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Stepping Stones – A Strategy to Facilitate the Sustainable Return of Liberian IDPs: Camp Management and Community Return, Protection and Emergency Shelter

Final Report to U.S. Agency for International Development, Office of Foreign Disaster Assistance

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March 18, 2005—April 30, 2006

OVERVIEW

In May 2005, OFDA awarded funds to ARC to implement a program entitled, “A Strategy to Facilitate the Sustainable Return of Liberian IDPs: Camp Management and Community Return, Protection and Emergency Shelter”. Through the project, ARC aimed to provide management and coordination and gender-based violence prevention and response services to IDP camps and spontaneous settlements in Liberia and to provide emergency shelter assistance for returning IDPs and other vulnerable people. This final report provides information on the achievements of the project and progress against indicators for the period from March 18, 2005—April 30, 2006.

ACTIVITIES

Objective 1: *To provide overall IDP camp management services including coordination with all NGO, UN and government agencies providing services in the camps; protection through gender-based violence prevention and response; and information and psychosocial support for the IDPs’ return to their home communities.*

ARC received funding for IDP camp management activities in November 2003 for Unification Camp. Since then, ARC expanded its camp management services to include 13 spontaneous IDP settlements in Montserrado and Margibi Counties: coverage for Brown’s Town began in January 2004, and in September 2004 ARC took the lead as focal point for 12 other spontaneous settlements: Barnard Curve, Catholic Compound, Children’s Home, Civil Compound, Fifteen Gate, Freeman’s Reserve, Kingsville, Konola Vai, Morris Farm and Promised Land and Brown’s Town.

In Unification Camp, ARC provided complete camp management services including facilitating the layout and construction of the camp, camp security, coordination of service provision and implementation of protection activities including gender based violence (GBV) prevention and response and income generation for vulnerable women.

The 13 spontaneous IDP settlements that ARC supported did not have formal camp management structures because the government did not officially recognize these sites as IDP camps. In these locations ARC provided minimum maintenance and security support primarily through advocacy with service providers and donors for continued support for these IDPs, organizing and supporting camp security teams, and protection services through ARC’s GBV team.

In November 2004, the United Nations and the National Transitional Government of Liberia initiated facilitated IDP return activities. The strategy for returning the IDPs changed over time, but ultimately settled on distribution of food and non-food packages in the camps along with a cash travel allowance for

the IDPs to transport themselves to their home communities. In all but one of the settlements where ARC worked (Konola Vai), IDPs were allocated WFP ration cards and were entitled to the full return package allocated IDPs in formal settlements. Through this process, Unification Camp was successfully closed in June 2005.

Return of IDPs slowed during the rainy season and was delayed during the elections period in October and November. However, the return process progressed speedily following the second round of elections in November. ARC ceased camp coordination/management and GBV activities at the end of January 2006. However two Camp Assistants remained through the month of February to facilitate camp cleanup and demolition and funding from UNICEF allowed GBV awareness and prevention activities to continue until March 15. When ARC ceased working in the camps at the end of February, only Konola Vai remained open. An official closure ceremony for all camps was held on April 20, although some IDPs are remaining in most of the camps (see table below).

Objective 1.1 General Camp Management

Security

Maintaining 24-hour camp security was very important as the return process accelerated. ARC Security Guards were responsible for crowd control during distributions and for guarding all distributions stored on camp grounds. ARC security personnel were also instrumental in handling disputes between IDPs and other service providers in coordination with the IDP Unit of the UNMIL Humanitarian Coordination Section (HCS). No serious security or safety problems occurred during the reporting period.

Coordination

ARC continued to attend weekly camp management coordination meetings in Monrovia and actively collaborated bilaterally with all service providers in all camps where it was working.

ARC's camp closure activities in all camps were coordinated with other agencies implementing the return distributions, (including GTZ, NRC and WFP, YMCA), LRRRC, the District Superintendent and other local government representatives, representatives from nearby communities, landowners and the IDPs themselves.

For all closures in camps where ARC was responsible for camp management, LRRRC, ARC and the IDP Unit of the UNMIL Humanitarian Coordination Section (HCS) made a joint decision to close the camp. LRRRC played the lead role in all camp closure activities, including identification of huts for demolition, distribution and handover of remaining resources in the camp and negotiations with landowners.

