the future, Liberia may also be able to generate significant revenue from offshore oil reserves. Clearly, averting conflict and promoting stability in Liberia are crucial steps toward closing the playground for international crime that the region has become. At the same time, steps to reign in corruption and exert responsible control over natural resources, both envisaged in this strategy, are essential for achieving the requisite stabilization of Liberia. Finally, international support for a unified message on corruption and responsible management of natural resources is essential to facilitate the hard work that is still to come in these areas.

F. Relevance to PRSP and Other Issues

To date, Liberia has not developed a Poverty Reduction Strategy Paper, although the NTGL is currently discussing the issue with the World Bank (WB) and the International Monetary Fund (IMF). Meanwhile, two documents provide a framework for Liberia to work with the international financial institutions, bilateral donors and UN Agencies. In September 2005, the NTGL and its international partners signed the Governance and Economic Management Assistance Program (GEMAP), a multi-component assistance program which is expected to assist the Government of Liberia to improve economic governance and financial management. It is centered around six key components namely 1) securing Liberia's revenue base, 2) ensuring improved budgeting and expenditure management, 3) improved procurement practices and granting of concessions, 4) establishing effective processes to control corruption, 5) support for key Government institutions ; and 6) cross cutting capacity building.

It is anticipated that progress on GEMAP will eventually result in the release of substantial donor funding, which has been withheld due to a lack of transparency and accountability in the interim government, hopefully to accelerate reconstruction and development programs. A priority for the newly elected government is to normalize relations with the WB and IMF in

order to secure the necessary technical and financial assistance for Liberia's post-conflict reconstruction and stabilization. Consultations with the IMF that took place in late February 2005 were a step toward this normalization, but a Staff Monitored Program for Liberia under the IMF's Poverty Reduction and Growth Facility (PRGF), together with a program to clear external debt arrears and subsequent restoration of Liberia's access to new IFI loans or credits, remain as critical financial steps for the newly elected government.

The Results Focused Transitional Framework (RFTF), adopted in February 2004, is the current framework for development planning in donor assistance. The priorities delineated in the RFTF include: (a) security; (b) disarmament, demobilization and reintegration of ex-combatants into communities; (c) repatriation and reintegration of refugees and internally displaced persons; (d) reconstruction of damaged physical infrastructure; (e) economic restoration through community driven and private sector development; (f) re-establishing limited government and rule of law institutions, including essential services; (g) elections and political party strengthening; and (h) promotion of economic reform and development strategy through the forest initiative. USAID/Liberia will continue to honor these priorities to ensure sustainability of democratic reform.

II. Program Structure

This strategy consists of four strategic objectives contributing to two goals: 1) Avert and resolve conflict and 2) Manage crises and promote stability, recovery, and democratic reform. USAID will build on the programmatic achievements of Mission-managed activities and those from the emergency and transition activities of the USAID Office of Foreign Disaster Assistance (OFDA), Office of Food for Peace (FFP), and the Office of Transition Initiatives (OTI). USAID will consolidate and adapt relevant emergency response and transition activities in its integrated programs aimed at conflict prevention and stabilization in Liberia, with a special focus on rural development. The four strategic objectives will begin in 2006 and extend through 2009.

A. Strategic Objective 1.2: Reinforce African Conflict Mitigation Capacity

During Liberia's transition from conflict to peace, USAID efforts focused on advancing the peace process which was completed with successful national elections in October and November 2005. In order to prevent backsliding and to ensure that the fragile peace becomes durable, USAID/Liberia will reinforce the conflict mitigation capacity of the Liberian government and non-governmental organizations at the local and national levels by strengthening early warning response mechanisms, promoting the peaceful resolution of disputes and establishing a framework for reconciliation.

Building on the lessons learned during the disarmament and demobilization process in conjunction with experience gained during the initial reintegration process, USAID will 1) restore the financial self-sufficiency of war affected persons particularly youth and women; 2) contribute to social cohesion in the communities; and 3) link communities to government. Activities will focus on fostering community empowerment, participation and the sustainable reintegration of ex-combatants and returned refugees and internally displaced persons. Community-driven projects such as the rehabilitation of administrative buildings, schools, clinics, roads, and bridges will support the reintegration of those returning and those who remained in communities.

The transition efforts of the USAID Mission and those of OTI, FFP and OFDA were initially aimed at providing emergency relief for refugees, the internally displaced and ex-combatants. Subsequent efforts were aimed at facilitating their return and sustainable reintegration in home communities, USAID activities will build on these efforts to provide the foundations for longer-term rehabilitation and reconstruction programs. USAID will strengthen Community Development Committees (CDCs) in targeted areas. These committees, consisting of local officials, community members, County Deputy Superintendents, and implementing partners, help prioritize local development activities. Through training and capacity building, communities will organize cooperatives, work brigades, farmer groups and other advocacy groups, including women's and youth groups. This approach to community development will increase citizen participation and strengthen accountability mechanisms. To complement community-driven approaches, the strategy also incorporates selected efforts to strengthen governance and accountability structures at the national level.

B. Strategic Objective 2.2: Increase Access to Essential Services

Decades of war severely disrupted the ability of the government to provide essential services. Issues of improved access, equity, and quality in social services, especially health and education, became acute. As Liberia becomes stronger and enjoys peace, improved access to essential services plays a vital role in recovery and regaining a degree of normalcy so that citizens can experience improved quality of life, realize tangible benefits of peace, and actively engage with government. USAID will enhance the legitimacy and effectiveness of government by supporting increased provision of essential services, capacity building and increased participation in setting priorities and monitoring the delivery of social services.

In the health sector, the Mission will support a package of integrated health sector services with three components: 1) improve child survival, health and nutrition; 2) prevention and control of infectious diseases of major importance; 3) support family planning and reproductive health; and 4) reduced transmission and impact of HIV/AIDS. These programs will contribute to the stability and recovery of Liberia by providing basic health services to a large section of the populace. Through the Improved Community Health Program, assistance will be provided to improve reproductive health. Vaccination campaigns, integrated disease surveillance and response mechanisms will address polio eradication and the control of other communicable diseases. Mission programs will also increase capacity for diagnosing and preventing malaria and responding to avian influenza. HIV/AIDS will be addressed through promotion of abstinence, proper and constant use of condoms, prevention of mother-to-child transmission, voluntary counseling and testing, care for orphans and vulnerable children, HIV/TB co-infection, antiretroviral therapy, technical support to the government, information dissemination and behavioral modification programs. In association with the Improved Community Health Program, child and maternal nutrition will be addressed through the transition program spearheaded by FFP.

