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LIBERIA COMMUNITY INFRASTRUCTURE PROJECT II

ANNUAL REPORT APRIL 2007 - SEPTEMBER 2008

OCTOBER 31, 2008

This publication was produced for review by the United States Agency for International Development. It was prepared by LCIP prime contractor, DAI, under Contract 632-I-00-03-00050-00 Task Order # 10.

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INTRODUCTION

This report covers the performance period of September 2007 to September 2008, the first year of implementation. While the LCIP II contract was awarded in April 2007, actual implementation of most program activities did not begin until September. The initial 14 weeks of LCIP II were used for work planning, field assessments, design, development of bills of quantities, grants processes (writing, competition, and award), and continued implementation of LCIP I (under a different task order). This Annual Report includes summary data for the fourth quarter of Fiscal Year 2008; a separate quarterly report will not be required for this period. This Annual Report includes a brief narrative report, a report on beneficiary targets vs. actual, and an explanation of the key performance results, including reasons for achievement or difficulties experienced. The targets are based on the May 2007 Year 1 Annual Work Plan and the USAID FY 2008 Operational Plan.

The report provides a list of the 14 required performance indicators that are contained within the LCIP II Performance Management Plan (PMP) submitted on March 29, 2008. Fifty percent of the indicators (7 in total) listed in the LCIP II PMP correspond to the USAID Foreign Assistance Framework standard indicators. Of these, six indicators are reported as part of the USAID FY 2008 Operational Plan. A brief narrative on the quality of the data, how it was obtained, and how it is being monitored is provided.

During this period, the following contract modifications were issued:

Mod #	Date	Amount	Time
8	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]
8	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]
8	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]

The incremental funding and additions of time, especially between the period of April – August 2008 have had a challenging impact on programming of activities such as agriculture, road maintenance, and other long-term project plans.

LCIP II RESULTS FRAMEWORK

The project outputs in this program fall within three key Intermediate Results (IR) categories which are linked to the project objective of *Restore and Improve Basic Economic Activity and Livelihoods* and to USAID's Economic Growth portfolio:

- IR1: Employment and skills development opportunities for unemployed youth expanded
- IR2: Community infrastructure and essential services strengthened
- IR3: Public infrastructure rehabilitation and reconstruction links communities to government.

During the last year, the LCIP II was able to translate these results into five integrated task components which are:

- **Restore financial self-sufficiency of war affected persons** – this component includes agricultural sector capacity, microenterprise productivity, and workforce development.
- **Contribute to social cohesion in communities** – this component has been effectively integrated throughout LCIP II activities, by involving communities in “development corridors” to participate in determining community priorities, and by involving different members of communities from different social and economic backgrounds to participate as beneficiaries in implementing projects addressing their priority needs and by involving community members from varied social and economic backgrounds to participate in awareness and training activities that promote dialogue, and peaceful resolution of conflicts at the work place and in the community.
- **Linking communities to government** – LCIP uses its infrastructure component to rehabilitate key public and community infrastructure, in order to enhance the delivery of public services and connect communities to markets, and to local and national government representatives.
- **Improving basic literacy and numeracy skills** – originally envisioned as cross-cutting, this component has likewise been integrated into LCIP II activities, mostly those related to IR1. This functional literacy component has been highly appreciated. In the apprenticeship program, for example, over 50% of the beneficiaries were illiterate. At the project close, most were proudly proficient in beginning reading and writing. Additionally, about 30% of those apprentices did not speak English and now are able to communicate in Liberian English.
- **Strengthening conflict mitigation** – likewise, this cross-cutting component has been integrated throughout activities, inclusion of conflict prevention, mitigation, and resolution activities in virtually all ESR projects. Such activities included: psychosocial support workshops; psychosocial support counseling; “palaver hut” and focus group discussions; conflict management techniques; sports activities that serve as team-building mechanisms preceding community discussions to facilitate community mobilization, awareness for LCIP activities, constructive dialogue, positive behavior change, and peaceful working relationships. Most projects include psychosocial counselors on staff, as the availability of individual private counseling services has demonstrated to be useful and necessary as well. The peaceful implementation of many LCIP projects can be attributed partly to the support provided by these psychosocial interventions.

MAJOR FY 2008 ACCOMPLISHMENTS

Although many important and successful projects and objectives were completed this year, these are a few of the major accomplishments that claim special recognition.

PRIVATE SECTOR INTERNSHIP PROGRAM - GRADUATION

The Private-Sector Intern Program (PIP) graduation ceremony was held on August 15, 2008, for 177 interns who successfully completed their internship out of a total of 216. Internships ranged from three to six months in duration, depending on the professional sector, and were intended to provide professional job experience for graduates of either university or technical training programs who lacked relevant work experience. The pilot program has demonstrated to be quite successful. Over 40% of the total participants were offered employment. Two interns, an IRG engineer and a Cellcom mechanic, received long-term employment contracts well before the internship ended. In fact, some participating organizations, including Creative Associates and International Bank, found the intern program to be such an effective screening program for their recruitment process that they made requests for additional interns to fill other

professional vacancies. To meet that demand, an interim program subsidized 34 additional interns between September and early December.

Most participants, about 70 %, were based in the urban capital city Monrovia, while 30% were placed in 25 communities in 7 counties - Bomi, Margibi, Bong, Nimba, Grand Gedeh, Lofa, and Maryland Counties. Professional sectors included engineering, accounting, automotive mechanic, generator technician, electrical technician, mechanical technician, information technology, bottling technician, construction, carpentry, masonry, plumbing, tile laying, and welding. In addition to the on-the-job training, interns benefited from weekend courses on CV-writing, interview techniques, conflict management skills, effective communication, and sexual harassment and gender-based violence awareness.

Twenty institutions including 17 private sector businesses and 3 international development organizations provided opportunities for internships. Participating organizations included Cellcom Telecommunications, Inc., Liberia Beverages & Bottling Company, Realty Management Corporation, Westwood Corporation, Liberia Construction and Maintenance Company, Salala Rubber Corporation, Africa Motors, Inc., Liberia Bank for Development & Investment, International Bank of Liberia, Creative Associates, International Resources Group, and Conservation International.

The Ministry of Youth & Sports (MYS) and Ministry of Labor (MOL) participated in recruitment of interns and monitoring of the internship. The Agriculture and Industrial Training Bureau (AITB) facilitated the development of trainer's guides for technical trade areas in which the youth underwent their internship. The guides were field-tested and used by participating businesses in mentoring the interns. A second LCIP intern program is being planned that will include part-time internship opportunities for university students.

RAP GRADUATES 951 APPRENTICES IN 3 COUNTIES

After eight months of intensive apprenticeship and vocational skills training under the RAP in Bong, Nimba, and Lofa Counties 2008, a total of 951 apprentices (500 women, 451 men) graduated from fifteen different trade sectors including; metal works, carpentry/construction, catering and restaurant management, cosmetology, electronic/cell phone repairs, goldsmith and jewelry design, pastry, tailoring, weaving, two-stroke engine repairs, vegetable production, fishery, guest house management, arts & crafts, and masonry. 96 artisan shops and business centers were home to the training activities. All of the apprentices graduating received a set of tools specific to each trade. The RAP was highly successful and appreciated by communities and businesses as 90% of the 951 apprentices successfully passed the Agricultural & Industrial Training Bureau (AITB) trade test usually administered to vocational and technical training graduates across the country. The AITB is the arm of government that is responsible for testing and certificating individuals graduating from such training.

During the implementation of the RAP, most of the apprentices were recruited from satellite villages. As a result it is hoped that upon graduation, they will return to their villages to provide basic services through the skills they have acquired over the time. And the graduates will no longer be unemployed or without the skills and abilities to generate their own income and support their families. This fact is a critically important factor in the mitigation and prevention of future discontent.

REOPENING OF KAKATA RURAL TEACHER TRAINING INSTITUTE

The first of two teacher training institutes was reopened in April 2008 by LCIP. The rehabilitation effort included full rehabilitation of all walls, roofs, windows, doors, electricity systems, water supply systems

in 64 buildings, including administrative buildings, classrooms, dormitories and staff quarters, as well as a student center, cafeteria and library. Generators, two water towers and sixteen solar-powered security lights were included as part of the \$3M grant to the Ministry of Education.

On April 8th, 2008 the campus was turned back over to the Ministry of Education, following the successful 10 months rehabilitation, which was managed by a Liberian Architecture firm and implemented by 3 Liberian construction companies. Deeply appreciative of the U.S. Government's concern about improving education in Liberia, President Ellen Johnson Sirleaf joined U.S. Ambassador Donald E. Booth, Education Minister Dr. Joseph Korto, and USAID Interim Mission Director Lucretia Taylor at the reopening. Speaking at the occasion President Ellen Johnson Sirleaf thanked the U.S. Government for its support, describing KRTTI as "just one effort on the part of the Government's resolve towards renovating the country's educational system". She observed that Liberia is a youthful nation stressing that the greatest responsibility of her government "is to educate the children of the nation."

In remarks prior to presenting a symbolic key of the facility to President Sirleaf, U.S. Ambassador Donald E. Booth described the renovated KRTTI facility as "yet another outcome of U.S-Liberia partnership". Ambassador Booth said "the fact that a Liberian architectural firm and three Liberian construction companies worked on the project symbolized a collective effort."

MADE IN LIBERIA TRADE FAIR

The 2008 "made in Liberia" Trade Fair was held in Gbarnga, Bong County, June 13th and 14th. The primary objective of the fair was to provide a practical application of several business concepts taught in LCIP enterprise development workshops, including finishing work, marketing and advertising, cash crop farming, attention to detail, or improved value chain. The fair achieved just that. The convergence of 475 business owners, farmers, and apprentices from 13 different counties stimulated healthy competition and creativity. The secondary objective of the fair had been to challenge the LCIP ESR staff, 14 participating implementing partners, and beneficiaries to demonstrate significant progress achieved over a 12-month period; specifically, the challenge was to improve on product and service quality, finishing, packaging, and presentation. The sale of the products and services, parenthetically, was only a tertiary objective.

The fair was an outstanding success. Marketing included an elegant travel magazine, as well as an online website. Participants arrived prior to the fair for two full days of business development workshops. Topics included: importance, benefits, and uses of microcredit; accounting; effective communication; effective management; work ethics; customer service; tourism and niche marketing; cash crop farming; business etiquette; etc. After the fair, organizers held a full-day business development workshop designed to analyze results. We had anticipated that the merchandise not sold would provide a valuable demonstration when compared to that which was purchased. However, after the mid-day launching ceremony on Friday, fair visitors had purchased most of the items offered for sale, leaving the merchandise offered on Saturday to represent only a fraction of what had been initially displayed. Not only did the fair successfully complete the first two objectives, but, in only one and a half days, the sales for the 100 participating businesses and farming groups grossed over US\$12,000.

