



Summary of DFID's work in Liberia 2011-2015

June 2013

Why we work in Liberia?

Nine 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 GNI per capita of \$330 (compared to Sub-Saharan average of \$1,257, World Bank 2011) 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.

"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.

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.

What we will achieve by 2015

- Infant and maternal mortality ratio lowered.
- 330 km of roads constructed.
- 330 tonnes of waste collected in Monrovia and safely disposed of each day, reducing the risk of disease outbreaks.
- 250,000 people provided with access to clean water and improved sanitation and hygiene.



Community toilets funded by DFID in New Kru Town, a desperately poor neighbourhood of the capital 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 for every hard-earned taxpayer pound spent on development.

To maximise results against the available budget, DFID has rationalised its operating model. This has involved timely exit from projects once finished and a shift to channelling its funds through multi-donor funds. This has enabled DFID to transform its portfolio from 12 small projects in a variety of sectors to 2 programmes supporting reform in the health sector and much needed infrastructure rehabilitation, essential if Liberia is to continue attracting international private sector investors into the country and further stimulate the economy. DFID has a Country Programme Co-ordinator and support staff based in Monrovia. The Foreign and Commonwealth Office (FCO) has established an Ambassador-level post.

More information

For a more detailed breakdown of Liberia's Operational Plan, please visit:

<http://www.gov.uk/government/world/organistaion/dfid-sierraleone>

General Enquiries: enquiry@dfid.gov.uk