In the education sector, USAID will promote movement towards universal basic education through the following: 1) increased awareness of and advocacy for educational policy reform at the local, county and national levels through community participation; 2) increased equitable access to quality basic education through teacher training, provision of education materials and community participation; and 3) improved quality of the workforce through vocational and technical training. In addition to limited infrastructure repair, special attention will be given to educational programs

that combine basic literacy and numeracy with learning citizen responsibility. Rights-based, participatory educational services will target schools, teachers, students and community members.

C. Strategic Objective 2.3: Advance Inclusive Governance

The key sources of Liberia's fragility can be traced to the accumulated impact of decades of poor and unaccountable governance. As a consequence of poor management or theft of public resources, the vast majority of Liberians are excluded from the benefits of public services, have no say in the use of national resources, and lack recourse to the rule of law. In this environment of scarcity and impunity, competition over access to limited public resources, or resentment over exclusion from them, as well as the unregulated scramble for control of rich natural resources, create incentives for a return to conflict. As successive rulers have tried to consolidate their positions through the distribution of state resources and jobs, government structures have become increasingly bloated, inefficient and corrupt. This Strategic Objective will assist Liberia to address this critical challenge by fostering opportunities for greater numbers of Liberians to participate in political decision making and hold leaders accountable for meeting public needs. Providing avenues for recourse and alternatives to violence as a means of resolving disputes will also form critical elements of this objective.

Years of neglect fueled by executive control have left the justice sector under-resourced, disrespected and unable to fulfill its basic functions. USAID will support an access to justice program to increase the confidence of Liberians to resolve disputes efficiently, fairly and effectively through the justice sector. USAID will work to: 1) establish legal advice centers and a national referral network; 2) strengthen judicial reformers within civil society; 3) integrate alternative dispute mechanisms; and 4) provide incentives to attract public defenders. USAID will work closely with other USG actors addressing institutional strengthening of the justice sector, including State/INL support to court administration and law enforcement agencies and Department of Justice Office of Prosecutorial Development and Training support to the Ministry of Justice.

A second main program component is promoting anticorruption reforms, which USAID/Liberia will accomplish through a comprehensive, multi-sectoral approach that will include strengthening civil society and public

sector executive functions. In a country where judicial functions are nearly non-existent and easily corrupted, and where more head-on approaches to the problem could risk reigniting conflict, an approach that focuses mainly on reducing opportunities for corruption through transparency, public oversight and governance reform is both appropriate and realistic. Programs in all sectors will include civic education and opportunities for citizens and communities to gain hands-on experience in participating in and monitoring the implementation of the decisions of public authorities. Promotion of transparency and access to information will be another shared theme, including supporting the relevant legislative structures as they relate to oversight of the budget and administrative regulatory frameworks. As part of GEMAP, USAID will seek to strengthen governance institutions at the national level, particularly those tasked with managing revenue. A special focus on re-exerting legitimate control over the management of natural resources, including timber, diamonds, iron ore and oil, will help shelter the greatest prizes in the corruption game from further exploitation that does not benefit the majority of Liberians. Civil society and the media will be assisted to provide necessary oversight, transparency and advocacy for reform. Legislative and electoral bodies may receive assistance to enhance their ability to conduct oversight and ensure accountability.

The challenging reforms necessary to exert control over national resources, revenues and expenditures will require genuine political will and commitment to ending business as usual in Liberia. Ongoing support from the international community for a unified message about the need for controlling corruption and establishing responsible management practices in the extractive industries will be important to maintain current momentum. If evidence of this political will is not forthcoming, the anticorruption element of the strategic objective will revert to supporting local-level participation and oversight, along with civil society advocacy. Throughout the strategy period, the Mission will seek opportunities to support promising reformers and checks and balances within and outside government.

D. Strategic Objective 2.4: Restore and Maintain Basic Economic Activity and Livelihoods

Liberians are experiencing a relative but fragile peace. To mitigate the possible reoccurrence of conflict and sustain the prevailing peace and tranquility, it is critical that the war-devastated basic economic activities of

the country are restored, the livelihoods of the population are rebuilt, and the war-affected population is re-engaged. Accordingly, getting the Liberian economy back on track involves substantial investment in social and economic infrastructure, a strategic multi-sectoral approach in addressing the complex development challenges that the country faces, and delicate diplomatic and political negotiations both with the host country players and international development partners. Under this SO, USAID will support programs for which it has a comparative advantage and that promise to leverage and complement the host country's and development partners' programs in the country.

Prior to the war, farmers relied on tree crops, (e.g. cocoa, coffee, rubber, and oil palm), food crops (e.g. rice, cassava, beans, plantain, etc.), fish farming, and small stock (small ruminants, poultry, piggery, etc.) production both for home consumption and cash income. The effect of the war on all these sub-sectors has been devastating. Animals were looted; tree crops were destructively harvested and sold by the combatants or completely abandoned in cases where the owners fled the scorch of war. Farms were also abandoned or destroyed. Destruction of infrastructure and the lack of maintenance for roads and other facilities will slow the recovery and marketing of agricultural production. A formidable challenge facing USAID is to assist the rural population – returning refugees, IDPs, ex-combatants, and impoverished and dispossessed residents – to regain control of their lives.

The Liberian forestry sector, a pillar of the country's economy, has also been one of the primary sources of conflict. USAID will support programs consistent with GEMAP, which is designed to ensure transparent revenue generation and collection through the sustainable management of forest resources and mining contracts. USAID will also continue programs aimed at promoting sustainable tree crop-based farming techniques such as the cocoa agroforestry to reduce the shifting cultivation-induced pressure on forest land and protect bio-diversity. In this sector, the Mission will support both national and community-driven good governance for sustainable and equitable forest resources management and the development and commercialization of improved agroforestry and silvo-pastoral technologies (e.g. integrated tree, crop, small stock, and inland fisheries management) for sustainable natural resource management. Given the capital investment requirements of the timber and rubber industry in Liberia, the Mission will

make a deliberate effort to create opportunities for public-private sector alliances.