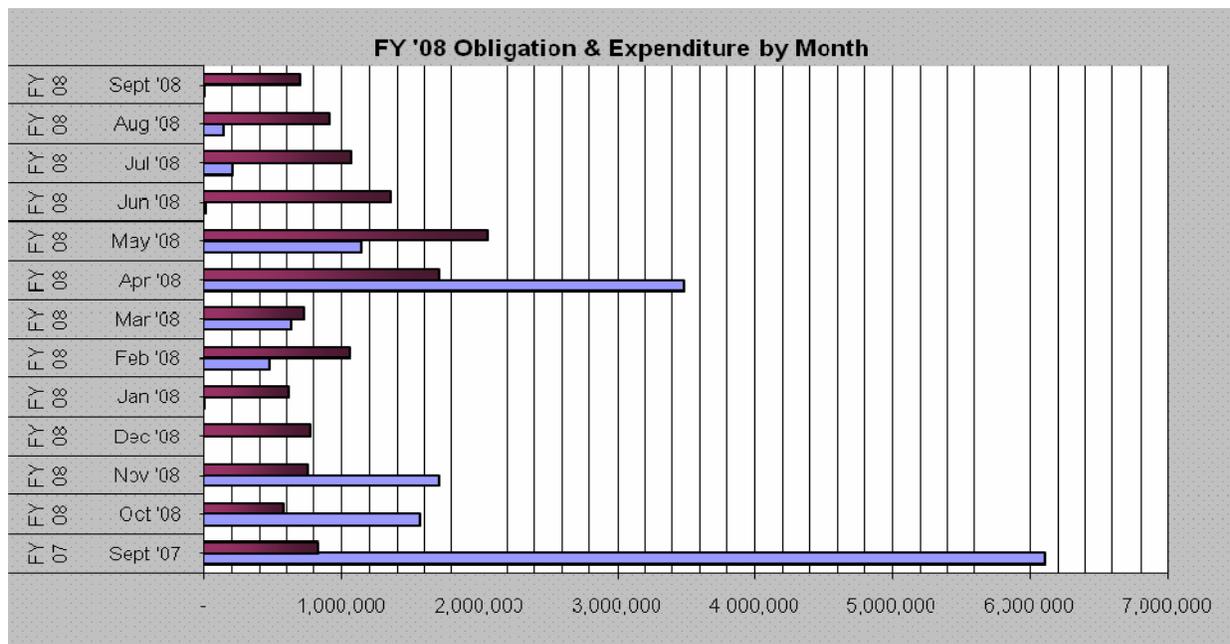
The volume of cash crops both displayed and sold was impressive; particular emphasis had been given to the Liberian-grown onions, a vegetable consumed on a daily basis in Liberia but historically imported from neighboring Cote d'Ivoire. Other items that generated particular attention included the vacuumed-sealed processed and preserved foods: tropical rainforest honey, 100% espresso grind Liberica coffee, 100% cocoa powder, mango preserves, stewed tomatoes, pepper sauce, pickles, peanut butter, and dried and seasoned snails. A carpentry shop in Nimba, formed by graduated RAP apprentices, displayed

furniture with unprecedented finishing work. The metal workers displayed impressive creativity, and the tailors expanded their repertoire to include bags, baseball hats, and Western clothing.

Fully embracing the "made in liberia" concept, Vice President Boakai declared that the event would be perpetuated beyond LCIP and start a revolution in thought and action.

SUMMARY FY 2008: GRANT ACTIVITIES

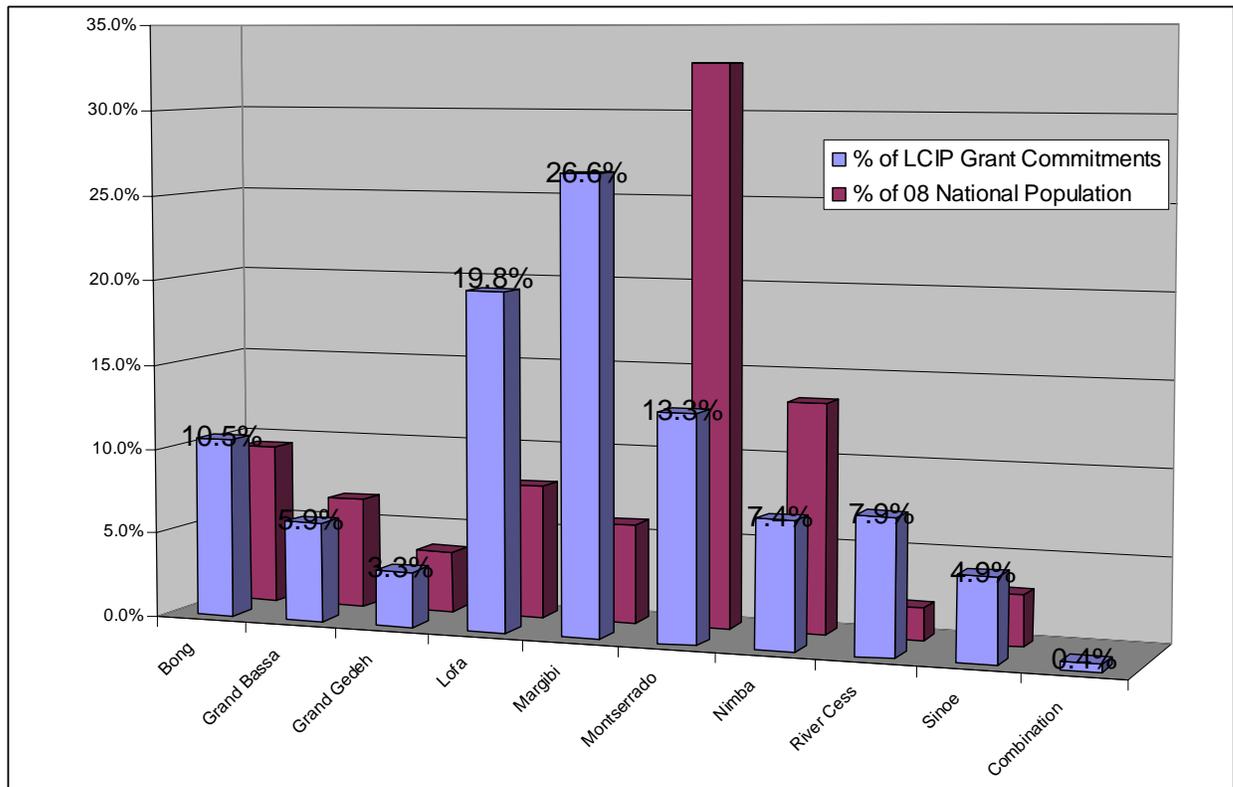
Grants to local implementing partners are the key to LCIP's work in all of the communities for both the INF and ESR activities. To date the LCIP II has awarded 29 grants; 21 ESR grants and 8 INF master grants (including a total of more than 46 sub-grants and sub-contracts). A total of \$16,710,687 (of the \$27,298,921 total incremental funding available through September 30, 2008) has been committed to these activities. The graph below depicts the monthly value of grants approved by USAID (blue) between April 2007 and September 2008, in comparison to monthly grant expenditures (red).



GEOGRAPHIC DISTRIBUTION OF GRANTS

A map of all activities can be found in the appendix. During the course of this year, LCIP committed grants in 9 counties. The distribution of the grant values, by county, is summarized below. The percentages are compared against the National Population, as determined by the 2008 Population Census. Nearly a third of LCIP grants were committed in Margibi County, which included the rehabilitation of the Todee Road Development Corridor (\$1.5M) and the rehabilitation of the Kakata Rural Teacher Training Institute (\$3M), two of the largest commitment amounts. Lofa County received 20% of funding commitments due to the rehabilitation of the Zorzor Rural Teacher Training Institute (\$2M) and large agriculture and RAP grant activities in this county.

As all of the grant funding has not yet been fully expended for many of the INF grants, this is not a reflection of expenditures, but rather overall grant commitments.



SUMMARY FY 2008: PROGRAM ACTIVITIES

The following narrative focuses on three critical aspects of program achievements during the last 18 months, and for FY 2008:

- I. Achievement across the entire program portfolio (ESR and INF), measured in beneficiary and person days of employment (PDE);
- II. Key performance indicators, of which most linked to USAID's Foreign Assistance Framework and/or USAID/Liberia's Operational Plan reporting; and,
- III. LCIP II task accomplishments.

I. BENEFICIARY AND PDE ACHIEVEMENTS

For most of the grants that are ongoing or have been recently completed, both beneficiary targets and PDE targets have been met or exceeded through September 30, 2008. There are several reasons for this, including:

1. The target beneficiaries and PDE for large scale effort on the Greenville to Buchanan Road were understated in the initial LCIP work plan. As originally conceived, DAI calculated beneficiaries and PDE based on the ongoing subcontracted efforts of up to 4 subcontractors. However, under the current implementation model, nearly 9 subcontractors have been engaged, each contributing an increased workforce and a subsequent increase in the PDE.
2. Subcontractors increased their labor (workforce) in order to respond to shifting priorities experienced during project implementation. In particular, emergency and spot repairs in order to maintain functionality during the rainy season required more labor than the original work plan anticipated.
3. In the original work plan, ESR activities did not include PDE targets (although they did include beneficiary targets). It was decided during implementation that, in fact, many (not all) of the grant activities should be included in the PDE totals.
4. The actual numbers of beneficiaries under the three Rehabilitation of Artisans (RAP) programs were more than the original target.

An apparent shortfall in achievement of targets of both beneficiaries can be found in the category of Small Scale Community Infrastructure. As originally conceived during the Year 1 Work Plan, under the category of “Community Reconciliation and Youth Employment,” DAI planned to implement small scale community infrastructure projects that would both benefit the community (estimated at 12,000 indirect community members), and employ at-risk youth (estimated at 1,200 youth). Projects were to include rehabilitation of small bridges, market place structures, feeder roads, latrines, and wells. Targeted communities included Montserrado, Sinoe, Nimba, Grand Gedeh, Bong, and Lofa.

However, after 65 communities were assessed, 38 in Nimba and Grand Gedeh and 27 in Bong and Lofa, the ESR team quickly determined that the most immediate needs were agriculture production and marketing, as well as access to safe water, should be prioritized. Many organizations were rehabilitating schools, market halls, and clinics, but many of these renovated market halls lacked sufficient produce for sale on market days. Most of the agricultural products sold were imported from neighboring countries at unreasonably high prices.

Therefore, the earmarked SSCI funds were transferred to the agriculture pool. This shift coincidentally preceded the world food crisis; for that reason, when staple food prices skyrocketed, the agriculture production and marketing beneficiaries were able not only to feed their families but also to earn significant income through the sale of their cash food crops. The benefit to the consumer is also noteworthy, as the project beneficiaries were able to offer fresh produce at a fair price that was significantly less than the imported counterparts. Crops included produce commonly consumed in the Liberian diet that have been imported from immediate neighboring countries, such as Ivory Coast and Guinea, during the war. In the 8 agriculture production and marketing projects, 2,777 youth, farmers, and women participated. Assuming an average 5-person family, 13,885 participant family members may have indirectly benefited from the projects. This number does not include the community members who likely benefited from access to fairly priced produce.

That said, access to safe drinking water was determined to be the highest small scale community infrastructure need found for members of the rapidly expanding rural communities as refugees and internally displaced returned. Not only did communities need new wells, but the community members needed to learn to maintain and repair the hand pumps installed by other IOs/NGOs, as many broken pumps were in need of simple repairs.

