

Liberia Community Infrastructure Project

Annual Report: July 1, 2004 to June 30, 2005

August 19, 2005



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I. INTRODUCTION AND MAJOR ACHIEVEMENTS:

I. Project Overview:

Project Outputs:

Since the signing of the LCIP contract on March 4, 2004 DAI has been able to engage over 17,000 of its project target of 25,000 ex-combatants (XCs) and other war-affected people (WAPs) into its reintegration and reconstruction (RR) program. The LCIP RR program, as outlined in the Ghana Comprehensive Peace Agreement (CPA), is a critical part of the RR program in Liberia and USAID is the GoL's largest partner through LCIP.

The project outputs in this program fall within three key Intermediate Results (IR) categories which are under the country's Special Objective of *Community Revitalization and Reintegration*:

- IR1: Peace and good governance enhanced
- IR2: Economic and social conditions exist at the community level to facilitate reintegration and rehabilitation of infrastructure.
- IR3: Increased formal and non-formal learning and counseling opportunities.

During the last year, the LCIP was able to translate these objectives into three associated components which are:

- **Psycho-social Counseling and Reconciliation** - this component includes community-based counseling and reconciliation activities conducted in conjunction with employment programs as well as public awareness and reconciliation services. A sports program, in particular soccer, for all participants and communities is a key psycho-social activity to engage communities and build peace between XCs and WAPs.
- **Employment Generation** – this is the central effort to create jobs and employment opportunities through reconstruction activities for XCs and WAPs.
- **Formal and non-formal education** – LCIP uses its reconstruction component to create or enhance access to formal school and accelerated learning programs, associated on-the-job training opportunities, vocational and skills training.

Psycho-social Counseling and Reconciliation (Social Reintegration or SR):

Psycho-social counseling and reconciliation activities took place in over 792 communities in the 8 counties where the LCIP is being implemented. These counties (Grand Gedeh, Nimba, Bong, Lofa, Gbarpolu, Bomi, Grand Cape Mount, and Montserrado) were selected due to the density of XCs and the progress of the disarmament and demobilization (DD) process by the United Nations Mission in Liberia. Lofa was one of the last counties to go through the DD process so the LCIP did not enter this county until January of 2005. Montserrado was a modification to our original contract with LCIP's work officially beginning also in January 2005.

The counseling and reconciliation component runs in close association with the jobs program although is not limited to the jobs program's participants. This component has been successful in increasing the participation of XCs, WAPs, and community-based groups in peace building activities. The program approach entailed talking, listening, and engaging the XCs and WAPs in order to allow them to share their experiences in a safe environment. This was accomplished by training community members to provide community-level counseling services in reconciliation, conflict resolution, trauma healing, and psycho-social counseling. This approach allowed the social, physical, and psychological needs of XCs, WAPs, and their communities to be addressed more holistically.

The LCIP has ensured that all persons targeted by the program (XCs and WAPs) have had access to the social reintegration opportunities available within the program. The actual numbers of communities and people engaged are as follows:

Psycho-social Counseling and Reconciliation outputs:

- Community-level counseling systems developed for XCs and WAPs were developed in 792 communities in 8 counties.
- 869 communities mobilized and support groups identified 12 joint community and livelihood ventures.
- Increased awareness of demobilization, reintegration and conflict mitigation programs in 792 communities in 8 counties.
- Culturally appropriate peace messages, slogans, and events were developed through competitions and cultural festivals performances in 792 communities in 8 counties.
- Promotion of sports activities were in 792 communities in 8 counties.

Employment Generation (Economic Reintegration or ER)

The main focus of this component was to increase access to economic opportunities for XCs and WAPs while at the same time re-building critical community structures that once provided basic public services. The LCIP designed a package of employment interventions in six areas which are:

1. Roads and Bridges rehabilitation
2. Schools renovation
3. Agriculture and Agribusiness
4. Renovation of Administrative buildings
5. Rehabilitation of Health Centers
6. Micro-enterprise development.

The actual numbers of people affected by this intervention are:

Employment Generation Outputs:

- Reconstruction work brigades dedicated to road/bridge activities provided employment for up to 12,218 XCs and WAPs. The following are a listing per county of all the roads and bridges either completed or on-going as of June 30, 2005.