E. Cross-Cutting Themes

Gender: In addition to the gross gender inequities found in the Liberian society, particularly the weak legislative mechanisms to protect girls from exploitation and marginalization of women under the rule of law, the impact of conflict has challenged the ability of the state to develop post-conflict rebuilding strategies. Women, generally lacking access to literacy and finances, face lives of social and resource insecurity. Also, war disproportionately victimized women and children. In 2003, the International Rescue Committee (IRC Report 2004) estimated that only 24% of school-aged girls were enrolled in primary school, and only 27% of those would reach Grade 5. Protection issues, including girls vulnerable to sexual violence outside and inside school and those using transactional sex to pay for education, undermine life opportunities for girls and women. The number of female headed households has dramatically increased (although actual statistics are unknown). According to the UNICEF State of the Worlds Children 2005, the illiteracy rate among females is 73%. In order to address gender inequities the Mission will continue to mainstream gender issues in activity design. The activities envisioned under this strategic statement will reduce gender inequity, and eliminate the worst forms of societal abuse of females. The Mission is providing educational, psycho-social and economic support through job and income generating activities, trauma counseling, and reducing conflicts between family roles and economic activity. Social service delivery will be directed toward women and girls. Girls will be provided school scholarships. Women will be protected by community programs designed to increase access to justice, information and legal protection. Public education will be conducted on laws intended to empower and protect women, such as the new inheritance law and recently enacted rape law.

HIV/AIDS: In addition to destroying the health infrastructure, the years of war assuredly contributed to the spread of HIV/AIDS. Rape was routinely a method of intimidation and war. The breakdown in family and social values, exacerbation of poverty, and magnitude of internally and externally displaced persons have been key contributing factors. From a prewar prevalence of less than 1.5% in 1989, it is estimated that the HIV/AIDS prevalence rate is now between 7% and 10%. The linkages between issues

of gender and the spread of HIV/AIDS require that the Mission continue to link attention to gender issues and HIV/AIDS in activity design across the Mission's strategy. For example public education and all training programs will include modules on the transmission of HIV/AIDS.

Youth: Liberia has a large youth population and, during the war, an estimated one in every ten children was recruited into rebel fighting groups. They missed the normative cultural socialization process, and many have missed years of schooling as a result of conflict. Accelerated Learning Programs and vocational training will allow youth, including those with physical disabilities, to gain literacy and numeracy, life and vocational skills. As they are integrated into communities, they will understand and strengthen the democratic framework for lasting peace.

Urbanization: Urbanization will be integrated throughout the portfolio with emphasis placed on the quality of life. In many ways, the limited urban infrastructure cannot support the stressors of population explosions, especially in terms of livelihoods, services, and economic stability. Urbanization issues will be reflected as a part of all strategic objectives primarily by providing incentives to attract people to rural areas. Empowered communities will be able to prioritize health services, schools, job creation, vocational training, and municipal centers.

USAID/Liberia will implement its governance SO through a number of cross-cutting approaches focusing on community empowerment, civil society strengthening, improving transparency and oversight of government, all with an explicit goal of fighting corruption as well as strengthening democratic processes.

F. Regional Issues

Liberia plays a dual role of victim and contributor to the prevailing West Africa regional instability. Stability in Liberia has national and regional ramifications which also extend to the continent and beyond. From a US national security perspective, disintegration in Liberia could lead to greater sub-regional instability as well as an uncontrollable breeding ground for international criminality and possibly terrorism and must be prevented.

Beyond security concerns, Liberia is also a home to a significant tract of the world's richest and equally sensitive natural resources including the tropical

rainforest ecosystem. According to the IMF (2005), “about half of the country’s area is covered by high forests, equivalent of about 45 % of the remaining Upper Guinea Forest, which spans 10 West African Countries from Guinea to Cameroon.” Accordingly, a robust USG bilateral assistance program will support the US foreign policy interest of continuing Liberia’s strategic alliance, avoiding and interrupting possible threat of terrorism, and ending hunger and poverty in Africa.

G. Indigenous Expertise, Donor Harmonization and GDAs

USAID/Liberia, working through international partners, implements programs in collaboration with local NGOs, community-based associations and the limited local government structures. USAID’s international partners provide significant capacity building for local NGOs and community-based organizations which provide local expertise essential for appropriate programming. International partners include Development Alternatives International, International Rescue Committee, Save the Children UK, Christian Children’s Fund, Africare, International Foundation for Elections Systems, National Democratic Institute, International Republican Institute, Academy for Educational Development, Mercy Corps, Search for Common Ground, Cooperative Housing Foundation International, and World Vision International.

USAID participates in regular meetings to strategize and coordinate efforts with other international donors. The United Nations Mission in Liberia provides security throughout the country and, in addition to the USA, is supported by the European Union, World Bank, United Kingdom, Germany and Japan. USAID, in coordination with other donors, supports relief and reconstruction activities outlined in Liberia’s Results Focused Transitional Framework and through the International Contact Group on Liberia is providing technical support to GEMAP. USAID played a lead role in building consensus for the undertaking of a multi-donor supported, comprehensive and cost effective Demographic and Health Survey, and has been a major contributor to the WHO Global Polio Eradication Initiative.

The focus of USAID work with GDA will be in the extractive industries sector with alliances initially concentrating on tree crops and youth.

III. Resource Requirements

A. Program Budget (\$000)

Year	DA (EG,AG, Bio-Div, BED, AEL, DG, Conflict)	CSH (POP, CSMH, HIV/AIDS, ID)	GHAI	ESF	Total
FY 2006	7,858	2,900	1,100	75,000	86,858
FY 2007	38,858	6,201	1,111	75,000	120,059
FY 2008	42,743	6,821	1,222	75,000	125,786
Total	89,459	15,922	3,433	225,000	332,703

Year	SO7: Conflict Mitigation	SO8: Essential Services	SO9: Governance	SO10: Economic Activity	Total
FY 2006	40,000	7,000	30,099	9,759	86,858
FY 2007	40,000	20,312	39,858	20,152	120,322
FY 2008	40,000	30,386	33,233	22,167	125,786
Total	120,000	57,698	103,190	52,078	332,966

B. Operating Expenses Budget (\$000)

FY 2006	1,028
FY 2007	1,331
FY 2008	1,198
Total	3,557

C. Staffing

Year	USDH (OE)	(Prog)	USPSC (OE)	(Prog)	FSN (OE)	(Prog)	TCN (OE)	(Prog)	Total
2006	4	1	0	4	11	21	1	1	43
2007	5	1	0	5	12	26	1	1	51
2008	5	1	0	5	12	26	1	1	51

ANNEX 1: Environmental Threats and Opportunities Assessment with special focus on Biodiversity and Tropical Forestry

Endnotes

ⁱ In 1961 Liberia and Sierra Leone set up an inter-governmental ministerial committee to look at ways of increasing their economic co-operation. This led to the signing of the Mano River Union (MRU) Treaty on October 3rd 1973. At this stage, the MRU was largely a customs union, whose aim was the free movement of goods and people. The treaty made provision for other West African countries to join, and Guinea became a member on October 25th 1980. The main aim of the MRU is economic and trade co-operation.