Distribution of Resettlement Packages

To facilitate the distribution of resettlement packages, IDPs were issued resettlement cards from WFP. WFP (through YMCA) distributed all food rations and GTZ distributed non-food items, including a tarpaulin, blankets, mats, buckets, pots and a lantern. NRC distributed the cash transport allowance. ARC supervised all distribution and provided security during the process, including male and female distribution monitors for all distributions (food, non-food items and travel allowances). Security personnel handled crowd control and guarded resettlement rations stored in the camps.

Resettlement packages were distributed in all camps except Konola Vai, where residents do not have WFP cards.

Demolition and official closure

After all distributions were completed, camp residents had a 10-day grace period to leave the camp after which demolition began. ARC hired contractors to conduct hut and garbage pit demolition. When all

demolition was finished and demolition contractors had been paid, LRRRC ordered camps officially closed. In many cases, landlords asked to keep some of the IDP huts to be used by workers and other local residents.

The following table summarizes dates of camp closure, total remaining caseloads, total remaining population on the camp territory and number of shelters remaining.

Camp	Month Closed	Remaining IDP caseload*	Total population in camp**	Shelters remaining
Barnard Curve	12-2005	77 (15 households)	677	120
Brown's Town	12-2005	1393 (274 households)	1883	98
Catholic Compound	1-2006	150 (30 households)	150	6
Children's Home	11-2005	90 (18 households)	430	68
Civil Compound	11-2005	60 (10 households)	310	50
Fifteen Gate	1-2006	30 (6 households)	210	36
Freeman's Reserve	12-2005	55 (11 households)	327	136
Horton Farm	9-2005	35 (9 households)	520	65
Kingsville	3-2006	198 (40 households)	888	138
Konola Vai	Pending Repatriation		1546***	186
Massaquoi	10-2005	175 (35 households)	429	36
Morris Farm	11-2005	42 (7 households)	192	30
Promised Land	2-2006	114 (22 households)	444	66
Unification Camp	8-2006	234 (50 households)	234	50
		2653 (527 households)	8240	1085

*Heads of household had IDP cards, but were either de-registered or lost their cards.

**Includes remaining IDP caseload, de-registered IDPs and members of local community.

***Residents of Konola Vai were never issued IDP cards, but enumeration exercises are to be carried out soon as described above.

As the table indicates, many people (over 8,240) are still living in the camps. Around 32% of those remaining (2,653) have lost their resettlement cards or were deregistered because they were not present during WFP verification exercises. Others have already received the return package but still choose to remain. Still others have come from surrounding communities to live in the camps. A majority of these people are working locally or for the landlord.

In the case of Catholic Compound, Konola Vai and Unification, the entire remaining population is awaiting some kind of return assistance.

None of the 1,546 people residing in Konola Vai settlement are officially recognized as IDPs and therefore have not received the WFP cards, which would entitle them to return packages. ARC continues to advocate for the people remaining in this camp and has been asked by LRRRC to provide a staff

member to assist with enumeration of IDPs in this camp. Most likely, the people in this camp will receive some assistance, but they may not receive the full return package.

Participation in Camp Closure and Consolidation Task Force

Two ARC representatives from the Camp Management and Gender-based Violence program teams participated in the UN-led Camp Closure and Consolidation Task Force Assessment, which took place April 11—May 12, 2006. The objectives of the assessment were threefold:

1. To identify prevailing conditions and problems in the former IDP camps
2. To identify and recommend the appropriate response and responsible agency/governmental institution, to highlight funding requirements
3. To agree on a work plan following assessment missions.

The final report on IDP camp closure should be available at the beginning of June.

Objective 1.2 - Psychosocial Support for Camp Residents

Through this objective, ARC provided psychosocial support and case management for survivors of gender-based violence (GBV) and counseling support and information sessions about the process of return through January 31, 2006. Two trained Counselors and a Field Supervisor/Counselor were assigned to these activities.

Psychosocial Support and Case Management for GBV survivors

There were 67 cases identified during the project period, including 19 rapes, 42 cases of domestic violence (DV), 4 attempted rapes and 2 cases of child sexual abuse. Of the total number of cases, 7 were from Unification, 25 were from Brown’s Town, 8 from Massaquoi, 4 from Morris Farm, 5 from Promised Land, 3 from Freeman Reserve, 12 from Kingsville, 2 from Bernard’s Curve and 1 from Horton Farm. Of these 67 cases, 59 were closed by February 2006 and the balance of cases (8) were referred to counselors on ARC’ Community GBV project.