The following tables show the current list of LCIP II activities, through September 2008, the original targets (reference Year 1 Annual Work Plan dated May 2007) and actual (cumulative to date) results, including any currently active or recently closed grants that occurred within the first year of LCIP II activities.

Table 1: LCIP II: FY 2008 Beneficiary Data

Type	Activity	Status	Target beneficiaries (workforce) (A)	Actual # of workforce (Jul – Aug 2008) (B)	Total # of workforce (Sep 07– Sep 08) (C)	Workforce deviation (D = C - A)	Target PDE (E)	Actual PDE (Jul – Aug 2008) (F)	Total PDE (Sep 07– Sep 08) (G)	PDE deviation (H = G - E)
ESR	Rehab of Artisans/Apprentice**	C	1,045	1,164	1,275	+230	22,990	* 25,424	192,201	+169,211
ESR	Private Sector Internship	O	250	0	225	-25	5,500	* 0	20,567	+15,087
ESR	Rubber Farm Rehabilitation	C	2,000	0	2,000	0	44,000	* 0	40,000	-4,000
ESR	Rubber Nursery	C	300	0	200	-100	6,600	* 0	29,456	+22,856
ESR	Ag Production & Marketing	C	450	940	1,793	+1,343	9,900	* 19,556	207,739	+197,839
ESR	Small Scale Com Infrastructure	C	1,200	130	0	-1,035	26,400	* 4,070	6,306	-20,094
INF	Rehab of Kakata Teacher Institute	C	240	178	0	+129	31,680	5,221	42,213	+10,533
INF	Rehab of Zorzor Teacher Institute	O	300	123	0	+87	39,600	5,653	34,865	-4,735
INF	Rehab of Ministry of Public Works	O	180	86	0	+94	31,680	3,609	33,595	+1,915
INF	Rehab of Bomi County Admin Bld (LCIP I)	C	40	0	0	+11	4,400	0	3,148	-1,252
INF	Rehab Grd Bassa Cnty Admin Bld (LCIP I)	C	42	0	0	+26	4,620	0	5,344	+724
INF	Greenville to Buchanan Road	O	180	464	0	+878	19,800	14,272	73,798	+53,998
INF	Rehab of Lofa County Admin Bld	O	42	36	0	+13	4,620	1,291	3,956	-664
INF	Rehab of Sinoe County Admin Bld	O	30	42	0	+12	1,980	729	1,423	-557
INF	Todee Road Rehabilitation	O	180	217	0	+110	23,760	8,166	18,340	-5,420
INF	Robertsport to Medina Road--INF	D	180	0	0	-180	23,760	0	0	-23,760
TOTAL			6,719	3,380	5,493	1,593	143,726	87,991	689,632	601,641

C = Complete, O = Ongoing, D = Delayed

*Targets for Person Days of Employment (PDE) were not calculated, nor stated, in the Year 1 Work plan.

** RAP beneficiaries include 3 beneficiaries – business owners, apprentices, and trainers

II. KEY PERFORMANCE INDICATORS

IR 1: Employment and skills development opportunities for unemployed youth expanded

The LCIP II development hypothesis is that as the skills, knowledge, and attitudes of Liberian youth increases, through internships, apprenticeships, on-the-job training, and through professional training, then the opportunities to gain employment will expand. This IR is focused on the supply side of employment – considering that there are jobs available, but that many Liberians seeking those jobs need additional experience or skills and knowledge in order to successfully compete for those jobs.

Performance of LCIP II impact for IR 1 is measured at the individual level. Overall, despite the fact that the targets related to workforce development were not met, the actual performance of LCIP’s activities was excellent. Targets for LCIP II FY 2008 were set based on an assumption that because all activities included some component of labor (from community members working short term on reconstructing roads to internship programs for college students), that all activities would contribute towards the targets for workforce development. However, in actual programming workforce development was narrowed to focus on changes in skills, knowledge, and attitudes of individuals. This redefinition was enforced by a review of the USAID EG Indicators Handbook definition of workforce development indicators. The impact of workforce development, in other words, is at the individual level – rather than on the organization/firm level (see IR 2) or national level (see IR3).

Accepting that the target for Indicator No. 2 was improperly set (and thus by using the percentage targets for Indicator No. 3 and No. 4 rather than the numeric targets for those two indicators), the achievement of IR 1 has been achieved.

Indicator No.	Name of Indicator	Performance		
2	Number of persons participating in workforce development program (<i>FY 2008 OP indicator</i>)	FY 08 Target	10,000 (W = 3,300, M = 6,700)	Deviation (± 10%)
		FY 08 Actual	5,493 (W = 1436, M = 4057)	Unmet
Analysis	The original target included all laborers and participants working under LCIP II national infrastructure, community infrastructure, and Economic and Social Reintegration (ESR) grant activities. The original definition was: “Workforce development includes any activity that provides employment, training (informal and formal), or on-the-job opportunities for participants.” The original activities included some national infrastructure projects and all Small Scale Community Infrastructure projects. After review of the USAID EG Indicators Handbook, DAI decided to revise the indicator – including only those participants of workforce development activities where skills, knowledge, and attitudes change as a result of consistent training; participants gaining only short-term on-the-job training, or employment, were therefore excluded from the definition, and thus the results. Therefore, the 2008 result only includes the following LCIP II activities: RAP, PIP, Rubber rehabilitation, Rubber nursery, and six Agriculture marketing grants.			

The target was not met for 2 major reasons: 1. National infrastructure projects were not included (an additional 2,500 of casual labor/workforce). 2. Small scale community infrastructure projects were not included (an additional 247 persons workforce).

Indicator No.	Name of Indicator	Performance		
3	Number of persons completing workforce development program (<i>FY 2008 OP indicator</i>)	FY 08 Target	75% 7,500 (W = 2,500, M = 5,000)	Deviation (± 10%)
		FY 08 Actual	68% 3,739 (w = 749, M = 2,990)	Unmet
Analysis	The original target for this indicator was determined based on 75% of the “Number of persons participating in workforce development programs”. In fact, 68% of all participants completed LCIP workforce development activities (including RAP, PIP, Rubber Rehab, Rubber Nursery, and six Agriculture marketing grants), thus nearly reaching the target of 75%. The full 75% was not achieved because many of the private sector interns accepted full-time employment positions prior to the completion of the internship program. The actual data further demonstrate that women are graduating at a lower percentage than men from relevant program activities.			

Indicator No.	Name of Indicator	Performance		
4	Number of persons gaining employment or more remunerative employment as a result of participation in workforce development program (<i>FY 2008 OP indicator</i>)	FY 08 Target	3,750 (W = 1,250, M = 2,500)	Deviation (± 10%)
		FY 08 Actual	84% 3,157 (W = 679, M = 2,478)	Unmet
Analysis	The original target for this indicator was determined based on 50% of the “Number of persons completing workforce development programs”. 84% of all participants who completed LCIP workforce development activities (including RAP, PIP, Rubber Rehab, Rubber Nursery, and six Agriculture marketing grants) gained more remunerative employment as a result, thus exceeding the target of 50%.			

Indicator No.	Name of Indicator	Performance		
7	Number of person days of employment generated	FY 08 Target	143,726	Deviation (± 10%)
		FY 08 Actual	689,632	Exceeded
Analysis	<p>The results exceeded the target by 380%. The reasons for this increase are as follows:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Generally, all of the national infrastructure projects show PDE results higher than the original targets, (with the exception of KRTTI), due to 6 day work weeks, increased labor force, and multiple subcontractors on each project. 2. The target Persons Days of Employment (PDE) for large scale efforts, such as the Greenville to Buchanan Road Rehabilitation project were understated in the original targets. As originally conceived, DAI calculated PDE based on the ongoing subcontracted efforts of up to 4 subcontractors. However, under the current implementation model, nearly 9 subcontractors have been engaged, each contributing an increased workforce and a subsequent increase in the PDE. 3. The actual numbers included RAP, PIP, and small scale community infrastructure, whereas these projects were not included in the targets originally. 			

IR 2: Community infrastructure and essential services strengthened

The LCIP II development hypothesis is that as community infrastructure improves and essential services are restored, employment opportunities will expand for marginalized youth and other populations. This will occur as farmers, smallholders, micro and small business owners, and cottage industry participants improve their business practices and participate more competitively in the market place. Activities that contribute towards the achievement of this IR include the restoration of basic services, such as clean water, access to agricultural inputs (including technologies), access to markets, and access to market information. This IR is focused on the demand side of employment – considering that there are people seeking jobs, but that many Liberian firms will only be able to hire additional employees or provide better jobs for their existing employees (or themselves) if their business are successful and expanding.

Performance of LCIP II impact for IR 2 is measured at the firm or organization level. Overall, LCIP II exceeded performance for this result.

The Todee road project has demonstrated how a rural transport infrastructure plan has been successfully used as an integrated economic and social development model, especially to improve access in a rural environment. The original objective was to rehabilitate the gravel road leading to the defunct Todee Military Barracks, however, the project successfully shifted its objectives, priorities, and approach to provide expanded access, linking the rural communities in the road corridor to government, markets, social services, opportunities (employment and production) and to increase connectivity to and from the road corridor. DAI/LCIP worked in partnership with 3 locally registered Non Governmental Organizations (NGOs), 1 Liberian road construction subcontractor, and various local communities, which were organized through village/clan institutions to form 20 Community Development Committees (CDCs) and 8 registered Community Based Organizations(CBOs). The LCIP team, through these groups, facilitated the planning and implementation of the road and other planned community access

infrastructure projects. The NGO subcontracted social inputs supported through community mobilization and through the CDCs and CBOs trained community groups in access planning based on Access Problem Indicators. Some of the benefits of the approach in which the Todee road was implemented are summarized below-

- The road and drainage works implemented with appropriate mix of equipment and labor-based methods has through September 30, 2008 created a recorded direct employment of 19,908.00 person days indicating an average of 158 employed per-day in the last 6 months. Local labor is engaged through organized groups as CBOs.
- A maintenance arrangement under the subcontractor initially uses labor from community groups in the first year. Maintenance works shall continue under community contract arrangement for which training in labor-based routine maintenance is envisaged. This is expected to impact local skills.
- With the 26 Km road/surface works completed last July 2008 and now in good condition, mobility has notably increased along the Todee road up to Manjoe town hence permitting all common vehicle types to access the main destinations like the Koon town market, Nyen town market, 4 rubber buying centers in Gwee village, Goba town, Sackie town (new), Nyen town (new), and the larger commercial (rubber and palm oil tree) farms. More access to motorized transport services along this road is expected to greatly increase the communities' mobility and access to basic services (education, health) and opportunities (employment and production fields) .
- There is also visible increased human activity along the road including cultivation of crops (cassava, rice, new rubber plantations etc), small scale trading / hawking in goods (like fish and manufactured products), and building of new dwellings. It is envisaged that an ESR intervention planned for support towards agriculture in the district will yield results in these communities already energized through the existing their community structures and institutions.

Other indirect developments apparently accelerated by the road improvement include the rapid installation of mobile communication mast in Nyen town by Lonestar, the rehabilitation of the Mission Secondary School near Goba town, the setting up of Nyen Police station with community police services all of which started in about June 2008 as the road works progressed.