ⁱⁱ The Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS) was established in 1975 by 15 West African countries: Benin, Burkina Faso, Côte d'Ivoire, The Gambia, Ghana, Guinea, Guinea-Bissau, Liberia, Mali, Mauritania, Niger, Nigeria, Senegal, Sierra Leone and Togo. Cape Verde joined ECOWAS in 1977, and Mauritania withdrew in early 2000. The community's principal objective is to establish a customs union and a common market to promote the free movement of goods and people within West Africa.

US Government Assistance to Liberia (2006)*

First 165 Days - \$17,625,000

Balance of 2006 - \$115,750,000

Total Expenditure in 2006 - \$133,375,000

*Amounts already committed are not included in the totals

1. GEMAP (\$13,200,000):

- a. Deliverables in first 165 days (\$6,200,000)
 - Place internationally recruited financial controllers into key government entities: Forestry Development Agency; National Port Authority and Roberts International Airport.
 - Position supervisory experts into the Bureau of the Budget, Ministry of Lands, Mines and Energy and General Services Agency.
- b. By the end of 2006 (\$7,000,000)
 - Engage in internationally tendered management contracts for operation of the FDA chain of custody, Roberts International Airport and the Freeport of Monrovia.
 - Continue Treasury Department technical assistance in the budgeting and tax/revenue collection processes.
 - Extend activities of internationally recruited financial controllers in key government entities: Forestry Development Agency; National Port Authority and Roberts International Airport.

2. SECURITY SECTOR (\$20,000,000)

(\$60,000,000 already committed, \$20,000,000 to be programmed):

- a. Deliverables in the first 165 days
 - Commence recruiting and vetting of recruits – begin 1/18
 - Prepare training base at Camp Shefflin
 - Commence basic training of first recruits o/a March 1
- b. By the end of 2006
 - Complete training of 1 battalion
 - Complete construction of operational base at Camp S.
 - Complete reorganization of MOD
 - Initiate first IMET program for new officers

3. BASIC SERVICES/INFRASTRUCTURE (\$41,800,000):

- a. Deliverables in first 165 days (\$6,000,000)
 - Emergency repairs to the Executive Mansion to enhance security
 - Rehabilitation of the Capitol Building
 - Rehab Min Public Works building

- Rehab Monrovia courts
 - Rehab Zwedru High School
 - Rehab Zwedru Hospital
 - Rehab Greenville High School
 - Build sanitary landfill for Monrovia
 - Basic grading of Ganta-Sanniquellie, Buchanan-RiverCes and River Cess-Greenville roads
 - Inaugurate Barclayville Bridge (already funded)
 - Inaugurate Phebe via Sanoyea to Totota Road in Bong County (already funded)
 - Inaugurate AMEU Univ. Building (already funded)
 - Complete dam project in Zleh Town in Grand Gedeh (already funded)
- b. By the end of 2006 (\$35,800,000)
- LCIP projects will rehabilitate county admin buildings, clinics (including JFK medical center - TNIMA), schools, police posts, court houses, border posts and improve farm to market roads. Project will also provide vocational training in agriculture, masonry, roof tiling, and business skills. \$19,000,000
 - Education: renovate schools, and teacher training facilities; provide educational equipment, textbooks, materials and supplies; support curriculum development; and build the education system's capacity. LWI will dig bore holes at 52 school communities. \$11,200,000
 - Health: support primary and reproductive health care activities in targeted communities; expand HIV/AIDS activities; further address the institutional strengthening of Liberian NGOs and county health teams; and continue to expand support for the development of in-service training for health care personnel. \$5,600,000

4. ECONOMIC REVITALIZATION (\$48,350,000):

- a. Deliverables in the first 165 days
- Complete computerized "Flag Receipt" system at Ministry of Finance & the Central Bank of Liberia. (\$420,000 already committed)
 - Initiate steps to comply with Kimberly Process certification. (\$1,200,000 already committed)
 - Assist GOL to implement the recommendations of the concession review committee and provide technical assistance in the development of new regulations and revised Forest Concession Agreements.
- b. By the end of 2006 (\$48,350,000)
- Community development challenge grants \$5,000,000

- Micro credit programs \$2,500,000
- Budget development capacity building (Treasury advisor) \$500,000
- Sustainable agriculture/forestry, including cash crops, food crops, and community forestry. Strengthen farmer associations. \$18,000,000
- Strengthen civil society organizations, with an added focus on management skills and business associations that can advocate for an enabling environment for private sector development \$1,000,000
- Food Security (on going): food assistance to support IDPs and vulnerable populations; livelihood regeneration activities. \$20,000,000
- Humanitarian Support (on going): Efforts will focus on anchoring returned populations to their communities, stabilizing food security and livelihoods at the household level and establishing a foundation for longer term rehabilitation and development interventions. \$8,500,000 Already committed
- Refugee and Humanitarian Support (on going): repatriation and reintegration of Liberian refugees, assistance to returnees and conflict victims, and other reintegration support to Liberian refugee returnees and return communities in sectors such as health, education, child protection/family reunification, micro-enterprise development, and gender-based violence \$15,000,000 Already committed
- Community Reintegration Programs (all on going):
 - Women and Child Soldier Reintegration and Rehabilitation Program. \$3,000,000 Already funded
 - Youth Education for Life Skills program (community projects). \$2,600,000 Already funded
 - Community Peace Building and Development Program (community projects). \$3,000,000 Already funded
 - Community Youth Peace Education Program. \$350,000
 - Accelerated Learning Program. \$1,000,000

5. RULE OF LAW/GOVERNANCE (\$10,025,000):

- a. Deliverables in the first 165 days: (\$5,425,000)
 - Regional Legal Advisor and 5-person technical team to begin work on court procedures, access to law texts, recommend reforms/legislation. \$3,000,000
 - Conduct initial Woodrow Wilson Center “Unity/Leadership Workshop” \$125,000
 - Demobilize/retire SSS \$1,100,000
 - Commence training of VIP protective detail (\$1,200,000)
- b. By the end of 2006 (\$4,600,000)
 - Support launch of TRC \$500,000

- Support demobilization/retirement of LNP \$1,000,000
- Prison rehabilitation \$500,000
- Legislative Strengthening. \$1,600,000
- Establish legal aid centers and victim abuse centers, support the law school and provide student incentives to increase the number of qualified public defenders, promote public outreach and education on rights and responsibilities, and strengthen advocacy for legal reforms. (\$2,400,000 already committed; \$1,000,000 to be programmed)

Implementation of the Comprehensive Peace Agreement

Question: What specifically can we do to ensure that the Comprehensive Peace Agreement (CPA) in Sudan is implemented and does not backslide?