BOMI COUNTY

1. 18.64km-Tubmanburg-Bopolu road side brushed & pot holes filled
2. 50km-Tubmanburg-Sackie Town highway rehabilitated
3. 99km –Tubmanburg-Sackie Town, Klay-PoRiver road side brushed
4. 52km-Suehn/Mecca-Bopolu road rehabilitated

BONG COUNTY

1. 21.74km-Totota-Sanoyea & Gbarnga-Zorzor highway road rehabilitated
2. 30km-Bong County road rehabilitated(Gbarnga to Totota, Gbarnga to Baila, Youth Mission to Bellemu & Gbartalla to Fenitoli)
3. 120km-Bong County Road(Kakata-Baila, Gbarnga-Gbalatuah, Totota-Phebe, Palala-Zoeinta, & Belefani-Jawah

CAPE MOUNT

1. 80km-Sinje-Lofa Bridge road rehabilitated
2. 68km-Lofa River-Bo-Waterside road rehabilitated & side brushed

GBARPOLU COUNTY

1. Cola Bridge rehabilitated along the Tubmanburg-Bopolu highway
2. 168km-Road rehabilitated and side brushed

GRAND GEDEH COUNTY

1. 21.74km-Zwedru-Gwein Town highway rehabilitated
2. 90km-Zwedru City to Cestos River road rehabilitated
3. 120km-Zwedru to Tempo road rehabilitated
4. 90km-Zwedru to Tchien Zonnie road rehabilitated
5. 58km-Zwedru to Konobo road rehabilitated

LOFA COUNTY

1. 104km-Road Zorzor to Foya side brushed

NIMBA COUNTY

1. 118km-Upper Nimba road rehabilitated(Sanniquellie to Yekepa & Sehyikimpa to Luoguatuo)
2. 120km-Nimba road maintenance(Sokopa to Ganta, Ganta City to Guinea border, & Ganta City to Saclepea)

MONTERRADO COUNTY

1. ¼ km – Gibson street in front of Embassy, Monrovia
2. over 2,000 pot holes filled in the Monrovia area

ONGOING ROADS

1. 91km-Gbarma to Weasua road rehabilitation
 2. 87km-(3 road segments) Totota via Phebe, (Bong Road)
 3. 147.6km-road & bridge rehabilitation (Gbarnga, Kokoyah, Botota, Zoeinta, Palala, Benlefernia to Jowah)
 4. Operation Pot hole in Monrovia
- Reconstruction work brigades dedicated to rehabilitation of 5 administrative buildings provided employment for 300 XCs and WAPs.

1. Robertsport – Cape Mount County
2. Bopulu – Gbarpolu County
3. Sanniquellie – Nimba County
4. Gbarnga – Bong County
5. Zwedru – Grand Gedeh County

- Reconstruction work brigades dedicated to rebuilding 7 schools and 1 university provided employment for up to 450 XCs and WAPs. (The target of 50 schools was not met due to the lack of teacher’s salaries being paid by the Ministry of Education.)

1. Saint Dominic’s school
2. The AME University (still on-going)
3. Five schools in Lofa county (2 in Voinjama, 1 in Kolahun, 1 in Foya, and one in Salayea)

Please note that the target of 50 schools rehabilitated was not met due to the fact that teacher’s salaries are not being paid by the Ministry of Education. The LCIP will not rehabilitate any structures if the ‘software’ is not in place; teachers, books, and furniture.

- Reconstruction work brigades dedicated to renovating 4 health centers provided employment for 62 XCs and WAPs. The target of 25 health centers was not met
1. 2 in Bong (Yila and Janyea district) with Africare doing the software
 2. 2 in Nimba (both in Sanniquellie district) with Africare also doing with software

Please note that the target of 25 health centers rehabilitated was not met as the ‘software’ was not in place for indicated centers.

- Reconstruction work brigades dedicated to work on agriculture production systems (15 swamp rice project and 4 old palm processing projects) provided employment for 7,224 XCs and WAPs.

1. 1 swamp rice project in Lofa in 4 sites.
2. 5 swamp rice projects in Nimba in 44 sites.

