

Summary of DFID's work in Liberia 2011-2015

May 2011

Why do we work in Liberia?

Eight years after emerging from one of Africa's most brutal civil wars, Liberia remains one of the poorest countries in the world and is unlikely to meet any of the Millennium Development Goals by 2015. It has a GDP per capita of \$500 (the sub-Saharan average is \$679) and continues to lie near the bottom of the United Nations' Human Development Index, with some of the worst infant and maternal mortality rates in Africa. Lack of access to clean water (51% without access) and adequate sanitation (39%) further undermines health and wellbeing. With much of the country's infrastructure destroyed or damaged during the war, there is little basic service provision outside the capital and access through Liberia is very challenging.

With DFID's support, the Government of Liberia has begun offering free health care services and is working with trusted partners to expand the coverage and quality of these services. DFID also works with the World Bank and others to improve the road, water and waste infrastructure nationwide. This will lead to improved road access and sanitation, further boosting the health and well-being of Liberians, especially women.

DFID is also helping Liberia to cope with the influx of refugees from Côte d'Ivoire in April 2011 into the east of the country, a particularly poor and vulnerable region, by providing humanitarian assistance to these refugees through the UN humanitarian system.



"Without the [DFID funded] Health Pooled Fund three years ago, the health system would have collapsed...it is quite literally a life saver"
Ministry of Health, Liberia,
April 2011.



Community toilets funded by DFID in New Kru Town, a desperately poor neighbourhood of the capital Monrovia.

What we will achieve by March 2014

- 140 Ministry of Health clinics established, staffed and equipped
- 2,500 health workers trained
- 46 km of roads constructed
- 100 tonnes of waste collected in Monrovia and safely disposed each year, reducing the risk of disease outbreaks.
- 50% increase in the number of people with access to clean water and adequate sanitation in Monrovia

Who we will work with

DFID works with organisations that have robust financial mechanisms. For our health support we collaborate with the Ministry of Health with whom DFID has worked closely to improve financial management and accountability in the health sector.

For our infrastructure support we are working with the World Bank through the Liberia Reconstruction Trust Fund. This focuses on building and rehabilitating key facilities, such as roads and sanitation, that are essential for economic growth and improving the health and wellbeing of Liberians.

Our support to Liberia for the refugee influx from neighbouring Côte d'Ivoire is channelled through reliable and experienced partners such as the UN, Oxfam, Care, and Save the Children.



Refugee mother and child from Côte d'Ivoire in the DFID-supported Bahn refugee camp in Nimba County, Liberia.

How we will work

More than ever, in the current financial climate, we have a duty to show that we are achieving value for money in everything we do. Results, transparency and accountability will be our watchwords and we are determined to get value for money from every hard-earned taxpayer pound spent on development.

In Liberia we undertake to monitor visits every six months and collaborate with other donors to benefit from their monitoring as well. We will assess the impact of our support to health and infrastructure programmes in collaboration with the government, donor partners and implementing agencies. In close consultation with these partners, we will look for further efficiencies in how the resources are spent and for regular updates on the results achieved. We will stay in close touch with our partners in the run up to the sensitive October 2011 elections, seeking to ensure that the process is transparent, fair and peaceful.

The humanitarian operation in Liberia will be regularly monitored by the DFID office in neighbouring Sierra Leone and by humanitarian experts based in London. We will continue to work with UN humanitarian agencies to strengthen their cost effectiveness and delivery of vital assistance as set out in DFID's Multilateral Aid Review.

More information

For a more detailed breakdown of Liberia's Operational Plan, please visit www.dfid.gov.uk/Liberia

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