Answer:

- Implementation of the CPA is proceeding in fits and starts. Some major milestones have been reached, while others are still to be achieved.
- While the success of the peace ultimately depends on the Sudanese themselves, we can take a number of steps to ensure forward movement on the CPA and reduce prospects for renewed conflict.
- USAID's strategy focuses on supporting the implementation of, and reducing the threats to, the CPA. We will strategically support: (1) the provision of "peace dividends" to the South in order to strengthen economic and social infrastructure, such as roads and facilities, and health services and schools in targeted communities; (2) the reintegration of large numbers of internally displaced persons (IDPs) and other returnees to the South; (3) the strengthening of the newly emerging Government of Southern Sudan; and (4) activities that prevent and mitigate conflict in the transition areas.

BACKGROUND:

USAID has identified the threats to the CPA to be (1) political will to implement the CPA, especially those provisions pertaining to security, wealth sharing, power sharing, and elections in the North, South and Transition Zones; (2) escalation of conflict in the Transition Zones; (3) weak institutional capacity of the Government of South Sudan (GOSS); (4) Continued South-South tensions; (5) lack of security and the continued presence of militias; and (6) high expectations of the Sudanese people for visible peace.

The USG will contribute to the establishment of more participatory and inclusive political and civic institutions—including local government and the GOSS—so that Southern Sudanese are self-governed and political parties and civil society can operate freely. This will empower and give political voice to the traditionally marginalized Southerners and build confidence in the peace process. It will also build capacity to absorb returning IDPs and collaborate with the Government of National Unity (GoNU).

Going forward, the USG will also provide technical advisors, training, logistical support, and equipment to help stand up key ministries and governing bodies within the GOSS to ensure that they have adequate capacity to manage core public administration, financial and legal functions.

Darfur Humanitarian Programs

Question: Given the recent events, how can we ensure that USAID is able to continue carrying out its humanitarian programs in Darfur?

Answer:

- USAID is committed to providing assistance to populations in need, without demanding undue risks by our staff or the staff of our implementing partners in the field. In a deteriorating security scenario, USAID will work with implementing partners to assess their ability to secure their staff while continuing to provide services. USAID and partners have already discussed the potential reprogramming of funds to maintain life-saving programs for needy beneficiaries in Sudan and Chad. This includes primarily food security, shelter, protection, water/sanitation and health.
- USAID recently completed a security and personnel assessment of its operation in Darfur, within a wider strategy of remaining flexible to the volatile nature of the conflict in the region.
- USAID has collaborated with the Department of State to prepare a contingency plan that lays out steps to provide ongoing humanitarian assistance in a number of contingency scenarios that could result in major population displacements across the Sudan and Chad borders.
- USAID is engaged in discussions with NGO partners and the U.N. so that we can respond quickly and effectively to a deteriorating security situation.

CLEARANCES:

AFR/SP:DOtt	DRAFT	Date	1-31-0
AFR/DP:WWarren	DRAFT	Date	2-1-06
DAA/AFR:KAlmquist	DRAFT	Date	2-1-06
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AA/AFR:LPierson	DRAFT	Date	2-1-06
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Arc of Crisis – Liberia, Sierra Leone, Guinea, Côte d'Ivoire

ISSUE: THE USG PUTS A HIGH PRIORITY ON ENSURING STABILITY IN THIS PART OF THE WEST AFRICA SUB-REGION.

- Reducing instability in the Mano River Union countries (Liberia, Sierra Leone, and Guinea) and Côte d'Ivoire remains a high priority for U.S. policy in the sub-region. USAID's assistance supports the goal of restoring stability in the sub-region.
- The health of Guinea's President Lansana Conte is extremely poor and there is no identified successor within the ruling party. A highly fragmented political opposition and a secretive military raise serious concerns regarding the country's preparation for any imminent regime change and subsequent transition. Guinea's political future is further jeopardized by corruption and the severe economic crisis facing the country. USAID has a broad-based program in Guinea focused largely on health, education and natural resources.
- Elections scheduled for October 30, 2005 to bring Côte d'Ivoire out of its present conflict did not occur due to the failure of the rebels and of pro-government militia to disarm. The African Union ruled for President Laurent Gbagbo to remain in office "for a period not exceeding 12 months" (October 30, 2006). The designation by African mediators on December 4 of Charles Konan Banny, governor of West Africa's central bank, as interim prime minister of war-divided Côte d'Ivoire won support. But since then, there been several violent incidents, with significant violence being targeted at the UN.
- There is concern that the destabilization of Guinea and Côte d'Ivoire will spillover to already very fragile neighboring countries. Without the successful reintegration of ex-combatants, IDPs, refugees and war-affected persons in Sierra Leone and Liberia, as well as the disarming of the rebels and militia groups in Côte d'Ivoire, this region will be overflowing with individuals who will be easily mobilized to become violent and take up arms. USAID is engaged in community-based reintegration programs in both Sierra Leone and Liberia.

Background: Rebel activity, civil war, and border incursions have ricocheted around the former Mano River Union countries for over a decade. The resignation and departure from Liberia of President Charles Taylor in August 2003 and the recent elections was a major step in enhancing greater prospects for stability in the region. However, there is concern about growing tension in Guinea. Of the six countries that border it, three currently have peacekeeping missions -- Liberia, Côte d'Ivoire, and Sierra Leone.

Sierra Leone. Sierra Leone has made important steps in its transition from war to peace. Despite the progress, Sierra Leone still ranks as one of the world's poorest countries on the UN Human Development Index. The UN Mission in Sierra Leone (UNAMSIL) pulled out completely in December 2005, but the UN Integrated Office for Sierra Leone (UNIOSL) has been established with a one-year mandate. UNIOSL will help the government reinforce human rights, fulfill the Millennium Development Goals, enhance transparency and conduct free and fair elections in 2007. The USAID program, managed from Guinea, focuses on reintegration and democratic governance. Our largest program aims to increase unity and reconciliation, and encourage resettlement by rebuilding vital public infrastructure in devastated communities and stimulating economic activity. The goal of this program is to contribute to the sustainable reintegration of communities into dynamic local economies in 21 chiefdoms in the three districts of Koinadugu, Kono, and Kailahun (bordering both Liberia and Guinea). Sierra Leone faces Presidential and Parliamentary elections in 2007. Corruption and the lack of basic services and jobs remain key concerns for most Sierra Leoneans.