Indicator No.	Name of Indicator	Performance		
		FY 08 Target		Deviation (± 10%)
1	Number of hectares of land rehabilitated (<i>FY 2008 OP indicator</i>)	FY 08 Target	3,500 ha.	Deviation (± 10%)
		FY 08 Actual	5,102 ha.	Exceeded
Analysis	During the final review of grant proposals, it was determined that additional funding would be made available for additional agriculture activities, in support of food production, cash crops, and community organized rehabilitation of agriculture land, including rice, vegetables, and rubber farms. This shift in focus of programming explains the result.			

Indicator No.	Name of Indicator	Performance		
6	Value (in US\$) of community contribution to LCIP II activity	FY 08 Target	\$USD200 - \$1000 per community	Deviation (± 10%)
		FY 08 Actual	Average of 775 USD per community	Met
Analysis	The average community contribution was based on calculating a total amount of \$99,965.00, which was contributed by a total of 129 communities. The contributions include the values of raw materials (stone, labor, bricks, and other inputs). These contributions were calculated based on RAP, Rubber Nursery, Rubber Rehab, Ag Production activities only.			

Indicator No.	Name of Indicator	Performance		
15	Number of micro enterprises participating in value chains (<i>FY 2008 OP indicator</i>)	FY 08 Target	200	Deviation (± 10%)
		FY 08 Actual	1,757	Exceeded
Analysis	Originally, the only micro enterprises that were included in the target were the artisan micro-enterprises participating in the Rehabilitation of Apprentices Program (RAP), and some micro enterprises that would be participating in the internship program. However, the 2008 results also include several agricultural micro enterprises (including cottage firms) that participated that participated in LCIP II agriculture-based employment generation activities.			

IR 3: Public infrastructure rehabilitation and reconstruction links communities to government

The LCIP II development hypothesis is that as national and public infrastructure are restored, communities – whether urban, peri-urban, or rural – will be able to communicate and participate in making decisions with their government representatives. As well, as such infrastructure is rehabilitated, the Liberian government is more able to “get out to” the citizens and demonstrate the return to normal governance. This IR is focused on the foundation of governance – considering that Liberians will be able to return to normalcy, when national roads and bridges are restored and public buildings are functional and operating. This is essential to achieving the LCIP II objective of expanding employment opportunities.

Performance of LCIP II impact for IR 3 is measured at the national level. Overall, LCIP II met or exceeded IR 3 targets.

Indicator No.	Name of Indicator	Performance		
8	Kilometers of transport infrastructure (roads & bridges) constructed or repaired (<i>FY 2008 OP indicator</i>)	FY 08 Target	90 km	Deviation (± 10%)
		FY 08 Actual	134.2 km	Exceeded
Analysis	The original 90 km was determined based on approximately 25% of the Greenville Buchanan Road being rehabilitated (240km) during this period and the full rehabilitation of the Todee Road (26 km). However, through the direct rental of heavy-duty equipment, up to 50 bad spots on the road surface were scheduled for rehabilitation using this equipment and therefore increased the total length of road that was rehabilitated this year.			

Indicator No.	Name of Indicator	Performance		
9	Number of bridges rehabilitated or reconstructed	FY 08 Target	12 bridges	Deviation (± 10%)
		FY 08 Actual	12 bridges	Met
Analysis	The target set for the GB road was for nine bridges. During the period of the initial road condition survey, there were structures that could not be seen, and were destroyed by over loading trucks that exceeded the actual loading that the structures were to have resisted thereby caused structural failure.			

Indicator No.	Name of Indicator	Performance		
11	Number of buildings rehabilitated	FY 08 Target	10	Deviation (± 10%)
		FY 08 Actual	59 buildings	Exceeded
Analysis	<p>Included in the final results are the Bomi County Administration Building (LCIP I), Buchanan Administration Building (LCIP I), and the Kakata Rural Teacher Training Institute buildings, of which 43 were completed in July and another 14 in September 2008. The target was set based on the completion of the KRTTI project, as one building, however, in reality the campus-style institute includes administration buildings, classrooms, dormitories and staff housing.</p> <p>Other buildings expected as part of the target, such as ZRTTI, Sinoe County Administration Building, Lofa County Administration Building were not completed as of September 30, 2008.</p>			

Indicator No.	Name of Indicator	Performance		
12	Number of classrooms repaired (<i>USAID FAF Standard Indicator – Program Element Basic Education</i>)	FY 08 Target	No Target	Deviation (± 10%)
		FY 08 Actual	22	Exceeded
Analysis	No target was set for this indicator at the time of submission, however, 22 classrooms at the Kakata Rural Teacher Training Institute campus were rehabilitated by July 2008.			

The following tables show the **required** (USAID Annual Report) performance indicators and targets, as per the May 2008 LCIP II Performance Management Plan and USAID Operational Plan for FY 2008) and actual (cumulative to date) results, including any currently active or recently closed grants that occurred within the first year of LCIP II activities.

Table 2: FY 2008 Key Performance Indicators

#	Indicator	IR	Target (FY 2008)	Actual (FY 2008)	Deviation (± 10%)	Types of LCIP Activities	Referenced Grant #s
1	Number of hectares of land rehabilitated (<i>FY 2008 OP indicator</i>)	1 & 2	3,500	5,102	Exceeded	Rubber nursery, Rubber rehabilitation, All 6 Agriculture marketing grants	MPA004/C/01, MPA004/C/02 MPA005/C/01, MPA005/C/02 MPA010/C/01, MPA010/C/02 MPA010/C/03, MPA010/C/04 MPA010/C/05, MPA010/C/06
2	Number of persons participating in workforce development program (<i>FY 2008 OP indicator</i>)	1 & 2	10,000 (W = 3,300, M = 6,700)	5,493 (W = 1,436, M = 4,057)	Unmet	RAP, PIP Rubber rehab, Rubber nursery, All Ag. Marketing grants	MPA006/C/01, MPA006/C/02 MPA006/C/03, MPA009/C/01 MPA004/C/01, MPA004/C/02 MPA005/C/01, MPA005/C/02 MPA010/C/01, MPA010/C/02 MPA010/C/03, MPA010/C/04 MPA010/C/05, MPA010/C/06
3	Number of persons completing workforce development program (<i>FY 2008 OP indicator</i>)	1 & 2	7,500 (W = 2,500, M = 5,000)	3,739 (w = 749, M = 2,990)	Unmet	RAP, PIP, Rubber rehab, Rubber nursery, All Ag. Marketing grants	MPA006/C/01, MPA006/C/02 MPA006/C/03, MPA009/C/01 MPA004/C/01, MPA004/C/02 MPA005/C/01, MPA005/C/02 MPA010/C/01, MPA010/C/02 MPA010/C/03, MPA010/C/04 MPA010/C/05, MPA010/C/06
4	Number of persons gaining employment or more remunerative employment as a result of participation in workforce development program (<i>FY 2008 OP indicator</i>)	1 & 2	3,750 (W = 1,250, M = 2,500)	3,157 (W = 679, M = 2,478)	Unmet	RAP, PIP, Rubber Rehab, Rubber nursery, All Ag. Marketing grants	MPA006/C/01, MPA006/C/02 MPA006/C/03, MPA009/C/01 MPA004/C/01, MPA004/C/02 MPA005/C/01, MPA005/C/02 MPA010/C/01, MPA010/C/02 MPA010/C/03, MPA010/C/04 MPA010/C/05, MPA010/C/06
5	Number of people trained	1, 2 & 3	5,093	3,272 (2006 men, 1,266)		RAP, PIP, Rubber Nursery, Rubber	MPA006/C/01, MPA006/C/02 MPA006/C/03, MPA009/C/01 MPA004/C/01, MPA004/C/02

#	Indicator	IR	Target (FY 2008)	Actual (FY 2008)	Deviation (± 10%)	Types of LCIP Activities	Referenced Grant #s
				women)		Rehab, Ag Production (6 grants)	MPA005/C/01, MPA005/C/02 MPA010/C/01, MPA010/C/02 MPA010/C/03, MPA010/C/04 MPA010/C/05, MPA010/C/06
6	Value (in US\$) of community contribution to LCIP II activity	1, 2 & 3	\$USD200 - \$1000 per community	Average of 775 USD per community (for a total of \$99,965.00 in 129 communities)	Met	RAP, Rubber Nursery, Rubber Rehab, Ag Production	MPA006/C/01, MPA006/C/02 MPA006/C/03, MPA004/C/01 MPA004/C/02 MPA005/C/01, MPA005/C/02 MPA010/C/01, MPA010/C/02 MPA010/C/03, MPA010/C/04 MPA010/C/05, MPA010/C/06
7	Number of person days of employment generated	3	143,726	689,632	Exceeded	All activities	All LCIP II grants
8	Kilometers of transport infrastructure (roads & bridges) constructed or repaired (FY 2008 OP indicator)	2 & 3	90 km	134.2 km	Exceeded	Greenville Buchanan Road Todee Road	MPA17, MPA15
9	Number of bridges rehabilitated or reconstructed	2 & 3	12 bridges	12 bridges	Met	Greenville Buchanan Road Todee Road	MPA17 MPA15
10	Value (in US\$) of contractor or NGO voluntary contribution to LCIP II activity	3	Indicator dropped, per FY 08 3 rd Quarter Report				
11	Number of buildings rehabilitated	2 & 3	10	59 buildings completed	Exceeded	Bomi Admin, Buchanan Admin, KRTTI	INF15, INF 16, INF 17, MPA01
12	Number of classrooms repaired (USAID FAF	2 & 3	No Target	22 classrooms		KRTTI	MPA01

#	Indicator	IR	Target (FY 2008)	Actual (FY 2008)	Deviation (± 10%)	Types of LCIP Activities	Referenced Grant #s
	<i>Standard Indicator – Program Element Basic Education)</i>						
13	Number of community-based reconciliation projects completed (<i>USAID FAF Standard Indicator – Program Element Peace & Reconciliation Processes</i>)	1, 2 & 3	Indicator dropped, per FY 08 3 rd Quarter Report				
14	Number of sub-national government entities receiving assistance to improve their performance (<i>USAID FAF Standard Indicator – Program Element Local Government & Decentralization</i>)	1, 2 & 3	4 new counties	3 counties	Not yet Met	Rehabilitation of 4 Administration buildings complete (Bomi, Buchanan, and Lofa)	MPA11, MPA13
15	Number of micro enterprises participating in value chains (<i>FY 2008 OP indicator</i>)	1 & 2	200	1,757	Exceeded	RAP, PIP, Rubber Nursery, Rubber Rehab, Ag Production (6 grants)	MPA006/C/01, MPA006/C/02 MPA006/C/03, MPA009/C/01 MPA004/C/01, MPA004/C/02 MPA005/C/01, MPA005/C/02 MPA010/C/01, MPA010/C/02 MPA010/C/03, MPA010/C/04 MPA010/C/05, MPA010/C/06

List of IRs

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

III. TASK ACCOMPLISHMENTS

The following chapter provides an explanation of the accomplishments achieved, organized first by Component, then by Task, as per the Year 1 Workplan.