GBV cases by month

Month	Rape	DV	Other	Total	Cases closed
<i>March 05</i>		4		4	
<i>April 05</i>			2	2	2
<i>May 05</i>					4
<i>June 05</i>					
<i>July 05</i>	1	3		4	
<i>Aug 05</i>	5	6		11	
<i>Sept 05</i>	7	13	1	21	18
<i>Oct 05</i>		2	2	4	6
<i>Nov 05</i>	2	2		4	6
<i>Dec 05</i>	1	10	1	12	10
<i>Jan 06</i>	3	2		5	

<i>Feb 06</i>					13
Total	19	42	6	67	59

58% of rape survivors were under 18 years and 42% over 18 years. Of the 19 rape cases, 6 (32%) were clients aged 4-12; 5 (26%) were aged 12-17; and 8 (42%) were aged 18 - 60. Under Liberian national law, these 11 cases with survivors under 18 years are defined as statutory rape.

89% of DV survivors were over 18 years and 11% were under 18 years old. Of the 42 DV cases, only one was under 12; 3 (8%) were aged 13-17 and 38 (91%) were aged 18-60.

Of the four attempted rapes, 1 was under 18 years and 3 were over 18 years.

Age breakdown, ARC GBV Clients in IDP Camps

Age	Rape	DV	Attempted Rape	Total for age range
4 – 12	6 (32%)	1	1	7
12– 17	5 (26%)	3		8
18 +	8 (42%)	38	3	49
	19	42	4	64

During the project period, ARC Counselors held 243 counseling sessions in the camps. Two kinds of counseling were provided: group counseling sessions and individual counseling sessions. Group counseling sessions were held with men’s groups, women’s groups and mixed groups and for groups of 10-15 individuals with similar GBV problems, for example, groups of rape survivors, groups for parents of rape survivors, or groups for perpetrators of domestic violence. Some of these groups met regularly, while others were only interested in one session. During these counseling sessions, ARC Social Workers also provided participants with general information about the return process and services available at the camp and in their communities of return. In total, there were 63 group counseling sessions with approximately 945 participants.

Individual counseling sessions were held with individual clients to assess their specific problems and to work together with the client to develop solutions. 180 individual counseling sessions were held with ARC clients, with an average of 2.8 sessions per client. The number of counseling sessions required is based on the unique needs of each situation. For example, some clients, particularly DV clients, only required one individual counseling session.

When appropriate, clients were referred to relevant medical, protection and legal services. Of the clients that received counseling, 20 were referred to the following facilitates; Benson Hospital (14), LNP (Liberian National Police) (3), UNMIL Human Rights and Protection Section (2) and Bondiway Magisterial court (1) and Kakata Circuit court (1).

GBV Counseling Sessions in Camps by Month

Month	Number of Individual Sessions	Number of Group Sessions	Total
March 05	2	0	2
April 05	2	0	2
May 05	4	0	4
June 05	6	0	6
July 05	8	0	8

Aug 05	28	5	33
Sept 05	13	17	30
Oct 05	17	12	29
Nov 05	29	7	36
Dec 05	37	6	43
Jan 06	22	8	30
Feb 06	12	8	20
TOTAL	180	63	243

GBV Information Sessions

ARC held 84 information sessions during the project period with a total of 3983 (1678 male and 2130 female) participants. Musical instruments, singing, parades through the camps and role-plays were used to attract participants to information sessions. Topics discussed included the return process, concerns about return, and common problems of violence in the camp (including domestic violence). Social workers used information provided by LRRRC, UNHCR and community assessments conducted by ARC's Cross Border Information Program¹ to ensure IDPs had up to date and relevant information about the process of return and the situation in the areas of return. Between 8 and 13 people attended each information provision session.

Survey and Focus Group Discussions about ARC GBV Services in IDP Camps

In order to measure Objective 2.3, "Return of IDPs to county of origin facilitated through provision of counseling support and information", ARC staff conducted a short survey and held focus group discussions in four spontaneous IDP settlements in November. This combination of qualitative and quantitative methodologies was used to triangulate results and to account for the weaknesses of a single approach to assessment. A total of 72 camp residents participated in the survey and 12 focus group discussions (with a total of 120 participants) were conducted with camp residents in Bernard's Curve, Kingsville, Promised Land and Freeman Reserve. The 192 participants in the survey and focus group discussions were between the ages of 16 and 68.

Below are some statistics gathered from the survey. Detailed survey results and analysis of focus group discussions are attached in Appendix I.