Guinea. U.S. strategic interests in Guinea are strong and multi-faceted. Guinea is a moderate Muslim country and maintains a moderate, secular orientation in its foreign policy. Guinea is bordered by six countries, of which four (Côte d'Ivoire, Sierra Leone, Guinea-Bissau and Liberia) have had serious levels of instability or conflict over the past several years. Due to past and current conflicts in Sierra Leone, Liberia and Côte d'Ivoire, Guinea continues to host an estimated 60,000 refugees. Given the proximity of many camps to its borders, the Government of Guinea continues to be concerned about border security, especially with both Liberia and Côte d'Ivoire. The area's porous borders also make it easy for fighters, arms and ammunition to travel from country to country.

In Guinea's Forest Region, USAID is providing assistance to address the diverse needs of the population impacted by the cross-border incursions of 2000/2001, and establishing the foundation for progressive resumption of USAID's development assistance activities in the Forest Region. Activities include: 1) Re-establishing productive enterprise and supporting livelihoods through the supply of tools, seeds, farming inputs, micro-credit, and grants; and 2) Supporting key social services by rehabilitating selected health and educational facilities, as well as supplying essential drugs and learning materials. Despite progress, Guinea's Forest Region remains a zone of instability.

USAID/Guinea is working to address the many sources of fragility facing Guinea and will be adjusting program priorities accordingly. USAID's program in Guinea encompasses objectives in health and HIV/AIDS, education, agriculture and natural resources management, and democracy and good governance. USAID's new strategy in Guinea aims to advance inclusive governance reform over the next three years by providing technical assistance, training and material support to civil society, the private sector and targeted government institutions in which the opportunity for reform exists.

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Fistula in Liberia

QUESTION: During the war it is estimated that 40% of women were raped or sexually abused. Given these statistics, what is USAID doing to address and treat fistula in Liberia?

- There is no hard evidence to support the prevalence of fistulas in Liberia. However, anecdotal evidence suggests that the problem of traumatic gynecologic fistula is huge due to the following reasons:
 - the large number of women raped and gang raped (sometimes with foreign objects); and
 - the breakdown of health services during the war period, which further reduced access to delivery in health centers, often following prolonged labor (the main cause of fistulas prior to the war).

- USAID/Liberia is planning an intervention, as part of its reproductive health program, in collaboration with other partners – the World Health Organization (WHO), the United Nations International Children’s Emergency Fund (UNICEF), and the Government of Liberia – beginning with an assessment to determine the scale of the problem, and then developing programs to address it.

Clearances:

AFR/SD/HT:SMehdi draft Date
AFR/SD:BMitchell draft Date
AFR/WA:CGrigsby draft Date
Acting DAA/AFR:WWarren draft Date
AA/AFR:LPierson Date
LPA:LHall Date

Drafted: AFR/SD: ASen: 01/30/06

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Fistula: USAID Approach

Question:

What is USAID doing to address the problem of fistula in Africa?

Answer:

- Fistula is one of the most debilitating conditions for women. Fistula can be caused either by obstructed labor during childbirth (“obstetric fistula”) or through sexual violence (“traumatic gynecologic fistula”).
- Underlying causes for this health emergency include poor maternal health services, lack of financial and physical access to emergency obstetric care, and lack of family planning services to delay and prevent pregnancy.
- The focus of USAID’s programs to addresses the problem of fistula in Africa is on surgical repair.
- USAID support will strengthen capacity for fistula repair in 12 centers in seven countries (globally) by 2008. In this effort, the USAID program includes:
 - Support for facility upgrades,
 - Equipment and supplies for operating rooms,
 - Training in pre- and post-operative clinical and counseling skills, local surgical repair capability, physical rehabilitation, and support for social reintegration,
 - South-to-South skill transfer (leveraging resources of countries with training and other skills-building experiences to assist other countries in the region),
 - Quality improvement systems, and
 - Women’s transportation fees to and from the facility.
- In addition, USAID will work with other international organizations and local institutions to develop:
 - Improved classification system for fistula,
 - Standardized training curricula for counseling and clinical skills, and

- Harmonized medical reporting to record relevant patient information consistently.
- USAID's strategy to address the prevention of vaginal fistula will complement and support related elements of programs in the areas of HIV/AIDS, maternal and child health, health systems strengthening, and human rights.
- In Fiscal Year (FY) 2004, USAID supported fistula-related activities in Uganda, Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC), and Regional Economic Development Services Office (REDSO), (total \$610,000), including six centers for fistula repair in Uganda, DRC, and Guinea.
- In FY 2005, activities were supported in Uganda, DRC, Ethiopia, Guinea, Rwanda, West Africa Regional Program (WARP), and REDSO (total \$2.9 million).
- In FY 2006, centers for repair in Rwanda and Mali will be added. The funding request for 2006 comes to \$5 million and includes increased levels of funding for the countries supported in 2005. The FY 2006 request was derived from Mission requests. **(Note: The levels for FY 2006 have been adjusted downward to stay within the ceiling of the soft Congressional earmark.)**
- USAID will support surgeries to repair fistula in 1,545 women in FY 2006, the majority of whom are in Africa

CLEARANCE PAGE FOR "Fistula: USAID Approach"

Clearances:

AFR/SD/HT:SMehdi _____ draft _____ Date: 1/31/06
AFR/SD:BMitchell _____ Date: _____
AFR/DP:WWarren _____ draft _____ Date: _____
DAA/AFR:KAlmqvist _____ Date: _____
DAA/AFR:PFine _____ Date: _____
AA/AFR:LPierson _____ Date: _____
LPA:LHall _____ Date: _____

AFR/SD/HT: ASen:2-0774: January 27, 2006:

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Safe Water in Liberia and Africa

Question: How is USAID ensuring that Liberians, and Africans in general, have access to clean, safe water?

USAID Water and Sanitation activities in Liberia

- From fiscal year (FY) 2002-2005, USAID provided approximately \$6 million in funding for water supply and sanitation activities in Liberia, primarily from disaster assistance funds.
- Water supply and sanitation activities in Liberia are included in the Liberia Community Infrastructure Project (LCIP), a public works program of skilled and semi-skilled tradesmen and unskilled laborers that increases employment while rehabilitating the public infrastructure, including urban and rural roads and water systems.
- In FY 2006, USAID plans to provide well drilling equipment to increase access to safe drinking water at multiple school sites.