COMPONENT 1: ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL REHABILITATION (ESR)

Table 3: Status of LCIP II Work Plan Tasks - ESR

Task No.	Task Name	Original End Date	Revised End Date	Status	Notes
1.1	Rehabilitation of Artisans and Apprentices Program (Phase I & II)	3/08	9/08	C	Phase II did not take place, one graduating class only. 9 month program
1.2	Private Sector Intern Program	6/08	10/08	C	Cost-extension was granted for up to October 31, 2008
1.3	Rubber Smallholder Rehabilitation	3/08	11/08	C	No-cost extensions were granted.
2.1	Small Scale Community Infrastructure ¹	3/08	8/08	O	2 Phases were implemented, one ended in June 2008 the second began in May 2008 and will be completed in October 2008.
2.2	Rubber Nursery	3/08	9/08	C	No-cost extensions were granted.
2.3	Community-Driven Peace-Building Initiative	3/08		I	These originally planned stand-alone activities were rolled into/integrated as components of other ESR activities.
2.4	Agricultural Production and Marketing	3/08	8/08	C	No-cost extensions were granted.

C = Completed, D = Delayed, O = Ongoing, I = No longer a stand-alone task, integrated into other tasks

Task 1.1: Rehabilitation of Artisans and Apprentices Program

The Rural Apprenticeship Program (RAP) was implemented in three counties: Lofa, Nimba, and Bong. Ninety six (96) business owners (artisans) were identified, evaluated and selected. A total of 1,275 apprentices were recruited and trained, with a total of 955 graduating (75%). A variety of vocational trade crafts included carpentry, metal works, guest house services, baking, jewelry and fine metal design and craftsmanship, motorcycle repair, electronics with emphasis on mobile telephone repairs and cosmetology, to name a few. Vocational trainers for each skill were provided at each artisan site by outside training agencies. Apprentices took a GOL approved certification test upon completion of the program. Artisans and apprentices were provided literacy, numeracy, and psychosocial training and

¹ This program was initially named the “Community Reconciliation and Youth Employment” activity. The name was changed soon after the Initial Work Plan was submitted, to better reflect the scale of activities.

counseling during each 9 month program. Artisans, business owners, and trainees were also provided with additional training in the areas of book-keeping, marketing, and basic management.

To support the small businesses involved in this program a “Made in Liberia” trade show and marketing event, which took place in Gbarnga, Bong County. The Trade Fair brought together 100 Liberian businesses that came from the RAP and agricultural projects of LCIP. More than 500 officially registered participants (artisans, apprentices, trainers and technical managers) attended the week long trade fair. The trade fair brought competition, exchange of knowledge and skills among apprentices as well as artisans.

A three day workshop was held prior to the exhibition days. The topics covered included: micro-finance, customer services, small business development, communication, effective project management and record keeping. Following the Trade Fair, a post exhibition workshop was conducted in three counties: Lofa, Bong and Nimba to build up lapses detected in some trade during the week of the Trade Fair.

The impact created on the Gbarnga community and all participating businesses and organizations as well as the individuals that attended the trade fair is long lasting and activating. Below are expressions heard from some of the heads of institutions, professionals, diplomats, and ministers of the Liberian Government:

“This program is surely the way for increasing youth employment.”

“Credit institutions should put their eyes on these businesses.”

“We did not know that these kinds of things can be made in Liberia.”

“This even should be an annual event.”

Task 1.2: Private Sector Internship

The Private Sector Internship Program (PIP) was a pilot project designed by LCIP to engage private sector businesses to provide internship opportunities for unemployed Liberian youth. A broad sector of occupations was included in the internship program, such as: such as: automotive mechanic, heavy duty mechanic; generator technician, accountant, electrical technician, mechanical technician, information technology, bottling technician, carpenter (in furniture and or construction), mason, plumber, welder driver, tile layer, and dietician.

Technical trades including painters, chemists, aluminum fabricators, beverage bottlers, generator repair, electrical technicians, welders, auto mechanics, heavy duty machine mechanics, general construction, including masonry, carpentry and plumbing, and food preparation including pastry, and dieticians.

Interns were between the ages of 18 and 35. Twenty (20) entities including 17 private sector businesses and 3 international development organizations participated in the internship. It was expected that 250 youth would participate, and that 100 youths would retain ongoing employment after the internships ended.

The Internship program provided on-the-job training and work experience to a total of 216 youth (26 females and 190 males) against the target of 250, in 8 counties including Monrovia/Montserrado, Bomi, Margibi, Bong, Lofa, Nimba, Grand Gedeh, and Maryland.

To date, the program did not meet the targeted 250 fully because it was not possible to get more businesses to express commitment to take interns. Other businesses that had initially agreed to participate

in the program later reduced the number of interns they had requested. The program has not met the expected result of facilitating employment for 100 of the interns fully because this is dependent on the need, interest, financial capacity, and judgment of each participating business.

Up to 30 additional interns will be placed in businesses as part of a 3 month grant extension, from July to October 2008. The 30 additional interns including 19 males and 11 female were placed at 8 organizations. Two of the 30 gained employment, one at the International Bank (Liberia) Limited, one of the participating businesses, and the other with ArcelorMittal. This brings the total number of youth who participated in the PIP to 246, the number completing the PIP to 206, and the number employed by the end to 72 including 62 males and 10 females.

Task 1.3: Rubber Farm Rehabilitation

The Rehabilitation of Smallholder Rubber Farms (smallholders are defined as any farm with under 200 acres, with the assumption that within the damaged farm of 200 acres tappable trees up to 25 acres could be identified) was designed to assist in the restoration of economic viability of rubber farmers and re-training of tappers who have lost their tapping skills. A geographic focus of these activities includes areas where IDPs and other returnees are resettling in rural villages. One of the primary objectives of the project was to provide sustainable economic opportunities for 2,000 at-risk adult youths of 18-35 years of age, many of whom are ex-combatants. Additionally, this activity facilitated the rehabilitation of 200 farms in a region where significant war activities occurred, where the area remains vulnerable to conflict, and where unemployment is contributing to increasing criminal activities.

Task 2.1: Small Scale Community Infrastructure (originally known as “Community Reconciliation and Youth Employment”)

Through two Small Scale Community Infrastructure (SSCI) grants awarded to two Liberian NGOS –DAI installed 15 new hand pumps and repaired 5 existing pumps in order to meet the stated priorities of these communities as well as the economic growth needs of the LCIP activities. A key component of this project was training of 165 community youth. Participating youth learned through both formal and on-the-job training about the installation, maintenance, operation, and repair of the wells/pumps, as well as culvert fabrication and installation. Community elders were provided spare parts that the youth could access for repair when needed. Community members were also informed about where to access additional parts in the future.

Additional small-scale community infrastructure interventions were completed under other LCIP initiatives. For example, the rehabilitation of market halls in the agriculture production and marketing projects included improved produce storage facilities, and the micro-enterprise development and apprenticeship projects provided the structural rehabilitation of the participating businesses. In this way, LCIP guaranteed that the small scale community infrastructure interventions were relevant to community needs and would directly support economic growth. These structures are not reported in the above mentioned 20 hand pumps; however, the hand pumps were located close to other LCIP businesses and agriculture projects in order to support the economic growth of participating communities.

During the course of this reported period, a 2nd phase of grants were launched, however, were not completed through September 30, 2008, therefore are not described in this report.

Task 2.2: Rubber Nursery

The rubber nursery projects implemented in Bong and Nimba Counties were designed to raise rubber seedlings for smallholder rubber farms that were rehabilitated under the LCIP intervention. These farms were slaughter tapped during the civil conflict through illegal tapping methods used by ex-combatants which removed bark from the trees without treatment causing insects to penetrate the cambium of the rubber wood eventually killing most of the trees. The nursery project provided 344,563 rubber seedlings that will be used to replant 1,587.84 acres (642.85 ha) at a planting rate of 217 trees per acre during this task order of the LCIP project. 200 farmers' farms were rehabilitated under the LCIP rubber farm rehabilitation project. It is estimated that each of the 200 farmers will receive between 7 to 8 acres rubber seedlings for replanting from LCIP rubber nursery sites.

Targets for the project were 300,000 seedlings. Results achieved at end of the project are 344,563 rubber seedlings at six (6) nursery sites.

68 adult youths between the ages of 18 to 35 were trained in both counties in bud grafting techniques at all six rubber nursery sites. Youths trained in these techniques are now employed with private farmers on contracts and others on larger rubber concessions in Liberia. Budded materials used for grafting included GT-1, IRRM-600 and PRO-107.

As a result of this activity, the team has concluded that sports a psychosocial activity captured very high cooperation from casual workers during the project implementation, and that tapping and bud grafting training positively impacted women's level of participation in the rubber industry.

Task 2.3: Community-development Peace-building Initiative

This task was integrated into all ESR implementation efforts, with an emphasis on the psychosocial counseling as an element of workforce development. This type of initiative was integrated in all RAAP, PIP, and Agriculture grants. This created an opportunity to absorb many of those individuals who were trained as counselors in psychosocial/peace building activities from LCIP I (2004 – 2008).

All ESR grant budgets included psychosocial staff and activities. The activities included psychosocial workshops, palava hut meetings (including focus group discussion, around the fire heart discussions), sports activities with emphasis on football/soccer as mechanisms that facilitated community mobilization, togetherness and awareness for various ESR activities and encouraged dialogue, positive behavior change, and peaceful working relationship between and amongst project beneficiaries (community members, ex-combatants, returnees) and project staff. The peaceful implementation and conclusion of ESR projects can be attributed partly to impacts of these psychosocial interventions

Task 2.4: Agricultural Production

The Agriculture Production and Marketing (rice and vegetables) projects in Bong Mines in Bong County, is now completed. The successful implementation of the project was largely due to the continued commitment by people in the participating communities. These activities continue to help create agriculture awareness for food security.

During the course of this project, 27.7 acres (11.2 ha) was planted into lowland rice, 22 .0 acres (8.90 ha) were planted into assorted vegetables, 12.5 acres (5.06 ha) into roots and tuber crops, 1.0 acre (0.40 ha) into bulb onions and 2.0 acres (0.80 ha) developed into fish ponds. A total of 65.2 acres (26.3ha) were successfully put into production. (8.2 acres of lowland rice was prepared (of which 5.35 acres were transplanted), and an additional 1.021 acres was prepared for vegetables and tubers (of which 1.17 acres

were transplanted). Construction work on three market halls in Haindii, Compound and Popota are completed and being used by the concern communities. The construction work on 3 market halls is scheduled to be completed in the next quarter.

The overall objective of the Bong County project is to engage young Liberians in productive agriculture and skills training to enhance youth employment, sustainable food production and processing, income generation and creation of effective marketing channels. The total workforce/trainees remain at 220, of which 157 are males and 63 are females. Participants in the workforce were recruited from surrounding communities.

In four (4) communities in Grand Gedeh County, a total of 33.9 acres (13.7 ha) was cultivated in tuber crops and 24.07 acre (9.7 ha) cultivated in assorted vegetables. a total of 99.56 acres of upland rice and Forty (40) acres (16.19 ha) of lowland rice swamps were developed. Rice Varieties cultivated include Suacoco 10, Suacoco 8, BR- 2, and Nerrica. (Exceeding the overall target (Indicator #1) by 17.94 acres). During the project implementation, 220 workforce/casual laborers were hired.