3. 1 swamp rice project in Bong in 4 sites.
 4. 3 swamp rice project in Grand Cape Mount in 4 sites.
 5. 1 swamp rice project in Bomi in 2 sites.
 6. 1 swamp rice project in Bharpolu in 2 sites.
 7. 3 swamp rich projects in Grand Gedeh in 11 sites.
 8. 1 oil palm projects in Lofa.
 9. 1 oil palm project in Bong.
 10. 2 oil palm projects in Grand Gedeh.
- Project support provided for 3,461 XCs and WAPs as stakeholders in small enterprise development or joint ventures in baking, soap making, tie dye, and other activities.
 1. 5 joint ventures in Bomi.
 2. 3 joint ventures in Gbarpolu.
 3. 1 joint venture in Bong.
 - Environmental sanitation supported by 900 XCs and WAPs in Montserrado county Monrovia.

Formal and Non-formal Education (Social Reintegration or SR):

The overall objective in this program area was to give XCs and WAPs increased access to educational opportunities and counseling services at the community level. This increased access to formal and the UN-sponsored accelerated learning programs (ALP) would be made available through public works projects that would help restore local education facilities. Vocational training would also be an important intervention. These educational opportunities during this year are as follows:

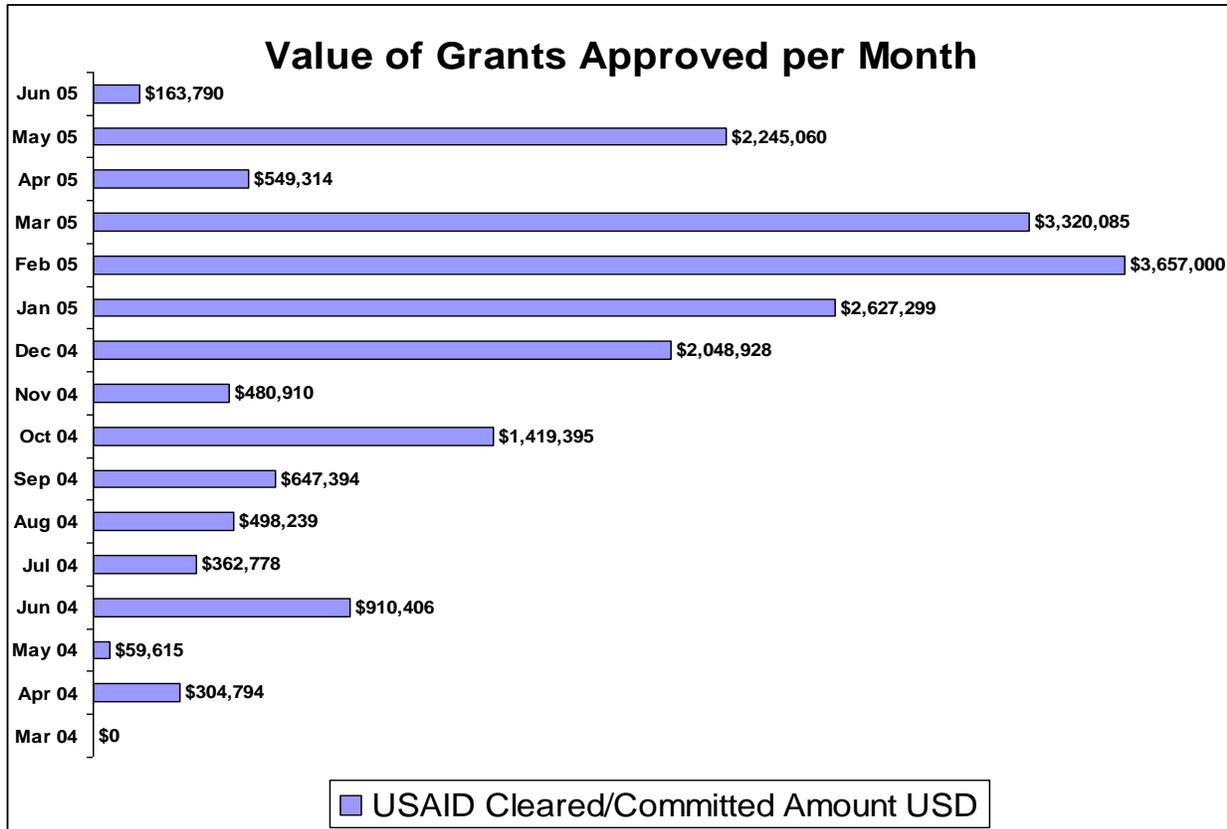
Formal and Non-formal Education Outputs:

- 546 XCs and WAPs were given access to formal and ALP education through 1 restored local education facilities at St. Dominics.
- 750 received and are still receiving literacy and numeracy courses at the AME University.
- 3,752 XCs and WAPs were given access to vocational skills training.