- 89% of respondents agreed that ARC services in the camps have been helpful.
- 51% valued the emotional support (counseling) provided by ARC.
- 64% valued the provision of information about the process of return.
- 21% valued the referral service provided.
- 36% valued other support (provision of used clothes, protection services).
- 76% agreed that the support of ARC was a factor in their decision to return.
- 85% said the emotional support ARC provided (counseling) encouraged them to return.

Coordination with other organizations and service providers

ARC coordinated with UNHCR, LRRRC, Benson Hospital (MSF-Spain), UNMIL Human Rights and Protection Section (Margibi office), Liberia National Police (LNP), Bondiway Magisterial Court, Kakata Circuit Court in the following ways:

¹ 96 communities have been assessed in districts in Bong, Lofa and Nimba counties. These assessments include information on security, health, water/sanitation, and education and include interviews with recent returnees from refugee camps in Guinea.

- LRRRC, UNHCR and the camp leaders assisted with tracing clients when they changed location, with mobilizing the community for sensitization and group sessions and with providing information for dissemination.
- ARC Camp Security staff helped to identify and report cases to ARC Social Workers.
- UNMIL Human Rights and Protection assisted with the monitoring of cases in the court system and in following up with the police
- LNP referred cases to ARC Social Workers for facilitation of medical treatment and psychosocial support and responded to cases identified by ARC staff or the camp community.
- Benson Hospital accepted referrals for medical examinations and treatment and provided medical certificates.
- Bondiway Magisterial court heard one rape case from Freeman Reserve and referred the case to Kakata Circuit court. The court ruled the case as sexual harassment and the perpetrator was sentenced to jail. The survivor was referred to Benson hospital for medical treatment and to ARC for counseling.
- ARC coordinated with Concern International and representatives were often present at ARC sensitizations.

Additional funding from UNICEF helped to support GBV awareness and response activities in the IDP camps from November 2005 to February 2006.

Challenges

There were a number of challenges faced throughout the implementation of the project. These included:

- Lack of cooperation from police to track alleged perpetrators of rape and to provide information on preliminary investigations without the intervention of UNMIL Human Rights Officers.
- Local leaders residing in communities close to the camps often refused to disclose the location of perpetrators and insisted on traditional mediation.
- Movement of clients without informing the counselors made it difficult to trace them for follow-up after they left IDP camps. This was of course exacerbated as the rate of return accelerated.
- It was difficult to obtain accurate population figures for the camps as the project progressed and people began to leave the camp to return to their homes. It is likely that the total population was progressively less and therefore the percentage of people attending counselling/sensitisation sessions was higher.
- ARC was unable to meet the indicator "*Thrice weekly counseling information sessions held until July 2005*" because it was difficult to recruit qualified and experienced counselors for the program. During the project's first five months (March - July), ARC used social workers employed under other GBV grants to work on this project as a stop gap measure. In August, three social workers were recruited and began working full time in the camps though their productivity was limited due to a one-week, residential staff orientation. In September, the project picked up and the indicator was met through December. In January and February, social workers concentrated on case closure and referral. In addition, camp residents were rapidly leaving the camps for their home communities.

Objective 2: *To provide emergency shelter assistance for returning IDPs and other vulnerable, conflict affected persons in areas of return.*

The focus of this project objective was to meet immediate shelter needs, especially of returnees and other vulnerable, conflict affected community members. Initially, ARC planned to distribute toolkits to 60 communities representing a total population of 60,000. However, ARC staff found that original population estimates of 1000 persons/community were too low due to a high rate of return during the project period. Actual population figures were on average 3500 – 4000 inhabitants per community. As a result, through December 2005, ARC distributed toolkits to 40 communities in Bong and Lofa Counties representing a population of 183,964. Additionally, OFDA approved a no-cost extension of the project through April 30, 2006 which allowed ARC to distribute an additional 25 toolkits in 15 new communities and to provide a second disbursement of tools to 10 communities. In total, **5,358** houses were constructed and **2,621** were rehabilitated using the toolkits².

Another benefit stemming from the provision of toolkits to vulnerable families is the re-establishment and strengthening of social support networks for returnees and community members. Community support networks evolve through the sharing of tools, and joint construction or rehabilitation of homes. A total of **7,979** families have been directly empowered by using ARC provided toolkits to build or rehabilitate their homes.

Hiring and training of staff

Most staff were hired and trained during the first reporting period. The expatriate Program Manager (PM) was hired during the second reporting period to oversee project implementation and build national staff capacity using participatory planning methodologies, assessments, monitoring and evaluation, interviewing, etc. During the final reporting period, four staff members were hired and trained in program methodology and participatory techniques.

