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LIBERIA COMMUNITY INFRASTRUCTURE PROJECT II

QUARTERLY REPORT APRIL-JUNE 2008

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INTRODUCTION

This report covers the period of April, May and June 2008, which represents the second quarterly report under LCIP II. This is the first quarterly report in this format, previously the quarterly reports were compilations of the monthly status reports. This Quarterly Report includes a brief narrative report, a report on beneficiary targets vs. actual, and an explanation of the results, including reasons for achievement or difficulties experienced. The targets are based on the May 2007 Year 1 Annual Work Plan.

The report also 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. A brief narrative on the quality of the data, how it was obtained, and how it is being monitored is provided. This report contains an update to the efforts underway for an Economic Baseline Survey, which is being implemented to gather community-level data for planning purposes, as well as to determine the level of impact made in the lives of the project beneficiaries.

The Monitoring and Evaluation Unit (M&E) of the LCIP comprises 3 staff members, supervised by Mr. Isaac Gorvego. The M&E Unit reports directly to the LCIP Chief of Party. The M&E team members undertake field visits to both the Infrastructure (INF) and Economic and Social Reintegration (ESR) project sites to ensure data quality, compliance, and review safety/environmental concerns. The M&E Unit shares findings and makes recommendations to the LCIP management regarding improvements or corrections.

MAJOR ACCOMPLISHMENTS

During this quarter – the following major accomplishments were noted:

The rehabilitation of the Kakata Rural Teacher Training Institute (KRTTI) in Margibi County. On [insert date] the US provided the Ministry of Education a grant of \$2.5 million for the restoration of the facilities and campus. The Kakata Rural Teacher Training Institute (KRTTI) is Liberia's second largest teacher training institute, accommodating up to 400 students. With rehabilitation substantially **complete**, KRTTI is poised to 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.

In June, DAI/LCIP in partnership with Organization for the Development of Agriculture and Farmers Related Association (ODAFARA), **held the 2nd Annual LCIP "MADE IN LIBERIA" Trade Fair** in Gbarnga, Bong County. Over 450 small and micro-entrepreneurs and farmers from 13 counties are exhibiting their products and services. Visitors could purchase artwork, crafts, furniture, wood work, metal work, jewelry, food products and fresh farm produce from Liberian vendors. For two days prior to the "MADE IN LIBERIA" Trade Fair, the 450 participants were divided into groups of 45 for business development coaching. Ten speakers rotated covering business development topics such as customer service, accounting, hospitality management, improved value chain, market linkages, marketing, and micro-credit. The Vice President of Liberia and other VIPs participated in this well promoted event.

During this same period the following new activities began:

1. Rehabilitation of the Todee Road Development Corridor in Montserrado County (began on April 1, 2008)
2. Rehabilitation of the Lofa and Sinoe County Administration Buildings (began on March 20, 2008 and April 10, 2008 respectively)

BENEFIARY DATA

The following tables show the current list of LCIP II activities, through June 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.

Activity Type	CURRENT Activity	Status	Target beneficiaries (workforce) (A)	Actual # of workforce thru June 30, 2008 (B)	Difference C =(B - A)	Target Persons Day of Employment (D)		Actual Person Day of Employment (E)	Difference F =(E-D)
ESR	Rehab of Artisans/Apprentice**	Completed	1,045	1,275	+230	22,990	*	166,777	+143,787
ESR	Private Sector Internship	Ongoing	250	193	-55	5,500	*	20,110	+14,610
ESR	Rubber Farm Rehabilitation	Completed	2,000	2,000	0	44,000	*	40,000	-4,000
ESR	Rubber Nursery	Completed	300	102	-198	6,600	*	29,456	22,856
ESR	Ag Production & Marketing	Completed	450	1,703	1,253	9,900	*	184,839	+174,939
ESR	Small Scale Com Infrastructure	Completed	1,200	165	-1,035	26,400	*	3,105	-23,295
INF	Rehab of Kakata Teacher Institute	Ongoing	240	219	-21	31,680		39,414	+7,734
INF	Rehab of Zorzor Teacher Institute	Ongoing	300	155	-145	39,600		31,312	-8,288
INF	Rehab of Ministry of Public Works	Ongoing	180	122	-58	31,680		39,934	+8,254
INF	Rehab of Bomi County Admin Bld	Completed	40	51	+11	4,400		3,148	-1,252
INF	Rehab Grd Bassa Cnty Admin Bld	Completed	42	68	+26	4,620		6,150	+1,530
INF	Greenville to Buchanan Road	Ongoing	180	89	-91	19,800		65,792	+45,492
INF	Rehab of Lofa County Admin Bld	Ongoing	42	55	+13	4,620		2,665	-1,955
INF	Rehab of Sinoe County Admin Bld	Ongoing	30	0***	-30	1,980		0	-1,980
INF	Todee Road Rehabilitation	Ongoing	180	231	+51	23,760		8,186	-15,574
INF	Rehab of Sinoe County Admin Bld	Delayed	60	0***	-60	7,920		0	-7,920
INF	Robertsport to Medina Road---INF	Delayed	180	0***	-180	23,760		0	-23,760
TOTAL			6,719	6,428	-289	309,210		640,888	+350,258

*Targets for Person Days of Employment (PDE) were not calculated, nor stated, in the Year 1 Work plan, estimates have been provided, based on a 22 day work week in a month.

