

LIBERIA COMMUNITY PEACEBUILDING AND DEVELOPMENT (CPBD)

After more than 20 years of decimating civil conflict that primarily targeted civilians, a comprehensive peace agreement was signed in August 2003 paving the way for an interim government and the October 2005 presidential and legislative elections. On January 16, 2006, a democratically-elected President, Ellen Johnson Sirleaf, was sworn into office. Despite the progress made since 2003, reintegration, development, and peacebuilding at the community level continue to be essential to addressing the underlying causes of conflict and to ensuring permanent stability in Liberia and in the whole West African region. To foster this transition, the AED Community Peace Building and Development project, known locally as "Diompilor," has been working since 2002 to help Liberian communities create peace and generate prosperity by strengthening civil society, fostering community-based social and economic development, and strengthening communities' access to, use of, and involvement in community radio. AED has overall responsibility for Diompilor; its partner, Mercy Corps, leads the program's field operations in Liberia.

To date, project accomplishments include:

- In 97 communities with a total population of 126,000 in Montserrado, Margibi, and Grand Bassa counties the project has supported community development through the establishment and capacity building of Community Development Committees. In addition its work with communities has employed REFLECT, a social mobilization

methodology that combines literacy training, awareness building, and social action. By 2007, the project will have furthered peace building and development in 200 communities.

- With project support and cost-matching, over 100 community empowerment projects (including hand pump wells, latrines, agricultural activities, and small enterprises) and over 100 income generating activities have been completed.
- As a result of best practices training and demonstration sites, over 300 farmers have adopted improved practices on their private farms.
- The project's Community Communications Unit has rehabilitated 20 community radio stations in 13 of the 15 Counties, reaching over 500,000 Liberians. In addition, Diompilor has produced radio programs that have reached at least 750,000 inhabitants on topics ranging from health to human rights.
- The formation of the Liberia Resource Mobilization Committee (LRMC) was facilitated by AED to bring together Liberian-Americans, Liberians, and other friends of Liberia in the U.S. to mobilize material, in-kind, human, and financial resources for peacebuilding and development activities in Liberia.

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