DAI also developed a project to assist communities to develop inland village fish ponds focusing in areas of Liberia where fresh or frozen fish are not readily available. The goal is to supplement local diets with critically needed protein. Through this grant, 42 fish ponds were developed, one hatchery was rehabilitated, and one new hatchery was constructed. All 42 fish ponds were constructed with the active participation of community members. A total of 235 persons participated in these construction activities (the beneficiary target was 135). The additional 100 persons who participated in pond construction activities in Bong Mines were from nine (9) other communities who sent their youth to be trained by the grantee during the construction process. To date, both hatcheries and community fish ponds are completed and stocked with Tilapia. A total of 44,388 Tilapia fingerlings were supplied to all 42 fish ponds.

As a new pilot project, DAI also issued a grant to a Liberian NGO that specializes in promoting appropriate farming technologies to individual community members on how to construct snail cages and beehives (and establish beehives or set them in an appropriate place for them to be colonized by wild bees). Through this grant 350 farmers were trained and 800 beehives and 200 snail cages were constructed in Bong, Nimba and Grand Gedeh Counties.

Although no honey harvests have yet occurred in Bong and Grand Gedeh Counties, training intensified through farmer field schools during which participants were taught techniques in harvesting honey from the beehives and how to use safety precautions when inspecting the beehives.

Honey harvesting trainings occurred in Nimba County where 150 farmers' beehives are already colonized. Two partially successful harvests occurred prior to the implementation of this project. This grant activity is focused on increasing productivity through the installation of honey processing machines (currently an appropriate vacuum sealer for the storage/sales bottles have been secured).

Through an grant in Grand Bassa County, six hundred (600) smallholder farmers were recruited. A total of three thousand seven hundred and nineteen (3,719) acres (1505.66 ha) of degenerated forested areas/farmland brushed, burned and planted with upland rice assorted vegetables, tuber crops particularly cassava and eddo. During the implementation of the project, 8 palaver hut meetings, 5 psychosocial workshops and 4 small agric business workshops were held for participants. As a result of these workshops, participants can now sell their produce and deposit some of their incomes in banks in Buchanan.

Lessons Learned

- The participating communities demonstrated cooperative response to implementing the project as they worked in “CUUs/KUUs” (a system whereby group of farmers work in each other’s farm on rotational basis during the farming season) and agreed to organize mini-cooperatives in both districts to represent the farmers at important government and company meetings.
- In all participating communities, farmers worked harder as individual farm family on their own farms than they do working as group.
- It was observed that ceremonial times required for traditional practices such as the “Poro”(boys’ bush school) and “Sande” (girls’ bush school) societies delay development program implementation.
- There is lack of functional hand pumps and latrines in most communities in the project areas. Community members are drinking from creeks which is not running water. This causes constant outbreak up of diseases villages and towns in project areas, thus reducing productivity.

COMPONENT 2: INFRASTRUCTURE ACTIVITIES

The Public Infrastructure identified for rehabilitation under LCIP II was developed on the basis of priorities and commitments identified over the preceding months by USAID and US Embassy negotiations with the Government of Liberia. The identified national infrastructure projects constituted the following portfolio:

1. Rehabilitation works on vertical structures which constitute 5 county administration buildings (LCIP had previously rehabilitated 5 in 2005/2006), 2 rural teacher training institutes, University of Liberia Fendall campus, the Ministry of Public Works Headquarters, and 4 border posts.
2. The rehabilitation of national primary, secondary and tertiary (rural feeder) roads constituted rehabilitation of the 150mile Greenville – Buchanan – Cestos Highway, the 33km Todee road and its associated road corridor development projects, and 45km Robertsport – Madina road .

During the first 3 months of the reporting period, significant shortfalls in Liberia’s private sector construction capacity were identified. This necessitated a significant shift in the role of LCIP/DAI infrastructure team. Its initial role, it was involved purely in facilitating the construction process, outsourcing both planning and construction activities and then linking donor and the implementing partners. This role had only limited influence over both quality of the pre construction outputs and subsequent construction supervision.

The capacity gap was most notable within the transport (road) infrastructure sector, where it was noted that Liberia has neither a design nor a competent construction capacity. The pre-construction sector for buildings (Architectural design and supervision) is, in comparison to transport, competent - if a little over stretched by the ongoing construction boom.

Over the following 8 months the Infrastructure team structure and profile was modified and expanded to accommodate the unfolding reality of Liberian context and reflect more closely the LCIP objectives. To respond to the different needs of the horizontal and vertical infrastructure sectors the infrastructure team was divided along these lines.

The transport (horizontal) infrastructure team profile was crafted to respond to:

- Public and private sector capacity shortfall,

- Urgent need to introduce a maintenance focus within the sector
- Introduce community involvement at all phases within the project cycle .

The Transport Infrastructure team was divided into two components, Community Driven Infrastructure and National Infrastructure, each led by 2 international road engineers, who were recruited. The engineers have extensive experience within, public and private sector roadworks in tropical climates within Africa and a competent training capacity of both the public and private sector levels. The engineers are competent practitioners at both road rehabilitation and subsequent road maintenance activities. The engineers are also experienced with active community involvement with provision of physical infrastructure. The range of skills were considered crucial for the new direction of the transport infrastructure team.

The role of the engineers was to develop appropriate contract documentation, mentor nationally recruited staff , train implementing partners, and increase the involvement of host communities.

To complement the international engineers 6 national engineers were recruited, two at a senior level and 4 junior level. A soil testing technician was also recruited, soils testing equipment procured and a soils testing facility established.

By the end of the period LCIP/DAI transport infrastructure team had at its disposal,

- competent and appropriate contract documentation,
- road and bridge design capacity,
- road maintenance capacity,
- capacity to directly implement road improvements
- capacity to supervise implementation of road improvements
- training capacity of both public and private sector at road rehabilitation and maintenance activities,
- soil testing facilities
- innovative approach to community driven infrastructure

The building (vertical) Infrastructure team was prepared to respond to:

- Private sector capacity short fall in construction supervision
- Improved ability to define pre construction activities
- Improved ability to oversee pre construction activities
- Improved capacity to oversee management of implementation contracts

The implementation strategy remained unchanged through the period - that is outsourcing both pre construction and supervision activities, but with a team with improved and expanded capacity to oversee at both pre construction and construction phases.

To manage the development of the building team an international engineer was recruited. The engineer had extensive experience with works of a similar nature in a similar setting. The principle role of the engineer was to mentor national recruited staff. Two additional national engineers were recruited to compliment existing staff.

By the end of the period LCIP/DAI building infrastructure team had at its disposal,

- Improved Contract Documentation
- Expanded capacity to manage pre construction outputs
- Expanded capacity to oversee management and administration of implementation contracts

Through its implementation strategies, LCIP II infrastructure portfolio now also incorporates other key program objectives of generating income employment opportunities, creating avenues for social cohesion in communities by organizing and developing local community institutions to participate in works and decision making, as well as skills development through on-the-job instructions and training activities.

Local subcontractors and consultants have been used for most of the infrastructure design, supervision and construction implementation works. This has continued to be the case for most of the vertical structures. Owing to the deficiencies in capacity of the private sector in particularly road works, LCIP during 2008 undertook design and supervision services. The program also undertook direct implementation of spot improvements on Buchanan – Greenville works with rented equipment. To optimize benefits an integrated community driven access infrastructure component in particular within the “Todee development corridor” has enhanced community participation in identifying priority access infrastructure using integrated community access planning tool based on “access problem indicators”. The approach also involved organizing and developing communities to undertake small labor-based contracts from the sub-contractors or technical NGOs. This has enabled high participation of local communities, increased level of employment, on-the-job skills development process, cooperation with implementing partners and is expected to strengthen the sense of ownership towards public infrastructure. The process will be further developed for off road community access infrastructure whose specific activities will be an outcome of planning process involving local communities through their established CDCs.

Table 4: Status of LCIP II Work Plan Tasks - INF

Task No.	Task Name	Original End Date	Revised End Date	Status	Notes
3.1.1	Grand Bassa County Administration Building	12/07	1/08	C	1 month delay in completion
3.1.2	Bomi County Administration Building	2/08	3/08	C	1 month delay in completion
3.1.3	Lofa County Administration Building	2/08	9/08	C	6 month delay in starting the rehabilitation
3.1.4	Maryland County Administration Building	3/08	TBD	D	Delayed due to outcome of structural assessment – building is not able to be rehabilitated, Government of Liberia to find an alternative site for rehabilitation.
3.1.5	Sinoe County Administration Building	2/08	12/08	D	6 month delay in starting the rehabilitation
3.2.1	Kakata Rural Teachers Training Institute	12/07	7/08	C	Delays in subcontractor performance
3.2.2	Zorzor Rural Teachers Training Institute	12/07	7/08	C	Delays in subcontractor performance
3.2.3	Ministry of Public Works	3/08	1/09	O	Delays in subcontractor performance, availability of materials on market.
3.2.4	Greenville/Buchanan Road	3/08	6/09	O	Revision in Scope of Work in February 2008, training program developed, road

					maintenance component added
3.2.5	Fendall Campus School of Engineering design			D	Delayed until cost-extension was granted in August 2008
3.2.6	Robertsport/Medina Road	3/08	6/09	D	Delayed until cost-extension was granted in August 2008, agreement with USAID to delay until 2009 dry season.
3.2.7	Todee Road	3/08	10/08	C O	The Road rehabilitation was completed in July 2008, the extension road was approved by USAID in September 2008, and off-road improvements will begin in 2009 Dry Season
3.3	Model Border Post Design	9/07	3/09	C	Design was completed, construction scheduled for 2009 dry season

C = Completed, D = Delayed, O = Ongoing, I = No longer a stand-alone task, integrated into other tasks

REHABILITATION OF ROADS

Many of the road rehabilitation projects in 2008 were designed, tendered, and supervised directly by the team of LCIP Road Project Managers, Inspectors, and Materials Technicians. This direct supervision was done for the completion of the Greenville to Buchanan Highway and the Todee Road Development Corridor as it was concluded that there is currently a lack of qualified road engineering firms in Liberia, who have adapted/customized specific conditions unique to Liberia (rain fall, lateritic material, use of the roads, etc.) to fit a sensible design solution.

In general, water crossings (bridges, culverts, etc.) are the most problematic sections of road networks and therefore proper drainage is the most critical to road construction. These challenges are complicated by the aggressive and destructive nature of water and the excessive volumes – Liberia experiences an average rainfall ranging between 187 inches (16 ft) along the coast to 80 inches in the interior, significantly higher than in other tropical countries; in Uganda average rainfall in the wetter areas is only about 59 inches.