USAID Water and Sanitation activities in Africa

- From FY 2002-FY 2005, USAID invested a total of approximately \$172 million in water supply and sanitation activities in Africa, with 71% of that amount from disaster assistance funds. This provided clean water and improved sanitation for over 2 million Africans.
- Further, USAID provided \$68 million for watershed management activities and \$41 million for water productivity activities.
- USAID is working now with the State Department to develop a “strategy...to provide affordable and equitable access to safe water and sanitation in developing countries,” as required by the Paul Simon Water for the Poor Act of 2005.
- USAID will continue to mobilize and leverage the financial and technical capacity of businesses, governments, nongovernmental organizations, and civil society in the form of public-private alliances. The Agency will also build institutions and promote policy reforms that expand access to safe water and improved sanitation.

CLEARANCE PAGE FOR ACTION MEMORANDUM on Water in
Liberia and Africa

Clearances:

AFR/SD/EGEA:RGreenberg	draft	Date	_____
AFR/SD:BMitchell	draft	Date	_____
AFR/DP:WWarren	draft	Date	2-1-06 -
DAA/AFR:KAlmquist		Date	_____
DAA/AFR:PFine		Date	_____
AA/AFR:LPierson		Date	_____
LPA:LHall:	draft	Date	2-1-06

DRAFTED:AFR/SD/EGEA:Brian Hirsch:202-712-5613:01/31/2006:
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hearing 013106.doc

Attachments:

Table: "Estimated USAID Water Obligations in Africa – by Fund Account.
FY 2002-2005"

Table: "Estimated USAID Water Obligations in Africa – by Country.
FY 2002-2005"

**ESTIMATED USAID WATER OBLIGATIONS IN AFRICA -- BY FUND ACCOUNT
FISCAL YEAR (FY) 2002-2005 (\$MILLIONS)**

Date Prepared: January 27, 2006

	FY02	FY03	FY04	FY05	Total FY02-05
Water Supply, Sanitation and Wastewater Mgmt Total	22.790	39.633	51.066	58.390	171.879
CSH	1.68	0	1.546	1.594	4.820
DA	8.725	7.556	8.301	3.536	28.118
ESF	0	2.487	3.419	0.916	6.822
IDA/IDFA	12.385	27.821	34.546	46.854	121.606
PL 480	0	1.769	2.946	4.894	9.609
Other	0	0	0.308	0.596	0.904
Watershed Management Total	6.151	14.227	14.452	33.667	68.497
CSH	0	0	0	0	0.000
DA	6.151	9.024	8.374	7.817	31.366
ESF	0	0	0	0	0.000
IDA/IDFA	0	0	0.5	0	0.500
PL 480	0	5.203	5.578	25.85	36.631
Other	0	0	0	0	0.000
Water Productivity Total	3.790	11.350	12.631	13.721	41.492
CSH	0	0	0.25	0	0.250
DA	3.79	5.302	5.675	5.367	20.134
ESF	0	0	0.389	0	0.389
IDA/IDFA	0	1.627	0	0	1.627
PL 480	0	4.127	6.317	8.354	18.798
Other	0	0.294	0	0	0.294
All Water Categories	32.731	65.21	78.149	105.778	281.868
CSH	1.680	0.000	1.796	1.594	5.070
DA	18.666	21.882	22.350	16.720	79.618
ESF	0.000	2.487	3.808	0.916	7.211
IDA/IDFA	12.385	29.448	35.046	46.854	123.733
PL 480	0.000	11.099	14.841	39.098	65.038
Other	0.000	0.294	0.308	0.596	1.198

**ESTIMATED USAID WATER OBLIGATIONS IN AFRICA -- BY COUNTRY
FISCAL YEAR (FY) 02-05 (\$MILLIONS)**

Date prepared: January 27, 2006

Country or Program	Water Supply and Sanitation and Wastewater Management	Watershed Management	Water Productivity	TOTAL
Angola	5.76	0.00	2.09	7.85
Benin	0.40	0.00	0.30	0.70
Burundi	5.41	0.30	0.60	6.30
Chad	0.39	0.00	0.00	0.39
Cote d'Ivoire	1.59	0.00	0.00	1.59
DR Congo	1.54	0.00	0.00	1.54
Djibouti	2.46	0.00	0.00	2.46
Eritrea	6.57	0.17	3.50	10.25
Ethiopia	25.34	5.44	4.60	35.38
Ghana	2.17	25.63	2.61	30.42
Guinea	0.98	6.88	0.34	8.20
Kenya	4.46	2.67	0.00	7.13
Liberia	6.04	0.00	3.52	9.56
Madagascar	0.82	6.10	4.93	11.86
Malawi	0.14	1.91	5.06	7.11
Mali	3.87	2.14	5.43	11.44
Mozambique	1.74	0.00	1.03	2.76
Niger	1.20	0.06	0.00	1.25
Nigeria	0.00	2.00	1.00	3.00
Rwanda	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Senegal	0.40	0.00	0.03	0.42
Sierra Leone	6.58	2.00	0.40	8.98
Somalia	8.57	0.00	0.34	8.91
South Africa	7.96	0.00	1.00	8.96
Sudan	63.42	0.69	3.64	67.75
Tanzania	0.32	2.72	0.05	3.10
Uganda	7.91	0.00	0.04	7.95
Zambia	1.86	0.00	0.00	1.86
Zimbabwe	2.96	0.00	0.25	3.21
RCSA	0.00	5.61	0.00	5.61
REDSO/ESA	0.74	0.95	0.00	1.69
WARP	0.00	0.77	0.75	1.52
AFR Regl Programs	0.30	2.44	0.00	2.74
Total Africa	171.88	68.50	41.49	281.87

Avian Influenza in Africa

Question: Please explain what USAID is doing to address the threat of avian influenza in Africa, a place of particular concern because of the often weak infrastructure and institutions?

Answer:

- While Africa is already facing extraordinary challenges, it is critically important that we recognize the threat posed by the spreading of avian influenza (AI) to the Africa region. To date, for the Africa region, USAID has supported the following activities:
 - Met in Washington with representatives of the African Diplomatic Corps to provide info and stimulate action;
 - Established a network of AI Focal Points at USAID/ Africa Missions;
 - Participated actively at the country level as members of National Task Forces;
 - Provided \$675,000 in Mission reprogramming in Tanzania and Ethiopia to conduct wild bird surveillance and strengthen national and regional laboratory capacity and an additional \$6.75 million is planned for activities throughout Africa; and
 - Provided support to the World Health Organization's Regional Office for Africa for their meeting with countries and partners on avian influenza.

