



*Transforming Liberia:
Innovative Approaches to Building Peace*



Republic of Liberia
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Issues to be Discussed

- Brief History and Update
- Poverty Reduction Strategy
- Current Context, Conflict Factors
- Nimba County Emergency Project
- 2nd Window – Expanded Peace Programs
- Peace Building Investment Strategy



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A Brief History and Update

Years of Conflict
Civil war, 1989 – 2003
More than 250,000 killed in a population of about 3 million
Extensive human rights abuses, atrocities of war

Return to Stability
UN Mission in Liberia (UNMIL), 2003 - Present
Transitional government, 2003 – 2005
President Ellen Johnson Sirleaf, 2006 – present



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Poverty Reduction Strategy
2008 - 2011

- Four Pillars of Development:
 - Peace and Security
 - Economic Revitalization
 - Governance and Rule of Law
 - Infrastructure and Basic Services
- Extensive national consultations (county and district level)
- Peace Building a critical element (mainstreamed throughout)



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Principles of Better Governance

- Inclusive, participatory government
- Empower disadvantaged/excluded groups
- Build consensus before taking action
- Respond to citizens' needs
- Transparency and accountability
- Fairness, impartiality in state services



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Current Context, Conflict Factors

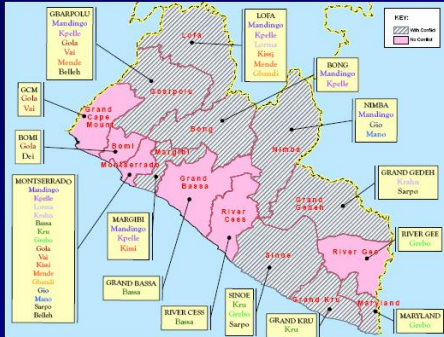
- Land
- Youth
- Natural Resource Management
- Political Polarization
- Weak Justice System



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Ethnic Dimension



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Nimba County

- Primary battleground in war
- Ethnic tension: Mano & Gio vs. Mandingo
- Political polarization
- Land and Property Disputes



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Ad-hoc Presidential Commission on the Nimba County Inter Ethnic Land Disputes

- Established 18 months ago to address land disputes
- Registered 112 disputed property claims
- Identified the need to address root causes of conflict
 - Tension arising from actions during war
 - Limited prime real estate
- Potentially volatile situation needing quick response



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Nimba Project: 3 Tracks

Ministry of Internal Affairs, Interpeace, UNMIL

Track 1: Consultation to Conference

- issue mapping, visioning, action planning

Track 2: Report on land resolution mechanisms

- property claims, customary and legal procedures for land dispute resolution

Track 3: Roads project

- improve main roads to expand prime real estate, employ youth



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Nimba Project Challenges

- **Dialogue management**, ensure that it yields positive results
- **Involvement of political leaders**, ensure support and participation
- **Weather, logistics challenges**, during rainy season
- **County level capacity**, and ability to manage reconciliation processes going forward



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Nimba Project: National Implications

- **Framework for dialogue and dispute resolution**, especially over land, in other counties (with other ethnic groups)
- **Positive externalities beyond dispute resolution**, including community building, economic activity and growth, etc.



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PBF 2nd Window

3 Priority Areas (\$15 million)

- **Fostering National Reconciliation and Conflict Management** (\$4 m)
- **Critical Interventions to Promote Peace and Resolve Conflict** (\$6 m)
- **Strengthening State Capacity For Peace Consolidation** (\$5 m)



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PBF: GoL/UNMIL Partnership

- **DSRSG/Minister Internal Affairs, Co-chairs** of the Joint Steering Committee
- **UN/GoL/Civil Society Collaborating** to develop concept notes
- **Capacity Building of National Institutions** required in all projects



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Setting New Standards

Projects will be:

- **Catalytic, high impact, results-oriented**
- **Developed in highly collaborative process**
- **In alignment w/ Priority Plan, highly strategic**
- **Utilizing existing resources** (minimize overhead and capital expenditures)
- **Innovative in approach**



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Long-Term Peace Building Investment Strategy

Learning from the first \$15 million

- Test different implementation models
- Independent impact evaluations
- Strong M&E component



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A Look Ahead

- **PBF support essential to Liberia's continued peace**
- **Strong UN/GoL partnership to continue**
- **Continue to seek support from PB experts to inform strategies, projects**
- **\$15 million covers only part of Priority Plan, more support needed through this mechanism**



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