Task 3.2.4: Greenville/Buchanan Road

The ongoing rehabilitation of the Buchanan to Greenville Highway and the rehabilitation of the Todee Road. The Buchanan to Greenville Road is a 150 mile (240km) national highway, linking 3 remote counties – Grand Bassa, River Cess and Sinoe. The rehabilitation of this road includes the rehabilitation and/or replacement of cross-drainage structures, (reinforced concrete pipe culverts, box culverts, log bridges, and other alternative water crossings), along with a limited budget set-aside for the improvement of some road surface spots, i.e. deep or impassable pot holes, ditches, and gullies. The purpose of the rehabilitation is to open access to the south-eastern corridor of Liberia. Through this LCIP II rehabilitation project, DAI has engaged the services of over 10 large and small subcontractors, each employing their own workforce. DAI measures the total kilometers of road distance completed based on the completion of the scheduled cross-drainage works. To date the following results have been achieved:

During the period January to September 2008, the number of 12 bridges and 118.04 km of road surface spots (identified as the worst spots) were rehabilitated and 1,355m of drainage pipe culverts were constructed on this Greenville – Buchanan - Cestos highway.

For much of the rainy season (June to September 2008) emergency maintenance works were carried out on several bad road spots and drainage structures to keep the road open during the rainy season. In July, two long span timber bridges were near total failure and were rehabilitated and completed in August 2008. The replacement of these bridges was done through a second grant MPA012, approved on the 8th August 2008, for the routine and emergency maintenance of the Greenville Buchanan Highway.

9 of the reported 12 bridges rehabilitated are found on this highway. The balance of work on this road will be completed in the upcoming dry-season, which begins in November 2008.

Task 3.2.6: Robertsport/Medina Road

During discussions held in November 2007, DAI and USAID agreed to delay the design and rehabilitation of this road project until Dry Season 2009. Tendering of the design, including the Scope of Work, was completed in September 2008 and submitted to the Ministry of Public Works for review, prior to releasing it to tender. The design tender will be tendered regionally, to account for the lack of road/highway engineering capacity known to exist in Liberia.

Task 3.2.7: Todee Road

The Todee Road, as originally subcontracted, is a 26 km secondary road, linking farms and communities to the main Kakata National Highway. The rehabilitation of this road included an engineered design and upgrading of the road, cross-drainage structures, and the rehabilitation of the entire latterite surface.

The 26Km road and culvert works were completed by July 25, 2008. A subcontract for an extension of the road by 5.25km was signed during the period. Two (2) of the 6 bridges undertaken by locally registered small scale Technical NGOs were completed by end of September 2008. Progress on the remaining bridges was slow, because of high water levels during the period July to September. The overall construction of the Todee District road therefore stands at about 80%. On the social works aspects, the NGO undertaking community development established 20 CDCs that have transformed into 8 registered CBOs. The CBOs have been engaged by Subcontractors for various components of works undertaken by employment intensive methods. The CDCs under the guidance of the NGOs are in the final stages of completing Community Access Infrastructure Planning based on Access Problem Indicators.

BUILDING INFRASTRUCTURE

To date, under the LCIP II task order, DAI has completed the rehabilitation of two county administration buildings and one large multi-building rural teacher training college. Other activities are ongoing and most designs or pre-construction activities started within the reporting period.

Private sector Architectural and Engineering consultants are typically involved in two-phases, namely design and supervision. During the design phase the A&E consultant provides assessments of the existing conditions, existing structural engineering assessments drawings, rehabilitation drawings, demolition/reconstruction plans, specifications, bills of quantities, document production, tender packages, and many other services. A&E firms provide their own AutoCad services and often times engage the services of specialists in electrical engineering, mechanical engineering, water/sanitary engineers, etc

During the supervision phase of building reconstruction the Consultant provides dedicated on-site supervisors, technical specialists (electrical, water/sanitary, etc.), quantity surveyors, and ensure the subcontractors have adequate materials on-site, labor on-site, ensure quality standards, ensure time-lines are being met, and measuring and certifying progress. The consultant supervisor organizes weekly site-

meetings, provide clarifications and directions to subcontractors on drawings, specifications and bills of quantity, and adjust/reproduce changes to the drawings. They review and approve materials samples for quality and consistency. Subcontract A&E Supervisors provide daily management of the construction site, and communicate directly with the LCIP assigned staff engineer as well as the construction firms.

On most large scale reconstruction projects, especially those outside of Monrovia, LCIP Building Engineers are not able to be on-site every day, nor do they have the specialized technical engineering qualifications (electrical, mechanical, water/sanitary) to ensure quality. Finally, these specialized engineering needs are of an intermittent or ad hoc nature, which does not warrant full time LCIP II staff positions. LCIP II Engineers attend site meetings, monitor subcontract compliance, conduct routine inspections, spot-check record keeping (indicators, work force, etc.), and provide much needed assistance and guidance to subcontractors on performance, management, and progress LCIP II supervising engineers also provide much needed business training to subcontractors, and in some cases supervision consultants.

Task 3.1.1: Grand Bassa County Administration Building

Funded under the LCIP I task order, this rehabilitation was completed in January 2008, when the 15,000 square foot building was dedicated and turned back over to the Government of Liberia. The rehabilitation was designed by a Liberian Architect – ACC Architects, and was implemented by a Liberian construction company – Triple W. The rehabilitation included a new roof, windows, doors, 70 KVA Perkins generator, etc. In lieu of furniture, a new perimeter fence was identified as a priority by the county administrators.

Task 3.1.2: Bomi County Administration Building

Funded under the LCIP I task order, this rehabilitation was completed in March 2008, when the 8,000 square foot building was dedicated and turned back over to the Government of Liberia. The rehabilitation was designed by a Liberian Architect – Finda Consultants, and was implemented by a Liberian construction company – Gilgal. The rehabilitation included a new roof, windows, doors, 65KVA size generator, etc. Approximately \$15,000 of office furniture was provided as part of the rehabilitation package.

Task 3.1.3: Lofa County Administration Building

This rehabilitation was completed in September 2008, (dedication was rescheduled to November 2008) when the 18,000 square foot building was dedicated and turned back over to the Government of Liberia. The largest LCIP county administration building to date, the rehabilitation was designed by a Liberian Architect – Milton & Richards, and was implemented by a Liberian construction company – SEEK Engineering. The rehabilitation included complete construction of roof and ceiling, supply and installation of doors, frames and windows; electrical conduits and fixtures; repair of minor cracks and plastering of damaged walls; complete rehabilitation of drainage, sewer, electrical and plumbing systems; painting of exterior and interior. A 75kva generator was purchased and installed, and a 120 ft. bore hole was dug to supply the building with water. Approximately \$15,000 of office furniture was provided for county officials as part of the rehabilitation package.

The rehabilitation was supervised directly by an LCIP Project Engineer, and it was the most successful LCIP building project to date, given the quality of construction, start to finish time, and contract management.

Task 3.1.4: Maryland County Administration Building

The originally proposed site was the Maryland County Administration, a 23,000 square foot building that was constructed in two sections, new and old in the 1950's. The building was burned and vandalized during Liberia's civil crisis and has been unoccupied for a number of years. As a result of the damage inflicted, exposure to extreme environmental conditions, poor construction/design, and general neglect, the building has significant deterioration of structural members. A structural assessment, conducted in May 2008 by RCT/Matco, determined that nearly 60% of the building would require demolition. The Government of Liberia agreed this was too costly and, in September 08, selected the existing City Hall, as the alternative site.

Task 3.1.5: Sinoe County Administration Building

This rehabilitation began in April 2008. The 18,000 square feet building required limited rehabilitation, limited to roof, painting, doors, windows, plumbing and electrical fixtures. The rehabilitation was designed by a Liberian Architect – ACC Architects, and is implemented by a Liberian construction company – Gibbel Construction Company. The rehabilitation included a 75kva generator, which has already been purchased and installed.

By September 30, 2008, approximately 60% of the work had been completed. Due to the bad road condition, including the ongoing closure of the Sannquin River bridge starting in August 2008, scarcity of basic construction materials in Sinoe County, and an approved extended scope of works, the completion has been rescheduled for January 2009. The rehabilitation is now being supervised directly by an LCIP Project Engineer.

Approximately \$10,000 of office furniture will be provided for the county officials as part of the rehabilitation package. Following the reopening of the road leading to Greenville (expected in December 2008), the building can be dedicated and officially reopened.

Task 3.2.1: Kakata Rural Teachers Training Institute

The Kakata Rural Teacher Training Institute (KRTTI) is Liberia's second largest teacher training institute, accommodating up to 400 students, and originally built in 1962 through a grant from the World Bank. During the 14-year civil war in Liberia, the KRTTI sustained pervasive damage from bullets, rampant looting and misuse. The facility was used as a base of warring factions as well as a center for displaced persons at various intervals during the crisis.

With rehabilitation complete, KRTTI can re-establish its role as one of three Rural Teacher Training Institutions, working at full capacity to support both pre-service and in-service training of teachers. Following an intensive orientation and training of new faculty and staff, KRTTI reopened in September with a new class of 345 prospective teachers for the new, 1 year, pre-service C-certificate program, being managed by the USAID funded Liberia Teacher Training Program (LTTP).

The campus is situated in Kakata City, Margibi County, on 900 acres consisting of 83 structures which include administrative buildings, classrooms, dormitories and staff quarters, as well as a student center, cafeteria and library. A total of 57 buildings were rehabilitated, including 22 classrooms. In March 2008, the balance of the grant budget, previously un-obligated, was available for the additional construction of thirteen (13) staff housing. This cost saving (as a result of competitive bidding) was approved by the Ministry of Education and USAID. Construction of this extension began in April 2008 and in September 2008 was Substantially Completed.

In the second quarter of 2009, 16 solar security lights will be installed on the campus and site drainage work will be finalized.

Task 3.2.2: Zorzor Rural Teachers Training Institute

Zorzor Rural Teacher Training Institute (ZRTTI) was Liberia's first teacher training institute, and was originally funded by USAID, and jointly managed by the Government of Liberia and Tuskegee University, one of America's top Historically-Black Colleges and Universities (HBCU).

Through September 30, 2008, approximately 95% of the rehabilitation work was completed, including the completion of 3 out of 5 subcontracts. The dedication is scheduled for November 2008. As it is substantially complete, the campus is already being used by 310 prospective teachers for the new, 1 year, pre-service C-certificate program, being managed by the USAID funded Liberia Teacher Training Program (LTTP).

Over half the structures on the campus have already been renovated including all of the administration and academic buildings, four large dormitories and staff housing, as well as 19 classrooms. Electricity and water supply have been substantially restored. Three generators and two steel water towers and reservoirs have been installed. In March 2008, the balance of the grant budget, previously un-obligated, was available for the additional construction of seven (7) staff housing and three (3) workshops (Agricultural, Mechanical and Carpentry). This cost saving (as a result of competitive bidding) was approved by the Ministry of Education and USAID. Construction of this extension began in May 2008 and was completed in September 2008.

In the second quarter of 2009, 16 solar security lights will be installed on the campus.

Task 3.2.3: Ministry of Public Works

The Ministry of Public Works is the Government of Liberia agency responsible for construction and maintenance of all public structures throughout the length and breadth of the country. It also oversees and regulates all infrastructures both public and private. The ministry serves a key role in Liberia's post conflict reconstruction endeavors.