It should be noted that 22 schools in 2 counties (Lofa and Nimba) are being renovated and will provide over 4,000 additional educational opportunities (students) during year two.

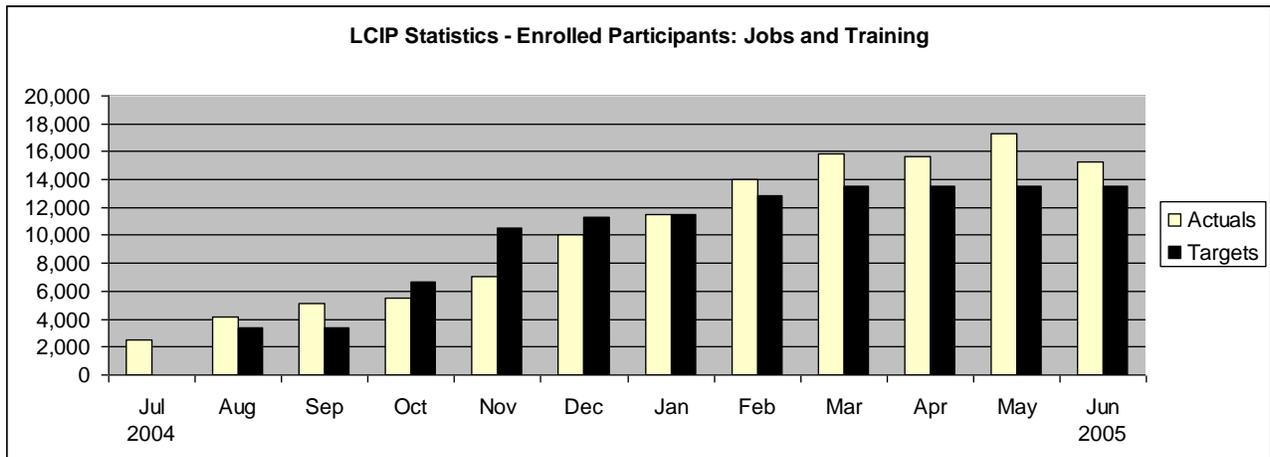
Grant Program Summary:

Grants to local implementing partners are the key to LCIP's work in all of the communities for both the SR and ER activities. To date the LCIP has awarded 127 grants; 81 ER grants and 46 SR grants. A total of \$19,321,276 USD (of the \$25,716,664 available) has been committed to the funding these activities. The graph below depicts the monthly value of grants approved by USAID between March 2004 and June 2005.



To date a total of 17,324 XCs and WAPs have been affected by employment generation or formal and non-formal education which includes vocational training. If we look at person days a total of 1,614,835 person days have been accumulated.

A graphical representation of project achievements against targets is as follows:



Please see Annex I for a results vs. targets analysis as stated in the LCIP Performance Monitoring Plan or PMP. The PMP looks mostly at person days more than the number of people on projects.

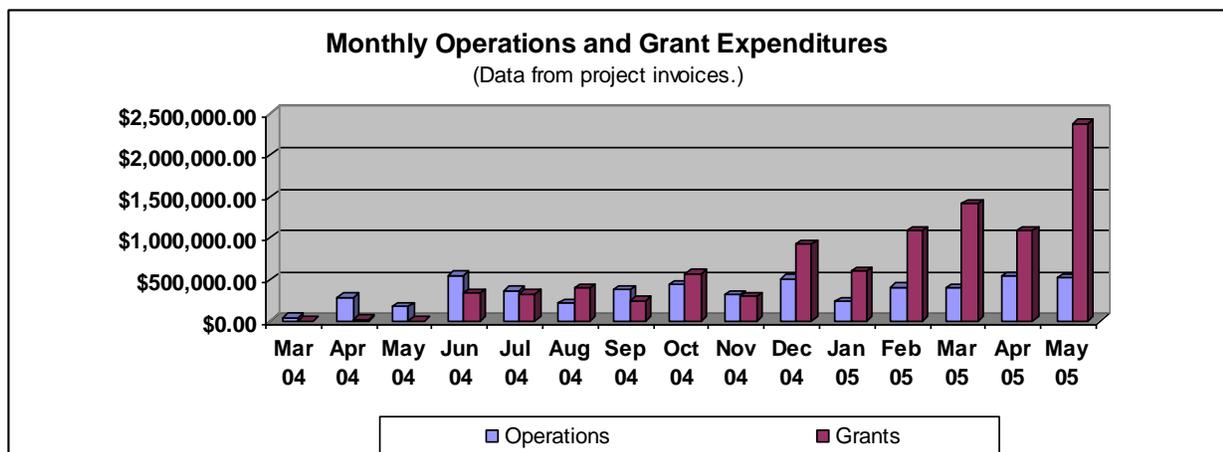
The person days approach is used as initially people moved in and out of our projects due to the project lengths which were of short duration until implementing partners could be tried, tested, and entrusted for a longer period of time. It is estimated that over 25,000 people have already participated at one time in our programs; in IR 1 and IR 2. Some for shorter durations than others and at the present time we are attempting to compile this data to be shared at a later date. For this reason the cumulative person days in Annex I is higher than reported above as these numbers were not considered during the initial months of the project, between May and August 2004, and that a formal tracking system was not yet set in place at the Joint Implementation Unit until November 2004. This system now allows us to track all of the beneficiaries of our programs.