Community assessments in target areas

55 participatory community assessments were conducted during the project to help communities identify and prioritize their needs and develop action plans for addressing them. 17 assessments were conducted in Zota District, 19 in Salayea District and 19 in Zorzor District. Community-wide meetings as well as separate focus group discussions for women, men and youth, were key tools used to ensure widespread participation of community members.

Data collection and analysis in the communities focused on key informants and groups such as elders, women, men, widows, and child/female headed households, children, youth and local leaders. The data collection process helped to:

- Understand the major needs related to shelter in the working area.
- Understand how individuals design strategies to meet their shelter needs.
- Move the focus of thinking from “what is” to deciding “what should be”. This helped communities in prioritizing needs that stem from the prevailing situation and in focusing on the future.

The community assessments revealed that as a result of the war, there is a serious shelter problem in target areas in addition to general needs for infrastructure and basic services. Shelter was an especially important problem for IDP and refugee returnees. Four categories of shelter-related problems were identified in the target communities:

- Those who do not have houses at all and are being accommodated by relatives/friends
- Those whose houses were destroyed during the war and need rehabilitation
- Those whose houses are very old with leaking roofs and/or collapsing walls

² To date, assessments have been conducted in the 40 communities who received tools prior to the no-cost extension.

- Those with houses lacking adequate ventilation facilities, such as windows and vents

Other general findings regarding shelter/housing in the target areas included:

- Reasons for poor housing conditions were attributed to war, sickness, few productive household members and a shortage of building materials such as zinc, nails, etc.
- Many of the homes visited lacked latrines, and where public latrines exist, the pits are generally full, shallow and have poor walls built around them.
- Many of the houses are exceedingly vulnerable to heavy rains, wind and storms.
- In all communities, residents expressed that access to tools and materials (such as nails) would greatly help them in the maintenance and construction of their shelters.

Participatory Planning Process

Following the community assessments, ARC staff initiated a participatory planning process in the 55 target communities. ARC staff presented the results of the assessments and engaged communities in developing realistic action plans to use toolkits to meet their needs by identifying local resources and solutions. Particular emphasis was given to finding solutions to shelter problems.

Work with communities on appropriate local planning was informed by the needs assessments. For example, the identified lack of adequate ventilation in houses, vulnerability to heavy rain and shortage of adequate latrine facilities were problems considered during community planning sessions and technical recommendations were made about construction and which tools would be most appropriate. Another important consideration in shelter construction is how the shelters are used. ARC assessments revealed that for the majority of the households, the structures are used for many purposes, such as meeting places, kitchens, sitting places, guest rooms, etc.

In groups and plenary sessions all assessment findings were discussed and on-the-spot analysis conducted. Investigations into the viability and sustainability of possible solutions (for example, locations for building new houses, sources for building materials) were carried out by ARC staff together with community members.

The program aims to support the local economy and encourage sustainable solutions by using local materials and skills in the construction of houses. Therefore, as a part of the action plan, communities were asked to identify those resources in their community (such as labor and local materials) that could be used to meet needs. Local authorities and community representatives were involved in sourcing local sources of materials and in motivating community members to come together to construct shelters for returning or vulnerable individuals.

Community-identified needs for tools included the following: cutlasses (machetes), hammers, pingalings, shovels, wheel barrows, zinc buckets, nails, diggers, hoes, handsaws, rakes, axes, files, spray cans, knives, hand grooves, ropes, measurement tapes, jack planes, sharpening stones, trowels, and levels.

Formation of Toolkit Committees and training

A total of 55 Toolkit Committees (TCs) were elected, one in each community. Members of the committees were elected by the communities. Each TC is comprised of 8 members (4 male and 4 female) and includes representatives from all quarters of the community. Each committee includes a secretary (responsible for recording tool usage and purpose) and a chairman and chairwoman, responsible for gathering the group for meetings and facilitating decision making. Subcommittees are formed at the quarter level. These committees are active in monitoring the use of the toolkits and discussing the management of the activities and interventions throughout the implementation period.

Three members from each Toolkit Committee (165 individuals) participated in a 3-day workshop on management of toolkits and recording use, technical aspects of constructing safe shelters, community leadership and mobilization. These workshops were held in November (1st distribution) and in March (2nd distribution). Following the workshop, ARC provided the Toolkit Committees with stationery to assist them with toolkit management, including ledgers, notebooks, folders, pens, rulers and bags.