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

***These activities began during this period, or have been delayed, therefore 0 results are reported. For Sinoe and Lofa Admin buildings, these will be reported in next Quarterly Report. For Robertsport to Medina Road, these will be reported after activity begins in late 2008.

NOTES

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

1. The target beneficiaries & PDE for large scale effort on the Greenville to Buchanan Road were understated in the 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 workforce based on needs i.e. the level of work to be achieved at a particular point in time, which was not necessarily expected during the design of the grant or work to be done.
3. The actual numbers of beneficiaries under the three Rehabilitation of Artisans (RAP) programs were more than the original target.
4. Targets for PDE for all Economic and Social Reintegration (ESR) grants were not calculated in the Work Plan. However, the PDE was determined monthly for each ESR grant as evidenced by the increase in the number of beneficiaries higher than the original targets for the grants.
5. Generally, all the infrastructure targets, (both PDE and beneficiaries), are 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.

A noticeable shortfall in achievement of targets of both beneficiaries and PDEs 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 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. Through two Small Scale Community Infrastructure (SSCI) grants awarded to two Liberian NGOS – LCIP completed an assessment of 38 communities within the (5) five clusters in Nimba and Grand Gedeh Counties, and 27 communities within the (6) six clusters in Bong and Lofa Counties. As a result, DAI installed 20 hand pumps in order to meet the stated priorities of these communities as well as the economic growth needs of the LCIP activities. When 65 communities were assessed by LCIP, access to safe water was identified as the top community infrastructure priority. Through this installation, only 165 at-risk youth received training. The targets of 1,200 youth and 12,000 indirect community members was not achieved, as the volume, size and scale of the small scale community infrastructure projects was limited to 20 hand pump sites. Additional small-scale community infrastructure interventions were completed under other LCIP initiatives, such as market halls rehabilitation with improved storage facilities under agriculture production grants; these structures are not reported in the above mentioned 20 hand pumps.

PERFORMANCE INDICATORS

The following tables show the **required** (USAID Annual Report) performance indicators, as per the May 2008 LCIP II Performance Management Plan.

Type of Indicator: Required

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

#	Indicator	IR	Target	Actual (Cumulative to date)	Types of LCIP Activities	Referenced Grant #s
1	Number of acres of land rehabilitated	1 & 2	5,953.1	6,635.40	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	1, 2 and 3	10,000 (3,300 women, 6,700 men)	3,982(3,122 men, 860 women)	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	1, 2 and 3	7,500 (2,500 women, 5,000 men)	3,743(2,994 men, 749 women)	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	1, 2 and 3	3,750 (1,250 women, 2,500 men)	A survey within 90 days of PIP and RAP graduation is expected.	RAP, PIP, Rubber Rehab	MPA009/C/01
5	Number of people trained	1, 2 and 3	5,093	3,272 (2006 men,	RAP, PIP,	MPA006/C/01, MPA006/C/02 MPA006/C/03, MPA009/C/01

#	Indicator	IR	Target	Actual (Cumulative to date)	Types of LCIP Activities	Referenced Grant #s
				1,266 women)	Rubber Nursery, Rubber Rehab, Ag Production (6 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
6	Value (in US\$) of community contribution to LCIP II activity	1, 2 and 3	\$USD200 - \$1000 per community	Average of \$USD775 USD per community (for a total of \$USD99,965.00, in 129 communities).	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	1, 2 and 3	143,726	246,775	All activities	All LCIP II grants
8	Kilometers of transport infrastructure constructed or repaired	2 and 3	90km of roads and bridges	146.7km of roads and bridges	Greenville Buchanan Road Todee Road	MPA17, MPA15
9	Number of bridges rehabilitated or reconstructed	2 and 3	12 bridges	9 bridges completed	Greenville Buchanan Road Todee Road	MPA17 MPA15
10	Value (in US\$) of contractor or NGO voluntary contribution to LCIP II activity	3	\$100 - \$1000 USD/per contractor	DAI recommends that this indicator is no longer relevant. Contractors under rehabilitation grants are for-profit construction companies, hired competitively and there are no requirements for voluntary contributions.		
11	Number of buildings rehabilitated	2 and 3	10	36 buildings	Bomi Admin, Buchanan	INF16, INF15 and INF17 MPA01

#	Indicator	IR	Target	Actual (Cumulative to date)	Types of LCIP Activities	Referenced Grant #s
				completed	Admin, KRTTI	
12	Number of classrooms repaired	2 and 3	No Target	22 classrooms	KRTTI	MPA01
13	Number of community-based reconciliation projects completed	1, 2 and 3	2	DAI recommends that this indicator is no longer relevant, based on its implementation strategy. Stand-alone community-based reconciliation projects are not implemented – rather reconciliation and conflict mitigation counseling is provided on all Economic and Social Reintegration (ESR) activities by qualified counselors. Activities on-site also include sports events within and between communities.		
14	Number of sub-national government entities receiving assistance to improve their performance	1, 2 and 3	4 new counties (15 cumulative)	4 counties	Rehabilitation of 4 Administration buildings	INF15, INF16, MPA11, MPA13