The LCIP also moved more programming to vocational and skills training due to the demand from potential beneficiaries in this area. This increased the target population for IR 3 and as a result increased the person days in IR 3 but decreased the person days in IR 2 as funding was reduced in this area.

II. PROJECT MANAGEMENT AND ADMINISTRATION:

A. Finances:

Invoiced Expenditures from inception through the end of May 2005 totaled \$15,003,039. As of May 31, 2005, total expenditures for the LCIP included \$5,336,127 in operations costs and \$9,666,911 for grant activities. The figure below represents the average operations expenditures and grant disbursements between March 2004 and May 31, 2005.



Please see Annex II for a list of LCIP modifications.

B. Personnel:

During the year, the one key personnel was changed with a permanent replacement COP coming on board in November 2004 and with the Monrovia Program Manager beginning in January 2005. An Operations Manager was added in October 2004 and the position is currently vacant as the project moves to replace the incumbent. This brings the total number of expatriate staff on the project to seven. The total number of local staff working on the project in the 8 counties slightly exceeds 100.

III. PROGRAM ACTIVITIES BY COUNTY:

A. Overview:

Annex III shows each grant by county, the type of grant, the implementing partner, project duration, the target beneficiaries and a project description. As stated above the LCIP is implementing programs in 8 counties which are: Montserrado, Grand Gedeh, Nimba, Bbarnga, Lofa, Gbarpolu, Grand Cape Mount, and Bomi. There are a total of 15 counties in Liberia. At the on set of the project it was agreed with all the stake holders that the LCIP would focus in the counties where the greater number of XCs where most likely to be or wish to return to. Key stake holders are the National Commission for Disarmament, Demobilization, Rehabilitation and Reintegration (NCDDRR) and UNMIL.

IV. PAST, PRESENT, AND FUTURE ACTIVITIES:

The Liberia Community Infrastructure Program (LCIP) is an effort supporting the reintegration of ex-combatants and other war-affected groups into their respective communities in eight (8) counties in Liberia. It focuses on providing economic and social opportunities for ex-combatants and war-affected people to work together and to learn to trust each other again through the rehabilitation of communities and the restoration of community structures. Specific activities include vocational training, education, priority public work projects and social counseling. The LCIP program began in April 2004, and is currently scheduled to close at the end of June 2006.

Although both the economic and social reintegration components are key to the success of this RR program, the social reintegration component, through its more dynamic local implementing partners, has flourished and should be able to continue after most of the economic rehabilitation programs are completed. Although the LCIP is looking for sustainable exit strategies for all the economic activities, community-level peace can only be brought to the country through a combination of conflict mitigation activities and continued psycho-social work.

In order to have a better understanding of how long term reconciliation and peace can be accomplished, the LCIP commissioned 2 conflict assessments with an international expert in this area. Through these conflict assessments, the LCIP learned that referring to beneficiaries as ex-combatants and war-affected people poses a hindrance to long-term reconciliation and reintegration. As a result, in the future, if LCIP is to be continued beyond June 2006, it is recommended that these terms should be replaced by 'community member', and a more neutral and community-based or community-driven development approach should be used in order to be able to achieve longer term reintegration. These assessments have also guided the program in supporting traditional and cultural interventions that will allow XCs and WAPs to reconcile with each other and to thus have a greater possibility of truly reintegrating into their pre-war communities. These community-based reconciliation activities are tailored to be culturally appropriate to their specific locations, and they are a vehicle for a renewal and celebration of the social capital that has broken down and that is vital to sustainable peace in Liberia. Many community members also pointed out the need for returning XCs to change their behavior. These traditional and cultural ceremonies give the

excombatants exposure to positive traditional practices that have been ignored or lost, as well as provide a framework and a point of reference for the change in behavior the community is looking for. The successful traditional reconciliation and spiritual healing practices will be replicated in other counties during the second year of implementation.