Development of Monitoring System

Before tools were distributed, ARC engaged TC members in establishing local mechanisms to facilitate the effective and fair use of the tools by all residents. The community members and the TCs agreed to provide appropriate storage for the tools and identified suitable locations. The toolkits are available to each of the quarters upon request and the TCs approve the use and distribution of the tools. The allocation of tools to each quarter is recorded and a time for return is set. Records of use and return of the tools are maintained by the secretary of the TC. Each quarter is represented by a member of the TC, who will be responsible for tool distribution in that quarter in coordination with the sub-toolkit committee for that quarter.

Procurement and distribution of tools

Tools were procured in November and December from Monrovia and were stored at the ARC office in Bong and in a warehouse in Zorzor District, Lofa County. Additional tools were procured through the no-cost extension mechanism in March. The initial toolkit distribution commenced November 2005 and finished in December. The final toolkit distribution was completed in April 2006. A total of 65 toolkits were distributed during the project period.

A technical shelter advisor provides shelter guidance on an as-needed basis. Advice was on topics such as safe construction, appropriate local materials, choosing an appropriate building site, space management and environmental considerations. The shelter advisor visited all 55 communities where toolkits were distributed. For tools that required particular technical expertise, the technical advisor helped communities to identify individuals who are able to use the tools and provided training as necessary.

Monitoring of toolkit use and evaluation of project success

Monitoring of the toolkits commenced in December following the initial toolkit distribution. Monitoring efforts focused on not only the number of shelters constructed/rehabilitated, but also the success of the toolkit committees and problems they faced. During monitoring visits, ARC found that while the toolkits were actively being used there was a larger-than-expected demand for nails. No thefts or losses of tools have been reported to date, however, some tools have broken (e.g broken handle, flat tire on wheelbarrow). Some Toolkit Committees took the initiative to gather money to repair broken tools themselves. In others, ARC actively encouraged communities to invest in repair of the tools.

The no-cost extension period enabled ARC staff to provide further monitoring and support to the initial 40 targeted communities. Because the final distribution of 25 toolkits did not begin until March, data collection on beneficiaries and houses constructed and rehabilitated is not yet complete. The following is the data from the initial 40 toolkits distribution:

Summary: Communities Receiving Toolkits

District		Towns	Population	IDPs	Refugees	Houses constructed	Houses rehabilitated
Zorzor	1	Bokeza	4800	3700	1000	149	65
	2	Boi	4225	1731	69	105	60
	3	Luyeama	3000	2000	1000	120	60
	4	Yeala	5679	679	100	90	60
	5	Zolowo	9000	3575	150	99	65
	6	Konia	5000	3500	50	310	210
	7	Zuwulor	4000	175	150	299	651
	8	Zelemai	3600	2000	1300	140	110
	9	Wozi	9000	8000	1000	99	65
	10	Kiliwu	8000	6000	2000	99	65
	11	Zorzor	15000	1400	1000	88	70
	12	Fissibu	5000	2400	500	150	55
	13	Wakisu	2338	150	2188	100	75
	14	kpassagi	8000	2000	6000	99	55
Salayea	15	Beyan	1400	1220	180	80	65
	16	Gollu	2228	2000	228	99	51
	17	Ganglota	4646	4000	646	118	65
	18	Gbonyea	8500	6000	2500	199	35
	19	Kpayaquelle	5675	4000	1675	212	20
	20	Telemu	2963	2000	963	78	200
	21	Salayea	9800	9000	800	432	65
	22	Telemai	4000	3000	500	99	210
	23	Gbanway	5000	4500	300	188	105
	24	Tinsue	1500	1200	250	99	70
	25	Kpaiyeya	4000	2000	550	100	50
	26	Yarpuah	3800	3000	500	305	24
	27	Passama	3000	175	100	99	21
	28	Sucrumu	4000	3900	100	102	75
Zota	29	Waterside	2800	2500	100	99	25
	30	Gbalatuah	3010	3500	110	105	70
	31	Belefania	6500	6000	120	99	60
	32	Payeata	2200	2000	100	99	50
	33	Naama	2900	2000	150	98	50
	34	Shankpallai	4000	3000	500	106	25
	35	Pelele	1800	1200	50	97	25
	36	Kpoe	800	700	50	90	50
	37	Yowee	3785	3000	100	99	65
	38	Farvey	3515	3500	15	100	10
	39	Touqah	1000	850	75	104	30
	40	Balama	4500	4000	50	105	25
Total	40		183,964	115,555	36,219	5,358	2,621

Coordination

The community development staff coordinated with local authorities in the working area and held regular meetings with District Development Committees, town chiefs and other local leaders to ensure that they were well informed of project activities and had a chance to voice opinions or concerns. In general, local authorities were very pleased with the project.