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

ANALYSIS OF IMPACT DATA

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

INFRASTRUCTURE ACTIVITIES

Infrastructure rehabilitation activities are implemented through subcontracts which are competitively tendered and awarded to Liberian construction companies. The construction companies range from small-scale technical NGOS (such as those engaged on the Todee Road), to medium-sized road and building subcontractors, include large general contractors. The subcontractors provide their own equipment, labor, and purchase their own materials. In most cases, these subcontractors are for-profit and therefore do not contribute to communities or projects directly except through their recruitment and employment of workers. Frequently subcontractors establish site-offices and also employ their own administrative, security and driving staff.

Road Infrastructure

The achievements outlined above for road infrastructure, include two major activities during the first year of LCIP II. 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, funded by USAID, 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. All 9 reported 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.

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 road works will be completed in July 2008 with cross-drainage works and completion of 6 additional bridges in the coming months. Three subcontractors and one NGO have been engaged to perform this work, each employing their own workforce.

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.

The rehabilitation of county administration buildings allows for the ongoing strengthening of local government by providing a functioning building (including water and electricity) where the county authorities – including the County Superintendent, Development Superintendent, Ministry of Gender, County Mayor, County Court, and other line-ministries – can perform their designated and critical functions. To date (through LCIP I and LCIP II task orders), DAI has completed 7 county administration buildings, the most recent of which, completed in 2008 include the Bomi County Administration Building and Grand Bassa County Administration Building.

The rehabilitation of the Katata Rural Teacher Training Institutes, including 34 buildings and 22 classrooms provides a conducive learning environment for students to learn and to receive their teacher certification. 14 additional buildings are scheduled for completion in the coming months, and the completion of the Zorzor Rural Teacher Institute will be completed during the next quarter.

ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL REINTEGRATION ACTIVITIES

Rubber Farm Rehabilitation

The Rehabilitation of Smallholder Rubber Farms (smallholders are defined as any farm under 200 acres) was designed to assist restoration of the 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 is 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 will facilitate the rehabilitation of 200 farms in a region where significant war activities occurred, and where the area remains vulnerable to conflict and where unemployment is contributing to increasing criminal activities. Under the rehab exercise a total of 5,000 acres was to be rehabilitated. However, as of the end date of the project, a total of 6,635 acres was rehabilitated.

Rubber Nursery

The Rubber Seedlings Nursery projects were designed to raise seedlings for rubber farms that were rehabilitated under the LCIP intervention. These farms, in Bong and Nimba counties, were destroyed during the civil conflict through illegal methods of tapping, which killed the existing rubber trees. The project provided 344,563 rubber seedlings which were used for replanting of a total of 31.7 acres (15 in Nimba; 16.7 in Bong). Over 200 smallholder farmers received training in proper replanting and maintenance technology.

Rehabilitation of Artisans and Apprentices Program

The Rural Apprenticeship Program (RAP) is 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, mobile telephone and small electronics repair, and cosmetology, to name a few. Vocational trainers for each skill were provided at each artisan site by outside training agencies. Apprentices take a GOL approved certification test upon completion of the program. Artisans and apprentices are provided literacy, numeracy, and psychosocial training and counseling during each 9 month program. Artisans, business owners, and trainees are 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 DAI hopes to be an annual event, took place in Gbarnga, Bong County. A total of 100

businesses were present. The Vice President of Liberia and other VIPs participated in the event as well. (See attached brochure.)

Private Sector Internship

The Private Sector Internship Program (PIP) is a pilot project designed by LCIP to engage private sector businesses to provide internship opportunities for unemployed Liberian youth. A broad sector of occupations were included in the internship program, such as:

- Professional positions such as sales managers, accountants, operations managers,
- 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.

It was expected that 100 youths would retain ongoing employment after the internships ended. 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.

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.

Agricultural Production

The Agriculture Production and Marketing (rice and vegetables) project in Bong Mines in Bong County, is now in its ninth month of project implementation. The successful implementation of the project is 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, 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). 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.

In four (4) communities in Grand Gedeh County, a total of 99.56 acres of upland rice and 40 acres of lowland rice swamps were developed, 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 is still being sought).

In the upcoming quarter, new project activities including small holder oil-palm support, small-business incubator, and food processing and preservation (agriculture extension) will begin and results generated and analyzed.

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:

1. Information gathered by the LCIP M&E Unit,
2. 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.

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:

1. Bong-8 communities,
2. Grand Gedeh-4 communities,
3. Lofa-7 communities,
4. Margibi-1 community,
5. Nimba-21 communities.

Information from the survey is being loaded in the LCIP TAMIS, (which is the DAI information system and database to store and report grant information). This exercise should be completed by second week September 2008 and available to all for planning purposes.

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.