One of the most challenging of building projects this year, the rehabilitation of this enormous complex of 6 large industrial buildings, which remained occupied during the rehabilitation, including:

1. Building # 1, (**Main Building**) provides offices for the Ministers, Administrative Staff, the Technical Staff and other support Staff. Offices include Highway Maintenance, Electrical, Planning and Economic Affairs, Library, Arts & Crafts, Public Relations, Operations, Planning & Programming, Technical Services, Construction, and a Computer Lab.
2. Building # 2, (**Main Warehouse**) is used for storing tools, spare parts, and equipment for the use in 15 counties of Liberia.
3. Building # 3, (**Light Duty Workshop**) is used for servicing of light-duty (passenger) vehicles. This building also provides a small clinic for the workers and provides offices for welders.
4. Building # 4, (**Heavy Duty Workshop**) is where the heavy equipment are serviced and provides offices for additional technical staff. Heavy duty equipment includes road compactors, graders, bull dozers, front-end loaders, dump trucks, back-hoes, and low-bed tractor-trailers.
5. Building # 5, (**Traffic Workshop**) is where road signs were previously prepared. A stop work order was placed on this building because the Ministry has turned it over to the Ministry of Commerce to be used as its Laboratory.
6. Building # 6, (**Mechanics Office**) provides offices for Mechanic Staff.

The overall work at the Ministry of Public Works (MPW) Complex has been progressing very slowly, and was approximately 90% complete as of September 30, 2008. ECOCON Inc, the subcontractor cited delays primarily due to the late arrival of the materials, including electrical materials, distribution panels, switch gears, and light fixtures from outside Liberia. To date, the subcontractor has completed installing doors, windows, floor tiles, installing plumbing fixtures, electrical cables and fixtures and painting of the exterior and interior walls of Buildings # 1 & 6. All works in Buildings 2 & 3 are completed except for the interior painting which is ongoing. Building # 4 still has a little more work to be done including installation of internal electrical cables, light fixtures and interior painting. Most external works such as water system, plumbing system, storm water drainage, repair of pavement in parking lots have been completed. The only outstanding work which the subcontractor has not commenced is the external lighting for the compound.

The subcontractor's revised estimated completion date is January/February 2009, which is approximately a 12 month delay in original contracted date. The subcontractor received an extension through July 2008, however, was unable to complete according to the submitted schedule.

Task 3.2.5: Fendall Campus School of Engineering Design

Design for the School of Engineering at the Fendall Campus of the University of Liberia was tendered in early September 2008, following several months of attempts to coordinate with the University of Liberia and other donor-funded projects. Completion of the design is expected in January 2009 and rehabilitation can begin as early as March 2009.

Task 3.3: Model Border Post Design

Design for the model border post was completed in early 2008, following several months of coordination meetings with all thirteen (13) line ministries and agencies that typically maintain offices at the borders, including Ministry of Immigration, Ministry of Commerce, Ministry of Finance, Ministry of National Security, Ministry of Health, Ministry of Transport, Ministry of Agriculture, National Bureau of Investigation, Drug Enforcement Agency, Central Intelligence Division, National Security Agency, Liberia Fire Service, and ECOWAS Brown Card/National Insurance Company of Liberia

The model border post is based on the existing site and floor plan of the Bo Water Side border post (Sierra Leone), and will need to be adapted to each of the remaining 3 locations, including Yella (Guinea), Ganta (Guinea), and Toes Town (Ivory Coast). Many of the existing structures are constructed from mud and thatch and will likely require demolition prior to reconstruction.

DATA QUALITY

The following is a brief narrative about how information has been gathered, how indicators have been reported, evidence of information, and any spot-check efforts that were made.

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

- Information gathered by the LCIP M&E Unit,
- Information gathered by the partners (Liberian NGO grantees) and subcontractors (for-profit construction companies).

The M&E Unit gathers information during field visits, spot checks and from reports received from partners and subcontractors. Information on indicators are collected by the unit during the above mentioned field visits and spot checks. Partners and subcontractors are requested to report information collected on indicators during their monthly milestone and final reports. The information reported by them is verified during the unit's field visits and spot checks so as to authenticate same.

Field visits and spot checks are done as regularly as possible depending on the number of activities being implemented in the community or county. Visits are done at least twice a month (at most three times per month) to validate information provided by the partners and subcontractors. If the visit or spot checks of the LCIP unit reveals that the information provided by any of the partners or subcontractor is inaccurate or questionable, it is not utilized until further authenticated, after which it is either included in the final report or rejected. In the event the information provided from the Implementing Partner or sub-contractor is inconsistent, inaccurate, or not understood, a "validation visit" is conducted prior to inclusion in any report.

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

A list of all field visits, dates, and grants visited by the Monitoring and Evaluation Team between September 2007 and September 2008, is listed in the table below:

Date of Visit	Location	Grant Name (Grantee)	Date Report submitted	Follow-up Action Taken
	County	Rehab of Rubber (Catalyst)	Date	YES or NO
August 12, 2007	G. Gedeh & Nimba	Gwein's Town Seed Multiplication Pilot project (PNO) Zleh's Town Swamp Rehabilitation (MAP) Ganta Road Sensitization Project (SEARCH)	August 21, 2007	YES
August 22, 2007	G. Bassa, Rivercess & Sinoe	Sensitization Project on Buchanan-Greenville Road (BUCCOBAC, LURCD & ECREP) Rural Apprenticeship Program (ODAFARA & LAS)	August 27, 2007	YES
Jan. 20-25, 2008	Nimba	Nimba Small Holder Rubber Rehab. (ARS) Nimba Rubber Nursery (ARS) Nimba Rural Apprenticeship Program Agri. Prod. & Marketing- Bee Keeping & Snail Raising	January 31, 2008	YES
Feb. 20-21, 2008	Bong, Margibi & Nimba	KRTTI Rehab. (BNCC) Bong Small Holder Rubber Rehab. (Catalyst)	February 25, 2008	No follow-up report attached in TAMIS
March 5-8, 2008	Lofa	Agri. Prod. & Marketing Project-General (VOSIED)	March 18, 2008	YES
March 10-15, 2008	G. Gedeh	Agri. Prod. & Marketing Project-Agriculture Fisheries (FFDC) Agri. Prod. & Marketing Project -Bee Keeping & Snail Raising, (UMCAP) Agri. Prod. & Marketing Project- Rice seed & Tuber crops (PNO) Private Sector Internship Program (Making Enterprises) Small Scale Community Infrastructure (ECREP)	March 17, 2008	YES
March 25-28, 2008	Bong	Bong Rural Apprenticeship Program (LAS) Bong Small Holder Rubber Rehab. (Catalyst) Bong Rubber Nursery (Catalyst)	April 2, 2008	YES
June 10-14, 2008	Lofa	Agri. Prod. & Marketing - Cocoa & Coffee Rehab.	July 16, 2008	No follow-up report attached in TAMIS

		(RAA) Z KRTTI Rehab. (SEK, JUSMART, GE-FAB) Small Scale Community Infrastructure (ADRAHO) Lofa Rural Apprenticeship Program (ODAFARA)		
June 23-28, 2008	Nimba	Nimba Small Holder Rubber Rehab. (ARS) Nimba Rubber Nursery (ARS) Nimba Rural Apprenticeship Program (MADET) Agri. Prod. & Marketing Project -Bee Keeping & Snail Raising, (UMCAP)	July 2, 2008	YES
June 30-July 5, 2008	Bong	Bong Rural Apprenticeship Program (LAS) Bong Small Holder Rubber Rehab. (Catalyst) Bong Rubber Nursery (Catalyst)	July 15, 2008	No follow-up report attached in TAMIS
July 24, 2008	Montserrado	Todee Road Rehab. (SSF) Todee Road Social Services (LIDA)	July 28, 2008	No follow-up report attached in TAMIS
July 21-28, 2008	Montserrado	Private Sector Internship Program (Making Enterprises)	July 29, 2008	No follow-up report attached in TAMIS
August 5-9, 2008	Bong	Bong Rural Apprenticeship Program (LAS) Bong Small Holder Rubber Rehab. (Catalyst)	August 11, 2008	Final monitoring report. Does not required follow- up.
August 6- 11, 2008	Nimba	Nimba Small Holder Rubber Rehab. (ARS) Nimba Rubber Nursery (ARS)	August 13, 2008	Final monitoring report. Does not required follow- up.
August 12- 16, 2008	Lofa	Agri. Prod. & Marketing Project-General (VOSIED)	August 18, 2008	Final monitoring report. Does not required follow- up.
August 12- 16, 2008	Lofa	Agri. Prod. & Marketing - Cocoa & Coffee Rehab. (RAA)	August 20, 2008	Final monitoring report. Does not required follow- up.
August 12-	Lofa	Agri. Prod. & Marketing –	August 28, 2008	Final monitoring report.

16, 2008		General (ODAFARA)		Does not required follow-up.
Sept. 1-3, 2008	Nimba	Nimba Rural Apprenticeship Program (MADET)	September 29, 2008	Final monitoring report. Does not required follow-up.
Sept. 12-19, 2008	Bong & G. Gedeh	Agri. Prod. & Marketing Project-Agriculture Fisheries (FFDC)	September 20, 2008	Final monitoring report. Does not required follow-up.
Sept. 12-19, 2008	Bong, Nimba & Grand Gedeh	Agri. Prod. & Marketing Project -Bee Keeping & Snail Raising, (UMCAP)	September 24, 2008	Final monitoring report. Does not required follow-up.
Sept. 15-19, 2008	G. Gedeh	Agri. Prod. & Marketing Project- Rice seed & Tuber crops (PNO)	September 20, 2008	Final monitoring report. Does not required follow-up.
Sept. 29-Oct. 1, 2008	Nimba	Small Business Incubator (RCG)	October 3, 2008	YES
Oct. 22-24 & Nov. 6-7, 2008	Bong & Lofa	Small Scale Community Infrastructure (ADRAHO)	November 10, 2008	Final monitoring report. Does not required follow-up.
Oct, 22-24, 23-26, 2008 & Nov. 6-7, 2008	Bong, Lofa & Nimba	Food Processing & Preservation (COSDO)	November 10, 2008	Final monitoring report. Does not required follow-up.

ECONOMIC BASELINE SURVEY

An economic baseline survey was under taken by the M&E Unit as part of our routine activity to gather data in communities in which LCIP is currently working. At the end of the grant and subcontracts the exercise will again be repeated and the results compared with the original survey data to determine the level of impact made in the lives of the project beneficiaries.

During the first phase of the exercise the LCIP M&E unit, accompanied by other LCIP staff, visited several communities in Bong, Lofa, Sinoe, and Grand Gedeh Counties visiting a cross section of communities in each of the four counties. The number of communities to be visited was determined based on the level of ongoing activities in each county. A sample of the questions asked during the Economic Baseline Survey is herewith attached for reference.

The team conducted surveys in the above mentioned counties as follows:

Bong-8 communities,

Grand Gedeh-4 communities,

Lofa-7 communities,

Margibi-1 community,

Nimba-21 communities.

Loading of phase I Information from the survey in the LCIP TAMIS, (which is the DAI information system and database to store and report grant information) is completed. The follow-up survey information is being loaded as the team leaves the field and is expected to be completed by the end of January 2009.

In the subsequent survey phase we will survey in the same communities after the closure of the grant activities. The data from the two exercises gathered will be analyzed.

The results will be used to make informed decision on impact of the project in each of the communities as well as making informed planning decisions on future activities.

Appendix A: Map of all LCIP activities (September 2007 – September 2008)