In addition, Community Development staff worked closely with other ARC programs operating in the same communities. These programs included Community Empowerment Projects (CEPs), funded by UNHCR; gender-based violence prevention and response programming; and ARC's business training and grants program. In particular, the toolkits enabled greater community involvement in CEPs, which ARC was implementing in eight towns during the project period.

Challenges

- The project had hoped to provide building materials to all towns in Zorzor, Zota and Salayea Districts but due to a large number of vulnerable families in need of shelter ARC was not able to reach all towns in the planned area.
- Overall, roads are very poor, badly maintained and not always passable, especially during the rainy season.
- During the final assessment, farming activities within the targeted communities caused meeting delays and posed a barrier for data collection.
- Because training of Toolkit Committees was conducted after the initial distribution, records of toolkit usage were sometimes calculated inconsistently.

PROGRESS AGAINST INDICATORS

Objective 1: To provide overall IDP camp management services including coordination with all NGO, UN and government agencies providing services in the camps; protection through gender based violence prevention and response; and information and psychosocial support for the IDPs' return to their home communities

Number of beneficiaries targeted during this period: **10,987** (the combined total of residents on WFP feeding logs in Brown's Town and Unification at the start of the project)

Number of beneficiaries reached during this period: **32,934** (the combined total of residents of the 13 spontaneous settlements and Unification camp as of the date when ARC began work in each camp)

When activities for this objective officially ended in December³, 7 spontaneous settlements managed by ARC remained open; however as of the end of April, most of the camp population had returned home as described above.

TABLE 3 – Progress against Indicators

Expected Result 1.1: Overall health and well being of all IDP residents is protected through access to appropriately managed services, shelter and health care that meet or exceed Sphere standards or other minimum standards agreed upon between UNHCR, LRRRC, camp leaders and other partners.	
Indicator	Achievement
Monthly camp statistics regarding availability of shelters, water, latrines etc. and progress against Sphere standards as appropriate	All camps are officially closed.
Number and type of outside assistance for the camps from other humanitarian groups in response to ARC advocacy.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • GTZ distributed non-food items as part of the resettlement package • WFP/YMCA provided food rations as part of the resettlement package • NRC provided the resettlement travel allowance ARC continues to advocate for additional assistance to support residents of Konola Vai settlement, who have not received WFP cards.

³ As noted above, ARC continued to maintain minimal security and camp assistant presence in all open camps until the end of January.

Expected Result 1.2: Provide psychosocial support for current ARC clients in the camps	
Indicators	Cumulative
100% of current ARC clients receive psychosocial support through July 2005.	67 (100%) clients received psychosocial support. Before clients left IDP camps, 59 cases were closed and 8 were referred to the ARC Community GBV project.
At least 80% of clients express satisfaction with ARC services.	89% of respondents agreed that ARC services in the camps have been helpful. Refer to Appendix I for detailed results of survey and focus group discussions.
Number of counseling sessions (group and individual) per month.	A total of 243 counselling sessions were held: 63 group counselling sessions and 180 individual counselling sessions. Average counselling sessions per month Individual: 15 Group: 5.25
Thrice weekly counseling information sessions held until July 2005.	Average sessions: 5.8/month ⁴
At least 50% of IDPs in the camp attend counseling/information provision sessions.	Individual counselling – 180 Group counselling – (63 x 15) = 945 Sensitisations – 3983 TOTAL = 5,108 47% of IDPs in Unification and Brown's Town ⁵

⁴ See narrative for further explanation. Weekly breakdowns: March: 0/wk; April: 0/wk; May: 0/wk; June: 0.25/wk; July: .75/wk; Aug: 1.5/wk; Sept : 4.25/wk; Oct: 3.5/wk; Nov: 4.25/wk; Dec: 3 /wk; Jan /Feb: 0/wk

⁵ Of an estimated camp population of 10,978 for Unification and Brown's Town camps as at January 2005

<p>Client assessment of ARC activities as factor in return.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• 76% agreed that the support of ARC was a factor in their decision to return• Of the 24% that disagreed, 52% of these have decided to stay in the camp. The remainder said they were waiting for their return package and that they had been too long in the camp.• 85% said the emotional support ARC provided (counseling) encouraged them to return• 47% said the provision of information about the process of return encouraged them to return <p>See Appendix I for detailed survey results and analysis of focus group discussions.</p>
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Objective 2: To provide emergency shelter assistance for returning IDPs and other vulnerable, conflict affected persons in areas of return