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AFR/SD/HT:SMehdi draft _____ Date _____
AFR/SD:BMitchell draft _____ Date _____
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DAA/AFR:PFine draft _____ Date _____
AA/AFR:LPierson draft _____ Date _____
LPA:LHall _____ Date _____

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President's Malaria Initiative

Question: The President recently announced the new Malaria Initiative (PMI). Would you please explain this initiative and if there is room for collaborating with African organizations to combat this disease?

Answer:

- The PMI is a new 5-year, \$1.2 billion initiative to rapidly scale-up malaria control interventions in African countries. The three focus countries for the first year are: Angola, Tanzania, and Uganda. The PMI will eventually work in up to 15 African countries.
- The goal of the President's Malaria Initiative (PMI) is to reduce malaria-related mortality by 50% in selected countries, and achieve 85% coverage of vulnerable groups with a combination of methods.
- USAID is collaborating closely with African partners, including:
 - the African Regional Office of the World Health Organization (WHO/AFRO);
 - African research institutions, including schools of public health; and
 - African non-governmental and community-based organizations.

CLEARANCES:

AFR/SD/HT:SMehdi draft Date
AFR/SD:BMitchell draft Date
AFR/DP:WWarren draft Date
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DAA/AFR:PFine draft Date
AA/AFR:LPierson draft Date
LPA:LHall Date

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Women's Issues: How would you approach violence against women in the context of development?

- Gender-based violence exerts a high toll on development through the loss of life, of labor productivity, and of domestic and community harmony.
- Gender-based violence persists because of the lack of power that women have in society, and it has to be approached in a systemic way in order to stem it. This means changing and ensuring the implementation of policies, developing new systems at the institutional level, and improving service delivery and mobilizing communities for behavioral change. USAID is doing this.
- USAID, through the Office of Foreign Disaster Assistance (OFDA) and Office of Transition Initiatives (OTI), as well as through Victims of Torture Funding provided by the Bureau for Africa, supports ongoing activities throughout Africa for gender-based violence programs that address prevention, treatment and care, and accountability.
- In the Democratic Republic of the Congo, for example, USAID is allocating approximately \$5 million (Fiscal Years 2003 - 2006) to provide health, psychosocial, and socio-economic reintegration and judicial support to an estimated 15,000 victims of gender-based violence.
- In Liberia, addressing gender-based violence is an integral part of the USAID Mission's program to reintegrate women and children affected by conflict, and to support President Johnson-Sirleaff's pledge to enforce the new law against rape.

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AFR/DP:WWarren draft Date _____ -

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DAA/AFR:PFine draft Date _____ -

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LPA:LHall _____ Date _____ -

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BRIEFING MATERIALS FOR THE ECONOMIC COMMUNITY OF WEST AFRICAN STATES

Mandate

ECOWAS aims to establish an economic and monetary union in West Africa, raising the living standards of its peoples, maintaining and enhancing economic stability.

- Current economic objectives include a common market and a single currency.
- Longer term objective include the establishment of a West African parliament, an economic and social council, and an ECOWAS court of justice as specific priorities.
- ECOWAS has responsibility of preventing and settling regional conflicts.

Issues

ECOWAS continues to play a key role in conflict mitigation and peace keeping in the region, e.g. Liberia, Togo and Côte d'Ivoire. The ECOWAS endorsement of the outcome of the elections in Togo was questioned in international forums.

Lack of success in achieving many of ECOWAS' aims has been attributed to the following:

- Existence of numerous other intergovernmental organizations in the region, in particular to the francophone West African Economic and Monetary Union (UEMOA).
- A general lack of commitment by member governments, evidenced by their reluctance to implement policies at the national level, their failure to provide the agreed financial resources and the absence of national links with the Secretariat.
- Member countries often focus on solving their own national economic problems individually rather than by using a regional approach.

USAID's West Africa Regional Program with ECOWAS

ECOWAS is a key regional partner for the USAID West African Regional Program (WARP), WARP works in close collaboration with ECOWAS on a number of specific activities through grant agreements. The principal program areas in which WARP works with ECOWAS are as follows:

- Trade and Investment. WARP supports ECOWAS efforts to establish a common external tariff (CET). If fully implemented, this would greatly facilitate imports and exports in the region, simplifying customs procedures, and shortening the rather lengthy time goods currently take to clear ports (on average over 50 days at ports in the region, compared to 9 in the U.S.). Additional WARP collaboration with ECOWAS focuses on the region's sanitary and phytosanitary rules and regulations. Objectives are to protect West African consumers, and to build the

confidence of the world marketplace in the safety of products sourced from West Africa.

- Energy. ECOWAS Energy Ministers and the ECOWAS Department of Infrastructure are establishing the West Africa Power Pool to assure economies of scale and load balancing as capacity grows from 10,000 to an expected 27,000 megawatts in the next 20 years.
- Health. WARP has provided grant funds to the West African Health Organization (WAHO), which is associated with ECOWAS. The grant will build institutional capacity through the acquisition of additional technical personnel and equipment, the funding of staff development programs, and improved management systems.
- Conflict Prevention. WARP is working with ECOWAS and civil society to promote peace building and to develop the ECOWAS conflict prevention and mitigation mechanism. Since 2003 WARP has assisted the regional West African Network for Peace Building (WANEP) increase its scope and capacity as the region's major civil society network to promote peace.
- Humanitarian Initiatives. In FY 2003, USAID/WARP working through the U.N. Office on Drugs and Crime helped strengthen the capacity of the ECOWAS Trafficking in Persons (TIP) Unit to assess the current TIP legislative framework in the region. WARP continues to work with the ECOWAS TIP Unit to prevent and reduce human trafficking through targeted training and awareness campaigns in the West Africa sub-region.
- ECOWAS Capacity Building. WARP has completed a project to upgrade ECOWAS financial management and administration systems through the provision of computer materials and software accompanied by training.

Financial Information

WARP collaborates with ECOWAS through grant agreements through which funds are programmed jointly, and then implemented by contractors and grantees. The table below indicates funding levels for these grant agreements.

Activity	FY 2004 Actual	FY 2005 Planned
Energy (1)	\$1,200,000	\$0
Trade and Investment	\$3,825,000	\$5,000,000
Conflict Prevention (2)	\$2,719,000	\$4,089,000
Health	\$350,000	\$330,000
TOTALS	\$8,094,000	\$9,419,000

(1) A substantial energy program (the West Africa Power Pool) has been financed with prior-year funds and is ongoing. Additional funding in FY 2005 was not required.

(2) The amount in the Conflict Prevention grant agreement includes funds that have been reserved for specific activities in Niger.

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AFR/DP:WWarren	OK	Date	_____
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LPA:LHall	OK	Date	_____

Note: was cleared in 10/05 for LOP's hearing for SFRC