The LCIP received additional funding from USAID to provide an integrated approach to psycho-social support work for all of USAID's partners in Liberia. This additional component aims to ameliorate current practices in psycho-social work through: 1) providing an up-to-date understanding of theories, models and interventions which prevent, manage and treat mental health issues such as psycho-social problems, mental illness and human rights violations; 2) enhancing the training skills of USAID's partners as psycho-social trainers; and 3) enhancing care for self as caregiver skills through personal and professional growth. This training will lead to the development of a national psycho-social resource approach that will continue to provide psycho-social services through the Lutheran Church of Liberia long after the LCIP has left Liberia.

Exit strategies for all economic activities (the ER component) are now a serious focus as grants finish and XCs and WAPs move out of the LCIP-supported employment and training activities. The formation of community development committees where these activities are being implemented will be key to the continued success of these efforts, with land tenure issues being addressed as well as site and harvest management being coordinated. The swamp rice projects as well as the oil palm processing projects should have a large degree of continued success after the LCIP has discontinued supporting these projects. Palm oil processing equipment has been purchased and will be set up in 3 counties (Grand Gedeh, Nimba, and Lofa) in 4 different locations where traditionally palm oil has been processed and sold.

The LCIP implementing partners (IPs) or the grant recipients play a key role and are involved in everything from the psycho-social training of trainers, to reconstruction, and even to small enterprise creation. An assessment framework has been developed for the IPs so that they can analyze each project individually and assess its viability prior to the LCIP ending its support. It needs to be noted that IPs have continued to be a challenge as not all of them were able to provide the expected outputs to meet their individual project goals. Continued sensitization and training have made some of our IPs able to meet our expectations while others have continued to be a disappointment and LCIP has ended their relationships with them. IP capacity-building has been built into LCIP programming and has proven to be relatively successful. The capacity-building component will give the qualifying IPs and their leadership the skills that will assist them in moving from reintegration to development activities as the country progresses.

Print and electronic media has played a key role in sensitizing the public about the LCIP. A continued media campaign has been an integral part of the LCIP programming and has been seen to contribute positively to peace building in all the communities where the LCIP is working. A private media consultant has been hired to assure that LCIP successes are shared with the local and international community. Both social and economic programming are shared with the public which contribute to the peace process as people are able to read or hear of the successes in the public and private sector in the 8 counties where the LCIP is working.

In all of the above, short term technical assistance has played a vital role in making the LCIP a success. From agricultural assistance, to the development of the apprenticeship program with rural

artisans, to community conflict assessments, to psycho-social training of trainers, and to internal assistance in programming and management, all has had a positive impact on the LCIP and Liberia.

As the LCIP begins what may be its last year of programming, it strives to be more community-based and to allow the LCIP to move toward more non-targeted programming should additional funding be made available to do so. With this the LCIP will have positioned USAID to be ready to provide longer term community development reconstruction and rehabilitation work should that be warranted.

ANNEX I

Results vs. Targets (as per the PMP) document to be attached here.

ANNEX II

A. Contract Modifications:

There have been four modifications to the contract:

Modification 1:

Modification number one increased the obligation to \$14 million on April 22, 2004.

Modification 2:

Modification number two increased the obligation by \$7,497,728 for a total obligation of \$21,497,728 on November 22, 2004. The ceiling amount increased from \$27,915,820 to \$35,413,548. This increase in the ceiling was to support the expansion of the geographic region to include Monrovia.

Modification 3:

Modification number three increased the obligation by \$13,500,502 for a total of \$34,998,230 on May 17, 2005.

Modification 4:

Modification number four increased the ceiling and obligation by \$266,086 for a total obligated amount of 35,264,314. The revised contract ceiling amount total is presently 35,679,634. This increased ceiling specifically supported a new component for psycho-social training.

ANNEX III

Project listing (completed and on-going) by ER/SR by county to be attached here.