Cumulative number of beneficiaries targeted for this objective: **35,000** (*original estimated population of 40 target communities*)
 Cumulative number of beneficiaries reached for this objective to date: **183,964** (*actual population in 40 original communities*) including **115,555 IDPs** and **36,219 refugees**. Direct beneficiaries included **7,979 families** or approximately 47,874 individuals⁶

Expected Result 2.1: 60 communities of return receive emergency shelter tools																																																													
Indicator	Cumulative																																																												
Number of community toolkits distributed.	65 Toolkits																																																												
Number and types of tools selected by the communities.	<p>The following tools were selected and procured for communities:</p> <table border="0"> <tr> <td>Cutlasses</td><td>1370</td><td>Diggers</td><td>496</td><td>Hand grooves</td><td>866</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Hammers</td><td>511</td><td>Hoes</td><td>1003</td><td>Ropes</td><td>526</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Pingalings</td><td>390</td><td>Handsaws</td><td>376</td><td>Hinges</td><td>75</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Shovels</td><td>843</td><td>Rakes</td><td>550</td><td>Jack planes</td><td>306</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Wheel barrows</td><td>424</td><td>Axes</td><td>512</td><td>Sharpening stones</td><td>398</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Zinc buckets</td><td>798</td><td>Files</td><td>746</td><td>Trowels</td><td>350</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Barrels</td><td>261</td><td>Spray cans</td><td>216</td><td>Levels</td><td>427</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Bags of nails</td><td>320</td><td>Knives</td><td>618</td><td>Square</td><td>225</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Clamp</td><td>339</td><td>Pinch bar</td><td>225</td><td>Water can</td><td>150</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Measurement tapes</td><td>27</td><td>Drill bit</td><td>225</td><td>Pad lock</td><td>150</td> </tr> </table>	Cutlasses	1370	Diggers	496	Hand grooves	866	Hammers	511	Hoes	1003	Ropes	526	Pingalings	390	Handsaws	376	Hinges	75	Shovels	843	Rakes	550	Jack planes	306	Wheel barrows	424	Axes	512	Sharpening stones	398	Zinc buckets	798	Files	746	Trowels	350	Barrels	261	Spray cans	216	Levels	427	Bags of nails	320	Knives	618	Square	225	Clamp	339	Pinch bar	225	Water can	150	Measurement tapes	27	Drill bit	225	Pad lock	150
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Number and type of tools remaining in the community after two months.	To date there have been no incidences of theft or missing tools reported in any of the communities. However, all nails from the original 40 distributions have been used.																																																												
Number of shelters built/repared in the receiving communities within two months of distribution	5,358 houses constructed; 2,621 rehabilitated																																																												
Number of persons per shelter, by gender, age and vulnerability (if any).	An average of 6 persons are resident in the 7,979 houses constructed/rehabilitated (47,874 total individuals). Data on vulnerability status was not recorded, but an estimated 75% of the beneficiaries are IDPs or 35,905 people.																																																												

⁶ Given an average of 6 persons per shelter.

Expected Result 2.2: IDP returnees have access to material resources and technical guidance on site selection for construction and basic construction practices to assist them to re/construct shelters in the most appropriate yet efficient manner.	
Indicator	Cumulative
Number of IDP returnees in satisfactory shelters within two months of tool distribution.	35,905 (approximate number of IDPs who used toolkits)
Percent of beneficiaries satisfied with the contents of the toolkits.	All beneficiaries expressed satisfaction with the toolkits, however many noted that they would like to have additional expendable materials for construction, such as zinc and nails.
Number of persons involved with the selection of toolkit contents and toolkit management.	18,300 (10% of the communities participated through focus group meetings with men, women and youth in each quarter). 440 people are members of Toolkit Committees and are directly involved with toolkit management.
Perception of communities regarding the benefits and appropriateness (or not) of the village planning exercise and the technical guidance.	Communities expressed appreciation for the focused planning exercises and shelter advice.
Appropriateness of the site selection and quality of shelter construction as related to international and local standards.	The shelters are constructed according to local and international standards. Local resources are used to fulfill project objectives when appropriate. The technical shelter advisor helped to ensure that houses would be built in dry areas with sufficient space in between whenever possible.